

### Road traffic accident cost index for Sri Lanka

Numbers of road traffic accidents reporting to Police Stations are increasing year after year. However, there are no records about a proper evaluation of economic losses due to Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) in Sri Lanka. Therefore, this project attempted to gather some economic details related to RTA. There are various methods available for costing RTA, but the method currently recommended for use in the developing countries is the Gross Output Method. This method takes into account the factors such as cost for medical treatment, cost for damage to vehicles, police and administrative cost, cost for loss of future outputs.

Cost for medical treatment was calculated based on the data collected from Kandy General hospital in Year 2000. According to the collected data, percentage of RTA patients warded in Kandy hospital over other patients was 1.23% and cost per RTA patient was Rs 4587.20

Cost for damaged vehicles was calculated based on the data collected from Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation, Kandy Branch. According to the information collected, average cost for a damaged vehicle is as follows:

Three wheeler = Rs.23, 286.86

Petrol car = Rs.25, 326.64

Diesel car = Rs.26, 641.03

Dual purpose vehicle = Rs.19, 886.41

Bus = Rs.33, 028.80

Lorry = Rs.31, 303.55

Traffic branches of police station and courts have to bear additional costs due to RTA. According to the information gathered from Kandy police station and court, cost per RTA in police is Rs 230.00 and cost per RTA in court is Rs 3135.00.

Loss of output due to accidents was calculated based on number of days warded in hospital and daily wage rate of Rs 840.00. It counted for 2.92 days and economic loss calculated was Rs 2455.80.

From the results gathered, total cost for an individual accident could be calculated. Most of the calculations are under estimated and approximated values due to restriction in data access and non-availability of data. For a complete study cost for death, cost for outpatients, details of vehicle damage from garages should be considered.