

Research Article

Investigating the Effect of Urban New Technologies on the Iranian Lorry Drivers' Behavior

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Most accidents are directly related to driving offenses, and drivers who commit more offenses are more prone to accidents. Therefore, reducing driving offenses can reduce accidents. In other words, the recognition of common driving offenses among heavy vehicle (truck) drivers and the effective factors in directing them to reduce driving offenses can consequently reduce the frequency and severity of accidents. It seems that there is a necessity for in-depth studies to carry out research on this topic. The main objective of this study is to identify and evaluate important factors affecting lorry drivers committing traffic offenses. To achieve the goals, the required information was categorized into six categories: traffic tonnage, not fastening the seatbelt, speeding, technical defect, talking on cell phone, and lacking towing worksheet; these factors are known as dependent variables. Also, its influencing factors—in the group of driver characteristics, vehicle, and mileage—were obtained by using a demographic questionnaire, Driving Behavior Questionnaire (DBQ), and interviews with 420 drivers over 60 days at Tehran Terminal. After correcting incomplete questionnaires, 351 drivers' information was used for statistical analysis. The statistical analysis of data using a multivariate logistic regression model showed that drivers loading and unloading five or six times per month are less likely to commit overloading than drivers loading and unloading more than 12 times per month. The results also show that the distracted drivers with less slip behavior are less likely to commit unauthorized speed offenses and 85.4% are less likely to commit this violation. Finally, the statistical analysis showed that drivers with aggressive driving behavior were more likely to commit a lack of towing worksheet offenses.

1. Introduction

Today, given the significant transportation activity in the countries' GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and consequently increasing the need for freight and cargo transportation, the importance of the freighter fleet has become increasingly bolder. In Iran, as in other developing countries, commercial transportation, mainly transported by semiheavy and heavy vehicles, plays an important role in the distribution of export and import cargoes. According to the Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development report in 2017, the volume of goods shipped within the country (annually) equals 428.348 million tonnes and the volume of journeys by trucks

is 29.909 million, which has released the index of 224.836 million tonne-kilometers of freight [1].

Drivers' offenses have been one of the major human factors leading to traffic accidents, which have been used in many studies to investigate driving behaviors. According to the Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development report in 2017, there were 63472 registered violations of which 121108 led to suburban accidents, 16201 led to death, and 33595 led to injury [1].

Meanwhile, lorry drivers due to the different sizes and weights of the vehicle as well as the higher percentage of traffic on the roads as a group of professional drivers have great importance in reducing traffic offenses and subsequent

accidents. Studies show that heavy-duty driving is among the highest-risk occupations for injury and death [2]. Heavy vehicles have fewer crashes than mileage; however, a very high percentage of traffic crash fatalities are devoted to heavy vehicle accidents [3].

The results of some studies have shown that there is a significant relationship between truck driver offenses and the occurrence of an accident [4]. One of the most important reasons for the increased risk of violations among the lorry drivers that result in more serious crashes is some significant differences between professional and nonprofessional drivers. Most of them, for example, are male and the average age of this *f* drivers' group is higher than that of the general driver [5]; they drive long and smoothly on the road [2, 6] and become tired and drowsy [3, 5, 7–10]. So, understanding the common offenses among lorry drivers and the factors that affect them to reduce offenses and consequently reduce the frequency and severity of accidents makes it more necessary to conduct studies in this regard. The most important contribution of the present research is that this study recognizes the relationship between driving offenses and the lorry driver's driving behavior, driver specification, vehicle, and travel and finally classifies them into six categories: overloading, seat belt, speeding, technical defect, talking on the phone, and lack of towing worksheet.

In spite of the importance and necessity of violations control in the cargo fleet mentioned in the introductory section, so far few studies have been conducted in this regard and of course most of them have used accidents as a parameter to predict accidents or only investigate the relationship between violations and demographic characteristics and the driver sleeping status.

