Causes of Traffic Accidents Involving Sri Lanka Army Vehicles

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ABSTRACT

The Sri Lanka Army is one of the largest organizations in the country, with a massive vehicle fleet of 14,000 vehicles. It is the largest organization out of all security establishments, and records the highest number of road traffic accidents. Around 200 road traffic accidents involving Army vehicles take place annually, demanding urgent attention from the authorities. Sri Lanka Army, with a comprehensive training package before issuing licenses, has failed to control the traffic accident rate. The loss of human life and the damage to public and Army property are considerable, putting a huge strain on the Army to care for the injured or slain, as well as replace destroyed vehicles and other equipment. It is of utmost importance to conduct proper research to identify the causes of the large number of traffic accidents involving Sri Lanka Army vehicles and recommend remedial measures to minimize the number of accidents.

The objective of this research is to identify the causes of reported road traffic accidents involving Sri Lanka Army vehicles in years 2018, 2019, and 2020 and provide recommendations to minimize accidents. After reviewing the literature, the conceptualization framework was developed. This research was conducted following a quantitative and qualitative approach. Existing traffic accident investigation reports too were analyzed. For the dependent variable Traffic Accidents, a total of 7 independent variables, Violation of Traffic Rules by Army Driver, Violation of Traffic Rules by Civil Driver, Training, Fatigue, Level of Maintenance, Weather and Bad Road Conditions. Were used in the correlation analysis. The analysis of the gathered questionnaire data was performed in two sections, descriptive analysis and correlation. Questionnaires were used to collect data from the Army drivers who have faced accidents and the Army drivers who have not faced accidents. Interviews too were conducted with relevant officers for further corroboration.

After analyzing all existing data, correlation analysis and interviews, it was revealed that the Violation of Traffic Rules by Army Driver, Violation of Traffic Rules by Civil Driver, Training and Fatigue were the major contributory factors of road traffic accidents involving Army vehicles which were attributed to human errors.