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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL DUE TO LACK OF ROAD EDUCATION

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Abstract: traffic accident is a road mishap commonly caused by irresponsible conditions and acts attributed to human factors such as ignorance of road traffic rules, mechanical failures of vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles, or due to some natural phenomenon. They have an impact on the school absence of the students of the Ocotlán Regional High School and therefore on their academic level. The objective is to incorporate road safety education in some of the high school learning units in order to avoid or reduce traffic accidents that occur in the school community of Ocotlán and its surroundings. The qualitative method was used, a Google form was applied to nine groups of different types of high school in which men and women participated and the results show that the majority of students are unaware of the rules of road safety education, finally the conclusion is reached that, it is urgent that road safety education be incorporated into some learning unit or that EREMSO generates and applies a road safety education project with the aim of reducing traffic accidents and school absences.

Keywords: Driver education, traffic accidents, school absence, students.

INTRODUCTION

The Ocotlán Regional Higher Secondary Education School (EREMSO) is located at Av. Universidad Number:1115, Colonia Linda Vista, Km 3.3, highway: Ocotlán Tototlán, that is, on board the state highway.

This research responds to a current problem and is based on the following problem: What is the probability that road safety education in students of the (EREMSO) helps reduce traffic accidents? Because in recent decades the circulation of vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles and pedestrians has generated different traffic problems, including accidents. The objective is to integrate road safety education into some

learning unit and reduce traffic accidents in students of the (EREMSO) and train competent students and/or citizens, with permanent learning throughout life, with values and attitudes, with skills and behaviors as users of public roads in plural contexts, which help solve problems of one's own life and life in the community, increasing the self-awareness of students who mainly use bicycles or motorcycles as a means of transportation.

Among the main causes of traffic accidents are: ignorance of traffic rules, they do not consider road safety important, they do not identify traffic signs, they do not know the places to stop or park, they do not know the meaning of traffic lights, do not give way to pedestrians, use cell phones while driving, transport from one to six people and without protective equipment (helmet, knee pads, gloves, glasses, etc.) apart from the grocery bag and school backpack, play with each other motorcyclists, wanting to beat a vehicle, passing anywhere, not checking the mechanical operation, feeling that they are in a hurry than others and increasing their speed, driving while intoxicated, tired or drowsy, etc.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used is qualitative and quantitative in nature, a questionnaire was applied through Google forms to 440 students from 17 EREMSO groups of different high school modalities, 9 groups of Technological High School in Nursing, 2 groups of Industrial Chemical Professional Technician and 6 General Baccalaureate groups by Competencies from both shifts, with a total of 240 women and 200 men.

The investigation is in the first part where what happens in the environment is observed and analyzed:

The questions on the form refer to the time students spend traveling from home to school, whether they use protective equipment when

driving their bicycle or motorcycle, how many users are transported on the bicycle or motorcycle, how many have suffered an accident, how many know the rules of road safety education, etc.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Mobility is a right and a vital human need, it is hoped that it is safe and sustainable to guarantee life and health, but this is not the case, accidents or road incidents are common in EREMSO students, they have suffered from falls, scrapes, wounds, fractures and even death. This prevents them from attending their classes normally and consequently their academic status is affected.

The Citizen Training program taken in the fourth semester of the General Baccalaureate by Competencies, requires that the person, when facing the situation in the place itself, reconstruct knowledge, propose a solution or make decisions about possible courses of action, and do so in a reflective manner, keeping in mind what supports his way of acting towards her.

“Generic competence 9.3, Know your rights and obligations as a Mexican and a member of different communities and institutions, and recognize the value of participation as a tool to exercise them” SEMS, UdG. (2017: p.4), consulted online on June 26, 2023.

Road education, understood as an instrument of social transformation, is the best tool to avoid accidents, it is driving safely, it is raising awareness among all drivers of any vehicle and also those who travel on foot, it is conducting ourselves in the most humane way. and civilized because the street belongs to everyone.

Traffic accident is an event that occurs when one or more vehicles (bicycle, motorcycle, car, etc.) collide with another vehicle, person, animal or object that is on the road and can cause damage to third parties or death.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In the City of Ocotlán and the rural communities from which EREMSO receives students, the traffic of vehicles and motorcycles is greater every day, parking spaces are difficult, causing public health problems, noise pollution, environmental pollution, loss of time, It generates bad social relationships and exhaustion among others.

