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Loss of wild species in road side accident: An alarming issues in India

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ABSTRACT

Wild species living close to us and nowadays struggling for survival due to mass destruction of species in road side accident. Current rates of wildlife road mortality are neither sustainable for biodiversity nor a healthy reflection of our interactions with the environment and the animals who try to coexist with us. Human activity, modernization and insensitivity towards lives of other animals make a lot of challenges to nature.

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KEYWORDS

Animal;
Biodiversity;
Accident;
Road.

INTRODUCTION

Road kill of animal is a new source of fatality. Joseph Grinnell first noted the road kill observers in 1920. The development of roads affects wildlife by altering and isolating habitat and populations, deterring the movement of wildlife, and resulting in extensive wildlife mortality^[1]. Very large numbers of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates are killed on the world's roads every day^[2]. A million number of animals killed in the United States per day^[3,4]. About 350,000 to 27 million birds are estimated to be killed on European roads each year^[5]. A study conducted in 1996 Ontario, Canada found many reptiles killed due to over speeding in highway^[6]. Road kill of kangaroo commonly found in Australia. In 1993, 25 schools throughout New England, United States participated in a road kill study involving 1,923 animal deaths. By category, the fatalities were: 81% mammals, 15% bird, 3% reptiles and amphibians, 1% indiscernible^[7]. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roadkill> - cite_note-13 A study

estimated that the following animals are being killed by motor vehicles in the United States annually: 41 million squirrels, 26 million cats, 22 million rat, 19 million opossums, 15 million raccoons, 6 million dogs, and 350,000 deer^[8].

ROAD SIDE ACCIDENT OF WILD SPECIES IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

Road side accident of wild species increases rapidly in India, however there is less effort has been done in this area. A study conducted in national highway no. 7 from Rewa to Mauganj for study the status of wildlife species death in road side accident. i.e. Death of Dogs, Cats, Monkey, Fox, Donkey, Cow, Ox, Snakes, Birds etc. and documented the offence of peoples in road side accident of wildlife species and revealed the management, prevention and reduction of wildlife species death in road side accident. Survey and documentation of death of wild life species in road side accident and photographing of the site and dead body

Critical Review

had been done. Questionnaire was used to conclude the result regarding cause of accident, role of local peoples, vehicle driving people's offence, treatment facility to animal and role of govt. body towards injured animals. Report was very shocking; during 3 month of study, two hundred wild species died due to road kill hit by vehicles. Fox, Snakes, Squirrels, Cats, Dogs, and Cows were most affected species in road accident in NH-7. Dogs were mostly crushed in highway. Study also reported that people were not aware to whom

complain or approach after road side accident of animal. None of the people removed body of injured/dead animal. A hundred times vehicle run over the dead body of animal that is sign of inhumanity of peoples. Study also reported negligence of govt body / forest department that they were not displayed any notice or any toll free no. where people can contact after injury/death of animal in road^[9]. Situation is very alarming in while country where a million of wild species died due to road side accident and negligence of peoples.



Figure : Road kill of (A) wild cat (B) Snake and (C) Dog

Critical Review

Factors influencing wild species accident

1. Driving mindlessly and ignoring lives of other animals
2. Many people feel exasperated, creating a “*Why care?*” attitude
3. Lack of awareness
4. Legal illiteracy
5. Govt. official negligence
6. Drunk and driving
7. Over speeding

Care should be taken

1. Driving slowly at night
2. Raise awareness and encourage people to drive with wildlife in mind.
3. Legal measures should be taken for our driving habits.
4. Do not ignore the huge number of lives lost on our roads
5. Do not ignore animal crossing or warning signs.
6. Care should be taken where animals go out into a road and try to move the carcass of group member

Our responsibilities

We must try to help injured animal in road side accident. Always move the body out of road and report to local authority that can help immediately

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