

# Alcohol Impaired Driving: Bangladesh Perspective



**A.Z.M. Sharif Hossain**  
**Senior Assistant Secretary**  
**Ministry of Home Affairs**

# Road Accident Fact Sheet

- The number of accidents has increased by 43% between 1982 and 2000, while the number of fatalities has increased by around 400% within the same period.
- In the last 21 years 84 thousand road traffic accidents occurred, 56 thousand people died and 63 thousand injured.
- At least 4,284 people were killed and 9,112 others injured in road traffic accidents across Bangladesh in 2017. A total of 3,412 people died and 8,572 others injured by this in 2016. The number of accidents increased by 15.82% and death increased by 25.56% in 2017 compared to 2016.
- A total of 2,123 people died and 5,558 others were injured in the first four months of this year.

*Source: Bashir, Alam(2018) J Bangladesh Coll Phys Surg; 36: 137-138*



# Alcohol Situation in Bangladesh

- **Alcohol in Bangladesh** is regulated and restricted
- Bangladesh has one of the lowest alcohol consumption in Asia according to a World Bank
- Under Bangladeshi law, any beverage containing more than 0.5% alcohol is considered an alcoholic beverage.
- A government permit is necessary for selling, storing and the transport of alcohol.
- To drink alcohol in Bangladesh, one must have a legal permit.



# Alcohol impaired driving

- **No specific study is available** about the number of drug-addicted drivers in Bangladesh
- **The Accident Research Institute (ARI)** at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) analyzed data for 1998-2014 obtained from the Bangladesh Police.
- According to their research 10% drivers are drug affected while driving in the road.



- However, the numbers are still very low and not realistic, as private organizations have found the rate of drugged drivers stands around **80%(?)**.



# Drug Availability

- The availability of drugs at bus terminals, truck stands, and bus stations is a common reason behind the high number of drug users.
- Weak law enforcement.
- Delay in legal procedure.



# Why

- Fatigue and Depression
- Constant heat.
- Over Work-12 to 16 hours and even more
- Reaching destination on time and making extra trips.
- Less opportunity of entertainment.



## *A study on Road Safety Awareness Campaign in Bangladesh conducted by Brac*

- Addiction (47.1 percent )
- 41.2 percent of the respondents consumption of drugs reduced tension, drowsiness and made them feel fresh
- 23.5 percent of the respondents taking alcohol before driving did not make any difference

**Tension resulting from uncertainty in driving leading to accident, failure to make sufficient income to handover to the owner, uncertainty in getting trips, longing for being with the family members, problem which they could not handle by themselves**





# Consequences

- Increased probability of causing accident
- expensive addiction
- Social Defamation.



# Detection Strategy

- Police cannot detect drug users because of the lack of availability of special drug-detection machines.
- It is possible to detect alcohol use among drivers, but Bangladesh does not yet have a detection mechanism for yaba.
- Department of Narcotics Control will purchase drug identification equipment (detection machines) in the next fiscal year.



# Laws

**Old Law: THE MOTOR VEHICLES  
ORDINANCE, 1983**

**New law: Road Transportation Act 2018**



# What the Old law says

- According to the old law, if someone drives, or attempts to drive, a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs – to the point that they fail to have effective control over the vehicle – they will be punished.
- First offences mandate imprisonment of up to three months, a fine of up to Tk1000, or both.
- For a subsequent offence, drunk or drugged drivers face imprisonment of up to two years, a fine of up to Tk1,000, or both. The driver's license shall also be suspended for a specified period.



# New Law Says

A person **cannot drive while he is drunk**. A person acting as a conductor cannot remain in the vehicle if he is drunk. If someone is caught drunk the Law says:

1. His points will be curtailed.
2. His driving license will be seized.
3. He will be jailed for 3 months or fined for 10 thousand taka or both.



# New Law Says

If there is any Accident he caused:

- Any Accident causing from Motor vehicle injures a person or causes death will be treated as an offense under Penal Code 1960 .
- For any accident resulting from reckless driving or due to negligence will be punished for not more than 5 years or 5 Lakh taka or both.



# Reccomendation

- Enforcing the Law: Labor law, Narcotics Control Act, Motor vehicle Act and Road Transportation Act.
- Discipline the Transport Sector.
- Awareness



**Thank You for your  
Patience**





# Question

