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# TOI photo spurs cops to learn first-aid

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**VADODARA:** A three-day first-aid training programme, organised by an NGO, reached out to the people who matter the most during emergencies – the police.

A photograph published in The Times of India was one of the reasons why Lifeline Foundation, also running the Highway Rescue Project, was approached by the police to impart training on life-saving techniques to its men.

TOI had carried a photograph on October 15 of a woman, injured in a communal clash on October 14, being callously carried by the police to a van. She had been lifted by her hands and legs by two policemen with her head hanging down.

Immediately after that the police were criticised for their insensitive handling of the injured person by the readers.

“About 150 traffic personnel are undergoing training. As we lacked first-aid training at the time of recruitment, it has been a major disadvantage to the police force till now. But with this initiative, they can learn life-saving techniques and focus on priorities during a crisis,” said ACP Traffic BP Patel adding, “we shall have mock drills during the traffic week too and provide special training to our highway patrol teams.”

Addressing the valedictory function of the workshop police commissioner Sudhir Sinha said, “A photograph of an injured woman being callously carried by policemen had people darting hate mails to my office, demanding that the police force be trained in first-aid. Now, I am sure this training will strengthen the force and increase their efficiency.”

The training conducted by experts from the medical fraternity was based on a specially-designed module.

“The module discusses human anatomy, external injuries and their impact on internal organs. Careful evacuation of patients

with head, chest and abdomen injuries and in case of fractures and spinal injury will be demonstrated," explained Subroto Das of Lifeline, stressing on the need for proper evacuation and transfer of the patient.

Growing incidence of fatalities in road accidents is due to fast pace of development in terms of connectivity and high vehicular traffic, said Dr RL Deveshwar of SSG Hospital, one of the resource persons.

"First-aid training is an evolving concept in India. And growth of emergency health services has not been able to match up with the overall development. This calls for first-aid training for not only the medical fraternity but also to the common man," he added. The NGO has already trained task forces in nine villages along the highways and the paramedics and doctors in 19 villages.

"As the local community, paramedics, fire and police are the first ones to reach the site of accident, it is important that they are trained. successful and safe evacuation can reduce the risk to life," said Sushmita Das the Lifeline.