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INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

(INDIVIDUAL CASE STUDY: ROAD ACCIDENTS)

NAME: CHANG MIN XUAN

MATRIC NO: A20EC0024

FACULTY: FACULTY ENGINEERING

SCHOOL: SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

SUBMITTED TO: DR. MARLINA ALI

Road Accidents

In these day and age, road accidents have become a hot topic of conversation discussion among people from all walks of life. Everyone wish they would never ever be involved in road accidents as the consequences of road accidents are indeed severe. It brings along injuries, or even worse, emotional impact and also cause death. However, the occurrence of road accidents have been on the increase day by day and seems like eternity. It involves many people regardless of age, gender and race. According to the research carried out (Milton Lum, 2019), Malaysia is just located behind Thailand and Vietnam for highest fatality rate on road accidents. It is undeniable that the growing cases of road accidents are concerned by most of the citizens and the government have taken the appropriate measures to overcome and reduce the cases of road accidents. For instance, the government has enforced the law for people who break the traffic rules, increased fines, fixed a lot of cameras at roadsides, repaired the bad road condition frequently, just to name a few. Nevertheless, the executed ways are not effective as expected to control the amount of cases of road accidents to be happened. All of us clearly know that there was no smoke without fire. Hence, these cases of road accidents must be caused by some major and dominant factors. After doing some researches, some factors which will lead to road accidents have been found out and listed down below.

As a starter for today's topic of discussion, road accidents are commonly caused by drivers falling asleep. As reported by drivers, falling asleep while driving vehicles is the factor causing road accidents which contribute 3.9% of all accidents. According to the analyzed results, more male (10%) have tendency to involve in drowsiness while driving their vehicles compared to female, which have only 4%. This is probably due to the reason that males are generally and commonly driving vehicles compared to female (Sagberg, F, 1999). For example, road accidents may occur when it is nighttime, right after they have completing their whole day work or after drivers have drove for a long journey. As a result, they have not enough time to rest and most of them are heading their way back home in a hurry. Things become worse while drivers are unwilling to stop driving despite they feel sleepy. Moreover, the other contributing factor to road accident is poor maintenance of vehicles and road conditions. Drivers are lack of awareness of always

checking up their vehicles and ensure them in good condition with the vehicles' brakes are functioned properly. Road condition which is poorly maintained results in road accidents as drivers could not be able to view clearly because the junctions are not lit well and the signboards and pedestrian crossings are faded.

On top of that, the next factor which cause road accident is drugs and alcohols. Young drivers are more likely to have alcohols and drugs and they still drive their car after drinking alcohols. Hence, they are actually blurred and dazed while driving until the accidents happened. Next, excessive speed is another contributing factor. Drivers are driving too fast and do not keep their speed limit because they just want to arrive their destinations as fast as possible. In fact, they do not aware of they are putting themselves and the other people's live in danger. An accident case, which was caused by exceeding speed limit, was happened in Bentong, Pahang in the year of 1973. Luckily, no one was hurt in that accident but the vehicle had badly destroyed. This had clearly shown that the accident case happened was so severe. However, "not every people are as lucky as I was", said by the author. "The accident happened may rob away their parents, resulting them to become an orphan" (Fauziah Ismail, 2017). That is what a tragedy. Additionally, road accident is also caused by inexperienced drivers. Drivers who are not experienced would easily to be panicked and nervous. They are not ready to handle the emergency situations that may be happened on roads and that is the reason why road accidents may happen.

Apart from that, the cause of road accident is distractions. Drivers are easily distracted by the others instead of focusing on driving. For example, the reckless driver may chit-chat with others, checking on their hand phones while driving, listening to loud music and so on. They are unable to concentrate and focus while driving. There are 138 people killed in road accidents within 9 days in Malaysia during Chinese New Year travel rush. In this case, 233454 were summoned while 146008 were offend for breaking the rules (Datuk Azisman Alias). Besides, medical condition causes road accidents. The bad health condition of drivers are unsafe to drive their vehicles as accidents may occur in sudden. Physical and mental condition of drivers must always take into consideration to ensure safe driving and prevent road accidents. Furthermore, poor eyesight, especially the elders, is the reason for causing road accidents as well. Most of the people

nowadays are having eyesight problem. It is okay if they have corrected it by wearing spectacles but for them who are not, it may be dangerous if they are driving on the roads. This is because they could not view the road condition properly and they may crash easily.

As such, the effective ways should be taken to overcome the issue of road accidents. The authorities should nip into the bud to overcome these situations. To further illustrate on this point, every drivers need to ensure their vehicles are well-maintained. The necessary safety provision like airbags have to be provided. The brakes should always well functioned with the tyres do not worn out to reduce accidents. By doing so, these can allow drivers to brake their vehicles quickly and avoid the vehicles to skid easily while on the roads especially in rainy days. In addition, it is important to make sure that all the vehicles have seat belts provided because the severity of accident's injury can be determined by whether a person using seat belt or not. Based on the study, 12.92% of people involve in severe fatal and injury as they do not use seat belt. It goes without saying that other than seat belts, the fatality and injury in accidents have also include the other variables, like distractions and road conditions. These conditions may aggravate the injuries if accidents occur. Both of these variables have quite high probabilities which lead to fatal injuries, that is 7.04% and 5.53% respectively. Thus, the study has clearly shown the importance of seat belts to reduce the risk of fatal injuries in accidents.

On the other hand, conditions of road have to maintain well as well. If poor maintenance of vehicles will result in road accidents, then the bad road conditions may be the next culprit. The related authorities should put some safety signboards as a reminder to the drivers so that they could always be careful while driving their vehicles. Not only the markings on the roads have to be seen clearly as always, but also make sure that the footpaths are provided properly for pedestrians. The tall trees which can block drivers' sight must to be cut down to ensure all the drivers have a clearly view on the roads whereas the roads which have a lot of potholes must be repaired quickly as the potholes may collect rain water and accidents may occur when drivers could not see the potholes clearly and drive through them. Besides, the human factor play a significant role in the issue of road accidents. This is in light of the fact that human decide to place themselves in such a dangerous situations when they drive recklessly and are easily distracted. Just like what have been said by former prime minister, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in 2006, "If car can be fixed, poor

road condition can be repaired, for sure human attitudes can be corrected.” Hence, all the drivers have to bid to the rules and regulations by not breaking the rules with drive after drinking alcohols, exceed the speed limits and so on. They have to be properly trained and possess a valid driving license. Moreover, drivers have to do medical checkup periodically and make sure that they have no problems in vision and hearing. It is obvious that the government also play a crucial role to enforce strict traffic rules to control the road accident cases. They also ought to raise an awareness campaign about road safety to educate the drivers. It is true that rules for every road users compulsory to wear helmets or seat belts must be implemented.

In a nutshell, from the researches regarding this topic, all of us have the responsibilities in reducing the cases of road accidents. As the saying goes, it takes two to make a quarrel. Accordingly, we have to work hand in hand to overcome this issue instead of blaming each other. If everyone could drive carefully and bid to the rules, I believe these accident cases will go down day by day. As the maxim flows, it is better safe than sorry. It is recommended that all the drivers must drive carefully, be tolerant and always keep a good mood while driving vehicles. They should prevent themselves from puzzled, panicked and angry because when they are not in the mood, the risk of having road accidents may increase. Always keep in mind, do not regret only after the tragedy happens as it is pointless to cry over a split milk.

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