

Workshop on Road Safety in Maharashtra

Organised by – Road Safety Network

Venue – YASHADA, Baner, Pune

Date – 27th June 2018

It is a tragic reality that one person dies every 4 minutes in a road crash in India. 75 percent of these are in the young age-group of 15 to 44 years. Maharashtra has the second worst record among Indian states.

India is committed to reduce road crash fatalities by 50 percent, by the year 2020. Maharashtra has developed an Action Plan on Road Safety describing activities, targets and needs for resources and capacity building.

However, much needs to be done on-ground to achieve road safety improvements. Are India and Maharashtra on track to achieve these road safety targets?

Road Safety (RS) is multi-dimensional subject. It is shared, multi sectoral responsibility of government and a range of civil society actors. Hence, there is a need to put a synergised effort to the road safety issue by civil societies and help government to retrace their plans and actions.

CEE and Parisar jointly organised a workshop on 'Road Safety in Maharashtra' to dwell upon the issue and get to the appropriate measures to improve road safety.

Till date, they have created a Road Safety Network as a coalition of civil societies, the aim of which is to advocate for road safety improvements through improved legislation and governance and facilitate a paradigm shift to the safe system approach.

The workshop focussed on:

- Putting light to the current scenario on road safety
- Clarifying the government agendas and their practical implications on the same
- Help in building the network among the organisations aiming for the same
- Mitigating measures for improvements in the road engineering, government policies

Details of participants:

Sr. No.	Name	Organization
1	Vasant Ravangaonkar	Sanskriti Samvardhan Manadal - Jansathi Manch
2	Yashwant Trimbak Oke	Anti-Noise Pollution
3	Akash M. Puri	CARPE (Center for applied Research & People Engagement)
4	Chitra Subramaniam	J.P. Research AVM
5	Prashant Shende	Jeevan Mukti Seva Sanstha (White Army)
6	Rajendra Sidhaye	Save Pune Traffic Movement
7	Ujjwal Nageshikar	Jeevan Mukti Seva Sanstha (White Army)
8	Ramesh Shahare	Janakrosh
9	Dilip Mukewar	Janakrosh

10	Sudhir Badami	SUMNET
11	Kolo A.B.	Dhammoday Gramin Vikas Sanstha
12	Shivaji Gaikwad	Kalpataru Bahiuddeshiy Sevabhavi Sanstha
13	Sharmila Deo	Parisar
14	Sunil Gambhire	Associations of car drivers
15	Shivaji Jarad	Shreya Enterprises
16	Prasanna Patwardhan	PPMSPL, BOC
17	Samaiirah	Safe Road Foundation
18	Lata Ghanshamnani	R Nisarga Foundation
19	Leena Kelshikar	R Nisarga Foundation
20	Amarnath Karan	CEE
21	Uttam Shirsat	Snehal Dyansagar Shikshan Prasarak Mandal
22	Nitin Pawar	Riksha Panchayat, Pune, Maharashtra
23	Surekha Mane	Unique Educational Foundation
24	Sesh Subramaniam	J.P. Research INDIA (P) Ltd.
25	Kunal Jaiswal	CEE
26	Rashi Khare	CEE
27	Sanskriti Marathe	CEE
28	Avinash Madhale	CEE
29	Sanskriti Menon	CEE
30	Ankita Deo	CEE
31	Ranjit Gadgil	Parisar
32	Damodal Shanbaug	Parisar
33	Sandeep Gaikwad	Parisar

Presentations by Parisar and CEE:

Mr. Ranjit Gadgil, Program Director, Parisar laid out the context of the meeting for RS. From the quantum of participation the workshop had, it clearly emerged that given the numbers that are impacted by road crashes, and hence the severity of the problem, there are far too few groups or individuals working on the issue. He emphasised the need for forming a network where members already working on this issue and others who had a concern about road safety get a platform to come together and work jointly to improve its condition.

There were pertinent questions raised on the government's role in the issue, the rules and Acts governing it, and the action taken by the government on the Supreme Court's directives on it.

Sandeep Gaikwad, Advocacy Coordinator, Parisar made a presentation on current scenario on road safety on national, state (Maharashtra) and across globe. He also presented as to how road crashes are making impact on the society.

