

REPORT ON TRAVEL AS YOU LIKE STUDENT PASS

PROF. M.N.SREEHARI
Chairman- Traffic Engineers & Safety Trainers (TEST)
& Traffic Advisor & Consultant
Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore.
mnsreehari@gmail.com
Ph. 9845049505

PREAMBLE

For the benefit of students who require to travel extensively for other education related trips such as tuitions, computer training, sports, other educational institutions, etc, apart from regular travel between the residence and the place of education. In the existing facility, student concession passes are issued by BMTC only for travel between the residence and the place of education.

Considering the student other requirements stated above, there is a strong need and requirements for students to travel extensively to other locations which are related to their co curricular and extra curricular activities. This requirement represented by various quarters including students, parents and educational and other institutions alike. BMTC is making a departure from the existing system for the benefit of such students. In this direction to evolve the policy strategies and decision the subject was referred to **Prof.M.N.Sreehari**, a traffic expert and advisor & consultant in traffic related issues to carry out the preferential survey followed with analysis which can reflect the real necessity for the same. These being the rational and scientific method the pros and cons are studied at thread bear level.

EXISTING SCENARIO IN STUDENT CONCESSION PASS

The present practice is to issue concession pass monthly once for normal commuters and student pass issued for 10 months

Type	Monthly fare in Rupees
City	390/-
Sub urban	535/-
Pushpak	570/-

Student pass	Rate for 10 months (in Rupees)	Rate per month (in Rupees)
Primary student	60/-	6/-
High school student	450/-	45/-
College student	850/-	85/-
Professional college student	850/-	85/-
Technical & medical student	1200/-	120/-
Evening college student	1400/-	140/-

Looking into the other requirement of student in present day, other than attending main educational institution he has to make several trips other than education. Hence there is a great demand to extend the facility to bus passes

based on “Travel as you like” scheme. This helps many students and their parents particularly in case of economically backward students.

The common commuters can have passes daily/monthly passes etc, with the same principle “travel as you like” which also covers the insurance and medical re-imburement benefits. For students the upper age is restricted to 25 years is most appropriate as in normal case one will settle down in this age except in very few cases education can be continued in the line of research and other higher education. During that period one will be self sufficient with fellowships and financial aid from the employer or institution. Hence it is strongly recommended to cap the age limit to 25 years.

PROPOSED “TRAVEL AS YOU LIKE” SCHEME for STUDENTS

Keeping all the above requirements, BMTC proposed to introduce passes with the following rate and allowing more than 50 % concession to the student community.

The following table presents the existing scenario.

Type	Existing monthly pass (for normal commuters)	“Travel as you like” scheme proposed for student community, in Rupees	
		5 months	10 months
City	390	975	1950
Sub urban	535	1340	2675
Pushpak	570	1425	2850

STUDY METHEDOLOGY, PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

For the financial year 2007-08, BMTC has revised the monthly passes thrice in case of normal monthly commuter passes due to various reasons, which includes the increased fuel cost, high tax paid by BMTC and subsidized travel concession extended, etc.

Month	City (Rs)	Sub urban (Rs)	Pushpak (Rs)
April to July	360	495	530
August to November	380	595	560
December to March	390	535	570

In case of students concession passes, the BMTC is receiving subsidy from Govt of Karnataka and at present scenario it is not a burden and the number of passes issued was increased along with the amount realized .i.e **the total number of passes issued in April 2007 was 228335 & in march 2008 it was increased to 248581 and amount realized during the same period was increased from Rs.109396850/- to Rs.129426520/-.**

A scientific & rational data sheet was conceived to collect information & used for analysis. This is presented below.

PROFORMA FOR DATA COLLECTION (Student pass- “Travel as you like system”)

1. Are you a student?

YES	NO
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2. What is your age?

Yrs

M	F
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3. How long you are using student concession pass (in yrs)?

<1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 >10

4. Are you satisfied with the present BMTC Service?

Satisfied	Average	no
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5. Are you comfortable with the present pass system?

YES	NO
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6. Which pass are you using for 5 months/10 months?

School	
College	
Technical	

7. Do you feel 10 months pass is too long period?

YES	NO
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If no, what period do you prefer?

3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months
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8. What type of additional concession do you expect if you purchase longer duration pass?

9. Do you prefer buses for exclusive educational trip?

YES	NO
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10. Do you prefer to obtain passes for period (in months) suiting your requirement like semesters?

5 months	10 months	12 months
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11. Apart from your educational trip, how many additional trips you perform connected to training/education/sports/etc?

0	1	2	3	4	5
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12. If so, can you avail the facility “Travel as you like” (multiple trips to meet your curricular, co curricular activities?)

YES	NO
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13. What could be the tentative rate you can pay for this system (for multiple trips?)

