



“A STUDY OF DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF HOMICIDAL VICTIM IN NAGPUR ”

Forensic Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Homicide is one of the heinous crimes against humanity and society, and it is as older as our civilization or history of humanity. The present study was carried out in the Department of Forensic Medicine, Govt. Medical College & Hospital Nagpur. In present study, males (85.51%) were exclusively predominate females (14.49%). most commonly affected victims were from age group 21 to 30 years (35.18%) followed by 31 to 40 years (24.14%). Among all homicidal deaths 44.14% victims were illiterate (44.14%). Most of the victims of homicide were either unskilled (48.97%) followed by semiskilled (37.93%) with victim (87.58%) belongs to low socio-economic strata. Head Injury as the leading cause of death(45.52%).Most of the

KEYWORDS

Homicide, male victim, illiterate, unskilled, low socioeconomic, head injury

Introduction:

Homicide is one of the heinous crimes against humanity and society, and it is as older as our civilization or history of humanity and reported as early as in the bible when Cane was murdered by the hands of Abel.

Demographic profile of homicidal victim may be a useful indicator of the social stresses in the community and provide information about law and order situation of society as well as valuable information to law and enforcement strategies.

Material method

The present study was carried out over a period of two year starting from November 2012 to October 2014 in the Department of Forensic Medicine, Govt. Medical College & Hospital Nagpur. Such a study was not carried out in our region to the best of our knowledge.

The history and sociological aspects of the deceased were obtained from accompanying persons/relatives and police. Each homicidal case was examined and evaluated at autopsy, both externally and internally. Inclusion Criteria: All the cases of assault by hard and blunt, sharp edged weapon, firearm, assault by violent asphyxia and by thermal injury were included in the study.

Exclusion Criteria: All the cases other than assault or homicide and cases where the cause of death could not be ascertained due to insufficient/improper history were excluded from the study.

Educational status has been classified as illiterate who were not able to read, write; Primary up to standard IV; Intermediate up to Xth standard; Post intermediate and above from Xth and above. Modified Prasad's classification of per capita Income was considered and applied to estimate the socio-economic status of the victims Ethical Committee approval No 369/12

Result:

Table No. 1 Gender Wise Distribution:

GENDER	NO.OF CASES	%
MALE	124	85.51
FEMALE	21	14.49
TOTAL	145	100

Table No. 2 Age Wise Distribution:

AGE GROUP IN YEARS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	%
	NO.OF CASES	%	NO.OF CASES	%		
0 - 10	2	1.6	1	4.77	3	2.07
11 - 20	8	6.4	4	19.04	12	8.27
21 - 30	46	36.8	5	23.80	51	35.18
31 - 40	27	22.4	8	38.10	35	24.14
41 - 50	23	18.4	3	14.29	26	17.93

51 - 60	11	8.8	0	0	11	7.59
61 - 70	6	4.8	0	0	6	4.13
71 - 80	1	0.8	0	0	1	0.69
81 - 90	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	124	85.51	21	14.49	145	100

As the male (85.51%) predominated the female (14.49%), the mostly affected age group (both sexes combined) was 21–30 years, constituting 35.18 % of all homicidal deaths, while 24.14 were found in 31 -40 years group.

Table No. 3 Distribution Of Cases According Residence of Victim:

Residence	Male		Female		Total	%
	No of cases	%	No of cases	%		
URBAN	62	50	8	30.10	70	48.28
RURAL	58	46.77	12	57.14	70	48.28
NOT KNOWN	4	3.22	1	4.76	5	03.44
TOTAL	124	85.51	21	14.49	145	100

The equal numbers of victims of homicide were from rural areas (48.28%) and urban areas (48.28%).

Table No. 4 Distribution Of Cases According education of victims:

Education	Male		Female		Total	%
	No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%		
Illiterate	55	44.35	09	42.85	64	44.14
Primary	42	33.87	06	28.57	48	33.10
Intermediate	16	12.90	02	09.52	18	12.42
Post Intermediate And Above	05	04.03	02	09.52	07	04.82
Not Known	06	04.83	02	09.52	08	05.52
Total	124	85.51	21	14.49	145	100

Maximum number of victims of homicide were illiterate (44.14%) followed by victims who were educated only up to primary school (33.10%).

Table No. 5 Distribution Of Cases According OCCUPATION OF VICTIM:

OCCUPATION	Male		Female		TOTAL	%
	No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%		
UNSKILLED	65	52.41	06	28.57	71	48.97
SEMISKILLED	44	35.48	11	52.38	55	37.93
SKILLED	03	2.41	00	00.00	03	02.06

NOT APPLICABLE	07	5.64	03	14.28	10	06.89
NOT KNOWN	05	4.03	01	04.76	06	04.14
TOTAL	124	85.51	21	14.49	145	100

Most of the victims were either unskilled (48.97%) or semiskilled (37.93%). Only 2.07% victims were skilled.

