

CHAPTER 1

Economics of Mobilopathy



1.1. Economics of Mobilopathy

Mobilopathy otherwise known as road traffic accidents occurs when a vehicle collides with another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, road debris, or other stationary obstruction, such as a tree or utility pole. Worldwide, road traffic accidents lead to death and disability as well as financial cost to both society and the individual involved.

There is generally increasing incidence, morbidity and mortality rates of road traffic accidents.

People are injured in road accidents everyday more so in developing countries like Nigeria.

The problem is that the enormity of mobilopathy is not appreciated and enough preventive measures are not taken.

Road traffic accidents have physical, social, emotional and economic implications. The global economic cost of road traffic accidents was estimated at 518 United States Dollars (\$518) billion per year in 2003 with 100 United States Dollars (\$100) billion of that occurring in poor developing countries.

Nigeria loses about 80 billion Naira annually to road accidents. Of all subjects that are involved in road traffic accidents in Nigeria, 29.1 per cent suffer disability and 13.5 per cent are unable to return to work.

Hence, the cost of road traffic accidents includes the cost of damaged private property and public amenities, the cost of medical treatment and the cost of productivity lost due to the accident.

Mobilopathy constitutes a major public health problem though few ministers of health of countries of the world admit it. Road traffic accident is