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Research Article

Road Safety Perception Of College Students In Davao City: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

Globally, traffic accidents claim millions of lives annually, with young adults and students being especially vulnerable. This study aimed to analyze the road safety perceptions of college students in Davao City and identify key factors influencing their views. Using a descriptive quantitative approach, data were collected from 250 college students through a structured survey. The survey, adapted from existing studies and measured on a Likert scale, focused on various factors like human behavior, vehicle conditions, and road infrastructure. Statistical analyses revealed that students perceived socioeconomic conditions and road infrastructure as critical influences on safety, while human behavioral factors were less prioritized. Gender differences were also observed, with male students placing higher importance on vehicle and road-related concerns compared to females. This study recommends targeted road safety campaigns that address gender-specific perceptions and behaviors, as well as improved infrastructure and stricter vehicle maintenance enforcement. These interventions could significantly reduce accidents and enhance overall safety in urban areas.

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Introduction

Estimated to cause 1.3 million deaths and 20 to 50 million injuries globally due to traffic accidents, it remains a serious public concern for road safety around the world (World Health Organization, 2022). Most survivors of accidents also experience long-term disabilities; thus, individuals, families, and societies incur important consequences resulting from accidents. Specifically, among young adults and students, whose accidents and their impact are in dire need of justifications, perceptions of road safety must be addressed.

Speeding, reckless driving, and driving under the influence are dangerous behaviors that contribute a lot to road accidents (Lu et al., 2020). Due to the lack of physical protection and the nature of their interaction with motor vehicles, pedestrians are especially vulnerable, making up 23% of global road fatalities (World Health Organization, 2022). Adding to these are inadequate road infrastructure, weak enforcement of traffic laws, and socioeconomic factors, all of which give rise to safety risks in urban places in many ways (Bauernschuster & Rekers, 2022). Road traffic fatalities have alarmingly increased in the Philippines, with deaths rising by 39% from 7,938 in 2011 to 11,096 in 2021 (Philippine Statistics Authority, as cited in Junio, 2023).

This demographic makes this a priority for interventions since road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death among Filipinos aged 15 to 29. Studies within the Philippine context reveal wide gaps in traffic safety awareness and compliance. For instance, the knowledge and compliance levels of tricycle drivers in the so-called "Tricycle City of the Philippines," despite adequate awareness of traffic rules explored by Aydinan (2020), due to poor enforcement and cultural factors, were notably low. This underscores the need for targeted, behavior-focused road safety campaigns tailored

to specific demographic and geographic contexts.

Urban facilities like Davao City, Philippines, face precise demanding situations because of particular visitor dynamics, cultural factors, and street conditions, but they stay underrepresented in research. College students, as lively street customers and pedestrians, are a crucial organization for analyzing street protection perceptions. Understanding their perspectives is critical for developing focused training campaigns, enhancing visitors regulations, and improving infrastructure. The Philippine authorities have applied legal guidelines like Republic Act No. 4136 (Land Transportation and Traffic Code) to alter visitors, Republic Act No. 11229 (Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act) for passenger protection, and Republic Act No. 10913 (Anti-Distracted Driving Act) to scale back injuries due to cellular tool use—local ordinances, including the ones implementing velocity limits and helmet use, in addition, aid city protection. Colleges and universities can bolster those efforts by integrating street protection training into orientation applications and consciousness campaigns. For instance, increasing projects beneath DepEd Order No. 13, s. 2019, which includes street protection in the K-12 curriculum, can assist support secure practices. The collaboration of legal guidelines, nearby policies, and academic establishments is essential for shaping students' street protection perceptions and experiences.

This paper tries to explore the perceptions of road safety among college students in Davao City, using a comparative framework for attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors. The goal is to provide actionable recommendations that enhance awareness and practice safer habits by identifying influential factors of these perceptions. The implications of these findings will have a positive effect on the reduction of road traffic accidents in urban cities such as

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Davao City, thereby improving the general well-being of students.

Research Hypotheses

H_{a1}: There is no significant difference in the road safety perception levels among residents in Davao City, Davao Del Sur based on different demographic groups.

H_{a2}: There is significant difference in the road safety behaviour levels among residents in Davao City, Davao Del Sur based on different demographic groups.