5 months	City	750/-	850/-	950/-	1000/-	1100/-
	Suburb	1250/-	1350/-	1450/-	1550/-	1650/-
	Pushpak	1350/-	1450/-	1550/-	1650/-	1750/-
10 months	City	1850/-	1950/-	2050/-	2150/-	2250/-
	Suburb	2550/-	2650/-	2750/-	2850/-	2950/-
	Pushpak	2750/-	2850/-	2950/-	3000/-	3100/-

(Presently for 10 months pass has college student-850/-, technical & medical students 1200/- and evening college students 1400/-)

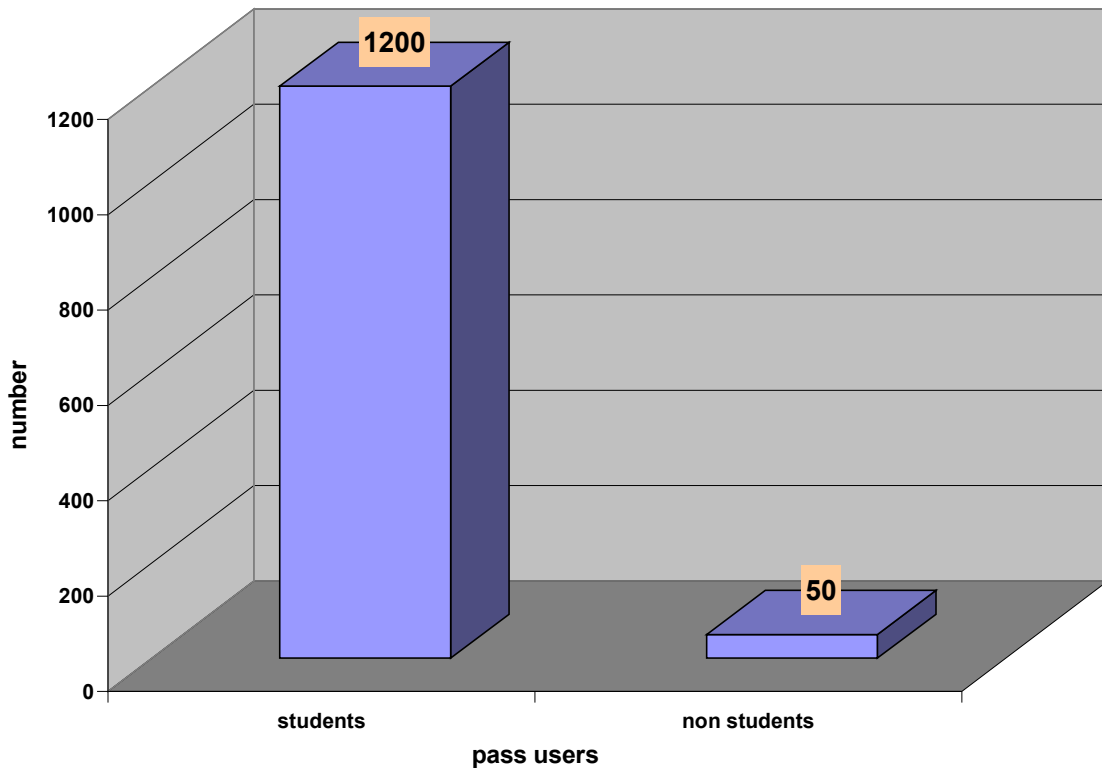
Students Survey details and analysis:

A total of 1250 students were interviewed at different bus stops/terminals which includes Vijayanagar, Rajajinagar, Jayanagar 4th block, Majestic, Malleswaram 18th cross, MSRIT bus stop, Maharanis College to mention a few.

Erratic data were debugged for accuracy which helps to analyze in a more scientific way. The analysis were carried out and presented below.

