

GIDM, in association with Education Dept., Samagra Shiksha, GSDMA, UNICEF and UNNATI (knowledge partner), has completed six batches of ToT on School Safety and Security (hybrid training) targeting 207 Master Trainers from across all district.

SN. (1)	Batch (2)	Dates (3)	Targeted Districts (4)
1.	First Batch	26-Sept-2022 to 28-Sept-2022	Ahmedabad/AMC, Kheda, Surendranagar and Botad
2.	Second Batch	06-Oct-2022 to 08-Oct-2022	Bhavnagar, Amreli, Gir Somnath, Junagadh, Porbandar
3.	Third Batch	11-Oct-2022 to 13-Oct-2022	Patan, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Aravalli, Gandhinagar
4.	Fourth Batch	13-Oct-2022 to 15-Oct-2022	Kutchchh, Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Morbi, Rajkot
5.	Fifth & Six Batch	19-Dec-2023 to 21-Dec-2023	Anand, Bharuch, Chhota Udepur, Dahod, Dang, Mahisagar, Navsari, Panchmahal, Surat, Tapi, Vadodara, Valsad, Jamnagar

Based on the commitment on making schools safe and secure, we may plan to organize district level outreach activity on the subject with an objective:

- To orient the participants to various concepts of school safety and security in context with the risks pose by local hazards, WASH services, psycho-social safety physical health, cyber security and undesirable intentional human behaviours or actions;
- To develop an understanding among the participants on how to conduct a school safety and security assessment;
- To orient the participants on the legal and institutional provisions as mentioned and provisioned in the Right to Education Act and policy guidelines developed by National Disaster Management Authority and Ministry of Education;
- To develop an understanding among the participants about the components and planning process of a School Disaster Risk Management Plan;
- To establish the importance of learning continuity during emergency situations through alternate mechanisms and activity-based pedagogy;
- To capacitate School Safety Focal Point Teachers and Peer Educators (including DEOs, DPEOs, Sasanadhipari, BRCs/CRCs) through Master Trainers.

For the rollout of safety and security indicators at the school level, covering 54,647 schools, the master trainers can further train Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) and each of the CRC members can train and handhold some 10-12 school (every CRC is responsible for approximately 10-12 schools) on forming SDMCs and SDRMP. In this regard, the following tentative Date and Venue have been prepared (in consultation with knowledge partners):

TABLE-A

SN. (1)	Tentative Dates (2)	Targeted Districts (3)	Venue (4)
1.	10 Feb' 2023	Ahmedabad Rural	TBD
2.	14 Feb' 2023	Mehsana	
3.	16 Feb' 2023	Surendranagar	
4.	20 Feb' 2023	Botad	
5.	22 Feb' 2023	Sabarkantha	
6.	24 Feb' 2023	Anand	
7.	28 Feb' 2023	Kheda	
8.	03 Mar' 2023	All district (using YouTube live streaming facilities)	Shiksha Samiksha Kendra, Sector-19, Gandhinagar

Background

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.”

‘School Safety and Security’ 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, environmental threats and violence that can adversely affect the lives of children.

Life and infrastructural loss due to devastating earthquakes, displacement of people and damage to property by floods and cyclones have been a result of disasters in the past. Such events affect the vulnerable population the most. Children, being one of them, need to be resilient and their capacity needs to be built against the local disasters. Schools are key infrastructures for our social progress and hence need to be kept safe. For this risk informed planning should be mainstreamed at the policy planning and project implementation level and focus should also be built towards child centred disaster risk reduction programing.

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.

Recently, in 2020, National Education Policy was announced and in 2021, the Ministry of Education has come up with a Guidelines on School Safety and Security, which talks about School building, grounds and facilities, Psychosocial safety and support, Health and Physical safety, School Transportation, Support for CWSN, Cyber safety and policy, Orientation and Training of School community and authorities.

In 2021, the Ministry of Education also released Guidelines on Safety and Security which also mentions that one of the key roles of the School Management Committee (SMC) should be ensuring the safety and security of children. It also mentions in details all the legal and constitutional provisions regarding education, and safety and security of children. It also spells out in details, the role of the teachers, principals, parents, warden, counsellor as well as students in ensuring safety in school. Accountability framework and legal provisions, whole school safety approach and multi-sectoral approach are the three-pronged approach to the safety and security concerns of these guidelines.

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.

Legal Mandates

- Constitutional provisions for safety and security,
- Right to Education Act, 2009, and provisions under the act for safety and security of children,
- National School Safety Policy Guideline, 2016, by the National Disaster Management Authority,
- National Education Policy, 2020, and
- Guidelines on Safety and Security, 2021, by Ministry of Education,
- Provisions for punitive and reformatory actions in the Constitution of India to ensure safety and protection of children in schools.

Key Challenges for Safe Schools

Efforts on school safety at the National and State levels are at an evolving stage. Key challenges in the implementation of school safety measures include:

1. The disconnect between institutions:

There is a visible disconnect between the non-emergency schemes (Pertaining to Education) such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Disaster response/preparedness. Education programs are executed in most states with little synergy or policy linkages with the SDMA / DDMA.

