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Reasons behind the heavy traffic jam in Dhaka City

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Abstract

This paper presents a overview on the causes of traffic jam in Dhaka city. Traffic rule violation accelerate the heavy traffic jam. This paper specially assesses the contributory factors responsible for traffic jam in Dhaka. Faulty traffic signaling systems, inadequate manpower, narrow road spaces and overtaking tendency of drivers create pro-longed traffic congestions. Due to traffic jam a substantial portion of working hours have to be left on streets which indirectly put adverse impact on economy.

Keywords: Traffic, Traffic jam, Rule, Violation.

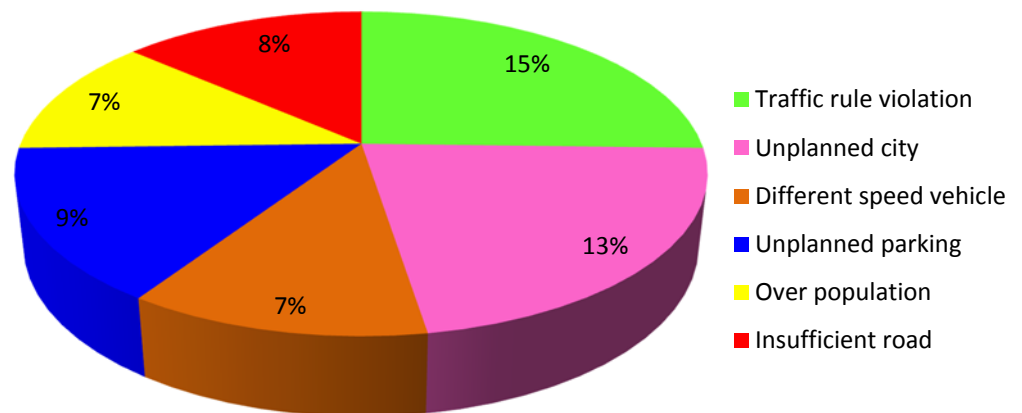
Introduction

Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh. It is the most densely populated city in the world. More than twelve million people live in Dhaka city. Day by day the number is increasing and most part of Dhaka is badly affected by huge traffic jam. Traffic jams have become intolerable in Dhaka. Although a modern city should have 25 per cent of its total area devoted to road use, Dhaka has only 7 per cent. Some other major reasons are the total absence of a rapid transit system; the lack of an integrated urban planning scheme for over 30 years; poorly maintained road surfaces, with potholes rapidly eroded further by frequent flooding and poor or non-existent drainage; haphazard stopping and parking; poor driving standards; total lack of alternative routes, with several narrow and (nominally) one-way roads.

Causes of Traffic Jam:

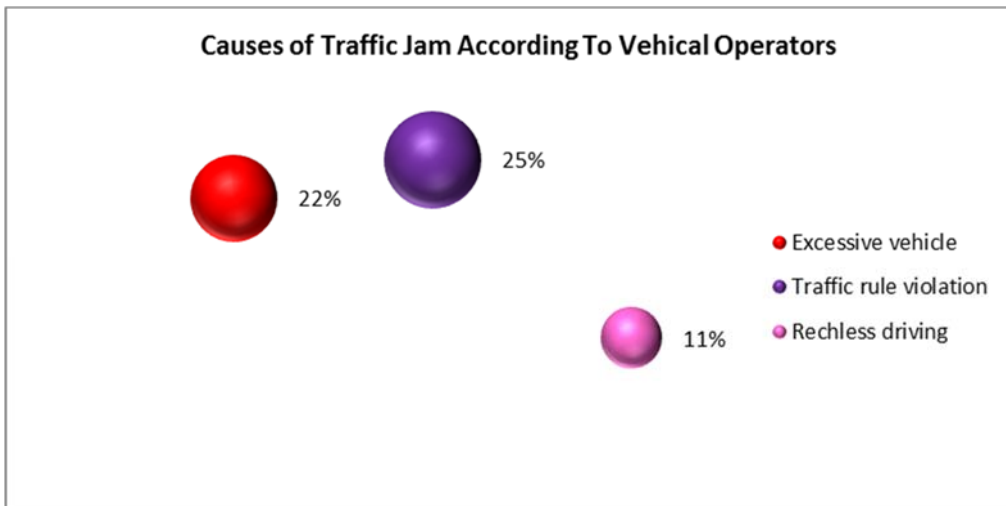
According to general people, who are the prime victims of traffic jam, think that Traffic rule violation is the main cause of traffic jam. After that lack of proper planning of the city, inadequate road space, unplanned stoppage or parking, different speed vehicle in the same road, over population, etc. are responsible for causing traffic jam in Dhaka City.

