

Brief on National School Safety Programme – Demonstration Project

Introduction:

National School Safety Programme – *Demonstration Project* with a total cost of Rs.48.47 Crore has been proposed as a 100% Centrally Sponsored scheme to be implemented by National Disaster Management Authority. It is a new proposal and a holistic project to promote culture of Safety in Schools by initiating policy level change, capacity building of officials, teachers, students and other stake holders undertaking Information, Education and Communication activities, promoting non-structural mitigation measures and demonstrative structural retrofitting in few Schools.

Background

2. During the decade of the nineties, India witnessed several earthquakes like the Uttarkashi Earthquake of 1991, the Latur Earthquake 1993, the Jabalpur earthquake of 1997 and Chamoli Earthquake of 1999. These were followed by the Bhuj earthquake of 26 January 2001, the earthquake in Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 26th December 2004 and the Jammu & Kashmir Earthquake on 8th October, 2005. These earthquakes resulted in over 23,000 deaths and caused enormous damage to property, assets and infrastructure.

3. Several past disasters as well as the China Earthquake in May, 2008 have shown that school children are highly vulnerable during any disaster and deserve specific attention. During the earthquake in Muzzafarabad, Pakistan in October 2005, more than 16,000 children were killed due to collapse of school buildings. Gujarat Earthquake took away lives of 971 school students and 31 teachers. 1884 school buildings collapsed 11761 school buildings suffered major to minor damages, 5950 classrooms were lost and 36584 classrooms became unfit for use. On 23rd December, 1995, nearly 425 people, most of them school children, died during a fire in a school prize distribution function at Dabwali in Haryana. The deadly fire that raged the Saraswati Nursery School in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu killed 93 innocent children. Schools are institutions for learning and instill important cultural and social values as well as traditional and conventional knowledge, which are further communicated by the younger generation to the larger community.

4. Protection of children during natural and human induced disasters will require a safe school. The Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) adopted by national governments of 68 countries with an overarching goal to build resilience of nations and communities to disasters by 2015 offers five areas of priority action and guiding principles. The priority action 3 of the framework states “Use of Knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels”. It emphasizes on inclusion of disaster risk reduction knowledge in relevant sections of school curricula at all levels and the use of formal and informal channels to

reach youth and children with information and help them to learn how to minimize the effects of hazards.

Components of the Project

Component I: Formulation of draft National School Safety Policy:

5. The programme will advocate for creation of an enabling internal as well as external environment to mainstream “Disaster Risk Education” in education sector in States. It will involve advocacy campaign for including Disaster Risk Education in the frontline school curriculum and introduction of co-curricular activities like action projects, special tutorials/fun learning sessions/ training on life supporting schools at school level etc. Students of all age groups would be targeted and sensitized, trained and oriented towards disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Such advocacy initiative has to be stemmed up to the state level and linked up with ongoing development schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA), NREGA(National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), Total Literacy Campaign(TLC) etc; already in implementation at the district and state level for betterment of education system.

6. One such programmes which could be easily leveraged upon is the Sarva Sikshya Abhiyaan (SSA), which is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86th amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a fundamental right. Efforts can be made to ensure that the new schoolrooms constructed adhere to and incorporate the hazard resistant features. In case of new schools while selecting the sites adequate care could be taken to ensure that they are not located in hazard prone areas. Such integration can be done more effectively if adequate orientation is being provided to the concerned departmental functionaries dealing with such programmes. The engineers, district project officers, State project engineers working under the scheme should be adequately trained on disaster risk education and school safety. State Governments should further support it by taking policy level decisions including it as a mandate under the scheme.

7. Strong advocacy is also required for involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions at local level to ensure disaster risk education and school safety. Since it is being envisaged that the existing school buildings at the district and sub-district levels can also be used as emergency shelters in a post disaster situation, it is of utmost importance to address this issue at the local level planning. While preparing the Development plan appropriate discussions need to be held with the members of the district planning committee to ensure structural safety in natural hazard prone areas. The district planning committee which is responsible for preparing the District disaster management plan and development Plan can address the issue of structural safety in hazard prone areas by incorporating suitable provision in the development planning process and advocate for proper allocation of funds to construct them. Similarly the district DM plan should identify suitable schools in the district that could be used as relief shelters.

