



Wheeling and Road Stunts as a Deviant Behavior: A Social and Psychological Issue

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Abstract

Wheeling is one of our society's major problem that has proved to be dangerous and fatal not only for the wheeler but also for other drivers and pedestrians. Young motorcyclists perform a variety of stunts, some extremely dangerous, on their bikes just for fun or some other reason, putting their own and others' life at risk. According to the police sources of twin cities in Islamabad, hundreds of wheelers died and many-faced serious injuries while performing stunts on the roads of the twin cities during the last few months. The data shows that most of the effected were under aged riders. The aim of this project was to get a deeper knowledge of the phenomenon, the main factors that precipitate wheeling, the laws regarding wheeling and the role of traffic police officials in wheeling. Semi structure interviews along with open ended questions were conducted with the police management according to their hierarchy including seniors as well as juniors and constables. Interviews revealed that wheeling and road stunts have been increased from the past few years. The main causes of doing these dangerous stunts are mainly due to multiple factors including peer pressure, sense of achievement and happiness. Government has also increased punishment along with heavy fine. Recommendations are to create awareness and effective law enforcement should be imposed. Also, separate places should be established which are safe and without any hazards for these stunts and for recreational purpose under the guidance of experts.

Key words: Wheeling, Police, Pakistan, Twin cities.



Introduction

A hot topic of today's society is the alarming increase in deviant and risky behavior, especially in adolescents. Social Psychology aims to reveal the social psychological causes of such behavior in order to get an insight of the problem so that precautionary measures could be taken for the benefit of people and society. The aim of this research was to find out the factors and causes that led to deviant behavior and to find out ways to overcome this issue. For this purpose, open ended structure interview was conducted with police authorities of twin cities of Pakistan to find out the causes, reasons and important measurements they have taken to overcome this problem. One of the basic reasons was that breaking societal norms are strongly influenced by peer pressure and media.

Deviant Behavior

Deviant behavior is the behavior that is defined as violation of societal norms. Such behaviors are minimized by formal and informal social controls. Deviance can be **formal** (e.g. crime- the violation of formal laws) or **informal** (any act which is not done by most peoples of the culture). Culture specific behaviors can be seen as deviant if seen from the perspective of other cultures. On the other hand, playful deviance is sociologically significant because participants collaborate to perform it as a public source of entertainment in front of supportive audience who perceive the act as fun and enjoyment (Goffman, 1959).

Theories of Deviance

Two of the most influential *early schools of thought* that explain deviance include:

1. Classical School of Criminology --- gives a utilitarian view of society with a social contract theory of state i.e. deviant behaviors occur because of the utility they provide to the individual (Cesare Beccaria, 1764 and Jeremy Bentham, 1789).
2. Italian School of Criminology --- it emphasizes the role of biological factors that may contribute to deviance.

Cultural Deviance Theorists explain the phenomenon from a sociological point of view, highlighting the role of cultural values that permit or demand such behaviors. Major theories of this perspective include:

1. Social Disorganization --- disintegration of conventional values, due to rapid industrialization, immigration and urbanization, increases crimes.
2. Differential Association --- exposure to antisocial values, attitudes and criminal behaviors create deviant patterns of behavior.
3. Culture Conflict Theory --- norms of a culture may clash with conventional rules and make the behavior deviant.
4. Power Conflict Theory --- deviance is caused by power manifestation in certain institutions, where institution's ability to change norms, status etc., come in conflict with individual's self.

(Gitlin, 2007).

Risky Behavior

Youth is the time when there is a strong quest for thrill and opportunities to *prove one's identity*. Due to lack of proper guidance and wrong or **faulty behavior models**, adolescents develop entirely different ideas about individuality and self and the criteria of being impressive. As a result, they adopt very risky and dangerous paths to get personal satisfaction and to prove themselves. **Peer pressure** is yet another factor in this regard. Engaging in risky and crazy stunts is a very common thing observed in teenagers. Research



has proved a strong relation between risk taking and one's perception of risk involved. An adolescent's exaggerated belief in his abilities can encourage him to take the risk, although he may not possess the level of expertise needed to match the task complexity. This may endanger his life.

