

2004

**A STUDY OF THE OPERATION AND USAGE OF A NON-MOTORIZED
MODE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:
THE CASE OF THE TRI-WHEELER IN SAN FERNANDO CITY**

By Randolph D. Carreon

November 2004

Abstract:

Non-motorized transportation (NMT) plays an integral part in the transportation system of most cities and municipalities in the Philippines. As one type of intermediate mode of transportation, NMT's bridges the gap between walking and higher modes of transportation. One type of non-motorized mode of transportation is the tri-wheeler.

The tri-wheeler is a widely used non-motorized mode of public transportation in the City of San Fernando in Region III. The tri-wheeler is used both as a feeder mode and as the primary mode of transportation.

The study focused on the operation and usage of the tri-wheeler in the City of San Fernando. Its vehicle operating and trip characteristics were used as inputs in the supply and demand side analysis, respectively. The interplay of supply and demand was assessed through the analysis of the financial aspect of its operation. Further, the study gave a formal definition of what a tri-wheeler is. The definition took into consideration the physical attributes, carrying capacity and other operating characteristics of the said mode.

Based on the study, the tri-wheeler is an appropriate mode of public transport in the City of San Fernando. Its supply adequately meets the demand for its services. It is also suited to the type of terrain and present road network of the area. The study also found out the important relationship between the usage of the tri-wheeler and the location of land uses within its area of operation.

The analysis of the financial aspect of its operation revealed that it is a profitable source of income. This is based on the premise that benefits outweigh the cost of operation. However, the average net income of drivers is still lower than the prescribed minimum wage of the government.

The two principal stakeholders in the operation of tri-wheelers are the drivers and the passengers. The drivers are generally satisfied with the income they derive, while the passengers are pleased with the level of service offered them.

Regulation of tri-wheeler operation is at the jurisdiction of the city government of San Fernando. At present, the government regulates several aspects of its operation including its service areas and the fare to be charged. However, based on the study, fare regulation should be omitted in as much as the going market rate is well-accepted, even if it does not fully conform to the standards set. The regulation of services, on the other hand, should be re-assessed in order to facilitate more efficient operation.

Non-motorized mode of public transportation, indeed, plays an integral part in the transportation system. They provide means of transportation to answer the demand of people to travel, which is not met by higher modes of transportation.