

Road Users' Avoidance of Safety Measures: Challenge on Road Safety: An Experience from Nepal

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Abstract

In recent years, Nepal has been progressing on road infrastructures along with adoption of safety measures for promoting safe road usage. However, the frequency of road accidents and fatalities remains high as per the records of the Traffic Police of Nepal. Road users often ignore safety measures such as overhead crossing bridge, zebra cross, lane markers, helmets and seat belts. Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal has an ongoing study on the barriers for using safety measures on road among road users, that will suggest the barriers on adoption of safety measures among road users and policy and practice recommendations for future interventions.

Background and Methodology

Nepal has high alarming records of road accidents resulting into 2500 deaths/year with 50 thousand plus minor and major injuries as recorded by the Traffic Police of Nepal. Minor accidents go unrecorded as people reconcile on the street. The Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT) has adopted National Road Safety Action Plan. The Traffic Police has been running few campaigns on different occasions and road safety campaigning organizations are also implementing awareness campaign and education as well as policy advocacy on road safety. Yet, there is little progress.

Therefore Swatantrata Abhiyan attempted a study on understanding barriers on road discipline mainly among pedestrians to understand their perspectives and problems on following safe road usage.

The study adopted a mixed methodology with administration of semi-structured questionnaires among 200 road users in major junctions, interview with traffic officials and review of previous studies.

As the study is under the process the findings can be finally shared by end of July 2016.