2. Literature Review

In a general classification, the whole number of studies on lorry offenses can be classified into three categories, which are referred to in the following.

Some studies have investigated the factors affecting the occurrence of accidents and the investigating models of accident prediction in the field of cargo fleet. One of the most important parameters affecting the occurrence of lorry accidents, which were investigated in previous studies, is the age and the number of hours worked by the driver [4, 6, 11–16]. Researchers have also concluded in other studies that factors such as drowsiness, fatigue, and how salaries are paid increase the risk of accidents [17]. Other variables used in modeling the lorry driver's accidents include driving experience [4, 6, 14], physical health characteristics [4, 6], sleep duration [11, 14, 15], mileage [11, 14], and gender [4, 11–16].

Other investigations have also addressed the issue of offenses among lorry drivers and the variables affecting offenses. Driving behavior and individual behavioral characteristics [17–20], driver demographic information [8, 21], mileage [2, 15, 22], and fatigue and drowsiness [9, 20] are emphasized as the parameters considered in this section of studies.

Additionally, one of the most important offenses identified in past studies as a major contributing factor to the occurrence of accidents is speeding. The results show that there is a significant relationship between driving experience and driving offenses such as speeding and not fastening seat belts [2, 3, 5, 9, 18–20, 23, 24]. Other studies in this field have found that violations such as long-distance disobedience [9, 24], seat belts [2, 5], technical defect [5, 23], alcohol abuse [3, 5], and factors such as accident's history [2, 5, 24], violations records [25, 26], and some parameters of Driving Behavior Questionnaire (DBQ) [18, 19, 24] have a significant impact on the occurrence of cargo fleet accidents.

In other studies, the effect of driving behavior on committing offenses and its role in the occurrence of lorry driver's accidents are considered. Among the most important parameters to be considered in this section are the four parameters of errors, lapses, common violations, and aggressive violations that in the Drivers Behavioral Questionnaire, the most critical parameter in predicting accidents is distinguished as common violations [20]. Some of the parameters viewed in other studies include the amount of cognitive error [11]; individual rules and perceived behavior control [27]; anger and drivers' differences in driving behavior [18]; mental and emotional conditions while driving; and the drivers' driving style. Overall, studies on the behavior of lorry drivers are summarized in Table 1.

As summarized in previous studies, very few studies have identified the factors associated with the driving behavior of lorry drivers in committing self-reported driving offenses. The most important contribution of the present research is that this study recognizes the relationship between driving offenses and the lorry driver's driving behavior, driver specification, vehicle, and travel and finally classifies them into six categories: overloading, seat belt, speeding, technical defect, talking on the phone, and lack of towing worksheet.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Sample Information Studied. About 420 questionnaires were prepared to analyze demographic information and heavy vehicle drivers' driving behavior; and among these, 69 of them were eliminated due to deficiencies in answering the questions such as illogical answers, incomplete forms, unreadable questionnaires, and distorted forms. Table 2 presents the characteristics of the participants in this study. Notable points in lorry drivers' characteristics can be technical defect offenses with the highest percentage of repetition among other offenses as well as a significant number of drivers working as single drivers.

3.2. Questionnaire Information. The required information was gathered using two questionnaires. The first questionnaire collected information on demographic characteristics, sleep quality, driver self-reported violations, vehicle, and travel information. Additionally, DBQ was used as a baseline questionnaire. After examining and eliminating the questions, a 21-item survey with 4 factors was used, the details of which are displayed in Table 3.

TABLE 1: Summary of studies on lorry drivers' behavior offenses.

