Safety first? Yep by step Electrim Masai) 19th–century Europe, life was full of danger for both agricultural workers and those who worked in the industrial factories with new machinery) Gradually, under pressure from workers' organisations, governments began to pass laws to improve conditions, and employers now have to take responsibility for the safety of their employees. In poorer poorer countries, though, safety regulations are weak and the dangers remain. There is a feeling, usually unspoken, among governments and employers in these countries that safety in the workplace is a luxury that they can't afford, and that safety regulations make businesses less competitive and brings less money. Meanwhile, in richer countries, health and safety regulations have been extended into other areas of life, like transport, schools, hospitals and other public services. In most countries, for example, it is against the law to drive a car without wearing a seat belt. When this law was first suggested, some people believed it should be a matter of personal choice, but it is now accepted that wearing seat belts has saved many lives. Over the last 20 years s or so, there has been a gradual change in attitude, partly because of regular stories in the popular press about schoolchildren not being allowed to go on school trips or play traditional games in the playground. Some of these stories were not actually true, but still the feeling has grown that government regulation has gone too far, taking away people's responsibility for their own safety. This may be one reason why there are still only two countries in the world where all cyclists, by law, have to wear helmets. In other countries, governments don't want to restrict people's personal freedom