1. Are you a student?

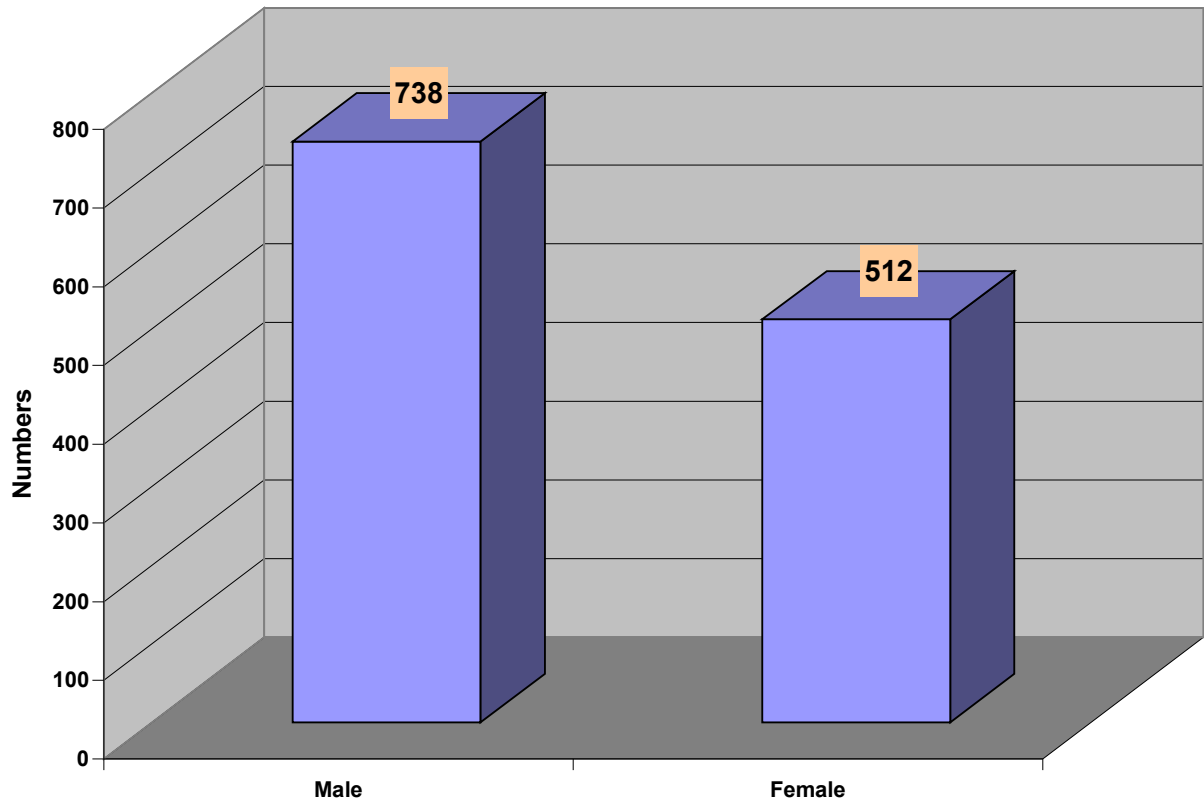
96% of the student pass holders are found to be students where as 4% are non students, but using the student pass as observed from the data obtained. This requires a proper verification and periodic checks from the authorities to prevent non students to misuse the concession pass.



2. What is your age?

Maximum age of the bus pass holder found to be 25 years and minimum age was 8 years. The average age being 16 year which indicates clearly that college students use the BMTC student concession passes more.

59% (738 people) of the pass holders are male and 41% (512 people) are female this indicate almost equal usage amongst male and female.



3. How long you are using student concession pass (in yrs)?

For convenience the data obtained is regrouped to less than 1 year, 1-3 years, 3-5 yrs, 5-7 yrs, 7-9 yrs, and <9 yrs which covers almost all age groups.

From the analysis it was obtained that

4% pass holders are using for a period less than 1 year

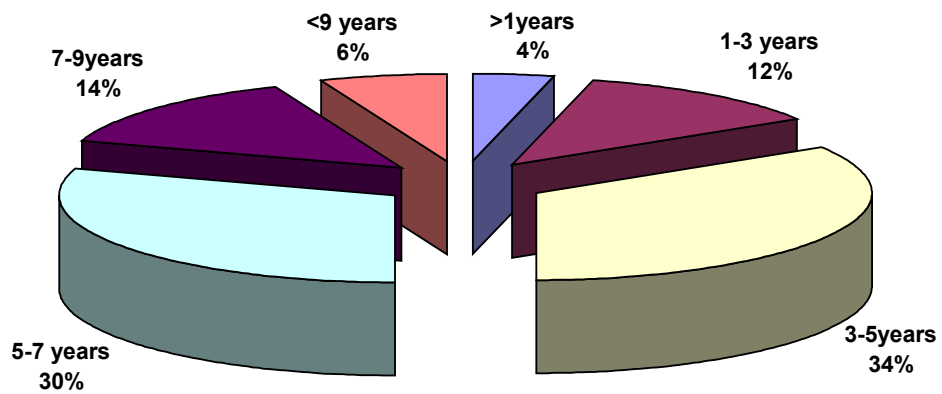
12% pass holders are using for a period between 1-3 yrs

34% pass holders are using for a period between 3-5 yrs

30% pass holders are using for a period between 5-7 yrs

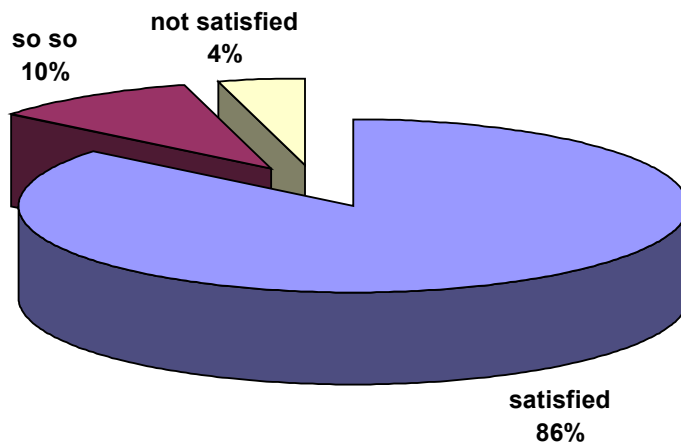
14% pass holders are using for a period between 7-9 yrs

