

School Safety Preparedness Drill 2014

4 April, 109th Anniversary of the 1905 Kangra
Earthquake



In Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Tripura, Assam,
Mizoram, Delhi, West Bengal, Sikkim, Punjab, Uttarakhand,
Meghalaya (and in Mandalay, Myanmar)



GeoHazards Society
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Safety of school children has always been of utmost priority for GeoHazards Society (GHS). GHS have been instrumental in creating comprehensive safe schools in Delhi that have become models for school safety projects nationally. GHS also conducts training programmes for school safety advocates in partnership with State governments including Orissa, Delhi, Assam, etc. and Training of Trainers programmes for the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)



Sounding of the bell

Bhojaner Chhara 4th Plan Primary School



Awareness programme in Tibetan Homes School, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

The National School Safety Programme (NSSP) is a centrally sponsored scheme by Government of India. It started in June 2011 and is implemented by National Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resource Development for duration of 24 months. It is a holistic project to promote a culture of safety in schools and would cover 200 schools in each of the selected 43 districts spread over 22 States and UTs of the country falling in seismic zone IV & V. its aim is to develop the capacities of students, teachers and all the stakeholders which would help in building a disaster resilient community.



Awareness programme in Conqueror Academy of Education, Myanmar



Search and rescue training in GBSSS Lal Pani, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh



As many of the states have completed the training of teachers and formulated disaster management plan in their schools, NDMA felt that the School Safety Preparedness Drill would be a good opportunity to test the level of preparedness in the school. Information was issued from the NDMA to all states under NSSP to be part of this novel initiative. The participation from NSSP schools proved to be a big boost for the SSPD and as per reports reaching in till 30th April, the number of participants in this drill on April 4, 2014 was 7, 26,651 persons.



The drill was conducted with enthusiasm by the schools and had a major impact on the students and teachers who all participated as they felt they are better prepared to handle any emergency in the future. The students prepared posters of Drop, Cover and Hold on to sensitize everyone in the school about the do's and don'ts during and after an earthquake. These drawings act as a visual aid to all those who had not been aware about these ways to ensure their safety.





Evacuation in progress in Lancer's Convent School, Rohini, Delhi



Evacuation in progress in Tibetan Homes School, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

The response from other states was also remarkable. In Tripura 234 schools participated, in Uttarakhand 4 schools participated, in Himachal Pradesh 132 schools participated, in Haryana 6 schools participated, in West Bengal 4 schools participated, in Meghalaya 2 schools, in Mizoram 13 schools participated in the mock drill. Many schools catering to the differently abled including Blind Relief Association in Delhi also participated in the drill where students and teachers both participated to make it a success.



Evacuation of children supervised by seniors



Medical team responding to injured in Central School for Tibetans, Darjeeling

The schools across the states had been informed prior to the drill and relevant material and flyers were provided to the school for conducting the drill. The schools prepared various teams such as team for search and rescue, first aid etc. to facilitate the drill. As decided a special bell was sounded at 11.00 am immediately after that the children took shelter under their desks practicing the Drop, Cover and Hold on method as they have been instructed. After few minutes second bell was sounded which was to signal the evacuation for the children from the building, the children covered their head to protect it from falling objects and evacuated swiftly in a single file to the pre decided open area outside the school building where roll calls were done to find out missing persons. Following this search and rescue team moved inside the building to evacuate those who were injured out in the open where medical and first aid teams were waiting for immediate treatment.

The drill ended with debriefing by the teachers where the drill was discussed and problems were identified.



Search and Rescue team bringing injured people to safety Sekerkote H.S. School, Sadar, Tripura West



'Injured' student being brought to safe area in Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bathri, Dalhousie, HP

prepare them for such kind of hazards. Regular drills ensure that students and teachers are well prepared beforehand to handle such situations and can minimise damage and loss of life during a real incident. By being prepared in advance we can ensure that a hazard doesn't convert into a disaster and also regular practice will help to plan ahead in a better manner.

This year school safety drill witnessed participation by many schools across the country and the message of preparedness was clearly put in the fore front. The involvement of NDMA and various other agencies in this year drill will help in providing a better future to the students of the country. It is rightly said "better to be prepared 5 years early than to be 5 minutes too late", this initiative helped in keeping the memory of one of India's most destructive earthquake alive and preparing for a resilient society.



Debriefing in Elite Middle School, New Serchhip, Mizoram



Debriefing in G.G.S.S.S. No. 2 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Sector 5, Delhi