Authors	Country	The sample	Research method	Analysis	Findings and results
Salmon et al. [12]	America	382 questionnaire completed from 1065 questionnaires sent to drivers of transport companies	Driving Behavior Questionnaire (DBQ)	Factor analysis	Four factors (error, mistake, common violations, and aggressive violations) were identified, and only violations factor showed a significant relationship with accident prediction
Davey et al. [2]	Australia	443 volunteers, employees of a large insurance company in Australia	DBQ	PCA method for analyzing DBQ items	Many of the highway violations are related to aggressive driving behaviors, and the only parameter that can predict the violations is the mileage measured in a year
Ketabi et al. [4]	Iran	300 heavy vehicle drivers in Yazd	DBQ	Descriptive analysis, using SPSS, chi-square analysis, and Pearson correlation	The more the drivers are affected by their emotional and mental states, the more they will likely to have violations
De Winter et al. [17]	America	Approximately 6006 professional and nonprofessional drivers from 41 countries	DBQ	Linear regression	Self-reports of violations are relatively correlated with self-reports of accidents
Mehdizadeh et al. [16]	Iran	785 valid cases out of 914 lorry drivers in 10 provinces	DBQ	Hydrostatic models and regression and statistical models	The results of the study confirmed the four-factor model, including common violations, aggressive violations, lapses, and errors
Maslak et al. [19]	Serbia	918 nonprofessional drivers and 504 professional drivers	DBQ	Nonparametric analysis (PCA)	The results show a correlation between nonprofessional drivers and common and aggressive offenses and errors, while professional drivers are associated with positive behaviors
Naderi et al. [20]	Iran	In-person interview with 474 heavy vehicle drivers	DBQ	Structural equation modeling (SEM)	To the extent that drivers are dissatisfied with their sleep quality, lapses, errors, and violations increase. Also, the more expensive the vehicle is, the less fatigue is felt by the driver

The scree plot of exploratory factor analysis in Figure 1 shows that the four factors of normal violations, aggressive violations, slips, and risk violations are correctly distinguished.

3.3. Data Collection. In this research, for obtaining a modified DBQ, initially, a 50-question questionnaire (Reference Driving Behavior Questionnaire) was used to gather information about the drivers' driving behavior related to committing driving offenses. Also with the aim of identifying the factors behind the driving behavior, interviews were conducted with 392 heavy vehicle drivers with DBQ, during a 45-day interval in Tehran. Subsequently, with the filtering or removing incomplete data, 340 samples were used for statistical analysis and by using exploratory factor analysis with SPSS 22 software, factor loading of questions extracted, the results of which are shown in Table 3. The information required in this study was obtained through interviewing 420 heavy vehicle drivers in a 60-day interval at Tehran Terminal; then after filtering or removing incomplete questionnaires, 351 drivers' information was used for statistical analysis.

In this study, six types of driving offenses were defined as dependent variables: overweight, seatbelt, speeding, technical defect, talking on the phone, and not having towing worksheet; the factors affecting it were identified in the group of driver characteristics, vehicle, mileage, and driver sleep status as shown in Table 2. Kendall's nonparametric test (discrete variables) was used to investigate the dependence of the independent variables. The results showed that all the independent variables have a correlation coefficient of less than 0.5, and therefore the independent variables are not highly correlated [11]. All independent variables were classified, and SPSS-22 software was used for statistical analysis.

Figure 2 illustrates the exploratory working model of the study to understand how each variable relates.

4. Results and Analysis

In this study, the impact of each independent variable on lorry drivers' offenses was evaluated and the results of the chi-square test are displayed in Table 4. As indicated by the chi-square test results, all independent variables were

TABLE 2: Evaluated variables with the frequency of each classification.

Variables	Classes	Repetition percentage	Variables	Classes	Repetition percentage
Offenses	Overload	21.7	Mileage per year (thousand kilometers)	0–20	6.1
	Seat belts	20.4		21–60	14
	Speeding	15.1		61–100	10.2
	Technical defect	24.7		101–150	23.5
	Talking on the phone	14.5		151–200	21.3
Heavy vehicle drivers	Not having a towing worksheet	3.5	Vehicle ownership	> 200	24.9
	Single driver	87.5		The driver is the owner	55.1
	Two drivers	12.5		The driver is a partner	22.1
	Pickup	18.4		The driver is not the owner	22.8
Heavy vehicle type	Truck	29	How to get income	In terms of tonne-kilometer	44.6
	Single axle	19.2		By number of services	33.5
	Pair axle	11.3		In hours	0.4
Marital status	Thriller	22.1	Discharges and loading per month	Fixed salary	21.6
	Single	14.9		One or two	0.2
	Married	85.1		Three or four	9
Driver's age	< 30	12.1	Sleep duration in a day	Five or six	23.7
	30–39	31.4		Seven or eight	25.6
	40–49	34.5		Nine to eleven	15.7
	≥ 50	22.1		More than twelve	25.9
Education	High school	67.8	Sleep quality (business days)	< 6	36.3
	Diploma	26.6		6–8	45.9
	Advanced diploma	4.7		> 8	17.8
	Bachelor	0.9		Never	58
Vehicle's life	Above bachelor	0	Driving experience	Sometimes	9.1
	1–5	12.2		Always	22.5
	6–10	14.2		1–10	31
	11–15	20.6		11–20	30.5
	16–20	12		> 20	38.5
	> 20	41			

significant at 95% confidence level (Sig. < 0.05). The multivariate logistic regression model has been used to analyze the data and identify factors contributing to committing driving offenses. The parent method was used to develop the model in SPSS software. In the first step, all the significant and influential variables in describing the proposed model of this study were identified and inserted into the model.

In the next step, after identifying meaningful variables, multinomial logistic regression modeling has been used to construct the driving offense model. Logistic regression is usually used to categorize discrete variables. These models can be used to categorize binary response variables, such as variables with two solutions, and also can be used for response variables with r category (r can be greater than 2). These models are formatting the $r - 1$ logit model for response variables, so that each of the variable's classifications can be compared with the reference classification. In this study, because the dependent variable is a multinomial variable, multinomial logistic regression is used for modeling.

Modeling results of driving offenses for variable types of driving offenses are classified into six categories and listed in Table 5. It should note that, among the offenses expressed here, statistical models of three offenses such as talking on

cell phone, speeding, and lack of towing worksheet were eliminated due to a failure to identify the effective variables.

The results in Table 5 show the output of the statistical model in which heavy vehicles that are between 1 and 5 years old are more likely to commit overloading than those which are more than 20 years old. The results of statistical analysis have also shown that drivers who discharge and load five or six times per month are less likely to commit overloading than drivers who do more than 12 times per month and the probability of committing overloading offense is reduced by 87.5%.

The analysis of the results in speeding model shows that drivers who have never forgotten to turn on their car lights are less likely to commit speeding offenses than drivers who always forget to turn on their car lights and the probability of committing speeding violation is reduced by 85.4%.

Furthermore, in analyzing the statistical model of heavy vehicle technical defect offense, it was found that drivers who have never forgotten what gear they are driving are less likely to commit this offense than drivers who always forget about it. So, their probability of committing a technical defect is reduced by 76.8%. Moreover, in the age group of 30–39 years old, the tendency to commit technical defect is higher than the age group of over 50 years.

TABLE 3: Statistic summary of DBQ information.

