

TRAFFIC RULES AND SAFETY

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Abstract:

Road safety is one such aspect which affects the daily life of everyone in the world. Directly or indirectly everyone is affected with the traffic in daily life. This paper discussed the need and significance of the road safety and traffic rules. Every country has different aspect pertaining to the traffic rules. India also has stabilized and systematic rules regarding the same. These are highlighted in this paper to provide an overview of the overall system. Importance of signage and road markings is also discussed in this article.

Keywords: Road Safety, Traffic Rules, Transportation, Signage

Introduction

Transportation plays a significant part of every modern society resulting in ever-increasing car ownership levels. It has led to huge traffic and unacceptable fatalities on the roads. To avoid road accidents some of measures should put in order to prevent road users from being killed or seriously injured by creating some instruments for traffic control. Such instruments include markings, signage's and devices that should be installed on or beside the roads by road regulatory authorities (W.Y.Ng & H.S.Chan, 2008) (Olumide & Owoaje, 2017) (HashimAl-Madani & Abdul-RahmanAl-Janahi, Assessment of drivers' comprehension of traffic signs based on their traffic, personal and social characteristics, 2002). Such traffic signs and markings can serve as control devices that could help to enhance safety and orderly movement of traffic on the roads. These signs and road markings

could also help in communicating vital information such as warnings, guidelines, and directions for drivers and road users. Messages can be easily conveyed in terms of words and/or symbols and markings (HashimAl-Madani & Abdul-RahmanAl-Janahi, Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour, 2002).Hence, the signage's and markings should be clear, precise and understandable for road travelers. So that it would prevent road traffic conflicts and path deviation in the traffic environment (LuisVilchez, 2018). The road signage's and markings should fulfill the requirements such as, command attention, communication with a clear and simple message, provide understanding to the road users with adequate time for proper response (HashimAl-Madani & Abdul-RahmanAl-Janahi, Assessment of drivers' comprehension of traffic signs based on their traffic, personal and social characteristics, 2002).Road markings permits areas for overtaking and lane changes on the road. Road markings often also support the (legal) information provided on road signs. Thus, clearly marked centre and edge lines are likely to enhance the lane-keeping task. Therefore, to control traffic road markings are important to understand by both drivers and road users (R.Laughery & S.Wogalter, 2014).

Review of Literature

The familiarity and comprehension vary widely among different traffic signs and markings, however, comprehension is a major factor for driver compliance to traffic rules (Akple, Sogbe, & Atombo, 2020). As a remedial measure, education should be offered to optimize driver's knowledge of traffic signs and markings that were poorly recognized and comprehended. Besides, DVLA should conduct a vigorous test on traffic signs and markings meaning when issuing a driving license, relicensing and renewing the license for drivers in Ghana.

A review of models has been found to be relevant to road safety aimed to identify and summarized concise descriptions, or 'models' of safety. The review covered information from a wide variety of fields and contexts included transport, occupational safety, food industry, education, construction and health. The models identified in this review are likely to be adaptable to road safety and some of them have previously been used. None of systems theory, safety management systems, the risk management approach, or safety culture was commonly or thoroughly applied to road

safety. So It is concluded that these approaches have the potential to reduce road trauma. (Hughes, Newstead, Anund, Shu, & Falkmer, 2014)

Understanding road signs proposed a three levels framework that allows accounting for the understanding of road signs. Results showed that natural categories (categories used by drivers) do not match legal categories (categories defined in legal texts about driving). Even if people and laws agree on words, they do not agree on the intensions and extensions of the categories tagged by words. Finally, we discuss about the critical role played by context (situational/environmental one and task-context) in the processing of road signs interpretation.

The need for a systems theory approach to road safety founded that the most important determinants of systems theory were basically not present in the road-user approach. However, even if the Vision Zero approach clearly takes step towards systems theory, it does leave room for articulating even more features of systems theory.

Common Facts related to road safety:

Based on the facts studied and current traffic system in India, the author is of the opinion that there should be a proper awareness for general public in various different manners for the same. There are lots of common facts behind the road accidents and other issues, some of them are listed as below:-

- Identification of black spots/accidents prone spots.
- Emergency vehicles should be parked on sides of highways and in cities or towns.
- Implementation of road traffic rules.
- Education should be provided on traffic rules regulations in public.
- Facilities at road side for maintaining clean India.
- Implementing of road safety rules at all levels.
- Road safety is taken as major criteria in the planning and design of roads.

- Special training for drivers driving on very/heavy vehicles/special vehicles/long body vehicles
- Road safety awareness training should be provided to public by e-media.

Conclusion:

Most countries have a multidisciplinary approach to traffic planning and road design. It is done by psychologists, engineers, doctors, sociologists, vehicle experts, etc., In India, road traffic is still a civil engineering issue. Lessons can be learnt from the eminent guidelines and good practices for good behavior on the roads practiced in developed countries where safety, orderliness, and discipline are ingrained in the citizens, come what may. Regular Driving trainings should be included for Drivers to learn to show consideration and respect to co-vehicle drivers and pedestrians so that our roads become safer. But it looks a long way to go.

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