

Road accidents distribution in Gampaha District - case study

WAWP Wijayalath¹ and N. Gunathilaka¹

Of all the systems that people have to deal with on daily basis, road transport is the most complex and most dangerous. In Sri Lanka road traffic injuries are a major but neglected public health issue. During the past 25 years all types of road traffic crashes have considerably increased. Out of total road accidents in Sri Lanka 17% accidents are occurred in Gampaha District. One of the main objectives of this study was identifying the spatio-temporal distribution of road accidents in Gampaha District.

This study is mainly based on data which were collected from Police Headquarters, and Colombo and Gampaha Police stations. Maps which were facilitated by GIS were used to highlight the spatial pattern of road accidents. The statistical analysis was presented through the time series analysis. Through this research the researcher finally found the results which were given below. The data clearly show that the number of reported accidents are declining but it is not fair to accept it is truth. Due to the busy life situation most affected people used to come to agreements when accidents occurred instead of reporting to the police. Therefore a lot of data won't include to the reported data calculation. According to the data seasonal trend of total road accidents in Gampaha town is related to the seasonal trend of average annual rainfall. Though it is pointed out in that way, it won't be true to say such heavy rains caused many accidents. Really undeveloped roads play a major role for the accidents. During the rainy season the situation of the roads become worse and it cause traveling problems which leads for accidents. If it is carefully studied, the findings of this research may help to plan for reducing the untimely deaths and accidents in Gampaha district.

Key words: Traffic injuries, Traffic crashes, Timely distribution, Seasonal trend, GIS

¹ Department of Geography, University of Colombo, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka