



Apni Raahein Apni Azaadi

Raahgiri Foundation Annual Report 2018-19



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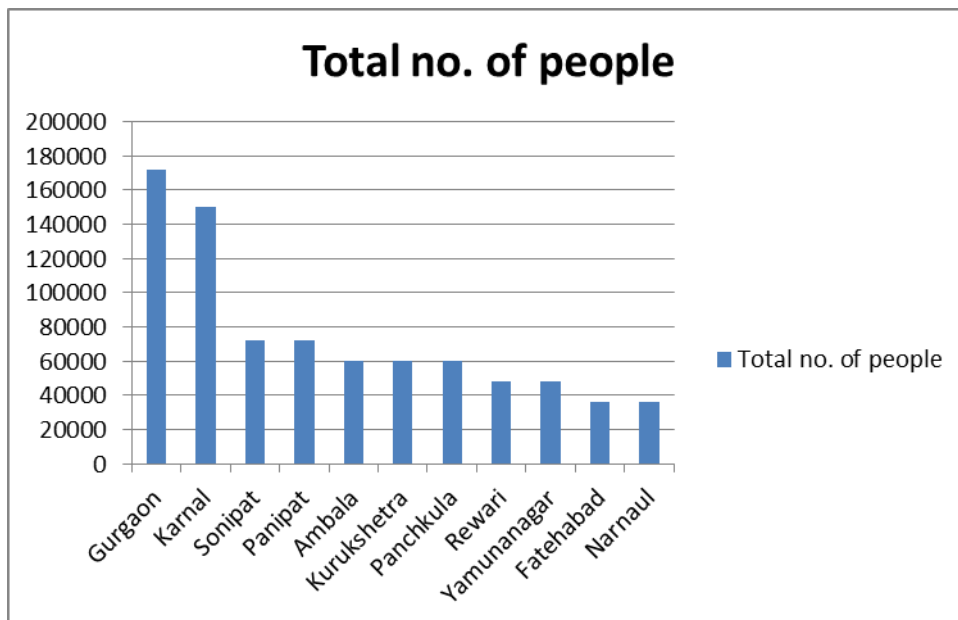
Project Background

Raahgiri Day is India’s first sustained car-free citizen initiative that began in Gurgaon on November 17, 2013. The movement was conceived and is trademarked with the Raahgiri Foundation, consisting of local inhabitants from five organizations – World Resources Institute India, I Am Gurgaon, Pedalyatri, Heritage School Gurgaon and Duplays Gurgaon.

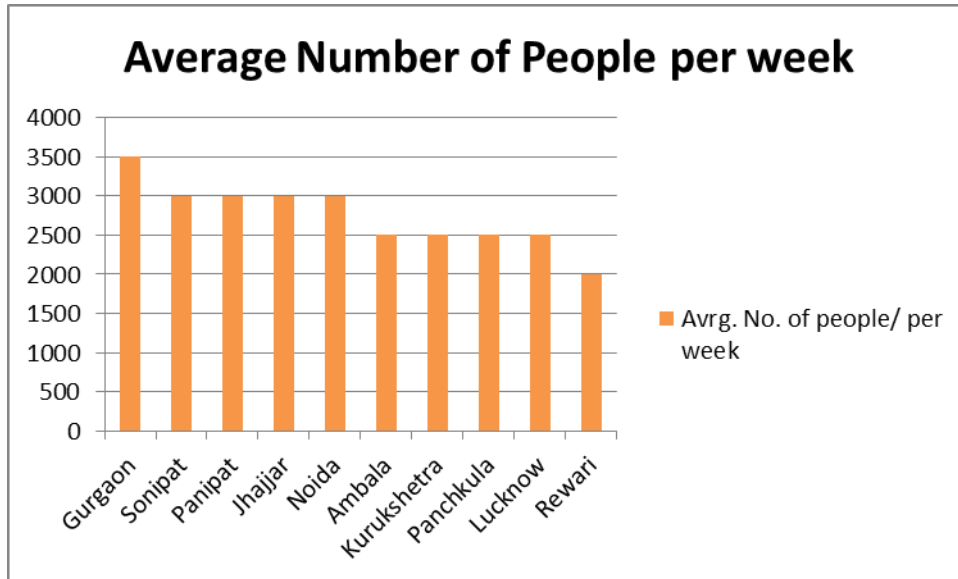
Gurgaon was the first city which experienced it, but the active participation from citizen, authorities, and media together made the movement successful and was adopted by more than 70 other cities, in 18 states and more than 15 lakh people in audience within 5 years.