Road Rage

It is also considered an extreme form of aggressive driving (*Wikipedia*). Law enforcing and traffic officials propose that owning an automobile gives the driver a sense of power which is manifested in road rage and aggressive driving behaviors like:

- Speeding and aggressive acceleration
- Rude gestures
- Verbal abuse
- Abnormal aped with respect to the surrounding traffic
- Acts that could terrify other road users etc.

Causes of Road Rage

According to Dr. Leon James such behaviors are caused by unstable emotions, observing models enacting in aggressive ways, having a tendency of hostility, having disrespect for laws, authorities and others' safety. Some conditions that increase road violence include increased traffic, frustration, mood, stress etc. Culture also plays pivotal role in acquiring road rage through observing drivers around us and also through media (James, 1997).

Wheeling

Wheeling (or one-wheeling, as it occurs) is one such stunt in which the motorcyclist rides the bike on one wheel, mostly the rear one. They may also stand on the bike while wheeling and maintain some other very hazardous postures. Wheeling, in our country, is observed most frequently on occasions like Independence Day, Eid festival etc.

Most wheelers are young or under age boys who are fun seekers. They frequently violate traffic rules and do not bother about related authorities. As all wheelers are not experts or formally trained, they mostly end up in hospitals with severe injuries of head, spinal cord, fractured arms or legs and many of them do not survive after such severe injuries.

History of Wheeling

According to the police sources, one-wheeling had started some 15 years ago when some young bikers started performing stunts at the "piyala" (oval track) at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore, built for police training (The Nation, 2006). The steps taken by the authorities have certainly *decreased the frequency of risky behaviors* like one-wheeling, yet it still needs to be monitored and controlled. To achieve this goal, collaborative efforts are needed on the part of law makers, traffic police and the parents.

Different organizations are being developed to control risky and road rage behaviors. CARR (Children Against Road Rage) is one such organization which aims to teach children emotionally intelligent road behaviors. As children frequently encounter road rage, so they are more prone to develop such behaviors in future. To avoid this, it is necessary that proper education should be provided to them from the very beginning (James, 1997).

Causes of Wheeling

People related to different walks of life have different views about what factors contribute to one-wheeling or other dangerous bike stunts. A brief account of the reasons indicated by different sources is given below:



- The most frequently stated reason is that wheeling is done for the sake of **thrill and enjoyment**.
- Some boys do this for **fame and glory** among their friends and spectators.
- **Lack of recreational** and sports facilities cause boredom in youth, to avoid this, they engage in wheeling and other stunts.
- **Betting** is also becoming common in the wheelers, winning seems to be more powerful incentive in relation to the money which certainly comes as a reward of winning.
- **Negligence** on the part of **parents** is also a big factor.
- **Ineffective law enforcement** and **powerless policemen** have been a factor in persistence of wheelies.
- **Easy availability of licenses**, without any kind of tests, allows people to ride bikes unchecked, as a result many underage boys are found involved in wheeling
- **Lack of proper guidance** that can help them direct their energies towards some constructive activity is also noticeable.
- According to a Psychologist, Shamshad Ahmed, such acts may be an effort to get rid of some **frustration**.

Role of Media

The role of media is also very important. Now-a-days, media has become much glamorized and it is now portraying a very different image of what is acceptable and liked by people. Our youth seem to be a pure victim of this virus and are blindly copying the models of West. They also appear much influenced by the heroes of Hollywood and Bollywood, knowing the fact that those stunts shown are actually performed by professionals in a controlled environment, with all the safety measures. Although few wheelers do take safety precautions like helmets, covering their elbows and knees etc. yet the stunts are very dangerous. They still want to give it a try and show to others that they are very strong and not less than any admired hero. Another factor that promotes this thing is that the heroes always escape any kind of punishment despite breaking the laws. Many video games are promoting such risky behaviors and violence in young as well as children. There are also some websites that encourage people to do these stunts.

Traffic Rules/ Laws in Pakistan

In our country, many rules have been introduced to overcome the increasing problem of wheeling and other deviant behaviors on roads to ensure the safety of people. The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has decided to extend the punishment period for wheeling up to 2 years imprisonment and a fine up to Rs. 5,000 (maximum).

Section 279 of the PPC says that any person driving recklessly or negligently endangering the life of others shall be punished up to 2 years and / or fined up to Rs. 1,000. On the 20th of March, 2007, **Punjab Assembly** passed an amendment bill (Provincial Motor Vehicles) that banned wheeling. Punishment for the violators was set up to 6 months jail and a fine of Rs. 5,000, also motorbikes to be confiscated.

