

Framework on School Safety Mock Exercise

1. The “National School Safety Programme (NSSP) - a Demonstration Project” is being implemented by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 22 State/UT Governments in a time bound manner. NSSP is a holistic project to promote culture of Safety in Schools and would cover 200 schools in each of the selected 43 districts of the country falling in seismic zones IV & V. Mock Exercise is one of the important activity under the Project to be conducted in all 8600 identified schools.

2. Each school is mandated to have a Disaster Management (DM) Plan. To test the efficacy and effectiveness of the DM Plan, as also to find gaps, mock exercises should be conducted in schools every six months, on the perceived disasters. It is a participatory exercise, to practice taking various life-saving measures during the occurrence of a disaster and evacuation of the school building/s, after the disaster has occurred. The first responders from the district, like fire and emergency services, police and the medical services would normally take time to reach disaster site/s, especially after a major disaster like earthquake, which would have affected other areas and schools equally badly. Hence the need for the schools to be self reliant, till the arrival of help from outside. To ensure proper execution of a mock exercise, the roles and responsibilities of pre-designated school disaster management teams should be clearly delineated. The support actions required from the school after the arrival of the first responders, like police, fire services, civil defence/home guards, ambulance services and emergency medical teams, should also be defined in the form of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and included in the School DM Plan.

3. A school should ideally have the following disaster Management structure:

- a) School DM Committee, with Principal as its Chairperson.
- b) Disaster Response Plan, to include hazard identification and safety assessment, resource mapping (internal and external), formulation of various DM teams and evacuation plan with nominated Assembly Area/s..
- c) The following Disaster Management Teams are recommended to be constituted:
 - i. Disaster Awareness Team.
 - ii. Warning & Information Dissemination Team.
 - iii. Evacuation Team for each class, with teacher taking class at the time of disaster, becoming its leader.
 - iv. Search & Rescue Team/s (One team per 100 students).
 - v. First Aid Team/s ((One team per 100 students).
 - vi. Fire Safety Team.
 - vii. Bus Safety Team.
- d) The teams will have nominated teacher/non teaching staff as their leaders, with assistance from nominated students (school head boy/girl, house captains, monitors etc) from higher classes.

