

DISASTER- DEFINITION

“serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources”

SNAPSHOTS ON THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AND DAMAGE TO SCHOOLS IN DISASTERS

- ▶ 2008- Haiti earthquake destroyed half the schools in the country
- ▶ 2008-Sichuan earthquake destroyed 7000 school buildings
- ▶ 2005 Kashmir earthquake destroyed 8000 schools on both sides of the border and over 18000 children lost their lives(BBC)
- ▶ A fire led to the death of 200 children at a prize giving ceremony in Dabwali, Haryana in 1995, a total of 31 teachers died and 95 were injured
- ▶ During 2001 Gujarat earthquake over 11600 schools were destroyed/damaged, 971 students perished and 1051 were injured.
- ▶ In a fire in a school in Kumbhakonam in Tamilnadu 94 children died
- ▶ In the 2004 tsunami thousands of students and teachers were impacted
- ▶ The cause of such state of affairs has largely been poor quality of construction, lack of disaster resilient features and poor maintenance of schools

SCHOOL SAFETY

- ▶ School safety has been defined as the creation of safe environments for children starting from their homes to their schools and back. This includes safety from natural hazards of geological/climatic origin, human made risks, transportation and other related emergencies

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT- 2005

- ▶ Puts in place mechanisms at the national, state, district levels
- ▶ NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) chaired by the PM
- ▶ SDMA chaired by the Chief minister
- ▶ DDMA Chaired by the District Collector
- ▶ A shift from the relief centric response to a pro active prevention, mitigation and preparedness driven approach.
- ▶ Aims to minimise loss of life, livelihood and property.
- ▶ Promotes creation of awareness about school safety among stakeholders such as teachers parents and students.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

- ▶ SCHOOL SAFETY FOCAL POINT TEACHER TO BE NOMINATED
- ▶ SENSITISE THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
- ▶ DEVELOP A CADRE OF PEER EDUCATORS

School Disaster Management Plan

- ▶ Systems of warning (centralised PA system, walkie-talkies,)
- ▶ Identification of evacuation routes
- ▶ Access by emergency vehicles
- ▶ Care of children with special needs
- ▶ Stockpiling of emergency equipment and regular maintenance
- ▶ Arrangement for orderly release of students during emergency
- ▶ Site map indicating evacuation routes and assembly areas
- ▶ Site map to be displayed at multiple locations

Non-structural Safety Measures in Schools

- ▶ Items of furniture such as almirahs blackboards etc. and other items that may fall and cause injury such as fans coolers water tanks need to be secured to the wall.
- ▶ Loose electric wires to be attended to
- ▶ Chemicals and other hazardous materials in labs to be stored as per instructions
- ▶ Evacuation routes to be kept free from hurdles
- ▶ Traffic movement outside school to be managed to minimize risk to students at the time of arrival and dispersal of students.
- ▶ Excursion locations to be carefully selected
- ▶ School buses to be monitored. Govt regulations to be followed

SOP for Dealing with Terrorist Attacks

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- ▶ Boundary wall
- ▶ Emergency numbers to be displayed
- ▶ Telephone at the gate
- ▶ Illumination around boundary
- ▶ CCTV, concertina wire along boundary wall
- ▶ Walkie-talkie
- ▶ Centralised PA system
- ▶ Alarm system

SOPs in different situations

- ▶ Kidnapping of children at the time of arrival
- ▶ Random firing on the road near the school
- ▶ Armed intrusion into the school
- ▶ Armed intrusion into the school with hostage taking
- ▶ Suspected explosives found in the school premises
- ▶ Random firing inside the school with the intension of mass killing

General suggestions

- ▶ School gates to be closed immediately after the arrival of children till their dispersal to prevent any easy intrusion
- ▶ Telephone numbers of nearest hospitals, police stations and assistance desks to be displayed.
- ▶ Guards to be identified for each gate. A list to be put up indicating who holds the key to which gate
- ▶ A centralised PA system through which classes should be addressed collectively and individually to be installed
- ▶ All staff should be apprised about all possible threats
- ▶ A list of duties specifying which teachers will be responsible for controlling children which one would inform the police, hospital authorities etc
- ▶ Guards should be alerted to notice any suspicious person moving around or standing near the school antecedents of new staff to be verified