	Average	Standard deviation	Factor loading
Normal offenses			
1. Without notice, you have crossed some intersections with inappropriate gear (maximum speed allowed) (Q1)	2.17	0.879	0.457
2. You get bored of a slow-moving driver, overtaking him (Q2)	2.93	1.018	0.456
3. You drive near the front car and turn on the lights regularly to get out of your way (Q3)	1.82	0.819	0.511
4. On the two-way route, one decides to overtake the front car in dangerous situations (Q6)	1.45	0.581	0.572
5. You have passed the hazard lamp that has just turned red (Q7)	1.64	0.642	0.499
6. You get angry at the driver's behavior and try to show your anger by turning to him or the beep (Q8)	2.70	0.809	0.435
7. You have largely ignored the legal speed late at night or early in the morning (Q9)	2.04	0.770	0.438
8. To avoid traffic, take the right side of the road and take the overpass (Q15)	2.04	0.914	0.487
9. If you go the wrong way, use the rear axle to get the desired axis (Q17)	2.01	0.793	0.422
Aggressive offenses			
1. You will not let the back car to overtake if he lights or beeps for you (Q14)	1.86	0.741	0.528
2. You do not pay attention to the red light when it is night and late	1.25	0.485	0.648
3. You did not notice pedestrians when turning from the main road to the side road (Q19)	1.47	0.567	0.451
4. Do not let the behind cars that are going to overtake you (Q21)	1.60	0.571	0.644
Risk offenses			
1. You have committed this violation despite the potential for fines due to overloading (Q11)	2.81	0.931	0.497
2. You are sleepy, but you keep on driving because of the short distance remaining (Q12)	3.02	1.038	0.523
3. Sometimes you race against another heavy car or similar car (Q20)	2.65	0.928	0.726
Slips			
1. You have lost the exit of a route and had to turn back a long distance (Q4)	2.57	0.734	0.468
2. Forgetting what gear you are driving and having to check (Q5)	1.52	0.631	0.503
3. Forgot to turn on your car's headlamps and notice that the rest of the cars are flashing for you (Q10)	1.58	0.618	0.441
4. Unable to read traffic sign ongoing to the wrong path (Q13)	1.89	0.721	0.453
5. When you overtake a vehicle, you do not notice it is signaling to the left (Q16)	1.79	0.727	0.401

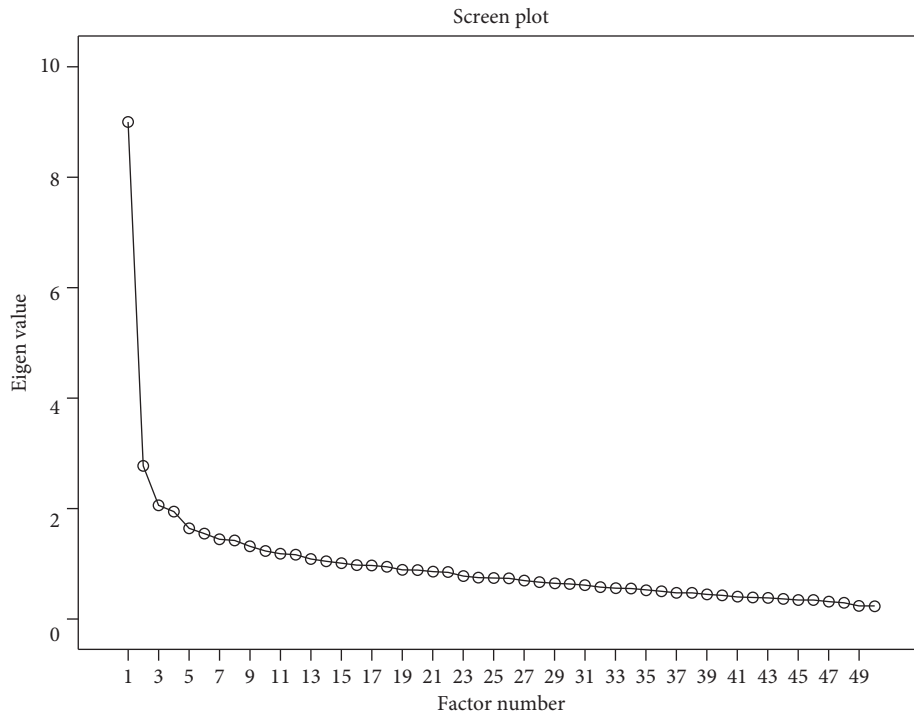


FIGURE 1: Descriptive analysis and identification of factors based on Driving Behavior Questionnaire (DBQ).

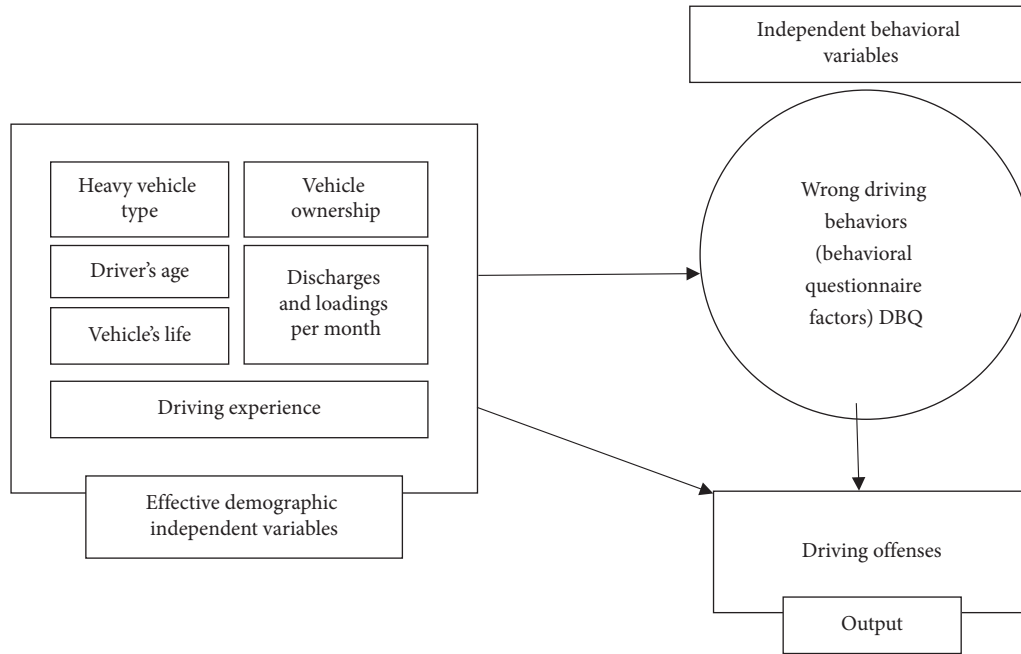


FIGURE 2: The exploratory working model.

TABLE 4: Chi-square test results for independent variables.

Variables	Chi-square statistics	Degree of freedom (df)	Significance level (sig)
Heavy vehicle type	70928	20	0,000
Driver's age	40524	15	0,000
Vehicle's life	52261	20	0,000
Driving experience	14762	10	0,141
Vehicle ownership	36099	10	0,000
Discharges and loadings per month	73606	30	0,000
Q1	43496	15	0,000
Q5	29515	10	0,001
Q7	51026	10	0,000
Q10	44163	10	0,000
Q11	101303	20	0,000
Q12	59959	10	0,000
Q16	32707	10	0,000
Q18	40127	10	0,000
Q19	38212	10	0,000

TABLE 5: Results of multivariate regression statistical model analysis.

Variable	Category	Reference category	Model coefficient	Standard deviation error	Sig.	Odds ratio
Overloading						
Intercept			15.851	332.431	0.962	
Driver's age (VA)	VA1	VA5	1.368	0.641	0.033	3.927
Discharges and loadings (LU)	LU3	LU7	-2.076	0.751	0.006	0.125
Speeding						
Intercept			12.894	332.433	0.969	
Discharges and loadings (LU)	LU3	LU7	-1.746	0.823	0.034	0.174
Vehicle's life (VA)	VA1	VA5	2.135	0.661	0.001	8.455
Driver's age (DA)	DA1	DA4	2.133	1.062	0.044	8.444
LOQ10 *	L1	L5	-1.924	0.823	0.019	0.146
Technical defect						
Intercept			1.415	451.659	0.997	

TABLE 5: Continued.

