

RESOLUTION

Anna, a young boy, had just returned to his village from the college hostel during his summer vacation. As he trudged towards his home, he saw the sun going below the horizon and the western skies flashed with the orange-russet streaks of light.

The scene of the setting sun always put him in low spirits. He himself didn't know, why ?

The land was dry and parched. At places it appeared as if futile attempts had been made at ploughing, the ploughed ridges had hardened. Here and there, cactii of different shapes grew. A solitary crow perched on the old *babul* tree.

Anna was struck by the unusual tranquillity all around, which was pierced by the collective twittering of the birds soaring high in the skies. The jovial fields where the farmers ploughed, enjoyed and sang, the meadows where the cattle grazed - why were they deserted ?

He missed the chirpy, little faces plucking berries from the thorny *ber* trees or playing cricket with their battered bats and small, stiff stems of trees as wickets.

Anna watched the fallow land spread across the distant horizon with eyes wide open, but did not perceive a human soul. He was unable to comprehend what the matter was. Strange thoughts crossed his mind. Has something inauspicious happened in his little village ?

He treaded with quick steps, but his luggage slackened his pace.

He passed by the village *paathshaala*, where the evening classes were held for the children and the youth. The silence of this familiar place jarred on his ears - no students sitting on the sack-mats, no reprimanding by the *master-saab*, no nodding heads memorizing tables - '*do ekam do, do duni chaar*', no heads bent low over their slates, no writing boards propped up against the wall to dry in the air.

Anna moved ahead. The village *chaupaal* was empty. As he came close to the houses, he thought of the pleasant aroma of the evening food being cooked, which used to make him ravenous, but this familiar smell, too, was missing. the village dog barked at him. Has he become a stranger in his own village ?

Suddenly, he caught a glimpse of the *chowkidaar*, a frail man, with milk-white beard, wearing a shabby *dhoti-kurta*.

Anna asked, "Baba. what's the matter ? Where have the villagers gone ?"

The old man answered, "All the villagers have gone to the village temple to offer special midnight prayers to appease God, as there is a severe drought in the village. Although, there was sufficient rainfall this year, yet all the sources of water have dried up. To them it is indicative of the fury of God."

The *chowkidaar* heaved a deep sigh and said, “The villagers are starving and their existence is in peril. They have nothing to look forward to. A few villagers have already migrated to the cities in search of jobs, thinking that this village is cursed.”

Anna decided that he will not join the villagers in the temple.

He thought that the village folk do not endeavour to find a solution to any grave problem because of the lack of proper education. If things become unbearable, they need God to descend on earth to fight their battle. They hopefully wait for an *avatar*. In the hour of crisis, they do not realize that “God helps those who help themselves.”

Evening gave way to twilight and twilight sank into darkness. He was alone in his hut. He turned up the wick of the lantern. Its sooty chimney became bright.

Anna’s thoughts flew back to the past. He remembered how his parents, inspite of the stringent financial conditions, sent him to a prestigious science college in the city. His strong will to prove himself, won him the award of the best student of the college.

Anna was firmly determined that after completing his education, he would return to his small village and work for its upliftment. He always thought of employing modern methods of farming in his village and educating the villagers on environment, water management and other issues.

He was totally different from his other classmates, who always dreamt of earning in dollars and leading a luxurious life in a foreign country.

As he was reflecting on the goal of his life, his eyelids became heavy and he went off to sleep.

Anna, then saw a macabre vision. There were “Bombs, bombs, everywhere and not a place to hide.” He could clearly see the blazing homes, dilapidated buildings, charred, mangled bodies and mounds of corpses. The entire atmosphere was resounding with the whining sounds, cries of lamentation and agony.

He heard a pathetic voice, “My throat is parched. Can someone give me a drop of water ?” and within a few moments the feeble voice became silent. Leaks of blood sprang from the lines of the old, wrinkled face.

On the other side, a heart-rending shriek of a woman was audible to him. She had gone insane, because she had lost everything. She was holding the dead body of her child in her arms and staring at the body with vacant eyes. Another explosion and she attained eternal peace.

Anna, then saw an incredible sight. The waters of all the rivers and oceans had turned red. He wondered, why ? Is it the blood of the human-beings ?

There was a tormenting pain within him and a deep horror in his eyes. He shrieked, “No, it can not be true.”

