



Article : AUTOMOBILES: A FAMILY'S NECESSARY EVIL

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ABSTRACT :

Vehicles (Two-wheelers & Four wheelers) and the Indian lifestyle are associated inherently. They have remained as an intrinsic part of the Indian milieu. By offering mobility at a reasonable cost, these vehicles have liberalized the Indian middle class from the monotonous public transport systems.

But the hazards which are indispensable can no longer be neglected. Today's Indian families acquire more number of vehicles than the number of family members they have. The life style has definitely been changed and upgraded but for the sake of many harmful effects such as health and environment related issues.

This article is an attempt to find out the various problems which are the after-effects of the excess usage of two & four wheelers and also suggested some probable remedies to overcome those problems.

KEYWORDS :

Excess usage of two & four wheelers, their ill-effects, remedies.

INTRODUCTION :

Vehicles (Two-wheelers & Four wheelers) segment is one of the most important components of the automobile sector.

Family vehicles and the Indian lifestyle are associated inherently. They have remained as a intrinsic part of the Indian milieu. By offering mobility at a reasonable cost, the two-wheelers & small family cars have liberalized the Indian middle class from the monotonous public transport systems. For a majority of them, a scooter, motorcycle or a car is one of the most necessary assets of the life.

Did you know that?

- more than 99.4 per cent of all pollutant gases are invisible
- your car releases emissions even when it's standing still

- Other fumes from petrol and lubricants evaporate into the air. Automobiles are a necessary evil , while they have made living easy and convenient; they have also made human life more complicated and vulnerable to both toxic emissions and an increased risk of accidents. Urban people are most affected and amongst the worst sufferers are traffic policemen who are particularly close to the fumes of automobile exhaust.

Problems :

1. Global Warming – Pollution/Emission of poisonous gases in the atmosphere.

Increase number of vehicles in the market is leading towards Global warming. Pollutants produced by vehicle exhausts include carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, particles, volatile organic compounds and sulfur dioxide. Hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides react with sunlight and warm temperatures to form ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone, a main ingredient in smog, can cause upper respiratory problems and lung damage.

2. Propensity of borrow & spend – disturbed economy – leads to recession.

The Two-wheelers & small car holders are generally the middle class sector of our society. The financial institutions have made a trend of providing easy vehicle loans to the customers despite of making sure that they have the capacity to return the loans or not. This feature in turn, resulting to recession & a disturbed economy.

3. ‘ATIKRAMAN’: Excess number of vehicles on road / traffic & parking problems.

The increased number of vehicles in the market has resulted to unavailability of parking spaces and slowly the vehicle holders are moving towards the Restricted Areas. This is also causing disputes & violation of traffic rules. Now a day, the scenario is such as ‘More number of vehicles than the Roads available’.

4. Health Problems / Increased Accidents.

Automobiles are also a major consumer of oxygen. The most affected group of people are the urban inhabitants, the city dwellers, drivers, hawkers, vendors, shopkeepers and residents in the busy city area. But

Perhaps the worst sufferers are the traffic policemen, who remain close to the fumes of vehicle exhaust, and must inhale large quantities of their toxic pollutants every day, while on duty. More number of vehicles on road is another cause of increased accidents on road.

5. Improper utilization of non-renewable sources of energy – Petroleum products.

Young generations are more responsible in wasting the petroleum products for the sake of their enjoyment. Proper utilization of petrol/diesel is not done, as a vehicle has been considered as a comfort item.

Secondly, obsolete vehicles which have conventional type engines tend to exploit more fuel, thus resulting in the improper use of this non-renewable source of energy.

Probable Remedies :

1. Periodic Checking & strict pollution control policies/ using petrol without lead/ Zero emission vehicles (ZEVS).

There is a need for more attention towards 'Inspection & Certification System' by the government. Strict policies to be undertaken for using more and more Zero Emission vehicles. Petrol without Lead will also help in reducing the percentage of pollution caused by the vehicles in the atmosphere.

2. Control on the easy availability of vehicle loan facilities by the financial institutions/Changes in banking vehicle loan policies.

Strictness in banking policies so that the vehicle loans are not that easily available and if so, they it must be assured that the borrower has the capacity to repay it back.

3. Proper vehicle management by each family/introducing the new concept of "One family-two vehicles"

Attention must be given to the necessity rather than status-symbol. Number of vehicles must be on the basis of single / joint family. Just like family planning, the concept of One Family – Two vehicles must be in focus.

4. Awareness amongst the driving class regarding the traffic rules & proper maintenance of their vehicles. Alternatives of petroleum products can be used in more numbers, like – CNG, Electricity chargeable vehicles, vehicles run on solar energy, Use of Hybrid vehicles - Hybrid vehicles are produced with the help of electrolysis, and if Ethanol is used in the process, then the electricity generation is still less & hence, these vehicles are taken as helpers in reducing pollution. A hybrid automobile is a vehicle that uses a combination of multiple sources of energy. It could be for instance a combustion engine, electric motor and an accumulator, fuel cells, electro motor and an accumulator, combustion engine and flywheel etc. to name a few.

5. To Dump or Recycle those vehicles which are manufactured through conventional methods and which consumes more fuel than normal.

CONCLUSION :

There is a mass need of support & co-operation from government & society to reduce the excess usage of vehicles which in turn hampering the economic growth, reducing the limited sources of energy & increasing the health related issues.

Awareness regarding more usage of public transport must be initiated by the government. In place of one person-one vehicle, commutation in groups and using limited number of vehicles must be encouraged.

Automobile sector must initiate in this matter by appreciating the production of Eco-friendly vehicles in the market. Also, they must expose the big advantages of these eco-Friendly vehicles to the society.

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