



SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMME

TRAINING REPORT

2024

DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, ALAPPUZHA.



ATREE

CERC



ജില്ലാ ദുരന്ത നിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റി ആലപ്പുഴ

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MAY 20 – MAY 23

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DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, ALAPPUZHA,
KERALA.

In collaboration with KERALA YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY and (ATREE).

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SCHOOL SAFETY! WHAT AND WHY?

Schools are critical infrastructure entrusted with the responsibility of creating citizens of tomorrow. A safe and secure environment is a prerequisite for effective teaching and learning. Thus ensuring safety of children, teachers and staff members during disasters is necessary. It becomes of utmost importance that safety of children is given due consideration, thus making schools safe also serves the purpose of their dual use as evacuation centres during emergencies.

"School Safety" has been defined as creating safe environment for children, starting from their homes to their schools and back. This includes safety from any kind of abuse, violence, psycho-social issue, disaster: natural and manmade, fire, transportation. Building safe schools should be a priority for architects, engineers, policy makers, administrators and emergency response planners. Among all public facilities, children in schools are the most vulnerable during disasters. A large number of schools operate in congested urban centres and are exposed to various hazards. Amongst all the public facilities, children in school are among the vulnerable groups during any disaster.

School safety includes within its ambit structural safety of the buildings per se and non-structural measures like awareness generation, ensuring communication, school preparedness plans, capacity building of students and teachers, rehearsals and mock drills etc. Building safe schools will not only ensure safety of children in disasters, but will also promote faster rehabilitation post disaster.

It has been identified that many of the schools do not address issue of safety. The state education department with the support from the district/local administration adopt several school safety plans. Basically at two levels:

- A district wide school safety plan
- A school building level emergency preparedness and response plan.

The concept of adopting school plans at two levels is a suggestive model to carry the safety initiative in schools. The school safety programme essentially targets in promoting a culture of disaster safety in school. The goal of the programme is to promote a culture of disaster preparedness in the school community.

District wise school safety team is developed by the school safety advisory committee, and the school preparedness and emergency response plan. Schools should establish disaster management club in the schools and promote activities in the subject of disaster management and student volunteerism.

One such district level training programme on school safety was conducted by, ***District Disaster Management Authority***, that comes under Kerala State Disaster Management Authority.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

1. to promote a culture of disaster preparedness in schools.
2. Enhance understanding of participants on various aspects of disaster risk and its reduction.
3. Enable the participants to develop a school safety preparedness plan.
4. To train the teaching professions under the expertise of fire and safety rescue department.
5. Enabling the participants in understanding an introduction on monsoon preparedness.
6. Introducing the Uschool app to the participants.

TARGET GROUP

THIS PROGRAMME WAS INTENDED FOR TEACHERS, HEADMASTERS/MISTERS, DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CHARGED HELD TEACHERS AND PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMME

District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), and District Educational Department jointly conducted a training series on *school safety and disaster preparedness programme with fire and rescue techniques* for LP/UP/HIGH SCHOOL head misters/masters of Alappuzha, Cherthala, Mavelikkara and Kuttanad educational districts.

School safety training programmes were conducted on district level to ensure school safety and disaster preparedness.



The school safety programme operated from 20 may 2024 to 23 may 2024 at different venues including Alappuzha, Cherthala, Mavelikara and Kuttanad. The district level inauguration was held at SDV GHSS Alappuzha, commenced by district collector Sri. Alex Varghese IAS on 20 may 2024. Along with the safety programme, training for U SCHOOL app was also conducted for the professions. The programme was conducted at sub district level with a total participants of 715 teachers. Kerala Youth Leadership Academy and (ATREE) also accompanied the training programme.

U SCHOOL APP

Uschool app – Ensuring safety of children in schools across Kerala.

Ensuring school safety in all schools across Kerala is a continuing and ongoing process which needs much consideration and attention in the current context of increasing disasters in the context of climate change. Ensuring school safety is mandated by the National Disaster Management Authority as part of the Disaster Management Act 2005. Hon. Supreme court had also directed State and central governance mechanism to ensure the school safety as per the National School Safety Guidelines 2016 through various rulings related to safety of children in schools.

As part of the implementation of the act and the guidelines, Department of Education, Govt. of Kerala has been submitting a status report of school safety in every quarter to National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, copied to Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA). From 2017 onwards KSDMA is actively involved in conducting various school safety training programmes and campaigns in various levels in association with District Disaster Management Authority and District Education offices.

Formulation of school safety plans in all schools is done in participation and consultation with the teachers, non-teaching staff and the guardians. And considering suggestions from the teachers who participated in various training sessions. It was decided to develop a technical system to support the teachers to prepare the school safety plan in schools. Thus in order to ensure the larger intervention/penetration of school safety activities for resilience building in schools, KSDMA had developed ‘Uschool’ app in association with UNICEF along with technical support from CDIT and data support from KITE (<https://uschool.sdma.kerala.gov.in/index.php/Login>). Consequently, the app was launched by the Hon. Min. of Revenue Mr. K. Rajan, during the state level programme on International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction on 13th October 2023 at Panancherry L P school, Thrissur.

The app consists of basic details of the schools, Hazard profile of the school, Names and details of the members of the school safety committee, school fitness certificate and emergency phone numbers etc. which can be utilised during emergencies. Ensuring the formulation school safety plans in all schools across Kerala will definitely help us in reaching the goal of safe and resilient Kerala in the context of increasing disasters and climate change.

