

We demand Right to safe roads

Bhopal, November 15, 2015: A road walk on the occasion of World Day of remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was organized today in Arera Colony, Bhopal by National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment (NCHSE), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with support from Consumer VOICE, Delhi. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the third Sunday of November each year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. This year it is the **10th anniversary of the adoption of World Day of Remembrance.**



The objective of this walk was to create public awareness regarding road safety and generate demand for a strong regulation to minimize road accidents.

It is to be noted that according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in the last 10 years, over 12 lakh people have been killed on India's roads. In 2014 alone, 1.4 lakh people, including 17,000 children were killed in road accidents across India.

The walk started at 10 AM. from the NCHSE Office at E-5/A, Arera Colony and passed through commercial areas and land marks, like Rajiv Chowk, Ravishankar Market, Ravishankar Post Office, Vandematarm Square, Bittan Market etc. The participants of the walk carried banners and placards with demands for safer roads, and enforcement of traffic rules to prevent road accidents.

About 150 persons including Senior Citizen, women, students, social workers, traffic victims and their family members participated in the walk. Before starting the walk, all the participants signed on the charter of demands for safer roads. After the walk, a signed memorandum demanding safer roads for all was submitted at the office of the Hon'ble Minister, Transport, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

In a meeting that followed the walk, the participants including the relatives of road accident victims shared their views and called for all citizens to adhere to traffic rules so as to prevent traffic accidents. One of the traffic accident victim stressed that irrespective of the circumstances we should help the victims lying on the road so that they get medical help at the earliest to save their lives.

Mr. Arun Gurtoo, Former Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh informed that about 400 people dies every year in road accidents in Bhopal itself. Therefore, it is all the more important to follow traffic rules. He also expressed his views regarding preventive action for road accidents.

Dr. A.K.Gupta, Director General, NCHSE expressed the need for spreading the message regarding road safety among the general public to minimize road accidents. He pointed the vulnerability of road victims especially for the nucleus families.

Participants dispersed with commitment to encourage others to follow traffic rules and make Bhopal, a road accident free city.