



Safety @ School

A comprehensive guide about school safety

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INTRODUCTION

Even if we claim that our living standards have improved and technology has advanced to the extreme, there is still one thing in question. **And that is about the safety of our kids.** There are dangers lurking in every corner **of the** world **and majority of the** victims tend to be school children.

To most of us, Student Safety issues such as Molestation, Bullying, Kidnapping etc. are just news stories unless or until something happens to a child we are close with. As a matter of fact, it is this same negligence that provides numerous opportunities to wrong doers.

If parents, teachers and school authorities take the initiatives to do whatever they can to protect our children, a great many of these incidents can be avoided. They should also strive to teach children how to recognize and react to potentially dangerous situations. After all, students are the future of the nation. Unless they grow up as physically and mentally healthy individuals, our nation's future itself would be in jeopardy. It may sound clichéd, but remember

“Prevention is better than cure.”

With this document, we try to create awareness in parents, teachers, school authorities and also students regarding the most persisting issues faced by school students on a day to day basis. We then talk about the rules and regulations that are in place to protect students from these issues. There are lots of rules, regulations and suggestions for students' safety, but unfortunately, a vast majority of people are not aware of these. Finally, we have listed out initiatives taken/can be taken by government, schools and parents for ensuring protection of our children. We hope this initiative helps create awareness in parents, schools & students. Let this document also enable and encourage them to take all necessary measures required to ensure Student Safety.

ISSUES & STATISTICS

There are many issues that school goes face every day and the impact of some may be worst at times, shattering their innocence forever, which include:

01 Student Molestation

02 Terrorism and Schools

03 Student Kidnapping

04 School Bus Incidents

05 School Violence

06 School Bullying

07 Student Drug Abuse

08 School Infrastructure

09 School Hygiene

We are familiar with most of the issues school children have to face but what is the current scenario of all these issues?



Student Molestation

India ranks **4th** in the list of countries with highest rape crime rates and about **42.2%** of the victims are minors. News related to student molestation isn't anything new and most of us choose to ignore it until it happens to someone we know.

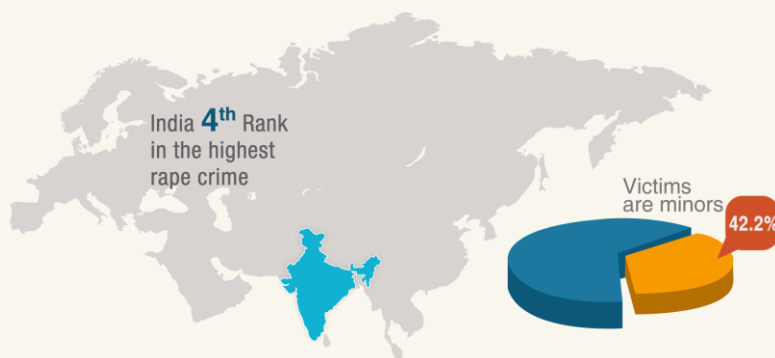
One of the latest cases of student molestation is the abuse of an LKG student by her seniors in a school in Kerala. Even after the case was reported, the school authorities did not take any immediate action against the senior students.

This event itself proves how schools, the place which is supposed to provide knowledge and security to students, are not safe anymore. Circumstances have changed and now, almost every parent has that fear in mind until their child, especially if it is a girl child, comes back from school.

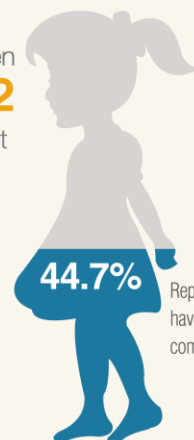
According to the National Crime Records Bureau, there has been an increase in crime against children in 2013, compared to the previous years. It has been reported that cases of molestation have increased by **47.7%** in 2013 compared to previous years.

These statistics have been taken considering only those cases which have been reported. If we consider those unreported case as well, the numbers will definitely rise.

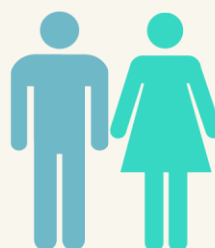
It is a fact that in India, 1 out of 2 children under the



cases of crimes against children
58,224 out of **38,172**
cases are that of sexual assault



Reported that cases of molestation have increased by 44.7% in 2013 compared to previous years.



1 out **2** children under the age of 10 faces sexual abuse

age of 10 faces sexual abuse. But, in most cases, the authorities choose to remain silent. In fact, only a few schools report abuse, an even lower number takes immediate action and only a marginal percent has student counsellors.



36%
In schools reported sexual abuse cases



21%
Took immediate action



2%
In India has school counsellors



Terrorism in School

The Peshawar school attack that happened on **16 December, 2014**, where 9 militants of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan showered bullets at the students and teachers of Army Public school in Peshawar, Pakistan, claiming 145 precious lives, shook the whole world to the core.

Schools would be the last place you expect a terrorist attack to happen. But unfortunately, it did happen by the end of 2014 or we can say, it had been happening over the years, but we are unaware of it.

Here's a list of similar attacks on school children, that had happened in the last 10 years:



Beslan school attack

On September 1, 2004, around 32 terrorists stormed into a school in Beslan, North Ossetia, Russia and continued the attack for 3 long days, killing over 300 people, 186 of which were children.



Mortar attack on Iraqi school

On January 8, 2007, an all-girls school in Baghdad was attacked using a mortar bomb, killing 5 girls aged between 12 and 16 and injuring over 20 students.



Taliban attack on Malala

In October 2012, Malala Yousafzai, who fought for children's education in Pakistan, was shot in a school bus in Mingora area of the Swat valley. Two more girls were injured in the attack. The incident grabbed worldwide attention and Malala Yousafzai, who



survived the attack, won Nobel Prize for peace for her work to promote children's education.

Yobe School shooting

On 6 July, 2013, armed Boko Haram terrorists entered a government-run school in Mamudo village, Yobe State, Nigeria, and opened fire at the students, killing 42 people.

Chibok school girls kidnapping

This was another incident that earned world-wide attention. Boko Haram militants kidnapped 276 girls on the night of 14-15 April, 2014, from the Government Secondary School in the town of Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria. Days later, the terrorist confirmed that the girls had been converted to Islam and married off.

Why do terrorists target schools?

Schools are chosen by terrorists to launch their attacks mainly because of the following reasons:

When beliefs of extremists are challenged

This could be one reason that can be stated in the case of Malala and Chibok schoolgirls kidnapping. The terrorists condemned western education and they attacked the students when they did not pay heed to the terrorists.

Schools are soft targets...

The militants have very few chances to win if they put up a gun fight with the armed forces of a country since the military group is always equally or better prepared with arms and ammunitions. Most schools won't be prepared, making them prone to such attacks. Terrorists therefore use, schools, which are lightly defended, as their targets to achieve their needs.

In the last decade, 1,147 educational institutions were attacked by terrorists in South-Asia, followed by Middle-East and North Africa where 284 educational institutions were attacked. If we take a statistics of South-East Asia from a period of 2004-2013, around 271 educational institutions were attacked by terrorists, while in sub-Saharan Africa, the number amounts to 119. During the last decade, a total of 67 educational institutes were attacked in other parts of the world.

In the past 10 years, Pakistan is the worst terror-hit country where 724 educational institutes have been raided so far. In Iraq, 184 educational institutions have been ambushed while in Afghanistan, 205 educational institutions invaded.. In Thailand, 213 educational institutes were attacked so far. Out of the 562 educational institutions in other countries, that have been

attacked, Nigeria is the worst affected country, where the Boko Haram terrorists kidnapped about 300 schools students last spring.

<http://www.rediff.com/news/report/pix-most-horrifying-terror-attacks-on-schools/20141216.htm>

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_Tg-1mluKz0aE-U7usdy8DYxwl6lcMVTDXo2mmtGY4Y/edit#gid=686419060

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/12/terrorist-attacks-on-schools-have-soared-in-the-past-10-years/383825/>

http://www.killology.com/art_mass_slaughter.htm

<http://www.crf-usa.org/school-violence/causes-of-school-violence.html>

Student Kidnapping

The news of a child being kidnapped may occupy only a small column of a newspaper, which barely gets noticed. But this situation is real and there are many parents in the country who are still waiting for just a phone call to know that their child is alive, who wander around with a photograph of their child in their hands and the sight is indeed heart wrenching. It is an undeniable truth that the cases of kidnappings have only increased with passing time.

