

MULTIPLE TICKETING AS A PREDICTOR OF TRAFFIC VIOLATION AMONG COMMERCIAL MOTORISTS IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

There has been a growing concern about traffic violations among commercial transport operators in Nigeria. Although, studies in the past have implicated several factors in traffic behaviors. The present paper highlights the role of multiple ticketing in traffic violations among commercial motorists in Enugu state, Nigeria. One hundred and seventeen participants conveniently selected from different transportation hubs in Enugu urban responded to the study questionnaire. A cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study. Data from the respondents were subjected to the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS, v17). A simple regression analysis was conducted to test the assumption that multiple ticketing will predict traffic violations among commercial motorists in Enugu State. The study revealed that multiple ticketing positively predicted traffic violation $F(1,115), 36.71, P < .000$. Notably, the R^2 indicated that the independent variable contributed about 14.2% of the variation in traffic violations among the samples. The findings and recommendations are discussed.

Keywords: *commercial motorists, multiple ticketing, traffic violation*

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, Nigeria has assumed the most populous nation in the African continent (Adewoyin, 2015; Baker et al., 2020; Maina, 2019; Nwoye et al., 2019; Olayiwola et al., 2020) and seventh in the world (Giwa et al., 2017; Nwekwo, 2015). Accordingly, the country occupies a vast landmass with an extensive road network connecting every state. There is a common intimation that Nigerians are travelers. However, the deterioration in rail transportation (Ademiluyi & Dina, 2011) and the expensive airfares have created an enormous dependency on road transport. Thus, making road transport the primary means of transportation (Akomolafe et al., 2009; Kuye et al., 2017; Mayomi et al., 2014; Odeku, 2020; Ogunbodede, 2008; Olusina & Ajanaku, 2017; Sodeinde et al., 2020; Usman, 2014), leading to the increased vehicular traffic across all regions of the country.

Nevertheless, the immense patronage of road transportation has increased the activities in the sector and has contributed significantly to the increased road accidents in the country. Regrettably, the deplorable road networks have made it difficult for motor vehicle usage (Odeku, 2020). Indeed, research points to road transport as the leading cause of mortality and morbidity (Chukwubuike, 2021; Edomwonyi & Enoma, 2018; Eke et al., 2000; Elachi et al., 2015; Mac et al., 2019; Nzegwu et al., 2008; Ogunyemi et al., 2021; Onyemaechi et al., 2020; Oyetubo et al., 2018; Venkatraman et al., 2020). The trend institutes a substantial public health problem and economic loss. Perhaps, the incidence of road traffic accidents describes the non-compliance with traffic regulations.

Traffic safety is the most public health determinant relative to transportation (Rojas-Rueda, 2020). It refers to the stipulated measures to mitigate traffic crashes by influencing road users' attitudes and behavior. In Nigeria, typical road users include all persons that use the road for various purposes. Traffic safety attempts to regulate motorists' driving patterns and responses to the driving environment in road transportation. Traffic safety rules such as speed limits, road signs, and other regulations are critical in driving and should be observed. Traffic safety laws are primarily designed to avert risky driving behavior by making it illegitimate to engage in these behaviors (Eby, 2004). Nonetheless, poor traffic safety has long been recognized as a detriment to individual and public health (Singleton et al., 2020).

Extensive literature around the world has attributed the cause of traffic crashes to human error, comprising over speeding, non-use of seat belts, use of mobile phones while driving, road rage, drunk driving, and traffic violation (Agarwal et al., 2020; Amedorme & Nsoh, 2016; Dash et al., 2020; Dawson et al., 2018; Khan & Lee, 2019; Moran et al., 2010; Mphela, 2020; Muhammad et al., 2017; Poudel et al., 2021). These perceived causes of road traffic accidents can be attributed to an individual's attitude toward traffic safety.

Multiple ticketing and traffic violation

There is currently an increase in commercial motorists in many parts of the country, including the Enugu state. Indeed, the transportation sector has contributed positively to the ease of commuting in Nigeria. However, there is a growing concern about the attitudes of commercial motorists towards traffic safety. Commercial motorists in this paper entail the driving activities of mini-bus, tricycles, and taxi drivers. In other words, the study focused on the activities of the commercial transporters in Enugu urban cities. Observation of the activities of these motorists shows that they consistently disregard traffic procedures to the detriment of other road users. Enugu state is among the states in Nigeria with a large concentration of commercial transport activities. Especially in the urban centers. Thus, driving in the city centers is usually constrained by the driving irregularities of the commercial motorist. It is common knowledge that commercial drivers on Nigerian roads habitually indulge in overloading, over-speeding, route violation, wrongful overtaking, indiscriminate parking, tailgating road rages using rickety vehicles, driving with worn-out tires, and lacking safety equipment, among other traffic offenses.