Variable	Category	Reference category	Model coefficient	Standard deviation error	Sig.	Odds ratio
Driver's age (DA)	DA2	DA2	1.484	0.724	0.040	4.409
LOQ5	L4	L4	-1.460	0.651	0.025	0.232
Talking on cell phone						
Intercept			11.470	332.435	0.972	
Driving experience (DE)	DE1	DE3	-2.052	0.837	0.014	0.129
LOQ7	L1	L5	-1.888	0.785	0.016	0.151
Lack of towing worksheet						
Intercept			-558.596	566.745	0.324	
Driver age (DA)	DA1	DA4	61.125	27.812	0.028	854.414
Driving experience (DE)	DE1	DE3	-47.711	21.957	0.030	198.149
Vehicle ownership (OOV)	OOV1	OOV3	112.847	46.684	0.016	334.126
LOQ10	L1	L5	-336.766	13.391	0.016	184.127
LOQ19	L2	L5	267.819	109.164	0.014	246.023

*LOQ means the five-point Likert scale of answering the question.

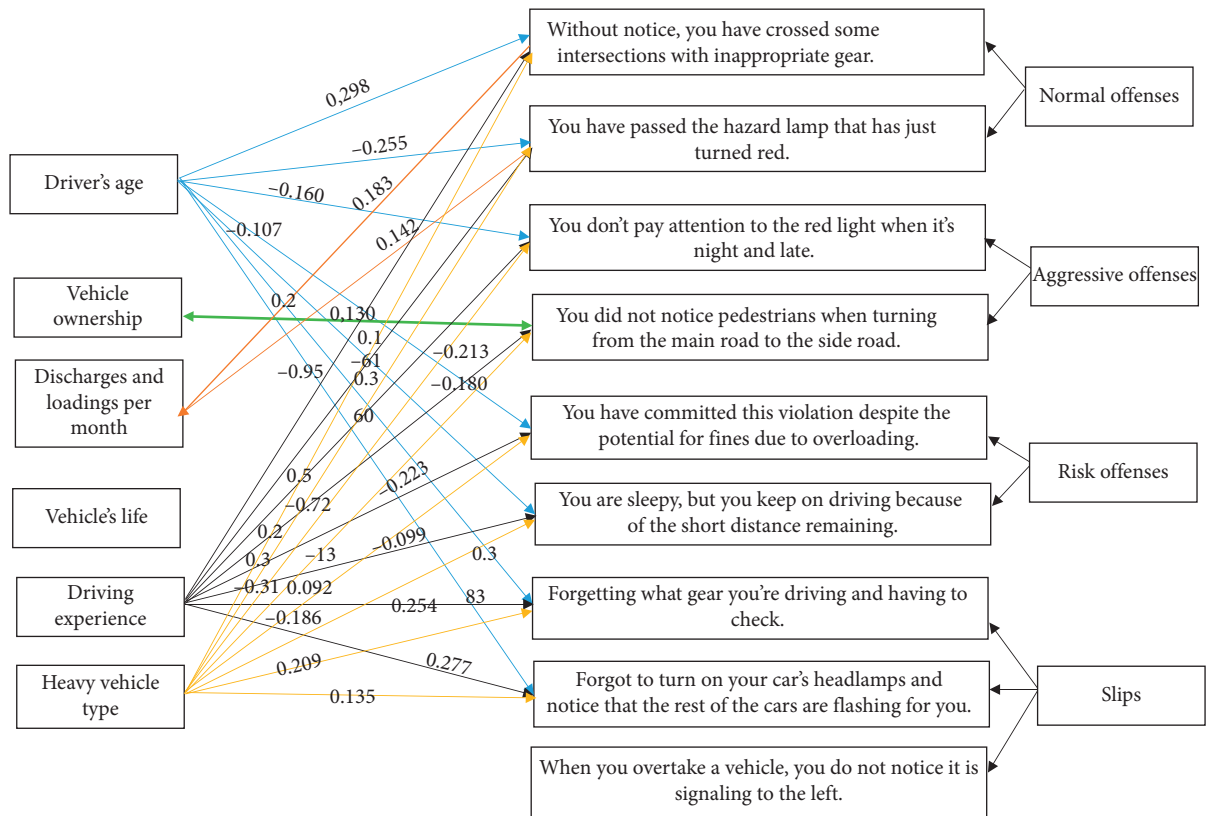


FIGURE 3: The relationship between independent influential parameters in the utility model and their correlation consequences using the Spearman method.

The results analysis of talking on cell phone model shows that drivers with more than 20 years of driving experience are less likely to commit this offense than drivers who have less than 20 years of experience and the probability of committing this violation is reduced by 87.1 percent.

Finally, the analysis of the model results for lack of towing worksheet revealed that drivers whose type of vehicle is a truck were less likely to commit this offense than those whose vehicle type was a trailer. Statistical analysis additionally showed that drivers who have never forgotten to

turn on their car lights were less likely to commit a lack of towing worksheet than drivers who always forgot to turn on their car lights. Also, drivers who have rarely experienced these conditions, who did not notice pedestrians when crossing the main road, were more likely to commit a lack of towing worksheet than drivers who always happened to do so.

In the next section of this study, independent parameters related to drivers' demographic characteristics were used to create the utility model, as well as independent variables

related to drivers' driving behavior and their related factors used. Therefore, the relationship between these two parts of the independent parameters influencing the model and their correlation is investigated by the Spearman method and shown in Figure 3.

5. Conclusion