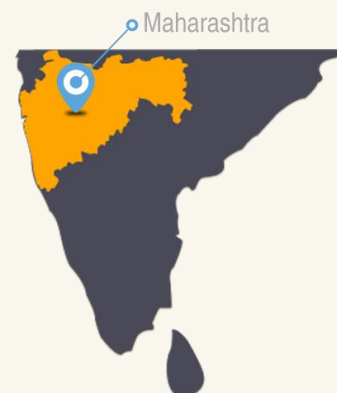
At least one child goes missing every eight minutes in India and unfortunately, about **40%** of them have not been found. It is a fact that Indian schools provide less security to students and most of them do not have any security arrangements. That is the main reason that schools are the best choice of criminals from where they plan to abduct a child.

Not founded child
Kidnapping causes



One of the recent cases of abductions is the kidnap of a KG-I student from **Maharashtra**. But the police was quick enough to trace the culprits thus saving the life of the 5 year old girl. However, not all children are lucky. In most cases, whereabouts of some of the children remain unknown forever while some end up being preys to the greedy motives of the kidnappers.

In another incident, a 4 year old girl went missing from the school premises as she was waiting for her father after school. The victim's father got a call from the kidnappers, seeking Rs. 8 lakh ransom, while they were still searching for the child. The girl's fate is yet to be known.



Nothing much has really changed over the years and cases of student kidnapping have only increased. School authorities and parents are the most capable to provide students protective measures which can at least help avoid such incidents to an extent.



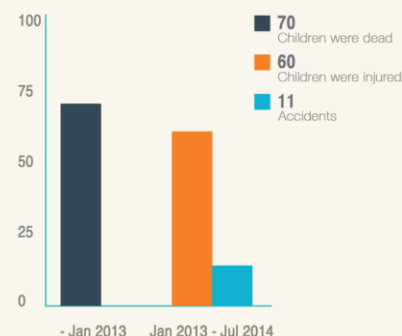
School Bus Incidents

While talking about issues that students face, school bus incidents cannot be avoided. You get your child ready to school and wave them good bye as they board the bus, to never see them again? It would be heart breaking! There are lots of parents who grieve of having lost their kids in school bus accidents. Before we could sigh and exclaim **"it's all fate!"** let's think for a moment, couldn't these accidents be avoided? Yes, they could be, only if the right measures were taken at the right time. Unfortunately, not enough has been done so far.

One of the recent school bus accidents that took place in India was that of a train collided with a school bus in Telangana in July 2014. Twenty five students were killed in the mishap. While some blame the railway authorities for the unmanned railway crossing, the over speeding and negligence by the bus driver cannot be ignored.

This is just one of the very large numbers of school bus accidents happening in the country every year. It is a fact that about **41%** children die every year in transportation accidents in India. It has also been reported that more than 70 children were dead and many more injured as a result of school bus accidents since January 2013.

Also, more than 60 students were injured in 11 accidents spread over seven states since January 2013 till July 2014. If necessary actions aren't taken, there would be a definite increase in the number.



School bus accidents and mishaps happen around the world. For instance, it was just few months ago that a four year old girl was suffocated to death in her school van in UAE. Unfortunately, the child had fallen asleep in the bus and the driver, without knowing that, had locked the van from outside. This was not the first time it happened. There were about 5 similar cases reported in UAE in the past 10 years.

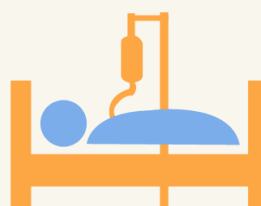
It's time that authorities take measures to avoid such accidents in future and provide a secure journey to students on their ride to school and way back home.



School Violence

Terrorism and other violence in schools tend to affect students mentally. A type of school violence is school shootings, which is quite common in USA, where the most recent incident happened on **October 24, 2014**, when Jaylen Ray Fryberg, a popular freshman at Marysville-Pilchuck High School, opened fire in the cafeteria, killing two students and injuring 3 others before killing himself.

About **90,000** children are admitted to hospitals every year due to injuries related to school violence.

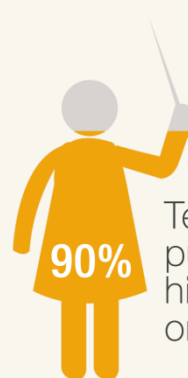


90,000 children are **admitted** to hospitals every year due to **injuries** related to **school violence**

Apart from these, students tend to face various kinds of abuses at school, which may leave permanent scars in their minds, which include:

Physical abuse

According to a report by the United Kingdom headquartered Plan International and Overseas Development Institute, School violence costs India annually **\$ 7.42** billion, which when compared to other countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jordan, Nicaragua, and Peru, are much high.



Teachers still using punishment involves hitting using sticks or similar objects

Punishment of any sort by schools has been made illegal in India but teachers still use it. **90%** of the punishment involves hitting using sticks or similar objects, making students stand in various positions for long periods of time or tying them to tables or chairs or objects of the sort.

Sexual abuse

There had been many cases of sexual abuse in schools reported so far where students were inappropriately touched or groped or even sexually assaulted by senior students, teachers or other employees of the school. The recent case in India where a minor girl was molested by her physical education teacher in a school in Bangalore city is an example. Sometimes, such cases go unreported since student's fear to discuss about it.

150 million girls and **73** million boys around the world have been subjected to sexual violence in schools. Unsafe touches by doctors on students of illness are also common. CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) has



150 million girls and **73** million boys around the world have been subjected to sexual violence in schools

found that though 53 per cent of Indian children experience sexual abuse, the reporting is extremely low since information about the possibility of abuse isn't imparted to children.






Emotional abuse

Teasing, threatening, isolation, public humiliation and various other acts of the kind can be categorized as emotional abuse. Emotional abuse is far more dangerous than physical abuse since the victims tend to become suicidal at the end.

In India, about 25-60% students have been reportedly subjected to verbal abuse.

Now, how do the students prone to all these types of violence suffer?

Such students' experience

-  **Depression and anxiety**
-  **Loss of interest in activities**
-  **Loss of appetite**
-  **Health complaints**
-  **Drop in grades and school participation**

The students who are subjected to bullying may retaliate violently during some occasions, or they may even refuse to go back to school.

The recent incident in Kerala, India where the principal locked a 4-year old boy in a dog kennel in the school premises for talking in class proves that atrocities against students in schools still happen and should be put to an end with strict rules. (It is better avoided as this case is under trial)

http://www.ehow.com/info_7824770_types-violence-school.html

<https://www.dosomething.org/facts/11-facts-about-school-violence>

http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/schoolviolence/data_stats.html

<http://www.npr.org/2012/03/16/148758783/violence-in-schools-how-big-a-problem-is-it>

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2015/01/13/376720559/grieving-in-the-classroom>

http://www.ehow.com/info_7824770_types-violence-school.html

<http://www.sify.com/news/school-violence-costs-india-yearly-us-7-42-billion-news-international-kk0rasfjfbfsi.html>



School Bullying

When your child refuses to go to school, instead of being angry with them and threatening them, do you take a minute to ponder over what is causing them to skip school? No, you won't, until anything unfortunate happens.

Selma M was doing his fifth grade when he started gaining weight without any reason. He was made fun of his physical appearance since then. Now he is 26, even today he remembers those dark chapters of his life when he was subjected to bullying. He was treated differently for a reason he was not responsible for. The scar that has been left in his mind has not recovered even after years. This is not the story of Selma alone; many others have experienced similar situations.

Verbal bullying has extended to physical abuse in many cases.

There are situations when the child begs to their parents not to complain concerned authorities about the bullying they face in school because the child fears that the complaint can cause much more damage. As a matter of fact, the tendency of violence prevails even in students at KG.

There were incidents in which the outrageous parents, fed up with the insensitive school authority took the matter in their own hands. In a fit of anger, a father pulled out the bully from his class and slapped him in return of the injuries his child had to bear.

Children in fear of facing bullying, tend to escape from classes by making excuses like sickness in a hope of running away from the problem. The mental pressure these bullying incidents develop sometimes results in psychological complications of the victim which lasts for a lifetime.

Each and every child is precious. They are unique and special and the difference should be appreciated and respected. But what happens when children are isolated for their indifference? Away from happiness and confidence, they live a shattered life. Children feel left alone and start hating themselves for the factors that makes them different from others. Bullying has become a common occurrence in schools, but the psychological pressure it inserts upon the students can result adversely.

The feeling of acceptance can make a lot of difference. There are a lot of children that experience this vicious behaviour. You can't just leave your child to face these circumstances alone, they should be protected, and the feeling of protection can make things better.



What is bullying?

