

ABSTRACT

The role of public transportation is extremely important in India with people relying heavily on these for their commute. In many Indian cities, public transportation services provided by the government are not sufficient, due to which private vehicles like three wheelers (popularly known as auto-rickshaws and tempos in northern India) which are meant for personal hiring are made available for public transportation and it is very popular among commuters due to their feasibility and availability.

In this thesis, an attempt has been made to discuss the impact of restricting these unauthorized shared tempos and to understand policy effectiveness from the user perspective. A case study of Kanpur city is taken to understand how a policy which imposes restrictions on usage of shared tempos as public transportation affects people and traffic parameters, and how these parameters influence the user's decision towards policy effectiveness. With a population of about 3 million, Kanpur is one of the most populous cities in India. Public transportation in Kanpur consists of both public and private buses and shared tempos and auto rickshaws. In the middle of 2011, in a bid to improve the traffic condition, the authorities of Kanpur declared a portion of Mall Road, one of the busiest streets of the city, as a no-tempo zone and introduced extra buses to take care of additional demand. A Binary logit Model for policy effectiveness was developed, using data collected by an intercept interview questionnaire survey of daily commuters of Mall Road, a major arterial road in the city. Using t-statistic and concept of elasticity, relative influence of explanatory variables was calculated. Using Descriptive statistics, impact of policy on traffic attributes was understood.

Since unauthorized vehicles running unorganized parallel transport systems are present in most of the Indian cities, it is expected that the results from this study will help decision makers to understand the commuters' perspective on this issue. It is anticipated that this study will help in understanding the significance of considering public's concerns prior to implementing any drastic measures.