

A Study on Injury Patterns of Motorcyclists Met with Traffic Accidents

K. K. N. Fernando, S. R. Hulathduwa and C. A. D. Nahallage

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

sanjayarh@yahoo.co.uk

Injuries following road traffic accidents (*RTA*) are recognized as a man-made health hazard across the globe. This is also the common knowledge of any surgeon working in any busy hospital.

The general objective of this study was to identify the injury patterns and demographic characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and educational level of motor-bike victims of *RTAs*. As specific objectives, the injury types, subtypes, commonly affected body parts, the outcome of injuries, the level of medical interventions needed, the category of hurt, the causative, contributing and predisposing factors for accidents have been studied in depth. The study was carried out at the Accident Service Unit of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital-Kalubowila for a period of six months using 100 motorcyclists. The ethical clearance was granted by the Ethical Review Committee of the Medical Faculty. A researcher administered structured interview was held with each participant. Medical data were obtained from the Bed Head Ticket (*BHT*) of the patients.

Some major findings of the study: Mostly affected age group was 21-40yrs (86%). Males were mostly affected (94%). Most accidents occurred on week days and during day time. Most common side of collision was frontal (head-on). Fractures were the commonest type of injuries (79%) followed by abrasions (76%), contusions (56%) and lacerations (10%). Head injuries were encountered by 35% of victims. It was claimed that helmets were worn by 95%. The lower limbs were the most commonly affected body part (41%). Most victims needed fracture management (79%), wound toileting (76%) and suturing (10%). Only 04% needed critical surgical interventions. Over-speeding (33%), overtaking from wrong side (18%), careless disobedience to road rules were the commonly accepted triggers. Consumption of alcohol was a contributory factor in a minority.

Key words: *Traffic injuries, Motorcyclists, Accidents, Casualties, Head injuries*