According To People The Causes of Traffic Jam



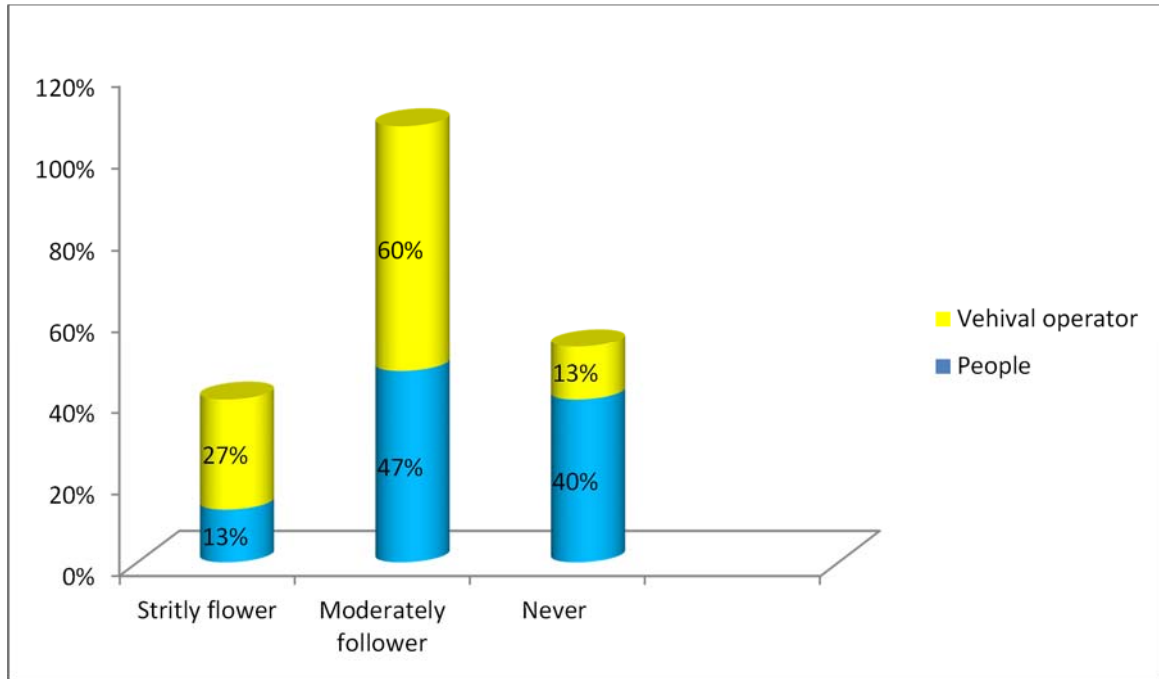
On the other hand according to vehicle operators, the main cause of traffic jam is traffic rule violation. Similarly too many vehicles in road and reckless driving of few drivers are causing traffic jams.

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1. Traffic Rule Violation:

Due to the gap of knowledge and unwillingness to follow traffic rules cause traffic jam.



So, traffic rules violation is one of the main reason that is responsible for traffic jam in Dhaka City.

2. Lack of Planning of City Road:

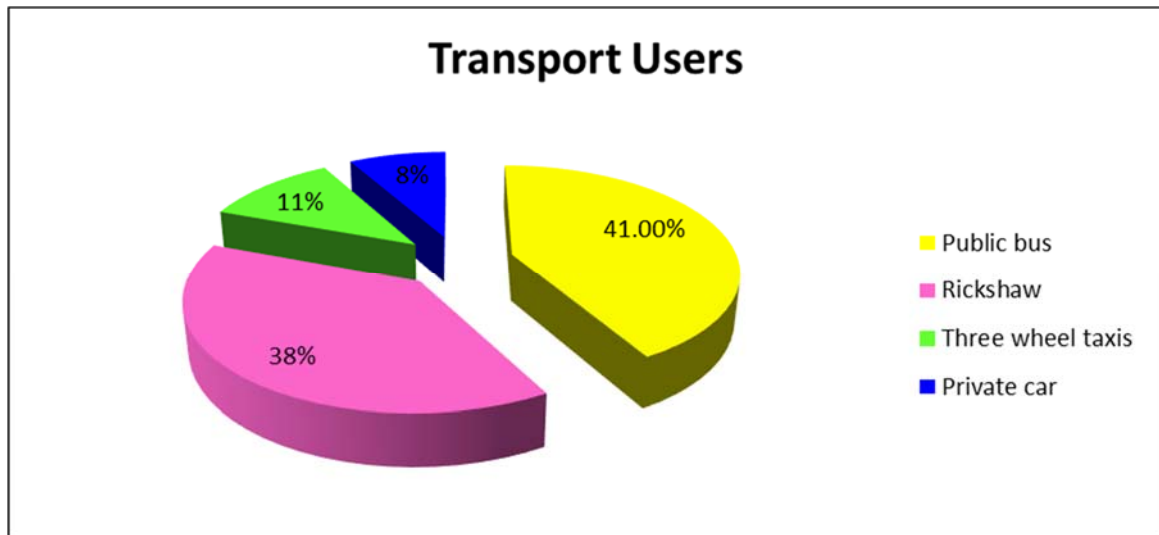
Dhaka City is expanding. As the city needs a road, authority keep making roads. But there is no pre plan. That is why traffic jam as an outcome of unplanned city.