6% pass holders are using for a period greater than 9 yrs



4. Are you satisfied with the present BMTC Service?

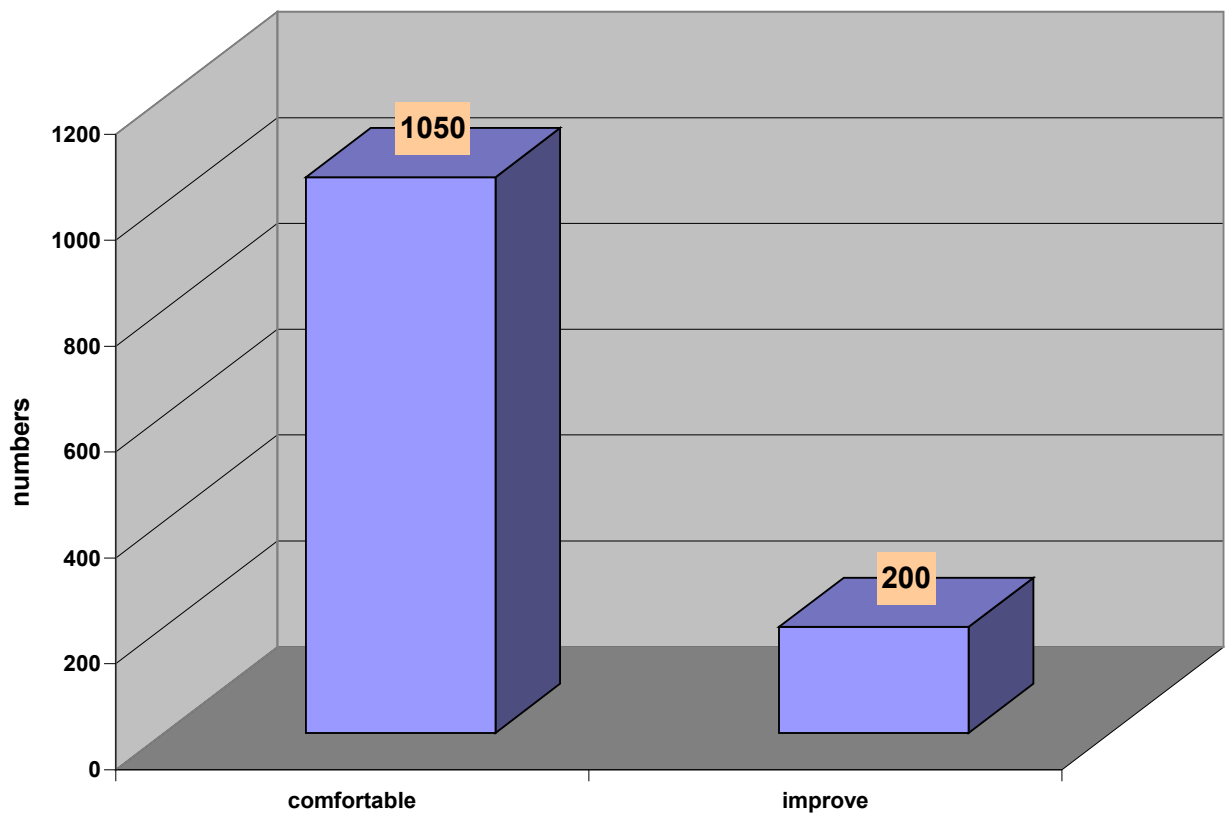
When the pass holders were asked whether they are satisfied with the pass system, amount paid for the pass and also the system involved in getting the pass, it was found that majority of 86% were satisfied, 10% said it is so so, 4% were unhappy and not satisfied due to the process involved in obtaining the pass.



5. Are you comfortable with the present pass system?

The above question was extended and was asked to state whether they are comfortable with the present system or any scope is available for improvement.

84% are comfortable with the present system of obtaining the pass and 16% said no as it has ample scope for improvement.

