

## BACKGROUND

Iran has been located in one of the most seismic regions of the world, and every now and then we experience one devastating earthquake, which causes human and property losses. On the other hand the recent earthquake experiences have shown that children are the most vulnerable groups of the society. Vulnerability of this group is not just because of high numbers of death or physically injury but also they are the most effected by psycho-social disorders.

Schools are the most important and fundamental community centers of a country, which built the bases for development in all the aspects including technical, industrial, economic and social development. In order to create a deeper understanding of the earthquake culture and safety at schools and national preparedness activities, the Public Education at International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), has developed a curriculum framework for the three different educational levels in Iran including a 5 years of primary schools, 3 years of secondary schools and 4 years of high schools. The Earthquake and safety awareness training activities are carried out in these different educational levels using direct and indirect methods.

## OBJECTIVES

The final objective of public education is to increase public awareness about earthquake and mitigating of its hazards.

## ACTIVITIES

### ■ Formal Education

There are many methods to be employed as the direct education, from which IIEES has applied the following methods:

- **Compiling relevant educational materials for schoolbooks**

- **Scientific Subjects on Earth and Earthquake**

In Science books of grades 5, 8 and 12, Geography books of grades 8, 10 there are

scientific materials on the inner structure of the earth, earthquake, faults and continental movements.

- **Earthquake Preparedness, Response and Recovery**

In the "Defense Preparedness" book of grade 8 (for boys) and "Knowledge of Careers and Arts" book of grade 8 (for girls) there are materials on the most appropriate activities to be preformed before, during and after a damaging earthquake.

- **Other Materials**

In other books such as: grades 3 and 7 "Social Science" books and grade 8 "Persian Literature" book there are lessons, which look at earthquake from Social point of views and mostly aim towards creating self confidence and proper social behavior at the time of earthquake.

- **Earthquake Drill**

Since 1995 public education of IIEES has initiated organizing earthquake drill in schools, and from 1999 this drill has been expanded to cover all the schools of the country which includes 16.5 millions students in 110,000 schools in 2003.

- **Continual Education Courses**

Another effective direct method of education is offering continual education courses for all the teachers of the Ministry of Education.

- **Establishing the Safety Councils for Earthquake at Schools**

This council is consisted of the following four teams:

- Munitions and Safety Team

- Search and Rescue Team

- First Aid Team

- Fire Safety Team

- **Informal Education**

In addition to formal education in schools IIEES has established different activities to increase knowledge of students about earthquake and safety as a following:

- Earthquake and Safety Educational Posters

- Educational Posters of National Earthquake and Safety Drill

- Poster for Secondary and High Schools

- Educational Brochures

- National Earthquake Drill Guidelines for school principals

- Educational Books

The educational books published by IIEES for the students are as follows:

- **E for Earthquake:** This book has been

prepared for primary school children.

■ **Earthquakes: scientific understanding of the phenomenon for children:** The book has been prepared for the students of primary and secondary schools

■ **Earthquake and a glimpse into the earth:** The book has been prepared for high school students and also it would be helpful for the school teachers

■ **What you should know about earthquake:** This book has been prepared for school teachers

■ **Earthquake safety council guidebook:** This book has been prepared for school principals

Beside these, following activities were performed:

■ **Earthquake and Safety workshops:** Every year, at the same time of the National week of natural disaster reduction, Earthquake and safety workshops are being held

■ **Educational Competitions:** Organizing educational competitions in the forms of drawings and writing articles

■ **Educational Web Site**

## ***ACHIEVEMENTS***

Significant increased knowledge has been observed on safety during earthquake occurrence through students to the society.

## ***SUGGESTIONS***

■ **E-learning:** Computer is one of the communicational and educational media that could provide the audience with influential educations in the form of soft wares. For this end, department of public education intends to undertake and concentrate on e-learning as a priority.



## ***CONTACT DETAILS***

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