

School Awareness

aiding children with water safety & rescue mechanism



Why School Awareness Intervention?

Drowning is one of the major causes of death among children in both high, low and middle-income countries. WHO counts annually over 320,000 drowning death worldwide while BHIS-2016 revealed around 10,000 children aged 1-4 years die by drowning each year. CIPRB research under BHASA interventions highlighted several factors, which can lead to drowning, such as lack of supervision, lack of information, hazardous environment and traditional view of treating drowning as God's will for child morbidity in Bangladesh. However, it is evident from developed countries that drowning can be preventable through proper interventions and raising awareness.

CIPRB has designed approaches to channel support through government, civil society and NGOs into drowning prevention and risk reduction activities. Partnerships between these stakeholders will help strengthen cooperation, coordination, facilitate allocation of resources and identify priority interventions and activities. To achieve this goal, the CIPRB has designed School awareness programme for water safety intervention for the high risk group (age 6-10 years).

Objective of School Awareness Intervention

School Awareness program has been designed to enhance water safety knowledge in school children to reduce drowning morbidity and mortality. This intervention is delivered by the partner organization Bangladesh Fire Services and Civil Defense (BFSCD).

Target Group of School Awareness Intervention

Students between Grade I and Grade VIII (6 to 14 years) under the project area are approximately 40,000 children from 197 schools (high risk areas). To get a significant change of water safety knowledge after implementation 80% of these eligible children ie 32000 students were targeted from 160 schools as well as madrasas in the three intervention areas. All the school (high, Medium and low risk communities) were covered gradually. Schools were selected according to the need of the community from the high risk areas.



School safety implementation strategies

- Engaging school authority for school awareness programme
- Equipping Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense personnel to deliver services
- Enrolling students as participants for awareness programme from the selected schools



Engaging school authority for school safety program implementation

Schools Selection Process

All the primary and secondary schools (Grade I to Grade VIII), as well as the madrasas (religious schools) located in the high and medium risk areas of the BHASA intervention upazilas will be eligible for the School awareness program. The area coordinators will do the short-listing of schools/madrasas after considering the following criteria with the support of BFSCD.

- High/medium risk areas
- High risk for drowning due to close to waterbodies or student have high exposure
- Large number of students in the school



Engaging the stakeholders

After selecting the schools/madrasas from the high and medium risk areas, the BFSCD will involve Upazila Education Officer who is the focal person for education related activities in a sub-district. This involvement will ensure better access to the schools and effective cooperation between the schools' authorities and the facilitators. A meeting will be organized at Upazila level in presence of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and other officers of education department. Area Coordinators of BHASA project will support to organize this.



Objectives of the meeting:

- To orient the local administration about the aims and objectives of school awareness programme.
- To involve the education department in the process for sustainability
- To seek support from the local administration to implement the programme

Who will organize the meeting?

Area Coordinators will be responsible in his/her catchment areas to organize the meeting in the upazila parishad. S/he will visit and talk to the Education Officer to fix a date for meeting. Area coordinator will inform the date to Upazila Coordinator.

Process of conduction of the meeting:

- The meeting will be chaired by the UNO.
- Education officer and other officers of education department will participate in the meeting. Project coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the session.
- CIPRB personnel will describe overall implementation process of the school safety programme.
- BFSCD personnel will seek overall cooperation to establish the school programme and ask for a permission letter from the Education Officer.