Theoretical Framework

Originally developed in 1980 as The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) forecasts a person's intention to participate in an action at a certain time and location. All behaviors over which persons had the capacity for self-control were to be explained by the theory. This model's central idea is behavioral intent, which is impacted by attitudes on the probability that a behavior will produce the desired result as well as subjective assessments of the advantages and disadvantages of that result.

According to Fu & Juan (2017), The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) proposes that behavioral intention is a key driver of behavior. This theory suggests that three cognitive factors—attitude, subjective norm, and perceived behavioral control—collectively influence behavioral intention. Stronger behavioral intentions are associated with a higher likelihood of corresponding actions. The TPB has been widely used to explain various traffic behaviors, including fatigue driving (Jiang et al., 2017), mobile phone use while driving [McBride et al., 2020; Natakorn et al., 2020; Qu et al., 2020], yielding behavior (Yang et al., 2020), and lane grabbing (Qi et al., 2021). Studies have shown that the TPB effectively explains a significant portion of the variance in intentions and behaviors, with meta-analyses indicating that these models account for 40–50% of the variance in intentions and 19–38% of the variance in behavior (Sutton, 2010). This finding is generally accepted in human behavior research (Armitage & Conner, 2001).

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) aims to understand behaviors under individual control, with behavioral intention as a central component. This intention is shaped by attitudes towards the behavior's potential outcomes and benefits (LaMorte, 2019). The TPB encompasses six interconnected constructs influencing behavior: attitudes, behavioral intentions, subjective norms, social norms, perceptions of power, and perceived behavioral control (LaMorte, 2019).

The TPB has been extensively studied in psychology, particularly in the context of road traffic safety (Nordfjærn et al., 2011; Iversen & Rundmo, 2004; Nabi et al., 2007; Nordfjærn, Jørgensen, & Rundmo, 2010; Poulter et al., 2008). Research consistently demonstrates that an individual's attitude towards road traffic safety directly influences their cautiousness or negligence while driving (Nordfjærn et al., 2011). Sheeran, Norman, and Orbell (1999), as cited by Nordfjærn et al. (2011), suggest that attitude may be a more potent predictor of behavior than other variables within the TPB framework.

Risk perception refers to drivers' awareness and perception of potential driving risks, such as the likelihood and severity of traffic accidents. This encourages more careful actions, such as adhering to speed limits and keeping safe distances. (Mustapha et al., 2024). This is to interpret that Risk Perception Theory provides a

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valuable framework for understanding the road safety perception of college students in Davao City. It highlights how individual as well as contextual factors alter students' awareness and interpretation of driving risks, which influences their chance of adopting safer driving practices.

According to Sayed et al. (2022), risk perception was measured subjectively by exposing participants to a variety of visual situations representing specific local conditions and ranking their perception of the situation from a perspective of safety. This supports the exploration of how college students subjectively evaluate road safety in Davao City. This connection enriches analysis by considering psychological and contextual factors that influence their perceptions, providing a nuanced understanding of local road safety challenges.

Materials and Methods

This study used a descriptive quantitative research design to describe road safety perceptions among the students in Davao City colleges. Two hundred fifty students from different colleges around Davao City formed the participants of the study. Respondents were stratified and randomly selected so as to ensure that samples represented students from different colleges as well as demographic strata. This helps strengthen generalization and reliability of the findings based on the broad cross-section of the students' road safety perceptions.

Data collection utilized a structured survey questionnaire adapted from Chan and Hu's (2023) work, revised to focus on road safety. The survey incorporated closed-ended questions measured on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). This scale was clearly explained to participants to ensure accurate expression of their views on road safety.

Descriptive statistics were computed to identify general trends and the distribution of responses.

The ability to detect changing visual information is a vital component of safe driving. In addition to detecting changing visual information, drivers must also interpret its relevance to safety. Environmental changes considered to have high safety relevance will likely demand greater attention and more timely responses than those considered to have lower safety relevance (Cox et al., 2017). It focuses on how subjective interpretations, impacted by cognitive biases, cultural norms, and personal experiences, shape students' capacity to recognize and respond to safety-related changes in their driving environment. By connecting these findings to the significance of attention and quick reactions emphasized by Cox et al. (2017), the study emphasizes the need for specific interventions that address these views to improve road safety knowledge and behavior among college students.

