



Newsletter on **SAFE ROAD TO SCHOOL**



natpac
KSCSTE - NATPAC



**Kerala Road
Safety Authority**

സ്കൂളിലേക്ക് ഒരു സുരക്ഷിത പാത

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OVERVIEW

Road traffic continues to be a major developmental issue, a public health concern and a leading cause of death and injury across the world, killing more than 1.35 million globally as reported in the Global Status report on Road Safety launched by WHO in December 2018. Kerala has reported 33296 road crashes with 3429 fatalities and 43957 road crashes with 4303 fatalities in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Generally, the roads leading to educational institutions experience a heavy traffic during school opening and closing times. Students, who walk or cycle to school, face several problems regarding their safety, and impediments caused by fast moving traffic. Consequently, a significant proportion of students get involved in road crashes in the vicinity of school.

SAFE ROAD TO SCHOOL (SRS) PROGRAM

KSCSTE - National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC) in association with Kerala Road Safety Authority (KRSA) has taken up a well formulated “**Safe Road to School**” program. It is conceptualized as involving the school authorities and local community for the benefit of school children, parents and teachers. SRS program is intended to reduce the risk, incidence and severity of injuries to students who form a part of the traffic system as pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists or passengers. A total of 100 schools were selected across the state which satisfies the criteria: Schools located near roads having a greater number of blackspots, Schools near locations where there are frequent crashes involving vulnerable road users, especially pedestrians, and various categories of people like teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, drivers of various vehicles who drop children, etc., Schools located near to roads with heavy traffic volume, Schools located at zones where frequent road safety issues are reported by government agencies, press, and media.

The SRS program had mainly two components namely Road Safety Training and Road Safety Inspection. The training program imparted education on road safety to students and teachers and thereby reducing the risk of road crashes. After the road safety inspection, a report was prepared incorporating suggestions with engineering measures to enhance the road safety in the school premises. School kit was provided to the principal, which included SRS study materials, CD with traffic safety videos etc.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Inauguration of the SRS program at the state level was held at Government Central High School Attakulangara, Thiruvananthapuram on 3rd November 2022. The welcome address of the function was delivered by Mrs. Naseema S, the school's headmistress. The function was presided over by Hon. Minister for Transport Shri Antony Raju, who announced that this project would be expanded to over 16000 schools in Kerala. The State Level Inauguration of the program was done by Shri. V Sivan Kutty, Hon. Minister for General Education and Labor.



The SRS logo and Handbook were released jointly by both the ministers during the inaugural function



Prof. (Dr.) Samson Mathew, Director NATPAC, gave an overview of the program. Shri. Sparjan Kumar IPS, Commissioner of Police Thiruvananthapuram City, Shri. Pramoj Shanker IOFS, Additional Transport Commissioner Motor Vehicles Department and Shri. Elangovan Executive Director KRSA addressed the audience. Shri. V S Sanjay Kumar, Principal Scientist NATPAC delivered the vote of thanks.

“Let’s make our roads safer”



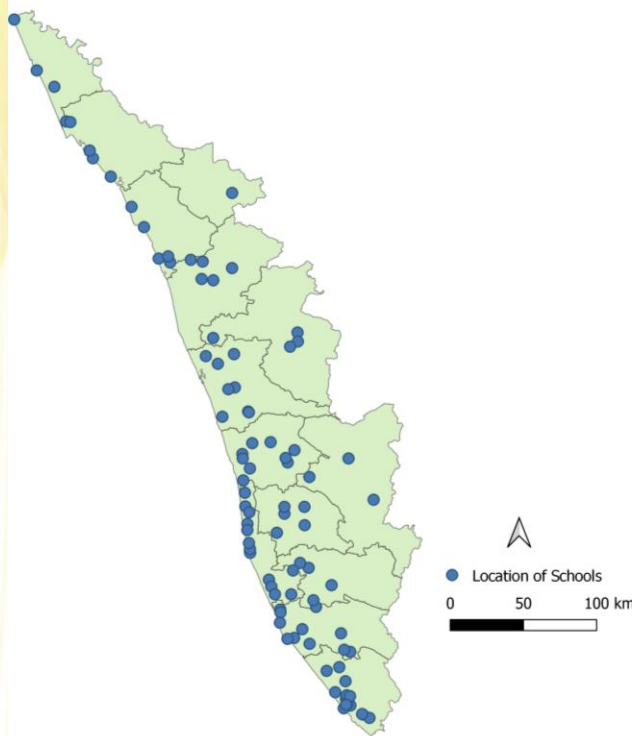
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LIST OF SCHOOLS

A total of 100 schools were selected across Kerala State that includes Upper Primary (UP), High School (HS), Higher Secondary (HSS) and Vocational Higher Secondary (VHSS), all falling in the Government / Government aided sector.

Table 1: District wise Number of Schools Identified

SI No	District	Number of Schools
1	Thiruvananthapuram	22
2	Kollam	10
3	Pathanamthitta	5
4	Alappuzha	15
5	Kottayam	5
6	Idukki	3
7	Ernakulam	8
8	Thrissur	9
9	Malappuram	5
10	Palakkad	4
11	Kozhikode	5
12	Wayanad	1
13	Kannur	5
14	Kasaragod	3
Total		100



ROAD SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

The training is given to around 40 to 50 students in each of the selected Schools. The training program was a one-day program conducted in the selected schools with technical sessions on general aspects of road safety, formation of road safety cell & its functions, awareness on road signs, markings, traffic rules & regulations. These technical sessions were handled by the scientists of KSCSTE-NATPAC and other external consultants who are experts in various areas related to road safety. In addition to the technical session, the students received hands-on practical training such as kerb drills. These trained members of the road safety cell are envisaged to disseminate road safety knowledge to all students in the school.



An information form was created in order to identify the issues faced by students in and around the school premises related to road safety and it was circulated among the students. These responses were collected, analyzed and recorded. In the form, students mentioned their common difficulties related to transportation.



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ROAD SAFETY FILM EXHIBITION

A road safety film exhibition was held for students after the technical session. Visual learning helps students to retain information more effectively than any other method. Therefore, road safety videos related to various topics such as distraction while driving, use of mobile phones during driving, importance of using seat belt while travelling in vehicles, safety while road crossing etc. were displayed among students.



PRE AND POST EVALUATION

A pre and post evaluation was conducted for each student before and after the technical sessions, to identify the knowledge gained by the student from this program. This helped to evaluate the students about their traffic safety knowledge.

DELIVERABLES

Detail of deliverables that were given to each school is given below

SRS STUDY MATERIALS

Study materials distributed are as follows:

- സ്കൂൾ കുട്ടികൾക്കായുള്ള റോഡ് സുരക്ഷാധിഷ്ഠിത ബോധവൽക്കരണം
- സ്കൂളിലേക്ക് ഒരു സുരക്ഷിതപാത
- സ്കൂളുകൾക്കുള്ള റോഡ് സുരക്ഷാ സെൽ രൂപീകരണവും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും



SCHOOL KIT

In each school, one school kit was provided to the principal, which included SRS study materials, road safety brochures, CD with traffic safety videos etc .

ROAD SAFETY CELL MATERIALS

Safety gears to road safety cell members were also distributed. It contains a set of jackets, helmets and stop sign board



CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION

A certificate of participation was given to all students who attended the training.



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ROAD SAFETY DRILL

Road Safety Drill exercise has been undertaken as part of SRS program to get a better understanding of road infrastructure including road signs & markings, safe crossing manner, pedestrian discipline, etc. The road safety cell members with the help of experts of NATPAC and teachers from respective school were divided in to different groups, and are taken in to field to carry out various exercises.



ROAD SAFETY INSPECTION

Road safety inspection is one of the two major components of the Safe Road to School Program. The road safety inspection is a formal, detailed safety check of existing roads. The sole objective of the process is to minimize future road crash occurrence and severity. Road safety inspection was conducted outside each of the selected 100 school premises by the team of KSCSTE-NATPAC during the same day of training program in the afternoon session. Basic details of roads and infrastructures, provision of traffic signs and markings, parking facilities etc. was checked by the team.



VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

The valedictory of the Safe Road to School Program was conducted on 17th February 2023 upon the completion of 100th school at GVHSS Vattenad, Palakkad. The program was inaugurated by Shri. M B Rajesh Hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Excise, Kerala.



Shri. S Sreejith IPS, Road Safety Commissioner delivered the keynote address and Dr. Samson Mathew, Director NATPAC presented an overview of the SRS program. Shri. V S Sanjay Kumar, Principal Scientist NATPAC presented the report on SRS program conducted at GVHSS Vattenad.



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