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GobarTimes

Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET

Why talk about



Because the parking lot is full! There is no space left around. The pavements on which you may walk to school are blocked with parked cars... and because the private cars parked along the school (after its over) create a kind of jam everyday.

With over a 1000 vehicles being registered in a city like Delhi everyday, soon we would be left with no space to park our vehicles (there's already a crisis). The only option is to park these vehicles on public land thereby encroaching on pavements, roads, parks, in front of people's houses, virtually any public space available.

Excuse me... what would the public walk on if all public spaces are gone? Is that the only problem... Lets explore

Name.....

School Name

Class..... Date.....

Gobar Gyan:

Most of the vehicle owners in cities park their vehicles on public land in front of their houses. Interestingly, nobody pays as it is in front of their house. The result- along with rows of houses, we also have rows of vehicles parked, which eat up on the buffer on alleys and service lanes, making them more congested. Its difficult even to play street cricket these days as there are cars and vehicles all over. Lets find out if you can play cricket in your colony.

Activity: If you own a vehicle – car or two-wheeler or your neighbour has one. Do this survey in your colony.

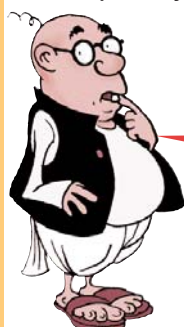
Where do/does you/your neighbour park the car/ two-wheeler?

- Inside the house compound Outside the house on public space
- Car parking on the ground floor Public space – Common parking in the colony
- Others _____

Take a simple measuring tape and find out the area occupied by your car/two wheeler when its parked. Just find out the length and breadth and multiply to find the area.

Area used for parking: _____ sq. m

Find out the approximate number of vehicles in your city and estimate the amount of space occupied by them.



Hi! I am Pandit Gobar Ganesh. You will find me in Gobar Times—a magazine that tells you how your everyday life is linked to the world around you. Hooked, huh? If you want to know more about me and GobarTimes visit us at www.gobartimes.org

Interview at least 10 friends in your class and ask them about the place where they park their vehicles.:

Type of parking	No. of responses
Parking on public space	_____
Personal parking	_____
Others	_____

You can also ask your friends to measure up the space occupied by their vehicles and find out the average space required by a vehicle.

Gobar Facts:

- A typical vehicle stays parked 95% of the time i.e 22.8 hours in a day.
- A typical vehicle requires reserved space at three different points:
 - i. At home: where it is to be parked for the night
 - ii. On the road: so that it can move
 - iii. At office: for parking during office hours

And if someone else takes this reserved space, there are arguments and fights. Find out if there are any major problems regarding parking in your colony.



Activity: Talk to the President of the Resident Welfare Association of your colony or any senior person living in the locality for more than 10 years. Ask him/her the following questions:

Name of the President: _____

How many vehicles does he own: _____

Is the parking in the colony sufficient for residents?

Are there any problems relating to parking among residents? If yes, what are the reasons for the same

Is any parking fee charged from the residents? If yes, How much?

Gobar Gyan: Most of our cities were never built for such numbers of private vehicles. Experts believe that demand for parking is infinite and no amount of supply can meet it. Then what's the answer?

Some believe that people must be asked to prove they have space to park their vehicle in their house before their vehicles are registered. Others believe that vehicle owners should pay to government for parking vehicles even in front of their houses – it would be a disincentive towards owning a car and thus people may start using public transport. But the public transport system needs to improve (That's another story but at least start putting disincentives on something).

Experts believe that the parking fees even at commercial spaces are too low to discourage people from using cars. The worldwide trend now is to use high parking fees to deter the use of cars in cities and thereby relieving city roads of congestion and lowering air pollution.

Activity: Lets try and find answers to the same from all the stakeholders:

The parking attendant: Go to a nearby parking lot and interview the parking attendant

Name: _____

Ask him how much does he charge for a car and a two-wheeler?

Car: _____ Two Wheeler: _____

Did he ever hike the parking fee? If yes How much? Did it work. If not, then ask him, what would happen if the fee is hiked?

Is the area big enough or does his parking lot get full at times? What times?

Your parents/neighbours: Ask your parents or your neighbours, if they would be ready to pay to the government for parking vehicles in front of their houses. What was their reaction?

Traffic policeman: Try and catch a traffic policeman/woman off duty and ask him about his opinion about the issue of parking. What are his comments

Gobar facts:What are other countries doing about the parking problem?

- Public parking fee was increased in Bogota, Colombia and private companies were allowed to charge as much in parking fees as they wanted. This created additional revenue, which was dedicated to road maintenance and public transport.
- Extremely high parking fee and conscious limiting of parking space has dampened car ownership phenomenally in New York.

After having interviewed so many people and collecting information. What do you think Indian cities should do to solve the problem. Don't bother what the experts say, write your own opinion- may be you can find a solution.



If you found the activity sheet interesting, E-mail us at eeu@cseindia.org or write to:
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