

## **Safety and convenience of school van service in Kandy**

Traffic problems are very much common in Sri Lankan cities. Development of road infrastructure alone cannot solve this problem and development should support by a proper traffic management system. Kandy is an early-developed city, which contain both geographical, and cultural restrictions for development. Kandy city traffic can be mainly divided into two, as school traffic and office traffic. Both above categories present in the morning. School van service is one of the major parts of school traffic and in this analysis we attempted to identify the nature of school vans as service and as problems, while trying to introduce an organizational structure for it.

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Data were collected from the selected schools in Kandy city in order to analyse the dimensions of school van service. Around 27% of the school children travel by school vans. In primary level this was around 35%. School van holds the responsibility and the assurance about the children than all the other school transport services.

External quadrant traffic survey in Kandy gave that the 14% of the vehicles are school vans between 06.00 a.m and 08.10 a.m This percentage is around 28% between 07.00 a.m and 07.10 a.m According to the count more than 1000 school vans are entering every day to the city. These vehicles are parked in secondary roads in Kandy especially in Wales Park road, Luvi Peris Mawatha, Lake-Round and Sudharmarama Road. Normally these vans are occupying more than 2.5 km of secondary roads and 450 vehicles were counted in main parking places. Service quality of school van service is also poor. Nearly 33% of school vans are over crowded. About 9% of school van users are not satisfied about the vehicle condition or the driving. In the point of view of traffic management, still there is no any control structure governing on the school van service. As suggestions for the traffic management in Kandy school vans should be included to public transport service, giving them proper recognition and proper route. Also, Kandy city should be divided into the several zones and restrict school vans into particular zones. Fig 1 shows the proposed zoning system for regulating school vans. Vehicles have to be fully insured to use for school service. Maximum number of passengers has to be registered.