The workshop outlines covered road safety in Indian and Maharashtra state, legislative provision for road safety, Maharashtra state road safety action plan, pillars of safety approach, road safety network's purpose/objectives and a way forward. Statistics and trends of fatalities due to road crashes across the country over the last fifteen years were shared, with detailed data for Maharashtra.

Amar Karan, Programme Officer CEE presented the various legislations related to RS which included the Motor Vehicles Act, Central Motor Vehicles Rules, State Motor Vehicles Rules, the RS National and State Action Plans among others.

All the proposed amendments of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill (2016) were presented. The Supreme Court's directives which included framing of the RS policy, setting up lead agencies as Secretariats for State RS councils and District RS committees were discussed.

The principles of the State RS Plan for Maharashtra, or the six pillars were explained in detail.

Ranjit Gadgil presented some measures for improving RS which included overall speed reductions, and specially in areas with more pedestrians, use of seat belts, helmets, child restraints, day time running lights, checks on drinking and driving, pushing for safer vehicles etc.

Mindsets and conditioning of people play an important role to set behaviour patterns and strong enforcement becomes relevant here. It has been observed that in countries where penalties are high and enforcement is strict, there is more compliance with road safety rules.

There was in-depth discussion on the Safe Systems approach where instead of focussing on the driver's behaviour, the emphasis is shifted to prevent a crash or to minimise injury or fatality in case of one. The principles of the Safe Systems approach were presented in detail.

A twenty minutes film titled "The difference between life and death" on the Safe Systems approach, was screened.

Presentations made by other participants:

Dr T. Oke shared his research on noise pollution, and there were attempts to draw linkage between noise pollution and RS.

Dr Lata from Thane presented her project 'S-Miles' where the group adopted a street in the first week of January and applied various RS concepts through extensive awareness programs with schools and communities of the neighbourhood, and liaising with the relevant departments like Traffic, PWD, etc.

Janakrosh, a group of senior citizens working in Nagpur presented their work on engaging and dialoguing directly with commuters on the streets with an attempt to educate them on safety precautions. They have also filed PILs to bring in equity on aspects related to RS.

Samaiirah from Safe Road Foundation liaises with local groups and residential committees and carries out facilitation with the Corporation for solving any traffic related issues these groups or committees may require.

Nitin Pawar, who represents an association of auto drivers shared their work on organising the auto drivers in Pune and supporting them on various fronts. He stressed that auto drivers are the first group of people who get exposed to the accident victims in initial stage and shared that how in the past drivers have rescued people in the emergency. The group has fitted a first-aid kit in the autos of all the members of the group.

The meeting culminated by listing down what the members of the network can do and the actions the network can take as an entity:

For network members

- Share work approaches, materials, experiences, model letters (e.g. Janokrosh)
- Case examples of what we have done as NGOs, Network w regard to MRSAP, pillars
- Simple studies e.g. helmet usage photo survey
- Auto rick panchayat initiative of 5 star stands
- Gather/ be informed about laws, and status of implementation (e.g. helmet compulsory, good Samaritan, road safety audit, etc) and share with more groups/ public

- Menu of activities on road safety in an area / road stretch

Actions as Network

- MV Act amendment bill – advocacy for passing this at Rajya Sabha
- Campaign to get good implementation of existing laws
- Create/ share traffic literacy module (Rick Panchayat), campaigns may be done locally
- Enforcement needs strengthening – no. of traffic police personnel, equipment, strategies
 - Advocacy campaign demanding strengthening including training and capacity building of traffic personnel
 - action projects, pilots of innovation
 - publicity of provisions, share good practice
- License system (state issue) network to study process, advocate to strengthen
- Track MRSAP and prepare status report
- Gather info on District Road Safety Council proceedings (meets 6 months); contact the MP, NGOs, officials to say you are interested in road safety; and ask questions about status of road safety in the district and work done
- On technical issues, get authorities to appoint technical / road safety experts
- Request Transport Commissioner to convene meeting of Group of Ministers on Road Safety
- Media reporters network
- Provide more information to the public
- Open network, NGOs can join
- Website, Facebook page
- Email, WhatsApp