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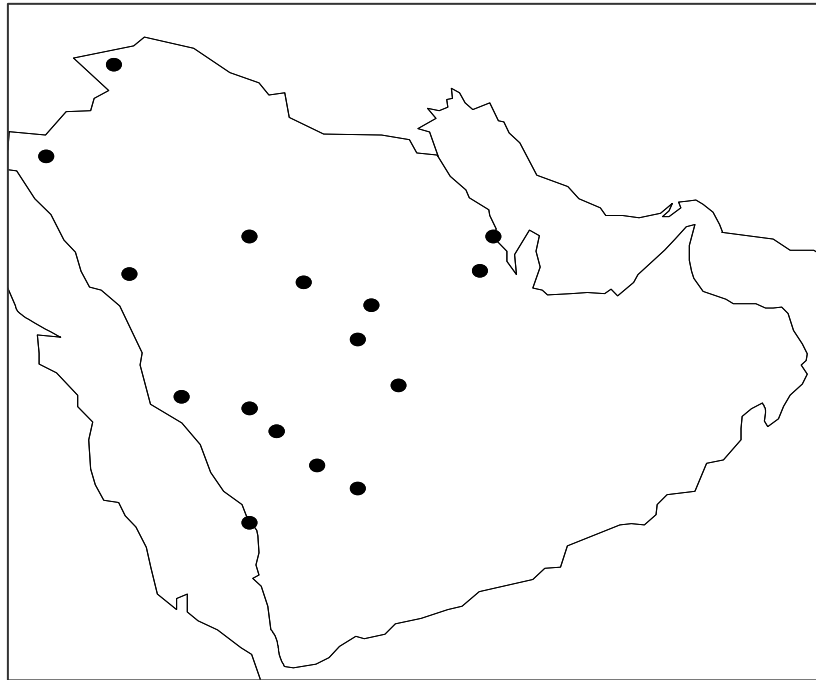
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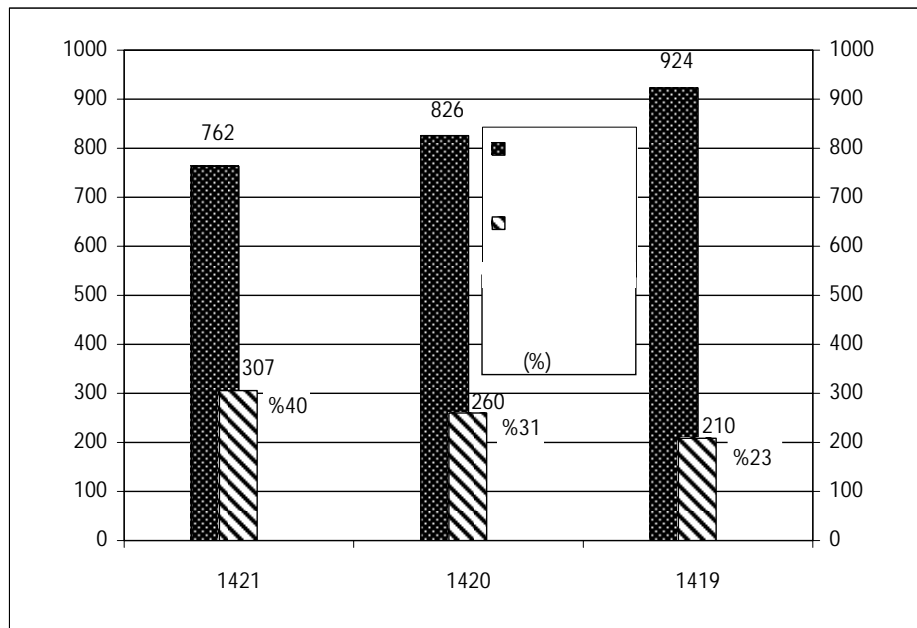
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## Traffic Accidents Involving Female Teachers and Students Traveling in Rural Areas in Saudi Arabia: Investigation and Analysis

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ABSTRACT. For the past two decades Saudi Arabia has experienced vast growth in many areas, particularly in education and transportation. Furthermore, there was a dramatic increase of female teacher graduates and the number of schools in towns and villages. Due to this increase, the number of traffic accidents involving female teachers and students commuting to their workplace has increased sharply. As a result, the issue has become a national concern. The aim of this paper is to investigate this problem, its magnitude and characteristics, and ways to mitigate this problem. The data presented were obtained from various sources such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Transportation. More data were collected through field studies and randomly distributed questionnaires to both female teachers and students. Collected data were compiled, and analyzed using software packages and statistical methods. The result of the analysis showed that for the past three years, the national traffic accidents' average rate for female teachers commuting to their workplace was 6.2 accidents per 100 teachers. This rate was higher than the national rate, which was 4 accidents per 100 citizens. For the same period, the average rate for female students commuting to their colleges was 3.5 accidents per 100 students. From the analysis it was found that the most crucial factors that contributed to the accidents, were tire-blowouts, excessive speed and weather conditions. The main recommendations of the study to alleviate the problem are: to launch an on-going safety awareness program among the female teachers and students and apply strict adherence to traffic rules on rural roads. The government or private companies should provide well maintained buses, hire competent drivers, and encourage teachers to use them. The teaching load for traveling teachers could be reduced which would in turn allow for a further reduction in their workdays.