2. Limited convergence between schemes:

Resources required for the effective implementation of a govt. The scheme cannot be leveraged in the absence of a mechanism for collaborative working with other budget holders. For instance, land development within the school campus may be funded through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). However, close coordination between micro-planning activity for MGNREGA and School Development Plan preparation would be necessary for convergence.

3. Limited understanding of school safety concept:

It is evident that the existing education machinery in the country is keen to promote a safe learning environment for children and teachers but the actual implementation of programs on the ground points to a limited understanding of the concept of safety. At best, new school designs incorporate earthquake safety features in many areas; however, floods, cyclones, landslides have been given little attention in the design and costing of schools. In addition, non-structural elements are often not understood as threats to safety. At the level of teachers and students, safety issues are discussed and pursued as one-off activities. School timetables and curriculum need suitable modifications to make safety understanding a routine activity.

4. Lack of Understanding of Existing Hazards and Child Protection related issues:

Preparedness is the key to minimize any hazard impact and for adequate preparedness, one is able to identify the hazards which may be enabled through basic understanding of Disaster Risk

Management. The past incidents from Tamil Nadu in 2004 and Surat in 2019 highlighted the negligence of management in providing safer places. The management had failed to identify the fire hazards and subsequently could not prepare for better response. It eventually resulted in putting a dark spot in the history of Indian School Safety. With respect to this, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also come out with its judgment in support of school safety, and insisted on adherence to NBC standards in school building specifications and construction. The following cases in points shows how those mishaps could have been avoided, if the management would have been well versed with aspects of DRM.

5. Focus of school safety and security monitoring indicators in monitoring and evaluation:

It has been observed that there is a need of mainstreaming monitoring indicators of school safety and security in department level planning (including School Development Planning, Quality Indicators, and Monthly agenda at authority level).

Case in point:

1 2004 Kumbhakonam School fire: 2004 Kumbhakonam school fire incident happened in a school in Kumbhakonam in the Thanjavur district of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. A total of 94 students of the primary section of the Krishna English Medium School were burnt to death in their classroom as the thatched roof caught fire on 16 July 2004. The accident was one of the four largest fire accidents and the largest school accident in Tamil Nadu's history, as well as the second largest school fire in India in terms of casualties.

The buildings in the nursery and primary schools had no ventilation. Near the eastern entrance, there was a narrow staircase 4.5 ft (1.4 m) wide leading to the first floor of the building. The layout of the first floor was similar to the ground floor where classes had no separation and exit was through a narrow collapsible door. The lower end of the class on the western side was connected to the noon meal kitchen thatched roof and the cycle stand roof, where the accident occurred. The Sri Krishna Girls High School had 179, Sri Krishna Aided Primary School had 477 and Saraswathy Nursery and Primary School had 126 students in its roles, totaling to 782 students. The second floor measured 62.5 ft (19.1m) * 13 ft (4.0 m) and had classes for standards VI, VII, VIII and IX of the girl's high school. The third floor had an open terrace having a water tank.

2. 2019 Surat fire: On 24 May 2019, a fire occurred at a commercial complex in Sarthana Jagatnaka area of Surat in the Gujarat state of India. Twenty-two students died and others were injured in an academic coaching center located on the building's terrace. The fire was started by a short circuit on the ground floor; the students in the coaching center were trapped by the destruction of a wooden staircase. Three people have been arrested for their alleged involvement or their alleged negligence leading to the fire and the deaths.

The fire occurred at a commercial complex called Takshashila Arcade, located in the Sarthana area of Surat. Smart Design Studio, a coaching center, was operating in a makeshift dome built on the terrace of the building. The fire broke out between 3:45 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (IST). An electrical short circuit in the air-conditioner started a fire on the ground floor near a staircase on the rear side of the building. The fire quickly spread, engulfing the third floor and the makeshift dome on the terrace of the building. There were about 50 to 70 students in the coaching center at the time. Two shops and several vehicles parked near the building were

also destroyed in another fire ignited by the blaze.

A total of 22 students died: 18 girls and 4 boys, aged between 15 and 22. Of these, 16 students died due to fire or asphyxiation, 3 died as they jumped off the terrace of the building, and 3 succumbed to the fire-burns they sustained. Three of the students who died had appeared for the Class XII exams of the Gujarat education board, the results of which were declared on 25 May 2019, a day after their deaths. A further 16 students were admitted to hospital; a child aged three or four years old was also hospitalized with burn injuries.

Respectfully Submitted

A letter from Secretary, Shri Mahesh Mehta, Samagra Shiksha dated 28-Sept-2022 may please be perused on page no. 107/C. As communicated, we have been requested to organize the **Second Batch from 06-08-Oct-2022** on School Safety and Security for selected **30 Master Trainers from 5 District, namely, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Gir Somnath, Junagadh, Porbandar**, at GIDM.

