Improving Traffic Condition and Parking in the City of Panipat, Haryana

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***Abstract* - Problem of Traffic congestion is very evident in the city of Panipat. The city has many intersections in its heart, some of which do not have any proper control on vehicular movement. The parking is also a major issue in the city. All this gives a poor mobility and appearance. It is also making pedestrians second class citizens. It also increases the trip time and operational cost. The quality of life of people is degrading. The problems and the solutions to overcome the same have been suggested in the present study. Remedies for traffic congestion like zebra-crossings, provision of footpath, shifting bus stand have been suggested. Various techniques to improve the parking condition such as off street parking, Improving public transport and enforcement of parking norms is suggested.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Panipat city which is located on NH-44 is an important regional centre between Chandigarh and Delhi. The city has seen rapid industrial growth in the recent times. It is a house for the biggest centre of 'SHODDY YARN' in the world. Blankets prepared through hand-loom and power-loom are sent to soliders. It also has a thermal power plant which is the biggest source of electricity in Haryana. The city also has a National Fertilizer Limited plant as well as Asia's longest flyover.

This rapid growth in unplanned manner has resulted in many problems like traffic congestion, failure of public transport and lack of parking space. This study presents some techniques to improve these conditions.

2. PRESENT SCENARIO

The present population of Panpat city is 2,94,150. Various problems observed are as below:

1.1. Traffic Congestion

There are 5 major intersections in the core of city where the congestion problem is too evident. Mass transportation is absent for commuting within the city for short distances.

Figure 1. Traffic near bus-stand

1.2. Road Safety

Safety of the people is at stake. Auto-rickshaws are not following the rules. No regulation of vehicular movement is inviting the troubles. People are parking their cars anywhere which is creating some very dangerous sights.

Figure 2. Various unpleasant sights inviting acidents

1.3. Parking Space

Figure 3. Ill-management of Parking space

Parking vehicles is also a big problem in the city but the reason is bad management and not following the rules. Parking provided under the fly-over is under-utilized whereas vehicles have been parked on the space ment for pedestrians.

Figure 4. Unsafe crossing-over by pedestrians

There is no arrangement for the safe crossing of road by pedestrians. There is no provision of red light for vehicles so that pedestrians can cross the road in that time. All this is reason of jay-walking and an open invitation for accidents.

3. SUGGESTIONS

Suitable steps must be taken in order to improve the condition of people and city as well. Some of them have been suggested here:

i. Mass transportation is not present for commuting within the city. People have to travel by Autorickshaw or private vehicle. Personal vehicles can be reduced to a significant amount by providing mini-buses which travel within the city only.

ii. Pedestrians have been neglcted so far. There should be proper baracating so that any vehicle can not be parked on the space ment for pedestrians and can also tarvel safely.
iii. Illegal occupation of the footpath by the shopkeepers should also be removed.
iv. Pedestrians should be given some time to cross the road on intersection so that they do not have to jaywalk and put their lives at risk.
v. Parking provided under the flyover is underutilized while the vehicles are parked on the side of the roads and the footpath illegally. There should be strict implementation of parking restrictions.
vi. There should never be free parking because every space belongs to the public and we can not offer it free to the ones' causing more traffic and pollution.

4. REFERENCES

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