Bullying happens when someone continuously hurts, frightens and threatens another person personally or with a gang. Below given are some of the bullying behaviours:

- Hitting the other person, kicking pushing or physically hurting





- Damaging other persons things purposely or stealing
- Threatening with a gang
- Teasing someone in the most personal way very hurtfully
- Spreading unnecessary gossips and rumours about someone
- Insulting on the basis of race, gender or family background
- Sexual harassment

Up to **25%** of students in India have been subjected to bullying. Out of the **25%** of students, who are reported to have been bullied, **13%** had considered suicide.

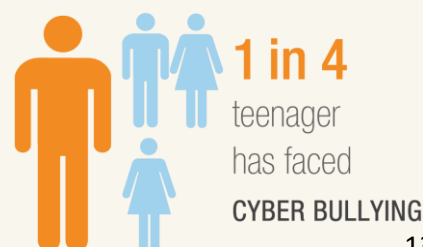
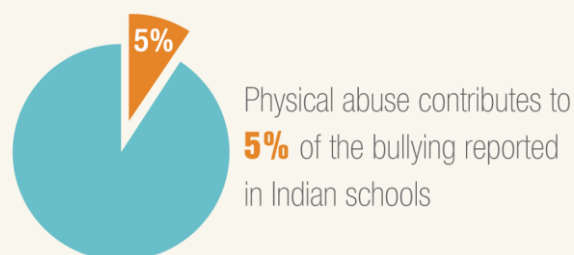
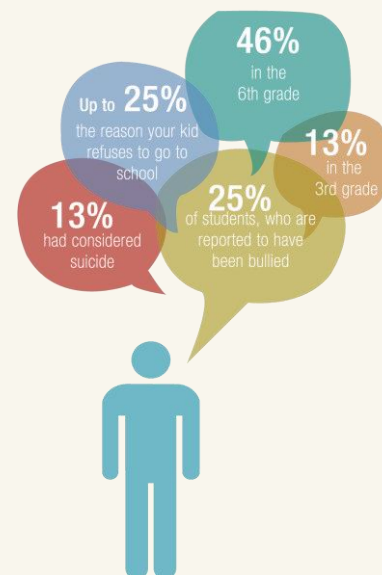
Reports state that bullying rates in co-educational schools are relatively twice more compared to girls schools or boys schools. The bullying rates can differ with grades as well. If it is **13%** in the 3rd grade, in the 6th grade, the bullying rates go up to **46%**. Also, most of the bullying cases are reported from classes having maximum number of retained students.

A recent incident that happened in India is a perfect example of how bullying can affect a student mentally. A minister's son, who is a class 9 student, attempted suicide as a result of bullying by his seniors. It has been reported that the boy was harassed and there was a suspected throttling by seniors.

For most of us, the word “bullying” just means physical abuse. Yes, physical abuse contributes to **5%** of the bullying reported in Indian schools. But nowadays, advancement in technology has given rise to new types of bullying. Bullying can be

-  **Verbal: teasing and name calling**
-  **Social: spreading rumours, purposely exclude from groups**
-  **Physical: Hitting, punching**
-  **Cyber: through Internet and mobile phones**

Cyber bullying is kind of new and usually, the victims are tech savvy teenagers. Majority of the suicide cases due to bullying in India are mainly because of cyber bullying. Cyber bullying can shatter the



confidence in children and let them fall prey to depression if not taken care of.



Student drug abuse

At present, when anything is available to children, it won't be difficult for them to have access to substances such as drugs and alcohol. According to the reports, substance abuse rates have increased with time in India, most of the addicts being teenagers, aged between 15 and 19 years. They seem to be addicted to alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, heroin, inhalants and injectable substances.

It has been found out that **28.6%** of boys are addicted to tobacco while **15%** are addicted to alcohol. If you thought boys were the only victims to substance abuse, you are wrong. About **5.5%** of girls are tobacco addicts while **4%** are addicted to alcohol. Availability of substances near schools and in the Internet is the main reason for rise in its consumption.

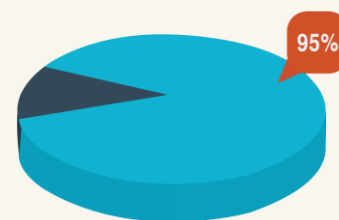
Another shocking fact that has been reported recently is that most of the students started their substance abuse from glue, paints and whiteners which are cheap and are easily available to children.

Mostly, parents and school authorities may not be aware of whether a child is addicted to substances. But, the longer it takes to get recognized, the issue becomes that much more dangerous. Addiction to substances can lead to behavioural changes in children. In order to obtain money to buy the substances, children may turn to committing criminal offences. Also, there are chances for the students to start distributing substances in school, thus adding other students to the group of addicts. Only strong measures can stop drug abuse in students.



School infrastructure issues

Can you believe that in a progressing country like India, most schools do not have proper infrastructure facilities even now? Sadly, it is the truth and those mostly suffering from the set back are students going to government schools. Even though the Right to Education (RTE) Act was implemented two years ago, the condition of about **95%** of the schools in India remains the same.





**25 STATES
OUT OF 29
IN INDIA**

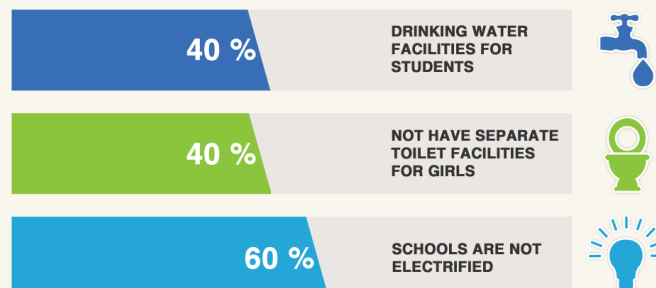
More than **25 states** out of 29 in India do not have appropriate toilets for girls in their schools and this can be stated as one of the main reasons as to why most girls refuse to go to school.

Most schools fail to realize that proper education comes with proper facilities. Unfortunately, **60%** of schools are not electrified and the class room ratio in most schools is higher than the recommended number.

Another issue that students have to face in school is the lack of professionally trained teachers. About **21%** of teachers in most schools do not have professional training. If **91%** of teachers failed to clear the national Teacher Eligibility Test (NET) in 2010, the percentage has risen to **93%** in 2014.

Forget the buildings and classrooms, in fact, 1 out of 10 schools lack drinking water facilities for students. **40%** of the schools do not have any toilet facilities while another **40%** do not have separate toilet facilities for girls.

SCHOOL FACILITIES



21%
Trained Teachers

91%
Teachers failed in 2010

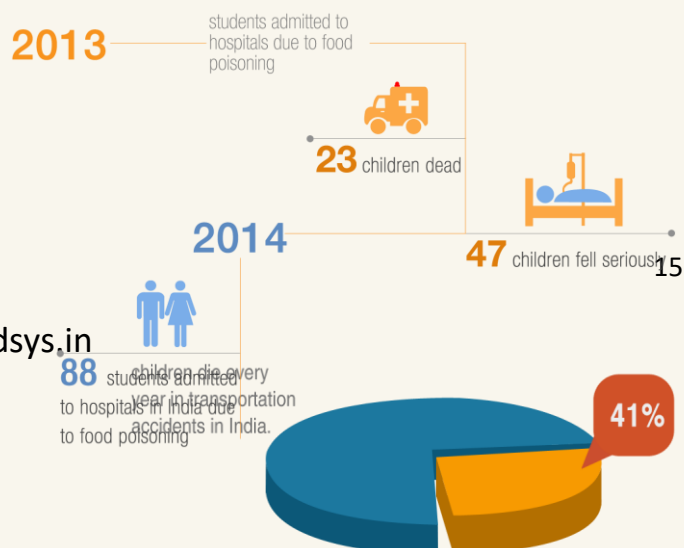
93%
Teachers failed in 2014



School Hygiene Issues

In August 2014, **88 students** belonging to a school in India were admitted to hospitals due to food poisoning. The students were lucky enough that all of them survived. But in 2013, poisoned school lunch in another school in India left **23 children dead** while **47 children fell seriously ill**. Hygiene issues are faced mostly by schools in rural India where there are minimum facilities.

Students of government-run schools are most affected by hygiene issues in schools. Apart from issues in the lunch provided by the schools, there are also other hygiene issues that they have to face. Sometimes, the surroundings of the school



won't be clean enough. The student-toilet ratio in most schools is abysmal that students are forced to answer nature's call in the open. Reports state that this routine has given rise to students contracting water borne diseases in the country. In some schools, they may have toilets but they may not be cleaned regularly and students are to suffer from the various health issues connected to that.

These issues can be addressed and solved, only if the government and school authorities work hand-in-hand to plan and implement necessary solutions.

RULES AND REGULATIONS



Student Molestation

Children are the gift of God, they deserve respect and care but it has become usual occurrence that they experience molestation. Parents no longer hold confidence about the safety of their children. It becomes impossible for the victim to overcome the trauma created by the molester. The molester can be anyone. Molestation leaves mental, physical and emotional wounds, sometimes even time cannot heal them.







The trauma in which the children are thrown affects not only the victim but their family as well. Society considers molestation as a shameful act, even the victim is forced to suffer the shame. The case that results in trial also has problems. The court room experience can be traumatic for children.

Parents should be aware about the rights of their children. Ample protection is ensured by law.



Symptoms that are warnings

According to psychologists there are some symptoms that indicate that the child is undergoing some type of stress. Be careful

-  Mistrust towards adults
-  Avoidance of people
-  Sleep problems, nightmares and fear of bed
-  Absent mind
-  Refusal to go to school
- 

Aggressive behaviour

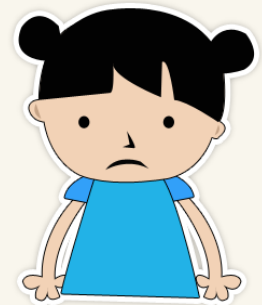
- Disorders in habit
- Unusual behaviour
- Extreme fear while touching
- Constant fear of people
- Sudden silence
- Showing no interest over things once interested

Gloomy behaviour

● **Child Abuse Penalty**

Depending upon several factors, a person charged with child abuse can face wide range of penalties. These factors include:

- **The age of the child**
- **Whether the offence involved sexual abuse**
- **Whether the child is physically or mentally injured**
- **Criminal history of the offender**



● **Effects of Molestation**

- ✓ Serious cases of child molestation can result in lifetime imprisonment
- ✓ Least serious molestation cases can result in no jail
- ✓ Punishment can be severe if the offender has past criminal records
- ✓ The offender has to live with a ruined reputation for the rest of his life
- ✓ People who do not report molestation is also subjected to face penalties
- ✓ The issue of molestation is considered as a very serious issue.

Don't ignore, listen and react!

At a tender age, it becomes impossible to distinguish the right person and the wrong person. The bad intentions of people around are seldom understood by children. If a child is subjected to molestation, they will definitely feel that something is wrong but fails to understand the intensity of trap.





Often students are threatened against speaking up, which will place them in an extremely depressing situation. It takes a lot of courage to speak for them. It is only to the most comfortable person that children speak up. There are a lot of factors that must be taken care of when a child speaks about the molestation she has experienced.

- a) Teachers should always maintain a friendly relation with the students
- b) Slightest behaviour change in the children should be noticed by the teacher
- c) If a student speaks about the molestation she had been subjected to, don't ignore, listen
- d) Don't be angry to the child
- e) Encourage the child to speak
- f) Tell them it's not their fault and make them feel better

Be Responsible:

When student complaints about the molestation, there are some responsibilities that must be done without wasting time

The student must be given medical help as soon as possible

-  **Physical wounds or injuries must be treated**
-  **The incident must be reported to the higher authority of school as well as the parents of the child**
-  **The child must be given counseling to regain the confidence and positive attitude to life**
-  **Police should be informed about the issue as soon as possible**

In 2012, the Indian Parliament passed “The protection of Children from Sexual

Offences Act"

To ensure protection of children the legal system has strengthened itself to the most possible way. No child deserves a frightened childhood and no offender deserves to escape the law.

- 1) The Act identifies person below the age 18 years as child
- 2) The act provides protection to all the children under the age 18 from any kind of pornography, sexual assault and sexual harassment
- 3) Aspects of touch and non touch behaviors have also been taken into consideration for the first time.
- 4) Child friendly procedure is encouraged by the Act during the process of investigation, reporting and trial of the offence
- 5) The media is prohibited from publishing the details of the child without the special order of supreme court
- 6) Recording the statement of the child can be at her residence or at any place of her choice
- 7) Recording should be under the supervision of a lady police, not less than the rank of sub-inspector
- 8) Should not detain the child in the police station during night
- 9) While recording the statement, police officers should not be in uniforms
- 10) The statement of the molested child must be recorded
- 11) Interpreter or translator can be used
- 12) If the child is disabled, assistance can be taken from educator or any person familiar with the communication purpose.
- 13) Medical examination can be conducted along with the parent of the child or any person, the child holds confidence on
- 14) If the victim is a girl child, medical examination must be conducted by a female doctor
- 15) Aggressive questioning of the child is strictly prohibited
- 16) Camera trial cases
- 17) Child should not be repeatedly called for testifying



Punishments of Offences under the Act

Penetrative Sexual Assault (Section 3)

Minimum imprisonment for seven years which can extend up to life imprisonment and liable to fine as well

Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault (Section 5)

Minimum imprisonment of ten years which can extend up to life imprisonment and fine

Sexual Assault (Section 7)

Minimum three years of imprisonment which can extend to three years and liable for fine

Aggravated Sexual Assault (Section 9)

Minimum of five years imprisonment which can extend up to seven years and liable for fine

Sexual Harassment of the Child (Section 11)

Imprisonment for three years and fine.

Use of Child for Pornographic Purposes (Section 13)

Minimum five years of imprisonment and fine which can extend to seven years and fine in subsequent conviction



Terrorism & Schools

Attacks on schools around the globe are increasing day by day. The attack and its outcome raises a very valid question as to how prepared are our schools for an unexpected attack? Awoken by the massacre, the authorities began to ask questions about the preparedness of their children towards such attacks

Several rules and regulations have been made to increase the safety of children.

SOP guidelines

A Standard Operating Procedure is being detailed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the prevention of any terrorist attacks on schools. It is a fact that crowded places like malls, schools, multiplexes and hostels are prone to terrorist attacks. The self-protection method is the best to avoid harms caused by it.


According to the reports of TOI, April 5, 2010 was the last time when school authorities received a circular about the Standard Operating System (SOP). The circular dealt with the kidnapping of students

during the arrival and departure to school. The circular also dealt with the firing or any other attacks. Home Ministry has taken initiatives to reduce the impact of any external attacks.

Specifications of SOP:

 CCTV with recording facilities




 Multiple gates with three security guards



Concrete boundary walls



 Telephone connectivity.



Proper lighting

 Regular walkie- talkie connection between security guards



Alarm system

Public announcement system

Highlights of the SOP:

 Principal of the school should evaluate the SOP carefully and bring it in to the notice of staff members and teachers



Comprehensive action plan must be made for the successful implementation of the guidelines



Allocate specific roles to each and every staff member without fail



The action of each and every staff members should be specified to them early

- Local police must be involved in the process
- Security personnel should be vigilant all the time
- Mock drills must be conducted for students, teachers and staff members of the school



Student Kidnapping

Kidnapping is taking a person from one place to another against the consent of that person. Students are mainly kidnapped for money. Kidnapping happens for various demands as well as for human trafficking.

Kidnapping is a serious criminal offence in the eye of law. The victim experiences psychological trauma which may leave permanent scars in the mind of the kidnapped.

Laws against kidnapping in India

Whoever from lawful guardianship kidnaps any person in India, shall be liable for punishment. Either they will be imprisoned, which can extend up to seven years and shall be liable for fine also. (Sec 363)

Sub sections(1) : Any person who is not the lawful guardian of a minor, kidnaps the minor or obtains the custody of the minor, using the minor for employment or for the purpose of begging is liable for punishment for up to ten years and shall also for fine.

Sub sections (2): Whoever wounds any minor for the purpose of employment or using them for the purpose of begging shall be punishable with imprisonment for life time and is also liable for fine.

Sub sections (3): Any person who is not the lawful guardian of a minor, employs or uses the minor for the purpose of begging will be punished.

Sub sections (4): The meanings of terms are given in this section

Kidnapping, based on the nature of act

Can be classified as



KIDNAPPING IS
— EVERY INCH A —
CRIMINAL OFFENCE



KIDNAPS ANY PERSON IN INDIA
SHALL BE LIABLE FOR PUNISHMENT

Kidnapping for murder



Kidnapping for ransom



Kidnapping with secret intent



Kidnapping women for forced marriage



Kidnapping minors



Kidnapping for importation



Kidnapping and human trafficking



Punishment

All acts of kidnapping are treated with equal disdain by authorities. Punishments vary from a few years in prison to a decade. All of the offenders are also liable to being fined according to the seriousness of the offence.

Concealing kidnapping

Concealing a kidnapping issue is also an offence. Whoever conceals the kidnapping issue is also liable for punishment.

“Punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal”

Elizabeth Fry



School Bus Incidents

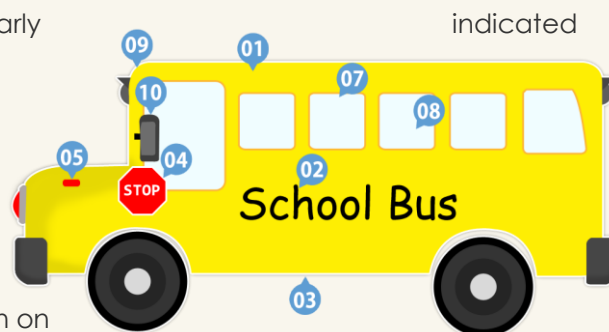
School bus is undoubtedly the most convenient means of student transportation. But unfortunately, there are a number of safety issues faced by students travelling by school vehicles. Hence, there are a number of laws in place for ensuring safety.

The Road and Transport Authority (RTA) summarized the benefits of these laws as providing comfort, security and safety for students and parents alike. These benefits include reaching schools on time, reducing pollution emission resulting from vehicle exhausts and reducing traffic jams.



Direction of the Supreme Court of India for School Bus

- 1) "School Bus" must be written on the back and front of the Bus.
- 2) If it is a hired bus, "On School Duty" should be clearly indicated
- 3) Bus must have a First-Aid-Box.
- 4) The windows of Bus must be fitted with horizontal grills.
- 5) There must be a Fire Extinguisher in the Bus.
- 6) School Name and Telephone No. must be written on the Bus.
- 7) The doors of the Bus should be fitted with reliable locks.
- 8) To keep School Bags safely, there should be a space fitted under the seats.
- 9) There must be an Attendant from the School in the Bus. School cabs should be fit with speed governors with maximum speed limit of 40 kmph.
- 10) The body of school cab shall be highway yellow colour with a horizontal strip in green colour of 150mm width in the middle all around the vehicle and the words 'SCHOOL CAB' must be prominently displayed on all four sides of the vehicle.
- 11) If age of school children is below 12 years, the number of children carried shall not exceed 1½ times the permitted seating capacity. Children above 12 years shall be treated as one person.
- 12) The driver of a school cab must have valid licence to drive LMV-Transport Vehicles for a period of at least four years and compulsorily wear a light blue shirt, light blue trousers and black shoes. His name ID should be displayed on the shirt.
- 13) There must be enough space provided to keep school bags inside the vehicle and the bags should not be hung outside the vehicle or placed on roof carriers.
- 14) The bus driver must carry a complete list of the children being ferried in the school cab, indicating the name, class, residential address, blood group and the points of stoppage, route plan, etc.
- 15) In case of kindergarten, if an authorized person recognised mutually by the school and parents, does not come to pick the child from the halting points and such, the child shall be taken back to the school and their parents should be called.



Latest Additions

Because of the incidents happening around there have been rules made on school bus management by the concerned authorities in India to assure safety and secure ride for the students and relief for parents.

- GPS and CCTV have been made compulsory in school buses. Installation of CCTV in school premises are made compulsory. The footage of the CCTV must be kept for 60 days and must be handed over to the police in case of any investigation purpose. 500 school bus cameras have been installed by the Bangalore Metropolitan Corporation. GPS has been declared compulsory by Central Board of Secondary Education.
- School bus drivers are restricted to have interaction with students beyond a limit in school bus and socializing with students are also limited.
- Entering school grounds are restricted to authorized people. Any person suspicious entering the school premises will be reported without fail.
- ID cards are issued to parents, which must be bought while picking up their children. If they cannot come for picking up their children, an SMS must be send authorizing another person to pick them up.

Under section 188 Act of the Indian Penal Code, any failure on the school's behalf to obey these new rules and regulations can lead to punishment.

More and more rules are coming in to light for the better travel experience of students.

Standard Requirements for School Buses in India

- All school buses in India are mandated to have an external colour of Golden Yellow. This colour shall be as per IS 5 -1994 (as amended from time to time)
- For Identification, a band of 150mm wide of 'Golden Brown' colour might be provided on all sides of the bus below the window level

- Two emergency exits are mandatory on all school buses in India. One on the rear half of the bus on the right hand side and on the rear side of the bus. Children should be trained to operate these doors.
- Whenever the bus passenger door or one of the emergency exits is open, the bus should be incapable of motion. The driver should get an indication of the doors being open by means of flashing light/buzzer or other suitable means.
- The lowest footstep height shall not be more than 220mm from ground. The bus should be incapable of motion without folding or retracting the steps
- All seats other than the ones facing the passenger step well should be forward facing. Also, a partition should be provided to the seat facing the step well.
- Stopping signals, a hazard warning and a stop signal arm should operate whenever the passenger door opens.
- A tamper-proof speed governor that complies with the requirements of Rule 118 of CMV (A)R1989 should be provided to ensure the driver doesn't cross the speed limit.

Any parent/guardian or a teacher may also travel to ensure these safety norms.

<http://www.slideshare.net/northstargps/requirements-for-school-buses-in-india-government-of-india-automotive-industry-standard?related=1>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/bangalore/report-new-rules-for-school-buses-and-cabs-1835421>

Responsibilities of Students and Parents:

Parents and students shall assume the following responsibilities:

- 01 Parents have to deliver their children to the school bus or the assembly point at the specified time. If there is a delay on their part, parents have to deliver their children to the school, without holding the driver accountable.
- 02 Parents should help in training and educating their children on the importance of traffic safety, and how to wait and ride the school bus.
- 03 Parents should notify the school administration of any offence or negligence from the driver.



04 The driver may return the students to the school if no one came to collect them upon returning at home, under the responsibility of the parents.

05 Students should maintain the bus cleanness and notify the school management or their parents of any offences committed by the driver or students.



School Violence

School violence can leave indelible scars in the minds of students and therefore, the governments around the world have worked on creating laws to curb it. Some of those laws include:

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2006

Section 23: Meant to punish those people, even if it is a parent or teacher, who harass, exploit, abandon, or neglect a child. The punishment for the offence will be 6 months of imprisonment or a fine or both.

National Policy on Education (1986)

Para 5.6, Child-Centred Approach- An encouraging approach, where children are treated with care and concern, thus motivating them to attend school and learn. The approach discourages corporal punishment and other punishments of the sort and lets students to set their own pace and keep learning without fear.



National charter for Children (2003)

Acknowledges the existence of provision of the Constitution and of the 1974 National Policy, which lists conditions under which children must be protected. The charter intends to ensure that children have a happy childhood and to protect them from all kinds of violence and stresses that the state must take necessary measures to protect children. According to the Article 7 (f) of National charter for Children, the state must ensure that the discipline maintained in schools do not cause any kind of physical or mental distress to students.

National plan of Action for Children 2005(NPA)

The main motive of NPA is to protect children against all kinds of atrocities that may damage them on a physical, mental or emotional basis. Prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment is identified as a priority in the NPA 2005 and on the report of NPA 2007-2012.

In December 2007, the **Human Resource Development Ministry of India** wrote to all Chief Secretaries prohibiting corporal punishment in schools across India as it may severely affect the self-esteem and confidence of a child.

Also, a **Right to Education Bill (Bill No. LXV of 2008)**, meant to prohibit punishment in schools, has been addressed in the Rajya Sabha and awaits enactment. In the category 17. (1), it states that "no child shall be subjected to physical punishment or mental harassment" and "(2) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be liable to disciplinary action under the service rules applicable to such person."

<http://harprathmik.gov.in/pdf/rte/corporal%20punishment%20ncpcr.pdf>

<http://www.childlineindia.org.in/child-abuse-child-violence-india.htm>

http://srg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/consultations/schools/tackling_violence_in_schools_a_global_perspective.pdf

<http://plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear/files/third-progress-report>

<https://goo.gl/>



School Bullying

Students can do the following to prevent bullying

- a) Treat each other with respect
- b) Refuse to join bullying
- c) Refuse others to bully
- d) Help students who are bullied
- e) If someone is bullying, report it to a senior staff of school and someone at home



Teach them right

- a) Teach your child to raise voice against bullying

- b) Appreciate the acts of courage done against bullying
- c) Teach your child to be friendly with all
- d) Teach them to love and respect all
- e) Instill in them the satisfaction that comes in helping others



When your child complains about bullying; don't ignore, listen!

- a) Don't ever tell your child to ignore bullying
- b) Blaming your child for being bullied is not a solution; don't think that it is because of something at your child's part that resulted in bullying. This can result in bitter consequences.
- c) Allow your child to talk about the bullying experience, listen to them carefully and encourage them to speak.
- d) Make your child feel that it's not his/her fault to get bullied. The people who do bullying are the bad ones.
- e) Appreciate your child's courage, he/she assimilated to speak up
- f) Make your child feel comfortable and protected
- g) Contact a teacher, school counselor or principal immediately and share the experience your child faced
- h) Informing bullying alone doesn't not help, follow up the issue. Make sure that your child will be safe in future in the school premises
- i) Encourage your child to develop healthy friendship with other students in class and hobbies that will make them cheerful.
- j) If additional assistance is required, seek the help of counselor or mental health professional.