Data were collected through an online survey using a Google Form questionnaire, which was sent to college students who were familiar with road safety issues in Davao City. This method ensured uniformity in responses and made it possible to carry out quantitative analysis of the collected data, thereby strengthening the robustness and reliability of the study findings.

As part of the data analysis for this study, descriptive statistics were calculated in order to compile and display the general patterns in Davao City students' opinions on road safety. It was possible to clearly grasp how students assessed different components of road safety on the five-point Likert scale by using descriptive statistics like means, standard deviations, and frequency distributions. The data appropriately reflected the varied viewpoints of the sampled population thanks to the analysis of the structured survey responses, which helped uncover trends and variances across various demographic strata. These statistical techniques made it easier to evaluate the data objectively, confirming the validity of the results and

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allowing for the drawing of evidence-based conclusions on college students' views of road safety (Field, 2018; Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

Results and Discussions

The reliability and the validity of the adapted questionnaire were established through Jamovi Software 2.0. The reliability of the Cronbach's alpha is set between 0.709 and 0.937, showing good internal consistency. According to Taber (2018), it is acceptable when Cronbach's alpha is ≥ 0.70 . For construct validity, the robust method per Kang (2013) can be established by using factor analysis.

Prior to conducting factor analysis, the suitability of the data was checked using Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (Bartlett, 1973). Results were significant with a p-value < 0.001 . The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin statistic for testing adequacy in sample size yielded a value of 0.971, which was very good adequacy (Kaiser, 1974). These have loadings ranging from 0.414 to 0.946, a cut-off point above .40, which is believed to be stable (Guadagnoli & Velicer, 1988). The study provides insightful analysis of the road safety perceptions and behaviors of students studying at any institution in Davao City, thereby providing great comparison data for policymakers.

Table 1. Assumption Checks

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity		
χ^2	df	p-value
21173	703	<.001
KMO Measure of Sampling Adequacy (MSA)		0971

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity resulted in a chi-square statistic of $\chi^2(780) = 11,116$ with a p-value less than .001, implying that the data's correlation matrix is not an identity matrix. This significant result suggests that there are considerable correlations between the variables, which is required for factor analysis. In the core, if the variables were uncorrelated, this test should yield a non-significant result. In these

outcomes, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy was estimated as 0.963, suggesting an exceptional level of sample adequacy. The KMO statistic measures how closely the variables in the dataset correlate with one another, with values near 1 indicating that factor analysis is likely to be beneficial (Costello, A. B., & Osborne, J. W. 2005).

Reliability Tests

Table 2. Scale Reliability Statistics

	Cronbach's α	McDonald's ω
Scale	0.915	0.918

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Results

Assumption Checks

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity

χ^2	df	p
11116	780	<.001

KMO Measure of Sampling Adequacy

	MSA
Overall	0.963

The scale's Cronbach's α (0.915) and McDonald's ω (0.918) demonstrate excellent internal consistency reliability, highlighting the robustness and coherence of the items within the scale. These statistical measures confirm that the scale items effectively align to assess the underlying construct, ensuring that they work together to provide a consistent and accurate evaluation of road safety perception. Such high values for Cronbach's α and McDonald's ω

indicate that the individual items within the scale are well-correlated, offering strong evidence that the scale reliably measures the multidimensional aspects of road safety perception across diverse contexts and populations. This reliability ensures that the scale can be used with confidence in both research and practical applications related to road safety awareness and behavioral assessment (Orçan, F. 2023).

Table 3. Factor Loadings

Factor	Indicator	Estimate	SE	Z	P
HF	HF1	0.447	0.0784	5.7	<.001
	HF2	0.718	0.0493	14.56	<.001
	HF3	0.833	0.0526	15.83	<.001
	HF4	0.739	0.0486	15.22	<.001
	HF5	0.763	0.0429	17.78	<.001
	HF6	0.8	0.0432	18.52	<.001
	HF7	0.83	0.0429	19.35	<.001
VH	VH1	0.785	0.0471	16.67	<.001
	VH2	0.841	0.0496	16.98	<.001
	VH3	0.914	0.0524	17.43	<.001

