The Resilient Foundation: Project Saksham

Since 2018, The Resilient Foundation (TRF) has been working towards building the capacity of stakeholders for effective response mechanisms related to disaster management and emergency preparedness. The objective is to equip citizens to become “first responders” across pre-disaster, during and post-disaster situations, to minimise the loss of lives and resources. We have curated capacity building workshops with schools, colleges and institutions, to make them resilient and safe.

Project Saksham – Transforming the resilience of our social infrastructure!
To set the context, India’s schools suffer from various disasters which leads to loss of lives and infrastructure. Most lack the capability to manage this. It is imperative to close this gap to make our schools, a key social infrastructure, more resilient in hard (structure, exits, equipment, safety measures) and soft (sensitization, capacity-building, adherence) aspects to tackle such crises and emerge safer!

Project Saksham is TRF’s new 3-year program in partnership with ITDP (Integrated Tribal Development Project), Palghar, State Government of Maharashtra. TRF will work with 104 tribal Ashramschool of Palghar district, home to ~55,000 students, ~1500 teachers, ~2000 village communities – all being direct and indirect beneficiaries of the program!

The project will offer a holistic end-to-end intervention of measurement and advisory for building the resilience of these schools, comprising of 4 elements:

To describe further, a colour-code will be assigned to each school following the first hazard mapping to identify potential vulnerabilities. A review will be conducted for the next two years (making it a 3-year program) to ensure monitoring and impact. Basis the mapping, the School Disaster Management Plan will be created and reviewed for the next two years, and advice on minor retrofits to the infrastructure will be given. Apart from orienting the school’s senior staff, capacity-building sessions will be curated for students, staff and communities, to be followed by updates over the next two years. This will include mock-drills and practical simulations to be conducted each year, as well as IEC material for each school. Last, a disaster Taskforce and committee would be constituted of school staff and community members, to be reviewed over the next two years, such that they can eventually provide continual oversight to the school on this aspect.

Project Saksham will help multiple outcome and impact areas, namely:

Capacity-building will include perspective-building on disaster management and emergency preparedness, first-aid mechanisms including CPR, asphyxia, mental shock, fire safety methods, search and rescue operations and flood preparedness.

TRF’s Key Trainers leading Project Saksham:
- Bhupendra Mishra, Certified DM Instructor, Disaster Resilience Fellow, Gandhi Fellow, Former Consultant - MDWS, Govt. of India & President Awardee
- Rajan Shelar, Social Entrepreneur, DM Instructor, Demonstrator & Fire Life Safety Expert
- Yugandhara Kajare, Certified Corporate Trainer & NLP practitioner