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Continuous Training of Passenger Boat Drivers to Prevent Loss of Lives and Injuries within the Lagos Riverine

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Abstract
The safety of maritime transportation is subject to measures employed in the protection of human lives and materials, directly or indirectly. Ensuring safety at coastal waterways is an important component that can be divided into several aspects; those that create the regulations, those that see to the implementation and enforcement of safety measures and standards; and the legal instruments related to coastal waterway safety and international maritime conventions, and coastal water users. The primary objective of this study is to investigate the impact of continuous training of passenger boat drivers on the prevention of loss of lives and injuries within the Lagos riverine. The study was carried out in five selected marine companies in the Apapa area of Lagos state from where 80 marine vessel operators were purposively selected for the study. The questionnaire was used in obtaining the data used for the study. Analysis was done descriptively using frequencies and percentages while the hypothesis formulated was tested using chi-square. The study result of the study among others revealed that continuous training of passenger boat drivers has several impacts on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers by improving the drivers existing knowledge of marine operations, ensuring effective navigation on the sea, ensuring effective navigation on the sea, improving their understanding of emergency announcements during navigation, aiding them in identifying threats at sea and how to respond to them; as well as help them familiarizes with the correct use of personal safety equipment. The study concluded therefore that there continuous training of passenger boat drivers is inevitable for the safety of seafarers. With this result, the study recommends mandatory continuous training of passenger boat drivers.

Keywords: Continuous training, passenger boat, drivers, prevent loss of lives, injuries, Lagos riverine

I. Background

The Nigerian Inland waterways can be described as the second longest waterways in Africa. Water transportation in Nigeria is made of three components; the ocean, coastal water, and inland water transport. The safety of maritime transportation is subject to measures employed in the protection of human lives and materials, directly or indirectly. Ensuring safety at coastal waterways is an important component that can be divided into several aspects; those that create the regulations, those that see to the implementation and enforcement of safety measures and standards; and the legal instruments related to coastal waterway safety and international maritime conventions, and coastal water users (Okuma & Akpofure, 2022). Commercial passenger boats are regarded as a successful means of transportation as there is an increased reliance on it waterway transport for economical movement of both passenger and goods. The prevalence of passenger boat accidents in coastal transportation usually arises from non adherence to maritime safety laws.

It is the general belief by passengers that the safety of passengers is not one that is seriously handled by the government, as not much has been seen to occur by way of safety precautions on waters (Adeniyi, 2017). A major issue associated with Lagos waterways includes overcrowding of boats and jetties, which is made worse by lack of concern or unawareness by passengers about safety precautions during travels.

The increased use of water as a means of transportation in Nigeria also means increased rate of boat mishaps. Despite water transportation being regarded as a very safe mode of transportation, there is a need for improvement in regards to the safety of commercial passenger boats in developing countries such as Nigeria (Abiodun, 2021). Passenger safety at sea is of utmost importance and is thus the focus of this paper in investigating the impact of continuous Training of Passenger boat drivers in preventing Loss of lives and injuries within Lagos Riverine.

Statement of research problem

Lagos state waterways has witnessed lots of boat mishaps and accidents in recent times, thus exposing the prevalent danger and lack of safety

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inherent in public transportation (The Guardian, 2022). Across Nigeria, hundreds of people have been reported to meet with untimely death for reasons such as boat defects, overloading, inadequate facilities, environmental challenges, disobedience or non adherence to regulations amongst other factors. The essence of having the water channels as a means of transportation is for social and economic benefit. However, the sad state of the waterways in Lagos state and the riverine communities leaves much to be desired. The constant occurrence of accidents is an indication of the breakdown of law and order, as well as the inadequacy and non enforcement of regulations set to guide the waterways and the activities carried out on it

The gridlocks often associated with Lagos state has led to many seeking alternative means of transportation through the waterways. However, the trend in boat accidents in Nigeria has become prevalent and has become a source of worry. This has resulted in description of the waterways as dangerous, made worse by the occurrence of sea piracy which has heightened all forms of insecurities and led to property and life loss (Afolabi, 2022). It is based on the foregoing that this paper is set to the impact of continuous training of passenger boat drivers to prevent loss of lives and injuries within Lagos Riverine.

