

ABSTRACT

Vehicles are being used by humans since long time ago to enhance the efficiency of their day to day activities. Because of that human activities have become faster ever than in the history. Various kind of vehicles have been manufactured for various reasons, some of them are used for transportation of goods and others for transportation of people. In this transportation process around 1.2 million people die on roads, and 50 million people are seriously injured annually. In a day 3000 people get killed somewhere in the world due to road vehicle crashes. The majority of them were reported from Asian and African countries. Sri Lanka is also facing a major problem of rapidly rising road accident deaths. To overcome these sorrowful situation scholars have been conducting studies and finding solutions to minimize the road vehicle collisions to save human lives and their property. Many of the studies have been focusing on the drivers' behavior related causes. Even in Sri Lanka, scholars have conducted studies in some other areas such as law enforcement factor for road traffic accidents. This study was focused on identifying factors causing fatal road accidents with special reference to Galle Police Division of Sri Lanka. This study selected a separate police division of Sri Lanka Police to explore the traffic related fatal accidents. It was comprised of 14 police stations. Some of them were not situated on the coastal line but interior, very far away from Galle Town. In remote areas, vehicular movements were very less and reported accidents were also few. It was selected six police stations situated along the coastal stretch. They were Hikkaduwa, Rathgama, Galle, Harbour, Habaraduwa and Ahangama police stations. The main supply route called A002 from Colombo to down south falls on coastal line. To the entire Galle Police Division 1,034 road accidents including 73 fatal accidents were reported for the year 2015. Out of 73 fatal accidents, 46 fatal accidents were from six coastal line Police stations. Out of 46, selected only 26 fatal accidents as case studies occurred on A002 road for the study. The methodology of the study was mainly driven by secondary data followed by primary data sources. The 26 case studies were identified from the records of fatal accidents reported in 2015 and physically observed by a field survey and photographed the scenes of accidents. And also 86 intersections were observed using road safety audit and prepared manual rough sketches and photographed. In addition, the entire A002 road stretch from Hikkaduwa to Ahangama was examined and observed the road safety measures and checked whether they have been affected for road accidents. All these data was analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques. The findings revealed that the critical factors associated with fatal accidents on A002 road included infrastructural, road user behavior, vehicle defects and whether conditions. The study suggested both preventive strategies for fatal road accidents on A002 road and further research opportunities in the same area.

Keywords: Fatal accidents, Safety measures, Accident analysis