

Study on Catastrophic Factors Involved with Road Accidents in the Southern Capital City of Galle in Sri Lanka

Gayashan DALPETHADO^a, Udayanthi ILANGASINGHE^b, Tissa LIYANAGE^c

1. ABSTRACT

Road traffic accidents have become social and economic challenge all over the world. World Health Organization (WHO) reveal that in low- and middle-income countries, vulnerable road users are commonly involved in crashes with severe injuries. This study describes the catastrophic factors involved with road accidents in the southern capital city of Sri Lanka. The analysis includes data from two Police Divisions and the detailed data of each accident was obtained for 2017 and 2018. Most road crash victims were 18-23-year-old motor bikes riders and main reason observed to be the lack of risk perception in drivers with less than 5 years of experience. Majority of the victims of the fatal crashes are pedestrians and the results indicates that 63% of the accidents have taken place on straight roads due to high speed and the impact of the lighting condition is identified as a factor that has a lower impact on the number of accidents. These findings highlight the need of strengthening effective traffic law enforcement.

Keywords: Road Accidents, Accident Characteristics, Blackspots, Risk Perception, Accident Cost