



Role of road safety measures in higher education institutions in Haryana

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Abstract

Road Safety is a matter of concern as the number of deaths and injuries is increasing all around the world due to violations of traffic rules. Road safety education is a key determinant of road safety behaviour. Road safety education is an important tool to teach young students about traffic rules and ethics in higher education institutions. It is necessary to develop programs and strategies related to road safety education in colleges and universities. Road safety education in higher education institutions lays down a strong foundation among young students to keep to the traffic rules and regulations. Lack of road safety education leads to risk factors for young students. Through road safety education in higher education institutions, students will have knowledge about traffic rules, traffic signs, traffic laws, etc. which is very essential to be safe on the roads. By getting such type of education, students can teach the other people of the society at large to follow road safety measures so that accidents can be reduced at a substantial level. Road safety education should be an important part of education in higher education institutions. Various seminars, workshops, quiz contests, and practical sessions regarding road safety measures should be conducted from time to time in higher education institutions to make students aware of traffic signs, rules, laws, etc. Well-informed and trained students regarding road safety can contribute a lot to society dealing with the problems related to road safety.

Keywords: traffic rules, young students, road safety education, higher education institutions

Introduction

Although there have been many significant improvements in road safety and road safety education programs, there has been increasing in road crashes worldwide. Millions of people lose their lives due to road accidents. Road safety education aims to prevent traffic crashes and reduce their severity. As education is required to perform even simple activities like walking, writing, etc. In the same manner, road safety education is required for traffic rules knowledge and their application. Road safety education has an important role to play in higher education institutions as students of young age can learn about road safety measures through it.

Traffic / road safety education

Road Safety education must be made an important part of the study in higher education institutions to make students aware of traffic rules, signs, and ethics. Traffic education as a measure of safety is used for all kinds of road user groups but it is very important to provide such education to young students. Road safety education programs should be carried out in schools as well as in higher education institutions. Youngsters are recognized as a vulnerable group regarding road safety. But they are easy to reach out to through the medium of education. This is the group that is also the most exposed to road safety education. In most countries, road safety education for students is a part of the curriculum, although road safety education in higher education institutions may vary among different countries.

Objectives of road safety education

The objective of road safety education can be defined as achieving optimal use of the transportation system with optimal safety for all road users (OECD, 1986). The ultimate goal of each road safety education program is to

reduce the number of crashes and casualties. Road crashes are influenced by many factors, most of them difficult to control or completely uncontrollable. If there is a decrease in the number of crashes, it is not simple to establish which of the factors, or which combination of the factors has been responsible for the reduction. A person can be at fault or not at fault in a crash. If the person who is involved in a crash is at fault, it cannot be concluded that the crash was caused by his insufficient training. It is possible that he has sufficient competencies due to road safety education, training, and experience, but that at the time of the crash, his capabilities were insufficient because of tiredness, distraction, or some other factor.

Modes of providing road safety education in higher education institutions

Much research has been done to find out what features make road safety education effective. Some of the important things are outlined below:

1. Road safety education should be part of the curriculum in higher education institutions.
2. Teachers should be provided with proper training so that they can deliver road safety education
3. Interactive lessons and giving students a chance to apply the knowledge and skills they are learning
4. Students should be motivated to encourage their peers to behave safely.
5. It should be ensured by faculty members lead by example and does not engage in unsafe behaviours.
6. Introduction of infrastructure such as road signs in and around the institutions to protect students.
7. Various seminars, workshops, quiz contests, and practical sessions related to road safety measures should be conducted from time to time in higher education institutions to make students aware of traffic signs, rules, laws, etc.

Effects and evaluation of road safety education programs

Evaluating any road safety education program is important to determine whether the program is having any positive effect and whether the program could be improved in any way. Evaluation in terms of crash reduction can be difficult and costly as very large samples and control groups are needed. For this reason, education programs are sometimes evaluated in terms of behavioural change and improvements in knowledge. Numerous road safety education programs exist and are taught in many countries and many languages. Various materials giving details about how to carry out programs are available. Although not all education institutions-based road safety programs are effective, research shows that programs that have a clear structure are successful over some time, are assessed, and provide practical skills may have some positive effects on behavior and attitudes, which may translate into fewer crashes.

Therefore, the crash reduction could also be considered the ultimate evaluation criterion for the effectiveness of road safety education programs. If a road safety educational program aims to improve the road safety of the target group, then it is important to know which educational programs are effective. The effectiveness of an educational program is assessed through an evaluation process. The results of the evaluation are not just important for the development of a program and for demonstrating its effectiveness but are also important for defining proof-based policy decisions.

Conclusion

Young Students may not know what they should be looking for in traffic and they cannot easily distinguish which visual and auditory signals are relevant or irrelevant to the road-crossing task. They do not share the same views and interpretations and it is difficult for young children to understand what is expected from them in terms of safe road behavior. However, it is possible to train and help develop young students' skills necessary for safe behavior in traffic. The results of recent research in this field show that the bottom age begins with effective training in improving visual timing skills, improving the ability to find safe places to cross the road, and even reducing students' vulnerability to distraction and impulsive behavior. Road safety education has to take place within circumstances that are the same or closely related to the ultimate context of use. However, skills alone are not enough for safe road behavior. To behave more safely, students have to acquire relevant knowledge and they also need to develop appropriate attitudes toward road safety. Even if there is no general agreement about what should be the content or the form of road safety education, there is a general agreement about the importance of education for road safety. In almost every country in the world, road safety education has its place within the formal education system. There are also numerous other road safety education programs and initiatives that exist outside the formal educational organization. In a nutshell, road safety is defined in general terms like being able to function safely in one's environment, including traffic.

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