However, it was true. The Third World War had started and the reason for this tragic event was “Water Crisis”. The countries with huge stores of pure water were being attacked by other countries to capture their water-pockets. Will the entire humanity perish ?

He woke up trembling and then realized that it was just a dream. He thought that his dreadful nightmare could turn into a reality if no steps were taken for the proper management of water. He was now firmly determined to impart training to the youth of the village on water management techniques, who in turn would train the entire village.

It was three o’ clock. The temple prayers were over. All the villagers were returning with a solemn expression on their faces. Women were holding the drowsy children in their arms.

The young village boys, great pals of Anna, were very keen to meet him. Within no time, they reached his house. Warm hugs were exchanged. Anna narrated his terrible dream to them and they realized that only ‘*pooja-paath*’ will not solve this grave water problem.

They discussed the importance of trees in conserving water. In the forests, water seeps gently into the ground as vegetation breaks the fall. This ground water in turn, feeds wells, lakes and rivers. Protecting forests means protecting water ‘catchments’. They resolved that they will motivate everyone to plant and take care of at least one tree and prevent the indiscriminate cutting of trees.

Mahesh, a vibrant boy, with glowing eyes said, “I know that over the years, rising population, growing industrialization and expanding agriculture have pushed up the demand for water.”

He further said that people should develop a habit of saving water in their day-to-day lives because, “every drop matters.”

Ramuda, a bright chap with calm, meditative face made his presence felt and said, “In urban areas, the construction of houses, footpaths and roads has left little exposed earth for water to soak in. In parts of the rural areas of India, flood water quickly flows to the rivers, which then dry up soon after the rains stop. If this water can be held back, it can seep into the ground and recharge the groundwater supply.”

Mahesh looked at Anna with questioning eyes, “*Bhaiya*, I have heard of rain-water harvesting. What is it ?”

“Rain water harvesting essentially means collecting rain water on the roofs of the buildings and storing it underground for later use. Not only does this recharging stop ground water depletion, it also raises the declining water level and can help increase water supply. It is

necessary to stop the decline in groundwater levels, prevent sea-water from moving landward and conserve surface water run-off during the rainy season”, explained Anna.

They realized that there is enough water and the need of the hour is to manage the available resources properly.

All of them made a very strong resolution that they would start a movement for the conservation of the most precious thing on earth, that is, water. They pledged, “We will start this noble work from today, only.”

Their faces lit up, along with the landscape. The glorious sun was rising in the crimsoned east. Anna was elated to see this beautiful sight. The rising sun always kindled optimistic feelings in his heart.

The rising sun became a symbol of hope for the young, enthusiastic villagers. It seemed to beckon a brighter future for mankind. The boys knew that every morning the first rays of the rising sun will remind them of their firm resolution.

- MANEESH GOYAL

About the Author :

Maneesh Goyal is born and educated in Rajasthan. He is a dedicated social worker, great philanthropist and a successful administrator. He teaches modern methods of farming and water conservation techniques to the villagers. He writes stories on issues concerning social responsibilities, social welfare and environmental protection.

About the Story :

The story, “Resolution”, lays stress on the importance of water, which is the most precious natural resource in present scenario. This story is very inspiring and thought provoking. Though written in a very simple style, it succeeds in leaving a great impact on the heart of the reader. It ends with a resolution of Anna and other villagers to plant trees and conserve water to save the future of mankind.

Glossary

resolution	-	firm determination
trudged	-	walked laboriously
solitary	-	alone, single
parched	-	dried up due to heat or sunlight
tranquility	-	peace, calm
battered	-	broken, beaten up
inauspicious	-	ill omened or unlucky
slackened	-	slowed
reprimanding	-	scolding, chiding
aroma	-	a pleasant smell
ravenous	-	extremely hungry
appease	-	to make less angry by satisfying demand, to gain the good will of
sooty	-	covered with black smoke
dilapidated	-	in very bad condition because of age or neglect
charred	-	burnt
whining	-	uttering pitiful cries
lamentation	-	an expression of grief or sorrow
agony	-	great mental or bodily suffering

incredible	-	unbelievable, beyond understanding
tormenting	-	causing severe mental or physical suffering
perish	-	suffer destruction; rot / decay / die
catchments	-	an area from which rainfall drains into a river
depletion	-	the act of decreasing something
elated	-	felt very pleased.

