

Critical Analysis of Road Safety in India

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INTRODUCTION:-

In the last decade, India has lost around 1.3 million people to prevent road crashes. The figure has increased to 5.3 million when people were left poor-able for their life. India has been one of the countries of highest number of road accidents with crashed taking place every minute & 1 death every 4 minute.

Though it has just 1% of the world's vehicles, India adds upto 10 % of the global road accidents which is the highest in the world. According to the report published by the Transport Research Wing(TRW) of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways(MORTH),under-"Road Accidents in India" around 1,46,133 people lost their life in road accidents in the year 2015 which consists about 12,589 children too. These digits are not only the highest that India has ever recorded in the past, but it indicates a 53.9% increases over the last decade. Moreover, a ten fold increase since the year 1970.The effects of road accidents can have dire consequences which not only includes the loss& impairment of a breadwinner in the family but emotional trauma on many families resulting in mental; physical & psychological stress also.

It also imposes a severe financial burden by trapping the entire household into poverty. Around 80% of the people still feel unsafe on the roads. The issues relating to road safety occupy a very significant position in the minds of the people today that's why 86% of the citizens of India feel that the theme of road safety is vital in nature.

As it is a very well-known fact that India has the second largest road network in the world with over 4.24 million km as of now which includes National Highways, District roads & village roads carrying around 80% of the country's passenger traffic & also 65 % of freight traffic. India still needs to adopt a safe system approach to road engineering according to the World Health Organization report 2016.

BACKGROUND OF ROAD SAFETY:-

Road traffic crashes are one among the world's largest public health and injury burden issues. The matter is all the more acute as a result of the victims are irresistibly healthy before their crashes. The World Health Organization (WHO), over one million folks are killed on the world's roads every year. A report printed by the United Nations agency in 2004 calculable that some one.2 million folks were killed and fifty million scraped in traffic collisions on the roads round the world every year and was the leading reason for death among youngsters 10–19 years getting on.

The report conjointly noted that the matter was most severe in developing countries which easy burden measures might divide the quantity of deaths. The standard measures utilized in assessing road safety interventions are fatalities and killed or seriously scraped (KSI) rates, sometimes per billion (10⁹) kilometres.

Countries caught within the previous road safety paradigm, replace KSI rates with crash rates — as an example, crashes per million vehicle miles.

Vehicle speed among the human tolerances for avoiding serious injury and death may be a key goal of recent road style as a result of impact speed affects the severity of injury to each occupants and pedestrians.

For occupants, Joksch (1993) found the likelihood of death for drivers in multi-vehicle accidents hyperbolic because the biquadrate of impact speed. Injuries are caused by fulminant, severe acceleration (or deceleration); this can be tough to live.

However, crash reconstruction techniques will estimate vehicle speeds before a crash. Therefore, the amendment in speed is employed as a surrogate for acceleration. This enabled the Swedish Road Administration to spot the KSI risk curves victimization actual crash reconstruction information that light-emitting diode to the human tolerances for serious injury and death documented on top of.

Interventions are typically abundant easier to spot within the trendy road safety paradigm, whose focus is on the human tolerances for serious injury and death. As an example, the elimination of head-on KSI crashes merely needed the installation of Associate in Nursing

acceptable median barrier. Also, roundabouts, typically with speed reducing approaches, encounter only a few KSI crashes.

LEGISLATIONS RELATED TO SAFETY OF ROADS:-

MOTOR VEHICLE'S ACT, 1988:-

The existing motorcars Act, 1988, associate imperial legislation, has evidenced to be inadequate in addressing the general challenges plaguing the road transport sector and has didn't guarantee road safety for the individuals of Republic of India.

Road traffic in Republic of India presently operates within the legal framework established within the motorcars Act, 1988. whereas the Act was enacted at a time once the expansion in India's road transport sector couldn't are envisaged, it's solely been moderately amended within the last twenty eight years with complete disregard to safety and rationalization of penalties. The Act, has evidenced to be inadequate in addressing the general challenges plaguing the road transport sector and has didn't guarantee road safety for the individuals of Republic of India.

ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY BILL,2014:-

In 2014, comprehensive recommendations were sent to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways within the chapters touching on road safety admire Road Safety and Traffic Management, main road Protection Force, and Offences and Pen

BEST ROAD SAFETY RULES:-

Safety is considered as one of the most important issues in the road transport system. Proper Plan of Action adopted a number of performance pointers to be measured annually by recording the development of parameters like reduction in the rates of accidents , operating speeds, technical standard of heavy vehicles, usage of seat belts, ban on drink & drive attitude etc should be taken into consideration for having a safe atmosphere on the road. It is a high time now that India should adopt the following ten best safety rules from countries like discussed below:-

1. STRICT ROAD SAFETY LEGISLATIONS:-

A stronger, a lot of comprehensive road safety legislation and effective social control to influence however individuals behave on the roads. WHO supports countries to assess their current laws or bills, determine gaps and outline priorities for effective action.

