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EVALUATION OF ROAD SAFETY RATING SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT: The global epidemic of road crash fatalities and disabilities is gradually being recognized as a major public health concern. As per WHO, nearly 1.25 million people die each year, on average 3287 deaths per day which is 2.2% of global death rate. UN has established Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) among which road safety is also considered to be fulfilled. But as of current situation we may not achieve the target to reduce the accidents by 50%. To reduce the accidents we need to improve our road standards, for which we must know their standards. To achieve this we consider rating the roads based on their safety standards. STAR rating is a universal approach right now to rate the roads where 1 is being the lowest and of worst condition and higher rate of accidents, while 5 being the highest to get best road conditions. Various countries like USA, China, Australia and European countries have adopted this method as usRAP, ChinaRAP and EuroRAP. Even India has adopted this method but still haven't been utilised properly. It has been implemented in states of Karnataka, Andhra, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and some places in Uttar Pradesh. This rating method uses a visual inspection at every 100m interval and these data are then correlated to its crash risk factor and rating is given to the road. The road stretch selected in this study is NH38 from Madurai to Melur. The rating for this stretch was in range of 1 or 2 star and requires attention to increase this rating to 3 star. Currently most of the highways are of only 2 star or less and must be improved to minimum of 3 stars.

Keywords: Road Safety, Rating System, iRAP

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