

Research Article

Causes of and Reasons for Road Traffic Accident along Damaturu-Abuja Highway in Nigeria (Passengers and Drivers View)

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Abstract: Introduction: Accident has been define as an unexpected unplanned occurrence which may involved injury, and it also be define as occurrence in a sequence of events which usually produce unintended injury, death or property damage Park (2017). Approximately 1.35 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes. The purpose of this research is to find out the causes of road traffic accident and the reason behind it. Objectives of the study are 1.To find out the causes of road transport accident along Damaturu, Kano, Kaduna and Abuja Highway 2. To determine the reasons behind the causes of the accident along Damaturu, Kano, Kaduna and Abuja Highway. **Methodology:** Self-administered questionnaire was administered to 100 passengers travelling by Commercial buses from Damaturu to Abuja, Kaduna and Kano. However, Focus group discussion was conducted with 5 commercial drivers travelling long distance along the highway.

Results: All the participant believe that high speed can cause accident due to the fact that 73 of the passengers strongly agreed that high speed as an factor that cause accident and remaining 23 of them also agreed that high speed is a factor that causes accident and 56of the respondents strongly agreed that Overload is a cause of road traffic accident. "Curfew time in the state due to insurgency which is from 6:00 am to 10:00pm and 6:00am to 6:00pm in some areas of the state, bearing this curfew time in mind, most of the commercial drivers drives their buses with excessive speed so as to reach their various destination before the closure time".

Conclusion: The passengers agreed that all the above listed factors are causes of road transport accident in the highway. However, drivers also accepted the fact that those factors are helping in causing road traffic accidents in the highway, but lamented their reason for some of the causes. Recommendations: Government should provide enough mechanisms for checking over speed and overloading by drivers, educating and enlighten drivers on the dangers of violating road transportation rules. Security checking points must be on a location that can be sighted from a far by drivers.

Keywords: Road, Accident, Passengers, Drivers, Commercial, Bus.

Introduction

Accident has been define as an unexpected unplanned occurrence which may involved injury, and it also be define as occurrence in a sequence of events which usually produce unintended injury, death or property damage (Park, 2017). They are unintended happening sometimes resulting from negligence, that may result in injury, loss or damage. Road traffic injury is any injury due to crashes originating, terminating or involving a vehicle partially or fully on a public high way Piyush Gupta (2007).

Approximately 1.35 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes. Road traffic crashes cost most countries 3% of their gross domestic product. However, 93% of the world's fatalities on the road occur in low and middle income countries, even though these countries have approximately 60% of the world vehicle WHO (2018). Accidents and injuries are global problem, poor implementation of essential safety precaution result in an increasing number of accidents Sunder Lal *et al.*, (2017).

A total of 12,797 Nigerians were killed in road traffic crashes in 30 months. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that in 2016, a total of 5,053 Nigerians died in road accidents while in 2017, a total of 5,121 Nigerians died in road accidents.

The second quarter 2018 road transport data released by the NBS revealed that 2,608 road crashes occurred and killed a total of 1,331 Nigerians in the second quarter of 2018. Speed violation and commercial vehicles remained the highest contributors to road traffic accidents in Nigeria NBS (2018).

Speed violation is reported as the major cause of road crashes in the second quarter of 2018 and it accounted for 50.65 per cent of the total road crashes reported. Tyre burst and dangerous driving followed closely as they both accounted for 8.59 per cent and 8.40 per cent of the total road crashes recorded. The report also showed that a total of 8,437 Nigerians got injured in the road traffic crashes recorded, out of which, 7,946, representing 94 per cent, were adults while the remaining 491 Nigerians, representing 6 per cent were children NBS (2018).

Further breakdown showed that 6,415 male Nigerians, representing 76 per cent, got injured in road crashes in the second quarter of 2018 while 2,022 female Nigerians, representing 24 per cent got injured NBS (2018). Injury and death from road traffic accident is increasing and are third leading cause of overall death in the country Onyemuchi *et al.*, (2016).

The purpose of this research is to find out the causes of road traffic accident and the reason behind it among Passengers and Drivers using Commercial buses.

Objectives of the study

- 1) To find out the causes of road transport accident along Damaturu, Kano, Kaduna and Abuja Highway.
- 2) To determine the reasons behind the causes of the accident along Damaturu, Kano, Kaduna and Abuja Highway.

Methodology

Self-administered questionnaire was administered to 100 passengers travelling by Commercial buses from Damaturu to Abuja, Kaduna and Kano. However, Focus group discussion was conducted with 5 commercial drivers travelling long distance along the highway, and information on various factors that causes road accident and why they are violating road transport rules were received. Descriptive research method was used to report the causes of road traffic accident and reasons for violating road transport rules.

Sampling

Simple random sampling was used to select 100 Adult passengers and Purposive sampling was used to get 5 commercial bus drivers travelling to long distance of Abuja, Kaduna and Kano respectively. Convenient method was used to obtain the sample size.

