

EDITORIAL

WORLD HEALTH DAY - 7TH APRIL, 2004

"ROAD SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT"

In 1948, the First World Health Assembly called for the creation of a "World Health Day". Since 1950, World Health Day has been celebrated on the 7th of April of each year. The objective of World Health Day is to raise global awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the World Health Organization (WHO). The Day serves as a launch for a long-term advocacy program for which activities will be undertaken and resources provided well beyond 7th April.

To Celebrate the theme of this year "Road Safety is No accident", on 7th April 2004 around the globe, hundreds of organizations hosted events to help raise awareness about road traffic injuries, their grave consequences and enormous casts to society. They also contributed to spreading the message that such injuries can be prevented.

The accident is defined as unexpected, unplanned event involving injury, disability or death. The accidents occur in almost all countries. The most alarming fact is that accidents kill more young trained adults between 15-24 years of age group of males, mainly among two wheelers. All sorts of accidents kill more than 5 million people a year in whole of world including about 9 lakh deaths from road accidents alone, The road accidents rank fourth in order among the leading causes of death and are responsible for approximately 8 percent of all deaths in the world. For every death, there are as many as 30-40 minor injuries and 10-15 serious injuries requiring long periods of expensive care, nursing and Treatment.

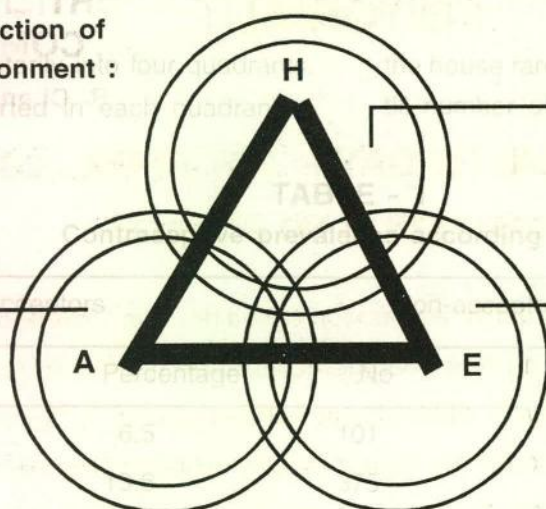
In India, The case fatality due to road accidents is very high being responsible for about 2 Lakh deaths annually cantributing 2.5 percent of total deaths.

Since accidents are multifactorial, they call for an intersectoral approach to both prevention and care of the injured. The various measures comprise the following :-

Road accidents-Interaction of host, agent and environment :

HOST :

AGE, SEX, EXPERIENCE, ALCOHOL, MEDICAL CONDITIONS, SOCIAL FACTORS, PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS, ETC.



ENVIROMENT :

ROAD DESIGN AND CONDITION, ILLUMINATION, INTER SECTION, BAD WEATHER, POOR ADHERENCE TO TRAFFIC RULES

AGENT :

TYPE OF VEHICLE, MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE, DEFECT, EXCESSIVE SPEED.

Multiple Causation

- Development of basic reporting system.
- Development of safety education in public i.g. School, Industries, T.V., Film Show.
- Licence withholding against drugs, alcohol users during driving.
- Trauma care centres establishment in susceptible Zones.
- Road development programmes e.g. 4 Lanes in whole of country.
- Strictly checking of Drivers during the allotment of Driving Licence e.g. - Eye Sight knowledge of Traffic rules
- Legal binding to use seat belts, safety helmets.
- Research in Accidents and New technology in vehicles.

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