

Training Program on **School Safety and Security**

Organized by



1. Introduction to the Course
2. Why should you take the course
3. What to expect in the course
4. Who should take the course
5. Mandates

1. Introduction to the Course

Commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - 13th Oct', the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in partnership with The Government of the Philippines hosted the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024 from 14 to 18th October 2024 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila. Given that children and youth are among the most vulnerable groups in the face of disasters, their involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate action is not just necessary, but imperative. In alignment with the Sendai Framework and Youth 2030 agenda, Governments, the United Nations, Schools, and other stakeholders, including young professional, are actively responding to the needs, mitigating the risks, and building more resilient communities.

School Safety and Security can create a safe and sustainable learning environment that empowers students and communities to face future challenges proactively. The National Education Policy, 2020 lays down the goal of every educational institution- "A good educational institution is one in which each student feels welcomed and cared for, where a safe and stimulating learning environment exists, where a wide range of learning experiences are offered, and where good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources conducive to learning are available to all students. Attaining these qualities must be the goal of every educational institution."

Ministry of Education mentions that- School academic and non-academic personnel, such as, principal, teachers, students, etc., spend around 1/3 part of a day, and around 220 days in a year in schools in India. Therefore, if classes are held for six hours a day, a child spends 22% of their waking time in a year in a day school. In a residential school on the other hand, a child spends 60% of their life during schooling years in the school. Schools are thus, accountable for a substantial chunk of the child's life, and have a huge responsibility to make the stay in schools of all children comfortable, joyful, secure and safe. Therefore, it is important for the school that everyone concerned with school education should understand their clear roles and responsibility towards school safety and security.

Schools that are resilient can not only withstand and recover quickly from disasters but also educate future generations on how to address these risks. 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, environmental threats and violence that can adversely affect the lives of children.

Realising evident gaps in achieving the goals, GIDM in support with Samagra Shiksha Gujarat has planned to organize a series of training program on theme 'School Safety and Security' targeting Principals from PM-SHRI Schools. The initiative contributes towards spreading awareness by making the policy guidelines available in the context of roles and responsibilities of different key stakeholders in the simplest and understandable format.

2. Why should you take the course?

It is important for the school that everyone concerned with school education should understand his/her clear roles and responsibility towards disaster and climate resilient schools. This will lead them to take appropriate action, not only preventive but also developmental, so that risk of any kind of incident which harms students or staff will be eliminated.

Research shows that integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into the school prospectus fosters awareness, builds resilience, and empowers students to take proactive actions to mitigate risks. By embedding these concepts into education from an early age, students develop a better understanding of environmental challenges and acquire skills for adapting to and managing risks associated with climate change and disasters. This integration not only enhances safety and preparedness within schools but also promotes a culture of resilience within communities, contributing to long-term sustainable development. Creating disaster- and climate-resilient schools is an essential strategy for protecting children, teachers, and communities while ensuring uninterrupted learning in the face of natural hazards and climate-related impacts.

In this context, one must be aware of the fundamentals of school safety and security. This capacity building activity can function as a stepping stone towards understanding basics of disaster risk(s), empowering one to strategies risk reduction and management and further-up actions to build resilient schools. The training programme has been designed in line with the frameworks like Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR 2015 – 2030), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals), Hon'ble PM's 10 Point Agenda.

Integrating resilience and disaster education cultivates a generation of students who are aware of their environmental impact and the importance of sustainable practices. Building resilience equips schools to handle the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather, ensuring long-term sustainability and safety. By building disaster resilience, schools can create a safe and sustainable learning environment that empowers students and communities to face future challenges proactively.

3. What to expect in the course?

The course is composed of 5 learning modules supplemented by reading materials, hands-on exercise and practical demonstration.

Module 1: Understanding Disaster Risks in the context of School

Schools are not only places of learning but also serve as community centers and sometimes shelters during disasters, making them critical points for risk management and resilience building. Understanding disaster and climate risk in the context of schools is essential to ensure the safety of students and staff, maintain educational continuity, and foster resilience within communities.

Module 2: Development and Implementation of School Disaster Risk Management Plan

The second module, School Disaster Risk Management Planning, would highlight the concept of School Disaster Risk Management Plan (SDRMP), and its strategic approach designed to protect students, staff, and school infrastructure from potential hazards. It includes a comprehensive set of policies, practices, and activities aimed at preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disaster events.

Module 3: Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction measures in School

This module would help participants learn about how schools can incorporate Disaster Risk Reduction measures effectively be integrated for creating a safe, resilient learning environment that prepares students and staff to face natural hazards and climate challenges.

Module 4: Safe Learning Facility for Resilient Education

A Safe Learning Facility is a foundational element for resilient education, designed to protect students, teachers, and staff from all hazards while ensuring that education remains uninterrupted, even in times of disaster. Such facilities integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience measures into planning, construction, maintenance, operation.

Module 5: Safety and Security of Children in School

Ensuring the safety and security of children in school is essential for providing a safe learning environment where students can focus on their education and personal growth. Schools need to adopt a holistic approach to safety that includes physical security, psychological well-being, emergency preparedness, and a supportive school climate. Teaching students about safety practices and emergency response builds resilience and equips them with skills they can use throughout their lives.

4. Who should take the course?

The course is suitable for:

1. School Community

The course is designed keeping in mind the school community including school administration, teachers, students, parents. The course would make the participants aware of the fundamentals of school safety & security and would enable them to advocate and contribute towards building a safe and secure environment for children.

2. Government officials

Key stakeholders from government would also get knowledge/information imperative to understand the local hazards, its impact and developing risk informed development plans. Capacitated key government stakeholder would ensure effective and efficient implementation of safety and security measures in planning, organising, implementation and monitoring & evaluation, which would further strengthen policy making strategies at the state level.

5. Mandates

In 2021, Education Department, Gujarat, has also mandated the establishment of a School Disaster Management Committee (**SDMC**) including School Safety Focal Point Teacher and PEER Educators; incorporating school safety and security one of the roles and responsibility of School Management Committee to lead risk reduction and response efforts during emergencies and making the school ecosystem safe and secure for school community.

In order to strengthen DRM at school level planning, Education Department has also issued the Govt. Resolution on School DRM Plan (**SDRMP**)/School Safety Plan.

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