DAY 01-ALAPPUZHA EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT

The school safety programme in Alappuzha was conducted on 20 May 2024 at SDV GHSS Alappuzha. The inauguration was done by the district collector Sri. Alex Varghese IAS, Deputy Director of Education Sri. Prathesh M K (KAS) delivered the welcome address, presidential address was delivered by Smt. Beena C (Tahasildar), Sri. P Raamamoorthy (Junior Superintendent, Disaster Management) proposed the vote of thanks.

UNICEF programme coordinator of Kerala State Disaster Management Authority Dr. Pradesh C. Maaman introduced the importance of Uschool app along with delivering the purpose of school safety programme. Fire technics and First Aid classes were delivered by Sri Benjamin and Sri Sanjosh respectively. Monsoon preparedness class was introduced by Smt Chinthu (District Hazard Analyst). A total of 170 teachers were trained under the professions.



Fig .1 school safety training programme at SDV GHSS ALAPPUZHA.

DAY 02-CHERTHALA

The school safety programme in Cherthala was successfully conducted on 21 may 2024 at Muttom Parish Hall, Cherthala. The inauguration was done by the Tahasildar, Sri. Naasar K.M, Deputy Director of Education Sri. Prathesh M K (KAS) delivered the welcome address, Sri. P Raamamoorthy (Junior Superintendent, Disaster Management) proposed the vote of thanks.

UNICEF programme coordinator of Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Dr. Pradesh C Maaman introduced the importance of Uschool app along with delivering the purpose of school safety programme. Fire and rescue training classes took place under P.K. Rejimon, Fire and Rescue Officer. Monsoon preparedness class was introduced by Smt Chinthu (District Hazard Analyst). Co-workers and other associates at the DDMA also partook in the training programme. A total of 149 teachers were trained under the professions.



Fig. 2 school safety programme training at Muttom parish hall, Cherthala.

DAY 03-MAVELIKKARA

The school safety programme in Mavelikkara was successfully conducted on 22 May 2024 at Bishop Hodgus H S S, Mavelikkara. The inauguration was done by the Tahasildar, Sri Dileep Kumar, Accounts officer DDE Sri. B. Ajith Kumar delivered the welcome address, presidential address was delivered by Renjith T (Disaster Management Section) Sri. P Raamamoorthy (Junior Superintendent, Disaster Management) proposed the vote of thanks.

UNICEF programme coordinator of Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Dr. Pradesh C Maaman introduced the importance of Uschool app along with delivering the purpose of school safety programme. Fire and rescue training was given by Sri. Santhosh Kumar and Sri. Dhanesh. S, Fire and Rescue Station, Mavelikkara. Monsoon preparedness class was introduced by Smt Chinthu (District Hazard Analyst). Co-workers and other associates at the DDMA also partook in the training programme. A total of 286 teachers were trained under the professions.



Fig. 3 school safety programme at Bishop Hodgus H S S, Mavelikkara.

DAY 04-KUTTANAD

The school safety programme in Kuttanad was successfully conducted on 23 May 2024 at St. Mary's H.S.S Champakkulam, Kuttanad. The inauguration was done by the Tahasildar, Sri Jayesh P V. Jayakrishnan. M (DEO, Kuttanad) delivered the welcome address, Sri. P Raamamoorthy (Junior Superintendent, Disaster Management) proposed the vote of thanks.

UNICEF programme coordinator of Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Dr. Pradesh C Maaman introduced the importance of Uschool app along with delivering the purpose of school safety programme. Monsoon preparedness class was introduced by Smt Chinthu (District Hazard Analyst). Co-workers and other associates at the DDMA also partook in the training programme. A total of 110 teachers were trained under the professions.



Fig.no 4 school safety programme at St. Mary's H.S.S Champakkulam.

PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMME

All schools need to establish a school safety plan. Both the district and school team may consider factors such as schools ability to handle a situation with internal resources and its experience in responding to the past recorded event.

The plan need to address a range of events caused both by nature and anthropologically.

In developing countries like India, schools are often located in vulnerable areas and unprepared to respond to emergencies. In recent years, schools in India have witnessed many catastrophic incidents Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, highlights knowledge and education as one of the five main priorities of action. Attention should be accorded and support given to efforts targeting school children and youth with the aim of making people more aware of the threat of hazards and of the need and possibility to become better prepared before disasters strike. So by the initiative of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Alappuzha planned to conduct a school safety program in all the education institutions of Alappuzha district.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN

Awareness classes for students

School plays a very important role in the dissemination of information among the masses and Students must have the basic knowledge of Disaster Management. As a part of the program Fire and rescue and Health Department can be used for awareness on the basic search & rescue techniques, Emergency first aid management and post disaster activities respectively.10 schools are selected for each educational district, total 40 schools are selected for the trainings.

Mock Drills

The objective of mock drill is to review the emergency preparedness plan of the school and evaluate standard operating procedure, so that concerned persons would deliver their duties effectively while keeping in cognizance of life and property. If the teachers, students and concerned stakeholders are trained, then the response during emergency would be smooth and effective. 10 mockdrills are planned to be conducted in each educational district and total 40 mockdrills are planned.

Formation of Disaster Management Committee

A Disaster Management committee at school level is planned and to execute. The committee will have the responsibility to plan the disaster management activities in the school and to ensure the safety of students. Both teachers and students will be the members of the committee.

Updating of Disaster Management Plan (DM Plan)

Disaster management plans in schools level are already prepared. Updation of current DM plan and new contents are to be added. The duty of updating DM plan will be given to the newly elected DM committee.

This proposal for school safety programme provides the necessary steps to plan a school safety programme in Alappuzha, Cherthala, Mavelikara and Kuttanad and can be used to as a reference guide to review and improve existing plans.



**DISTRICT DISASATER MANAGEMNT AUTHORITY, ALAPPUZHA
KERALA.**