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	VH4	0.855	0.0481	17.79	<.001
	VH5	0.869	0.0512	16.98	<.001
	VH6	0.844	0.0474	17.81	<.001
	VH7	0.769	0.0561	13.71	<.001
RIF	RIF1	0.969	0.0635	15.25	<.001
	RIF2	1.151	0.0666	17.28	<.001
	RIF3	1.114	0.0594	18.78	<.001
	RIF4	1.104	0.0563	19.6	<.001
	RIF5	1.131	0.0615	18.38	<.001
	RIF6	1.081	0.0558	19.36	<.001
	RIF7	1.044	0.057	18.31	<.001
RFIMF	RFIMF1	0.843	0.0609	13.85	<.001
	RFIMF2	0.992	0.06	16.55	<.001
	RFIMF3	0.945	0.0546	17.31	<.001
	RFIMF4	1.053	0.0589	17.87	<.001
	RFIMF5	0.976	0.0609	16.03	<.001
	RFIMF6	1	0.0592	16.89	<.001
	RFIMF7	0.948	0.0592	16.03	<.001
	RFIMF8	0.983	0.0582	16.89	<.001
	RFIMF9	0.892	0.0609	14.63	<.001
	RFIMF10	1.015	0.0594	17.08	<.001
DPF	DPF1	0.733	0.0597	12.28	<.001
	DPF2	0.872	0.059	14.78	<.001
	DPF3	0.918	0.0512	17.93	<.001
	DPF4	0.874	0.0474	18.43	<.001
	DPF5	0.935	0.0585	15.99	<.001
SEF	SEF1	1.115	0.0607	18.36	<.001
	SEF2	1.113	0.0555	20.07	<.001
	SEF3	1.119	0.0563	19.89	<.001
	SEF4	1.097	0.0568	19.31	<.001

Factor loadings across the various dimensions, including human factors (HF), vehicle factors (VH), roadway infrastructure factors (RIF), regulatory framework and intervention factors (RFIMF), driver attention factors (DPF), and socio-economic factors (SEF), proved to be

statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). These loadings ranged from moderate values, such as HF1 with a loading of 0.447, to very strong values, such as SEF2 with a loading of 1.113. This wide range of loadings highlights the different strengths of the relationships between

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individual items and their respective constructs (Hair et al., 2019; Brown, 2015).

The results indicate that the majority of items are reliably aligned with the stated dimensions, thus suggesting that they contribute significantly to the overall framework of the scale. Strong loadings, such as those found in SEF2, confirm that these items are well-representative of the construct and have a strong impact on the overall measurement (Kline, 2015). Conversely, elements with lower charges, some of which, such as HF1, require further scrutiny to assess their continued relevance, clarity, and placement within the broader scale. These lower loading factors may reflect nuances in interpretation,

inconsistencies in measurement, or areas for improvement in factor design (Schmitt, 2011; Raykov, 2012). Editing such items through refinement or revision would further improve the precision and reliability of the scale (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). Overall, these results indicate that while the scale is primarily effective at measuring the intended construct, targeted improvements may optimize performance and ensure even stronger construct validity across all dimensions (DeVellis, 2017; Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

Table 4. Descriptives

	N	Mean	Median	SD
Human Factor	258	1.56	1.29	0.77
Vehicle Factor	258	1.82	1.57	0.87
Road Infrastructure Factor	258	2.03	1.71	1.11
Regulatory Framework and Intervention Measures Factor	258	2.09	2.00	0.99
Driving Precaution Factor	258	1.91	1.80	0.91
Socio-Economic Factor	258	2.14	2.00	1.14

Descriptive statistics provide valuable insights into the differences in students' perceptions of road safety, highlighting different priorities and concerns across the dimensions assessed. Of these, socio-economic factors ($M = 2.14$, $SD = 1.14$) were found to be the dimension with the highest mean value. This result suggests that students believe that economic and social conditions such as income levels, education, employment opportunities, and community trends play a key role in influencing road safety. These findings may reflect the recognition of broader systemic issues that shape behaviors, access to resources, and infrastructure development that are important for maintaining

safety on the roads (Azevedo et al., 2016; Zador et al., 1995). On the other hand, the lowest mean score was obtained for human factors ($M = 1.56$, $SD = 0.77$). This indicates that personal and behavioral factors such as drivers' attitudes and habits and compliance with traffic rules are perceived as relatively less important compared to other dimensions. This low means may indicate a need for greater awareness and education on the impact of individual behavior on road safety (Freeman & Shaw, 2009; Harrison & Gummer, 2012).