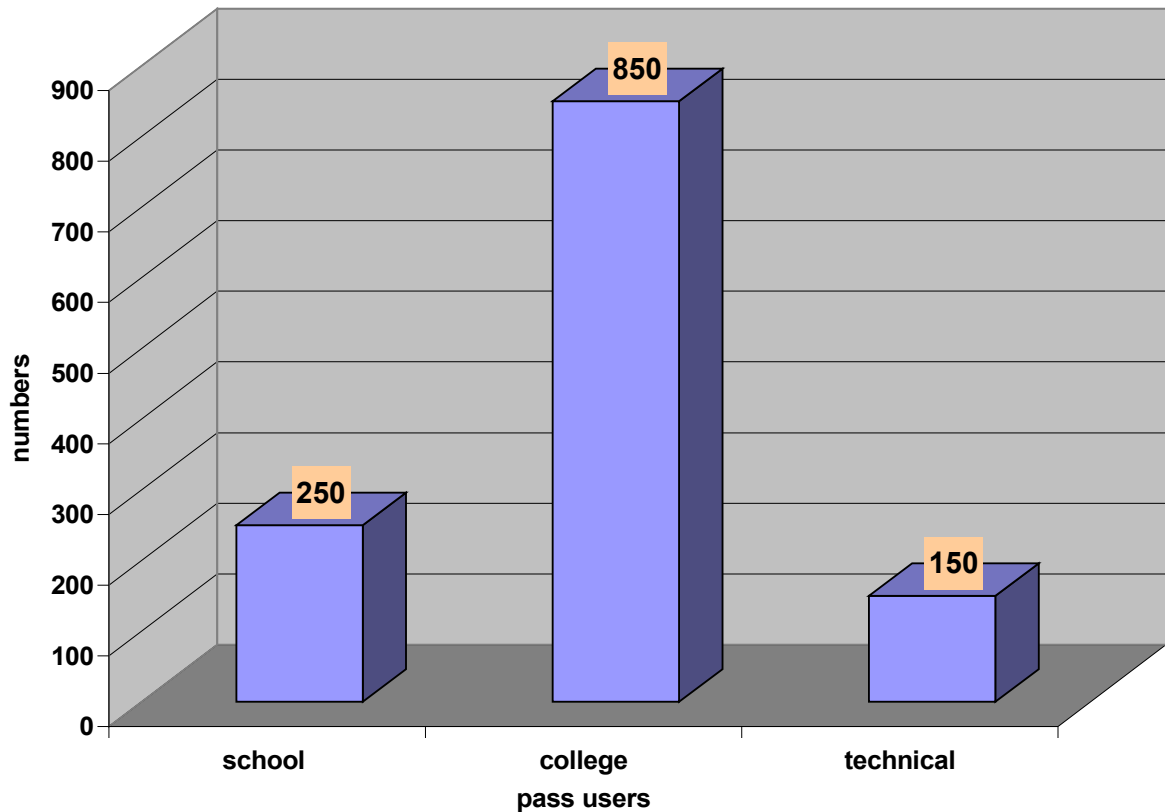


6. Which pass are you using for 5 months/10 months?

The 10 months pass is very popular particularly in case of college students as obtained from the data observed.

20% of the pass holders belong to school and use 10 months pass.

68% belongs to college students where as 12% are from technical institutions. The technical institutions are relatively less because a good number of them use 2 wheelers.



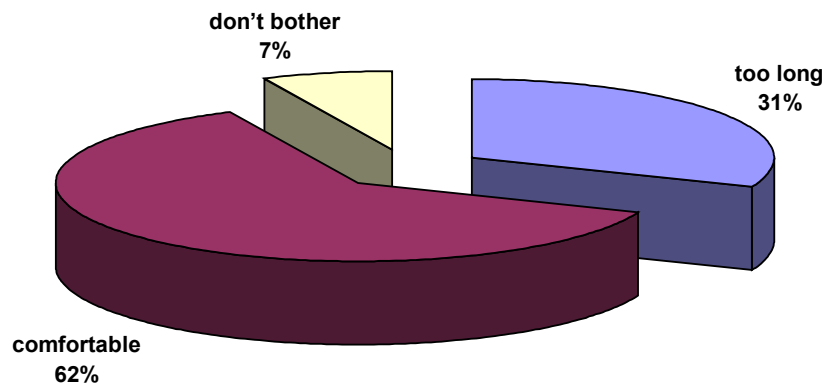
7. Do you feel 10 months pass is too long period?

Because of some college students who are being educated in semester schemes, they feel 10 months is too long period as they have 2 exams yearly with a gap of almost one to one & half months duration, 10 months pass being too long period for them, where as other college students and school children are comfortable for 10 months system.

31% felt 10 months pass is too long due to their academic calendars.

62% felt that it can be continued.

7% do not bother.



8. What type of additional concession do you expect if you purchase longer duration pass?

A question was framed for the pass holders to know their requirements whether the pass system can have a period ranging from 3 months to 12 months so that it can be preferred conveniently based on their requirements.

It was found that:

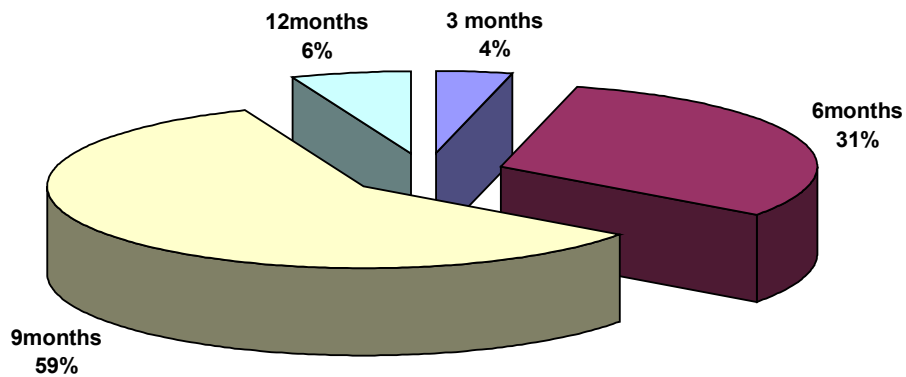
4% preferred to have 3 months pass system (primary and nursery students.)

