

Relationship between the Tendency of Young Commercial Drivers to Take Risks in Daily Life and Accident Involvement

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INTRODUCTION

Previous studies have suggested that the tendency of risk taking in traffic were related to traffic accidents. Tendency to take risks is not limited by a specific situation such as traffic. So, accident involvement can be also explained by risk taking in daily situations except traffic. Thus, the purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between the tendency to take risks in daily life and accident involvement. This study also tested whether drivers who experienced accidents that were their own fault tended to be involved in subsequent accidents.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Participants of this study were 116 bus drivers who worked at an office in Japan. Questionnaire survey was conducted from June 2010 to March 2011. Experience of accidents was computed from 337 objective reports about accidents that happened while at work during one year. Ninety-nine accidents they had been in were removed. This study distinguished whether drivers were at faults in the accidents or not. Participants assessed on a 5-point scale the 20 items about the engagement in several risks taking such as gambling and ignoring red light.

RESULTS

Of the 116 participants, 14 (12.1%) had had accidents with their faults in the past twelve months. Results of logistic regression analysis indicated that people who took risks according to time and circumstances experienced significantly more accidents ($B=0.97$, $p<.05$, $OR=2.58$). Of the 14 participants who were involved in accidents in the past twelve months, 7 (50.0%) had experienced other accidents. Results of fisher's exact test also suggested drivers who had ever been involved in accidents that were their fault were less likely to be involved in subsequent accidents similar to them ($p < .001$).

CONCLUSION

Tendency to take risks in daily life was significantly related to accident involvement. Especially, from the results that people who tend to take risks according to time and circumstances often experience traffic accidents, intervention related to such a risk taking seems to be useful for preventing accidents. In this study, the experience of accident with their fault seemed to decrease the likelihood of accident involvement in the future. However, this seems to be a temporal effect, considering characteristic of participants in this study.