Research Objectives

1. Identify the causes of boating mishaps
2. Investigate the significance of Continuous training of Passenger boat drivers in ensuring passenger safety on rivers
3. Determine the type of training that should be given to Passenger boat drivers to ensure safety and security
4. Determine the impact of Continuous training of Passenger boat drivers on prevention of injuries and loss on rivers

Research questions

1. What are the causes of boating mishaps?
2. What is the significance of Continuous training of Passenger boat drivers in ensuring passenger safety on rivers?
3. What type of training that should be given to Passenger boat drivers to ensure safety and security?
4. What is the impact of Continuous training of Passenger boat drivers on prevention of injuries and loss on rivers?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Overview of Passenger boats

Passenger boats describe a ship used in the transportation of passengers with distinct features such as a large upper-structure which serves a s space for passengers. Passenger ships vary in size and include ferries, which transport passengers and vehicles on short trips from one place to another (Tawfeek, 2018). Safety of lives and properties in the shipping sector is subject to the competence and training of seafarers to ensure efficiency of navigation and preservation of the marine environment. In this regard, it is important for serving officers or boat drivers to be well equipped and informed on issues of basic safety, pollution prevention and all forms of responsibilities during ship operations. The training of this group of people should cover survival techniques, first aid, fire prevention, and personal and social responsibilities.

A common and popular method identified for improving attitudes towards safety is through training programmes. Andrei et al., (2018) opined that training is significant in shaping behaviours which may have direct or indirect influence on safety. Given the fact that insufficient training is a leading factor in occupational-related mishaps, work related procedures therefore have been established as a requirement in minimizing the occurrence of major accidents on board (Roberts et al., 2014). To this end, training programmes and education for seafarers on safe behaviour while on board has been recommended to be a major aspect in work related procedures ((Jensen & Oldenburg, 2019).

Dragomir and Utureanu (2016) defined training as an important aspect of man's history and in human learning and development. Possessing quality training is significant to ensuring a high standard operation. Training has the benefits of increasing value and ensuring safety on board a ship. Barsan et al., (2011) opined that a well-trained seafarer is the most valuable asset that can be possessed by a ship owner, and they are of great importance to any maritime company armed with the aim of being responsible and offering quality services.

Significance of training passenger boat drivers

Training is important as enables a crew to become familiar with the various processes to be adhered to during operations and emergency situations. Carrying out training among personnel on passenger ships ensures they are well acquainted with existing regulations and laid down safety procedures. Training of personnel could comprise of any number of teachings such as Fire drills and first

aids (Shangchun, 2000). When a fire occurs aboard ship, everyone is placed at risk and this is made worse when passengers are unfamiliar with the use of lifesaving equipment. However, ensuring proper training of seafarers and passenger boat drivers can greatly minimize such hazard, and enabling swift response, thus preventing devastating outcomes. Raunek (2020) pointed out the importance of fire drills and trainings as it enables a ship crew to understand fire prevention and tasks that should be performed in cases of emergencies on board. Thus, fire safety training can teach workers to recognize fire hazards, conduct risk assessment, prevent and respond to fire occurrence.

Another important training usually given is on elementary first aid, which must be known by every seafarer and drivers aboard a ship. Being knowledgeable about first aid technique is important, as a medical need may arise, requiring basic skills to save a life. Possessing first aid training also has the advantage of reducing medical dockings, as well as diversions and expensive helicopter evacuations (Hristova, 2019).

Empirical review

Ahmad, Mohd, and Mohd (2020) investigated the effects of basic training on seafarers' shipboard safety knowledge, attitude and behavior, and found that possessing basic training improves knowledge, attitude and behaviour at sea. Onwuegbuchunam (2013) identified factors responsible for marine vessel accidents in Nigeria's waterways to include human and environmental factors. The study made use of structured questionnaires to obtain data which was analyzed using multinomial logit regression model.

Okuma and Akpofure (2022) examined the safety of inland waterway transportation in Kurutie, Okerenkoko, and Escravos River, Nigeria using a cross-sectional research design, on a sample comprising of passengers who are maritime workers, students, academic and non-academic personnel, and technical experts, as well as self-employed passengers resident in the study locations. Data was obtained by means of questionnaires and field observations distributed to the respondents. The study found that most cases of maritime boat mishaps along the inland waterway were due to factors such as overcrowding, nonenforcement of regulations, and unskilled boat drivers.

Abiodun (2021) investigated the training and retraining of passenger boats in ensuring the safety of lives and properties, using a sample comprising marine vessel operators and crew members selected from marine companies in Lagos state, Nigeria. The questionnaire was used in sourcing for data, which was analyzed descriptively. The study identified the importance of training and retraining to include updating existing knowledge of drivers on marine operations, increasing understanding of emergency announcements, ensuring effective navigation, and improving skills, productivity and efficiency. The study further found that training and retraining enables quick identification of emergency or threatening situations and appropriate response.

