

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS

Road traffic accidents are major social and health problem in Sri Lanka. On the other hand apart from the humanitarian aspects of road safety, road accidents are responsible for a loss of scarce resources that developing countries in particular can hard afford. These costs include hospital and medical resources, loss of production and the need to import vehicles and spare parts damaged in accidents etc. However after an accident a victim and family suffered by numerous difficulties and it affect society and the entire country very badly.

Since the pedestrians are the worst affected category of road users in this study area, it is very desirable to undertaken remedial measures to improve the safety of pedestrians. Not only the pedestrians but also the other vulnerable road users such as cyclists and motorcyclists which were faced high percentage of fatal and grievous accidents.

According to the police reports and available data, these accidents are caused mainly due to excessive speed of motor vehicles and the negligence of the road users. Another point indicated by data is that the shared negligence is a main cause for the fatal and grievous accidents. It shows the lack of awareness of all road users and time to take steps for a broader awareness campaign.

Analysis revealed that only 28% of victims who met grievous injuries get any amount of compensation. Victims who suffered by the severe injuries are not satisfied with amount of compensation that they received and the time duration taken to grant compensation.

Nearly 30% of grievous accident victims get the compensation within one month period after the road traffic accident. Over 35% of grievous accident victims get the compensation within one month to six months period after the road traffic accident.

Further analysis was carried out to identify amount of compensation received by the victims. It was revealed 38% of road traffic accident victims suffered by severe injuries get compensation below Rs.10,000/- and 61% of road traffic accident victim suffered by severe injuries get compensation between Rs.10,000/- to Rs.50,000/- only 1% victims suffering from severe injuries compensated more than Rs.50,000/- and no one get a compensation more than Rs.10,000/-.

According to the analysis only 12% grievous accident victims satisfied with the amount of compensation that they received. Only 35% victims satisfied with the time duration taken to get compensation while 65% road traffic accident victims were not satisfied.

The analysis indicated the trend for mutual settlements increasing while the settlement at police station or magistrate court dramatically decreasing. It seems that the victims' attitude on settlements and their decreasing interest to involve to the legal process to solve their matters or to obtain compensation. Most of victims believed it is a waste of time and energy to make a compensation claim due to current system for compensation for road traffic accidents in Sri Lanka.

The government has to take steps to introduce a new faster claim process for the people injured by the road traffic accidents. It was observed that a predetermined compensation guide needs to be introduced to speed up the process of compensation for road traffic accidents victims. The Motor Traffic Act should clearly stipulate a reasonable and fair compensation for victims.

Also a separate court or a tribunal should be introduced to implement a new broader compensation system for the road traffic accident victims like office of the Commissioner for the Workmen's Compensation in Sri Lanka. It is very useful to eliminate the delays in Magistrate courts and civil courts. Provision of free or affordable legal aid to assist the poor victims is very important in making such claims and for counseling and rehabilitation in the case of the severely injured.