



Accidental Deaths in India: An Overview

KEYWORDS

Accidental Deaths and Un-Natural Accidents etc.

Dr. T. Sadashivam,

Assistant Professor Department of Public Administration
Pachhunga University College, (Only Constituent College of Mizoram Central University), Aizwal.

ABSTRACT *In this world, every human being wants to live as long as possible. But, one silent killer is working against this goal and many of us don't take it seriously also; and the name of that silent killer is 'Accidental Deaths'. In any society, accidental deaths are not new, and in country like India also, it was not the case. However, what is worrying the most is the considerable increase of human deaths, because of accidental deaths (more importantly un-natural accidents) with the passage of every year in our country. Thus, the present article will try to analyse the accidental deaths took place in India, mentioned in the recently (2015) published report 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2014'.*

INTRODUCTION

In any society, the human beings are the most important creature and they form very essential human resources of the country. On one hand, there are many countries which are struggling to increase their population, while on the other hand in country like India, where unnecessary loss of human life taking place every year. And the main reason, for this has been the accidental deaths in our society. The National Crime Records Bureau under (The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India) released a report on 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2014' in the month of July 2015. The report has presented a very dismal picture of our society, showing the loss of human beings (both male and female) respectively due to accidental deaths and suicides; especially in case of former, it was more and which is increasing every passing year. Under this report, the accidental deaths were divided into three categories firstly, natural accidents; secondly un-natural accidents and thirdly, other causes of accidental deaths like sudden deaths, poisoning, drowning etc (not falling into the category of either natural accidents or un-natural accidents).

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN INDIA: A STUDY

In our country, during last year (2014) the number of total accidental deaths reported were (4,51,757), which was an increase of (12.8%) compared with (4,00,517)(11.3%) increase in the year 2013. And out of (4,51,757) total accidental deaths, the male were (3,54,573) and female were (97,078) deaths, which consist of (78.5%) and (21.5%) for the former and latter respectively. If we analyse, the data for last 10 years (from 2004-2014) it shows, that on one hand, the country population growth has increased by (14.6%), whereas on the other hand, the increase in the rate of accidental deaths during the same period was (42.4%), which is a worrying picture (see the table no.1). At every hour, 52 accidental deaths taken place during the year 2014, and the rate of accidents deaths (which was calculated by number of accidental deaths per one lakh of population during the reference year) was (32.6%) and (36.3%) respectively for the year 2013 and 2014.

Table No.1: Number of Accidental Deaths in India during 2004-2014

Sl.No.	Year	Accidental Deaths		
		Male	Female	Total
1	2004	210190	67073	277263
2	2005	224806	69369	294175
3	2006	241210	73494	314704
4	2007	262918	77876	340794
5	2008	263809	78500	342309
6	2009	276333	80688	357021
7	2010	298262	86387	384649
8	2011	302420	88464	390884
9	2012	306061	88921	394982
10	2013	312670	87847	400517
11	2014	354573	97078	451757*

Note: *106 Transgender include in the total.

Source from-National Crime Records Bureau. (2015). "Report on Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2014." Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, p.xi.

During the year 2014, the highest number of accidental deaths was taken place in the state of Maharashtra with (67028); followed by Madhya Pradesh (43744); Gujarat (36464); Tamil Nadu (34564); Rajasthan (33425); Uttar Pradesh (33123); Karnataka (31836); Chhattisgarh (21447); West Bengal (20774); and Telangana (16696) respectively. In case of rate of accidental deaths, the all India average was (36.3%) and among the top ten (10) states, a total of eight (8) states have got more than above national average, with Chhattisgarh state has got the highest rate with (84.6%). But the two (2) states, Uttar Pradesh (15.6%) and West Bengal (22.5%) got less than the national average (see the table no.2).

