

ROAD SAFETY IN KANDY MUNICIPAL LIMITS

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Safety on road users depends on many factors. Few of them are condition of roads, condition of vehicles on roads and experience, behaviour and attitude of drivers' etc. In the present study, a sample selected within the Kandy Municipal limits were investigated to find the effect of above factors on road safety.

Details of road accidents reported at Kandy, Peradeniya and Katugastota police stations were collected and analyzed to identify the reasons behind most of the accidents.

According to the police reports, it was clear that some accidents are concentrated at particular locations. Those could be named as blackspots or accident risk locations. Some blackspots are naturally occurred but most of them are purposely made ones during construction or other activity. A survey was carried out to plot those locations. In the same exercise, some additional locations also were investigated creating public inconvenience, though accidents are not reported.

A field survey was carried out to investigate conditions of vehicles and ability and behavior of drivers. Nearly 500 numbers of vehicles with drivers ability were tested. In addition, details about public transport buses were collected from peopolised transport depots.

Since, this project is continuing though the conclusions are not made, large number of accident-prone locations within the Kandy Municipal limits were identified. According to the vehicle inspections, it was clear that nearly 52% of drivers are not aware of basic road signs and 10% of vehicles do not have a single signal light and another 30% are having only one signal light. The statistics for break light is also same. Considerable number of vehicles does not have proper numberplates on the vehicles which allow the vehicle meet with accidents to runaway anonymously. Based on these information, possible proposals to improve the situation are under preparation.