

STAMPEDE- IN SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

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“BE AWARE & PREPARED..... not SCARED”

WHY STAMPEDE IN SCHOOLS

Background

- ❑ School is a place where large number of students enter and exit almost together.
- ❑ The number of students per class and total no is rapidly increasing .
- ❑ Different ages of students and their level of understanding of disaster risks.
- ❑ The students are in tender age groups with volatile mind-set.
- ❑ Even a small insecurity issue triggers panic and rush.



WHAT IS STAMPEDE

- 1. Stampede or crushing is the surge of individuals in a crowd in response to a perceived danger or loss of physical space.**
- 2. It often disrupts the orderly movement of crowds resulting in irrational and dangerous movement for self protection leading to injuries and fatalities.**

Illyas et al 2003 and UNDRF

POTENTIAL TIMES WHEN STAMPEDE CAN TAKE PLACE IN SCHOOLS

- ☐ During Assembly Dispersal Time.
- ☐ During Annual Sports or Raising Day functions.
- ☐ During celebrating National events or Cultural Functions
- ☐ During Natural or Human Induced Disasters, like Earthquake, Terrorist Attack, Fire or Building Collapse, etc.



Steps in Safe Education Institution



FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE PLANNING A SCHOOL FUNCTION

Type and duration of the event

- ☐ Size of the expected crowd .
- ☐ Gender and age profile of children and parents/Guardians.
- ☐ Location characteristics - Indoor, outdoor, plain or hilly area.
- ☐ Teacher incharge to plan, rehearse and safety drills.



KEY TO MANAGING STAMPEDES IN SCHOOLS

- ☐ **Comprehensive School DM Plan.**
- ☐ **DM Plan to include School DM Teams, namely SAR, First Aid, Fire Safety, Bus Safety, Security Teams. Training them in their Roles and Responsibilities and providing them necessary equipment.**
- ☐ **Systematic Movement of Children - in line -without overtaking any children ahead.**
- ☐ **A Well Designed and Effective Evacuation Route and Floor-wise Evacuation Map Displayed Prominently next to stairs.**

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KEY TO MANAGING STAMPEDES IN SCHOOLS

- ☐ Behaviour of Teachers and Children during crisis.
- ☐ Activation of Control Room during emergencies, State of the Art Control Room, with nominated Teacher as Incident Commander and its team.
- ☐ Control Room to have details of teachers and students who are vulnerable and contact details of designated hospital/s, nearest Fire Station, Police Station and DDMA.
- ☐ Conduct of Regular Table Top and Mock Exercises – twice a in a year, out of which one organised by Third Party.
Develop consequence scenario for each disaster .

Resources Inventory Required in Schools

- ☐ Skilled human resources (first aid, rescue and evacuation).
- ☐ Stretchers, fire extinguishers, ladders, ropes, torches, hailers, communication system, first aid box, life saving medicines, dedicated vehicle/s etc.
- ☐ Nearest hospital/s and their telephone numbers.
- ☐ Inventory of rooms in school, open area for assembly after evacuation & open verandah.



Crowd Control Strategies

- ☐ Quick exits with proper and well-lit signage.
- ☐ Adequate space in waiting areas to reduce claustrophobia.
- ☐ Use fire retardant paints, decorations etc. to avoid secondary disaster.
- ☐ Improve access to School premises from outside.

**LETS NOW DISCUSS SOME
EXAMPLES OF STAMPEDES**

IN

SCHOOLS

CASE STUDIES



Stampede in Govt. Sen. Sec. School in Khajuri Khas (New Delhi)

On 10 Sep 2009, following the rumours, Students rushed out of their classrooms to come down and go up in a narrow single staircase.

"Five girl students were killed while 27 others were injured.

Principal sacked, vice Principals and 2 teachers suspended and DDE indicted.



Stampede in School in Sanaa, Yemen

On 19 Apr 2023 at least 85 people were killed in Yemen's capital Sanaa in a stampede as hundreds gathered in a school to receive charity aid, of \$ 9, from a merchant during Ramadan, Narrow street.

More than 322 were injured in the crowd crush.



TAKEAWAYS

- ☐ **Stampedes can happen in schools.**
- ☐ **Consequences can be mitigated through prior planning .**
- ☐ **Develop disaster management plans to include crowd control strategies .**
- ☐ **General awareness for whole school, training of school DM Teams and conduct of Table Top and Mock Exercises periodically**

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