Accidents in students who travel by bicycle or motorcycle have become a problem that affects the lives of students, their academic status and some have lost their lives.

When students forget some material or homework at home, or need to leave school to get some material or service, they think that they are riding a motorcycle and that they quickly go and come back, that is when the probability of an accident increases, because they forget that The street belongs to everyone and the services they usually go to have to wait in line.

On March 4, 2023, information was requested from the Ocotlán Traffic and Roads Unit regarding the number of traffic accidents that occurred in the city of Ocotlán, the response issued through file number 253/2023 in which they state that during the In 2022, there were 123 motorcycle accidents and 10 bicycle accidents in people between 16 and 40 years old and 14 deaths.

Accidents caused by motorcycles in Ocotlán and its surroundings are increasing every day and they occur in people and younger people. An accident is a surprising event but it occurs due to irresponsibility, it can be foreseeable and can be attributed to human factors, vehicle failures, weather factors and can cause physical and psychological damage, loss of human life, material damage and economic repercussions on the community. family. “Traffic accidents are generally due to: driving while intoxicated, failure to comply with the laws, disrespect for traffic signs, carrying out

dangerous maneuvers, the driver's fatigue ends up producing traffic accidents" (Pereyra 2021 cited by Rivera D. and Vargas F. 2021)

Although parents give blessings to their children and teachers give recommendations to their students, accidents continue to occur, (2014, Bonilla and Gutiérrez 2014) stated "that the use of the term accident is misleading, since the understanding of the factors and Road injuries are events of a preventable and avoidable nature. In 2019, Marroquín and Grisales indicated that the term incident integrates foreseeable, preventable and controllable characteristics, and they conclude that a road accident refers to a non-preventable situation", that is, human, mechanical and road factors can be intervened to avoid said problems., both authors cited by Salazar (2022).

Traffic accidents in students of the Ocotlán Regional High School are increasing every day, the concern increases when they miss the semester of classes and when they lose their lives; These are moments of reflection that now occupy us in this investigation. "Traffic accidents start from reckless behavior" (Costas 2017 p.17). Paraphrasing the same author who considers that the causes of traffic accidents can be analyzed in three groups: human, mechanical and due to the road, while Ramírez (2020 p 14) considers that the causes can be due to three factors:

- a) Human factor: avoiding accidents depends largely on your attitude as the person responsible for driving a vehicle.
- b) Vehicle factor: a vehicle in good condition can minimize the negative effects of an accident or even avoid it.
- c) Road factor: when driving on a road in poor condition or on a dangerous section, you must increase caution while driving.

Road safety education is "the priority action aimed at increasing autonomy and self-awareness as users of public roads must focus not only on knowledge of the rules and safe traffic skills, but also on promoting active respect for the dignity of people and the integrity of their lives; in forming responsibility towards oneself, towards the others with whom one lives and the community to which one belongs; in promoting emotional self-control as a user of public roads and learning skills to resolve through dialogue the road conflicts that may arise and adequately interpret the duties and rights that one believes they have in them" Jiménez C (2013: 6)

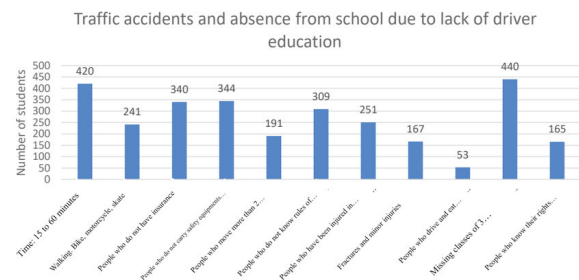
To avoid traffic accidents, it is suggested: Respect the speed limits and maintain a safe distance, carry out checks with the frequency recommended by the manufacturer, if you do not have turn signals, signal the maneuvers with your arm, in urban areas, drive on the right of the lane, do not zigzag between other vehicles" are some recommendations that Ramírez shares (2020 p. 61). It seems that the students were told the opposite: go zigzagging between the vehicles and increase the speed, etc., because accidents involving young people on motorcycles increase every day.

In this research, it is considered that road safety education, and the entire range of values when applied, can prevent or reduce traffic accidents, for example, "Social responsibility is the commitment of the members of a society or family towards others." members." Ramírez (2020 p. 90), because we all need safe public roads and responsible drivers.

RESULTS

When analyzing the results of the applied form, the prevailing need for road safety education in EREMSO students is appreciated, because the distance, time, economic situation and other needs of the students have led them to drive with ignorance of the road rules.

