A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOURAL PATTERNS REGARDING ROAD SAFETY AMONG ARTS COLLEGE STUDENTS IN VIJAYAWADA CITY

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ABSTRACT

According to World Health Organization, road traffic injuries caused an estimated 1.24 million deaths worldwide in the year 2010, down from 1.26 million in 2000. In the South East Asian region of the WHO, India alone accounted for 73% of RTA burden. The younger generation in particular is not willing to wear the helmets or seat belts while riding in two wheelers or four wheelers. The aim of this study is to assess the basic road safety knowledge and practices among the youth in an Arts college in Vijayawada city. It is a cross sectional study conducted on 260 PB Siddhartha Arts College students in November 2013. Participants were selected using convenience sampling and data is collected using semi structured questionnaire. Data entered and analysed using MS Office 2007.

KEYWORDS

Road Safety, Road Traffic, Injuries Motorization, Traffic Rules.

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INTRODUCTION

Road transport is a critical structure for economic development of a country. Accidents represent a major epidemic of non-communicable diseases in present century.(1)

Road traffic accidents (RTA) are a major public health problem in India, resulting in deaths, injuries and disabilities of young and productive people of our society. It has been estimated that 1 million deaths & 15 million RTA occur on roads worldwide every year.(2) According to the WHO, this is the second most important cause of death for 5 to 29 year age group. Most (90%) of world's road traffic fatalities occur in developing countries. It is in this background, the UN General Assembly has declared 2011 to 2020 as the "Decade of Action for Road Safety" which seeks to halt the increasing trends in road traffic deaths and injuries worldwide.(3) India has the dubious distinction of the country with the highest number of road accident fatalities. In the South East Asian region of the WHO, India alone accounted for 73% of RTA burden.(4) Every hour, 40 people under the age of 25 die in road accidents around the globe.

Motor vehicle population has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 10 percent during 2000-2009 fuelled by a rising tide of motorization. Concomitantly, traffic risk and exposure have grown. The loss to the Indian economy due to fatalities and accident injuries estimated at 3% of GDP in 1999-2000.(5) Prevention of RTAs thus, becomes very crucial in order to improve the longevity and the quality of life of the individuals concerned.

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METHODOLOGY

It is an institution based cross sectional study conducted in PB Siddhartha College of Arts and science in Vijayawada. An awareness camp was conducted in the institute and students participated in it were taken as study subjects by convenience sampling. Before starting awareness campaign this study was conducted using a semi structured questionnaire. Knowledge and behaviour regarding traffic rules was taken from all the study participants that is 260 and practices part of road safety was considered from only those who know to drive at least a two wheeler that is 234. The verbal oral consent was obtained from the participants and strict confidentiality was maintained. Data were analysed using Microsoft excel 2007 software. After collecting the data awareness was created in the form of posters, banners and presentation by the help of city traffic Circle Inspector.

RESULTS

Among the study subjects, 31.9% were females and 68.1% were males.

	Male (n=177) No	Female (n=83) No	Total (n=260) No (%)
B.Com	81	26	107(41.15%)
B.Sc	72	43	115(44.23%)
B.A	24	14	38(14.61%)
Total	**177**	**83**	**260(100%)**

Table 1: Subject wise distribution

About 60% of the students use Bus, 37% Two wheeler, 18% car,11% auto , 15% Bicycle and 22% Walking as common mode of transport to the Institution.

Mode of Transport	Male (n=177) No	Female (n=83) No	Total (n=260) No (%)
Walk	4	18	22(8.46%)
Bicycle	6	9	15(5.76%)
Auto	2	9	11(4.23%)
Two wheeler	20	17	37(14.23%)
Car	15	3	18(6.92%)
Bus	45	112	157(60.38%)

Table 2: Common Mode of transport to institute

Knowledge Regarding Traffic Rules	Male (n=177) No (%)	Female(n=83) No (%)	Total (n=260) No (%)
Zebra lines	170 (96.04%)	73 (87.95%)	243 (93.46%)
Traffic lights	123 (69.49%)	64 (77.10%)	187 (71.92%)
Rule for pedestrians	137 (77.40%)	57 (68.67%)	194 (74.61%)
Legal age of driving	122 (68.92%)	45 (54.21%)	167 (64.23%)
Is It a Risk of Driving without Helmet	172 (97.17%)	75 (90.36%)	247 (95%)
Is It a Risk of Driving at night without headlight	147 (83.05%)	55 (66.26%)	202 (77.69%)
Is It a Risk of Not wearing seatbelts in car	125 (70.62%)	63 (75.90%)	188 (72.30%)

Table 3

Of 260 students 234 students know to drive at least a two wheeler. Of 234, 64(27.3%) are females. So the practice of road safety was assessed in these students.

	Male (n=170) No (%)	Female (n=64) No (%)	Total (n=234) No (%)
Having driving license	143 (84.11%)	34 (53.12%)	177 (75.64%)
Carrying relevant documents while driving	101 (59.41%)	43 (67.18%)	145 (61.96%)
Use of helmets while driving	56 (32.94%)	23 (35.93%)	79 (33.76%)
More than two persons on two wheeler	75 (44.11%)	10 (15.62%)	85 (36.32%)
Violation of traffic rules	54 (31.76%)	23 (35.93%)	77 (32.90%)
Use of mobile phone while driving	130 (76.47%)	48 (75%)	178 (76.06%)
Driving speed more than 60 KMPH	110 (64.70%)	24 (37.50%)	134 (57.26%)
Drunken driving	15 (8.82%)	0 (0.0%)	15 (6.4%)
Ever met with an accident while driving	32 (18.82%)	16 (25%)	48 (20.51%)

Table 4

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