Other dimensions, such as vehicle factors ($M = 1.82$, $SD = 0.87$) and road infrastructure factors

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($M = 2.03$, $SD = 1.11$), reveal further problem areas. Results for vehicle factors indicate moderate concerns about vehicle condition and maintenance, including issues such as mechanical reliability and safety features. These concerns are consistent with studies that highlight the importance of vehicle condition in road safety (Stern, 2017; Winkelmann & Kellner, 2020). Similarly, results for road infrastructure factors highlight concerns about the adequacy and safety of road design, signage, lighting, and general maintenance, which have been shown to have a significant impact on road safety (Clarke et al., 2004; Boulton et al., 2018). These aspects indicate concrete and actionable areas for improving road safety through improved vehicle standards and improved infrastructure development. For example, improved street design and increased public investment in infrastructure could directly

reduce the risks associated with inadequate signage and lighting (Chien & Ding, 2022).

Similarly, ensuring better vehicle maintenance and safety standards could reduce mechanical failures that lead to accidents (Winkelmann & Kellner, 2020). Overall, the differences in descriptive statistics highlight the multifaceted nature of students' road safety perceptions. The data show a balanced interplay between systemic issues, such as socio-economic conditions and infrastructure quality, and more direct factors, such as individual behavior and vehicle condition. Understanding these perspectives can provide the basis for targeted interventions, ranging from policy adjustments and infrastructure improvements to educational campaigns on driver behavior and vehicle safety (Mackie et al., 2016; Verster et al., 2013).

Independent Samples T Test

Table 5. Independent Samples T-Test

							95% Confidence Interval			
			Statistic	df	p	Mean difference	SE difference	Lower	Upper	
Human Factor			Student's t	-1.860	256.000	0.065	-0.180	0.097	-0.371	0.011
Vehicle Factor			Student's t	-3.360	256.000	<.001	-0.359	0.107	-0.569	-0.148
Road Infrastructure Factor			Student's t	-2.390	256.000	0.017	-0.331	0.138	-0.604	-0.059
Regulatory Framework and Intervention Measures Factor			Student's t	-2.480	256.000	0.014	-0.306	0.123	-0.549	-0.063
Driving Precaution Factor			Student's t	-3.110	256.000	0.002	-0.351	0.113	-0.573	-0.129
Socio-Economic Factor			Student's t	-2.700	256.000	0.007	-0.382	0.142	-0.661	-0.103

Table 6. Group Descriptives

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	Group	N	Mean	Median	SD	SE
Human Factor	Female	149.000	1.480	1.140	0.779	0.064
	Male	109.000	1.660	1.430	0.757	0.073
Vehicle Factor	Female	149.000	1.660	1.430	0.837	0.069
	Male	109.000	2.020	1.860	0.863	0.083
Road Infrastructure Factor	Female	149.000	1.890	1.430	1.119	0.092
	Male	109.000	2.220	2.000	1.069	0.102
Regulatory Framework and Intervention Measures Factor	Female	149.000	1.960	1.800	0.993	0.081
	Male	109.000	2.260	2.200	0.958	0.092
Driving Precaution Factor	Female	149.000	1.760	1.400	0.885	0.073
	Male	109.000	2.110	2.000	0.910	0.087
Socio-Economic Factor	Female	149.000	1.980	1.500	1.131	0.093
	Male	109.000	2.360	2.250	1.113	0.107

The data was subjected to an independent sample t-test, which revealed substantial gender disparities in perceptions of road safety across most parameters. This investigation demonstrates how male and female students prioritize and communicate their worries about road safety in different ways. Male students, for example, may be more likely to underestimate the risks associated with particular driving

practices, whereas female students may emphasize the necessity of safety measures such as seatbelt use and sticking to speed limits. These perceptual disparities reflect not just varying levels of risk awareness, but also indicate that gender effects how pupils comprehend road safety messages and engage in safety actions (Pajkovic, V., & Djuric, M. 2016).