In addition to these specific rules about wheeling, some others are related to the underage bike riders, riding without helmet etc.

Concerned Authorities

In the department of Islamabad Traffic Police, the hierarchy of the concerned people involves an **inspector, sub-inspector, constable etc.** They also have a mobile squad that



deals with the wheelers, including camera equipped vehicles to monitor violations by the motorists.

Each year, a large number of youngsters die as a result of injuries caused by wheeling. Ashraf Javed in his article "One-wheeling claims 15 lives" has provided the data of the 15 boys who died of wheeling and around 400 sustainers of injuries have been reported. The Rescue officials reported that on the Independence Day, they sent 103 injured people to hospitals; all were wheelers. Wheelers not only harmed themselves but also put others' lives to danger. Many pedestrians died when they were hit by the wheelers. On the Independence Day, most of the accidents occurred on the Ferozepur Road, 49 (out of 103) occurred because of losing control over bikes and 52 due to over-speeding (The Nation, 2006).

To control one-wheeling, Islamabad Traffic Police has decided to increase fine up to 5000 and introduce a two-year punishment to the violators. A businessman remarked that these energetic youth should be provided with some channel to which they could direct their energies. According to a wheeler, it is viewed as a very enjoyable activity so instead of stopping them, authorities should support them and make the activity safer for them (The Frontier Post, 2007).

A petition was entered in the Lahore High Court to ban motorcycle wheeling (Sept. 2004). This was a reaction to the increasing number of casualties as a result of one-wheeling. A report in Dawn (June, 2006) revealed that more than 120 youngsters died while wheeling and bike racing during the period of last two-and-a-half year in Lahore. On the night of Independence Day, 70 cases of injured wheelers were registered in one hospital. In Islamabad, no such cases were reported but the Traffic Police said that they fined about 191 motorcyclists. Precautionary steps taken by the Police include: increasing fine and punishment and setting speed limits for vehicles (after consultation with the CDA).

Methodology

Semi structured interviews were conducted. Open ended interviews were conducted with the Islamabad traffic police personals in order to highlight different aspects related to wheeling. Interviews were conducted according to the hierarchical system i.e. senior, middle man and junior. Sub inspector, inspector and constable were interviewed. Sample taken was according to convenient sampling.

Objectives

Following were the objectives:

- To find out specific rules and regulations against wheeling in Pakistan
- To find out the role of the Islamabad Traffic Police in either facilitating wheeling or in putting a stop to it
- To do interviews with police officials of different ranks so as to know about their views on wheeling and their specific contributions in this area.

Results

Islamabad traffic police deal with traffic rules and regulations in the capital. Before conducting an interview, we asked them about the hierarchy of their department (see Annexure F for further details). From the interviews conducted with SSP, Inspector and Constable we have gathered that wheeling has become one of the major problems of today and there is an urgent need that such laws should be made that would put an end to such risky activities completely.



First of all, the interview was being conducted with the **SSP ZH**, Islamabad traffic police. The interview with SP (*see ANNEXURE A*) throws light on the fact that the police officials are very much in favor of adopting new rules and laws against wheelers so that this activity could be stopped immediately and the young people could be prevented from indulging in such risky tasks and as a result many lives could be saved. However, the police officials cannot do anything unless and until the government passes any new laws against it because as police officials, they have to follow only the rules which the government has approved of. There is a ray of hope that very soon a proper law against wheeling would be imposed as according to the SP a bill has already been passed in Punjab Assembly (*see ANNEXURE A, Q4*) and there the expectation is that in near future it would be implemented. Not only the policemen but the general public also is against wheeling and want it to be stopped immediately and for this reason they usually report to the traffic police about the particular locations where wheeling is taking place. Similarly, the SP highlighted the significance of an awareness program which should be initiated at school levels so that from a very young age the dangers and risks of wheeling could be imprinted in the minds of the youth (*see ANNEXURE A, Q2*) and they hamper from it once they grow old enough to ride bikes themselves. The main causes of wheeling (*see ANNEXURE A, Q7*) appear to be excess of money and permissive parental style as a result of which the children turn out to be snobs and adopt such risky tasks to show off their money and status. Moreover, the young generation of today takes wheeling as a novel source of entertainment, thrill and pleasure. Similarly peer pressure and the desire to conform to a particular group to which the person belongs is a strong motivation for the young people to indulge in wheeling. We also found out that appointing a psychologist or a counselor in traffic police squad would be ineffective in a way because wheelers would not be eager to take any advice from anyone. The SP explained that they have maintained law and order in the best way they could and have avoided bribes by simply refusing to attend to any phone call from a resourceful person before signing the Challan because nothing can be done once the Challan has been signed.

