

Road Safety Knowledge and Associated Factors Among Commercial Motorcycle Drivers in Tanga City, Tanzania

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Keywords: Motorcyclists, Road traffic injuries, Road accidents

Background

The rapid growth of motorcycle uses in low- and middle-income countries has contributed to a rising burden of road traffic injuries and deaths. In Tanzania, the World Health Organization estimates a road traffic mortality rate of 29 per 100,000 population, with nearly half of these fatalities involving motorcyclists. Commercial motorcycle drivers (CMDs) are increasingly vulnerable, yet little is known about their knowledge and practices regarding road safety.

Aim

This study assessed the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and compliance with road safety rules among CMDs in Tanga City, Tanzania, and identified associated factors.

Methods

A cross-sectional mixed-methods study was conducted with 370 CMDs across 40 registered parking sites. Quantitative surveys measured knowledge and compliance, while two focus group discussions (8–12 participants each) and one in-depth interview with a traffic police officer explored perceptions, attitudes, and practices.

Results

Higher education and urban parking locations were strong predictors of road safety knowledge. CMDs with at least secondary education were 2.5 times more likely to demonstrate higher knowledge compared to those with only primary education, and those parking in urban areas were three times more likely to have higher knowledge than rural counterparts. Qualitative findings revealed that most CMDs entered the profession for income rather than career choice, often lacked formal training, and commonly operated without valid licenses. A strained relationship with traffic police further hindered compliance with safety regulations.

Conclusions

Education level and workplace setting significantly influence CMDs' road safety knowledge. The absence of formal training and poor driver–police relations present additional barriers to safe road use.

Recommendations

Integrating road safety education into school curricula, expanding affordable and accessible training for motorcyclists, and fostering constructive engagement between police and drivers are essential strategies for reducing motorcycle-related road traffic injuries in Tanzania.