

UNIT

6

Road safety



Learning Objectives

- To understand the increase of road accidents in our country
- To know the causes of road accidents
- To follow the road safety rules



Introduction

In this lesson, We will learn about a road accident refers to any accident involving at least a vehicle, occurring on a road open to public transport, and in which at least one person is injured or killed. Intentional acts (murder, suicide) and natural disasters are excluded from road accidents.

Road accidents are the leading cause of death by injury and the tenth-leading cause of all deaths globally. An estimated 1.2 million people are killed in road crashes each year, and as many as 50 million people are injured.



With over 1,30,000 deaths annually India has the worst road accident rate worldwide.

Major Reasons of Road Accidents



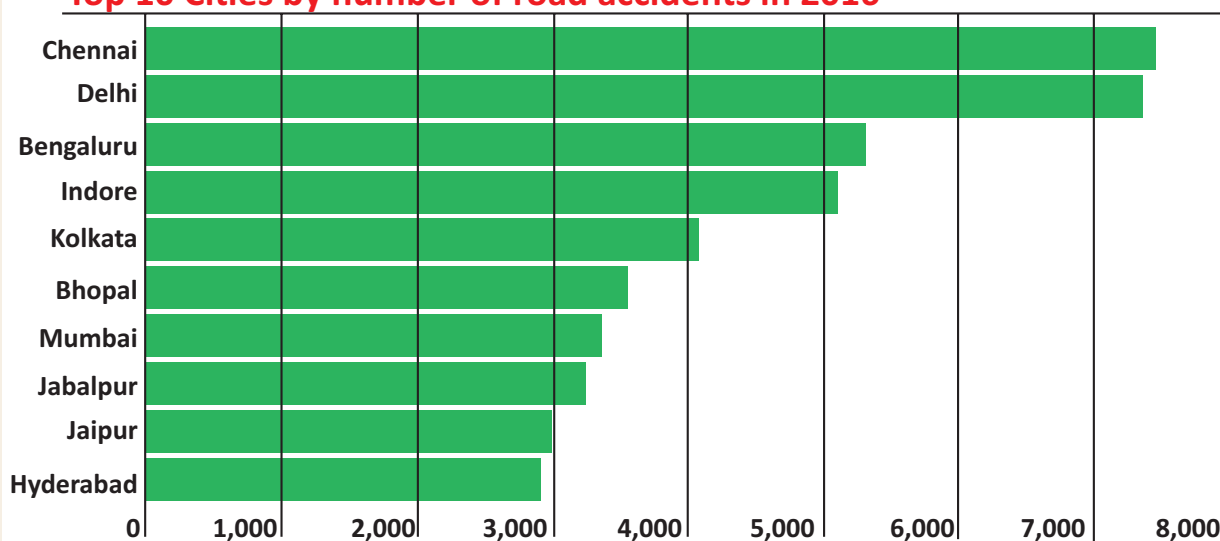


Every three minutes a child is killed in an accident in the world.

The main causes of death by road accidents include

1. Drunk and drive (40%), speeding (24%), car boom in India (16%), inefficient law enforcement (15%) and less use of helmets and seat belts (5%)
2. Distractions to Driver
3. Red Light Jumping
4. Overtaking in a wrong manner

