

# One Day Self Paced e-Course on School Safety and Security



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# 1. Introduction to the Course

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.

**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.**

Right to Education is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of India. In order to facilitate access of all children in the country with respect to the Right to Education, it is important to ensure that children remain safe as they access and enjoy their Right to Education.

Realising evident gaps in achieving the goals, GIDM in support with Samagra Shiksha Gujarat and UNICEF Gujarat Field Office has developed a self-paced course on school safety and security highlighting key aspects. The course contributes towards building knowledge on disaster risk reduction at school level policy guidelines available in the context of roles and responsibilities of different key stakeholders in the simplest and interactive format.

## 2. 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 implement the suggested actions contributing 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 incorporation of safety and security measures in planning, organising, implementation and monitoring & evaluation, which would further inform policy making strategies at the state level.

Additionally, **the course can also be taken by anyone & everyone who intends to develop a basic understanding of school safety and security.**

## 3. 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 school safety and security. 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. The COVID- 19 pandemic has posed a challenge of maintaining health of the entire school community. This has added a new dimension for social distancing in school, which relates not only to infrastructure and other physical aspects but also to health, hygiene and mental well-being.

Research shows that multi-component whole-school initiatives involving all the school community are more likely to reduce crimes, violence and bullying behaviours, than single component programs, such as those involving only classroom curriculum or appointing counselors. The Whole School Approach (WSA) is based on a humanitarian and developmental approach integrating a collective sense of responsibility and accountability towards children in particular and society in general. Thus, involvement and participation of all stakeholders is the key to WSA.

In this context, one must be aware of the fundamentals of school safety and security and this course can function as a stepping stone towards understanding disaster risk, empowering one to strategies risk reduction and management. The course is 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), and Hon'ble PM's 10 Point Agenda.

## 4. What to expect in the course?

The course is composed of 5 learning modules which has videos, assorted reading materials and quiz.

### **Module 1: Let's understand School Safety and Security**

'Let's understand school safety and security' is the first module of the e-course. The focus is on understanding school safety as a concept and how all the stakeholders are supposed to ensure school safety and security.

### **Module 2: School Disaster Risk Management**

The second module, School Disaster Risk Management, would highlight the concept of understanding disaster risks and its components and the overall cycle of Disaster Risk Management in a school context.

### **Module 3: Safe Learning Facility**

Safe Learning Facility is the third module of the e-course that talks about risks concerning structural and non-structural elements, Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) facilities and the Physical & Mental health of students.

### **Module 4: Safety and Security of Children in School**

The fourth module would talk about understanding and identifying violence (Physical, Sexual, Emotional and Online/Cyber), child protection machinery structure and reporting mechanism, child rights legislation and roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders.

### **Module 5: School Disaster Risk Management Plan**

The fifth and the last module on 'School Disaster Risk Management Plan' would help participants learn about development of School Disaster Risk Management Plan (SDRMP) by identifying risks and developing risk reduction actions/ activities including preparedness, response and recovery measures at the school level.

## 5. How to take the course?

The details of the course is available on GIDM's portal, at <https://gidm.gujarat.gov.in/en/learning-management-system-lms>

The glimpses of the course is available on the same page and also on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuA7LAr4PY>

Since this is a self-paced course, you can continue the course at any time, from the point where you left, simply by logging in again with your username and password.

In case of queries, you can write to [eaapm-gidm@gujarat.gov.in](mailto:eaapm-gidm@gujarat.gov.in), or, [lms-gidm@gujarat.gov.in](mailto:lms-gidm@gujarat.gov.in), or, [appm1-gidm@gujarat.gov.in](mailto:appm1-gidm@gujarat.gov.in)





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