School Responsibilities;

There are some crucial responsibilities that must be followed by the school authority to prevent such shameful acts. Some of them are:

- a) Schools can promote bullying prevention plan as a part of school improvement plan. Awareness can be raised among students regarding the negative effects of bullying.

- b) Effective bullying preventive strategy can be made to achieve the goal of anti-bullying school premises
- c) Students can be made volunteers, to make sure that bullying is not practiced inside the school campus
- d) The anti bullying volunteers can report to a higher authority of the school in case of any bullying practice inside the school
- e) School must not ignore bullying complaints, disciplinary action must be taken against the culprits
- f) The consequences of the bullies must be a lesson for other students to prevent even the thought of bullying other students



Think twice before you act;

Bullying can be reported to the concerned authority or person on the school

Prior physical abuse, the victim can take the help of police

First Information Report must be filed against the person responsible for the abuse

Depending upon the extend of physical abuse, the following consequences can be faced by the abuser;

- a) Suspension
- b) Cancellation of admission
- c) Withholding or withdrawing fellowship and scholarship along with other benefits
- d) Debarring from appearing examination
- e) Suspension from the school hostel
- f) Excessive fine



Student Drug Abuse

Use of drugs is an illegal and criminal act. According to a study, lack of awareness among students is the main reason for drug addiction. Majority of students, who used drugs, obtained it from friends. Drugs






are supplied to a particular student from someone outside the school and other students are attracted towards the use of drugs.

According to calculations a top anti-narcotics officer said that the average age of children taking drugs had fallen from 16 to 12. When officers smashed in to an international gang of drug dealers, they found that school children were also associated with drug dealing.

Drugs in state schools

State school principals have got the right to make rules regarding the conduct of students inside the school. They have the authority to suspend students who break the rules in a serious way. Schools have laws against possessing or using of drugs at school.




-  **If a student is found possessing drugs, he/she will be suspended for several days.**
-  **If a student is caught dealing with drugs at school, they will be expelled or suspended for a long time**
-  **The school should report the issue to police; they will be warned or cautioned**

Power of teachers

Teachers have got the capability to understand the behavior of the children easily. They mingle with children on a daily basis and this makes them closer towards students. But teachers are restricted to a great extend when compared to the power of police force. Even though they have authority on their students, they are restricted when it comes to personal matters of children to a great extend.

Teachers do not have the right to search clothes and bags of students unless the student agrees for the search. Teachers cannot hold a student nor can they lock any student in a room. This does not mean that, teachers do not hold any authority and responsibility towards students.

Teachers have got the following authority:

-  Teachers can search school premises and classrooms including desk and locker
-  Seize drugs if they find it
-  Schools can call the police to search a student because police holds the authority to search any person



Disciplinary actions

If a student is found responsible for violation of Conduct prescribed by the school authority, disciplinary action will be taken. State school principals have the authority to suspend students for a limited period of time but principals don't have the power to expel them.

Decision of expelling students can only be taken by Department of Education and Training. Principal must contact the parents and should inform them about the disciplinary action they have decided to make. If a student is found with drugs, he can be expelled from the school.

Private school principals hold much more freedom compared to that of state schools. Depending on the circumstances decisions are made.

Awareness is always important




Effective drug education is of great importance among students. Educating them right about the adverse effects of addiction can do magic while lack of effective guidance can result in a lot of problems.

Every school must have a seminar conducted on the adverse effects of drugs. There should be a friendly system built within the school to make students comfortable with their teachers. Many students are trapped in such activities, because they are unaware about the consequences.

Laws against drugs in India

According to Article 47 of the Constitution of India directs the State to consider the level of nutrition and the living standard of its people and improvement of public health remain its primary duty and prohibition of consumption, except for medical purposes, of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health.

Possession of drugs is offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDSP Act). The law doesn't consider the fact that whether the possession of the drugs is for personal consumption, commercial purpose or of any other purpose. The punishment depends on the quantity of drugs possessed. Drug possession is divided into three types.

-  **Small Quantity**
-  **More than small quantity but less than that of commercial quantity**
-  **Commercial Quantity**

The punishment depends on the quantity of drug possessed. If the student is found with small quantity, they are made to undergo de-addiction treatment.

Punishment and penalty

Small Quantity

Fine up to 10,000 or 6 months rigorous imprisonment or both

More than small quantity but less than that of commercial quantity

Fine up to Rs. 1,00,000 and up to 10 years rigorous imprisonment

Commercial Quantity

Fine of Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 2,00,000 and rigorous imprisonment of 10 to 20 years

Classification of drugs

DRUG	SMALL QUANTITY	COMMERCIAL QUANTITY
COCAINE	2 GRAMS	100 GRAMS
HEROIN	5 GRAMS	250 GRAMS
OPIUM	25 GRAMS	2.5 KG
HASHISH/CHARAS1 KG	100 GRAMS	1 KG
GANJA	1 KG	20 KG

- Any quality below the prescribed limit is considered as small quantity
- Any quality above the prescribed limit is considered as Commercial quantity

Other factors considered

- Since the school students are below the age of 18 years, a special law called the Juvenile Justice Act (care and protection) applies for any offence committed fewer than 18.

- b) Narcotics Control Bureau and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, is empowered to take action under the law.
- c) Using drugs is not like consumption of alcohol and smoking. It is illegal for everyone of every age
- d) The age of a person does not matter, possession of drugs is an offence
- e) Drugs like diazepam, buprenorphine and proxymone have medical uses. Such drugs can be bought and used only if the doctor prescribes it. The pharmacists selling them and the company's manufacturing them also possess license under the law.



School Infrastructure



School Building Environment

Buildings of the school must be built away from any contamination resources. There must be emergency exits in the building, easily accessible. Lighting and ventilation should be taken in to consideration. Metal mesh should be used to secure windows. Floors/roofs/walls should be damage free. The furniture should be of quality and appropriate for the students. Activity hall should contain adequate and appropriate equipments.



School compound

The main gate of the school must be away from main road/street. Outside the main gate barriers must be placed to avoid students suddenly rushing to street. Around the school compound, fence with height and strength should be provided. Play ground should be constructed in such a way that it should protect children from sun and rain. Play facilities with injury prevention should be enabled. Maintaining clean compound is always the first priority.



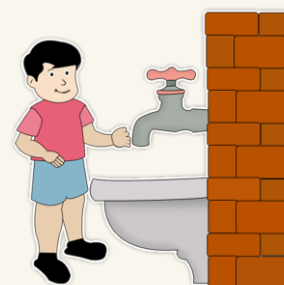
Parking Areas

There should be enough space for safe parking inside the school premises. Staff vehicle and student vehicle should have separate parking space.



Food Facilities

Healthy food is very important and it should provide all the necessary nutrition to the students. Canteen and kitchen should be hygienic. Canteen workers should be medically fit and should have the



certificate of health authority. Food should contain fruits and vegetables of good quality.

Drinking Water

Every school should have safe drinking water source. Water tanks should be kept clean and frequently cleaned. Ensure that the water is purified. Cleaning and maintenance reports should be kept. The person who takes care of the water supply of school should not have any disease.

Toilets

Ensure adequate toilet facilities with proper ventilation and lighting. Soap and paper towel dispenser should be made available. Water supply should be ensured. Floors and walls should be covered with ceramic, free from any damage. Floor and walls must be kept clean and disinfected. Floors must be slippery free. Drainage system should be proper.



Waste Disposal

There should be an effective system for waste disposal. There should be dustbins in each and every class including labs to library. Play grounds should also have dustbins. Encourage students to dispose waste in dustbins.

Student Hygiene

Schools are much more than just place for learning and examinations, schools helps to cultivate overall personality of a person. Schools must teach their students the relevance of healthy habits in life.

Hygiene is really important for health. Students should be made aware of its importance. Each and every school must take the responsibility to ensure better environment for their students. Healthy habits should be cultivated in students from a very early age.





Mission

By applying best technical and administrative methods, health care service can attain much more quality and effectiveness. Personal and surrounding hygiene is of great importance. It is the responsibility of a student to maintain good personal hygiene and clean surroundings. Each and every school should take the mission of spreading the awareness and importance of hygiene.



