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## Why should India have a law regarding car seat for children?

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Laws are a long way in the making but every moment of our children matter.

India and its road horrors are often in discussion. Road travels in India are rather unpleasant due to the bad roads and constantly moving children. Children fight to sit in the front row in the car and even well-educated parents do not mind their children having a front seat. Parents are unaware of the horrific outcomes of sudden brakes and head-on collisions on children without restraints. The reckless attitude of parents and lack of laws with respect to car restraints have led to the loss of many children in our country.

According to the Transport Research Wing of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Annual Report on Road Accidental Deaths, 11168 children were killed due to road crashes in 2019. On an average, 31 child deaths take place everyday due to road crashes. Child deaths have increased by 1191 (11.94%) over the previous years, according to The Hindu. In a study done by NGO SaveLIFE Foundation more than 55,000 children have died in road traffic accidents in India since 2008. 76% of parents in India are not aware of their vehicle's child restraint systems and only 20% of parents own child helmets. According to WHO, child restraints reduce the likelihood of a road traffic fatality by approximately 70% among infants and between 54%-80% among young children. The use of child restraints can lead to a 60% reduction in deaths.

A road traffic accident has its long lasting effects not only on a family but also on a community as a whole. The more severe physical injuries associated with road accidents include brain and head trauma, neck injuries, back and spine injuries and fractures of various parts. These lead to permanent disabilities such as amputation, paralysis, coma and death. A road traffic accident leaves long term scars on the mind causing mental anguish, emotional disturbances over acquired disabilities or the loss of loved ones.

The appropriate use of infant car seats, child car seats, seat belts depend on the age, weight and height of the child. Educating car owning families the importance of using restraints for children of all age groups, selection of appropriate car restraint based on the age, weight and height of the child, promoting and advertising car restraints by media should be considered. The government should ensure that the manufacturing of standard child restraints are done by vehicle manufacturers and made available at an affordable price for all those who need it. Imploring the government to enforce mandatory child restraint laws for all private vehicles. Implementing such laws can bring about significant change in the death rates and ensure road safety for the children of our country.

Save Lives, Value Lives.

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