

## TODAY'S LEADING TRANSPORT

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In this speed world, auto rickshaw accomplishes an essential run of our Indian society. Eventhough call taxies occupied this place the auto rickshaws are considered as economical. These auto rickshaws can be called as the poor's car. Following this many share autos are instigated for the easy way of transport. All types of working class and common people prefer share autos than mini buses and city buses because it is easy to stop at any place. In some main areas, the share auto drivers are always busy. The RTOs are controlling these for over loading with members. But now and then we can hear the news that these share autos are meeting accidents for their overcrowded. These drivers are giving priority to their earning than safety. This leading transport has many interesting stories. I have been experiencing this travel for past two years. My share auto travel crosses rural and urban areas of three districts such as virudhunagar, Madurai and Salem.

Once I was at Mallur bus stop the sun announced as fourteen past ten. I was almost hungry so I was in hurry to reach my friend's home which was at Mettur, a village. I shared an auto with ten members. Among them four were well aged. The stringed skin and grey, oily hair stated that they were aged seventies. The worn sarees and shabby features reflected that they are villagers. We waited for the driver to start. But he waited for more passengers. At last it started with twelve. The two men were in their fifties and they seemed to be the sons of two old ladies who were with us. They shared their seats with the auto driver. In a sudden the sound raised high in between the two gents. It seemed to be a quarrel but when their mothers asked them to stop, in a sudden they stopped. It reflected the Indian culture which is not yet changed. Another time when I had a travel at this way, I got the tips for the fracture or crack at bone. One of the old ladies told me to apply sesame oil often at the crack or fracture and to intake wet black gram flour with sesame oil. She said it will help that person to get well soon. Along with it they shared the experiences of the Rajiv Gandhi – Hundred Days Working Scheme. It was really interesting.

Following this Mallur- Mettur trip I wish to portray the trip between Thirumangalam – Chekkanurani. This travel is also in rural area. At morning time the share auto mostly fills with teachers and other office workers. These teachers are working in pancayat, elementary and middle schools. Along with them I used to go to college which is located at Nagamalai, Madurai. They used to discuss a lot about the government orders regarding school education and meeting with higher officers like CEOs and AEOs. We usually share the tips on health, food, teaching and job opportunities. Sometimes the experienced teachers guide us how to face the higher

officers. At the time of the school holidays, I have to travel with villagers. On Fridays there is a cattle market at Thirumangalam. So in autos the merchants and farmers used to share the market rates of vegetables and cattle among them. Another grapping matter in this route is, while returning home at evening from Chekkarurani to Thirumangalam, there is a need for me to travel with a lot of members than morning. Sometimes drunkards get into the share autos. In this condition the drivers become handicapped because they may be their relations or well known people to them.

In urban areas it is quite different. The share autos are mostly occupied by schools and college students at morning and evening. In some episodes these autos become as a knowledge treasure. For incidence, I enjoyed to get references from Tamil professors for the English literature's concepts. At exam times students had discussion or clarifications with me on their subjects. The urban life is a busy and committed life so the people will not bother about the persons who seat next to them. But, the rural people can easily make a talk with others who is accompanying them. Share auto is a gift to all the class people. Sometimes it is a forum point to many regular members and friends. Above all, at many places, these share autos become a part of life. I sensed these auto rickshaws have the vital role in normal human life.