Share responsibilities of the school surroundings

A lot of difference can be achieved by team work

-  Innovative new methods of keeping the surroundings clean
-  Empower enthusiasm and commitment

Objectives

Schools should establish their own School Health Program with Objectives and Components

- a) Provide health care service to every school child in order to maintain their well being.
- b) Establish healthy relations among the Department of Health and Medical Service, school Administrators, students and parents.
Coordinate the activities of school Health Services for early notification and management of infectious diseases among students.
- c) Conduct health education programs to increase awareness on health matters among students
- d) Use the help of e licensed school doctors/nurses to make the health programs more effective
- e) Maintain healthy and safe school environment.
- f) Provide sufficient First Aid and or Emergency Care proportionate to the school's population.
- g) Take effective measures against communicable diseases in the schools.
- h) Take special Dental care of students

School health programs should provide students with adequate knowledge about the importance of being hygienic.

Health Education

- a) Program should include addresses the physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of health.
- b) The curriculum must motivate the students to improve their health, prevent disease, and reduce health related risk behaviors.



- c) Demonstrate health-related knowledge and better health practices.



Physical Education

- a) Make students practice activity areas such as basic movement skills, physical fitness, dance, games, dual and individual sport, and gymnastics
- b) Through variety of planned physical activities physical education should be promoted
- c) Appoint trained teachers for supervising physical activities.



Health Services

- a) Health services protect and promote health of students
- b) Health service is provided by qualified professionals such as physicians, nurses, dentists and health educators



Nutrition Service

- a) Access to nutritious and appealing meals that ensure health and nutrition of all students
- b) Qualified child nutrition professionals can be appointed



Counselling and Psychological Services

- a) To improve mental, emotional and social health of students Counseling and Psychological Services are of great importance
- b) Psychologists contribute not only to the health of students but also to the health of school environment.
- c) Qualified professionals certified in school counseling, psychologists, and social workers can help



Healthy School Environment

- a) Factors that influence the physical environment include the school building and the surrounding area, biological and chemical agents that are harmful to health, and physical conditions such as temperature, noise, and lighting
- b) For the well being of students and staff, healthy environment is a great factor



Community Involvement

- a) Approach of community and parents and community are no less important in shaping the cleanliness attitude of students

- b) Parent involvement should be actively encouraged.



Responsibilities of schools

- a) Maintenance of Health school Environment
- b) Physical/Medical examination of students.
- c) First Aid Care/Emergency Care
- d) Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases
- e) Health Education
- f) Maintenance of Records and Reports
- g) Regular update of health issues

STUDENT SAFETY INITIATIVES

Life of school goes is equally risky as any other grown up individual and maybe we fail to realize that. Student kidnapping, School bus incidents, School infrastructure issues, Student molestation, School bullying, Student drug abuse, School hygiene issues are some of the issues that they face but being kids, they are not strong enough to tackle the problems. These issues are not unavoidable, but we have to take a step further to prevent such unfortunate issues from happening and this is how we can do it:



Student Molestation

Students being subjected to sexual abuse have become common news in the media and we keep wondering whether we can really put an end to such things from happening. Yes we can try and prevent such incidents from happening in the following ways:

- a) Follow sexual abuse prevention policies and ensure that the security arrangements are fully functional
- b) Educate children about their bodies and what parts of their bodies, others should not touch
- c) Make sex education a must in school for students of the appropriate age
- d) Make a plan involving the students and thereby making them aware of where to go, what to do and how to react in case of an attempt of sexual abuse
- e) Conduct seminars or similar programs to educate the parents and students about sexual abuse

- f) Ensure that students can rely on you if they are subjected to any type of abuse
- g) Provide self-defense training to students
- h) Appoint counselors to help students deal with the trauma if they are subjected to sexual abuse in school
- i) Have a background check done before appointing an employee in the school
- j) Last and most important of all, school authorities should immediately report it to the police if they get a complaint about student sexual abuse. It won't do you any harm in terms of reputation of the school, but can help you win others' respect.

In Karnataka, the Udayagiri police in Mysuru have adopted 51 schools, out of which 34 schools are private while 17 schools are government-run, as a part of curbing sexual assaults against students and to ensure the safety of school goers. As a part of the program, constables have been assigned in each of the schools to watch out for illegal activities and eve-teasers. They also intend to hold meetings with students and parents to spread awareness about child sexual abuse.

Links- <http://www.wilmington.edu/student-life/residence-safety-measures.cfm>

<http://www.d2l.org/atf/cf/%7B64AF78C4-5EB8-45AA-BC28-F7EE2B581919%7D/7%20Steps%20to%20Protecting%20Our%20Children.pdf>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2014/11/24/Police-Adopt-51-Schools-to-Ensure-Safety-of-Kids/article2538088.ece>



School Violence & Terrorism



Mock drills to prevent attacks on schools

It is a must to train students to protect themselves under violent situations. Such circumstances demand preparedness. Mock drills are conducted to prepare children in order to face natural disasters. It has become a need that students should be trained to deal with terrorism and violence as well. Mock drills on terror attacks can help children save themselves, reducing the impact of the attack. Every attack increases tension and stress to a great extent that, often children remain numb, unable to react to the situation around.



Reactions to a threat

Mock drills on terror attack are a combined effort. Reducing the panic of the students, they must be trained to rely on themselves.

If somebody tries forcibly to enter the school compound by threatening the guards or crashing the vehicle in to the gate, police should be informed as soon as possible. Alarm should be rung to indicate the threat.

- a) Upon hearing the alarm children and staff members should go inside classrooms and lock themselves in.
- b) Children are advised to remain inside their respective classrooms.
- c) .In case of a bomb alert, children should not be only allowed to remain in a place with checking the area.
- d) Police should be informed
- e) Injured students should be hospitalized as soon as possible
- f) Lastly, parents should be informed about the attack

First-aid in schools

An alert mind can save many lives. From times unknown, many lives have been saved by giving proper first aid at the right time. The story of Jaipal Basi, a school girl who saved her friend in 2010, who started choking on a piece of cucumber, by quickly delivering five back blows that she was taught during a first-aid training session is a fine example. But, many schools still remain indifferent when it comes to having first-aid facilities or first-aid training.

Why is first-aid training necessary in schools?

Students are prone to at least minor bruises every day. Slips and falls are part of school life. But, sometimes, the injuries may be serious or worse. First-aid training can come handy in such situations.

Suppose a student falls unconscious. It may take several minutes to summon the ambulance and for the ambulance to reach the school. During that time, applying the first-aid training you received can save a life!

It is a truth that 50% of the world's work places do not have first aid facilities. It includes schools as well, where chances of need for emergency care are more.

What schools must do?

- Refer web sites for first-aid techniques and create and implement a safety and health strategy of your own
- Make sure that the schools have first-aid room with all necessary facilities and a qualified doctor and nurse at service
- Appoint a first-aid instructor and hold first aid training sessions for teachers and students at least twice in an academic year
- Empower staff and students with confidence to respond to an emergency situation
- If cost is an obstacle for first aid training in your school, there are packages available for a minimum cost in the market that you can buy
- Arrange specialist trainees in schools and conduct classes on first aid

Giving first-aid does not mean that there are no chances of potential danger. Even if you have been given basic first aid, it is always advisable that you got to a hospital for further check-up. For example, if you are bleeding and basic first-aid has controlled the bleeding to some extent, it does not eliminate chances of internal bleeding, which can be detected in hospitals only. Giving first-aid can keep emergency situations at check.

Having a well-defined health and safety strategy can not only make schools safer but also other places like home or anywhere outside. First-aid can reduce the number of fatalities. Also, first-aid training brings in a sense of responsibility in teachers and students and encourages them to respond to emergency situations.



Suggestions by parents

Parents, who have experienced the crisis of school attacks, put forward some suggestions to be taken in to consideration by the school authorities.

Some of the recommendations made by the parents are,

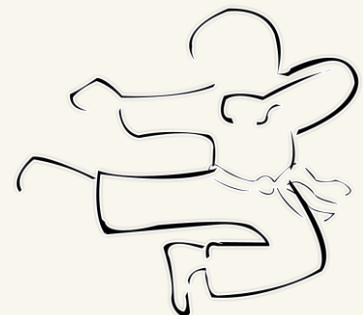
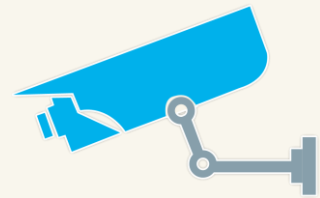
- a) There should be an emergency plan which should be known to students, teachers and parents. From the first day of the school the plan should be implemented and made clear
- b) The evacuation plan should have several alternative destinations
- c) The location of the children must be notified to the parents and a procedure that will identify the person who will come to pick-up the child if parents are not available.
- d) Schools should have emergency contact number of children, to which they can contact in case of any crisis
- e) After attack children should be given adequate counselling to reduce the psychological pressure

- f)** Parents should be provided the required information about the extra support and nurturing their children will require.
- g)** The children should be given emotional support

Student Kidnapping

India is a country where emotions and relations have more value than anything else and parents are always ready to go to any extent to give the best of things to their children. This love is the main reason of children being the victims of kidnaps. Whatever the motive behind any child kidnapping is, it is not a crime committed out of an impulse. Majority of the kidnappings that happened in the country had been well planned. There is very little that a school can do if the child is being kidnapped at the bus stop or anywhere outside the school, but a lot of preventive measures can be taken by the school to avoid kidnapping from the school premises.