31% preferred to have 6 months pass system.

59% preferred 9 month pass system.

6% preferred to have 12 months.

From the above percentage it can be easily concluded that 6 month and 9 month passes are more preferential and very close to the proposed 5 months and 10 months pass system by BMTC. 90% fall into this category out of which almost 60% prefer 9/10months pass.



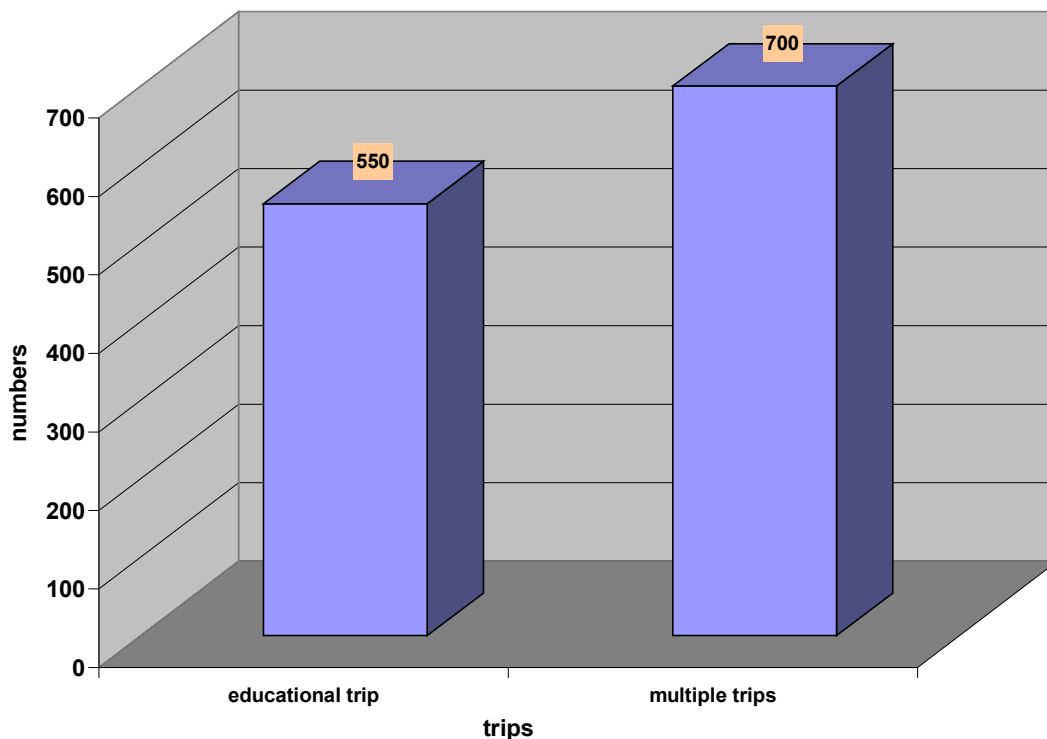
9. Do you prefer buses for exclusive educational trip?

To understand the exact requirement of students who require the pass system other than educational trips as they are required to make a good number of additional trips for tuitions, sports, cultural activities, recreation and in

general co curricular and extra curricular activities. This gives an idea that students may have to carry out multiple trips apart from educational trips. At present a student will have to make only origin to destination one time trip up and down (home – education and back). Many times it so happens that additional trips are a must connected to education which may have different destination points other than the institutions. Hence the proposed system from BMTC to introduce multiple use pass system will be more beneficial for students. From the interview it was brought out that:

44% of students said that they use BMTC buses exclusively for educational purpose.

56% said that, if an opportunity is extended they prefer to have multiple trips which includes for tuitions sport and other purpose.



Out of 44% said a good number of them are school children and hence their requirements for multiple trips are relatively less than college students.

