Title: The Motorcycle and Mobility: A Blessing or a curse
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Abstract

The zero-rating of motorcycles in Kenya in 2008 resulted in increase in commercial motorcycles importation. This increased has created employment for many unemployed youths and economic growth of Kenya. They have also increased mobility in areas not accessible with other means of transport. Motorcycles are therefore a blessing for many families, individuals and communities in Kenya. Despite the benefits, motorcycle road traffic accidents and related unintended injuries are reported daily. Presently, several hospitals across Kenya have designated special wards to handle motorcycle accident cases. The victims and their families suffer significant social and economic losses. Thus, whereas the emergence and use of motorcycles has contributed to growth in Kenya’s economy, some of the revenue generated is lost through motorcycle accidents. Whereas the benefits are many and real, they should be weighed against the social and economic costs related to motorcycle accidents and injuries. This paper argues that whereas motorcycles are a blessing in many ways, they are also a curse.

Keywords: Motorcycles, safety, unintended injuries, socio-economic costs, Kenya