

Title of the Programme: School Safety Plan & Safety Audits

Dates: 27-29 November, 2017

Venue: Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, KSNDMC Campus, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka Bangalore - 560 064, Karnataka, INDIA

Background Note:

The concept of 'school safety' has evolved over the last couple of decades as the threat to the physical wellbeing of children has become more visible both globally and in the country. "Comprehensive School Safety" has emerged as the leading concept to address the nexus between disaster risk and the need for education and child protection before, during and after emergencies. Under the overall heading of disaster risk reduction and resilience-building it embraces the need to provide 1) safe learning facilities through disaster resilient design, safe construction and safe site location 2) school disaster management through assessments and planning by school disaster management committees, with education continuity and contingency plan and building capacity for effective disaster response 3) risk reduction and resilience education through inclusion of related aspects in formal curriculum, teacher training and staff development as well as extra curriculum and community-based informal education. The concept of school safety has been enlarged recently to include both safety and newly security issues both inside and outside the school. It has been defined as the creation of safe environments for children starting from their homes to their schools and back. This includes safety from large-scale 'natural' hazards of geological/climatic origin, human-made risks, pandemics, violence as well as more frequent and smaller-scale fires, transportation and other related emergencies, and environmental threats that can adversely affect the lives of children.

Although late, in India the subject started gaining high attention after following incidents.

Box: Did you know that failure to implement building code and safety parameters resulted in:

- In 1995, a school prize-giving ceremony in Dabwali (Haryana) turned to tragedy when a fire broke out, killing nearly 400 people, many of them were children and teenagers.
- 31 teachers died and 95 were injured, 971 students perished (910 in primary schools, 37 in secondary schools, 3 in colleges and 21 in technical schools) and 1,051 were injured in the Bhuj earthquake, (2001, Gujarat).
- In the Bhuj earthquake (2001, Gujarat) 1,884 school buildings collapsed, resulting in a damage of 5,950 classrooms. In addition, 11,761 school buildings suffered major to minor damages, rendering an additional 36,584 rooms unfit for holding instruction sessions.
- Fire swept through the Lord Krishna Middle School in District Kumbakonam (2004). 94 children aged between eight and ten years were charred to death while over 27 others received serious burns.
- The Jammu and Kashmir earthquake (2005) killed at least 17,000 students in schools and seriously injured another 50,000, leaving many disabled and over 300,000 children affected. Moreover 10,000 school buildings were destroyed; in some districts 80% of schools were destroyed.
- The Super Typhoon Durian (2006) in the Philippines caused \$20m USD damage to school, including 90-100% of school buildings in three cities and 50-60% of school buildings in two other cities.
- Cyclone SIDR in Bangladesh (2007) destroyed 496 school buildings and damaged 2,110 more.
- Sichuan earthquake (2008), China killed more than 5,335 children in their schools and an estimated 7,000 classrooms collapsed.

Important Initiatives in School Safety:

Some of the noteworthy actions taken by Government agencies are as follows:

- Post-2002 Disaster Management was introduced as a subject in the frontline curriculum of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as well as by several State Education Boards.
- During 2003-2008 GOI and UNDP implemented the Disaster Risk Management programme in 17 states across India in which schools safety was an important component (http://www.pnud.org/content/dam/india/docs/drm_report.pdf).
- The Ministry of Home Affairs produced a handbook on School Safety in 2004 (<http://nidm.gov.in/PDF/safety/school/link1.pdf>).
- In 2005, the Disaster Management Act was passed. The Act envisages developing a Disaster Management Plan for all entities - including schools and all other educational institutes (http://nidm.gov.in/PDF/laws/dm_act2005.pdf).
- In 2007, the Ahmadabad declaration on School safety was formulated (http://www.preventionweb.net/files/5146_IN01MH844-Ft.pdf).

The 2009 Right to Education (RTE) Act prescribes that each child in India must have access to schooling for 200-220 days in a year. This highlights the urgent need to ensure that schools are less vulnerable to disasters/emergencies and better prepared to bounce back and return children to learning as soon as possible (<http://mhrd.gov.in/rte>).

In 2011, the National School Safety Programme was launched by the National Disaster Management Authority, covering 22 states in India. The main components of this project were: i) formulation of National School Safety Policy, ii) capacity development of Master trainers, iii) development and circulation of information, education and communication material, iv) non-structural measures and v) demonstrative structural retrofitting of selected schools. NIDM was given the responsibility to train the master trainers. For this purpose NIDM developed a “Training Module for Master Trainers on School Safety” (<http://nidm.gov.in/PDF/modules/NSSP%20Draft.pdf>).

The National Institute of Disaster Management has been conducting ToTs on school safety every year as a part of their annual training calendar (<http://nidm.gov.in/tcalendar.asp>).

