

Age and Gender Based Travel Demand Behaviour in Colombo Suburbs

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Abstract: Transportation literature suggests that men and women have different characteristics with respect to commuting patterns, as well as with respect to their propensity to switch between travel options. Understanding the travel demand behaviour in an area based on population characteristics is important, as important as travel demand modelling. Both the age and gender distribution is often found as uniformly distributed among the space and also do not change with time significantly. Therefore these attributes are not very sensitive as demand variables for travel forecasting modelling in an area. However, these factors are affecting very significantly as deciding factors for transport demand behaviour in any part of the world due to many reasons inherited to them. Therefore understanding the behaviour of such attributes is very important as they can be key factors for decision making regarding supply of sustainable transport system in a country or a state. This research paper is an attempt to reveal the travel demand behaviour of suburban community, based on their age and gender distribution. The descriptive analysis is based on a category analysis of empirical travel demand data from 38 Gramaseva Niladhari Divisions (GNDs) in a suburban area of Colombo. The authors have considered mainly the travel characteristics such as trip generation rates, mode selection, trip lengths, trip purpose etc and their behaviour based on age and gender attributes. The analysis has shown that there is a very significant variation of travel behaviour by gender along entire age distribution. It is revealed that the findings can be used for important decision making for urban planning with respect to transport and urban activities.

Keywords: Age, Gender Participation, Category Analysis, Trip Length, Mode Selection, Suburban Area