Raahgiri Day is an open street public event where a street of stretch 1 – 5 km is blocked to prohibit motorized vehicles from entering while general public is only allowed to walk, cycle, and participate in physical activities, sports, music and dance etc. Raahgiri Day is based on the model event named “Cyclovia” in Bogota, Columbia. Raahgiri roots from the word “raah” which means the path chosen and “giri” which means movement organized by public to reclaim the chosen path.

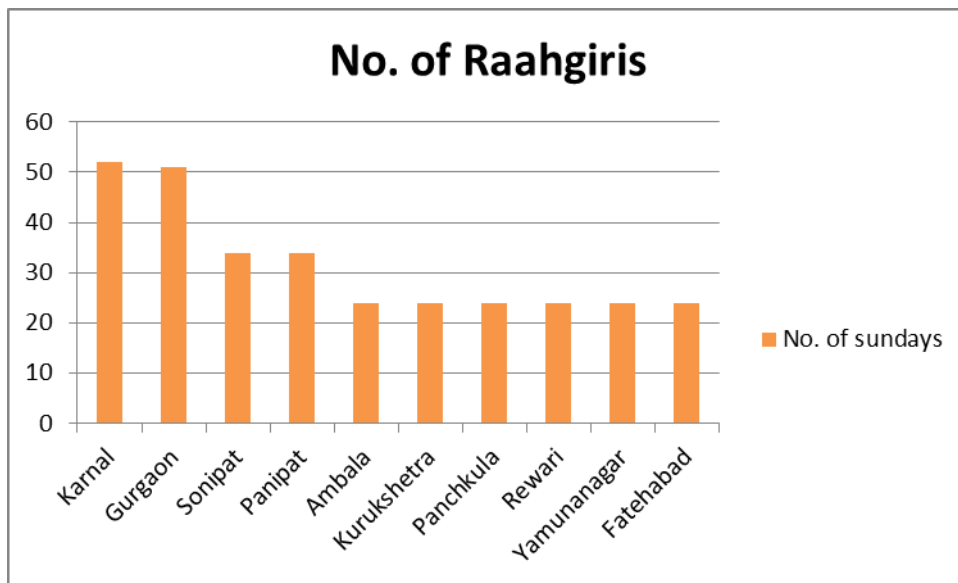
Key Achievements



Gurgaon experienced the largest number of audience for the year 2018-19 with 172000 people in attendance. Due to the popularity of the event over 6 years since its start, thriving tech companies and new people flocking the city, Gurgaon was able to garner a large audience at Raahgiri Day.



With new communities taking keen interest to organize Raahgiri Day in their neighbourhood in Gurgaon, a dynamic and enthusiastic audience have been consistently coming at Gurugram Raahgiri Day.



A consistent interest to improve the street conditions in Karnal has enabled the people and municipality to continuously host Raahgiri Day to create awareness on walkability, cycling, healthy living and inclusive community development. These Raahgiri participants wanted to invoke the idea of reclaiming the streets from cars to the general public. Hence, through word of mouth, mass text messages, social and print media, Raahgiri Day has been advertised and caught government’s attention to hold the event on a regular basis.



To advocate for Sustainable mobility in the state of Haryana, Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. Manhoar Lal Khattar, rode bicycle at Raahgiri Day. Manohar Lal Khattar says “Road crashes have become a grave concern in Haryana. For a behavioural shift from riding cars to use public transport, cycling and walking is necessary that will considerably reduce road accidents and enhance social and health quality of public in Haryana” .