10. Do you prefer to obtain passes for period (in months) suiting your requirement like semesters?

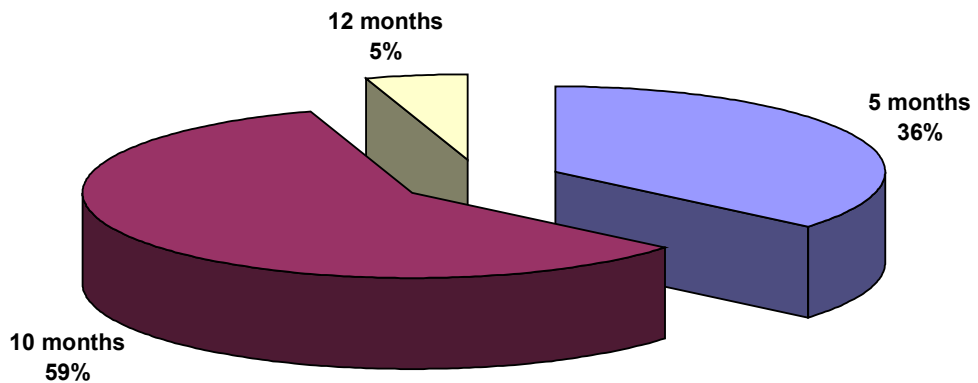
To know the virtual demand from the student community who are regular pass holders since many years the above question was asked whether the duration like 5 or 10 months is appropriate.

36 % of students said that they prefer to have 5 month system where as,

59% preferred to have 10 months pass system

5% said they want to have for all 12 months.

From the above analysis it can be broadly concluded that 10 months pass is more preferred.



11. Apart from your educational trip, how many additional trips you perform connected to training/education/sports/etc?

Particularly in case of college students where multiple trips is a necessity the above question was framed to know how many such students make multiple trips.

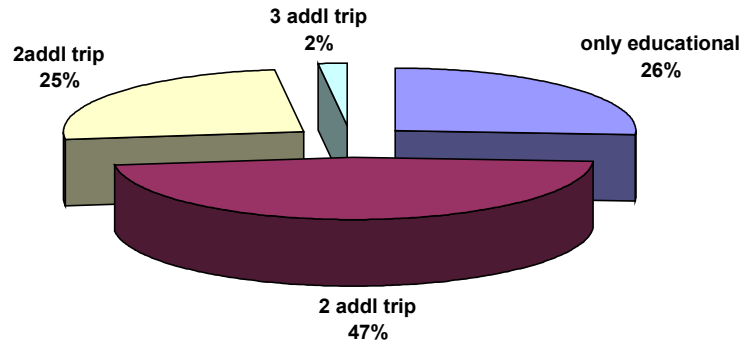
It was clearly brought out that:

26% make only one trip up and down for educational purpose

47% students perform one additional trip other than educational trip.

25% of students will perform additional 2 trips other than educational trips.

2% of students perform 3 more additional trips other than the educational trip.



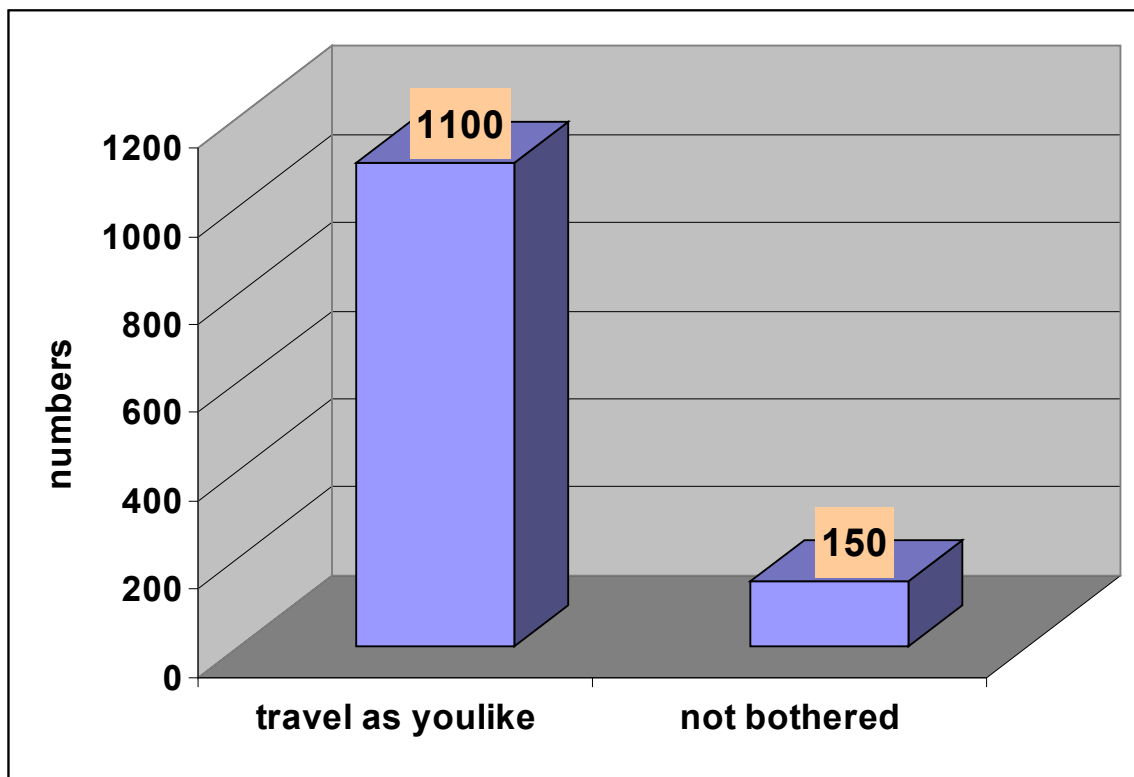
In the light of the above the proposed BMTC multiple use pass system justifies the analysis obtained that 74% will perform one or more additional trips other than educational trips and hence it is always desirable to introduce multipurpose trips so as to plug the misuse of the existing pass system.