The interview with the **Inspector AR** (who has twenty-five years of experience and had joined Islamabad police in 1988) (*see ANNEXURE B*) of Islamabad traffic police revealed the information about the particular laws regarding wheeling which are in use in Pakistan. The Inspector explained that Sanction 32 deals with such offences like rash driving and road rage and that the cases of wheeling are forwarded to court under the sanction of 99 PPC (*see ANNEXURE B, Q2*). The maximum punishment given to the wheelers is six month's imprisonment and usually a fine is being charged from the wheelers (*see ANNEXURE B, Q1 & 3*). Inspector threw light on the fact that the frequency of wheeling activity has increased over the past three years. Before this time period there were very rare cases of wheeling in Pakistan, however now most of the youth belonging to high socioeconomic class and even the children of some of the police officials, of the ages ranging from 18-25 are adopting this relatively new sport or recreational activity. The parents, instead of bringing their children up in a proper way, when called to police station, take sides with the police officials and complain of having no hold over their children and they explain that their children never listen to them and they should be punished by the policemen. The fines being imposed upon the wheelers on being caught have little or no effect on the wheeler's frequency of wheeling and the main reason for this appears to be their high social status. As money is no problem for them so they can easily afford to pay



finer every week and thus succeed in continuing their much-enjoyed task. However, the death of a fellow wheeler, especially the one belonging to their particular group is being taken seriously at least for some time and thus an initial decline in the wheeling practice in most of the members of that group is being observed. The Inspector believed wheeling to be a very risky and harmful task and no safety precautions are enough to prevent a person from harm.

The interview conducted from the **Constable MN** proved very useful in gaining information about the wheelers, how they are caught and what procedures are undertaken upon catching them (see *ANNEXURE C*). The wheelers usually take bikes on rent for the special purpose of wheeling and more often than not they are alone while performing stunts but on some occasions their friends accompany them by taking the backseat and this increases the risks as two lives are in stake in such occasions. Usually the same individuals are being caught, by the traffic police men while wheeling, again and again. It is common knowledge that nowadays girls have also started wheeling and have made their own wheeling groups but still no girl wheeler has been caught by the police men yet. The wheelers drive with caution and care when they see that traffic policemen are watching them and when they get to a road which is wide and not too busy they start wheeling and this sudden shift of behavior makes it difficult or even impossible for the traffic Constables to pinpoint the prospective wheeler. Usually, wheeling is being carried out on roads like 7th Avenue, Rawal Lake road, G-10, etc, however they keep changing their wheeling spots for fear of being caught or when the police force appoints their officials in those areas. Wheeling is not only harmful for the wheelers but it may also put other passengers, pedestrians, or bystander's life in danger. In order to stop it a fine of Rs. 3000 is being imposed on the wheeler but still this has little effect in slowing down the frequency rate of wheeling. In order to catch a wheeler a proper strategy is being undertaken. If the wheeler is stopped during wheeling it can cause serious injuries not only to the wheeler but also to the bystanders. So what the police officials do is that they assign task of catching wheelers to a squad of one or two inspectors, two ASI's, and two or three constables. The constables standing on the road send a wireless message to the squad about the wheelers. The squad tactfully chases the wheelers and when they come back to normal position they are being stopped by the squad and being fined on the spot. If any wheeler is being injured during arrest the police officers provide immediate first aid facility to him.

Thematic Analysis

As a result of interviews following themes were derived.

The interviews with different traffic police officials high light the importance of new and strict rules and regulations regarding wheeling which is the primary source of putting an end to this activity. **Lack of strict rules** might be a reason why young individuals indulge in wheeling and other road stunts. As most of them belong to rich and resourceful families so they can easily afford to pay the fine on weekly basis and even if they are being imprisoned they can easily bail out by just one phone call to higher officials. However despite this deficiency in law the Islamabad Traffic Police have adopted the prevailing law in the most honest way possible. They do not let any individual, whether he be rich or poor, go off without paying the fine which is written in law, and this has become possible only by taking away their mobiles immediately upon catching wheelers so they cannot contact anyone resourceful.



