

Pedestrians causing trouble on roads

CHITRA PHALGUNI

Pedestrians' disregard for traffic rules often causes a lot of problem for vehicles. Very often, the driver of a speeding vehicle finds a pedestrian trying to cross a road without a zebra-crossing or when the signal turns green for the vehicles. He is then forced to apply brakes suddenly, to avoid the pedestrian. Such an action can be dangerous for the driver.

Shantha Kumar, an autorickshaw driver, said, "If they are senior citizens, we just let them pass. But if they are youngsters, we scold." There is also an after-effect. "The drivers from behind ask why we stop for youngsters. We get shouting from them," he said. R R Jain, who was riding a two-wheeler, said, "Instances of jaywalking happen always. We have to take care."

The Halasoor Gate Head Traffic Constable, Hanumantharaj, said



Pedestrians jaywalk on Bangalore Roads

by author

that action could be taken, but is not being taken. On the one hand, there are no good facilities to move on the roads and on the other hand, pedestrians too - 99% of the educated- have no road sense. "How many times can we tell them? There is a fine of Rs. 100 for jaywalking, but this is not implemented."

He said that with "10,000 vehicles are registered daily" and with this growth in the number of vehicles, the problem would increase even

more. "Only City Market area is under control," he added.

A police officer at Commercial Street, who wanted to remain anonymous, commented about the fine for jaywalking. He said, "Anywhere in Bangalore, the police issue a notice to the violators for crossing at places except pedestrian crossings.

The pedestrians have to pay the fine at courts." The amount to be paid, he said, depends on the court. "According to the financial

capacity of the violator, they charge between Rs. 5 and Rs. 100."

In buses, commuters often ask the drivers to open the buses at a traffic signal. The commuters also rush to get into a moving bus. Rajanna, a bus conductor, said that they are not supposed to open the doors to such commuters. But sometimes they are forced to do so. He added that he has been fined for opening doors at traffic signals.

Even in bus terminals, like Shivajinagar, people move about carelessly, talking over phone or to people next to them. "They have no specific timings or rules. They walk, as they like," said Rajanna.

According to R K Reddy, a pedestrian, only 1% of the accidents occur because of pedestrians. He said, "The vehicles need to show better road sense. In The US, the vehicles stop for pedestrians to pass." But, he added, "The pedestrians must take care and cross only where they are permitted."

Number of unauthorised mutton stalls going down

KAREN SOLOMON

Unauthorized mutton stalls that throw meat into open drains are attracting stray dogs and causing inconvenience. Former Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) commissioner Mr. Jairaj had said that all the unauthorized mutton stalls would be closed due to complaints that stall owners threw leftovers in the open for the dogs to feed on.

Vijaya, assistant to Health Officer, East Zone, Mala Ramachandran said that there were 304 unauthorized meat stalls earlier. After regular checks, many stalls were closed down and now only 11 unauthorized mutton stalls are left. Three warnings would be given in case of authorized meat stalls. They also shut down stalls in areas where there were many incidents of stray dog attacks. Vijaya said that the last drive took place on 28 August 2007 and no new cases are registered.

Dr. Suresh, Medical Officer for Health (MOH) for Kadugondanahalli said, "For the past one year no unauthorized stalls have been found."

Ravi, also from the Health Office, said that most unauthorized stall owners applied for authorization of their stalls after they were shut down and they were given permission on the condition that they kept up with department's standards. The BBMP cleans up the waste of the small meat shops, while the big shops have to arrange for transporting their wastes near Chinthamani.

Dr. Suresh said that for a meat stall to be authorized, it had to be in a commercial zone, capable of maintaining hygiene, and a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the public, Khatha Number, tax receipts were mandatory.

Illegal auto rickshaw parking disrupt bangalore traffic

ITIKA SHARMA

Auto rickshaws parked at various places on Residency Road, occupy one-third of the road, leading to a bottleneck that hinders traffic movement. These autos line up at one end of the road and wait for passengers. Many times the autos are parked up till the middle of the road.

The problem is even grave near the Brigade Road Crossing. The signal receives heavy traffic and due to these parked autos, the traffic movement gets obstructed. None of the traffic policemen standing at the signal instruct the auto rickshaw drivers to move. An auto-driver, T Manjunath said that when the traffic becomes very dense and traffic police officers are present, they ask the auto drivers to move. But this is more of a formality as they just move a few inches and

stay where they were.