Theoretical framework: Basic training and KAB theory

Basic Training (BT) is required of all seafarers aboard any type of ship. This is to ensure their readiness and capability to execute designated tasks (ITF, 2010). Basic training encompasses fire prevention, first aid, personal safety and fire fighting, as well as proper procedure to abandon ship (IMO, 2017). It is the emphasis of this model that basic training should improve the attitude and behavior of the trainee based on the Knowledge and Behaviour Theory (KAB) (Fabrigar et al., 2006). The KAB model asserts that a positive behaviour change is influenced by knowledge and attitude. This model on knowledge and behaviour theory establishes a relationship between an individual's knowledge and behaviour which can be utilized in a situation to create awareness of specific dangers as well as ensure prevention. The emphasis of the KAB model is on expectation of attitude change which can be improved upon for positive impact even after the completion of basic training requirement.

III. Methodology

In carrying out this study, a descriptive survey was used in selecting the population size, while e purposive sampling technique was used to select respondents that make up the sample size of 80 marine vessel operators. This procedure enables the researcher to select members of the population for the sample as the situation allows. The study also adopted a non-probability sample technique in the form of purposive sampling to select five marine companies from the Apapa area of Lagos state, Nigeria. This selection was also subject to the availability, willingness, and knowledge of the respondents. The questionnaire was used in obtaining the data used for the study. The questionnaire was structured on a four-point Likert scale of Strongly Disagree (SD=1), Disagree (D=2), Agree (A=3), Strongly Agree (SA=4). Analysis was done descriptively using means and simple percentages.

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Data Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion

A hundred questionnaire was distributed but only 80 were returned which constitutes the sample size used in this study. Of the 80 participants, 48.7% were male whereas 51.3% indicated that both genders took part in the study. The participants constitute those who must have taken part in some level of formal education indicating that the participants can read, understand as well as respond to the questionnaire without assistance from the researcher whose presents is likely to affect their response. Finally, the participants have diverse work experience which implies that they have experience with the subject being investigated. This information is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the data

Variables	Frequencies (N=80)	Percentages (%=100)
Gender		
Male	39	48.7
Female	41	51.3
Educational Qualification		
OND/NCE	19	23.8
B.Sc./ HND	45	56.3
M. Sc./MBA	15	18.8
Others	1	1.3
Experience		
Less than 5 years	18	22.5
5 but less than 10 years		
10 but less than 20 years	35	43.8
20 years and above	17	21.3
	10	12.5

Field Survey (2022)

Analysis

1. What are the causes of boating mishaps?

The information presented in Table 2 below centers around the causes of boat mishaps. As indicated in the Tale, boating mishap is caused by poor boat maintenance (100.0%). Other factors are the malfunctioning engine (97.5%); boat grounding due to unfamiliarity with the waterway routes (83.8%); Lack of enforcement of safety regulations by government agencies (82.5%); Poor weather (92.5%). Others such as Overloading/overcrowding of boats (86.3%) and the inexperience of boat drivers (80.0%). The information is seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Causes of boating mishaps

Statements/Items	Strongly agreed/ Agreed	Disagreed/ Strongly disagreed	Percentage agreement	Decision (Benchmark≥50 %)
Poor boat maintenance	80	0	100.0	Accepted
Malfunctioning engine	78	2	97.5	Accepted
Boat grounding due to unfamiliarity with the waterway routes	67	13	83.8	Accepted

Lack of enforcement of safety regulation by government agencies	66	14	82.5	Accepted
Poor weather	74	6	92.5	Accepted
Overloading/overcrowding of boats	69	11	86.3	Accepted
The inexperience of boat drivers	64	16	80.0	Accepted

Field survey (2022)

2. **What is the significance of continuous training of passenger boat drivers in ensuring safety on rivers?**

The second research question was formulated to examine the significance of continuous training of passenger boat drivers in ensuring safety on rivers. The result indicated in the table shows that continuous training of passenger boat drivers have its advantage. In the first place, it enables the drivers to understand the importance of enforcing safety regulations by Government agencies (90.0%). It also helps boat drivers to enforce the use of safety gadgets to reduce boat accidents (86.3%). Continuous training will enable drivers to enforce the use of safety vests by passengers (82.5%) as well as improve the quality of their service (97.5%).

