



**THE STUDY OF PATTERN OF INJURIES IN HOMICIDAL CASES IN AUTOPSIES
CONDUCTED AT PATNA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL (PATNA)
BETWEEN 2018 TO 2020.**

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ABSTRACT

Homicide means killing of a human by another human being by the act, procurement, or negligence of another. Death can be caused either by an act of commission or by an act of omission, but it should be the result of Killer's conduct. Medico-legal autopsy conducted in such cases not only give the cause and manner of death but also gives important statistical data to legal incidences in area of Patna and surroundings. A total number of 729 medico-legal autopsies were performed in the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Patna Medical College from 10th Oct 2018 to 30 November 2020 comprised the material of present study. Out of total 729, 100 (12.73%) were found to be homicidal in nature. In the present study it was found that the male victims (82%) outnumbered the female victims (18%), the male-female ratio being 4.55:1. It is observed, that the maximum number of both male and female cases were seen in the age group 21 to 30 years, with 16 male and 11 female victims. This constituted 36% of total homicide. This study attempted to identify the cause, magnitude and manner of homicidal cases.

KEYWORDS : Homicide, Blunt force injury, Medico-legal autopsy.

INTRODUCTION:

Homicide means one human being causes death of another. Not all homicide is murder. As some killings are manslaughter (i.e. the crime of killing somebody without intending to do so) and some are lawful such as when justified by an affirmative defence like insanity or self defence. The incidence of homicide has been increasing because of several factors like stresses due to monetary, emotional, health issues, psychological disturbances during upbringing of child, negative impact of media and movies etc. The increasing trends are also offered by improvisation and sophistication of weapons of violence as well as its easy availability, cosmopolitanism of urban areas, propagation of religious hatred feelings and terrorism. The total number of homicidal cases in India in 1982 was 23339, which increased to 40105 cases in 1992. Out of total homicide cases maximum number were reported from Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar. Patna though a peaceful place of Bihar is not an exception. Here we try to highlight various aspects of Mechanical blunt force injuries seen in homicidal death cases.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:-

The first account of homicide in the history of mankind can be found in "The Holy bible". Kabil the first son of Adam and Eve killed his younger brother Habil due to personal jealousy. In one of the study in India where 188 cases of homicide were reported for autopsy at the department of forensic medicine, Panjab Medical College, Faisalabad from July 2001 to June 2002. The cases were categorized on the basis of police inquest and autopsy finding. The homicide rate in Faisalabad was 8.3/100,000 population/year. The age of predilection was the third decade of life and males outnumbered females by a ratio of 3.47:1. A firearm was used in almost 50% of cases. Firearm is the major weapon used for committing homicide. High male frequency was also noted by Ghosh (1981) in Calcutta 87.64%. Dikshit et al (1986) in their study of homicide in south Delhi, 1969-1979, found that males (86.42%) were seven times more prone to deaths than females (13.58%).

AIMS and OBJECTIVES:

The aim is to study the pattern of homicidal cases and age, cause of death and sex wise distribution.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Patna being the capital of state and one of the largest district, comprising of 23 talukas, 1388 villeges and 23 towns; has 9,75,578 households 58,38,465 population of which 30,78,512 are males 27,59,953 are females (as per census India 2011). Forensic Medicine & Toxicology dept. of Patna Medical College deals with the majority of medicolegal autopsies.

The present study was carried out on the dead bodies of homicidal deaths brought for medico-legal postmortem examination from various police stations of Patna districts (Bihar) at the Forensic Medicine Department, Patna Medical College and hospital, Patna. Material for the present study comprised of 100 (hundred) cases of homicide drawn from the medico-legal autopsy performed in the Department of Forensic Medicine, Patna Medical College & Hospital, Patna during the period from 10th Oct 2018 to 30 November 2020.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS:

A total number of 729 medico-legal autopsies were conducted in the the Department of Forensic Medicine, Patna medical College & Hospital, Patna, from 10th Oct 2018 to 30 November 2020. out of 729 cases, 100 were homicidal.

It is observed from the fig 1, that the maximum number of both male and female cases were seen in the age group 21 to 30 years, with 16 male and 11 female victims. This constituted 36% of total homicide.

