

# **THE DETERMINANTS AND IMPACT OF ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**

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## **BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:**

RTA occupy the first position among accidents, which cause disability and death. In many countries motor vehicle accidents rank first among all fatal accidents. There are almost 8,85,000 death from RTA annually in the world. In Kerala more than 4000 people die every year due to RTA. The peak mortality and morbidity from RTA are seen in 25-35 age group of males. A large proportion of vehicles involved in accidents are two wheelers.

This preventable mishap is increasing day by day causing disabilities and death to working population in our country and making a lot of impact on the health care delivery system. From this study we want to know determinants and its impacts.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

1. To assess the various epidemiological factors related to road traffic accidents.
2. To assess the various types of injuries sustained due to RTA & its impact on the individual.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

Study design is case series descriptive study. Study population 242 in all RTA victims who reported to the casualty of surgery, orthopaedics, ENT and OMFS, Medical College, Trivandrum for a period from April, 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2007. Sampling technique purposive sampling. Data collection using semi structured interview and observation proforma.

## **RESULTS:**

Majority of the victims (31%) were in the age-group 26-35 years. Majority of accidents concentrated between 6pm to 8pm. 43% vehicles involved are 2 wheelers. For 40% of victims the time lag between accident and hospital care is 30 min. to 1 hr. 76% of victims is not getting first aid on time. 60% of RTA occurred under the influence of alcohol. 49% of victims have lack of concentration. 89% of accidents were found have occurred due to lack safety measures like helmet & seat belts.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Truly road traffic accidents can be prevented. Addressing ensures such as speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol. Promoting the use of safety measures, enforcing road safety regulations, improving the design of roads and improving emergency response services can prevent needless death and disabilities caused by road traffic accidents.

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