



Automobile Trips to School and Safety Perspectives of Unplanned Lokoja Metropolis in North Central Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Many studies on transport research did not consider the consequences of high reliance on automobile trip to schools which frequently resulted to road traffic crashes, traffic delay, and late arrival to school, injuries and sometimes death of victims especially students. As a result this research examines the consequences of automobile trip to school among secondary school students in Lokoja metropolis. It aims to investigate the safety of the use of automobile in an unplanned city like Lokoja, with the specific objectives of ascertaining the number of pupils who embark on different automobile trips; the safety measures, and the casualty cases. Three hundred students were selected for questionnaire administration across six selected secondary schools in the city. Data on students' road traffic crashes were obtained from archives. Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed for analyses. Findings reveal that more than 70% of students rely on automobile to travel to schools. Car trips to schools were more among students of private secondary schools. Students in private secondary schools rely more on the use of a school bus. It was also discovered that students were involved more in traffic crashes along major roads. The study concludes on the use of school bus by students instead of relying on private cars.

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1. Introduction

Within the last two decades the number of registered vehicles in Nigeria has increased tremendously from 349, 417 in 1999 to 13, 214, 019 in the year 2017. Motor vehicles increased from 222, 507 to 7, 928, 132 for the same period, while motorcycles increased from 126, 910 to 5, 285, 887 (Federal Road Safety Corps, 2017). According to reports in the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (2017), an approximately 4,656,725 vehicles are owned by individuals for their day to day transaction, while 6,749,461 vehicles are registered as public

transport services for both passengers and freight transport services in the country. The data suggests that the total number of Nigeria's vehicle per person is 0.06.

This can be interpreted as very low compared to what is obtainable in some of the developed countries of the world where more than 0.70 vehicles are accessible for every person in Finland,

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