

## Chapter - 1

### INTRODUCTION

In our routine life every one of us has to come on the road almost daily with some or other purpose. In other words, you cannot avoid road traffic howsoever big you may be in your status in the country. You may make a cozy paradise for you and your family, but you can't escape the menace of road traffic. The second peculiarity about road traffic is that on the roads all are equal. In other words, the road is a great leveller. Thus you are forced to pass through a system on roads where there are several categories of other road users, having different attitudes towards road safety or traffic rules. You have to mix up and compromise with all other categories of road users. Even if you have the best intention to follow safe driving, you may be the victim of other's rash driving or rage.

Today a significant portion of our time is spent on roads. So, the advantages of travel in our life cannot be overemphasized. However, the price we are paying for it is extremely high. A decade ago, we used to be worried only about one aspect of traffic hazards i.e. accidents, but now this subject of road traffic is something far beyond road accidents. There are no signs of control over deaths due to accidents. In addition, many new and equally hazardous problems have come up in recent times like pollution, alarming traffic congestion, arrogance on roads, and the like. All these are going from bad to worse at a break-neck speed.

Unfortunately, a majority of road accidents involve young males who may be somebody's son or husband. Do you remember any incidence when you have gone to console a family that has lost a young member in such an accident? We may be very tactful and vocal in offering consolation, but in such a situation we all find ourselves at a loss for words. We become speechless when we see small kids and wife of the deceased or parents of a young man sitting by the side of the dead body. How does one console a wife whose life and dreams have just been shattered? What about the small kids playing by her side who have no inkling of the tragedy that has befallen them. Had this been a natural death of a person who has finished his or her responsibilities, you find some words to start a conversation. But on the occasion of such a tragic and young death, you don't know what to say and from where to start. You even