

Travel Demand Behaviour of Railway Passenger Transport across Western Province

Tissa U. Liyanage, Krishani Perera, Sanuja Senevirathne

Abstract: The Railway system within the Western Province, contribute to a significant transport supply for commuters. However, there were no any study or research has been conducted so far to understand the trip demand through the railway system across the Western Province. The present demand by the railway commuters for the system is governed by some attributes such as comfort, convenience, affordability, reliability etc which factors are competitive with other public transport modes. Also it is important to relate the above attributes to the trip demand attributes such as travel distance, travel purpose, transit facilities, etc and reveal the needed modifications to the transport supply attributes expected for future expansion of this important transport mode.

The objective of the paper is to understand the trip patters of the railway passengers across the Western Province and recommend the needed improvements to the railway system to achieve the expected economic outcomes to the GDP of the Western province. The potential travel demand by railways can be identified with respect to the existing demand for travel distance, travel purpose, frequencies etc through a comprehensive travel study of the passengers. This attempt is to understand the commuter trip behaviour across the Western Province by railway passengers that will help to estimate comparative travel demand estimate by all mode of transport. Therefore, the importance of improving the Railway Transport for urban commuter travel in Western Province shall be revealed.

Keywords: Railway passenger demand, Western Province boundary, Trip Characteristics, Railway Commuters