Road Accidents and Delays in USF

Organizations and institutions are currently facing a lot of problems. In every workplace, there are issues and challenges erupting now and then. Some of the challenges require quick attention while others are manageable and there is nothing much that can be done (Rahman, Adnan & Hamid, 2017). Most of the problems in the workplace have solutions that can be implemented to solve the issue. UAF Campus is facing various problems that need quick attention. This paper seeks to explain one of the major problems that USF is facing and how it's affecting the working environment.

**Background**

USF is a big campus that holds a large population of both students and staff. Movement within the campus is a bit flexible and most people especially the daily commuters they use personal cars to facilitate their movements (Zainal, Borhan&Yaakub, 2019). Within the institution, the movement from one hall or office to another is around 15 minutes and most people use bicycles or they walk. A plague of the road of road accidents within the campus has haunted the institution for a long time.

Research shows that USF is the leading campus with a lot of bicycle and pedestrian accidents. According to a police report USF has twelve accidents happening within the school premises within the first week of a semester. The accidents are increasing every day especially accidents that are involving pedestrians and vehicles. Most of the pedestrians involved in such accidents are students.

**Explanation of the accidents and delays**

Pedestrians, in this case, includes the cyclists and the skaters who as well have been involved in accidents because they are traveling faster than a person who is walking. The people most affected by the accidents are students who end up losing their lives, acquiring some disabilities or missing school while seeking medical attention (Rahman, Adnan & Hamid, 2017). The campus has some busy intersections where both vehicles and pedestrians have to use the same road. Most of the accidents that have been reported have happened within these intersections.

There have also been delays in traffic within the campus. The traffic police are on watch out every time to reduce the delays and identify the causes of the delays. These delays affect people's schedules and cause lateness (Zainal, Borhan&Yaakub, 2019). In some cases the use of personal vehicles it's unavoidable because some of the staff and students commute from quite a distance. It so happens that the nonresidents are more than the residents.

It’s a very awful occurrence when one gets to the campus premises on time only to be delayed by the checking officer at the entrance or an accident that just happened. Students find it hard getting to class on time because of the traffic delays especially at the busy road intersections of the campus. Considering all the factors accidents have been the main causes of delays on the campus roads as well us checkups at the entrance.

**Causes of accidents and delays.**

On the streets of Tampa Campus within the University of South Florida, most of the students can’t get enough of their phones. Most of the accidents involving the students are caused by the recklessness of the students walking while using the phone. Social media has stolen the student's minds to a point they cannot do without it even while walking. Researchers did a thorough research with Tampa Campus to identify the major causes of accidents and found out that most students are not careful; while crossing the road (Basbas, Nikiforiadis&Kolonas, 2018, May). The main distraction was their phones. The campus has not yet put up warning boards to warn students of the dangers of using phones while crossing the road. This happens to be ignorance and they seem not worried. Through observation, most of the students while walking their heads are bowed down their eyes fixed on their cell phones. Their minds shifted into the world of social media such that even when a driver hoots at them they can't hear.

Some of the students openly shared and said that even while crossing an intersection they don’t pay any attention to the streetlights (Rahman, Adnan & Hamid, 2017). They cross blindly while staring on their phones. It's a bad habit that has led to many being hurt and others acquiring a permanent disability. In the past few years accidents within the campus, premises had declined but it was noticed a year after the Apple digital company introduced a new smartphone model, the accidents level increased. This clearly shows that most of the accidents are caused by cellphone distractions especially social media, games and other digital mobile phone activities.

On the other hand, the motorist can also be distracted by their phones and lose it. The highest population on the campus are students even the motorists are students and they are all carried away by social media and the digital world (Basbas, Nikiforiadis&Kolonas, 2018, May). A motorist within the campus shared that sometimes he is very careful to check the signs and rules but other times he might be distracted by a notification on his phone.

A police spokesman reported that the careless driving is also a major of campus road accidents. Young adults dwell in a state of naivety and carelessness whereby they rarely think of the repercussions of their actions (Ilgaz&Saltan, 2017). Cases reported of careless motorists causing accidents are mostly students who just driving at a very high speed or refused to give way. Over speeding is a contributing factor that has caused fatal accidents most of them leading to deaths.

A psychologist during an interview stated that it's a young people's habit to over speed especially where there are their peers probably seeking attention or recognition. Some of the motorists are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, especially on weekends. These are irresponsible behaviors that young people involve in and finally cause accidents which affect other innocent people on the roads (Ilgaz&Saltan, 2017).

**The population affected**

The biggest population affected by road accidents in USF is the young people who happen to be the students. The police report shows that over ten thousand people die through road accidents. The staff is as well affected by the delays on the checkpoints whereby research has it that around 60% of the workers get to the job on time while 30% are held up by the delays on the campus road. The students are also affected by the delays. 18 percent of the students live in the college hostels while 82 percent of the students live outside school. In this case, most of the people affected are the students because most of them are non-residents. The campus population has increased which has also led to an increase in the accidents.

In conclusion, therefore, accidents are prone to most institutions but currently they have risen due to irresponsible habits and addictions among young people. Death caused by accidents in Tampa Campus USF is rising every year thus precautions should be taken as well as introducing ways on how to keep the students alert on the use of roads. As stated in the above discussion accidents are like a plague that is haunting the University of South Florida. Devices should be implemented and installed on phones to alert individuals when they get to an intersection to check out their surroundings.

References

Basbas, S., Nikiforiadis, A., Sarafianou, E., &Kolonas, N. (2018, May). Behavior and

Perceptions of University Students at Pedestrian Crossings. In *The 4th Conference on*

*Sustainable Urban Mobility* (pp. 280-287). Springer, Cham.

Ilgaz, A., &Saltan, M. (2017). AN EVALUATION OF SECTION CONTROL: ANALYSES OF

SPEED BEHAVIOR OF DRIVERS AT A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. *International*

*Journal for Traffic & Transport Engineering*, *7*(4).

RAHMAN, A. H. A., ADNAN, A., UMAR, R. Z. R., SAMUEL, S., ANI, M. H., & HAMID, M.

(2017). EVALUATION OF MOTORCYCLISTS’HAZARD ANTICIPATION

BEHAVIOR AT UNSIGNALIZED ROUNDABOUTS: ON-CAMPUS VS. OFF-

CAMPUS. *Human Factors and Ergonomics Malaysia Journal Vol2 (30), 46*, *51*.

Zainal, S. K., Borhan, M. N., Ibrahim, A. N. H., Tuan, N. M. I., &Yaakub, M. R. M. Y. (2019).

Assessment of University Campus Cycling Facilities: the Students’

Perceptions. *International Journal of Engineering & Technology*, *8*(1.2), 46-49.