Top 10 Cities by number of road accidents in 2016

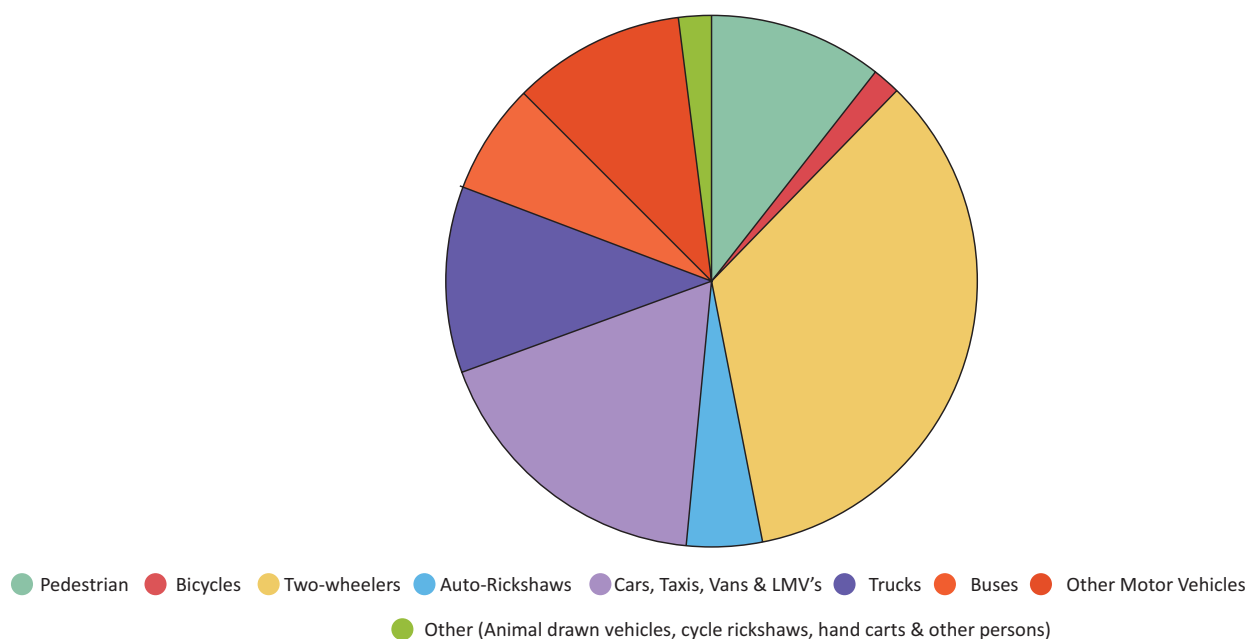


Source: Accidents India 2016 report

DIFFERENT FACTORS TO ROAD ACCIDENTS:

- Drivers:** Over-speeding, rash driving, violation of rules, failure to understand signs, fatigue, alcohol
- Pedestrians:** Carelessness, illiteracy, crossing at wrong places, jaywalkers
- Passengers:** Projecting their body parts outside vehicles, talking to drivers, alighting and boarding vehicles from the wrong side, travelling on footboards, catching a running bus etc.
- Vehicles:** Failure of brakes or steering, tyre burst, insufficient headlights, overloading
- Road Conditions:** Potholes, damaged roads, eroded roads merging of rural roads with highways and illegal speed breakers
- Weather conditions:** Fog, snow, heavy rainfall, wind storms, hail storms.

Break-up of persons killed by road use category in 2016



Source: Accidents India 2016 report

Look at the diagram given above and answer the following.

1. Which road use category causes the highest number of deaths? Could you give any three possible reasons? What would you suggest as the related safety rules?
2. How could pedestrians save themselves from road accidents?

Direct Consequences of Accidents:

1. Fatality (Death)
2. Injury
3. Damage to Property

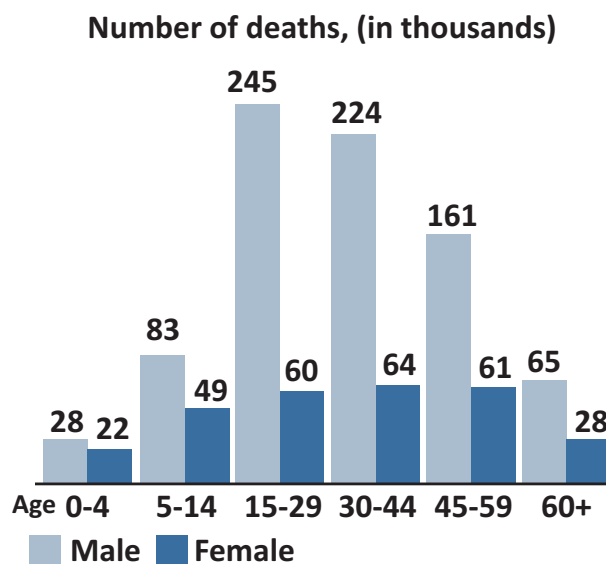
Preventive measures for accidents:

1. Education and awareness about road safety
2. Strict enforcement of law
3. Engineering:
 - (a) Vehicle design
 - (b) Road infrastructure



The chances of death by accident can be decreased by 51% with the proper use of seat belt and helmet.

