

Human Injury Causing Road Traffic Accident at Debre Markos Town

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Abstract

Objective: A Road traffic accident (RTA) is when in a road Vehicle collides with another Vehicle, pedestrian, animal or geographical or architectural obstacle. The RTAs can result in human injury, property damage and death. RTA result in the deaths of 1.2 million people worldwide each year and injuries about 4 times this number. The objective of this study is to identify the main causing-factors that contribute to road traffic accidents involving human injuries. Literature suggested factors considered for analysis are: Driver's Age, Driver's Education status, Driver's experience, Vehicle type, Driver Vehicle Ownership, Vehicle year of service, Road type, Road division, Road condition, Problem with car, Weather condition, and accident time (day or night).

Results: Among the candidate variables, Pearson Chi-Square method identified weather condition, driver's experience, Vehicle year of service; Road division, Driver Vehicle Ownership, and accident time (day or night) as significantly associated variables. Furthermore, percentage is used to describe the magnitude of associated variable. The result from Poisson regression analyses revealed that low driver experience, high Vehicle year of service (old cars), and Road division (one way road) are the significant contributing factors for increment of human injuries accidents.

Keywords: A Road Traffic Accident, Human Injury, Pearson Correlation Coefficient, Chi-Square, Poison Regression

Introduction

A Road traffic accident (RTA) is a type of accident occurred at road when a Vehicle collides with another Vehicle, pedestrian, animal or geographical or architectural obstacle. The RTAs can result in injury, property damage and death. RTA is a cause of death for 1.2 million people worldwide each year, and injures about 4 times this number (WHO, 2004). In this study, a road traffic accident is defined as accident which took place on the road between two or more objects, one of which must be any kind of a moving Vehicle [1].

Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) are increasing with rapid rate and presently these are one of the leading causes of death in developing countries, especially those in Africa comparing to motorized countries like North America. The morbidity and mortality burden in developing countries is rising due to a combination of factors, including rapid motorization, poor road and traffic infrastructure as well as the behavior of road users [2, 3]. However, in technologically advanced countries injuries are reducing [4, 5]. Due to lack of protection, drivers, passengers, and the involved

pedestrians are more likely to sustain injury or fatality at the impact of traffic collision [6].

Human factors, including road user behavior and incapacitation, are the most common factors, accounting for more than 85% of all traffic crashes among them, the two key known contributing factors are speeding, and drinking and driving. Other contributing factors are unsafe vehicles, unsafe road design, and the related lack of effective law enforcement and safety regulations [7].

Shankar et al. (1995) explored the frequency of occurrence of highway accidents on the basis of a multivariate analysis (by negative binomial model) of road way geometries (e.g. horizontal and vertical alignments), weather and other seasonal effects [8]. The results of the analysis uncover important determinants of accident frequency.

Karlaftis and Golias (2002) studied the effects of road geometry and traffic volumes on rural roadway accident rates using Generalized linear modeling [9]. The results showed that although

the importance of isolated variables differs between two-lane and multilane roads, 'geometric design' variables and 'pavement condition' variables are the two most important factors affecting accident rates.

The literature review shows that pedestrian crashes account for more than 40 percent of crashes in most of Africa countries. For example: pedestrians accounted for 55% & 46% of road traffic deaths in Mozambique & Ghana respectively [10, 11]. Pedestrian and passenger are victims account for more than half in Nigeria and Kenya [6, 12].

In Nigeria motor cyclist involved crashes are the second most common cause of road traffic injuries [6]. RTA resulted on injuries and death on productive family members and leads to poverty [13].

RTAs is increasing at alarm rate and become the second most common & accounted for 22.8% of all such incidents in Ethiopia. Among RTA casualties, 21.9% were drivers, 35.0% were passenger vehicle occupants and 36.0% were vulnerable road users including: motorcyclists (21.0%), pedestrians (12.1%) and cyclists (2.9%) [14, 15].

Pedestrians and passengers of commercial vehicles are the most vulnerable in Ethiopia. Factors like poor road network, absence of knowledge on road traffic safety, mixed traffic flow system, poor legislation and failure of enforcement, poor conditions of vehicles, poor emergency medical services, and absence of traffic accident compulsory insurance law have been identified as key determinants of the problem [16].