Results and Discussion

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
High Speed		
Strongly agree	73	73%
Agree	27	27%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Overload		
Strongly agree	28	28%
Agree	56	56%
Disagree	11	11%
Strongly disagree	5	5%
Poor road condition		
Strongly agree	52	52%
Agree	36	36%
Disagree	8	8%
Strongly disagree	4	4%
Inadequate vehicle maintenance		
Strongly agree	40	40%
Agree	38	38%
Disagree	19	19%
Strongly disagree	3	3%
Inadequate driving knowledge		
Strongly agree	58	58%
Agree	36	36%
Disagree	6	6%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Age of the driver		
Strongly agree	32	32%
Agree	36	36%
Disagree	21	21%
Strongly disagree	11	11%

High speed as a caused of accident all the participant believe that high speed can cause accident due to the fact that 73 of the passengers strongly agreed that high speed as an factor that cause accident and remaining 23 of them also agreed that high speed is a factor that causes accident. Majority of the respondents 56 agreed that overload can cause motor accident and 28 of them strongly agreed that it causes accident, while 11 of the passengers were reported to have disagreed that overload can cause road accident and 5 of them were also reported to have strongly disagree that it causes accident. Out of the one hundred passengers interviewed, 52 strongly agreed that poor road condition is a factor that can cause road traffic accident and 36 of them also agreed that it can cause accident ,while 8 of them were reported to have disagreed and 4 strongly disagreed that poor road can cause accident.

On inadequate vehicle maintenance as a factor that causes road traffic accident, 40 of the respondent strongly agreed that inadequate vehicle maintenance can lead to accident and 38 also agreed that it can cause accident, however, 19 and 3 of them were reported to have disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that poor vehicle maintenance can cause road

traffic accident. However, with regard to driver inadequate driving knowledge, 58 of the respondent strongly agreed that inadequate driving knowledge can lead to road traffic accident and 36 of the passengers agreed with that too. Whereas only 6 of the respondent disagreed that inadequate driving knowledge can cause accident. Moreover, 32 of the respondents strongly agreed that age of a driver is a factor that can lead to road traffic accident, 36 agreed that age can cause road traffic accident. While 21 of the passengers disagreed that age of the driver is a factor that can lead to road traffic accident and 11 of them were reported to have strongly disagreed that age of the driver can contribute to road traffic accident.

Result From Drivers Focus Group Discussion

Drivers also belief that over speed is a leading cause of accident in the Damaturu Kano, Kaduna, and Abuja highway, but they stated their reasons for over speeding to; *“Curfew time in the state due to insurgency which is from 6:00 am to 10:00pm and 6:00am to 6:00pm in some areas of the state, bearing this curfew time in mind, most of the commercial drivers drives their buses with excessive speed so as to reach their various destination before the closure time”*

Booking of returning number: *this is also a reason revealed by the drivers that make some of them drive with over speed, due to the fact that booking of a queue for loading of passengers is on first to come first to serve basis depends on the time of your arrival at the motor park station. Therefore, some drivers used to drive with high speed so as to reach the station ahead of their colleagues to enable them secure a chance of loading passengers before their colleagues.*

On the issue of overloading: the drivers laments that *“they are overloading passengers and goods so as to ease the transportation fare to the people, because if they are to load as standard, the transportation cost will be higher and most of the passengers will not afford to pay for it”*.

Poor road condition is a leading cause of road traffic accident, the drivers lament that a lot of accident happening in Nigeria is due to bad condition of road.

All the drivers agreed that inadequate vehicle maintenance can lead to accident due to the fact that *“some of the road accident happened due to faulty brakes and expired Tyre. However they claimed that most a times the vehicle owners be it government or individual don’t have maintenance culture due to financial implication involved and lack of trust between the vehicle owners and the drivers”*.

Age of a driver also has impact on causing road traffic accident according to the drivers because *“most of the accidents that are cause by negligence which could had been avoided if traffic rules were followed, were mostly carried out by drivers in lower age category between 19 to 35 years old. However, most of the drivers within this age category engage in drug abuses which sometimes take them out of their senses”*.

The drivers also revealed that *“unnecessary security checking points along the road due to insurgency is also a contributing factor in causing road traffic accident, due to the fact that mounting checking point in a sharp corner that cannot be sighted by the drivers in a far distance causes accident. However, changing and shifting the location of the checking point without prior notice is also causing the accident”*.

Conclusion

The passengers agreed that all the above listed factors are causes of road transport accident in the highway. However, drivers also accepted the fact that those factors are helping in causing road traffic accidents in the highway, but lamented their reason for some of the causes.

Recommendations

Government should provide enough mechanisms for checking over speed and overloading by drivers, educating and enlighten drivers on the dangers of violating road transportation rules. Security checking points must be on a location that can be sighted from a far by drivers.

Conflicts of interest: There is no conflict of interest of any kind.

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