



## One of the Faces of Public Transport In India

The above picture is a common scene in Public Road Transport in most of the cities in India. We can see people hanging out from crowded buses; getting in and out of a moving bus is common. Statistics from the Transport Department show that, on an average 3 – 4 people are killed and a higher number are injured every month in each city from public transport related accidents. It could be either by being run over by a bus, fall from a bus or any other related accident.

Although there are rules and regulations guiding safe transport, for various reasons it is not being followed, neither are they being properly implemented.

To add on to this, we have poorly maintained roads at many places, non-compliance with traffic signals, roads being used by vehicles, people, animals...because of lack of pavements.

Questions:

1. What do you think are the issues that lead to such a scenario?
2. What do you think could be possible solutions to create better Public Transport Systems?  
(To be discussed at various levels)  
Policy Design  
Planning  
Implementation  
Enforcement  
Abiding by law
3. Do you think that there are any other related issues that need to be discussed in this context ?



## **Public Nuisance in terms of Public Urination and Defecation**

Public urination (shown in the picture) and defecation on pavements, street corners and adjacent to marketplaces along with open sewers is a common scene in many cities in India. Out of the approximately 4,500 cities in India, only about 235 have functioning sewer systems.

Among the urban population, as few as 20% have septic tank toilets. The rapidly expanding population growth within India also adds to the sewage burden. For example, the sewers in Delhi were designed for a population of 3 million. Currently there are over 15 million people residing in the city of Delhi. This photograph shows a man urinating on the pavement of a busy street at Hyderabad.

Many parts of the city actually supplies them with a specific place to go (most often this is not the case), the waste still runs off into the street draining into open streams and rivers whose water could be used for many different purposes such as washing clothes and cooking pots. This situation becomes worse during the monsoon season when drains become clogged and water begins to inundate streets, markets, homes and stores.

Questions:

1. What potential health problems (direct and indirect) could arise from this situation?
2. As a public health official in the area, what are the first steps you would take to improve this situation?
3. What are the potential obstacles you could be faced with within cities? Present a creative solution that addresses the issues of appropriate, affordable, and culturally acceptable toilet facilities within cities.



## Handling Wastes, Collection and Management

Manual house to house collection of wastes by daily wage laborers, and disposal and management is a usual method of waste management in many cities and towns in India. Another perspective of this issue is that children are usually the manual laborers used for this purpose. This is a picture taken in front of the Indian Institute of Public Health at Hyderabad. The laborers are paid a meagre sum of about Rs.15 – Rs.20 (50 cents) per house per month for this waste collection. It is a totally unorganized sector and there are issues related to health, hygiene, economics and more....to be dealt with.

### Questions:

1. What do you have to comment about the above picture / description?
2. What do you think are the various issues / problems related to this?
3. If at all you feel, this is a Public Health concern, how do you think we can get a more practical and feasible solution to address this issue?



## **Tobacco and Beedi Rolling Industry**

This is a picture of a young girl from Andhra Pradesh state in India rolling beedi (a local form of cigarette wherein tobacco is rolled in the leaves of a plant) at her residence. Usually beedi rolling runs as a family occupation in many of the tobacco growing areas. The whole family, starting from the head of the family to the children work on this; children and women more so during any free time available to them. Children do this work as soon as they come back from schools and in many instances the girl child is asked to discontinue her schooling as she has to roll beedis for the livelihood of the families.

### **Questions**

1. What do you think are the issues / concerns related to this work / picture?
2. List out key issues of public health importance in the above scenario.
3. How do you think these issues could be best addressed?



### Health Care Quality and Patient Safety: Management of Waste Sharps / Injection Safety

The above picture was taken at a Primary Health Center at Ongole District in Andhra Pradesh, India. The dust bin in the picture contains a used syringe with needle, plastic, gloves, remnants of food and more.

Health Care Quality and Patient Safety is a key area which needs lots of support in terms of resources, awareness and commitment. **Across the globe and more so in developing countries, nosocomial infections are a common phenomena (some statistics....)**

#### Questions

1. What do you think are the issues related to this picture?
2. How do you think it effects health care quality and patient safety?
3. What do you think could be done to better handle this issue?



## Disaster Preparedness, **Incident Command Response Systems**

The above picture was taken at Hyderabad city, Andhra Pradesh, India. It was a fire mishap at a factory in a major industrial area at Hyderabad. It took around 4 hours for the Fire Department to reach the site of the incident and extinguish the fire and rescue the people stuck inside the factory. (Many a times, help reaches much earlier than this.) But this is true for many other mishaps like, flash foods, a terrorist attack, heat stroke etc.

In India we do have a National Policy for Disaster Management, a dedicated National Disaster Management Authority with district level teams in place. However the response to disasters is varied and there are a lot of factors which interact with each other in order to have such a varied response.

### Questions

1. What do you think should be the response system for disasters?
2. Comment on the current response systems in India
3. How do you think Incident Command Response Systems could be improved in a country like India?