Table 2: The significance of continuous training of passenger boat drivers in ensuring safety on rivers

Statements/Items	**Strongly agreed/ Agreed**	**Disagreed/ Strongly disagreed**	**Percentage agreement**	**Decision (Benchmark≥50%)**
Continuous training will enable them to understand the importance of enforcing safety regulations by Government agencies	72	6	90.0	Accepted
Continuous training will enable boat drivers to enforce the use of safety gadgets to reduce boat accidents	69	11	86.3	Accepted
Continuous training will enable drivers to enforce the use of safety vests by passengers	66	14	82.5	Accepted
Continuous training will enable drivers to improve the quality of their service	78	2	97.5	Accepted

Field survey (2022)

3. **What type of training should be given to Passenger boat drivers to ensure safety and security?**

The study also investigated the type of training that should be given to passenger boat drivers to ensure safety and security. The result gathered from the study indicated that the drivers are trained on the implication of rendering services at night and from illegal terminals (83.8%). The study also revealed that the drivers are oriented on the responsibilities and various regulations associated with their profession (97.5%). As part of their training, they are acquainted with the good practices associated with the industry (97.5%); as well as trained in how to anticipate problematic situations and measures to reduce them (86.3%). Their training extends to equipping them with the necessary certifications and programs to acquire (81.3%) as well as the personal survival techniques (85.0%) they need to learn in case of emergencies. They are also trained in elementary first aid (90%) in case of an accident. The detailed response is presented in the table below.

Table 3: The type of training that should be given to Passenger boat drivers to ensure safety and security

Statements/Items	Strongly agreed/ Agreed	Disagreed/ Strongly disagreed	Percentage agreement	Decision (Benchmark≥50%)
The implication of rendering services at night and from illegal terminals	67	13	83.8	Accepted
Orientating them on the responsibilities and various regulations associated with their profession	78	2	97.5	Accepted
Training on the industry's good practice	78	2	97.5	Accepted
Training on how to anticipate problem situations and measures to reduce them	69	11	86.3	Accepted
Training on necessary certifications and programmes to acquire	65	15	81.3	Accepted
Personal survival techniques	68	12	85.0	Accepted
Elementary first aid	72	8	90.0	Accepted

Field survey (2022)

4: Determine the impact of Continuous training of Passenger boat drivers on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers

The study finally shows the impact of continuous training of passenger boat drivers on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers. The study result indicated in the table shows that continuous training of passenger boat drivers has several impacts on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers by improving the drivers existing knowledge of marine operations (82.5%) as well as ensuring effective navigation on the sea (88.8%) ensuring effective navigation on the sea. The training will improve their understanding of emergency announcements during navigation (96.3%); aid them in identifying threats at sea and how to respond to them (93.8%); as well as aids them familiarizes with the correct use of personal safety equipment (96.3%)

Table 3: The impact of Continuous training of Passenger boat drivers on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers

Statements/Items	Strongly agreed/ Agreed	Disagreed/ Strongly disagreed	Percentage agreement	Decision (Benchmark≥50%)
Continuous training of passenger boat drivers will improve their existing knowledge on marine operations	66	14	82.5	Accepted
It ensures effective navigation on the sea	71	9	88.8	Accepted
It will improve their understanding of emergency announcements during navigation	77	3	96.3	Accepted
It will aid them in identifying threats at sea and how to respond to them	75	5	93.8	Accepted
It familiarizes them with the correct use of personal safety equipment	77	3	96.3	Accepted

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H01: There is no significant impact of continuous training of passenger boat drivers on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	435.151[a]	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	317.286	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	179.554	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	286		

a. 7 cells (43.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.45.

The hypothesis formulated was tested using Chi-Square of which the calculated result 435.151 is way higher than the tabulated result 1.45. Likewise, the probability value is 0.000 is less than the proposed significant level of 0.05%. With these results, we reject the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative hypothesis. This shows there is a significant impact of continuous training of passenger boat drivers on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers.

IV. Discussions

The result obtained from this study has proven that continuous training of passenger boat drivers on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers. It is important to note that boating and shipping operations, as well as associated activities and the infrastructure that facilitates them, may have an impact on the environment. This includes both planned and inadvertent releases of ballast and bilge water, hydrocarbons, rubbish, and sewage, as well as animal collisions and other disruptions. Changes that occur to the bottom substrate and ecosystems caused by mooring, anchoring, and vessel groundings are also among the consequences. There are numerous techniques available to deal with these impacts in a sustainable manner, hence the need for continuous training. The result of this study indicated that continuous training keeps boat drivers up-to-date with the current practices in the sector. This includes the ability to ensure the protection of both life and the environment. This implies that the continuous training of boat passenger drivers is broad and multi-dimension in order to make a significant impact on the sector by preventing injuries and loss on rivers. For this reason, training drivers enhance their understanding of the importance of enforcing safety regulations by Government agencies (90.0%), as well as help them enforce the use of safety gadgets to reduce boat accidents (86.3%). Continuous training enhances drivers to enforce the use of safety vests by passengers (82.5%) as well as improve the quality of their service (97.5%). The result of this study is in agreement with earlier studies on the relevance of continuous training of passenger boat drivers such as Abiodun (2021); Abiodun (2021); Afolabi (2022), and Jensen and Oldenburg (2019) respectively who also share similar findings on the need for continuous training of passengers' boat.