At times the auto rickshaw drivers move very close to the footpaths in order to make space on the roads. This leaves a very tight space for

"These autos are parked here for our convenience, but sometimes they become menace. Specially when they leave no space for us to walk."

the pedestrians to walk on the footpaths. Mr Ravi Kumar remarked, "These autos are parked here for our convenience, but sometimes they become menace. Specially when they leave no space for us to walk." He added that auto rickshaws are one of the greatest problem-makers in the

city and the government must take firm steps to ensure their proper functioning.

There are shops in front of which these autos are parked. Ahmed, a shopkeeper said that their business suffers a lot because of the presence of autos in front of their shops, as there is hardly any space for customers to stand. He added that they are unable to even display their good properly.

G Venkataramanappa, the traffic police official on duty remarked, "No matter how many times we ask these drivers to go, they do not. Though we keep moving them regularly but sometimes passengers make the autos wait which adds to the problems." Residency Road is a busy road and mismanagement of traffic here can cause a lot of problems for the commuters in this area.

Garbage a nuisance on Siddaiah road

SHUBHI MEHROTRA

Garbage heap on Siddaiah Road is the cause of inconvenience both for pedestrians and the inmates of H. Siddaiah Referral Hospital.

The entire right stretch of the road is littered with garbage, which has also been dumped into the drain adjoining the road.

Raju, a worker in one of the shops on the left side of the road said that the junkyard has not been cleared for almost a month. He said that he has complained to the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP), but the officials have not registered his complaint.

Shivanand, another worker, said that nobody listens to their complaints since they belong to the lower stratum of society.

Dr. Amrish, Senior specialist (Gynecology), H. Siddaiah Hospital, said that since the garbage pile is at very close to the hospital it affects both the patients

and the doctors. "Unhygienic conditions in the vicinity of the hospital can lead to respiratory diseases and diseases like diarrhea and vomiting," he said. He told The Weekly Observer that the hospital authorities have incessantly complained to the BBMP officials concerned, but nothing has been done. He said that he has been working at the hospital for more than a year and the situation has not improved. "The same dirt, the same smell remains. It is a nuisance not just for the patients but for anybody who enters Siddaiah Road." He also said that the Chief Health Officer of the hospital has promised to look deeper into the matter to bring some relief.

The staff nurse at the hospital also reiterated what was said by the doctor.

Afreen, a patient at the hospital said that everybody wants a clean environment in a hospital. The



Garbage lying on a road in Bangalore

Courtesy Google Images

smell is intolerable; it adds to the sufferings of the patient.

Mr. Kumar, Chief Health Officer, BBMP (J. C. Road branch) presented the other side of the story. He said that Siddaiah Road is the dumping ground for the trash of all adjoining areas like J. C.

Citizens unhappy with BBMP garbage collection

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

The residents of Uttarahalli and Nayandanahalli have to dump their garbage on the roads as the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) health and solid waste management department fails to collect the garbage regularly from the area.

Ramesh Nagappa, a resident of Nayandanahalli said, "The local garbage collectors never come regularly and we have to dispose of the waste somewhere." Although BBMP has a door-to-door garbage collection system, they often do not show up and the residents have to dispose off their garbage on the roadsides.

B.S.Ramaprasad, Special Commissioner (Administration), said that garbage disposal is definitely a problem. He said that Bangalore city generates around 3000 to 5000 tonnes of garbage everyday and that BBMP finds managing it difficult. Sometimes workers fall ill and remain absent. He said that they are trying to achieve this by introducing different measures to educate the public about dumping garbage on roads. He added that there is a fine for people throwing garbage on roads but that rule isn't being implemented.

Hemalata, Personal Secretary to the Superintending Engineer, said that BBMP waste management department had taken out an awareness program called the Media Campaign for Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. This program was supported by a very active community that circulated various materials. Hemalata said, "BBMP has two landfill sites, one is at M a n d u r . " S h e said, "M a v a l l i p u r a c a n accommodate 650 tonnes, while Mandur can accommodate 300 tonnes. BBMP is taking measures to improve the situation."

Road. He said that every morning BBMP lorries go and clear the area of the garbage. "60 percent is wet garbage and the remaining 40 percent dry garbage. It is not possible to have wet garbage lying around for more than a day because it decays in 24 hours."