

Children safety during transportation, a call for actions

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Children in developing countries are facing many health hazards and risks. These include poor nutrition, deprivation of education and abuse in works or wars, etc. In this commentary we shall focus on the risks which the children are subjected to it during transportation. There is little care is paid to the safety of children during transportation and hence many fatalities and disabilities occurs¹⁻¹⁴.

Because airplanes are relatively a safe mode of transport and not as commonly used as cars for transport, we shall focus or commentary on the hazards associated with car transport and how these hazards can be minimized.

There are obvious challenges to this problem^{2,9}. These include the economic constrains which preclude selecting appropriate vehicle. Also safety requirements of the children inside the vehicle differ greatly from age to age and what is optimal for a given age is not of use in another age³.

It is also a paradox to observe how little scientific researches done on this important issue. Just to project this fact we performed a quick search in the largest biomedical database; the PubMed to retrieve the numbers of citation on important element of the safety of children during transport and you would appreciate from table 1 how limited numbers obtained for using different key words related to child safety seats in vehicles.

Table.1: Numbers of PubMed citations for key words related to Child Safety Seat*

key words related to Child Safety Seat	Numbers of citations obtained
Child safety seats	560
baby safety seats	284
infant safety seat	479
child restraint system	432
restraint car seat	361
car seats	414

*As of 03 Dec 2013



Figure.1: A group of children going to the school. Such a view is not unusual in many developing countries. Note a small child in the lap of the driver.

In box 1 we listed some common mistakes and remarks observed in the transportation of children in developing countries, where as in the box 2 we listed some suggestions to address this issue.

Box 1: Selected mistakes and remarks observed in the transportation of children in developing countries

School vehicles:

- No appropriate vehicle to carry the children to the schools, figure.1.
- Most of the available ones lack the safety measures regular maintenance of the vehicle does not exit.
- The drivers are not professionals and they don't have training to perform their job correctly.

Family vehicles:

- The type of vehicle is not appropriate for the family size and hence a child or more may be seated inappropriately.
- There is no use of the child safety seat and if it is used it might be installed in a wrong way.

Box 2: some suggestions to improve safety of children during transportation

- Many researches are needed for this issue.
- This issue may not be corrected without the development of the community as a whole particularly the education and the economy.
- Health education on the importance of safety of the children during transport should be enforced.
- The subject of safety during transportation may be implemented in the curricula of the education.
- Academic and medical organizations must regularly issue recommendations to validate and improve the safety of the children.
- Proper and safe traffic Legislations and laws must be implemented by governments.

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