

### **Knowledge, attitude and practices related to road safety among grade 8, 9 and 10 students of Uduvil Education Division in the Jaffna district**

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**Background and objective:** Road traffic accidents are a serious public health problem and a leading cause of injury and death. Road crashes not only place a heavy burden on national and regional economies but also on households. This study aims to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice regarding road safety and the influence of knowledge, attitude, and practice among grade 8, 9 and 10 students in the Uduvil Education Division in the Jaffna district.

**Methods:** This is a descriptive cross-sectional school-based study carried out in 15 schools in the Uduvil Education Division. Cluster sampling was used to select participants. Data were collected with a self-administrated questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS Version 21.

**Results:** In total, 742 students participated with a response rate of 96%. The median score for knowledge on road safety was 9 (IQR 7-9). More than two-thirds (67.6%) had adequate knowledge and practice towards road safety. There was a significant association between knowledge on crossing a clear road and their attitude towards it ( $p=0.002$ ); knowledge on looking at both sides before crossing a road and their attitude towards it ( $p<0.001$ ), knowledge on having a special path for cyclists and their attitude towards it ( $p=0.026$ ). There was no significant association between knowledge on rule breaking road users and their attitude towards them ( $p=0.078$ ). Neither was there a significant association between knowledge and practice of using a light source during night rides ( $p=0.901$ ), riding in parallel ( $p=0.082$ ) and wearing reflective clothing at night ( $p=0.302$ ).

**Conclusion:** Most participants had above average knowledge on road safety. Knowledge on road safety influences attitudes towards road safety, but not practices of road safety.

**Keywords:** Road Safety, Adolescents, School, Jaffna