8. The key activities under component I are:
 - Formulating blueprint of draft National School Safety Policy
 - Stakeholders consultations (5 regional workshops)
 - Holding of National Workshop to deliberate upon the draft and finalise the recommendations.
 - Formulation of draft National School Safety Policy.
9. Draft School Safety Policy will then be sent to Ministry of Human Resource Development for consideration

Component II Capacity Building (200 schools in two districts each in 22 States):

10. Reducing structural vulnerability of the school buildings, which is often the root cause of death and injury of school children, is a resource intensive solution and would require time. Therefore, as a risk reduction effort, it is of high importance to prepare Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans at individual school level to ensure that the children are in a better position to respond effectively or to tackle any emergency within the school environment. The School Disaster Management Plans are to be further supported with constitution of disaster management teams, training of the disaster management teams on basic life supporting skills and development of a school level emergency kit. Existence of such kits at the school level will be of great help during any post disaster search and rescue operation within the school premise or in the nearby area.

11. Under the National School Safety Programme, School Disaster Management Plans will be prepared in selected districts. In every selected district, on the basis of the segregated data available on the type of schools and their size, 100 schools would be identified where the programme will support preparation of school disaster management plans and associated support facilities.

12. The key activities under component II are:
 - 200 Schools each in two Districts of 22 States are to be targeted.
 - Development of a Standard Teachers' Training Module on School Safety. A standard module can be developed at the national level and further modified at the local level.
 - Translation into regional languages and printing of Teachers Training Module.
 - Training of Master Trainers (10 Master trainers per State).
 - Training of Trainers Programme (15 trainers per district).
 - Training of teachers (500 teachers, officials etc per district)
 - Preparation of School DM Plans in 200 schools in targeted Districts
 - Review and approval of School DM Plans prepared by schools.
 - Distribution of School Disaster Preparedness Kits to 200 schools in targeted district.

- Conduct Mock Drills in 200 schools in targeted districts.

Component III: Information, Education and Communication activities to make the school children, parents, teachers, school administrators and larger community aware of school safety and disaster risk reduction mechanisms (Covering all districts of 22 States falling in Zone IV and V).

13. The school community (including teachers and administrative staffs) would be sensitized on issues of disaster preparedness and safety measures. The key stakeholders and the larger community members would be motivated to participate in disaster risk reduction activities and to enhance disaster resilience. These sensitization programmes will be carried out across the targeted districts. The awareness programmes will essentially educate the school children and the teachers about the basic preparedness measures to be adopted to reduce the risk posed by natural hazards. These awareness and knowledge sharing programmes will help to educate the school children and the community on disaster preparedness skills. Under this component all the existing schools in the district would be targeted. District Information System for Education (DISE) already existing at the district level would be used in getting all school related information.

14. Key activities under component III are:

- Development of IEC materials and other learning aids (Booklets) for school children and school authorities in local language.
- Development of IEC Material-Audio Visual.
- Translation, printing, dissemination of IEC Material.
- Sensitisation Programmes at state level
- Sensitisation Programmes at District Level
- Preparation of District level implementation plan (indicating both time and resource requirement) for awareness creation.
- Selection of other stakeholders who can partner with
- District Administration in creating awareness among
- school children. Local NGOs and CBOs can get actively
- involved in this initiative and can join hands with district
- administration to carry it forward.
- Conducting Sensitization Programmes for the District Education Officers, Block Education Officers, senior teachers, NDRF, civil defence volunteers, NSS and NYKS volunteers and other stakeholders who will be involved in creating awareness/conducting awareness programmes across the district.
- Other district level events can also be organized like painting competitions for school children, debate competition, essay writing and quiz etc.

Component IV: Non-structural Measures

15. Two Districts in each of the targeted States will be selected for non-structural mitigation measures. The rapid visual survey of all schools in two districts each of 22 States (approximately 88,000 schools) will be done by trained engineers. Based on the assessment report, non-structural mitigation measures will be taken in 200 schools each of two districts of the targeted States.