COMPREHENSION

(A) Tick the correct alternative :

- Who had returned to his village from the college hostel ?
 (a) Ramuda (b) Mahesh
 (c) Anna (d) Chowkidaar
- Which scene put Anna in low spirits ?
 (a) the rising sun (b) the old babul tree
 (c) the setting sun (d) the village
- They discussed the importance of _____.
 in conserving water :
 (a) temples (b) birds
 (c) trees (d) villagers
- The Third World War had started and the reason for this tragic event was --
 (a) food crisis (b) oil crisis
 (c) water crisis (d) money crisis

(B) State whether the statements given below are True (T) or False (F) :

- Anna had just returned to college. []
- The village Chaupaal was empty. []
- All the sources of water have a lot of water. []
- Anna saw a pleasant dream. []
- Rain water harvesting essentially means collecting rain water. []
- The need of the hour is to waste the available resources. []

7. The rising sun became a symbol of hope for the young villagers. []

(C) Answer the following questions in 20-25 words each :

1. Why did Anna return to his village ?
2. What did Anna miss on his way home ?
3. Describe the Chowkidar's appearance.
4. What did Anna want to do after completing his education ?
5. What did Anna's classmate dream of ?
6. What incredible sight did Anna see in his nightmare ?
7. What was the reason of the Third World War in Anna's dream ?

(D) Answer the following questions in to 30-40 words each :

1. What did Anna see when he returned to his home ?
2. Why did Anna think that he had become a stranger in his own village ?
3. What did Anna determine to do after the nightmare ?
4. Describe the scene at the Pathshala ?
5. What was the Chowkidar's reply to Anna's question ?
6. How did the rising sun become the symbol of hope ?

(E) Answer the following questions in 60-80 words each :

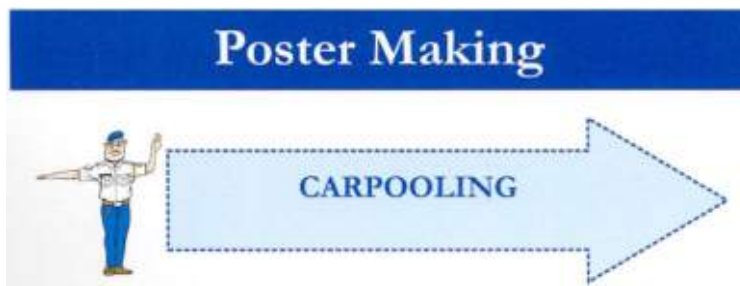
1. What is the message of the story ? Discuss.
2. What is the role of trees in conserving water ?
3. What is rain water harvesting ?
4. What was the resolution of the villagers ?

ACTIVITY :

Working in group of four, make a list of the various methods of water conservation.
Write an article on water conservation.

A large rectangular border with a dashed red line and rounded corners, framing the central text.

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION



Carpooling (also known as car-sharing, ride-sharing and lift-sharing), is the sharing of car journeys so that more than one person travels in a car.

By having more people using one vehicle, carpooling reduces each person's travel costs such as fuel costs, tolls, and the stress of driving. Carpooling is also seen as a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way to travel as sharing journeys reduce carbon emissions, traffic congestion on the roads and the need for parking spaces. Authorities often encourage carpooling, especially during high pollution periods and high fuel prices.



- Taking ideas from the given poster, design another one encouraging your schoolmates to form carpools. These can then be displayed on the school notice boards.

- Prepare a data sheet to collect data regarding travelling destinations and modes of transports used by your classmates. Use this information to facilitate formation of car pools in your class.

A poster used to promote carpooling as a way to ration gasoline during World War II

Comprehension Passage



DRIVING IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT !

What you need to know before you begin

You must have a driver's license to operate a vehicle of any kind on a public highway or parking facility in India.

Every state has a government agency that issues driver's licenses. In each state, this agency is called the Regional Transport Authority or RTO. These agencies may refuse to issue or renew a license if you don't meet the restrictions set by them.

Having a driver's license is a privilege, not a constitutional right.



The Responsibility Factor :

When you are issued a driver's license, you are also issued with many responsibilities. You must continue to demonstrate your ability to drive safely on the road. If you fail to demonstrate this ability, you will be issued traffic tickets, or even have your license suspended or revoked. A lot of responsibility comes with a driver's licence. You have to drive safely, obey the traffic laws, and respect the rights of other drivers. Not only should you concentrate on your own driving, you should also be well aware of the other vehicles around you. Driving safely also includes how and where you park your car. Passengers in your car put their safety in your hands and expect you to drive safe as well.

You also have a financial responsibility when it comes to driving. Every driver needs to have automobile insurance that covers any potential damages or injuries that he or she causes. If a minor is issued a license, then the parent (s) or guardian (s) of that minor are responsible for any financial consequences.

Eligibility for Learner License :

1. Age eligibility : 18 years
For vehicles upto 50 CC engine capacity & without gear : 16 years
(Provided parent, guardian consent obtained)
For commercial vehicle : 20 years
2. Conversant with Traffic rules & regulations.

Eligibility for Permanent License :

1. You should have a valid learner license.
2. You should apply after 30 days and within 180 days from the date of issuance of learner license.
3. You should be conversant about the vehicle systems, driving, traffic rules & regulations.



Attitudes :

Finally, safe driving requires a good attitude. You should not be stressed, tired, or distracted; driving should be your only focus. You need to be both mentally and physically capable of controlling your vehicle.

There are many consequences for neglecting any or all of these responsibilities, so make sure you know what they are and comply with them.

Before you proceed, consider these Indian road fatality statistics :

- 133,938 people were killed and more than three times this number injured in motor vehicle collisions in the year 2010.
- An average of 443 persons died each day, roughly one every 3 minutes.
- 61.2% of the victims of accidents were aged between 15 to 44 years. This group of persons accounted for nearly two thirds of all the persons killed in accidents during the year.
- There were 12,188 pedestrian deaths.
- 15% of all fatalities were alcohol related.
- 18 people died every hour in road accidents.
- Road traffic fatalities have been increasing at about 8% annually for the last 10 years and show no signs of decreasing.

Source : NCSA (National Center for Statistics and Analyses) Fatality Analysis 2010

Teenage Driving :

According to the NCSA more than 20,000 teens die each year from injuries resulting from car collisions, making it the number one killer of teens in India. Typical reasons include a lack of driving experience, poor vehicle control, risk-taking and failure to wear seat belts.

Read the above passage and answer the questions that follow :

Q1 Driving is not a, it is agiven to us by theif we

Q2 When can an individual be issued a driver's license ?

.....
.....

Q3 Majority of road accidents take place because

.....
.....

Q4 What attitudes dictate safe driving ?

.....
.....

Q5 Why do teenage drivers run more risk on the road ?

.....
.....
.....
.....



Q6 Irresponsible drivers can put the life of pedestrians into

(synonym of risk, beginning with 'J')

Q7 Why does the above passage provide us with road fatality statistics ?

Q8 What are the two essential steps we all must take before beginning to drive ?

Q9 Explain the meaning of the title “Driving is a Privilege, not a Right”.



Q10 Find words in the passage which mean the same as :

- (a) permit -
- (b) cancel -
- (c) conform -
- (d) violent impact -

3 teens killed in late-night Gurgaon crash

Injured Driver Was Drunk, May Not Have Licence: Cops

Overlooker: Shock & Anguish 2 teens 17th

Gurgaon: In yet another incident of suspected reckless driving under the influence of alcohol, three teenagers remaining from a late-night party lost their lives when another was injured in an accident on the Delhi-Gurgaon expressway on Saturday morning from the toll plaza to front of the Gurgaon building.

The three who died — Karan Arora, Siddharth and Deepanshu — were all students of G D Goenka World School, Gurgaon, Sector Road. The injured, Tapen Malik, who was driving the car, is said to be out of danger. All the victims are residents of the posh DLF area in east Gurgaon. Police suspect their ages to be between 15 and 18 years. All of them were in their final year in school.

This is the latest in a series of accidents in which teenagers have lost their lives due to recklessness and/or drunk driving. On February 25, two students lost their lives when their car hit a tree near Indirapuri. On February 21, a student was run over in Preet Vihar allegedly by a drunk young man.

