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## *Original Research Article*

### **Analysis of Homicidal Deaths at MBS Hospital Associated with Government Medical College Kota: An Autopsy Based Study**

Verma LC<sup>a</sup>, Tiwari PK<sup>b</sup>, Tatwal B<sup>c</sup>, Joshi RB<sup>d</sup>

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#### Article Info

#### **Key words**

Homicidal death,  
Blunt weapon,  
Head injuries.

#### Abstract

Homicide is killing of one human being by another. There has been increase of homicide all over world including India due to rapid urbanization, increase life stress, and decrease patience etc. In present study 37 cases of homicidal death were studied. The incidence of homicidal death was 3.5% during the study period. Majority of cases, 20 (54%) were in the 21-40 years of age. Injuries were infiltrated by blunt weapons were 16 cases(43%) followed by sharp weapon 12 cases(32%). Most death 17 in numbers (45%) resulting from head injuries, followed by thoraco-abdominal injuries 12 in number (32%). This type of analysis can be used by investigating authorities to curtail, the amount of violence present in present scenario.

#### **1. Introduction**

Violence is a significant health problem and homicide is severest form of violence homicide is prevalent widely almost all over the world.<sup>1</sup> Homicide is one of the oldest crimes in human civilization which depriving a human being of his fundamental rights to live. Study of analysis of homicidal death in a society is one of the first steps in the developing strategies to prevent it.<sup>2</sup> Homicide is a reflection of extreme aggression may further influence such a behavior, family, environment, urbanization and presence of weapons. Medical autopsy not only give the cause and manner of death but also give importance statistical data related to legal incidence in the cities and regions where autopsy are conducted. Homicide investigations require a scientific and meticulous autopsy.

This study has been conducted to analyze of homicidal deaths and relation of homicide with features like motive, sex, weapon used and pattern of injuries.

#### **2. Material & Methods:**

Present study conducted at MBS hospital associated with Govt. Medical College Kota. This observational study was conducted from Jan.2018 to Dec.2018. Out of 1043 autopsies, 37 cases of homicidal deaths were reported.

#### **Inclusive Criteria:**

All deaths resulting from homicidal attacks were included in this study.

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**Exclusive Criteria:**

Suspected cases of homicidal deaths were excluded. Deaths resulting from rash and negligent act were also excluded.

Detail information regarding circumstances of crime was sought out from legal agencies inquest paper, history by relative, Hospital treatment records.

**3. Observation and Results:**

A total of 37 cases of homicidal deaths were included in this study, which were 3.5% of total autopsies conducted at MBS hospital associated with Govt. Medical College Kota.

Present study shows that 31 cases (about 84%) were males with only 6 cases (about 16%) were females. This study is self explainable by the pattern of Indian society, where males are active member of society. (Table-1)

Age group of 31-40 years was mostly affected (11 cases) followed by 21-30 years (9 cases) group. The least affected group was more than 60 year age group. About 50% of total cases belong to 18-35 years of age. (Table-1)

**Table No.1: Age and sex wise distribution of victims of Homicidal deaths.**

Age (Group) Years	Male	Female	Total
<10	00	01	01
11-20	06	02	08
21-30	08	01	09
31-40	09	02	11
41-50	03	00	03
51-60	03	00	03
>60	02	00	02

**Table No. 2: Distribution of victim of Homicide according to time of incidence.**

Time of Incidence	Male	Female	Total
Morning	04	03	07
Day	07	01	08
Evening	10	01	11
Night	10	01	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>37</b>

About 60% of total cases of deaths were seen during evening and night hours due to day work frustration and uses of drugs and alcohol at evening and night in the parties. (Table-2)

The most common weapon used was blunt in 16 cases (about 43%) followed by sharp weapon

12 cases (about 32%) and firearms weapons 4 cases (about 11%). Manual and ligature strangulation were least used method, one case of each (Table-3). The availability of blunt weapons are easy in both Rural and urban scenario. Poison and burn are least used method for homicidal deaths.

**Table No.3: Weapon or Method wise distribution of victim of Homicide.**

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Blunt	14	02	16
Sharp	11	01	12
Strangulation	02	00	02
Fire Arm	03	01	04
Poison	01	00	01
Burn	00	02	02
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>37</b>

**Table No.4: Distribution of injuries according to site of body.**

Site	Male	Female	Total
Head	15	02	17
Chest	05	01	06
Neck	03	01	04
Abdomen	06	00	06
Poison	01	00	01
Burn	00	02	02
Limbs	01	00	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>37</b>

**Table No. 5: Distribution of Victim of homicide according to motive.**

Motive	Male	Female	Total
Argument	08	02	10
Revenge	03	00	03
Land dispute	07	02	09
Love affairs	06	01	07
Property	05	00	05
Owner killing	01	01	02
Unknown	01	00	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>37</b>

Head was the region where maximum numbers of injuries were observed 17 cases (about 45%) followed by chest and abdomen 16 cases for each. chest and abdomen were the preferred site of sharp injuries (Table-4). The distribution of Victim of homicide according to motive is shown in table no. 5.

**4. Discussion:**

During the study period total 1043 autopsies were conducted out of which 37 cases were homicidal deaths which comprise 3.5% of total

autopsies. Similar result was observed in various other Indian studies<sup>1,2,3,5,14</sup> in our study the mostly affected as group was 31-40 years of age followed by 21 to 37 years of age. Most of study reported 31 to 40 years of age group to be the most commonly affected age group<sup>4,6,7,14</sup>

Most homicidal deaths were reported in evening and night hours 22 cases (about 60%). in this study. Similar findings were reported by patel.D.J.<sup>6</sup> who reported about 38% of total homicidal deaths.

Present study reported, the most commonly used weapons were blunt in 16 cases. Similar observation were also reported by other author's studies in Rajasthan and india<sup>6,7,9,14</sup>. This study contrary to many studies where sharp weapons are mostly used weapons for homicidal deaths.<sup>8,15,16</sup>. In year 2018 at Delhi, gun or sharp edged weapons were used nearly two of every three murders .The most common site of infliction of injuries was seen over head in 17 cases followed by abdomen and chest in 6 cases each. Similar finding were observed by other Indian studies.

In this study, arguments were the main motive for homicidal deaths, followed by land disputes, love affairs and revenge. The finding are not consistent with study done by patel D.J.<sup>6</sup> who reported revenge was the main motive. In year 2018 at Delhi, the police said that 38 % of all murders were committed over personal enmity or a dispute. These include people killed in gang war or property, monetary and parking disputes.

### 5. Conclusion:

Analysis of homicidal deaths may be useful indicator for community and for law enforcement agencies.

1. In this study blunt weapons were the most commonly used weapon for homicidal deaths.
2. Head was the common site for infliction of injuries.
3. Strict enforcement of law must be ensued on possession of sharp weapons.
4. The main affected age group was 31-40 years of age.

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