Deepa Malik, India’s prominent Paralympics athlete made her presence at Raahgiri Day. She encouraged people to advocate for making streets for all by bringing a change in their daily travel behaviour. She said “Although pedestrians constitute the largest section of street yet most space on the streets are occupied by cars. When pedestrian lives are put to peril as their space is getting displaced by cars, the condition of people with disabilities is worse. We need to build streets safe for everyone and make it universally accessible.”



Deepa Malik with school students at Raahgiri Day, Sector 90, Gurugram

Our Work

Shankhar Chowk Intersection Trial

A study conducted by Gurgraon Metropolitan Development Authority shows that the largest modal share of transportation in Gurugram is by pedestrians at 27% followed by non-motorized vehicles 26%, then cars at 10% , cyclists at 4% and 33% by public transports such as metro , bus and para transit including autos , e-rickshaws and taxis. Thus its apparent pedestrians should get the largest space on the streets.

A research by Harayana Vision Zero identified black spots in the city of Gurugram. A black spot is a place where more than three traffic deaths in two years. At Shankar Chowk there were 9 deaths in the last three years.

Over 100 pedestrians cross this intersection per minute during peak hours. The intersection covers an area of 10,000 sqm, which is larger than a football field. The current trail design provides less than 10% of the space to the pedestrians while 60,000 people walk at this intersection every day risking their lives. When a road crash occurs, speed is one of the key factors that impact the crash. When a vehicle hits a person at 30 km/h there are 90% chance of survival and if it hits at 50 km/h there is only 15% chance of survival. In Indian cities it is observed over 40% of crashes occur at intersections.



Raahgiri Foundation in association with World Resources Institute India, Haryana Vision Zero and Gurugram Police developed an intersection trial at Shankar Chowk near Cyber City Gurugram. The main goal of the trial was to provide a dedicated lane for pedestrians to cross the intersection safely. Streamline the traffic in such a way that they do not collide when over taking or making the turns. The trial was also built as a speed calming measure for the fast cars driving through the massive intersection.

To execute this trial, first a design was prepared which would make road diets such that there is a separate lane for pedestrians, auto-rickshaws and share autos, pick-up and drop-off points for the auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws. Post the design, a recce was conducted with the traffic police to assess the viability of the design. After the assessment, the existing jersey barriers were moved and barricades and cones were brought to delineate the lanes for pedestrians, auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws. Signs highlighting the respective lane were put up for rider's information. Then finally traffic policemen were posted at key points of the trial to direct the traffic in the respective lanes.

The trial turned out to be a success, as 60,000 pedestrians got themselves an exclusive lane for crossing the gigantic intersection. The intersection lanes proved to be safe as it separated pedestrian traffic from the vehicular traffic of cars, motorbikes, auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws. After interacting with the public during the trial, Raahgiri Foundation received positive feedback and encouragement for doing similar trials to implement all over Gurugram.



Nukkad Natak

Nukkad Natak by students of various schools was staged on the theme of road safety. The various topics under road safety that were addressed through the nukkad natak which included importance of wearing seat belt and helmet, impacts of drinking and driving, texting and driving.



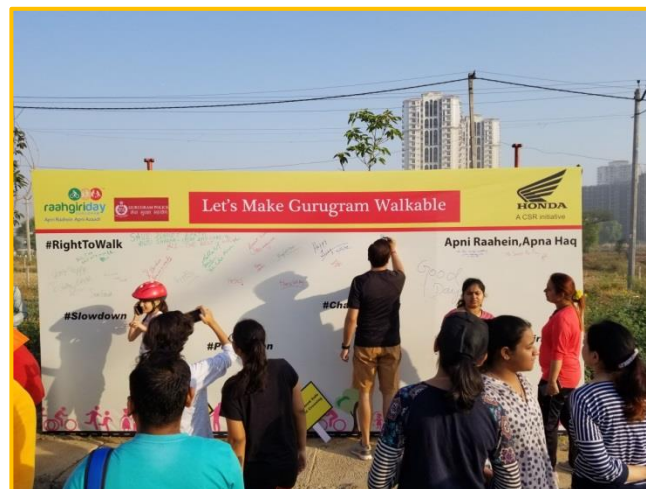
Selfie Zone

To bring about awareness regarding two-wheeler safety, Raahgiri came up with its own hero- HELMET-MAN. Helmet Man is special in a way, that he uses Helmet whenever he drives his two wheeler. Participants in Raahgiri have been having a lot of fun posing with our HELMET-MAN ever since and spreading the word on social media.



