

# ঢাকা আহছানিয়া মিশন স্বাস্থ্য সেক্টর রোড সেফটি প্রকল্প



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## Buckle up for safety

**Dr. Tasnim Mehbuba Bandhan:** The installation and proper use of seatbelts for adults and child restraint systems inside vehicles have been the most important motor vehicle crash safety innovation that has contributed to a reduction in mortality around the world. Road traffic injuries are a critical, yet often overlooked, a public health issue that necessitates collaborative actions to be effective and viable. Road traffic systems are the most important and complicated, and thus the most dangerous, of all the systems with which people must deal daily. Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) are a primary cause of death, claiming the lives of over 1.3 million people every year, half of them is between the ages of 15 and 44. Over 50 million disjointed patients may suffer further injuries as a result of this



. It is, however, frequently avoidable. Rising vehicle collision safety has lately resulted in a reduction in fatality rates.

Being buckled up during a crash serves to keep one safe and secure inside the car; being ejected totally from a car is almost always fatal. It works by maintaining a more static motion in the passenger despite a quick stop or shift in speed car. The seat belt usually stops this from happening. When the vehicle hits something or is hit by something, its inertia change that is an object's tendency to move until something works against the motion of that object. Without the seat belt, occupants can be thrown into various parts of the

interior of the car, or completely out of the car. When properly worn, a seat belt distributes the braking force across the wearer's pelvis and rib cage. Because these two sections of the body are the sturdiest part and help to reduce the impact of the accident on the body. The seat belt is comprised of a webbed fabric that is sturdy but flexible enough to allow for a small amount of movement but to protect a person in a crash it needs to be a tight fit with a little stretch.

According to WHO, statistics show that seat belts save breathes and when used properly by reducing the chance of fatal injury to front-seat passengers by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%. For those riding on the rear seats of the vehicle throughout crash motor vehicles, rear seat belts have 73% higher chances of preventing fatalities. Moreover, children, seemingly to be buckled 92% of the time once adults within the vehicle use seat belts and on the contrary 72% of the time once adults seem to be neglected it. Of the 22,215 passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2019, 47% were not wearing seat belts. Seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives and could have saved an additional 2,549 people if they had been wearing seat belts, in 2017 alone.

Child restraints in automobiles are used in a wide range of countries; however, they are mostly limited to high-income countries. The child restraint system functions similarly to adult seatbelts. The usage of restraint is determined by the child's age and weight: rear-facing chairs are best for young infants, while forward-facing restraints are best for infants and toddlers, and older children; booster seats with seatbelts are beneficial. Child restraints (car seats and booster seats) can reduce infant and toddler mortality in automobile accidents by 71% and 54%, respectively.

The present 'Road Transport Act-2018', only stated in the sub-section of the first part of section 49, "the passengers must follow the prescribed provisions regarding seatbelt fastening". In this section, though it is prescribed to wear seatbelts and this 'passenger' means only the front seat passenger. Nevertheless, people from the back seat get injured more in case of a road accident. This is a serious issue that can cause a way more critical situation. However, it is recommended that, through this law, for all drivers, including the front and rear-seat passengers a usable seatbelt should be ensured. Along with this, the use of seat belts by all the vehicle occupants sitting in the vehicle would be a must at any cost. It could be brought under consideration to make the replacement of seatbelts is mandatory, as some vehicles do not have seatbelts for drivers and passengers as well. It would be a must that, if all the passengers are not properly secured with seat belts fastened and in a failed case of ensuring proper and restrained behaviour of all passengers in compliance with traffic laws the driver as well as the passengers of the vehicle should be made responsible.

In addition there is no mention about the child restraint system as in child seat inside the vehicle in RTA- 2018 whereas it is a very critical issue for the death of the children while road accidents. According to the international best practice guidelines for the movement of children, a child has to sit in a suitable place and safety management in the car consistent with his age, shape, and weight. An adult's seatbelt does not provide adequate protection to a child. Therefore, children should be given the best protection by taking appropriate measures considering their vulnerable position. It is explicitly recommended that all children of a certain age, especially those under 12 years of age, be required to comply with certain provisions of the CRS-Child Restraint System.

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has begun working on road safety issues by concentrating all of its efforts on introducing the section on child restraint systems. DAM has taken initiatives for the first time on road safety issue in Bangladesh through sensitizing the responsible personnel from the ministry and relevant departments to amend the Road Transport Act-2018. This year's UN Global Road Safety Week (May 17-23) was commemorated by DAM under the slogan "Streets for Life". "We demand safe seats for us in motor vehicle," children participating in "Social Media Solidarity" organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Health Sector asked on the occasion of UN Global Road Safety Week 2021 (May 17-23) on 19 May 2021. This is the first initiative that has been raised by children in Bangladesh for the child restraint system.

