

THE DRIVER BEHAVIOUR, VIOLATIONS, ERRORS, LAPSES ON ROADS: A CROSS CULTURAL COMPARISON OF FOUR COUNTRIES

A. Bener

Public Health, Weill Cornell Medical College & Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar

Aim: To investigate the cross cultural difference in driver behaviours; violations, errors and lapses and compare driving behaviours of four countries; Qatar, Jordan, Indian subcontinent and Philippines.

Subjects and methods: The Manchester Driver Behaviour Questionnaire (DBQ) was used to measure the driving behaviour and accident involvement. A representative sample of 1,824 drivers participated.

Results: Majority of the Qatari (35.9%) and Jordanian drivers (37.5%) were below 30 years, whereas Philippino (42.3%) and Indian subcontinental (34.1%) drivers were in the age group 30-39 years. Qatari drivers (52%) were more involved in accidents, followed by Jordanians (48.3%). The most common type of collision was head on collision which was similar in four countries. The Qatari drivers scored higher on almost all items of violations, errors and lapses, while Philipino drivers were lower on all the items. All ten items of violations were reported in the Qatar sample. "Disregard the speed limits on a motorway" was the violation observed more frequent in four countries. Errors were reported less in all countries. "Queing to turn right/left on to a main road..... nearly hit the car" was the most common error observed in studied drivers. Lapses were higher in Indian drivers, followed by Qatari and Jordanian drivers. "Forget where you left your carhit something when reversing" were the two most common lapses reported in four countries.

Conclusion: Qatari drivers scored higher on most of the items of violations, errors and lapses compared to other countries, whereas Philippino drivers scored lower in DBQ items.