The main objective of this research is to recognize and assess important factors affecting lorry drivers committing driving offenses. To achieve these goals, the required information was collected during a 60-day interval at Tehran Terminal, through interviewing 420 heavy vehicle drivers, and after filtering or removing incomplete questionnaires, 351 driver's information for statistical analysis was used. It should be noted that, in this study, the six types of driving offenses classified as dependent variables included tonnage overloading, seat belt, speeding, technical defect, talking on cell phone, and lack of towing worksheet, and also the factors affecting it, in the group of driver characteristics, vehicle, and mileage, were identified.

Statistical analysis of the data obtained using a multivariate logistic regression model showed that those drivers who discharge and load five or six times per month are less likely to commit overloading than drivers who do more than 12 times per month and the probability of committing overloading offense is reduced by 87.5%. In other words, according to the study results, increasing the number of discharge-loading times has increased the likelihood of committing driving offenses by limiting the hours of driving and the number of discharge and loading times for drivers in urban areas such as suburban drivers. Therefore, the use of weighing in motion (WIM) scales at urban highways as well as the requirement for freight companies to implement rigorous freight measurements is suggested to reduce overloading, especially on urban roads.

Also, the analysis of the results in the model of speeding shows that drivers who have less slip behavior and are not so distracted are less likely to commit speeding offenses and the probability of violating their speed limit is reduced by 85.4%. In other words, distracting drivers are more likely to commit speeding offenses. This group of drivers appears to be traveling more and more at unauthorized speeds because they have less control over their speed. The result of this study is in accordance with the result of the study done by Naderi Nassiri et al. in 2018 [20] but is against the results obtained by Precht Keinath et al. in 2017 [18].

Furthermore, in analyzing the statistical model of heavy vehicle technical defect offenses, it was found that distracted drivers are more likely to commit traffic violations and the probability of committing their technical defect offenses is increased by 76.8%. In this regard, it is possible to record the renewal of the driver's license examination by recording vehicle and driver information in the road police system.

Furthermore, in the age group of 30–39 years, the tendency to commit technical defect offense is higher than the age group of 50 years. Finally, the statistical analysis

showed that drivers with aggressive driving behavior were more likely to commit a lack of towing worksheet offense.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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