One of the best punishments that would decrease the frequency of wheeling according to me is that the **motorbikes** of the wheelers should be **confiscated** and should not be returned to them at any cost if they were caught wheeling. Even very rich parents would not be buying their children a new motorcycle every week.

What we believe is that the youth should be **provided with a platform** in which they can carry out their desire to be a wheelie just like in most of the Western countries in which wheeling is considered as a sport. Such platforms would be helpful because in this way other drivers and bystanders would be saved from danger and moreover the wheelers themselves would be able to do wheeling in a much safer place, where there would be no traffic and special attention would be paid to safety measures. Of these measures the most important are the provision of helmet, knee pad and other supports for the body so as to minimize the damage to the body in case of emergency. The SP however was not at all in favor of provision of any such tracks or platform for the wheelers, all he desired is that wheeling should be stopped completely. But I believe that youth are especially motivated to do from whatever they are being stopped so it is much better to let them have their way, but in much safer surroundings.

As the interviews have revealed that most of the wheelers are teenagers so it is important that special **awareness programs** should be started in the schools just as the SP has emphasized in his interview. These awareness programs would be very beneficial in a way that from an early age the consequences and harm of wheeling can be understood by the children who might otherwise become future wheelers. So, it is important to educate them beforehand so that in the long run they avoid such activities.

It is evident from the interview findings that the main cause of wheeling is easy excess to money and permissive parental style. What need to be done to bring a change in such activities is that parents should be taught about appropriate parenting styles. Instead of being a permissive parent they should adopt the **authoritative style** in which they would have some hold on their children. They should keep a track on their child's activities and should always be guiding him about right and wrong and what need and need not be done. Similarly, the parents should not be giving their children excess money without knowing where the child is spending so much and parents should also adopt the habit of giving their children detentions whenever they indulge in any risky behavior.

Wheeling is more common in youth and they take it as a source of pleasure and thrill and this shows that the **motivation for sensation seeking** is very high in such individuals which forces them to become a wheelie. Such a risky activity can be avoided by providing them other alternative tasks which are as thrill giving but are not as risky, so that all their energies are used in a useful and positive manner.

The SP believed that appointing a **psychologist or counselor** would be of little benefit but what I believe is that it might bring a positive change in the activities of the wheelers. The counselor might be helpful in bringing a change in the cognitions or thoughts of the wheelers and help them to use their creativity and energy in other creative and beneficial tasks.

Likewise placing CCTV **cameras** on all the main roads like in Western countries might also help stop wheeling and other road stunts. If the wheelers are aware of the fact that the cameras are recording their every movement and that if they performed any risky activity then they would be caught, fined and punished then the fear of being caught might motivate them to avoid such activities.



Conclusion

From the interviews and our visit to the Islamabad police we have come to know that ITP has made visible improvements in Traffic flow and have strived to reduce the effects of VIP culture (and traffic mafia.) by reducing the prevalence of challan forgiveness on roads and by implementing rules to everyone who commits a mistake (*see Annexure E*). Similarly, the achievement of ITP includes marked decrease in the prevalence of negligent driving, over speeding, red light violations and **one wheeling**.

It can be concluded that the only significant thing that is blocking the goal of putting an end to wheeling is lack of proper and strict rules by the government. Once such laws are enforced our police officials would make sure that they are implemented in the most appropriate manner and thus the cases of one wheeling would almost diminish from our country.

Recommendations

Following steps would help to overcome the problem of wheeling and to avoid its dangers:

1. The most important thing would be to **create awareness** in people about the prospects of wheeling. The youth and children should be addressed.
2. **Policy making** should be improved.
3. **Effective law enforcement** and following strict laws will gradually decrease the behavior.
4. Empowering our policemen on the roads will also help a lot.
5. Youngsters should be given opportunities of **recreation and sports** so that they no more get inclined to such dangerous tasks.
6. Government should provide proper **tracks** for those who are very fond of stunt performing, with emergency medical aid and some arrangements for some training.
7. Developing **QDCs** (Quality Driving Circles) will also improve people's driving habits. It is a technique where drivers make small groups and meet regularly to discuss their driving and improvements in it.
8. Encouraging good driving behaviors by introducing **rewards** instead of punishments.
9. Dr. Leon has suggested some emotional management techniques, referred to as "**inner power tools**"; **to modify the behavior of aggressive drivers** (James, 1997).
10. Behavior-based strategies can be successful in reducing injury-risk behaviors and injuries. In this regard, **applied behavior analysis** has been the most successful strategy. Here, modification in the behaviors of the drivers is brought by developing contingencies through rewards and incentives. At societal level, discouraging risky behaviors through laws is an example of applied behavior analysis (Sleet & Lonerio, 2002).
11. Modification could be brought in behavior by changing one's thinking style through **counseling**. During counseling sessions, the therapist should make these youngsters realize the importance of life and the seriousness of the danger they face while wheeling.
12. Training youngsters to **resist peer pressure** can also reduce the chances of their involvement in risky stunts.

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ANNEXURE A (it includes the interview of the SP)

Q1) Are you planning to provide any platform for the wheelers to fulfill their recreational activities?

No, as a police spokes man no such considerations are under view. If the government has money and want to provide wheelers a platform, they can do it. But I will not support such act of government.

Q2) Your personal opinion about the awareness programs among public about wheeling?

What I believe is that wheeling should be stopped at any cost and this can only be done by providing awareness programs at school level as this is the most appropriate age in which the children can be taught the harmful consequences. Similarly the parents of the young children should be provided appropriate knowledge so that they could guide their children before they indulge in any such activity.

Q3) Are you in favor of making any new rules to stop wheeling?

Yes, I am in the favor of making new and strict laws, that includes maximum fine and sever punishment. It is not for our betterment but it is for preventing the young, who threat and lost their lives and for the parents who lost their loved ones in such risky activities.

Q4) Are higher authorities taking any steps to stop them?

Yes, in Punjab Assembly, a bill has been passed, which specifies the sanctions, fine and duration of imprisonment for an offender. In the Capital considerations are under view and work, for making proper sanctions, increasing fine and duration of imprisonment, is doing on war footings and soon we will come up with some refined and proper law regarding wheeling.

Q5) What are the public views about wheeling?

People are not in the favor of such cruel activities. They want it to be stopped. I think any sensible human would not support it

Q6) Do the citizens ever complain about wheelers?

Well, sometimes we get phone calls from people informing that wheeling is being done in a specific area and they urge us to put a stop to it and in such conditions we take immediate steps and inform the police squads so that the wheelers could be caught on the spot.

Q7) According to your point of view what are the causes of wheeling?

The main cause of wheeling is excess of money as mostly wheelers belong to elite class and wheeling becomes the source of show off for them. Similarly wheeling is a new source of entertainment and a hobby for them. Another cause of wheeling is permissive parental style, as parents of elite class do not bother to keep a check on the activities of their children and also shower them with money which results in their being indulging in such activities. Peer pressure may also be an important cause of wheeling as the need to conform to the peer group holds importance for people so the rich kids who have no previous history of wheeling also adopt it as a source of entertainment and pleasure.

Q8) Don't you think that appointing a psychologist or a counselor in your squad would help in any way?

Yes it might help but what I believe is that if the children who do not listen to their parents or police would have no effect of what the psychologist would have to say to them.

Q9) Don't you think that confiscating bikes of wheelers might put an end to this activity?

Yes it definitely would bring a marked change but as wheelers usually belong to rich families so these rich people would not let such rules to prevail in our society.



Q10) Do you ever get calls from people on higher posts saying that they should not have fined some particular wheeler and how do you deal with it?

Yes we often get some calls. Even some of the wheelers turn out to be the children of policemen on higher posts. On such occasions we just tell them that we did not know that the wheeler was their relative or we wouldn't have caught him in the first place.

ANNEXURE B (it includes the interview of the Inspector)

Q1) What are the laws regarding wheeling?

There are no specific laws regarding wheeling. Fines are imposed under the sanctions of dangerous driving.

Q2) What are the sanctions under which the wheelers are punished?

Sanction 32 deals with such offences like rash driving and road rage. Cases of wheeling are forward to court under the sanction of 99 PPC.

Q3) What is the maximum punishment given to the wheelers?

6 month's imprisonment is the maximum punishment given to the wheelers.