16. The key activities under component IV are:

- Preparation of a standard Checklist to assess the existing non-structural risks in the school buildings. This particular activity can be taken up at the national level and a readymade checklist can be provided to the state/district administration for reference. The standardized checklist can then be further modified at the local level as per the requirement.
- Training of at least 2 Engineers from each targeted Districts (44 Districts in all) who are fully qualified technically to carry out assessment of the safety of the existing structures.
- Carrying out of rapid visual screening of all school buildings in two districts each in 22 States/UTs under Seismic Zones IV and V.
- Implementation of various non-structural disaster risk mitigation measures in the selected school (200 school each in two districts of 22 States/UTs).

Component V: Demonstrative Retrofitting of one school each in 22 States.

17. One model secondary school with strength of at least 1500 students in one District each of the targeted States will be selected for retrofitting. The structural safety of the school buildings would be assessed by trained engineers from the district public works department or hazard safety cell. Based on the assessment report, retrofitting requirements would be identified and the actual retrofitting will be carried out. Since majority of school buildings are simple masonry structure or a non-engineered R.C.C. structure, model retrofitting would be carried out on one such building. This retrofitted school could also be used as a relief shelter by the district administration ensuring that loss of instructional time in a post disaster situation is kept to minimum.

18. The key activities under component IV are:

- Preparation of a standard Checklist to assess the existing structural risks in the school buildings-this particular activity can be taken up at the national level and a ready made checklist can be provided to the state/district administration for reference. The

standardized checklist can then be further modified at the local level as per the requirement.

- Preparation of Retrofitting Guidelines.
- Preparation of phase-wise execution plan for carrying out the retrofitting of school buildings.
- Retrofitting of one school building in one district each in 22 targeted States/UTs under Earthquake Zones IV and V.
- Sensitization programme for the students, teachers and surrounding community people on the importance of structural and non-structural retrofitting.
- Constitution of District level monitoring and coordination sub-committee for supervising and executing the task. (This committee will be looking after the retrofitting component only and will report to the District Level Committee under SSA at frequent intervals. This committee will be constituted under the guidance of the District Collector).
- Systematic documentation of the key activities and processes adopted for future learning and application.

Component VI: Project Management and Implementation Support.

19. This component provides support for project management by financing operating costs for Project Management Unit at NDMA, nodal agency at State level, office equipment, training and exposure visits. This will also cover engagement of suitable Public Sector Agency for Technical Support during implementation of the Project.

Timeframe for implementation

20. The target date of completion of the project is 24 months from the date of approval of the project. Proposed time schedule is enclosed at Annexure. The benefits shall start to accumulate within first few months of the project implementation by enabling students, teachers, parents, officials of Education Departments in targeted Districts with sensitisation and increased levels of awareness.

Financial Estimates

21. National School Safety Programme is proposed to be implemented out of the budget provision for Other Disaster Management Project. Sufficient budget is available for this purpose. Year wise and component wise breakup of the fund requirement is as follows:-

		Rs. Crore			
Component		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Total
I:	Formulation of draft National School Safety Policy	0.05	0.18	0.09	0.32
II:	Capacity Building (200 schools in two districts each of 22 States/ UTs falling in zone IV and V)	1.65	9.91	3.30	14.86
III:	Information, Education and Communication (Covering all districts of 22 States/ UTs.)	0.75	4.39	2.91	8.05

IV: Non-structural Mitigation Measures (200 districts each of 22 States/UTs)	Schools in two	1.50	8.50	5.58	15.58
V: Demonstrative Retrofitting (one school UTs)	each in 22 States/	0.60	3.60	2.40	6.60
VI: Project Management and Implementation	Support	0.53	1.53	1.00	3.06
Total		5.08	28.11	15.28	48.47

22. The Project details have been prepared after extensive consultations with all concerned. However, cost of demonstrative retrofitting component may vary depending on location, size, building, typology and age of selected school buildings.

Estimated yield from the project and what are the economic implications?

23. National School Safety Programme – *Demonstration Project* is a social sector project. The outcome of the project will be “greater preparedness of the nation towards disasters”. It will promote a culture of safety in school and draw in the commitment to provide safe learning environment for children and education professionals

24. It would not be feasible to quantify economic implications and benefits in precise financial terms. However, Savings in terms of preventing loss of lives of schools children and teachers and interruption of education in case of a disaster, will far exceed the investments made in National School Safety Programme – *Demonstration Project*.

The important outcomes and outputs of the Project are indicated below:

Outcomes:

- To save lives and prevent injuries to school children, teachers and other staff of school by undertaking Capacity Building, Training, Awareness, Generation activities and reducing the underlying risk in the existing school buildings (both structural and non structural) by conducting risk and safety assessments and strengthening weak structures, if required, by adopting appropriate measures.
- To prevent interruption of education by creating an enabling school environment for vulnerability reduction through education, learning, training, and knowledge sharing and by creating an enabling external environment by putting in place appropriate policy and legal measures.

Outputs:

- i. Draft School Safety Policy
- ii. Standard Teachers Training Module on School Safety

- iii. Rapid Visual Survey of schools in two Districts each of 22 States (approximately 88,000 schools).
- iv. Non structural mitigation measures in 200 schools each in two District each of 22 states.
- v. Structural Retrofitting of one school building in one school each in 22 States/UTs falling under Earthquake Zones IV and V.
- vi. Training of at least 2 Engineers from each targeted Districts (44 Districts in all) who are fully qualified technically to carry out assessment of the safety of the existing structures.
- vii. Training of Master Trainers (10 Master trainers per State).
- viii. Training of Trainers Programme (15 trainers per district).
- ix. Training of teachers (500 teachers, officials etc per district).
- x. Preparation of a standard Checklist to assess the existing risks in the school buildings (structural and non-structural risks).
- xi. Awareness generation and capacity building of students, teachers, parents, officials of Education Departments in the targeted Districts.

Operational Capabilities :-

- NDMA will engage a suitable Public Sector Agency for Technical Support.
- The States/UTs will be provided with project management support by NDMA. Each State/UT government will identify a state nodal agency and designate a project officer. This officer will be responsible for execution of the project. Review meetings will be conducted by the state nodal agency to monitor the project on a quarterly basis. District Level Committee constituted under SSA project will monitor the implementation of the Project in targeted Districts.

Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism: Joint Secretary, NDMA will be the nodal officer for the Project. A committee with the following composition will monitor be implementation of the programme closely:

- 1) Joint Secretary, NDMA – Chairman
- 2) Representative of Ministry of HRD
- 3) Representative of DM Division of MHA
- 4) Representative of Planning Commission
- 5) Director (Finance) NDMA
- 6) Joint Advisor, NDMA
- 7) Representatives of NIDM

List of states and District

Sr.	State/UT	Districts
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No.		
1.	Jammu-Kashmir	Leh (IV) Kupwara (V)
2.	Haryana	Gurgaon (IV) Faridabad (IV)
3.	Meghalaya	East Garo Hills (V) Ribhoi
4.	Manipur	Chandel (V) Imphal East (V)
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra, Kullu
6.	Gujarat	Bhuj (V), Jamnagar (IV)
7.	Assam	Kamrup (V) Tinsukisa (V)
8.	Nagaland	Mokochung (V) Kohima (V)
9.	Punjab	Amirtsar (IV) Ludhiyana
10.	Chandigarh	Zone (IV)
11.	Rajasthan	Alwar (IV) Bikaner (III)
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	East Siang (V), Lohit (V)
13.	Sikkim	East (IV), South (IV)
14.	Delhi	West Delhi (IV), South West Delhi (IV)
15.	Tripura	North (V), West (V)
16.	Uttarakhand	Bageshwar (V), Rudra Prayag (V)
17.	Bihar	Madhubani (V), Araria (V)
18.	Mizoram	Aizawl (V), Serchhip (V)
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	Andamans (V), Nicobars (V)
20.	West Bengal	Cooch Behar (IV), Darjiling (IV)
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad (IV +), Kheri (IV)
22.	Maharashtra	Pune (IV), Satara (IV)
