

Accidents and Level of Intelligence: A View from the Nigerian Experience

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ABSTRACT The driver's ability to assess risk and make sound judgement and his behaviour on the road is a function of his level of intelligence. This level of intelligence is not necessarily academic but emotional. To determine the factors that contribute to accidents on the road, questionnaires were administered to over 500 respondents and a regression analysis was carried out using data gathered. It was discovered that a driver's level of academic education and his/her income level does not have any significant impact on the likelihood of an accident occurring but rather it is his/her sex, alcohol, mechanical faults, weather and road condition. Driver's behaviour on the road it was discovered is not a function of level of formal education but is significantly affected by the level of driver training undergone prior to obtaining drivers licence. Driver training must therefore be done regardless of levels of academic education but mindful of sex and emotional maturity of learner drivers.