Amhara region accounted for 27.3% of the total road traffic accident related deaths in Ethiopia during the year 2008/9, it takes the highest share among all regions. Road traffic accident in Amhara region indicates that freight vehicles (51%) and passenger vehicles (34.5) are the main causes of accidents. And interstate highways takes 54.8% of the accidents occurred. Mainly pedestrians passengers were accounted for the largest part of road traffic deaths victims in the urban areas. This accident is mainly due to drivers problem of failure to give priority to pedestrians, failure to stay on the right side of the road, speeding, failure to maintain distance between vehicles and failure to yield the right of way for other vehicles [15]. This indicates the need to examine the cause of accidents on the region.

Recent report on Debre Markos town traffic accident indicated that there is an increase in accident and huge loss due to many factors. This enhances socio-economic instability in addition to physiological and physical damage. In response to this, road and transport authority office plan to work with other organizations, to have good behaved and well trained human resources, and based on information and studies developing awareness and work with the society, to achieve a goal of creating stable accident free transportation system. The approach is based on developing awareness of society on rules of road and transportation system, which helps the society to know and respect rules for the purpose of reducing car accident. In addition creating good behaved and well trained human resources is another input. It known that to reduce level and number of accident the influence of driver and

related factors are unrepeatable hence much concern should have to give. However, the quality of drivers, cars, and road standard does not considered. As a result, this study attempts to investigate factors those contribute to road traffic accident involving human injuries, by considering literature suggested factors which are recorded by traffic police officers.

Main Text

Materials and Methods

Data Source

The Cross-sectional study is applied for the number of human injuries per Vehicle accident at Debre Markos town in a year from 2014 to 2019(1615 consecutive days). The data is taken from the record and report book of Debre Markos town traffic police. Accidents were recorded by the traffic police on daily basis for the purpose of reports and public service.

Missing Value Treatment

The data set is extracted from recorded document, and some values were incomplete or missed. So in ordered to treat such problem I preferred to use median value for categorical variable and exception maximization method for continuous variable.

Variables of the study

The response variable is number of human injuries per accident over a day. This includes the number of people dead, lightly injured or heavily injured due to a traffic accident. The considered predictors are Driver's Age, Driver's Education status, Driver's experience, Vehicle type, Driver Vehicle Ownership, Vehicle year of service, Road type, Road division, Road condition, Problem with car, Weather condition, and accident time (day or night) [See Table S1].

Methods of data analysis

Variable selection

The analyses were started by considering the whole explanatory variables, and a significantly associated factor with a dependent variable is taken to check the causal effect on a response. Pearson chi-square is used to select which variable should be entered into reduced model. Finally, the log-likelihood of the full model and reduced model were compare to select the variables which stayed in the model.

Poisson Regression Model

In statistical analysis of the count of rare event, it is often assumed that the dependent variable follows a Poisson distribution, with the assumption of the mean (expected) count equal to its variance. In practice, the variance is much larger than the mean. This is often referred to as "over dispersion" with respect to the Poisson distribution [17].

The number of accidents occurred in a day follow a Poisson distribution with parameter λ , and for a given independent variables (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) the probability of an event occurred is modeled

as:
$$p(y = k/x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}, \text{ where } k = 1, 2, 3.$$

Where the log of the mean occurrence (λ) is assumed to be a linear function of the independent variables. Which implies that λ is the

exponential function of independent variables:

$$p(y = k/x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) = e^{-a} \frac{a^k}{k!}, \text{ where } k = 1, 2, 3.$$

Result and Discussion

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics is used to compare and describe the magnitude of significantly associated factors using percentile. The result in Table S3 indicates that, explanatory variables which have significant association with number of human injure in road traffic accident are weather condition, driver's experience, Vehicle year of service; Road division, Driver Vehicle Ownership, and accident time (day or night).

As the result indicated in Table S3, most of the accident were occurred in road type asphalt 78.8% comparing to the accident occurred on sandy road (10%) and cobble road (11.2%). Higher accident were encountered by Small Vehicles (Minibus, Bajaj, taxi and Toyota) (43.75%), followed by auto track (27.5%), Wagon and related (12.5%), Motorbike (8.75%), and Buses (7.5%). Most of the accident were occurred at day (85%) than at night (15%); during coldest season (47.5%) than hot season (46.25%) and rainy season (6.25%).

Frequently, higher accident were occurred in one way road (55%) than two way road; straight road (50%) than curved (16.2%) & slopping (33.3%); on suitable/comfortable road (72.5%) than not suitable road (27.5%), this result is supported by previous studies [3, 7, & 16].