Of their arrogance and non-compliance to traffic rules, many people believe that the traffic behaviors of most commercial motorists are influenced by substances such as alcohol and hard drugs (Arthur, 2015). Accordingly, Emenike and Akpu (2017) stressed that motorists violate traffic rules to save time and fuel. Okenwa et al. (2019) attributed traffic violations among motorists in Enugu state to the inability to recognize road signs. However, multiple ticketing is an essential component of the commercial transport sector that has not received much research attention relative to a traffic violation. Over the years, the commercial motorist in every part of Nigeria has been confronted with numerous taxations by various agencies, including the National Union of Road Transport Union, local and state governments, and other individuals without portfolios. These bodies issue tickets to commercial drivers on a different basis, including daily tickets, trip tickets, bus-stop tickets, etc. Mostly, commercial drivers are on rented services and have to meet up with their everyday accounts. Thus, taxing from the different agents (NURTW, governments, touts, police, etc.) increases their expenses and gears up the intention to cover up. Time urgency instigates rushing, creating the pathway to traffic violations. Thus, the present paper aims to explore traffic violations among commercial motorists in Enugu state based on multiple ticketing.

Hypothesis: *Multiple ticketing would predict traffic violations among commercial motorists in Enugu State.*

Method

The target population for the study was commercial transporters in Enugu State, Nigeria. The participants included males between the ages of 20 and 45 years with about one year of driving experience. One hundred and thirty-seven males comprising interstate and intrastate bus drivers and tricycle riders from the different garages, including repair workshops in the Enugu State of Nigeria, were approached between February and April 2022 and asked to participate in the survey. In all, 126 out of the 137 approached consented to participate in the study. Thus, the study instrument was given to them to complete on the spot. However, only (117) copies of the questionnaire administered were completed correctly and collected immediately. The remaining (9) copies were rejected due to improper completion.

Data collection

Traffic violations

A pre-tested and validated structured questionnaire was administered to consenting participants by trained research assistants who had experience in such studies. The questionnaire was designed to evaluate the number of daily tickets, the overall perception of daily ticketing, and the driver's justification for traffic violations. The 15-items scale was rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale (1 = Never, 5 = Always). A higher score on this scale indicates a link between multiple ticketing and traffic violations. The instrument was validated following a pilot. A Cronbach's alpha coefficient indicated an acceptable level of internal consistency reliability of the questionnaire, which exceeded the cutoff rules-of-the thumb of .70.

Result

A cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study. Data from the respondents were subjected to the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS, v17). A simple regression analysis was conducted to test the assumption that multiple ticketing will predict traffic violations among commercial motorists in Enugu State. The study revealed that the independent variable positively predicted traffic violation $F(1,115), 36.71, P<.000$. An observation of the R^2 suggested that multiple ticketing as a factor explained about 14.2% of the variation in traffic violations among the commercial motorists in Enugu state.

Table 1:

Table showing the outcome of the multiple regression analysis conducted to determine the effect of multiple ticketing on traffic violations.

	B	SEB	β	t	Sig
Constant	2.89	.036		56.69	.000
MT	-.78	.047	-.79	-16.76	.000
R^2	142				

Note. MT = Multiple ticketing; B = Unstandardized regression coefficient; SEB = Standardized error of the coefficient; β = Standardized coefficient; R^2 = Coefficient of determination. * $P<.000$.

Discussion

The present paper examined multiple ticketing as a previously unexplored variable that might explain the differences in traffic violations among commercial motorists in Enugu state, Nigeria. One hundred and seventeen commercial drivers responded to the study questionnaire. The simple regression analysis conducted on the data established a positive interaction between multiple ticketing and traffic violations. In addition, the finding reveals that multiple ticketing accounted for 14.2% of the variation in traffic violations among the respondents. Thus, the result affirms the hypothesis that multiple ticketing will predict traffic violations among commercial motorists in Enugu state. The current finding indicates that the imposition of numerous taxes by the different agencies instigates a kind of self-justification strategy that propels the drivers to engage in maladaptive driving behaviors. Therefore, the finding suggests that these self-exonerating strategies favor the instilment and maintenance of habitual deviant behaviors on the road.

Conclusion

This study investigated the factor contributing to the massive disobedience of traffic rules among commercial motorists in Enugu state. The finding revealed that multiple ticketing statistically significantly predicted traffic violations among commercial drivers. Therefore, it is concluded that multiple ticketing is an essential determinant of traffic-related violations among drivers. Although, the mechanism through which the independent variables influenced commercial drivers' traffic behaviors is subject to further clarifications. However, the current study provided relevant data capable of strengthening the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) 's activities and other transport regulators to alleviate traffic violations and accidents in Nigeria. Also, the result contributes to the road traffic literature by identifying multiple ticketing as a determinant of traffic behavior. Notably, the present finding is fraught with challenges that impede the generalization of the result. For instance, the study failed to establish a cause-effect relationship, and the sampling method constituted a generalization concern. Future research should employ an experimental approach to determine the causative factors in the relationship between multiple ticketing and traffic violations. Also, researchers should use a comprehensive sampling method to increase the generalization of outcomes. Still, the study recommends that commercial motorists be exposed to campaigns that clarify motivational boundaries.

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