

Influence of the implementation of new traffic rules in reducing of road accidents in Kenya: a case of Nyeri Central District

Abstract:

Kenya has not been an exception when it comes to road traffic accidents. Each year is characterized by an increase in road traffic accidents, which have claimed lives of citizens who constitute the economic manpower of the country. The main objective of the study is to carry out analysis of the new traffic rules for Kenya in order to understand its implications in Nyeri Central district. The study attempted to identify the major causes of traffic accidents in the area. The findings of the study were submitted to the Ministry of transport and communication and may form basis for more policy development on road safety in this country. Traffic police got feedback in the success of the implementation of the new traffic rules. Data from matatu stake holders was analyzed and any information deemed helpful in tackling traffic offences submitted to traffic department for necessary action. In addition the research will contributed to the information bank for the V.O.N and will be useful to student carrying out research on the public service sector the research designs used is descriptive survey. The designs will supplement and complement each other. Descriptive survey is a method of collecting information by interviewing or administering a questionnaire to a sample of individual. It can be used when collecting information about people's attitude, opinions, habits or any of the variety of education or social issues. According to Baumgartner, descriptive research attempts to gather information from groups of subject in order to describe systematically, factually, and accurately specific characteristics of interest on conditions that presently exists. It utilizes wide methodologies to collect data. Surveys, interviews, direct measurement and observation techniques being the most prevalent. The study used three primary methods of data collection viz self administered questionnaire, interviews and focus group discussions. Questionnaires were used as the main instrument for primary data collection. Both open ended and closed ended questionnaires were administered to the matatu operators. These tools were delivered to the respondents by the researcher and also where applicable through telephone communication. Focus group discussion was formed and comprised a group of at least five and not more than ten respondents. This size will ensure that all members participated and that all topics were covered. SPSS was used to analyze data. The research revealed that vehicles have complied with the new traffic rules, all in all accidents involving PSV vehicles and small vehicles continue to increase. It further reveals that switches have been installed in most vehicles with an intention of disabling speed governors. The study recommended a further research to be undertaken to establish the reasons for tampering with speed governors and why accidents involving small vehicles has increased.