

An exploration of holistic road safety model to prevent pedestrian fatalities in the Limpopo Province of South Africa

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Abstract

This paper explores a holistic road safety model to prevent pedestrian fatalities in Limpopo Province. The inability of both pedestrians and motorists to understand and interpret the rules of the road is a major problem in the Limpopo Province. The study utilised quantitative approach. The sample consisted of 195 respondents. Comprises of 15 civil engineering companies, 23 civil society organisations, 52 community members, 51 teachers and 54 traffic police officials. The findings from the study revealed among many others, that 65.6% of the respondents in the study agreed or strongly agreed that road safety education could prevent pedestrian fatalities; 72% of the respondents agreed to strongly agree that road construction engineering could prevent pedestrian fatalities; 64% of the study respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that empowerment could prevent pedestrian fatalities in Limpopo Province. 62.9% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that enforcement was not emphasized at provincial level in preventing pedestrian fatalities. Firstly, department of education and transport need to work together to formulate road safety curriculum from grade R to 12 to educate learners from young age about the importance of road safety. Secondly, enforcement interventions should focus on traffic measures that promote road user's adherence to traffic regulations such as regulating driver behaviour and the monitoring of pedestrian behaviour to counteract pedestrian fatalities. Furthermore, separating pedestrians from cars, enhancing visibility at night, and reducing motorised speeds will assist in reducing pedestrian fatalities. Also, there is a need for road infrastructure improvements which include the separation of different types of traffic, better road markings and road signs.

Keywords: Holistic, road safety, prevention, pedestrian, fatality, and Limpopo Province.

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European Journal of Economics, Law and Social Sciences ISSN 2519-1284 (print) ISSN 2510-0429 (online)

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