Road Safety Pledge Board

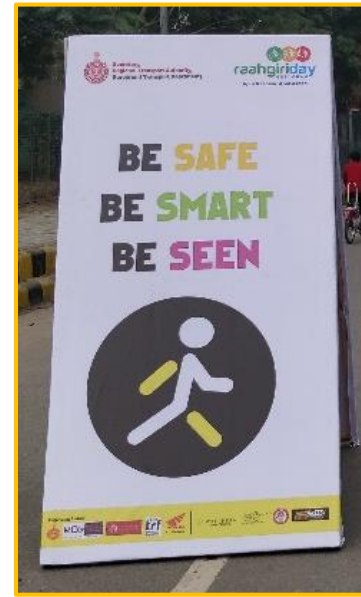
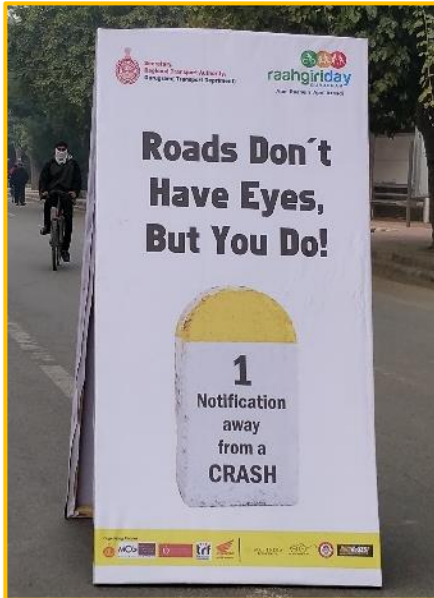
A pledge board was set-up at Raahgiri Day for people to write their thoughts on the state of road safety in their city and raise their voice against unjust road design and traffic practices that are leading cause of road crashes. Through this pledge board people were enabled to pledge for following traffic rules, driving safely, using sustainable modes of transports such as public transport, walking and cycling as much as they can and avoid motorized transport as they are prime factors for road crashes in the city.



Road Safety fact standees

To generate more awareness about the severity of road traffic accidents, standees with verified facts about road safety were put across the street during the event.

Painting and Drawing



Competition and Street Art

To promote and create awareness regarding various aspects of road safety among audience of all age groups, drawing and painting competition was organized. Sushank's Visual art workshop with the help of children created beautiful art pieces on street on women safety. They also celebrated the environment through their street art and drew pictures and slogans to campaign for clean and sustainable environment.



Saree Walkathon

Raahgiri Day Foundation organized a “Saree Walkathon” to celebrate women’s day. The aim of this event aligned with 2019 year’s International Women’s day theme “Balance for Better”. Through this event we were creating awareness on road safety for women. We wanted to promote inclusiveness at streets by stating that streets should be built and integrated with the adjacent built environment in such a way that women should be able to access the streets at any time of the day. Such that it would lead to gender balance on streets. Thus, we encouraged men to participate with the women and share the streets with women. At the saree walkathon woman were dressed in saree and walked and run on the 1 km enclosed road for Raahgiri Day. Men and children also be joined the women in the saree walkathon to view the efficacy of the woman doing everyday work wearing a saree and the essence of their safety on the streets.



UN Road Safety Week

UN Road Safety Week was celebrated at Raahgiri Day to encourage people to become road safety leaders and take initiative to fight road crashes. Signature campaigns, photo sessions with photo-booth showing UN road safety week's pledges in the background and using placards containing road safety pledge was used for props for the campaign. A wide social media campaign was done where citizens from Gurugram, Delhi and Noida pledged to become a road safety leader.



