Insights of driver’s behavior on hydraulic horn use in motor vehicles of Dhaka city

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Background:

- Hydraulic horn use in motor vehicles is a neglected issue in Bangladesh.
- It is a dominating factor for the road traffic noise pollution as well as the health-related consequences.

World Health Organization (WHO):
- 60 dB sounds make a man deaf temporarily;
- 100 dB sounds can cause complete deafness;
- The noise of the streets in Dhaka has been estimated at 60 to 80 dB;
- The sound of hydraulic horns measured 95 dB.*

Purpose:

- To identify the crucial determinants and predictors provoking the hydraulic honking behaviors among motor vehicle drivers.

Method:

- **Study type & design:** Descriptive type of cross-sectional study.
- **Study area:** Ten randomly selected zones of Dhaka city, i.e., which were Uttara, Ashulia, Savar, Shahbag, Motijhil, Dhanmondi, Banani, Gulshan, Mirpur and Gulistan.
- **Sampling method:** 206 adult drivers who were willing to participate
- **Systematic Random Sampling technique**
- **Data collection method and instrument:** Face-to-face interview
- **semi-structured and pre-tested questionnaire.**
- **Analysis:** Results were analyzed through the univariate and multivariate procedures.

Results:

- **Figure-1: Behavior of hydraulic horn using status among the drivers of Dhaka city (n=206)**
  - Almost half of the respondents (44.7%) were identified as hydraulic horn users.
  - About half of the respondents (48.5%) were found below 30 years of age and had monthly family income below 20000 BDT (43.2%).
  - Most of the subjects (61.2%) had primary education and driving experience ≤ of 9 years.
  - Respondents belonged <30 years of age (AOR= 5.81, p < 0.01); who were married (AOR= 2.81, p=0.01) and did not have any formal education (AOR= 10.6, p<0.01) were found more likely to use the hydraulic horn in the motor vehicles.

- **Figure 2: Drivers horn using behavior associated with horn using situations.**
  - Most of the drivers used hydraulic horn during overcrowding (23%) and traffic jam (8.30%) situations compare to non-users.

Conclusion & Recommendations:

- Remarkable amount of drivers are using hydraulic horn in their vehicles thus more surveys need to combat this issue as well as the consequences.
- Hydraulic horns should be banned completely to minimize the health-related consequences due to noise pollution.
- Effective interventions need to apply considering the predictors associated with the driver's risky behaviors on hydraulic honking to minimize the issue.

References: