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Title : SEPT 13: WORLD FIRST AID DAY - Experts suggest incentivising good samaritan acts

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How many of us have witnessed a road accident and have promptly scurried off to avoid the `trouble' we may have to go through if we attempt to save the victim? The answer would be nearly 90% of the public, say experts.

To promote the idea of people helping accident victims, the revenue administration and disaster management team has submitted a proposal to the government in which it recommends awarding incentives for the act. Dr M Jayaraman, additional commissioner of revenue administration, disaster management and mitigation, said, "If the government reimburses the amount a person spends on saving a life and honours his act, many people will come forward to help. If the government takes an effort, everyone will follow suit."

At a workshop organised by the state government and FICCI here on Saturday to observe `World First Aid' day , he said the idea should be to get the victims to the nearest hospital quickly so the chance of saving their life was higher.

"TN has a well-connected network of ambulances and within 18 minutes, an accident victim can be rushed to the nearest hospital. But it is also the responsibility of vehicle owners to be selfdisciplined," said Dr Jayaraman.

Care from trained people can improve a victim's survival rates to 95% in life threatening situations, said Anoop Madhavan, founder of Survival Instincts.

Joint commissioner-traffic (South) R Dhinakaran said people should not hesitate to help someone in an emergency. "Public should be the first line of response before an ambulance or a paramedic," he said.