

## Is road safety really important?

members of the Hamilton Niagara Fleet Safety Council made a road safety slogan,

"Slow Down! Your family will wait for you?"

What is road safety? Do you think that you are safe out there on the road? Every year more than thousands of lives are lost on the roads.

In India, in every 4 minutes one life is lost on the road. Do you think now are we safe?

Is road safety really important? Our lives are too precious to us as well as our family members. Are we compromising on some part of the road safety? Many people have paid the price with their precious lives.

Road safety is primarily meant about the protection and security of all those who travel on roads. It encapsulates all from pedestrians to animal-drawn vehicles and from two wheelers to all types of multi-wheel transport. Everyone of us check both the sides of the road while crossing it. Even wondered why do we do it? It is just because you don't feel secure and safe if you don't check. This is one of the safety precaution we follow on the road.

Road safety tips includes awareness about the vehicle, being defensive in different weather and road conditions, proper use of lights and horn, road sense, wearing seat belts

while driving, development and use of nerve control with quick reflex action in crisis to avoid any immediate danger, walking on right path, etc. Do we follow these tips? If not what happens? we are highly vulnerable to the accidents in the case we do not follow road safety rules.

Road safety importance can be judged from the fact that every hour 17 people die on Indian roads. Everyday 46 children die in different parts of the country. Overspeeding near the school is the main cause. Out of total accidents, 50% of the road accidents' impact can be reduced by providing rapid assistance. It had also great impact on infrastructure as it costs 4.07 lakh crore annually in India. More than 50 lakh people have been injured or disabled in past decade. More than 10 lakh people are killed in past decade. This increase in numbers is more serious. Young population have greatly affected due to road accidents ageing between 15 to 35. They constitute one third of the total accidents' victim. This makes the area of concern valid.

This trend of accidents can be curtailed by creating awareness about pedestrian safety through workshops, street plays, documentaries, seminars as well as educating

children by incorporating basic road safety lessons in their syllabus right from the outset ; for example , the 'Green cross code' (stop , look , listen , think and cross ) and the proper way to walk on one side of the road. TV can play an important role in promoting and creating awareness. Learning about traffic lights , road signs and other rules is another valuable addition which can contribute significantly in this regard.

Efforts are being taken to develop technical knowledge and innovation by IITs , Research centers to solve road safety issues with use of technology. Law is also being simplified in order to make it more accessible to all, in India under the supreme court committee. A national road safety portal developed in collaboration with ministry of Road Transport and Highways shows the road accident statistics in a interactive manner and promotes sharing of data among the various stakeholders. Missions and various initiatives have been taken by the government like Road Transport and Safety Bill , National Road Policy . These initiatives aim to reduce the road accidents and give emergency treatment to the victims. Apart from the government , it is also the responsibility of the family , parents , caretakers to educate their children about the road safety.

Children below the age of 18, having no license, should not drive any car or motorvehicles. Stunts without helmet are too one of the cause of the road accidents. These stunts have been encouraged by the social media like many Youtube videos. These videos are distracting the young population and are making them more vulnerable to road accidents.

There is absolutely no excuse to not abide by the traffic laws. A person abiding traffic laws, going in his lane, driving at a minimum speed, not using his mobile phone gets hit by another car. You may ask "But he was driving safe." Yes, he was but the thing is the other person wasn't a law-abiding. The other person didn't care how the traffic works and this is the main reason "everyone must be taught the laws of traffic accordingly".

Accidents statistics of the world had made road safety rules most important to be followed. This is not just a responsibility of one person but all the people who loves their lives and family. We can prevent the accidents by giving 100% from our side. Everyone's coordination and support will make it 100% from both the sides. Let's make our world accident free and promise our young generation like long life. I pledge to drive safely. What about you?