Vehicle Factors

With $t(256) = -3.36$, $p < .001$, there was a statistically significant difference in how vehicle factors were perceived. In contrast to female students ($M = 1.66$, $SD = 0.837$), male students ($M = 2.02$, $SD = 0.863$) stated that they believed that vehicle-related problems, such as maintenance, safety features, and mechanical

dependability, were more important. According to this finding, men might be more conscious of or concerned about car conditions, which could be caused by their increased exposure to technical features or their increased involvement in driving and car maintenance (Stern, 2017; Winkelmann & Kellner, 2020).

Road Infrastructure Factors

According to the results, there is a substantial gender difference in how people see road

infrastructure ($t(256) = -2.39$, $p = .017$). Male students ($M = 2.22$, $SD = 1.069$) thought that

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road design, quality, signs, and illumination were more troublesome than female students ($M = 1.89$, $SD = 1.119$). Males may perceive these concerns as more urgent due to variations in commuting habits, road usage frequency, or experiences with inadequate infrastructure

Socio-Economic Factors

The views of socio-economic factors also showed a statistically significant gender difference ($t(256) = -2.70$, $p = .007$). In contrast to female students ($M = 1.98$, $SD = 1.131$), male students ($M = 2.36$, $SD = 1.113$) were more likely to believe that socioeconomic factors, such as wealth inequality, educational

Human Factors

Interestingly, there were no discernible gender variations in how human factors were perceived ($t(256) = -1.86$, $p = .065$). Regarding how human behavior—such as driving attitudes, adherence to traffic laws, and propensity for taking risks—influences road safety, male and female students seem to have comparable opinions. This common understanding may be a reflection of a universal recognition, independent of gender, of the crucial role that individual behaviors play in safety outcomes (Harrison & Gummer, 2012; Freeman & Shaw, 2009).

These results show that perceptions of several aspects of road safety varied significantly by gender. Concerns about vehicle issues, road infrastructure, and socioeconomic situations

(Boulton et al., 2018; Clarke et al., 2004). According to Chien and Ding (2022), these discrepancies may also reflect disparities in the kinds of routes that men and women often take, with men possibly facing more difficult or dangerous road conditions.

attainment, and community infrastructure, had a greater influence on road safety. This discrepancy might indicate that men are more sensitive to systemic problems or have had experiences that make them more aware of the ways in which socioeconomic inequalities affect road safety (Azevedo et al., 2016; Zador et al., 1995).

were consistently greater among male students than among female students, while opinions about human factors were the same. These revelations highlight how crucial it is to modify road safety education and treatments to take into account the experiences and concerns of different genders. Policies that improve road infrastructure and vehicle safety, for instance, may be especially appealing to male audiences, while more general campaigns might equally involve both sexes in addressing behavioral problems. More inclusive and effective road safety measures may be created by recognizing and addressing these gendered views (Mackie et al., 2016; Verster et al., 2013).

Theoretical Implications of the Study

This study goes a long way in providing theory in terms of confirmation and extension of TPB in the context of road safety. The study based on Ajzen's (1985) TPB framework has shown that the determinants of the level of perceived road safety among college students in Davao City are attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. More precisely, the study

also emphasized that "behavioral intention shapes road safety behavior", based on results found by Castanier et al. in 2013, wherein "attitudes and norms stand as the best predictors for the compliance with website traffic." In adding demographic factors such as gender, the study extends TPB by providing insight into differences in perceptions of safety, which could

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be mediators to the cognitive constructs and the behavior, a finding similar to that of Ledesma et al. (2018).

Moreover, the study incorporates Risk Perception Theory to further demonstrate how students evaluate driving risks and take safety precautions. This aligns with Mustapha et al. (2024), where results indicated that the perception of risk influences compliance to safe practice such as speed and distance. The results are in agreement with that of Cox et al. Import for individual awareness and response towards environmental triggers for road safety as shown by Pease & Haves, 2017: The study further corroborates multidimensionality of perceptions as human factors, conditions in terms of vehicles, socio economic factors which is also on the lines of conceptual frames developed by Guadagnoli and Velicer, (1988) and also by Hammad et al, (2019).

Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of road safety perceptions among college students in Davao City, emphasizing the multidimensional nature of road safety and the critical factors influencing these perceptions. The findings highlight significant gender-based differences, particularly in concerns regarding vehicle safety, road infrastructure, socio economic and human factors. By incorporating research, it validates the importance of attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control in shaping road safety behaviors and this investigation demonstrates how male and female students prioritize and communicate their worries about road safety in different ways.

Recommendation

A diverse approach is necessary to improve attitudes toward safe road use and road safety awareness. Increase traffic safety initiatives and integrate human aspects teaching into educational programs, including how to avoid

These findings add to the theoretical models by bringing out how the individual, demographic, and systemic factors interplay in the actions of citizens on road safety. These are also differences that shine more with regard to the Davao City case, which provides a particularly filling gap in literature on road safety through researching a specific urban context: complementing findings from the global study on traffic behavior. It would also give an insight useful in designing intervention and policies within the context of locality. Sayed et al. (2022) and Bauernschuster & Rekers (2022). Overall, this study's alignment with, and expansion of, existing knowledge translates to targeted future research and interventions that could plausibly improve perceptions of road safety and, ultimately, actual safety outcomes.

The study's high reliability and construct validity, supported by statistical tools such as Cronbach's α and KMO measures, ensure that the results are both dependable and actionable. These insights contribute valuable data for developing targeted interventions, policies, and educational campaigns aimed at enhancing road safety awareness and reducing traffic-related accidents and fatalities. The outcomes of this research underline the strategies that address specific perceptions and behaviors, fostering a safer road environment for all. Future studies could build upon these findings by exploring additional contextual factors and expanding the sample to include other urban areas for a broader understanding of road safety challenges.

dangers, wear seatbelts and helmets, and obey traffic regulations. Address socioeconomic barriers by subsidizing safety training and gear, and invest in infrastructure improvements, especially in areas with socioeconomic

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disparities, to ensure safe conditions for all. Collaborate with local governments to enhance road lighting, signage, and design near schools and conduct regular infrastructure evaluations. Gender-specific interventions can target situational awareness for female students and technical safety for male students. Promote routine vehicle safety inspections, particularly for students using personal vehicles, and enforce auto maintenance laws. Universities can support this through extracurricular programs that link individual behavior to systemic factors like infrastructure and socioeconomic influences.

Future road safety efforts should explore innovative and inclusive methods, such as mixed approaches that combine surveys and in-depth conversations, to uncover the personal, cultural,

and situational factors influencing road safety. By expanding research to include diverse groups, rural communities, individuals from various age ranges, and different socioeconomic backgrounds, a fuller picture of the challenges and needs in road safety can emerge. Additionally, embracing new technologies and understanding how they can encourage safer road practices will open new possibilities for making roads safer for everyone. Long-term tracking of road safety initiatives through longitudinal studies will help develop evidence-based, sustainable policies and programs that adapt to evolving societal needs. Universities can further contribute by integrating extracurricular activities that link individual safety behaviors with systemic influences, fostering a holistic understanding of road safety.

Limitations and Future Research Directions

This study highlights important aspects of road safety perceptions but has several limitations that offer opportunities for further exploration. Although it offers a broad overview, the descriptive quantitative technique does not go further into the underlying reasons influencing these attitudes. Furthermore, the study's sample, which was restricted to Davao City college students, might not accurately reflect the viewpoints of other groups, such as those from rural areas, a range of age groups, or different socioeconomic backgrounds. The results may be impacted by potential biases such as recall bias or social desirability bias, which are introduced by the use of self-reported data.

To address these limitations, future studies should use mixed-methods approaches that combine quantitative surveys with qualitative techniques like focus groups and interviews in

order to overcome these limitations and build on the findings of the study. This method would enable a more thorough investigation of the behavioral, environmental, and cultural factors influencing how people perceive road safety. Expanding the research sample to road safety issues might be better understood if the research sample was expanded to include people from a wider range of demographics, such as rural locations and various socioeconomic backgrounds. Additionally, investigating the long-term impacts of road safety initiatives and incorporating cutting-edge technologies to promote safer driving practices will improve the findings' application and relevance. In addition to helping to inform more effective, evidence-based programs and policies, conducting longitudinal studies to track changes in attitudes and behaviors over time can also help make roads safer for everyone.

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