

One Day State Level Workshop

Knowledge Product on making Schools Safer



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 **Training and Learning Circle**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Though a very difficult task “ACKNOWLEDGEMENT” is a traditionally PROTOCOL. SSVK and I personally myself thank first of all to AIDMI & TLC management as well as staff who gave us responsibility to arrange a state level one day workshop and networking on a burning problem- Disaster Mitigation Subject of Workshop was specific and unique. Perhaps it was first workshop on BIHAR ON MAKING KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT ON SAFER SCHOOL. It is a well accepted truth that schools specially in rural areas play an important role in the execution on social, cultural, economical and political too phenomenon. Schools also become a shelter place and centre of activities after disaster. These also produce future citizens of the nation. It is a fact that schools in the rural area are technically neglected. These are not fit on Disaster Mitigation measurement.

We are very grateful to all participants of different disaster hit prone area who in spite of many traveling difficulties came and attended the workshop.

We are obliged to all resource persons, media persons, IT student, Insurance personal and all who cooperated us for the smooth and successful finishing of workshop.

We can not forget workshop place hotel management and its staff. We also thank all who work at their level to mitigate Disaster.

At last we thank all known and unknown persons as well as workers of SSVK whose co-operation was valuable.

With Thanks

Deepak Bharti



(Secretary)

Samajik Shaikshanic Vikas Kendra (SSVK)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The workshop entitled `knowledge product on making schools safer` was organized on 15th September, 2009 at Magadh Hotel, Rajendranagar Path, Station Road, Patna. There were about 20 participants comprising representatives of different NGOs CBOs IT students, and Insurance personal of about 9 districts in the workshop. How to make schools safer: before, during and after disasters like floods, fire, earthquakes, epidemics and accidents was the key concern of the participants. One of the facilitator's power point presentations which were part of a course material prepared by Training and Learning Circle gave a clear cut idea for assessing the present –day schools of Bihar. There were about 81 indicators to judge the suitability of the schools as a safer school, but it was very sad to find that possibly all the schools, particularly the schools of remote areas of Bihar , is extremely unsafe so far as any kind of disasters are concerned. It was also cleared by the participants that no school, either good or bad, Govt. or private schools in Bihar can stand with the 81 indicators as envisioned by TLC. One new indicator that came out during discussion and which is as an eye opener is the very geographical situation of the schools themselves. Almost all the schools are lying in the low land areas. When flood occurs, in the very beginning the ground floor of the schools submerges. Not only that , the first floor is found seldom in the schools of Bihar excluding some costly private schools and also Govt. Schools of the big towns. In this context the participants came out with a clear cut plan of action for making the issue of safer schools as an agenda in Bihar,



and for that the urgency of forming a network of different stakeholders was felt the need of the hour.

ABBREVIATIONS

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| <i>SSVK</i> | Samajik Shaikshanik Vikas Kendra |
| <i>AIDMI</i> | All India Disaster Mitigation Institute |
| <i>TLC</i> | Tranning and Learning Circle |
| <i>LSS</i> | Lok Shakti Sangathan |
| <i>NIIT</i> | National Institute of Information Technology |
| <i>SSS</i> | Sarvodaya Sava Sansthan |
| <i>VSK</i> | Varanasi Seva Kandra |
| <i>NECS</i> | Nari Jarnothar Evam Chetna Sansthan |
| <i>GMBVN</i> | Gramin Mahila Evam Bal Vikas Niketan |
| <i>BBVMKS</i> | Bapu Bal Viaks Mahila Kalyan Society |
| <i>DJJS</i> | Diyara Jan Jagron Samiti |
| <i>KJS</i> | Kosi Jan Kalyan Sanstha |
| <i>SVSS</i> | Samagra Vikas Seva Samiti |
| <i>MGK</i> | Manav Jagriti Kendra |
| <i>SSSSK</i> | Shambhu Shankar Samajik Seve Kendra |

LIST OF ANNEXURE

1. Event Schedule
2. Registration form



3. **List of facilitators and invited guests**
4. **List of participants with contact details**
5. **Press release**
6. **Photo Documentation**

INTRODUNTION, PURPOSE, AND TARGET AUDIENCES OF THE EVENT

The workshop entitled “Knowledge Product On Making Schools Safer” was organized on 15th Sept 2009 at Magadh Hotel, Rajendranagar Path, Station Road, Patna. The participants were the representatives of NGOs CBOs IT students, and Insurance personal from 9 districts. A list of the participants is attached here as annexure with this report.

Mr. Deepak Bharti, Secretary of SSVK welcomed the participants and expressed his expectations from the workshop. He hoped the participants will come out with relevant future strategies to combat the vulnerabilities of the school particularly situated in the remote areas of Bihar.

After this the participants introduced themselves and also told about their activities in very brief. Mr. Ratan Kr. Ravi, a senior journalist, outlined the purpose of the workshop. He gave a detail of the experiences during Disaster that often recur regularly in Bihar because of its geophysical situations as well as the very vulgar (or unscientific?) interventions of technologies in combating floods by the engineers and policy makers in Bihar. He also told that schools work as temporary shelters for months and months every year for the communities. Also they become the centers of relief measures in terms of



storage of goods and their distributions. Hence it is very essential to think about A SAFER SCHOOL.

