ABSTRACT

This study was conducted primarily to analyze the passenger perception towards Inland Water Transit (IWT) system as a public transportation mode from Wellawatthe to Battharamulle. The study analyzes the factors passengers would consider when opting for IWT as a public transport mode which could be considered as planning factors for transport providers. Furthermore, the study also determines the viability of IWT as a public transport mode during peak hours and the potential to utilize it for recreational purposes during off-peak/ night time as perceived by passengers.

Therefore, in order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, a conceptual framework was developed based on secondary data which incorporates statistics from several authorities as well as existing publications along with primary data through personal communications with the industry experts. This was followed by a primary data collection via printed questionnaires and Google forms. Simple Random Sampling technique was deployed to distribute the questionnaire among the population of passengers bound to take the land routes crossing the canal system from Wellawatthe to Battharamulle. The researcher was able to gather 426 responses to proceed with the analysis. A Binary Logistics Regression model was developed to accomplish the primary objective of the research. Apart from the model, Chi-square test, KMO test, correlation analysis as well as Exploratory Factor Analysis method are some other analysis techniques employed in the study to derive conclusions on the overall perception of passengers towards IWT.

Key words: Passenger, Perception, Inland water transportation, Public transport, Modal choice