



## HOMICIDES IN DISTRICT SONIPAT IN 2018 AD & COMPARISON WITH ALL HARYANA DATA

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**ABSTRACT** Human life is the most beautiful gift from the God but when there is birth, death is inevitable. While there is only one way to be born, there are many ways to die. Death due to disease process is acceptable but death as a result of violent crime is unacceptable to the society. Taking away the life of one human being by another is the most heinous crime that can be perpetuated by a man. There is always a beast in every man, no matter, how civilized the world is today. Each society has varying rates within its different regions, cities, urban or rural areas. Apart from national and regional differences, homicides have been found to be related to socio-economic factors, sexual, ethnic and racial characteristics, size of the community, and age structure of the population. It is noted that across length and breadth of India; 'jar', 'joru', 'jameen', are the chief causes of murder. The various methods of homicidal deaths include assault by sharp weapon, blunt weapon, firearms, strangulation, homicidal hanging, smothering, drowning, burns, poisoning etc. As per an estimate, 42% of the global homicidal load is due to firearms alone, rest 58% being contributed by all other methods combined. The present study describes findings in Sonipat district of Haryana & compares the same with the state level data collected at PGIMS Rohtak in the thesis work as described in the paper

**KEYWORDS :** Homicide, Murder, Sonipat, Haryana, Firearm, Strangulation.

### INTRODUCTION-

Human life is the most beautiful gift from the God but when there is birth, death is inevitable. While there is only one way to be born, there are many ways to die. Death due to disease process is acceptable but death as a result of violent crime is unacceptable to the society. Taking away the life of one human being by another is the most heinous crime that can be perpetuated by a man. There is always a beast in every man, no matter, how civilized the world is today. Each society has varying rates within its different regions, cities, urban or rural areas. Apart from national and regional differences, homicides have been found to be related to socio-economic factors, sexual, ethnic and racial characteristics, size of the community, and age structure of the population. It is noted that across length and breadth of India; 'jar', 'joru', 'jameen', are the chief causes of murder.<sup>1</sup> The various methods of homicidal deaths include assault by sharp weapon, blunt weapon, firearms, strangulation, homicidal hanging, smothering, drowning, burns, poisoning etc. As per an estimate, 42% of the global homicidal load is due to firearms alone, rest 58% being contributed by all other methods combined.<sup>2</sup>

Killing is the basic instinct of human beings. Interpersonal rivalry has caused the increased number of crimes, out of which murder is the most dangerous crime. Murder of someone causes widespread effects in the family for the years to come because a person is not limited to himself or herself alone. Over the years, socio-demographic profile of the victims, motives behind murder and weapons of offense have changed.

### OBJECTIVES-

The present study aimed to study pattern of homicides or murders, (for all the practical purposes) in the district of Sonipat over one year from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018 and compared the findings with the state level data collected vide the thesis work by Dr. Gaurav

Sharma at PGIMS Rohtak in 1 year period during 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016.

The data from the thesis represented the entire state of Haryana as PGIMS Rohtak being the apex institute of the state received cases from all over the state. In this way, the investigators would come to know if District Sonipat had been more crime prone than the average Haryana state & if homicides due to blunt weapons were the commonest in this area as well.

For this study, all the autopsy cases brought to mortuary of District Civil hospital, Sonipat were meticulously analysed. The thesis work was readily available for comparison.

### OBSERVATIONS-

1. In the year 2018, a total of 845 postmortems were conducted in the mortuary of DCH Sonipat. This mortuary receives cases from the entire district except Gohana, where the mortuary is operational. Except SDH Gohana all the CHCs, PHCs refer the cases to this hospital.

2. A total of 33 homicidal death postmortems were conducted in the year 2018 in DCH Sonipat mortuary.

3. Percentage of homicidal deaths out of all the postmortems was 3.9%.

4. Month wise distribution of the cases is as follows-

Month	Cases of Homicidal deaths and percentage
January	0 (0)
February	1 (3%)
March	2 (6%)
April	6 (18%)

May	0 (0)
June	1 (3%)
July	5 (15%)
August	5 (15%)
September	5 (15%)
October	4 (12%)
November	2 (6%)
December	2 (6%)

Maximum homicides occurred in the months of April and July to September. This is primarily the season of summers in Haryana.

##### 5. METHOD OF COMMITTING MURDER IS AS FOLLOWS-

Method	Cases & percentage
Strangulation	3 (9%)
Sharp weapon	4 (12%)
Blunt	5 (15%)
Blunt and sharp	6 (18%)
Firearms	15 (45%)

It is worth mentioning that where blunt and sharp weapons were used, blunt involved manual fight as well.

-In all the murder cases by firearms, only one case involved use of shot gun. Rest all used rifled firearm only.

-In cases of deaths by strangulation, two were due to ligature strangulation and one due to throttling and choking.