In this regard, the following points may please be perused:

1. GIDM, in association with Education Dept., Samagra Shiksha, GSDMA, UNICEF and UNNATI (knowledge partner), has started the hybrid training program targeting 211 Master Trainers. The online meeting was hosted by the Samagra Shiksha office from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm on 23rd Sept' 2022. The session was addressed by Dr Ratankanvar H. Gadhavicharan, IAS, State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha and Shri Nisarg Dave, Director (DM), GIDM. In the session, the officers talked about why School Safety and Security is important, policy initiatives the department has taken, knowledge products developed on the safety and security concerns, and how master trainers are expected to anchor the initiative at the school level;
2. The First Batch of Hybrid Training targeting Master Trainers has been completed for 4 Districts, namely, Ahmedabad/AMC, Kheda, Surendranagar and Botad, from 23-28-Sept-2022 at GIDM;
3. For the rollout of safety and security indicators at the school level covering 54,647 schools, the master trainers from the first batch have suggested that they can further train Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) and each of the CRC members can train and handhold some 10 - 12 school (every CRC is responsible for approximately 10-12 schools) on forming SDMCs and SDRMP;
4. Six master trainers have nominated themselves as Resource Persons for further batches on school safety and security. For the next batch of master trainers, local trained master trainers can be involved as co-trainers so that a group of resource pool can be developed. this would strengthen and anchor school safety and security in districts and at the school level;
5. As requested vide letter from Samagra Shiksha, dated 28-Sept-2022, the sessions for 2nd batch may be conducted in the Seminar Hall from 06th Oct - 08th Oct 2022 at GIDM;
6. The draft Schedule for the 2nd batch of master trainers (**Bhavnagar, Amreli, Gir Somnath, Junagadh, Porbandar**) has been prepared and submitted on page no. 111/C for your kind perusal and approval, please;
7. Based on the feedback of the participants, school visits on day 2 for risk assessment exercises and FGDs were very useful for developing SDRMP. In this regard, a 32-seater Mini AC Bus (Amounting Rs. 14,850/- excluding GST) may be booked as per GIDM Rate Contract for the field visit scheduled on 7th October 2022 (14:00-18:00 hrs);
8. We may issue the certificate with logo and signature of the Head of Department from GIDM, Education Department and UNICEF;
9. As per the approved budget, Food may be provided for the participants- Breakfast (Rs. 60) (for residential participants); Tea (Rs.10); Lunch (Rs.180); Evening Tea (Rs.10); Dinner (Rs.180) for residential participants;
10. During the training, we may require an advance of Rs. 5,000/- for smooth functioning of administrative expenditure of this training.

It is submitted for your kind perusal and approval, please.

UNICEF (KK) APPM (CP)

Manager (F&A)

Director (DM)

Director (F&A)

Director General

Respectfully Submitted

A letter from Secretary, Shri Mahesh Mehta, Samagra Shiksha dated 06-Oct-2022 may please be perused. **Attach-1**. As communicated, we have been requested to organize the **Third Batch from 11-13-Oct-2022** on School Safety and Security for selected **36 Master Trainers from 6 District, namely, Patan, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Aravalli, Gandhinagar**, at GIDM.

In this regard, the following points may please be perused:

1. The First and Second Batch of Hybrid Training targeting Master Trainers has been completed for 9 Districts, namely, **Ahmedabad/AMC, Kheda, Surendranagar, Botad, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Gir Somnath, Junagadh, Porbandar** from 23-28-Sept-2022 and 06-08-Oct-2022, respectively;
2. For the rollout of safety and security indicators at the school level covering 54,647 schools, the master trainers from the first batch have suggested that they can further train Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) and each of the CRC members can train and handhold some 10 - 12 school (every CRC is responsible for approximately 10-12 schools) on forming SDMCs and SDRMP;
3. Twelve master trainers have nominated themselves as Resource Persons for further batches on school safety and security. For the next batch of master trainers, local trained master trainers can be involved as co-trainers so that a group of resource pool can be developed. this would strengthen and anchor school safety and security in districts and at the school level;
4. As requested vide letter from Samagra Shiksha, dated 06-Oct-2022, the sessions for 3rd batch may be conducted in the Seminar Hall from 11th Oct - 13th Oct 2022 at Seminar Hall, Ground Floor, GIDM;
5. The draft Schedule for the 3rd batch of master trainers (**Patan, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Aravalli, Gandhinagar**) has been prepared and submitted as **Attach-2** for your kind perusal and approval, please;
6. Based on the feedback of the participants, school visits on day 2 for risk assessment exercises and FGDs were very useful for developing SDRMP. In this regard, a 32-seater Mini AC Bus (Amounting Rs. 14,850/- excluding GST) may be booked as per GIDM Rate Contract for the field visit scheduled on 12th October 2022 (14:00-18:00 hrs);
7. We may issue the certificate with logo and signature of the Head of Department from GIDM, Education Department and UNICEF;
8. As per the approved budget, Food may be provided for the participants- Breakfast (executive) (for residential participants); Tea (executive); Lunch (executive); Evening Tea (executive); Dinner (executive) for residential participants.

It is submitted for your kind perusal and approval, please.

UNICEF (KK) APPM (CP)

Manager (F&A)

Director (DM)

Director (F&A)

Director General