The influence of education on car accident indicated that, a diver educated preparatory school takes the largest portion (28.75%), followed by educated with secondary school (23.75), MSc (15%), elementary education (12.5%), BSc (10%), & basic education

(10%). The accident occurred by diver problem (56.2%) takes the larger proportion compared to technical problem (43.8%), this result is supported by previous studies [7 & 15]. Vehicle owner ship were also considered as a source of accident and it indicates that, employed diver takes the larger portion of accident (58.8%) than owners (41.2%).

Inferential Statistics

Poisson Regression is fitted for the full model and the reduced model by using only significantly associated explanatory variables (six variables). The result in Table S4 indicates that, even if the full model is significant, only two variables from 13 are significant. Whereas the result in Table 1 indicates that, from six significantly associated variables 3 variables (with one additional variable) have statistically significant causal effect on Vehicle accident.

Hence, fitting by using significantly associated 6 variables gave a better model comparing to the full model. As a result the Poisson model for Vehicle accident is as follow:

$$\text{Log}(\lambda) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 = 0.818 + 0.091 X_1 - 0.022 X_2 + 0.102 X_3$$

Where X_1 is Vehicle year of service, X_2 is driver experience, X_3 is road division.

Based on the fitted model above: The odds of number of vehicle accident for one year older vehicle is 1.095 times higher. So as a vehicle becoming older the accident will increase. Older vehicles are more likely to cause an accident comparing to a new one. The odds of number of vehicle accident for one more year experienced drivers is 0.022 times lower. Un-experienced drivers are more likely to cause an accident comparing to a experienced drivers. The odds of vehicle accident is higher for one directional road (1.107 times) as compared to odds of two directional road [18-24].

Table 1: Poisson Regression Model using significantly associated variable

| Parameter | B | Std. Error | 95% Wald Confidence Interval | | Hypothesis Test | | | Exp(B) | 95% Wald confidence Interval for Exp(B) | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|----|---------|--------|---|-------|
| | | | Lower | Upper | Wald Chi-Square | df | P-value | | Lower | Upper |
| Intercept | 0.818 | 0.3080 | 0.214 | 1.421 | 7.051 | 1 | 0.008 | 2.261 | 1.239 | 4.143 |
| Driver experience | -0.022 | 0.0321 | -0.085 | 0.041 | 0.481 | 1 | 0.047 | 0.978 | 0.919 | 1.042 |
| Weather condition = 0 | 0.016 | 0.2790 | -0.531 | 0.563 | 0.003 | 1 | 0.953 | 1.1016 | 0.588 | 1.756 |
| Weather condition =1 | -0.099 | 0.2727 | -0.634 | 0.435 | 0.132 | 1 | 0.716 | 0.906 | 0.531 | 1.545 |
| Weather condition=2 | 0 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Vehicle year of service | 0.091 | 0.0349 | 0.023 | 0.159 | 6.837 | 1 | 0.009 | 1.095 | 1.023 | 1.173 |
| Road division=0 | 0.102 | 0.1377 | -0.168 | 0.371 | 0.544 | 1 | 0.031 | 1.107 | 0.845 | 1.450 |
| Road division=1 | 0 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| light condition=0 | 0.108 | 0.1676 | -0.220 | 0.436 | 0.416 | 1 | 0.519 | 1.114 | 0.802 | 1.547 |
| Light condition=1 | 0 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Vehicle driver relation=0 | 0.058 | 0.1317 | -0.201 | 0.316 | 0.191 | 1 | 0.662 | 1.069 | 0.818 | 1.371 |
| Vehicle driver relation=1 | 0 | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Scale | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square | 9.761 | | | | | 7 | .003 | | | |
| Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square | 12.698 | | | | | 72 | 176 | | | |
| Pearson chi square | 12.227 | | | | | 72 | .170 | | | |

Conclusions

Among the candidate variables, Pearson Chi-Square method identified weather condition, driver’s experience, light condition, vehicle year of service, road division, and deriver-vehicle relationship as significantly associated variables. Furthermore, the percentile of associated variable indicated that, coldest season (47.5%), high year of driver’s experience, low Vehicle year of service, one way Road division (55%), employed diver (58.8%), and day accident time (85%) takes the larger portion of accident.

The result from Poisson regression reveals that driver experience, road division, and Vehicle year of service are the significantly causing factors which affect the number of human injuries. In order to reduce the number injury in Debre Markos Town, for effective and safe traffic management, the concerned transportation authorities can consider the above mentioned predictors as potential causes of

accidents in their order of importance in order to take preventive measures. Specifically, controlling new driver, removing old Vehicles, and controlling one way road (or building two-way road) can help to reduce human injuries Vehicle accidents.

Limitation

This study is a cross-sectional study which does not consider the spatial and temporal analysis of the accident so further study on this aspect is advisable.

Abbreviations

- RTA Road traffic accident
- WHO World Health Organization
- RTI Road traffic injuries
- GLM Generalized Linear Model

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The data is secondary data design for public use and report by Debre Markos town traffic police office, and any researcher can take and do a research. And formal ethical approval is not required.

Consent for Publication

Author proves consent of publication for this research.

Availability of data and material

All important data and material are available. It is a free access data any researcher can take and make a study for the improvement of public service.

Competing interests

The author declare no competing interests regarding this paper.

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Authors' contributions

The research is performed by Wubetie, H.T. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

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Appendix

Table S1: List of Variables

| No. | Variables | Codes |
|-----|--|--|
| 1 | Age of driver | Continuous |
| 2 | Driver educational background | 0=basic education, 1=elementary educa 2=secondary school, 3=preparatory sch 4=BSc, 5=MSc and above |
| 3 | Driver experience | continues |
| 4 | Type of vehicle | 0=buses, 1=mini buses, Taxi, Bajaj, and To 2=auto track, 3=motorbike, 4=wagon and oth |
| 5 | Light condition (Accident time day or night. | 1= day light, 0 = dark |
| 6 | Weather condition | 0 = cold, 1= sunny, 2 = rainy |
| 7 | Vehicles _driver relation | 1 = owner, 0 = employee |
| 8 | Vehicle's year of service | |
| 9 | Problem with car | 1= technique problem ,0= driver problem |
| 10 | Road Type | 0= sandy , 1=asphalt ,2= cobble |
| 11 | Location of road | 1=straight , 2=slopping, 0=curve |
| 12 | Road division | 0=one direction ,1= two direction |
| 13 | Condition of road | 1= suitable, 0= non suitable |

Table S2: Continuous Variable Information

| | | N | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation | Variance |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----|---------|---------|-------|----------------|----------|
| Dependent Variable | number of injuries per accident | 80 | 1 | 5 | 3.61 | 1.92 | 3.70 |
| Covariate | age of driver | 80 | 18 | 67 | 29.46 | 8.19 | 67.04 |
| | Driver experience | 80 | 0 | 9 | 3.02 | 1.99 | 3.968 |
| | Vehicle age (year of service) | 80 | 0 | 10 | 3.53 | 1.95 | 3.79 |

Table S3: Summary of Descriptive Statistics and Chi-square

| Variables | Categories | Frequency | Frequency (%) | Cumulative Percent | P-value (Pearson chi-square) |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Road Type | Sandy | 8 | 10 | 10 | 0.506 |
| | Asphalt | 63 | 78.8 | 88.8 | |
| | Cobble | 9 | 11.2 | 100 | |
| Type Of Vehicle | Buses | 6 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 0.841 |
| | Minibus, Bajaj, Taxi, and Toyota | 35 | 43.75 | 51.25 | |
| | Auto track | 22 | 27.5 | 78.75 | |
| | Motorbike | 7 | 8.75 | 87.5 | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----|-------|-------|---------|
| | Wagon and others | 10 | 12.5 | 100 | |
| Accident time | Dark or night | 12 | 15 | 15 | 0.006 |
| | Daylight | 68 | 85 | 100 | |
| Weather Condition | Cold | 38 | 47.5 | 47.5 | 0.023 |
| | Sunny | 37 | 46.25 | 93.75 | |
| | Rainy | 5 | 6.25 | 100 | |
| Road Division | One Direction Road | 44 | 55 | 55 | 0.019 |
| | Two Direction Road | 36 | 45 | 100 | |
| Location Of Road | Curve | 13 | 16.2 | 16.2 | 0.421 |
| | Straight Line | 40 | 50 | 66.2 | |
| | Slopping | 27 | 33.8 | 100 | |
| Condition Of Road | Not Suitable | 22 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 0.906 |
| | Suitable | 58 | 72.5 | 100 | |
| Educational Background Of Driver | Basic Education | 8 | 10 | 10 | 0.498 |
| | Elementary Education | 10 | 12.5 | 22.5 | |
| | Secondary School | 19 | 23.75 | 46.25 | |
| | Preparatory School | 23 | 28.75 | 75 | |
| | Bsc | 8 | 10 | 85 | |
| | Msc And Above | 12 | 15 | 100 | |
| Problem With Car | Driver Problem | 45 | 56.2 | 56.2 | 0.693 |
| | Technical Problem | 35 | 43.8 | 100 | |
| Driver Vehicle Ownership | Employee | 47 | 58.8 | 58.8 | 0.017 |
| | Owner | 33 | 41.2 | 100 | |
| Driver experience | | | | | 0.010 |
| Vehicle year of service | | | | | ≤ 0.001 |
| Age of driver | | | | | 0.621 |