Table No.2: Accidental Deaths in Top Ten (10) States in 2014

Sl.No.	Name of the Top Ten(10) States in India	Number of Accidental Deaths	Percentage share of the States in Accidental Deaths	Rate of Accidental Deaths#
1	Maharashtra	67028	14.8%	57%
2	Madhya Pradesh	43744	9.7%	57.6%
3	Gujarat	36464	8.1%	59.2%
4	Tamil Nadu	34564	7.7%	50.3%
5	Rajasthan	33425	7.4%	46.9%
6	Uttar Pradesh	33123	7.3%	15.6%
7	Karnataka	31836	7.0%	51.8%
8	Chhattisgarh	21447	4.75	84.6%
9	West Bengal	20774	4.6%	22.5%
10	Telangana	16696	3.7%	46.0%

Note:

#Rate of Accidental Deaths means Number of Accidental Deaths per One Lakh population. The All India Average was (36.3%).

Compiled by the author from the source - National Crime Records Bureau. (2015). "Report on Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2014." Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, pp.3-4, 6.

If we see in details, about the accidental deaths in the country during the year 2014, by dividing into three categories as mentioned above. Under the natural accidents category, a total of 20,201 deaths was reported, whereas in the category of un-natural accidents the number of persons died was 3,16,828. In the last category, concern with accidents due to other causes, the number of deaths was 1,14,728. The causes which led to deaths under the natural accidents category had seen decline of (-11.2%), whereas the causes under the category of un-natural accidents, saw increase of (18.1%) which also includes deaths, due to other causes of accidents. Thus, out of the above three categories, more than majority of deaths was reported in un-natural accidents category i.e. (3,16,828) out of total accidental deaths (4,51,757) in the country. In accidental deaths, (by combining all three categories), the two age groups which suffered most are firstly, between 30years to below 45 years, here a total of (1,39,333 deaths;) and the second one was, between 18years to below 30 years, here a total of (1,25,363 deaths) was reported during the year 2014. As a result, a casualties of (30.8%) and (27.8%) in the former and latter category was reported in this report. This shows that, the majority of people in the age group between 18years to 45 years are the major sufferers; and which accounts to (58.6%) of all persons killed in the accidents in the country in 2014. Also, we should not overlook the fact that, these age groups consist younger people, which also the more productive age. Therefore, by losing

so much human life, we are losing the vital human resources of the country.

Under the un-natural accidents deaths, the major reason for deaths was 'Traffic Accidents', which accounts for more than majority of deaths i.e. (1,69,107) (53.4%). Out of the total of (4,81,805) traffic accidents reported in the year 2014, the road accidents comprise (4,50,898); railways crossing accidents (2,547) and railway accidents (28,360) respectively. The share of deaths in various traffic accidents were (1,41,526 deaths) (83.7%) in road accidents; (25,006 deaths) (14.8%) in railways accidents and (2,547 deaths)(1.5%) in railway crossing accidents. Thus, the share of deaths under road accidents was more and it has increased from (1,37,423 deaths) in 2013 to (1,41,526 deaths) in 2014, which was increase of (2.9%). The states were maximum number of road accidents cases was reported are: Tamil Nadu 67,250 cases; Maharashtra 44,382 cases; Karnataka 43,694 cases; Madhya Pradesh 39,698 cases; and Kerala 35,872 cases etc. A total of (2,46,768) cases in rural areas and (2,04,130) in urban areas were reported, under road accidents during the year 2014, which stands for (54.7%) and (45.3%) for the former and latter category respectively. In our country, during the year 2014, every one hour a total of 51 cases of road accidents took place, out of which 16 persons were killed.

CONCLUSION:

The deaths related to un-natural accidents in India are seen considerably increasing every year and which became a very challenging task, how to reduce it. The loss of human life due to natural accidents especially, due to causes attributable to forces of nature can be understood by all of us, because we cannot control nature fury and the human deaths related to it. But, in case of un-natural accidents, the causes are because of human beings deliberate or negligent actions, which can be prevented by following effective safety rules and regulation by the individuals in the society. Here, the role of the governments also very much important, in matters related to making people aware about the need for following safety measures; and also imposing strict traffic rules, more importantly constructing good quality roads throughout the country.

REFERENCE

National Crime Records Bureau. (2015). "Report on Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2014." Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.