

ABSTRACT

School trips have their own consequences compared to other trips and they are influenced by various factors indicating availability of options. These trips have been extensively studied in the USA and in Western Europe countries. However, no such research has been carried out in developing countries like India. This study aimed to explore the travel decisions of school children in the differing context of a low-income country by collecting primary data in Kanpur city. Mode choice was modelled first as multinomial logit based on theoretical framework of McFadden (1974), and then by restructuring the utility function to multilevel framework of children nested in school and household wards. Various individual, demographic, socioeconomic, contextual, attitudinal and built environment attributes that were supposed to influence the choice decisions were included in both the models. Results showed that multilevel model clearly outperformed the simple MNL and coefficients of most of the variables improved contrastingly. Findings also suggest that gender was a key factor for not only in determining the mode choice for commuting to school, but also in the parental escort decisions. Making school bus service affordable and better managed is undisputable policy intervention that can be suggested to improve the school trip conditions in Kanpur.

Keywords: school travel, mode choice, discrete choice model, multinomial logit, multilevel model, Kanpur.