

## Report on the Training of Trainer (ToT) programme on 'Hazard Risk Mitigation and Preparedness in Schools'

Organised jointly by Revenue Department of Kerala, UNDP & GeoHazards Society,  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010, Cochin, Kerala

GeoHazards Society has been conducting school safety Training of Trainers through out the country. A similar two day school safety advocates ToT programme was organised in Cochin, Kerala on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The programme was jointly organised by UNDP and Revenue Department, Government of Kerala. About 65 participants from all over the state participated in the programme.

The first day training programme started with an introduction about activities of GeoHazards Society (GHS) and GeoHazards International (GHI) followed by a pre test to know the depth of knowledge of the participants on multi hazards of Kerala. Then the trainer Mr. Hari Kumar from GHS went on to say why schools need disaster preparedness. He showed the statistics of dead and injured children during earthquake, fire and other disasters within school. Children are more vulnerable inside an unsafe and unprepared school rather than at their home. It led him to elaborate about the different steps which can make a school prepared to face any disastrous event. He described them about the six steps of preparedness in schools and how these simple steps can save valuable lives. He also described them how these steps of preparedness can be implemented in a school.

The training covered multi hazard profile of the state. Because the trainees should have the idea of the hazards they are going to handle in the disaster management plan of a school. Kerala has been struggling with severe landslide and flood problem, but there is history of earthquake also. So, earthquake may also happen in the state. In 2004 this state has also experienced the wrath of the tsunami. So, schools have to be take care of each and every disaster according to their geographical location. The training progressed with



emphasis on the flood disaster preparedness. Hari Kumar described about the use and response to the early warning system for flood. The probable measures which a school disaster management committee may take after getting an early warning. Flood is a threat for the structural damage, contents damage and utility systems damage; which can lead to close down of the school for many months. There is threat of epidemic and health hazard as after affect of flood. So, the School Disaster Management Committee should work it out for preparedness. He also gave light on the issue of artificial flood and its relevant preparedness. In the next session he went to describe about the probability and past history of an earthquake in Kerala and how it may affect the school. There is pile of incidents how an earthquake has taken thousands of innocent life inside school building through out the world. Due to the different geophysical causes there may be an earthquake in Kerala in near future. So, in this regard the school should take care of earthquake safety too.

The second day training programme started with an introduction to structural safety in schools to provide the trainees a brief idea about what can happen during the shaking and how buildings behave during earthquake. The trainer also described some of the basic preventive measures common people and school administrators may take during construction of a new building. The next session described about the damages which can happen from the non structural or falling hazards. But this damage can be reduced with simple mitigation techniques. Hari Kumar also took the participants through a visual hazard hunt to make them familiar with the hazards. The trainees were taken to a school nearby for practical experience of the falling hazards.



In the next session the trainees were taught extensively about the need of planning at school. How the trainees will approach the school administrators and motivate them to take preparedness steps. He described the role of the trainees in preparing a comprehensive disaster prepared school. They have to work from meeting with the principal, sensitization programme for all occupants to conducting mock drills. There is need of proper planning everywhere and the trainees have to take care of



every student of the school when planning disaster preparedness activities. Like special arrangement for the physically handicap students and taking care during drill. They were taught on how to make a comprehensive school disaster management plan and conduct evacuation drill. To be dedicated to the school after a disaster the families of the teachers have to be prepared. So, they were taught how to make a preparedness plan for the entire family. The overall training was participatory and teachers showed great enthusiasm towards the activities. It is considered to be one of the comprehensive two day training programme on disaster preparedness for school administrators and teachers organised by UNDP and Revenue Department of Kerala.

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