

7th IRF Conference on Road Safety

**Is Deteriorated Road Safety a Price
for Rural Development**

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Road Safety: Importance

Life

Health



Non-Exchangeable

for other benefits

WHO:

Road safety a health issue

Safety

Mobility



cannot and should not

be traded against each other

Road Safety: Critical Elements

- Road safety an inter/multi-disciplinary activity
- Coordination, integration – Challenge
- We talk of four E's
 - Engineering
 - Enforcement
 - Education (+ awareness)
 - Emergency
- Four alphabets before E
- A, B, C, D (Attitude, Behaviour, Culture, Discipline) – equally critical to enhance safety

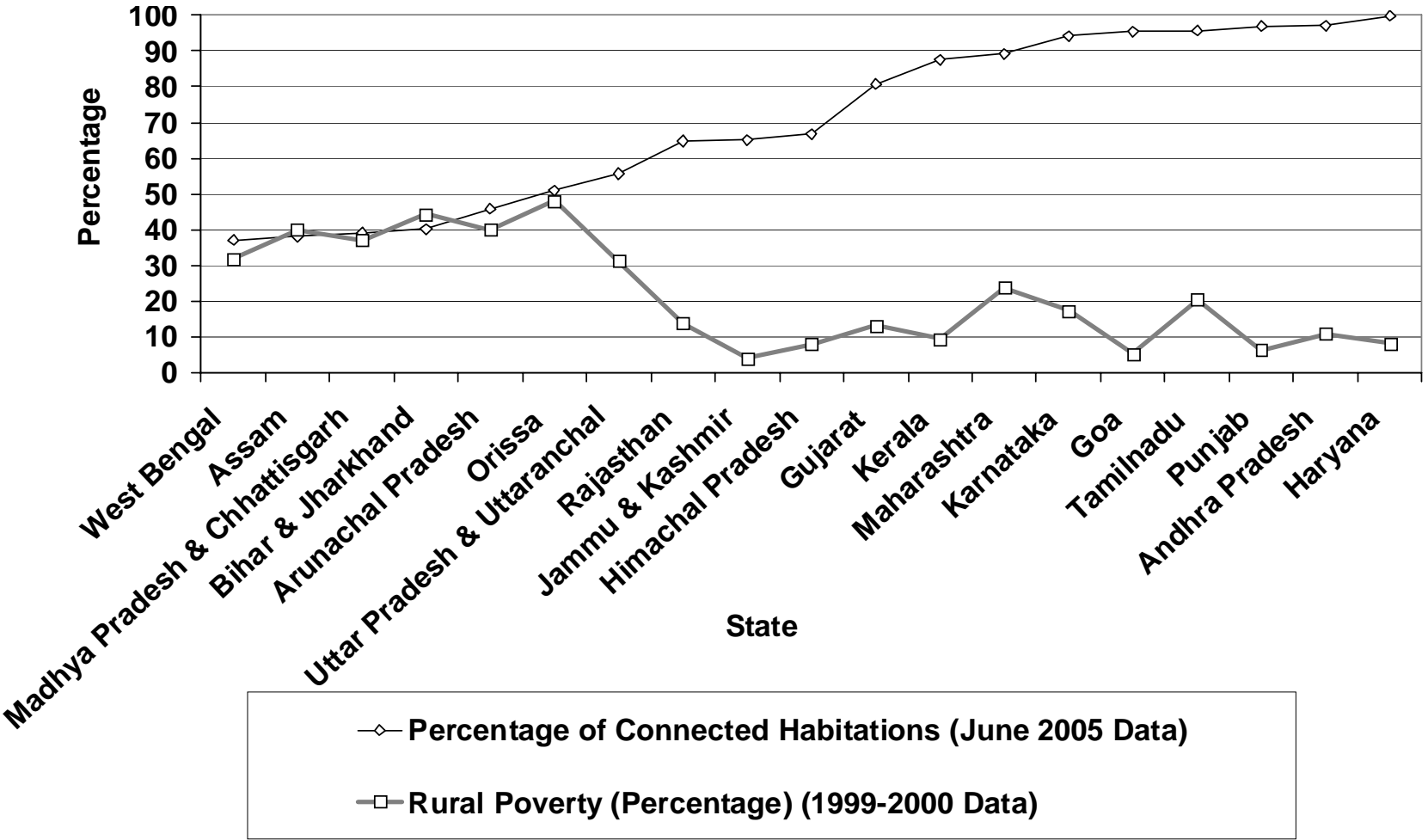
There is one
more 'E'
Environment

Rural Development

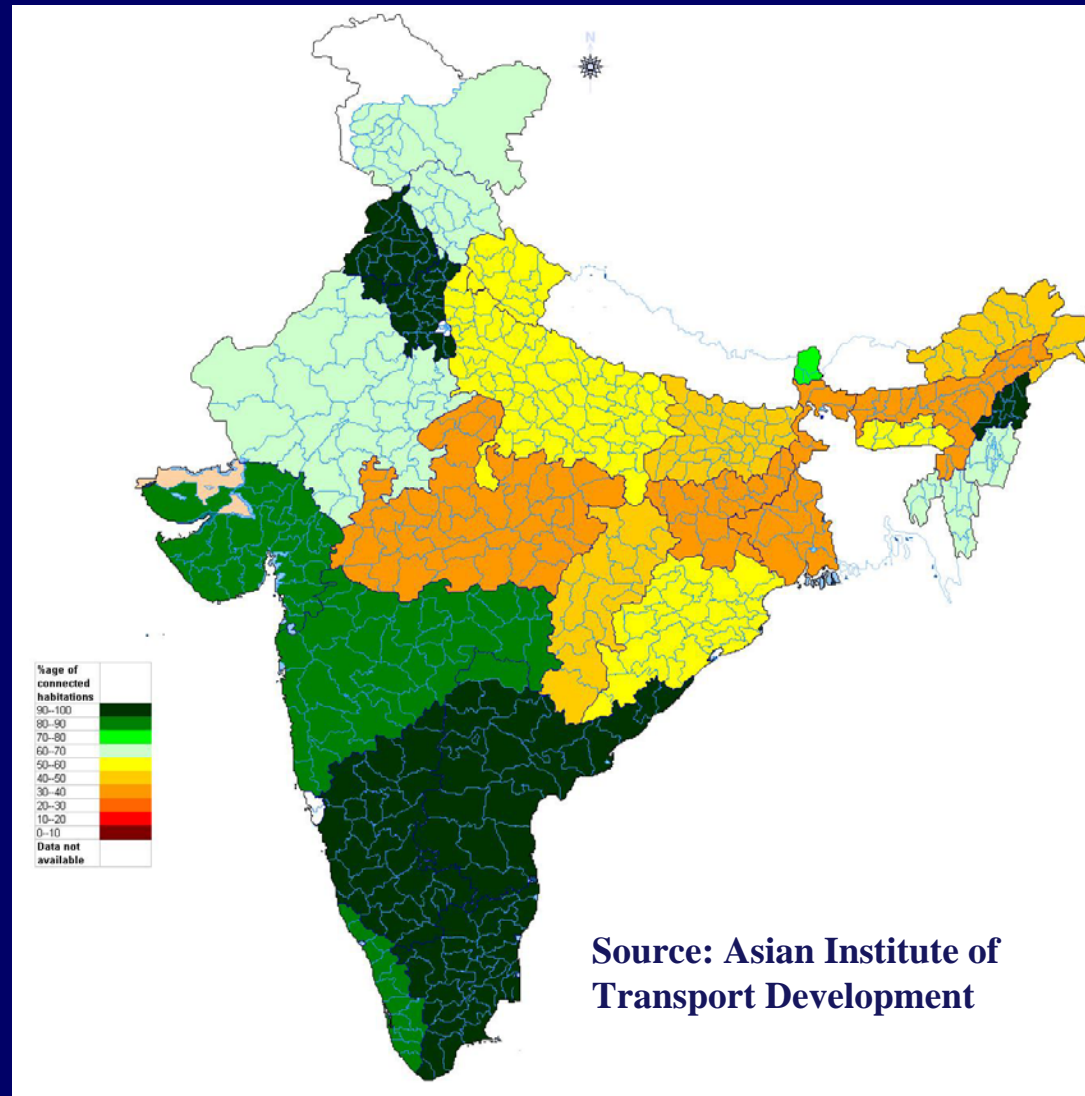
- **Several initiatives and schemes by the**
 - **Central government**
 - **State governments**