- a)** Monitor the dropping & pickup of students by assigning staff to do it personally or by CCTV cameras
- b)** Ask the school bus drivers and those who come to pick up the students to carry an identification tag with them, which the security staff will verify
- c)** Ask children not to give away their personal information to any strangers
- d)** Devise a system in school that notifies about the absence of a student and raise an alarm as soon as possible
- e)** Conduct awareness programs and counseling to students and their parents to educate them about the preventive measures that can be taken during an attempt to kidnap
- f)** Conduct classes for students on the safety students that have to be kept in mind while dealing with strangers and to recognize unusual behavior of acquaintances
- g)** Provide self-defense training for students



St Aloysius Gongaza School in Karnataka is the first school in India to introduce Wushu, a Chinese martial art form that features elegant movements and some acrobatic aerial movements. A good move indeed by the school which has also been conducting Karate classes to students. Wushu was introduced in the school to train students in terms of self-defense and discipline. So far, 96 students, which include 53 from Kindergarten, have registered to learn Wushu once a week. It's time for more

schools to come forward and implement necessary steps to assure the safety of students in school premises.

Links- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/Wushu-teaches-students-self-defense-ethics/articleshow/45316153.cms>
<http://kravmaga-chennai.blogspot.in/2010/11/safety-procedures-to-prevent-kidnapping.html>



School Bus Incidents

School bus incidents always end with a condolence note by the authorities and the announcement of compensation, nothing further. Most of the school bus related incidents happen due to the negligence of the school bus drivers or school authorities. Therefore, turning a blind eye towards the avoidable incidents is only going to affect the reputation of the school and hence it's necessary to start thinking of solutions to prevent school bus incidents.

- a) Make sure that parents accompany younger students to the bus stop
- b) Ensure that the students board and alight the bus only after the bus comes to a complete stop
- c) Assign an employee in every bus monitor the students and to ensure that no student had been left behind in the bus once it reaches the destination
- d) Verify previous records of school bus drivers before hiring them
- e) Device systems such as CCTV cameras and GPS systems should be installed in school buses to monitor the performance of school bus drivers and to ensure the safety of students
- f) Train students to remain seated in the school bus throughout the journey to school or on the way back home
- g) Conduct seminars or classes to school bus staff at least once every year to instill safe driving practices in them

Earlier this year, CBSE has taken an appreciable step to strengthen the security system and to ensure the safety of students. CBSE has made it mandatory for all school buses to have GPS installed in them. This helps the school authorities to track the location of the school bus and to take immediate actions in case of unscheduled bus stops. Previously, CBSE had made speed governors mandatory in school buses to prevent over speeding but only few schools obliged.

Links- <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/cbse-makes-gps-compulsory-in-school-buses/1/334687.html>

<http://www.meshbeshar.com/blog/2012/11/school-bus-accidents-how-to-keep-your-child-safe/>



School Bullying

It has been found out that children subjected to violence such as bullying, the stress can cause accelerated biological aging in children leading to health issues and early death. This means that the trauma bullying can cause in a child last not for a moment, but forever. Every child is important and should be nurtured with equal care and security and for that, school authorities have to take measures to prevent bullying in schools.

- a) Implement anti-bullying policies in school
- b) Take measures to control the situation before hand than responding after such unwanted incidents happened
- c) Cases of bullying, when reported, should be taken seriously. But punishing the bully can only cause more harm. Make them understand the cons of bullying and try to solve the issue amicably
- d) Hold talks with students and take a survey on a monthly or annual basis to understand how much bullying is there in school
- e) Conduct classes to make students aware of how bullying for fun can change a person's life forever and to build self-confidence in students
- f) Ask students to show minimal action when being bullied, thus discouraging the bullies
- g) Make sure that students report cases of bullying to the authorized people
- h) Ensure that a responsible person is around to monitor students when they use the Internet at school
- i) Communicate with parents on the bad effects of cyber bullying and how they can contribute in tackling it
- j) Appoint counselors in schools to talk to the victims of bullying and to bring them out of the trauma and also to advise the students who bully on how their actions can hurt others

Links- <http://www.livescience.com/19858-bullying-child-abuse-aging.html>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Deal-With-Bullies>



Student Drug Abuse

Student drug abuse is a very serious problem we deal with today and if not prevented at an early stage, can ruin a whole generation. There can be many reasons why they fall prey to substance abuse, and as a school authority, it is your duty to bring your students out of it.

- a) Being harsh to the students who use drugs will not help; try talking to them and understand their reason of taking drugs or other substances
- b) Appoint an anti-drug abuse promoter in the school, who can guide the students and prevent them from resorting to drugs
- c) Educate the students through seminars and other media about the adverse effects of substance abuse
- d) Conduct programs to strengthen the relations between students and the school. A positive environment at school can prevent the students from using drugs to some extent

To lower the rates of crime against children and to instill discipline in them, the Karnataka Government has planned to raise Student Police Cadet units. The project will not only help the students to understand their capabilities but also to fight all issues faced by children especially student substance abuse. Kerala has already launched the SPC project while Rajasthan and Gujarat are planning to adopt it.

Links- <https://billbill1311.wordpress.com/2013/04/23/an-effective-way-to-tackle-the-students-drug-abuse-problem-in-secondary-school-of-hong-kong/>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/Government-to-raise-Student-Police-Cadet-units/articleshow/45276595.cms>



School Infrastructure

For an issue in infrastructure facilities, either the government is to be blamed for not permitting enough funds or the school authorities for not working towards the betterment of the school. Most of the issues of school infrastructure can be solved if at all the authorities take initiative and it isn't expensive at all. Remember that you are providing education, thus preparing a generation to contribute to the country and your work may prove beneficiary to you in future as well. Therefore, it is necessary to provide the best facilities possible to the students. Also, any unfortunate incident can affect your reputation.

- a) Children spend majority of their time in school and therefore, it is necessary to have proper toilet facilities in school
- b) Lack of drinking water is an issue that most students face in school. Ensure that students are provided with clean drinking water

- c) Take initiatives to do the maintenance work of school buildings at the beginning of every academic year. This can prevent issues of roofs falling down or collapse of school building
- d) Climatic conditions are extreme in most areas and it will be difficult for students to pursue education in such conditions.
- e) Understand the importance of technology in today's world and therefore, every school should have at least one computer lab with functioning computers available to all students in a class.
- f) While appointing teachers in schools, make sure that they are qualified and are professionally trained
- g) Conduct training sessions for teachers to improve their ways in teaching

Recently, the Telangana government has announced that every government run schools in the state will be provided with proper toilet and drinking water facilities by August 2015. The education minister of the state has said that about 1,520 toilets will be constructed using the funds provided by *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and efforts are being made to provide toilet and drinking water facilities in the schools by involving IT and pharma companies as part of corporate social responsibility. A good move indeed!

Links- <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/Toilets-in-Government-Schools-by-Aug-Next/2014/11/14/article2522501.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Despite-funds-many-schools-lack-basic-infra/articleshow/45116911.cms>



School Hygiene

A school teaches children more than what is there in books. The school environment influences the behaviour of the students and their personality. Therefore, maintain a hygienic school environment matters.

- a) Appoint staff to address hygiene issues in school
- b) Ensure the cleanliness of school toilets and availability of water in the toilets on a daily basis
- c) Provide facilities to wash hands after using toilets
- d) Ensure that drinking water available in the school is clean and store it in covered containers
- e) Create a garbage pit in school where garbage from classrooms and school premises can be deposited and burned once in a week
- f) Enlighten students and staff about the importance of having a clean school environment

- g)** Celebrate cleanliness week at least twice a year in school where students and staff can clean the school premises together

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation in collaboration with HEAL foundation launched an awareness campaign named "Swasthya Bacche Shikshit Bacche," which aims to educate over 1.5 lakh students in schools in East Delhi on crucial topics like sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, fitness and stopping child abuse.

Links- <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/well/resources/fact-sheets/fact-sheets-htm/ssahe.htm>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/awareness-campaign-for-nutrition-sanitation-launched-114120901023_1.html