World

Remembrance Day for victims of road crash

On 18th November 2018 World Remembrance Day for victims of Road Traffic accidents, was commemorated by Raahgiri. People signed a signature wall with their pledges to follow traffic rule.



Crowd Engaging Activities

In order to engage a large number of people from all age groups and different strata of the society, fun activities such as sports, Zumba, yoga and health check-up were organized. These activities were organized for immediate impacts for emulating a behavioral change in people regarding road safety.

Sports Zone

Sports Zone was created at Raahgiri Day to introduce kids to myriad of sports they could engage with for a physically fit lifestyle. They say sports teach you team spirit, leadership skills, pro-activeness, humility when winning and hope when losing. To inculcate these qualities among kids a sports zone with various equipment such as badminton racquets, footballs, tennis racquets, boxing bag etc. were kept.



Health Check Up

A health check-up camp was set up to provide free check-ups including blood pressure, diabetes, etc. to help people to be cognizant about their health. People were also given tips and advices to ensure a healthy body and help them take care of their cholesterol, sugar and blood pressure levels.



Zumba and Yoga

Zumba and Yoga were organized by local residents at Sector 4/7 and Sector 90 New Gurugram, Ozone conducted Zumba session at Sector 65 and Desi Videsi studio held Zumba and dance session at sector 15. These dynamic physical exercises were conducted to advocate healthy living. Yoga training was provided to all age groups by Coach from sports authority of Gurugram



Success Stories

Sambit Bhatia, resident of Sector 65 Gurguram stated that due to his long hours of sedentary job he was unable to find time and place to play sports or do exercise. He observed his kids also spent most of their time playing video games inside the house and he also did not find it safe to send them to their apartment complex's playground for playing due to lack of security. He found out about Raahgiri Day through his apartment complex's resident welfare association. Initially he was sceptical to attend it as it is an early morning event, but after attending it once, he has become very fond of Raahgiri Day. He also encourages his wife and kids to attend Raahgiri Day as it provides a conducive space for them to play sports and do exercise with immense security.



Sambit Bhatia with his family at Raahgiri Day Sector 65, Gurugram

Mr Ajay Jaitly, a retired school teacher from one of the public school in Gurugram has been a devout attendee at Raahgiri Day for the past one year. Raahgiri Day makes him feel nostalgic of his youth when he used to play cricket on the street with his friends. Due to unprecedented development of Gurugram, streets and gullies have been displaced by highways and roads that are dominated by cars while playgrounds have been taken over by mammoth apartment complexes and malls. Due to lack of space, extensive distractions through computer, mobiles and video games people are barely spending time in the outside, even if few of them who decide to go for a walk are reluctant as the space is occupied by high speed cars. He feels Raahgiri Day has revolutionised placemaking and use of space on the streets as it gives people the opportunity to play, walk and bicycle which benefits their health. Obesity is a rising concern amongst kids, and events like Raahgiri Day are helping to transform these kids to follow a healthy and active lifestyle.

Harish Chotani, one of the members of the organizing team of Hisar, claims the ties of community development in small towns were slowly fading away as more and more people are migrating to cities. Development of cities is such that wide roads and malls are creating a rift in the closely knit communities of Hisar . Through Raahgiri Day he witnessed a closely-knit and inclusive community in Hisar as a lot of people volunteered to organize Raahgiri Day and there was a large audience.

Sameer and his friends are a regular participants at Raahgiri Karnal. Sameer got to know about Raahgiri Day from his mother who one fine morning while on her usual morning walks bumped into the event. Sameer’s mother then encouraged him to attend Raahgiri Day as she saw that as a safe space for kids to play due to presence of police and a lot of other families with children. Sameer got his friends to Raahgiri Day to play football and other fellow Raahgiri participants have joined his team to play.



Sameer and his friends who play football at Raahgiri Day