Under Bharat Nirman and other programmes
- **Rural roads are recognised as critical component of infrastructure for rural development**
- **Rural roads – an entry point**
 - **for poverty alleviation**
 - **for enhanced employment opportunities**
- **Rural Roads: Access to social infrastructure**

Relationship between Connectivity and Rural Poverty



State-wise Status of Rural Accessibility in India



Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- **Launched in December 2000 with the objective of enhancing accessibility to habitations and mobility for rural people**
- **Technical and managerial support by Central Government**
- **Execution by states**
- **Current annual investments of the order of Rs. 200 billion (US \$4 billion)**

Other Schemes

- **MNREGA – Manual works**
- **States initiatives: MMGSY, Market roads, Panchayat roads**

Areas of Concern

- **Maintenance: On Radar of Government**
- **Safety: Also on Radar of Government**

However action on ground needs to be accelerated

- **Geometrics get compromised on some roads due to land/alignment constraints**
- **Lack of sight distance at meeting points with main roads**
- **Poor maintenance also impacts safety**
- **Unintended outcome of fatalities and injuries due to road accidents**

Losses due to Road Accidents

- Overall: Rs. 750 billion (US\$ 15 billion) per year
- Absence of reliable data and scientific analysis
- Difficulty in assessing magnitude of loss on rural roads
- Guestimate: Rs. 75 billion (US\$ 1.5 billion) per year reckoning at 10 percent share for the 85 percent road network

Losses are Huge

- While the amount of losses assessed due to accidents can be debatable
- That the losses are huge not debatable
- Inevitable price of rural development
- Should we pay so much price
- Answer: Obviously is NO
- Such huge losses do merit our attention

Working Group on Rural Roads for 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17)

- **Road safety in rural roads be given prime importance**
 - **Planning**
 - **Construction**
 - **Maintenance**

Awareness Raising

- Road engineers to be sensitive to
 - Provision of safe roads
 - Elimination of hazards
- Administrators to provide space for engineer's opinion
- Travel as a user to identify hazardous locations
- Also raise awareness among road users

Sustained Safety Measures

- Rural road designs need to accommodate
 - Pedestrians, cycles, animals, carts, small vehicles
 - Trucks, buses, carson relatively narrow roads
- Look for evidence whether shoulders on rural roads are subjected to strain justifying
 - Special treatment

- **More emphasis on provision of**
 - **Road signs**
 - **Pavement markings**
 - **Other traffic control devices**
- **Proper layout of intersections**
- **Speed reducing measures where warranted**
- **Space for bus stops**

- **Prepare simple leaflets, handouts for raising awareness among all concerned**
- **Regular workshops, seminars and training**

Knowledge Production, Research and Institutional Linkages

- **MORD laying stress on technology initiatives and knowledge production in rural roads**
- **Identify areas and subjects for research and collection of evidence from ground**
- **Commission research projects with support of academia**
- **Create linkages between institutions at local, regional and national level, also at international level**

Factors Critical to Success of Road Safety Programs in Rural Roads

- **Guidelines by NRRDA**
- **Resources (technical plus financial) commensurate with the extent of safety problem seen on rural roads**
- **Capacity building of NRRDA, SRRDA – steady and gradual**
- **Road safety programs driven by scientific principles and evidence based research**
- **Safety engineering measures integral part of DPR**
- **Implementation at PIU levels**
- **Every bit counts**

**Thank you
for our resolve
to do our bit
to enhance safety
on rural roads**

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