-No case of homicidal burns was received.

-Only one case of suspected homicidal poisoning was received but final reports are awaited so this case has not been included here.

##### 6. SEX RATIO-

Out of total 33 homicide victims, majorities i.e. 26 were males and the rest were females.

##### 7. AGE-

Out of all the homicide victims, 20 were in the age group of 20-30 years, 8 in the age group of 30-40 years, 2 in the age group of 40-50 years, 1 each in less than 10 years; 10-20 years and more than 60 years.

##### 8. MOTIVE-

Financial disputes, sudden rage and illicit relationships were the primary motives in most of the cases of murder.

##### DISCUSSION-

1. Data from Haryana state with regard to total homicidal postmortem percentage as evident from PGIMS Thesis work shows that homicides constituted 4.42% of all the postmortems (128 cases out of 2891 cases)

These state level findings are well above those observed in Sonipat (3.9%) making otherwise ill perceived district faring well than the average Haryana state.

2. Data from Haryana state with regard to age as evident from PGIMS thesis work shows that maximum victims were murdered in their prime youth i.e. 21-30 years, contributing 40.5% cases followed by 31-40 years of age constituting 21.1 % of the cases. Children were victims only in 2 cases but both of these were females less than 10 years of age. Males were murdered much more than females. The ratio is significant 3.92: 1. Out of murdered females, 57.6% were in the age group of 21-30 years, while in the same group males contributed 36.2% of cases. In married female victims; dowry, extra marital relationships were the chief causes that led to murder. 37 males (36.2%) out of 102 were in the age group of 21-30 years, followed by 26 cases (25.5%) in 31-40 years and 17 cases (16.7%) in 41-50 years of age. 15 females (57.6%) were aged 21-30 years, followed by 3 cases (11.5%) being above 60 years.

##### These findings are similar in Sonipat as well.

3. Data from Haryana state with regard to motive as evident from thesis work shows that rage, financial disputes and monetary disputes were the causes of murder of men in 33, 22 and 17 cases respectively

constituting 32.3%, 21.5% and 16.6 %. In case of females, dowry was the single most factor that led to murder in 8 cases (30.7%) followed by property, marital discord and rage in 4 cases each constituting 15.3%.

##### These findings are similar in Sonipat as well.

4. Data from Haryana state with regard to weapon of offence as evident from the thesis work shows that Blunt weapon alone was used to inflict the fatal injuries in 43 cases (33.59%). Firearms were the next most common type of weapons of offense in 32 cases (25.0%). Out of all cases of firearm injuries, 5 were produced by shotguns and the rest by rifled firearms. In 20 deaths (15.62%), multiple weapons caused the death. In case of male victims; blunt weapons, firearms and multiple weapons caused the death of victims in 34, 30 and 17 cases constituting 33.33%, 29.4% and 16.66% respectively. In case of female victims; blunt weapon, fire and ligature were the most commonly used weapons of offense in 9, 5 and 3 cases respectively with constituting 34.61%, 19.13% and 11.53%.

This is the most important difference from the state level data. District Sonipat has witnessed far higher percentage of firearm related deaths than the state average. Although the overall homicidal deaths are less but firearm fatalities are more than the average state level.

##### SUGGESTIONS

It is evident from the present study that there are many factors that play roles when any murder occurs. It is impossible to stop every homicide from occurring but a lot can be done if society understands the value of life.

Here are some suggestive measures that may be taken to reduce the incidence of homicides.

1. Children should be raised in a healthy environment, where happiness of other person is considered as important as his or her own.
2. The youngsters should be taught that no one gets all the comforts of life and we all are limited in one way or the other.
3. The school goers should be taught the value of self restraint, when something is not as per their liking.
4. Everyone should respect women.
5. Men should know that a woman is not a sex object. She is a mother, sister, daughter and creator of the life itself. No society can flourish where females are victims of any type of atrocities.
6. People should be made aware that alcohol blunts the capacity of reasoning.
7. Mental health awareness should be spread among youth.
8. In long run, more facilities should be provided in villages to keep relationships intact. Everyone should understand that rapid urbanization leads to increased problems.
9. Emigration from villages to cities should be regularized.
10. Value of education and financial stability should be emphasized.
11. Females should be educated so that they can be financially independent.
12. Divorces should be kept to the minimum possible.
13. One should be careful in not going to isolated places without protective measures.
14. Property and land issues should not shake the family foundations and elders can play important role in this regard.
15. Police department should be made aware about the importance of homicide investigation and the top police officials should ensure that no homicide investigation goes wrong for any reason.
16. It is recommended that young children should not engage in cruel activities lest their immature minds get those impressions permanently.

17. It is recommended not to keep any weapon at home.

18. It is also recommended that every citizen should know the art and means of self defense.

19. The local administration should remain at guard while issuing firearm licenses.

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