

WEBINAR | June 25, 2019

Enabling Safe Commutes for School Children: Case of Rohtak, Haryana

Speaker: Vaibhav Kush

Please see the below table for the speaker's answers to questions that we did not have time to address during the session. You can also revisit the rest of the Q&A session by viewing the last 15 minutes of the webinar recording.

| Question | Answer |
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| Did you try 108 Ambulance service data? i.e. GVK-EMRI data? | As of now Haryana does not have a system that collates data from the various hospitals/emergency vehicles, to a central database. As such, the only way to collect data from emergency services would have been to collect data from every hospital individually, which was not feasible with the resources available. |
| A lot of times, children's mobility decision are controlled by parents. So, apart from, having focus group discussions, did you consider taking parents' perception about their own neighbourhood into account? A lot of studies in European countries do give a lot of weightage to parental attitude towards children's active mobility specially to schools. | The focus group discussions were conducted with students, as well as caretakers that is, teachers and parents. One of the key messages from caretakers was that while they know travelling in shared autorickshaws is unsafe for their children, this decision was based on two factors – first, “there is no alternative, as the city does not have a public transport system and it is difficult for us to accompany our children throughout the day every day” and second, “autorickshaws are a much affordable option when you have a lot of multi-destination trips”. By creating a safer walkable and/or cyclable road infrastructure, we bring in a further cheaper alternative mode of travel, at least for the 63% students living within 2 kms of their school, that parents can consider. |
| Other than Rohtak, which was the other city selected? | The Safer Commute for School Children is part of the Botnar Child Road Safety Challenge which is being funded by Fondation Botnar. In total 12 cities across 5 countries are working to improve the safety of children on roads. From India 2 cities were selected in this program – Rohtak, Haryana and Jorhat, Assam. |
| Which mode of vehicles influence more accidents? So that precaution of that particular mode of vehicles can be considered in the policy decisions? | <p>Precautionary measures targeted at a specific type of vehicle is based on the premise that either the general design of this category of vehicles is wrong, or the drivers of these vehicles are at fault.</p> <p>While it is believed that most crashes are a result of driver error, it is important to understand what causes drivers to make error and work towards addressing that. The Safer Commute for School Children project, takes the 'Safe Systems' approach towards road safety where we make our road infrastructure in such a manner, that even if a vehicle or its driver makes an error it should not lead to loss of life.</p> |