3. Low Road Space:

With the low road space it is common that very few vehicles will get the chance to pass through them. It causes traffic jam.

4. Different Speed Vehicle:

In Dhaka city the most used transport is Public bus. After public bus, people use mostly rickshaw. People use taxi cab or small three wheel taxis also. And only a few people use private cars. There are also few bicycle travelers in Dhaka city.



Slow and fast moving vehicles are running through the same road. As a result, slow moving vehicles are making the fast moving vehicles slow. This is also one of the important reasons of traffic jam.

5. Over Population:

The population of Dhaka stands at approximately 7.0 million. The city, in combination with localities forming the wider metropolitan area, is home to over 15 million as of 2013. The population is growing by an estimated 4.2% per year, one of the highest rates amongst Asian cities. The continuing growth reflects ongoing migration from rural areas to the Dhaka urban region, which accounted for 60% of the city's growth in the 1960s

and 1970s. More recently, the city's population has also grown with the expansion of city boundaries, a process that added more than a million people to the city in the 1980s.⁶⁵ According to the Far Eastern Economic Review, Dhaka will be home to 25 million people by the year 2025. It is very apparent that due to heavy population in Dhaka City, traffic load is also huge. This huge population needs to transport from one place to another. As a result enormous traffic load is very common.

6. Unplanned Parking:

Due to lack of parking policy there is no planned parking facility over Dhaka City. That is why vehicle operators stop their vehicles in any place, where they need. The public buses ignore the authorized bus stoppages and picking up and dropping passengers from any point, even from the middle of the road. At the bus stoppages, the drivers park buses in a haphazard manner blocking normal traffic movement. And it cause traffic jam.

7. Insufficient Road:

The basic problem of the city's traffic system is that the existing road network is incapable of holding the ever increasing number of motor vehicles.

8. Lack of Law Implementation:

One important complain against traffic is lack of law implementation is encouraging illegal parking. Buses often overtake other vehicles from the wrong side. Over 95 per cent of the buses plying on different routes of Dhaka city do not comply with requirements under the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA). They do not have back lights, indicators etc. The on-duty traffic sergeants, deliberately or otherwise, overlook violation of MVA and other traffic rules.

9. Poor Signaling:

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is considering to take a move for expansion of the electronic signaling system to 'ease' traffic congestion in the city. A good number of such signaling devices have been out of order more than a year. The DCC is responsible for installation and maintenance of the traffic signaling system and the traffic division of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) uses the same for 'smooth' traffic movement. Most traffic intersections having installed traffic signaling system, the on-duty traffic policemen resort to the manual control of vehicular movement, on the plea that the system is ineffective during rush hours. This could be mainly due to the absence of a synchronized operation of the entire electronic traffic signaling system.

10. Problem of Planner Choice:

Normally two groups are responsible for the planning or operations of traffic in City of Dhaka. And a cool war is always running between planners and engineers. Planners work behind the scene and engineers work in the field. Planners try to plan for long future whether engineers look for short term solutions. The clash begins here. Planners want to plan first and then implementation whether engineers always want to work fast and have less visionary capabilities. But as they work on the field, they hold

executive power. Engineers want to work on more projects for their benefits. This conflict between planners and engineers remains for a longer time and development of traffic system of Dhaka City has a slower progress.

11. Lack of Driving Training:

And lastly, lack of proper training to the drivers and lack of driving sense are also causing traffic jam. There are also few reasons that we found out through our survey. Very few people think these reasons are also causing traffic jam.

12. Footpath Occupied by Hawkers:

Footpath occupying by hawkers make other people walk by the road, which is blocking the space for vehicles and causing traffic jams.

13. The presence of Road and Rail Line on the same ground level :

The existing "intercity rail line" passes through the important Central Business Districts and a number of important and busy roads of Dhaka City. When a train passes, lots of vehicles have to wait near the rail crossing, which causes serious traffic congestion at the interval of every 15 minutes as an average. Khilgaon Flyover, Mohakhanli Flyover, Banani Overpass and Kuril Interchanger are constructed for handling these sorts of traffic congestion, yet this traffic congestion shifted to surrounding area. Integrated transport plan are required to solve these problems.

Conclusion:

Dhaka city's traffic system is one of the most chaotic ones in the world. The residents are compelled to undergo physical stress and suffer financial losses in terms of man-hours lost on working days. The media, both print and electronic, have been constantly highlighting the sufferings of the commuters in Dhaka city. Yet no solution to the problem, apparently, is in sight, at least, in the short and medium terms, though a lot has been said and a big-enough programmer, undertaken with the assistance from a multilateral lender to improve the traffic situation of the capital city in recent years.

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