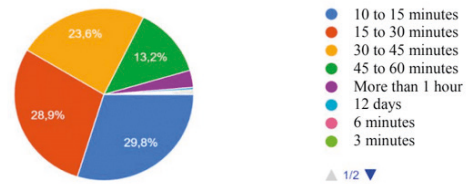
At the same time as they drive, they use their cell phone to talk or send messages, to chat with another motorcycle driver they find next to them, to play races with each other, when they see the yellow light of the traffic light they increase the speed to reach the crossroads and many more actions of that type.



Graph 1

Graph I shows the main questions and the number of responses obtained in which they express the need for road safety education because: they use the bicycle, motorcycle or skate without using protective equipment, because they get on more than two or three in that means of transportation, because despite being minors they drive under the influence of intoxicating beverages, because they do not know the traffic rules, because they do not have vehicle insurance, because 251 students have been in accidents and have had scrapes, sprains, dislocations, fractures and even death and because the 251 accident victims have missed classes from 3 days to more than a month, all of this is then reflected in the low academic level.

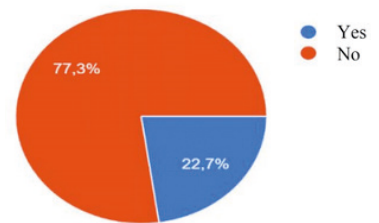
How much time do you spend moving your house to EREMSO?
440 responses.



Graph II

Graph II shows the time spent by students from their home to EREMSO using their bicycle, motorcycle, skateboard or public or private transportation. Young people who specify that they travel on foot are usually neighbors of the school, although they are still in danger when crossing the street or highway.

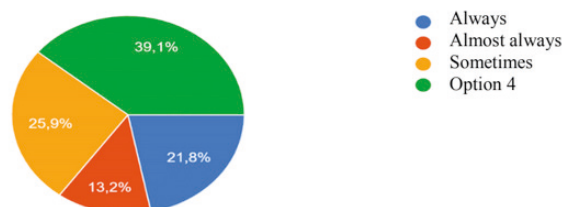
Do you have insurance for your bicycle or motorcycle?
440 responses



Graph III

Graph Number: III shows that, of the 440 students surveyed, 340 do not have vehicle insurance. Therefore, the corresponding authorities are asked to make it mandatory.

If your means of transportation is a bicycle or motorcycle, do you use protective equipment such as a helmet, glasses, gloves, knee pads, etc.?
440 responses

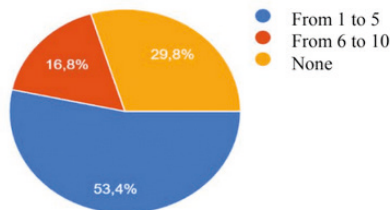


Graph IV

Graph Number: IV shows that the majority of students surveyed do not wear protective equipment because they think that nothing will happen to them.

suffered an accident. This shows that school absence due to traffic accidents and the impact on their academic level, recognizing that it can be avoided or reduced through road safety education.

How many traffic education rules do you know?
440 responses



Graph V

Graph Number: V shows the almost total ignorance of road regulations.

CONCLUSIONS

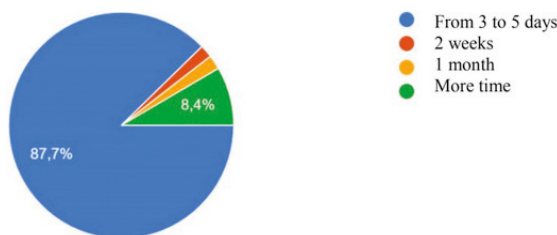
The previous results lead to the fact that road safety education must be part of one of the learning units of Higher Secondary Education, which is taken in the first semester, or that EREMSO promotes a project on road safety education aimed at first-year students, and second semester mainly, where road safety education is understood as the prevention of accidents on public roads and as quality of life of users, based on values.

Road safety education will promote the awareness of students as users of public roads.

School absence will decrease and academic standards will rise.

Due to the above, by taking traffic education classes, EREMSO students will achieve the comprehensive training that the study plans and programs demand, because their systematic behavior will lead them to safe road behavior, formed with a system of values that provide directionality, and meaning to his personal life and to the care and respect of people in the society through which he travels.

Have you missed classes due to an accident on your bicycle or motorcycle?
440 responses



Graph VI

Graph Number: VI shows the school absence of EREMSO students due to having

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