

Attitude and Perception of Non-emergency Vehicle Drivers on Roads Towards Medical Emergency Vehicles: The Role of Empathy and Pro-Social Skills

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Abstract : A variety of vehicles are driven on roads such as private vehicles, commercial vehicles, public vehicles, and emergency service vehicles (EMV). Drivers driving different vehicles can have attitude differences towards emergency service vehicles which in turn affects their likelihood to give way to them. The present review aims to understand the factors that mediate this yielding behavior of drivers towards EMVs. Through extensive review of available literature, factors such as effects of lights and sirens, cognitive load, age of the driver, driving general experience, traffic load, drivers' experience and training with EMVs and drivers' attitude towards EMV drivers, have emerged as mediating factors. Whereas cognitive load is the most researched area and is observed to be associated negatively with on road drivers' attitudes towards EMVs, there is a paucity of research to understand the relationships between empathy, pro-social skills, and on road drivers' attitude towards EMVs.

Keywords : cognitive load, emergency service vehicle, empathy, traffic load

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