Road Traffic Deaths Worldwide by Sex and Age Group, 2002



Source: WHO Global Burden of Disease Project, Version 1 (2002).

Look at the above diagram carefully and answer the following.

1. Which age group tops the number of road traffic deaths worldwide? Why?
2. Give some inference on the striking difference between the number of road accident deaths of males and females.

Rules to Ensure Road Safety for children

It is important for children to know about road safety rules and regulations. Here are a few basic road safety rules for children:

1. Know Your Signals
2. Stop, Look and Cross
3. Pay Attention – Listen
4. Don't Run On Roads
5. Always Use Sidewalks
6. Never Stick Hands outside the Vehicle
7. Never Cross Road at Bends
8. Don't Rush
9. Keep left
10. Crossing at zebra line.



Exercise

I Answer the following.

1. What are the benefits of wearing helmet while driving?
2. List out the factors of road accidents.
3. Which colour in the signal means 'stop'?
4. List out any three road safety rules:

II Answer in details.

1. Explain the factors involved in road accidents.
2. Explain in detail: The road safety rules.



Activities

Road Safety Games & Activities

Play is one of the best ways to make children learn important things. A few road safety tips will help the children learn about road safety.

1. **Crosswords** are excellent learning tools for older students. You can find road safety education crosswords for online.
2. **Play guessing games** play noises or sounds that they are likely to hear on the street and ask them what it is.
3. **Red Light, Green Light** Have the children run around and someone yells out, 'red light' and the children have to stop what they are doing until they hear 'green light'.



REFERENCES

1. Dinesh Mohan, 'Road Safety in Less-Motorized Environments: Future Concerns', *International Journal of Epidemiology* 31, No. 3 (2002)
2. Christopher J.L. Murray and Alan D. Lopez, eds., *The Global Burden of Disease: A Comprehensive Assessment of Mortality and Disability from Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors in 1990 and Projected in 2020* (Boston: Harvard School of Public Health, 1996).
3. Courtesy:- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India



GLOSSARY

Abandoned	Left
Allocation	An amount of a resource assigned to a particular recipient
Amendment	Changes made to an existing law
Autonomy	Self governing
Cantonment	A military garrison or camp
Clusters	A group of similar things or people
Conceptualisation	The action of forming a concept
Compensation	Amount awarded to someone for injury or loss
Community	A group of people living in the same place of having particular characteristics in common.



Consensus	General agreement on an issue
Constituency	A group of votes in a specified area who elect a representative to a legislative body.
Democratic	The government is elected by its citizens.
Despotism	Exercise of absolute power
Decentralisation	The transfer of authority from central to local government
Dignitaries	Persons considered to be of high rank or office
Dissolution	Formally ending or dismissing an assembly
Executive	Having to do with carrying out laws
Ethnicity	Belonging to a particular social group
Fundamental	Basic
Grass root level	The most basic level
Government	The group of people with the authority to govern a country or state; a particular ministry in office.
Intervene	Get involved
Judicial	Relating to the administration of justice
Judiciary	The judges of a court considered as a group
Legislature	Law making body
Monarchy	A form of government in which a single person is the hereditary head of the state
NOTA	The people in a democratic country are not willing to elect any candidate; they can vote for the option called NOTA (None Of The Above).
Onslaught	A fierce attack
Pressure groups	A group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest.
Pursuant	Following
Representatives	A person chosen or appointed to act or speak for another or others.
Republic	The head of the state is elected directly or indirectly.
Racial	Related to a race of people
Remedy	Solution to an issue /problem
Rigid	Hard to change
Rejuvenated	Restore
Revitalisation	To give new life
Revived	Re-establish
Sovereign	Free from the interference or control of any foreign power.
Socialist	Providing social and economic equality to all citizens.
Secular	Freedom to practice any religion or reject all.
Self-Government	A system in which the citizens rule themselves
Slaughter	Killing of animals for food
Trafficking	Carry forcefully from a place to another.
Tier	A series of levels of a structure placed one above the other
Victim	A person who gets harmed
Voluntary	Done of one's own free will