2. AWARENESS AMONG CITIZENS-:

WHO helps governments to produce laborious hit mass media campaigns that attract attention and effectively support different activity modification measures. Additionally, WHO works directly with journalists within the print and broadcast media to make sure that the magnitude of road traffic deaths and injuries and the impact they need on public health and people's lives square measure adequately according in native, national and international news.

3. BAN ON DRINK & DRIVE POLICY-:

Drinking and driving, particularly with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of over 0.05 g/dl (grams per deciliter), greatly increases the danger of a crash and also the chance that it'll end in death or serious injury. Teenagers are at larger risk of alcohol related road crashes are the quantity of crashes involving teenagers are often reduced by as much as pure gold by laws that establish a lower blood alcohol concentration (around zero.02 g/dl) for young or novice drivers.

4. MANDATORY USE OF HELMETS-:

Wearing a customary motorbike helmet properly can cut back the danger of death by virtually four-hundredth and the risk of severe injury by over seventieth. Once motorbike helmet laws area unit implemented ,helmet-wearing rates will increase to over ninetieth. Requiring helmets to fulfill recognized safety standards, to be in fitness and to be properly worn, e.g. not cracked and properly fastened, will considerably cut back head injuries.

5. DRIVER TRAINING & SPEED-:

The driving ability is one of the vital factors for the Road Safety. Novice driving may result in uncontrolled vehicle and rash driving. Both the factors contribute fairly to increase accident rate. Newer tools offered currently would like to be used to train and develop skills in road usage. it's not solely safe driving. The drivers irrespective of the area where the they reside, should be given Hill Driving Training as Hill Driving is very technical and

dangerous for amateur drivers who may lack understanding some basic rules of Hill Driving like Not to overtake at Blind Curves, Allowing the Vehicle on Incline to go first. Lack of understanding of these basic rules may lead to fatal accidents. How to react when an accident takes place is incredibly vital, because it is the concern of others which may save life. This must be a part of the training.

6. NEVER RUN ON ROADS-:

This one is hard for youths to follow, however it's quite dangerous to let very little ones lie the streets. Tell them to tame their spirits and refrain from sprinting or running.

7. PROPER SPEED MANAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT-

Generally tike loves speed, however this fun value you your life or permanent disabilities. it's one amongst the foremost necessary issue controls the traffic accidents. Virtually each year over dashing quite forty fifth of the intense crashes because of over dashing your reaction times becomes terribly less. it's a lot of dangerous & serious for our life. So, it's well to drive among the regulation.

8. NEVER BREAK RED SIGNAL-:

It is commonest causes for road accidents after you take a risk to run on red signal, another automobile can flip, it causes some serious accidents. So, ne'er break red signal look forward to inexperienced signal.

9. USE ZEBRA CROSSINGS-:

A crossover may be a style of crossing utilized in several places round the world. Its distinctive feature is alternating dark and lightweight stripes on the level, resembling the coat of acquit. A crossover usually provides priority to rights of due to pedestrians.

10. AVOID UNNECESSARY OVERTAKING-

Overtaking alternative vehicles are often dangerous the issue with reordering is decision making the house needed to finish the man oeuvre safely. Both single lane and multi-lane reordering man

oeuvres involve risk and need extreme care. If you have got any doubts it's best to not overtake and to attend till it's safer. You must overtake on the correct unless a vehicle is waiting to show right, is stationary, or if you and also the alternative vehicle area unit move in marked lanes. In these instances you will overtake on the left aspect if it's safe

CONCLUSION-:

Roads area unit biggest supply of interconnectivity inside state and across and inter-county cooperation will offer them international dimensions too they're supply of providing social, financial, health, business enterprise property for each individual but, if safety is forgotten they will offer a private et al. fatal consequences.

It's necessary to understand that right to life and liberty involves making certain safety at each level as whereas we area unit walking or driving on roads. With rise of road safety issues so a lot of being done to extend road transport, there's a desire to sensitize the drivers on road regarding the responsibility towards atmosphere, fellow individuals on and traffic.

It's typically contended by individuals at giant that the fine being to tiny provides ample reason why the violations area unit a lot of.

However, the idea of less fine for traffic violations is on the far side acceptance because the consequences of any such careless act no matter fine in situ is inflicting an even bigger loss of human life or permanent or temporary incapacity with same succeeding consequences for the victims family furthermore as for suspect. there's undoubtedly want for strict traffic laws and its compliances however an equivalent may be not simply ensured by increasing the amount of traffic challans alone however by rigorous road safety sensitization programmes right from preschool and considering the magnitude of such downside the programmes ought to be done at structure levels by NGOs, Government bodies and institutes of road safety.

There's a desire to grasp that we've not jumped on road to enter a race wherever we tend to do zig-zag driving, reordering from wrong facet, honking the instant the sunshine flips inexperienced or is near to turn red or perhaps jump red lights.