It is in this context that we have to think about the role of schools that can make a linkage with the surrounding communities also. Hence, in this workshop we will consider the present scenario of the schools and policy level issues which make them safer for the children and adults during Disasters.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mr. Deepak Bharti, Secretary of SSVK, addressed the opening ceremony of One Day State Level Training on “Knowledge Product” on Safer School. In his opening speech, he said that schools are very useful for communities. Especially in rural areas, during disaster the value of schools increased. Schools are the center of social, religious, economical, educational and political too or communities. In the case of disaster, schools termed to a shelter place for communities. Secondly, Children take education in schools. They are the future of the country so safe schools are needed.

Mr. Deepak Bharti said that AIDMI and TLC felt it. The organization has began to make social activism, training institutions and universities aware in this direction. The one-day state level training program on Safer School is a step to go ahead in future.

Mr. Bharti appealed to participants come from different district of Bihar States to learn here and share experience of this training take advantage of latest technical on how an information to through this training to AIDMI and TLC.

He also requested participants to try at their level to make school safer in their work field.



At last he thanks all participants, resource persons, workers sponsors, media persons IT students, and Insurance personal for their co-operation.

EVENT PROCEEDINGS (DETAILS ON EACH SESSION)

In the first session, Mr Arun Das, State Convener, Campaign against Child Labour, Bihar gave emphasis on the importance and role of schools during Disaster particularly during floods. Flood is a phenomenon that almost every year occurs in North Bihar.

He explained a 5-page concept paper entitled “A Base Paper For The Workshop On Knowledge Product For Making Schools Safer From Disasters”. In brief the importance of schools for multiple purposes in the community, the hazards affecting schools in Bihar, hazards and children in India and Bihar, impact of earthquakes and in the end the indicators for School- Safety were some of the focal points of his views. But even though we have to consider today the present scenario of schools and how their vulnerabilities can be mitigated.

In the second session the participants expressed their grass root experiences in the context of the vulnerabilities of the schools. They were unanimous in saying that the governmental interventions in schools are non-existent so far as Safety factor of the school is concerned. Some years before the schools were one of the most neglected areas for interventions in the Govt. circles. There were no toilets particularly for the girls, no compound wall, and no place of indoor recreations. Day by day the school buildings started being weaker and weaker, even the roofs became vulnerable. Many incidents started occurring when either the walls or the roofs fell on the ground. But now today



there is some improvement in the situation. But if we consider disaster – factor, the school buildings being constructed now a days are quite useless.

Mr. Arun Das, on a power point presentation discussed with participants, some indicators for a safer school prepared as course material by the Training and Learning Circle. Some of the indicators for a safer school in the form of questions were as follows:

1. Are kitchen facilities in the schools in sanitary conditions?
2. Are there multiple exits?
3. Does the school keep records of past emergency records?
4. Are teachers trained in Disaster Management and First-Aid?
5. Does School have detailed address and phone numbers of all staff and students? If yes, are they easily available and accessible?
6. Have there been any direct efforts from govt. in making school safer?
7. Any educational material available in schools on school safety and Disaster Management?

After this power point presentation, many participants like Mr. Brahmdev Mehta (Kosi Jan Kalyan Sanstha, Marauna, Supaul), Mr. Ramavatar Mahto (Samagra Vikas Seva Samiti, Pathrahi, Jhanjharpur, R.S, Madhubani), Mr. Arun Bharti (Manav Jagriti Kendra, Bahera, Dharbhanga), Mr. Uday Kr. Sinha (Shambhu Shankar Samajik Seve Kendra, Bahera, Benipur, Darbhanga) and many others expressed their opinion and presented lively situation of the schools of their localities.

CLOSING CEREMONY



The participants felt the need of working together on the concerns or school safety. The participants interacted warmly over the questions pasted on the power point. They even admitted that they had not pondered over many of the questions at all. They had thought over them.

The participants were seriously unanimous over the extreme vulnerability of the schools as it stands at present. They also came out with the following indicators:

1. Often the schools are on a low land those who are giving land free to govt. for constructing schools and also the govt. officials do not take care of the fact that the land is at a very low level.
2. No proper vigilance by the govt.
3. No arrangement of boats in the schools.
4. Technical fault in the building
5. No plinth wall or a plinth of very low height in the building

In addition to all these, they were also of the opinion that teaching - content and educational environment are also very poor and that is a Disaster in itself.

Hence, at the one hand we are thinking of making school safer from Disasters of all kinds, but on the other the school structure and educational environment is in danger.

This is the context in which we have to make schools safer.

EVENT EVALUATION, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP STEPS

IDENTIFIED BY THE GROUP

The following were the inferences about the workshop by the participants when it came to end.



1. This workshop was unique in the sense that its thematic area was quite new and innovative.
2. In order to take further steps grassroots experiences were taken deeply in consideration. Many new indicators for identifying an unsafe school emerged out of discussion.
3. An idea of networking emerged out of the process from the workshop for working together on safety measures for schools.
4. Logistics were fine- tuned.

The following are the follow-up steps identified:

1. Policy Level issues (for advocacy) to be taken up with the authorities concerned.
2. The issue of making schools safer should be taken to children also, and they should be made the vanguard of their own vulnerability. Parents must be consciountised.
3. A memorandum to be prepared to submit to the authorities from the local level to the higher level.
4. PRIs to be approached.
5. Meetings at various levels.
6. And finally, what was much more important was the issue of how to take up the concerned activities forward with visibilities. And for that, a decision was taken for the formation of a networking of different stake holders, and for that some persons like Mr. Deepak Bharti, Ratan Kr. Ravi, Arun Bharti and Arun Das were given the responsibilities for doing preparatory work.



Photo Documentation



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