Q4) In which age group is wheeling more popular?

It is more common in people of ages ranging from 18-25 yrs.

Q5) What is the socio economic status of the wheelers?

Usually wheelers belonging to higher social class are indulged in wheeling.

Q6) For how long are the wheeling cases being reported?

Although wheeling cases have been reported for the past ten yrs but they were very rare, however from the past three yrs an increased number of wheeling cases have been reported.

Q7) What are the reactions of the parents when they come to retrieve their children?

When we call their parents they come here and say, beat them put them in imprisonment fine them or on the other hand some say, they are child, insensible don't know about the hazards of wheeling please for give him. But maximum parents come with the first reaction.

Q8) Has the fines brought any changes in the wheeling activity?

No, it has not brought any significant changes because the wheelers usually belong to wealthy families and paying three thousand is not a big deal for them as they can easily afford it.

Q9) Does the death of a member of a particular wheeling group bring any change in the wheeling ratio in that particular group?

Sometimes it is seen that initially they restrict their activities but usually they continue the same activity with the same frequency.

Q10) Do you think wheeling can be carried out in a safe manner?

What I believe is that wheeling is very risky in every sense and although some safety measures may help but I think it should be stopped altogether.

Q11) Have you ever caught a son of any police official while wheeling?

Yes on many occasions the offspring of police officials have been caught and we have also faced the annoyance of those police officials in such occasions.



ANNEXURE C (it includes the interview of the Constable)

Q1) What are the main areas of wheeling?

Roads which are wider and not busy are hot spot for the wheelers. However they continue to change their venue when they have threat of being caught. In Islamabad the main areas include 7th Avenue, Rawal Lake road, G-10, etc.

Q2) Can wheeling cause problems to other drivers or passengers?

Yes, when the wheeling is being done in rush hours it can cause danger to the lives of the wheelers as well as other drivers, bystanders, pedestrians.

Q3) How much fine is imposed on wheelers?

Maximum of Rs.3000, fine is being imposed on the offender on being caught.

Q4) What are the strategies applied to catch them on the spot?

Catching a wheeler requires a proper strategy. If we stop the wheeler during the act of wheeling it can cause serious injuries not only to the wheeler but also to the bystanders. So what we do is that we assign task of catching wheelers to a squad of one or two inspectors, two ASI's, and two or three constables. The constables standing on the road send a wireless message to the squad about the wheelers. The squad tactfully chases the wheelers and when they come back to normal position they are stopped by the squad and asked whether he had been indulged in wheeling a few minutes before. As the culprit has been caught red handedly he has nothing to do or say.

Q5) What are their reactions towards traffic policemen?

Usually they have negative reactions and they feel as if we are being a hurdle in their recreational activity. But when they see any police officer they come back into their normal position and start driving sensibly.

Q6) What is the reaction of wheelers after being caught?

First they say, "We were not wheeling". And when we tell him about the time location and their position, they sometimes feel shame, regret and even guilty. Another important aspect is that when some wheelers are being caught they try to call their relative on higher post.

Q7) Is police force facilitating wheeling?

No, not a single official is involved in facilitating wheeling. We are here to stop not to promote it, at least I can give you guarantee of Islamabad police as in other cities such activities have been noted.

Q8) Are there any girls involved in wheeling?

Girls are beginning to indulge in wheeling, but till yet no girls have been caught while doing so.

Q9) Does it often happen that the same person is being caught while wheeling again and again?

Yes, mostly we catch the same people who have made their own wheeling groups and as they are wealthy and snobs so they carry on their activities despite of being caught a number of times.

Q10) Can you pinpoint beforehand that which bikers might start wheeling?

No it is almost impossible because they drive normally and are quite cautious in front of us policemen and one never knows when they might start wheeling so there is no way that we can know beforehand.

Q11) Do you provide any first aid to wheelers who hurt themselves while wheeling?



Yes we have proper first aid facility with us and if the wheeler gets hurt while we are trying to catch him we immediately provide him with first aid.

Q12) Do the wheelers drive alone or they have any passenger while wheeling?

Most of them are alone but some also have a friend sitting behind them and its especially dangerous for the person sitting in the back because that person is almost touching ground.

Q13) Do the wheelers use their own personal bikes while wheeling?

No, usually the wheelers take motorbikes on rent when they have the plan of wheeling.