The second highest number of cases occurred in the age group VI with 12 male and 4 female victims. There is only one case of infanticide. (Below one year)

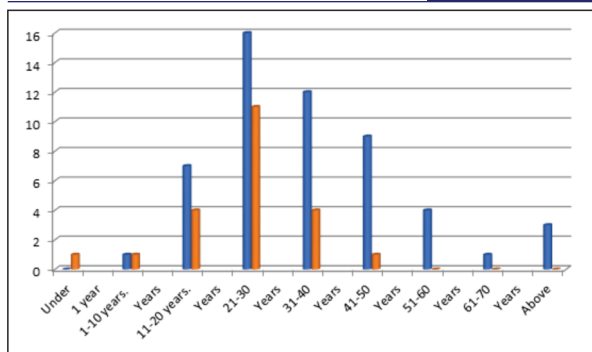
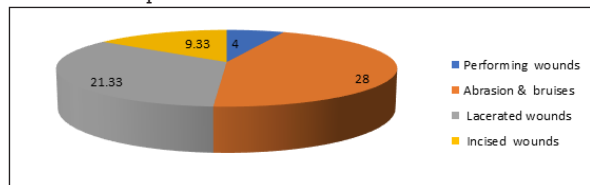


Fig-1: Showing The Age Distributions Of The Homicide Victims, For Better Representation The Age Have Been Divided Into Nine Groups.



PIECHART 1- Types of injuries suffered

Table 1-Showing the causes of death of the homicide victims

Cause of death	Number of cases	Percent
Instantaneous	11	11
Asphyxia	17	17
Coma	23	23
Syncope	-	-
Shock and hemorrhage	49	49
Total	100	100

DISCUSSION

A total number of Medical-legal Autopsy were performed in the Department of Forensic Medicine, Patna Medical College from 10th Oct 2018 to 30 November 2020. Out of 729 cases, 100 (12.73%) were found to be homicidal in nature. The present finding is more than approximately 2.5 times of the findings of Ghosh (1981) who in his Calcutta study of homicide found that out of a total 10403 autopsies, 526 cases were homicidal in nature, which constituted 5.05% of the total autopsy. The present finding is also much higher than the homicide in south Delhi, during 1969-1979, as found by Dikshit et. al. that out of total of 4837 autopsies, 140 (2.8%) cases were homicidal in nature. In a study conducted in Patna Dr. Arbind Kumar noted that during the period of study 2000-2003, there was a steady rises in the incidence of homicide by 52.3% though the rate of Autopsy increased only by 31.7%. Out of the total 100 homicidal victims, 82 (82.00%) were male and 18 (18.00%) were female. The male female ration being (4.55:1). The present observation is higher then those of Ghosh (1981) who found that out of the total of 526 homicide victims 87.64% were male and 12.36% female, and Dikshit et al. (1986) who found 86.42% male victims and 13.58%.

Arbind (2000) noted an overwhelming male majority (86.28%). The present findings of female sex ratio is also higher then the findings of authors who found 77% of the homicide victims to be male. The age distributed of the homicide shows that most of the victims, both male and female were killed between the ages 21-30 years, which constituted 36%, this is closely followed by 31-40 (33%) thus more then 50% victims were "between" 20-40. This is the period when human life has its highest economic value and when wilful destruction involves the greatest loss to the community. That most of the victims were killed in the prime loss of the community. That most of the victims were killed in

the prime of their lives, may be attributed to the fact that young adults, by nature tend to be more emotional, irrational and more aggressive. During this period the productivity, political activity and even lack of opportunities in life coupled with financial, social and live-born frustrations are at the peak and they get themselves involved in different types of menaces and antisocial activities. Also alcoholism and abuse are more common in adults. Higher incidence of homicide during this period of life has also been observed by Ghosh (1981) and Diskshit et al (1986). Thus, it seen that through sex ratio has shifted in favour of females, the age group of the highest number of victims remain unchanged because related issue remain unchanged. Arbind (2005) noted highest incidence of 60.97% in the age group of 18-34. Dikshit et al. (1986) found the modes of death as shock in 51.28% cases, which is approximately similar then the present finding. Similar high incidence of shock as the cause of death was noted also by Barua (1992)

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This study is an attempt to discover and to analyze patterns of homicidal injuries form among 100 victims of homicide examined in the Department of Forensic Medicine, Patna Medical College and Hospital, Patna between 10th October 2018 to 30th November 2020. During the period of study, 729 medico-legal autopsy were considered for study. Out of these 100 cases were homicidal in nature. This constitutes about 13.72% of the total Autopsy performed. In the present study it was found that the male victims (82%) outnumbered the female victims (18%), the male-female ration being 4.55:1 The present study of high incidence of homicide may be attributed to the low social and economic status with a desire to live with style, get easy money and power, and demonstration their of and prevailing deteriorated law and order situations in the state, during the period of the present study. The high incidence is indicative of the fact that homicide is on increase. This high preponderance of male victims may be attributed to the fact that the society is male dominated and males are bread earners for that family and indulge in the most outdoor, political and social activities and there by make more enemies. Women are live in a private world of their family boundaries, are strong subscribes of ethical values and have less enemies than man. But the relatively higher number of females in this series boosts the theory that with advancement in society that rate of female homicide increases and that of males decrease. Another reason may be the poverty, prompted female also contribute to family income as daily wage earning.

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