

Accidents and suicides claim 70% lives in city

Death Stalks The Young On Indian Roads

Arun Dev | TNN

Bangalore: It is young lives that are being nipped in the bud, and these sudden and gory deaths are happening on Indian roads. A survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans) on 'Injury and

NIMHANS SURVEY

Violence in India' has thrown up some startling facts.

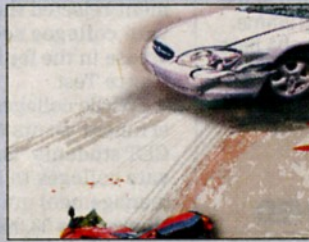
In 2009, among the 3,34,766 deaths due to injury reported in India, 2,05,350 (i.e 61.3% of deaths) were in the age group of 15-44. The male to female ratio in these cases was 4:1.

The report, released on Wednesday, went on to say that even hospital and population-based studies showed that three of four injury deaths occur in the age group of 15-44 years.

"More men are killed and in-

THE BANGALORE STORY IS GORY

Of the 33,000 deaths that took place in Bangalore in 2009, accidents were the leading cause, especially among those in the age



group of 15-24 years, followed by suicide. Shockingly, there were children as young as five years who suffered injuries due to accidents.

The data shows that road accidents and suicides contribute to 60-70% of the total deaths.

jured in road crashes, while there is a female preponderance for suicides. However, fall-related injuries are seen more among the elderly and children,

SUICIDES AND YOUNG WOMEN

Though across the country, cases of suicides are reported across ages and genders, it is

the young female population (15-24 age group) which is prone to suicides. Statistics show that in this age group, among the cause of deaths, 16.9% was due to "intentional self-harm" and "unintentional injuries" constitute 9.1%.

In cases of suicides among young women, poisoning and burning are prominent methods. Of deaths due to burns in the country, women in the 15-24 age group constitute the largest numbers.

while burns are typically high among young women," said the report, a copy of which is with The Times of India.

toibl.r.reporter@timesgroup.com



Alcohol consumption starts at the age of 18

Study: drinking among women in State on an upward trend

Nagesh Prabhu

BANGALORE: Nearly 30 to 35 per cent of adult men and five per cent of women are regular consumers of alcohol in India. The earliest age at which alcohol is consumed has changed significantly — from 28 years in 1980 to 18 years in 2010.

A monograph on 'Alcohol related harm: Implications for public health and policy in India' (2011) by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, revealed that over 50 per cent of regular alcohol users fall into the category of hazardous drinking, and the use of alcohol was increasing disproportionately in younger age groups.

Alcohol consumers have a higher incidence of mortality, hospitalisation and disabilities due to injuries, said the study. Nearly one-third of night road traffic injuries and deaths are attributed to alcohol use. About one-fourth of violence and other forms of

abuse against women and children were linked to chronic alcohol use.

The country has nearly 70 million alcohol consumers. Variation in taxation policies have led to a grey market where spurious and smuggled liquor was easily available to the people, according to the monograph authored by NIMHANS professors Gururaj G. (epidemiology), Prathima Murthy (addiction medicine), associate professor Girish N. Rao (epidemiology) and additional professor Vivek Benegal (addiction medicine).

Liquor sale

A 132-page study showed India as the largest producer of alcohol in the world, contributing 65 per cent of total

production and nearly seven per cent of imports within the region. It quoted the data from the International Wine and Spirits Record and said the sale of alcohol litre cases went up from 72,000 in 2000 to 200 million in 2009.

Country-made liquor and rum are common in rural areas. Home-made local brews continued to be popular in select communities, especially in the northeast and Goa. In Karnataka, the study observed that social costs of alcoholism far exceeded the revenue generated from sale of alcohol, and said drinking among women also shows an upward trend. Nearly one of three patients above 25 years of age entering emergency rooms has shown acute to chronic effects of alcohol, it said.

- 'Use of alcohol increasing disproportionately in younger age groups'
- 'Hike in tax on alcohol has not led to reduced consumption'

Total prohibition was imposed now only in Gujarat and Mizoram while partial prohibition continued in Karnataka since 2007-08. The experience of prohibition across Indian States revealed that while prohibition had a marginal impact in reducing availability, it promoted smuggling. The policy of increasing taxes on alcohol by successive governments had only been generating more revenue and had no desired impact on consumption patterns, medical experts said.

Bangalore survey

Quoting a survey in Bangalore, it said 72 per cent had been drinking for more than five years and the pattern was similar in rural, urban and slum populations. Efforts to control illicit production of alcohol have been limited; smuggling and illicit production continued; the policy in regard to legal age of drinking, alcohol sales outlets and timings of sale have remained only on paper, they said.

