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Title Young people's traffic behaviour, risk-evaluations, ethical interpretations and attitudes to traffic education			
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<p>Abstract</p> <p>The aim of the study was to find out what kind of perception young people have of their own traffic behaviour and how they experience the typical risks that increase their risk to die or injure in traffic. The type of what kind of ethical interpretations they have concerning drunken driving, speeding and using seat belts were also charted. One purpose was also to find out what kind of traffic education the young people find to be efficient and interesting.</p> <p>The research material was collected in the spring 2001 by using two different questionnaires. With the help of the first questionnaire experiences about Menossa mukana –traffic education project were collected. The other questionnaire included some general questions about traffic education, traffic behaviour, risk-evaluations and ethical interpretations. There were totally 756 respondents of whom 62% answered to both questionnaires.</p> <p>According to the study most of the respondents are trying to behave safely in traffic. They are trying to avoid risks and they want to drive in safe and deliberate way. Those young people that want to take risks are usually boys. These risk-takers also thought that not wearing seat belt, drunken driving and speeding are not so serious risks in traffic.</p> <p>The youth felt that drunken driving is the most serious risk in traffic. Also in their ethical interpretations the respondents felt that the norms that prohibit drunken driving are more universal and binding than the norms on speeding or seat belt usage. The type of the ethical interpretations the respondents made affected strongly to the ways they self behaved in traffic. The more universal ethical interpretations they made the safer their traffic behaviour was. According to their self assesment the young people felt that the best ways to increase their own safety in traffic are avoiding risks, taking responsibility of own actions, changing driving manners or changing traffic environment.</p> <p>The respondents felt that “soft” ways which believe in human and their motivations work better in traffic education than “hard” ways. They were interested especially in driver training and the stories of young people injured in road traffic accidents. The risk taking drivers were not as interested in traffic education than other young people. The respondents felt that Menossa mukana –project is interesting and effective.</p>			
Key words traffic behaviour, risk-evaluation, ethical interpretations, traffic education			
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