According to Harish Kumar, JCP (East, Gurgaon), "The victims were returning after attending a party thrown by one of their friends at Sector Road, near Chhatrapati. They left the toll around 11 am in the morning and headed for the expressway in a Tata Indigo car (DL, HX 4871). After crossing the toll plaza between 2, Park and 3, Park, they picked up speed and crossed

the 120 kmph mark. When they reached the Gurgaon building, Tapen, who was driving, tried to overtake a truck from the wrong side. He lost control and the car rolled over a few times before landing on the divider. While Tapen was the only one of the car due to the impact, the other three died on the spot, even as the car was turned into a mangled heap."

A Gurgaon senior official



Wreckage of the car

over, said "We had just the past few days taken around 120 km when we heard a loud noise. We immediately reached the spot to find the car in a mess. Police rescued one of them, the other three remained stuck in the car. The upper half of the car was blown away and bodies could be recovered only after police brought up cranes to pull through the mess."

Kumar said, "The medical reports have proved Tapen was drunk. In fact, he has not been able to talk all evening because of his incoherent condition, even though he received minor injuries. We are still checking whether he had a licence as he might be a minor. A case of death due to rash and negligent driving has been lodged against him in the DLF Phase II police station. After the autopsy, Tapen had been admitted to the Gurgaon Civil Hospital."

■ Cops back on Tapen, P 6

Fill in Appropriate Words



HELP ACCIDENT VICTIMS IN GOLDEN HOUR :

Read the following passage and fill in the blanks using appropriate words :

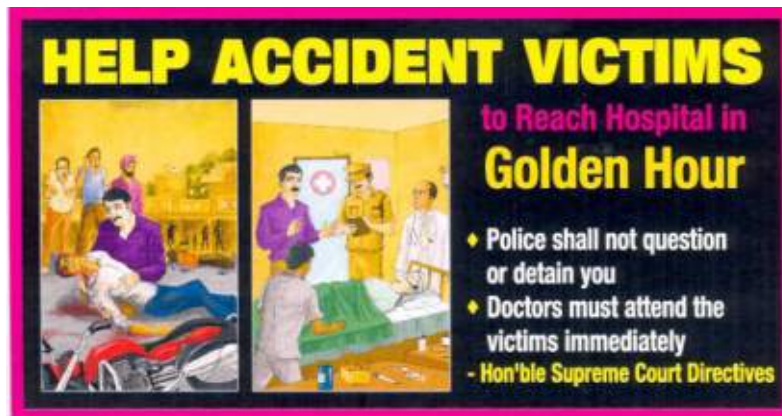
Making the case : A Case Study

In May 2000, when 22 year old Stuart Strachan went to the aid a Motorcyclist, who crashed bike near Stuart's home, he didn't know what to expect. Having run an embankment the man, suffering shock, was trying to get up. Stuart saw that the man had.



badly injured in the crash part of one of his legs had been severed. Stuart had learnt first aid as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as a student school, and had since become a Red Cross volunteer, but he had never been in such a situation. He knew he had to his first aid knowledge to what was facing him now.





He laid the man, talked to him, and tried to stabilize the situation. As he tried to raise the man's legs, he see that already a great deal of blood had been lost and knew that he had to pressure to the artery. When ambulance arrived, due to the nature of the injury and the scene of the accident, the crew asked Stuart if he was alright and if he could carry applying pressure to the wound. Stuart continued to help, applying pressure the crew tried to stabilize the man until A&E doctor arrived. Stuart had been attending to the man for 40 minutes. The man, once stabilized, was transferred to hospital. While medics were unable to save the man's, his life was saved. Stuart received a commendation the District Ambulance Officer, and the police and medical team believe had it not been his knowledge and intervention, the outcome for the man, a married father of two, may have been very different. The consensus here clear : Many pre-hospital deaths may be preventable injuries may have been less long-term impact casualties could be treated immediately by non-medical people who had basic first knowledge.



Speech Writing



About Buzzed Driving

Buzzed driving is drunk driving. Getting behind the wheel after even just one too many drinks can lead to disaster.

Read Evan's Story

I went out for dinner with some friends. During dinner I had a couple of drinks and on the way home I was stopped by policemen and asked to pull over. They asked me to blow into a breath analyser and the alcohol was found to be above the permissible limit. I was arrested immediately and taken to police lock up. I had never thought I would end up in jail - a very humiliating and unpleasant experience.

Getting a Driving Under Influence (DUI) affected my life in many ways. Both, socially and financially, it was depressing, embarrassing and stressful. Going to jail, having to pay a heavy fine - it was horrible! How could I have got myself into such a situation. For a few years, with the unpleasant memories fresh in my mind, I was very careful not to mix drinks and driving. But like all offenders - I, too, had a short memory. I did it again.



I didn't really think of the consequences, I think I was intoxicated, a little hazy, but I definitely didn't realize I was drunk. Before I knew what was happening, everything blocked out.

It was the first time that I had to ask for help. I had to ask for help for everything, to get to places, to go to the grocery store, to take my kids to their football games. I really had to reach out and ask for help and that was really hard for me. It was embarrassing to have to tell his friend parents "No, I can't pick them up or I can't take my turn driving them to the mall". It was hard on me and hard on them.

I remember the police officer asking me ‘Do you have a child with you?’ seeing the child seat in the back. I was very offended, ‘No, of course there is no child with me? But the fact is I could have hurt someone very badly. Thank God, that I didn’t. If you’re going to go out and drink, find a designated driver before you do. Driving while buzzed is drunk driving.

NOW Show your support to end ‘buzzed driving’ by writing out a speech condemning drunk driving. This appeal will be read out by you at a seminar on ‘Drunk Driving’ organized by your school for your parents. Use the above story to make your speech informative. **‘Drunk Driving’ organized by your school for your parents. Use the above story to make your speech informative. ‘Drunk Driving’.**

Follow Up Activity :

Take a PLEDGE to make good decisions by not driving under the influence of alcohol. Take the time to share pledge with others and with your help, we can end buzzed driving.

-: Repeat Together :-

I’m going to be smart; when I begin to drive, I won’t drive while buzzed. Even just one too many drinks can impair my driving and lead to devastating consequences

It’s just not worth it. Buzzed driving is drunk driving, so I am going to make sure I make responsible choices that don’t endanger me and others

Section 185 of Motor Vehicle Act can punish a driver under influence of alcohol with a fine upto Rs. 2000 or imprisonment with a term which may extend upto 6 months. With a subsequent offence within 3 years, imprisonment increases to 2 years and a fine of Rs. 3000.



The legal limit is below 30 mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of blood



Drunken driving: 4 injured as two cars collide on MB Road

Times News Network

New Delhi: In yet another alleged case of drunken driving, the Saket police has lodged a cross FIR against two drivers after their vehicles collided on the Mehrauli Badarpur Road close to the Saket Mandir Marg area. The accident — involving a Honda Civic car and a Maruti 800 — left all four occupants of the car injured. A case under IPC sections 279, 227 and 304 has been registered at the Saket police station.

According to the police, the Honda Civic occupants were overspeeding. "Since prima facie we felt both the Civic car occupants — Harsh Sharma (27), a resident of Friends Colony and Neha (24), a resident of GK-1 — were drunk, we have decided to go for an alcohol test," said a senior police officer.

Both cars have been impounded. While Harsh and

Neha have been admitted to Max, Balaji Hospital in Saket, the occupants of the Maruti 800 — Azam and Sayyed have been admitted to Bhatia Hospital. Both of them are stated to be critical.

The incident took place around 2am



when Harsh and Neha were returning home after a late dinner from Saidulla Jah area. "The Maruti had taken a wrong U-turn as a result of which the cars had a head-on collision," said an officer. The police is further investigating the case.

The incident comes 2 days after a drunk man had mowed down a cyclist near Tilak Marg. The accused who was coming to his house in Malviya Nagar was driving his 10 car rashly and hit a cyclist on Sunday morning. The police arrested the accused and he was later granted bail by the court.

Illustration: Anshu Aggarwal

Road Traffic Accidents in India - Present Scenario

- In 2010, India recorded 1,34,000 road accident deaths, the highest in the world. The World Bank trends put this figure at 2,00,000 annually.
- About 5,20,000 road accident injuries and 4,90,000 road accidents occurred in 2010. About 56 accidents per hour (one accident per minute).
- If a person meets with a road accident in India, there is an over 30 percent chance of death.
- Around 53 percent of the people who die in India are males in the most productive age group of 20 to 50 years.
- The number of people killed has increased four times from 1970 to 2009.