Table S4: Parameter Estimates using all explanatory variables.

| Parameter | B | Std. Error | 95% Wald Confidence Interval | | Hypothesis Test | | | Exp(B) | 95% Wald Confidence Interval for Exp(B) | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|----|----------|--------|---|--------|
| | | | Lower | Upper | Wald Chi-Square | Df | P- value | | Lower | Upper |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intercept | .720 | .9026 | -1.049 | 2.489 | .636 | 1 | .425 | 2.054 | .350 | 12.049 |
| light_con=0 | .107 | .1935 | -.272 | .486 | .305 | 1 | .581 | 1.113 | .762 | 1.626 |
| light_con=1 | 0 | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| wea_con=0 | .099 | .3041 | -.497 | .695 | .105 | 1 | .746 | 1.104 | .608 | 2.003 |
| wea_con=1 | -.008 | .2884 | -.573 | .557 | .001 | 1 | .977 | .992 | .564 | 1.746 |
| wea_con=2 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|----|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| driver_relation=0 | .049 | .1421 | -.230 | .327 | .118 | 1 | .731 | 1.050 | .795 | 1.387 |
| driver_relation=1 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| road_division=0 | .117 | .1519 | -.181 | .414 | .590 | 1 | .443 | 1.124 | .834 | 1.514 |
| road_division=1 | 0 | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| driving_exp | -.021 | .0376 | -.095 | .052 | .326 | 1 | .018 | .979 | .909 | 1.054 |
| year_service | .091 | .0430 | .007 | .176 | 4.521 | 1 | .033 | 1.096 | 1.007 | 1.192 |
| type_vehcle=0 | .031 | .5531 | -1.053 | 1.115 | .003 | 1 | .956 | 1.031 | .349 | 3.049 |
| type_vehcle=1 | -.022 | .5393 | -1.079 | 1.034 | .002 | 1 | .967 | .978 | .340 | 2.814 |
| type_vehcle=2 | -.122 | .5601 | -1.219 | .976 | .047 | 1 | .828 | .886 | .295 | 2.655 |
| type_vehcle=3 | -.230 | .6743 | -1.551 | 1.092 | .116 | 1 | .734 | .795 | .212 | 2.980 |
| type_vehcle=4 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| pro_car=0 | -.068 | .1596 | -.381 | .245 | .182 | 1 | .670 | .934 | .683 | 1.277 |
| pro_car=1 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| road_type=0 | -.070 | .3037 | -.665 | .525 | .053 | 1 | .818 | .933 | .514 | 1.691 |
| road_type=1 | -.111 | .2566 | -.614 | .392 | .187 | 1 | .665 | .895 | .541 | 1.480 |
| road_type=2 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| condition_road=0 | .107 | .1771 | -.240 | .454 | .367 | 1 | .545 | 1.113 | .787 | 1.575 |
| condition_road=1 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| location_road=0 | .016 | .2111 | -.398 | .429 | .005 | 1 | .941 | 1.016 | .672 | 1.536 |
| location_road=1 | .074 | .1731 | -.266 | .413 | .181 | 1 | .671 | 1.076 | .767 | 1.511 |
| location_road=2 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| education=0 | -.154 | .6454 | -1.420 | 1.111 | .057 | 1 | .811 | .857 | .242 | 3.036 |
| education=1 | .081 | .5089 | -.917 | 1.078 | .025 | 1 | .874 | 1.084 | .400 | 2.940 |
| education=2 | .052 | .5137 | -.955 | 1.059 | .010 | 1 | .919 | 1.054 | .385 | 2.884 |
| education=3 | .206 | .5173 | -.808 | 1.220 | .158 | 1 | .691 | 1.228 | .446 | 3.386 |
| education=4 | 0 ^a | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . |
| Age | .001 | .0103 | -.019 | .021 | .007 | 1 | .935 | 1.001 | .981 | 1.021 |
| Scale | 1 ^b | | | | | | | | | |
| Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients | | | | | | | | | | |
| Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square | 12.36 | | | | | 22 | ≤ 0.001 | | | |
| Goodness of Fit | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deviance | 10.82 | | | | | 57 | .177 | | | |
| Pearson Chi-Square | 9.797 | | | | | 57 | .172 | | | |

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