12. If so, can you avail the facility “Travel as you like” (multiple trips to meet your curricular, co curricular activities?)

Keeping the above question and answer in mind the innovative travel as you like system using the pass was posed to students. When the question was asked to them they are very positive over zealous to have this facility from the BMTC.

88% (1100) preferred to have travel as you like system (multiple trips to meet curricular, co curricular and extra curricular activities).

12% (150) are not positive and not bothered.



13. What could be the tentative rate you can pay for this system (for multiple trips?)

This question being very sensitive and tricky many students could not exactly infer to know how much they are ready to pay as in many cases this is controlled by parents. Hence out of total 1250 students interviewed only about 438 answers could be obtained.

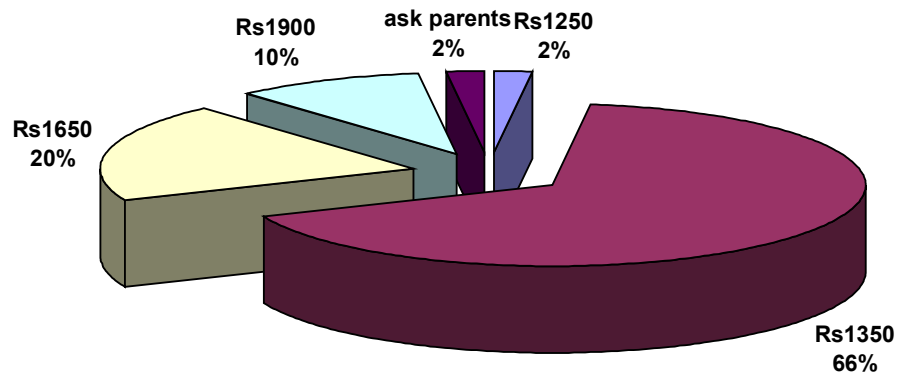
2% said to retain the same for 10 months and multiple usage and ready to pay up to 1250/-.

68% feel that Rs.1350/- is convenient for 10 months and multiple trips.

18 % feels Rs.1650/- can be paid for 10 months for multiple trips.

10% feel that they can pay up to 1900/-

2% said that they have to talk to their parents.



The above analysis does not match the figures present in the questionnaire, as some students could not perceive this sensitized issue.

When surveyors asked to give their option about Sub-urban & Pushpak services and the amount they can pay for 10 month travel as you like system, the students are indifferent as they want to travel in any bus but reaching the destination is important at the right time. They told why they want to pay additional fare for the same trip. When it was clearly brought out to them about assured & comfortable seat, separate queue, luxury facility in traveling Pushpak etc; the following were brought out.

Majority of students (69%) travel in ordinary buses, 21% use sub-urban services & balance 10% use Pushpak. But, at present many of the sub-urban

areas falls within BBMP area, 80% students prefer to travel by ordinary buses.

However, if in case they wish to travel in Pushpak, they can pay up to Rs. 2750/-.

CONCLUSION

In order to plug the misuse of concession passes which was intended to use exclusively for educational trip with up and down from home to educational place, BMTC has proposed the more user friendly scheme “Travel as you like” to facilitate students to perform trips other than school/college. The non education trips includes visit to library, sports, tuition, recreation, cultural activities, etc which also the predominant integral part of a present day student. This was clearly brought out from the studies that 46% do perform multiple trips. Many students use the same pass issued for home to education for other trips which falls in the ambit of the trip origin and destination. If the origin and destination are not same one cannot use the same pass. In many cases students are found to simply say pass to the authority and to paucity of time conductor cannot check the bonafide of the pass holder and allow using the pass. Hence in order to regularize and meet the requirements of student community to travel other destinations for various trip purposes, the proposed system will become more popular and at the same time BMTC also do not incur loss.

Considering the extent of growth under BBMP, and the inclusion of suburban areas with added facilities like Pushpak etc, the proposed rates are

very reasonable for 10 months duration. The option students preferred to travel by ordinary buses rather than Pushpak buses as they have to pay more. It is also a fact that nothing will come without paying a premium for luxury & convenience. As students travel in groups they are indifferent to luxury etc;. It was understood that as a few takers for Pushpak, it is strongly advocated not to fix beyond Rs. 2750/- for 10 month's travel as you like system. Proper enforcement & periodic checks are essential to verify the bonafides of the pass holders as in many cases at present these are not verified due to lack of time. A random checks from supervisory staff is essential.

Prof.M.N.Sreehari