V. Conclusion and recommendation

The overall finding of this study indicates that continuous training of passenger boat drivers is inevitable for the prevention of accidents and improvement of the safety of seafarers. In order to continue the expansion of global seaborne trade, coastal, flag nations, and the whole international maritime community must ensure the safety of navigation and lives at sea. For this reason, the National governments, as well as the Federal government has invested significant money and efforts in programmes aimed at minimising the number of accidents affecting marine vessels at sea. For example, the Nigerian Maritime Administration recently invested significant efforts in cleaning abandoned wrecks from rivers to ensure safe travel. The Maritime Guard Command has been re-established to police shipping restrictions. These efforts can be considerably aided by empirically based intervention plans that identify particular accident risk variables. However, the result from this study indicated that, alongside these efforts, continuous training of passenger boat drivers will enhance safety and prevent accidents in the rivers. Thus, the study recommends mandatory regular training for passengers boat drivers to improve safety and prevent accidents in the sea.

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APPENDIX

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dear Respondent,

I am carrying out a study on "Continuous Training of Passenger boat drivers to prevent Loss of lives and injuries within Lagos Riverine", and you have been chosen to be part of the study. This questionnaire is only for academic purposes. Kindly select the response which applies to you and all information will be kept confidential

SECTION A

Gender: Male ( ) Female ( )

Education qualification

a. OND/NCE ( )
b. B.Sc./ HND ( )
c. M. Sc./MBA ( )
d. Others ( ) Specify……

Years of experience

a. Less than 5 years ( )
b. 5 but less than 10 years ( )
c. 10 but less than 20 years ( )
d. 20 years and above ( )

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SECTION B:
Instructions: Please tick **(√)** as appropriate where
SA = Strongly Agree (SA), A = Agree, D = Disagree (D), SD = Strongly Disagree (SD)
Key: Strongly agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1).

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
RQ1	**What are the causes of boating mishaps?**				
1	Poor boat maintenance				
2	Malfunctioning engine				
3	Boat grounding due to unfamiliarity with the waterway routes				
4	Lack of enforcement of safety regulation by government agencies				
5	Poor weather				
6	Overloading/overcrowding of boats				
7	Inexperience of boat drivers				
RQ2	**What is the significance of continuous training of passenger boat drivers in ensuring safety on rivers?**				
8	Continuous training will enable them understand the importance of enforcing safety regulation by Government agencies				
9	Continuous training will enable boat drivers enforce the use of safety gadgets to reduce boat accidents				
10	Continuous training will enable drivers enforce the use of safety vests by passengers				
11	Continuous training will enable drivers improve the quality of their service				
RQ3	**What type of training that should be given to Passenger boat drivers to ensure safety and security?**				
12	The implication of rendering services at night and from illegal terminals				
13	Orientating them on the responsibilities and various regulations associated with their profession				
14	Training on the industry's good practice				
15	Training on how to anticipate problem situations and measures to reduce them				
16	Training on necessary certifications and programmes to acquire				
17	Personal survival techniques				
18	Elementary first aid				
RQ4	**Determine the impact of Continuous training of Passenger boat drivers on the prevention of injuries and loss on rivers**				
19	Continuous training of passenger boat drivers will improve their existing knowledge of marine operations				
20	It ensures effective navigation on the sea				
21	It will improve their understanding of emergency announcements during navigation				
22	It will aid them in identifying threats at sea and how to respond to them				
23	It familiarizes them with the correct use of personal safety equipment				

Appendix 2

Case Processing Summary

Cases					
Valid		Missing		Total	
N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
286	100.0%	0	0.0%	286	100.0%

Count

	Commuters' safety				Total
	SD	D	A	SA	
SD	14	1	2	1	18
D	3	17	0	0	20
A	13	2	36	7	58
SA	2	3	5	180	190
Total	32	23	43	188	286