The writer is an advocacy officer (policy) of the health sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

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### Supervising public works

There are rules to be observed in designing structures, for land use and proper building process and these were set out in the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC). But ironically, the BNBC's worst violators in many cases are found to be the government's own bodies which should have set the standard really that all others, specially private developers, would then feel obliged to follow out of a concern of being judged as violators of the law. But the unconcern or incapacity of the government's construction bodies in these respects are not only adding to substandard construction activities of often vital projects throughout the country, the same also provide encouragement to private sector builders to treat legal requirements in construction rather casually.

Four construction activities by government bodies not only lead to erection of weak and undependable buildings and other structures, the same also cost the public purse huge amounts for reconstruction and maintenance. For instance, the Facilities Department of the Education Ministry is responsible for large scale construction of school buildings and the like. But time and again newspapers reported the very poor quality of its construction activities in many cases. School houses built by this department reportedly collapsed in some places soon after the completion of their construction and had to be rebuilt; others were found with leaking roofs and other features of bad construction. The lack of expertise and devotion needed

### Buckle up for safety

DR. TASNIM MEHBUBA BAHANNAN

The installation and proper use of seatbelts for adults and child restraint systems have been the most important motor vehicle safety measures that have contributed to a reduction in mortality around the world. Road traffic injuries are a critical, yet often overlooked, public health issue that necessitates collaborative actions to be effective and viable. Road traffic injuries are the most important and complexed, and thus the most demanding, of all the systems with which people must deal daily. Road Traffic Collision (RTC) is a primary cause of death, causing the loss of over 1 million people every year, half of them between the ages of 15 and 44. Over 50 million displaced persons live under harsher conditions as a result of this. It is, however, frequently avoidable. Raising vehicle safety has largely resulted in a reduction in road traffic deaths.

Being buckled up during a crash saves to keep one safe and secure while the car being crushed totally from a car to almost always dead. It works by maintaining a more secure position in the passenger double a quick stop or shift in speed. The seat belt secures straps, this from happening. When the vehicle hits something it is held by something, its kinetic change that is an object's tendency to never itself, something works against the motion of that object. Without the seat belt, occupants can be thrown into various parts of the interior of the car, or completely out of the car when proper use of the car's air bags. Where proper use, a seat belt distributes the braking force across the wearer's torso and pelvis. Because of the seat belt's ability to reduce the impact of the accident on the body. The seat belt is composed of a webbing fabric that is stretch but flexible enough to allow for a small amount of

movement but to protect a person in a crash it needs to be rigid. It is with this, according to WHO, statistics show that seat belts save lives and reduce serious injuries. According to WHO, statistics show that seat belts save lives and reduce serious injuries by 45%, and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%. For those riding on the rear seats of the vehicle throughout crash motor vehicles, rear seat belts have 75% higher chances of preventing fatalities. According to WHO, statistics show that seat belts save lives and reduce serious injuries by 45%, and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%. For those riding on the rear seats of the vehicle throughout crash motor vehicles, rear seat belts have 75% higher chances of preventing fatalities.

### Privately owned elementary schools are at risk!

SUBORNA RAHMAN SONY

Elementary education in Bangladesh is significantly financed by the state. The majority of our primary schools are state-owned and run by the government. Private schools are being set up in many parts of the country, but they are not receiving the same level of support from the government as state-owned schools. This is a concern because private schools are often of lower quality and are more expensive. The government should consider providing more support to private schools to ensure that all children have access to quality education.

### Saying goodbye to millen

It has been a remarkable year for many of us. We have seen a lot of things happen, both good and bad. We have seen our country grow and develop in many ways. We have seen our people work hard and achieve great things. We have seen our leaders work to improve our lives and our future. We have seen our country become a more just and equitable society. We have seen our people become more educated and more skilled. We have seen our country become a more powerful and respected nation. We have seen our people become more confident and more proud of their country. We have seen our country become a more vibrant and more colorful place. We have seen our people become more happy and more content with their lives. We have seen our country become a more peaceful and more harmonious society. We have seen our people become more united and more supportive of each other. We have seen our country become a more prosperous and more successful nation. We have seen our people become more resilient and more determined to overcome our challenges. We have seen our country become a more hopeful and more optimistic place. We have seen our people become more confident and more proud of their country. We have seen our country become a more vibrant and more colorful place. We have seen our people become more happy and more content with their lives. We have seen our country become a more peaceful and more harmonious society. We have seen our people become more united and more supportive of each other. We have seen our country become a more prosperous and more successful nation. We have seen our people become more resilient and more determined to overcome our challenges. We have seen our country become a more hopeful and more optimistic place.



Many people have a vivid 'mind's eye,' while others have none at all