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA) highlights knowledge and education as one of the five main priorities of action (<http://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf>).

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 also emphasized on substantially reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030 (http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf).

In 2016, NDMA issued National Guidelines on School Safety Policy. The definition of school safety as per the national guideline is as follows: “The creation of safe environments for children starting from their homes to their schools and back. This includes safety from large-scale 'natural' hazards of geological/climatic origin, human-made risks, pandemics, violence as well as more frequent and smaller-scale fires, road accidents and other emergencies, and environmental threats that can adversely affect the lives of children” (National Guideline, School Safety Policy, 2016) available at (<http://ndma.gov.in/images/guidelines/School-Safety-Policy.pdf>.)

ABOUT NIDM

The National Institute of Disaster Management constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005 has been entrusted with the nodal national responsibility for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation and policy advocacy in the field of disaster management. Upgraded from the National Centre for Disaster Management of the Indian Institute of Public Administration on 16th October 2003, NIDM is steadily marching forward to fulfill its mission to make a disaster resilient India by developing and promoting a culture of prevention and preparedness at all levels (<http://nidm.gov.in/default.asp>) .

Thrust Areas

Training

Face-to-Face Training: NIDM conducts both in campus and off-campus training programme on various themes covering a wide range of subjects and sectors for senior and middle level government officials and others.

Web Based Training: The Institute in collaboration of World Bank Institute Washington conducts on-line training programmes on various specialized subjects related to disaster management.

Satellite Based Training: The Institute collaborates with some of the Administrative Training Institutes to conduct satellite based training programmes through the ISRO community centres.

Self Study Courses: The Institute has introduced web based self study courses which anyone from anywhere at any time can log on.

Research & Documentation: NIDM documents major disaster's taking place in the country to learn the lessons on its management and use the case studies as resource materials for the training classes and simulation exercises.

ABOUT KSNDMC

Disaster Management heavily depends on inputs from Science and Technology. KSNDMC has been serving as a common platform to the various response players in the field of Natural Disaster Management by providing timely proactive Science and Technology inputs.

Karnataka State has the distinction of being first in the country to establish a Drought Monitoring Cell (DMC) in 1988 as an institutional mechanism affiliated to Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Karnataka.

Subsequently in 2007, the DMC was renamed as Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) and the activities were broadened to also include monitoring of other natural disasters viz., Floods, Hailstorms, Gale-Winds, Storm-surges, Earthquakes, Landslides, Tsunamis etc.

KSNDMC has established Master Control Facilities in its own land of 10 acres for which activities are taken up in providing Alerts/Early Warnings/Forecast/Advisories to the farmers, fishermen, Governance and others in the State along with information dissemination for real time data towards providing Near Real Time Alerts/Early Warning/Advisories to the Community.

KSNDMC has been a “Nodal Agency” identified by the Government for taking up monitoring activities pertaining to all Natural Disasters in the State.

KSNDMC prepares and disseminates Reports on Daily/Weekly/ Monthly/Seasonal and Annual at Hobli level and also provides Rainfall and Weather information at Gramapanchayath level. The customized information is disseminated through SMS, email, Web Portal, Social Network & Social Media. The reports and information in the form of Advisories are provided to the Community in general and to the Farmers in particular through the 24x7 Help Desk named Varuna Mitra.

About the Training Programme:

AIM: The training will primarily focus on imparting basic and requisite knowledge /skills needed by trainers at various levels in the field of school safety.

Course Objectives: The main objectives for this training programme are:

- Promote a culture of disaster preparedness in schools.
- Enhance conceptual understanding of participants on various aspects of disaster risk reduction and school safety from an inclusive perspective.
- Develop competencies of the participants to undertake disaster risk reduction measures in schools (training of the students, staff and other stakeholders, undertake hazard, vulnerability, capacity and risk analysis, etc).
- Enable the participants to develop the School Disaster Management Plan (SDMP).

Target Group: This programme is intended for teachers and professionals working in the field of school safety.

Training Methods: This training prog. is based on the school safety module designed by NIDM and following methodology will be used for this training programme:

Lectures/interactive discussions, power point presentations/slide shows, brain storming discussions/panel discussions/experience sharing/guided group exercises/ Table Top exercise etc.

Language of Instruction: The medium of instruction will be English. The resource person is free to choose either Hindi or English during the presentation and discussion as per the demand of the participants.

Accommodation: The boarding and lodging arrangements for participants would be arranged by KSNDMC.

Evaluation: The final session will be devoted to evaluation and valediction. The participants will be given an evaluation Performa.

Attendance & Certificate: Marking attendance pre-lunch and post-lunch is compulsory for certification. A certificate would be provided on successful completion.**Course Team**

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For more information on School Safety please visit http://nidm.gov.in/safety_school.asp