Table No. 6 DISTRIBUTION AS PER SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF VICTIM:

Socio Economist Status	Male		Female		Total	%
	No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%		
LOW	107	86.29	20	95.24	127	87.58
MEDIUM	07	5.64	00	00.00	07	04.83
HIGH	05	04.03	00	00.00	05	03.45
NOT KNOWN	05	04.03	01	04.76	06	04.14
TOTAL	124	85.51	21	14.49	145	100

Significant number of victims (87.58%) belongs to low socio-economic strata and only 3.45% victims are from high socio-economic status.

Table No. 7 Distribution Of Cases According Cause of Death of Victim:

Cause Of Death	No. Of Cases				Total	%
	Male	%	Female	%		
Injury To Vital Organs	14	11.29	01	04.76	15	10.34
Head Injury	58	46.77	08	38.10	66	45.52
Shock And Haemorrhage Following Injury	29	23.38	04	19.04	33	22.76
Death Due To Burn	02	1.61	07	33.33	09	6.20
Strangulation	07	5.64	01	04.76	08	5.51
Drowning	01	0.80	00	00	01	0.69
Cut Throat	03	2.41	00	00	03	2.07
Ligature Strangulation With Head Injury	01	0.80	00	00	01	0.69
Injury To Spine And Spinal Cord	03	02.41	00	00.00	03	02.07
Septicaemia Due To Injury Sustained	06	04.83	00	00.00	06	04.14
Total	124	100	21	100	145	100

Discussion:

The pattern of homicides varies from country to country and influenced by many factors like demographic profile, social, moral, political and cultural and the availability of weapons. The pattern of homicide has important implications for the creation of strategies to reduce its incidence.²

In present study, males (85.51%) were exclusively predominate females (14.49%). Which were correlated by Marri M. et al.(2006)⁴ Ghangale et al.(2003)³ Cooper A. et al.(2011)⁵, Brady B. et al.(2006)⁵.

In India, males are generally working outdoor and are aggressive in nature moreover they are more exposed to stress, frustration, physical confrontation and violence and are most likely to be on receiving end of aggression. Hence are at greater risk of being victimized.⁷

In the present study, the age group wise distribution of victim of homicide shows that among both gender most commonly affected victims were from age group 21 to 30 years (35.18%) followed by 31 to 40 years (24.14%). Similar findings were observed by Mohanty S. et al. (2013)⁸ Edirisinghe et al.(2009)⁹ Ghangale S. et al (2003)³ Bhupinder S. et al (2010)¹⁰ Marri M. et al(2006)⁴ Hugar B. et al (2011)⁶ Mittal S. et al (2007)¹¹

It is explain by the fact that males in this age group are aggressive in nature. They may indulge in criminal activities due to unemployment, financial instability exposing them to violent trauma leading to homicidal output. This is the most active phase of an individual's life, including outdoor activities, increased aggression and early losing of temper, which leads to increase in crime rate by this age group.

Among all homicidal deaths both urban and rural victims were 48.28% while only in 3.44% cases residential status of victims were not known. Our findings were consistent with Rathod S. et al. (2013)¹² study, the distribution of victims was nearly equal between urban and rural areas (Urban- 49.7% and Rural-50.3%).

Our centre is a tertiary care centre for conducting post-mortem examination of the police stations having their jurisdiction in urban and rural areas also. Hence not only the cases from city itself is brought but the cases from periphery and surrounding rural area is also prefer to brought the cases at our apex institute.

In the present study most of the victims were illiterate (44.14%) followed by victims who were educated only up to primary school (33.10%). Which consistent with Mohanty S. et al.(2013)⁸ and Gadge S. et al (2011)¹³

Education exercises a moderating influence on mind, learn us how to tackle the difficult situation which reflect in our behavior.

In present study, most of the victims of homicide were either unskilled (48.97%) followed by semiskilled (37.93%). Only 2.07% victims were skilled. Our findings were similar with Rekhi T. et al (2007)¹⁴ Haq M. et al.(2013)¹⁵ Rathod SN. et al. (2013)¹²

The probable reason for this may be due to that, the unskilled persons group involves most of the labour class working in agricultural field, manual labour, and other field labours. The people in such group usually involve into quarrel, brawl and arguments with other fellows.

Among all the homicidal victims, (87.58%) belongs to low socio-economic strata followed by medium socio-economic strata (4.83%) and only 3.45% victims are from high socio-economic status which were correlated with Mohanty S. et al.(2013)⁸, Mohanty MK et al. (2010).¹⁶

Socioeconomic status (SES) is often measured as a combination of education, income, and occupation. Low socioeconomic status correlates with low education, unemployment and poverty. As schools or education not only just teach you about history math's, science or any subject, they also teach you how to live in society. Low education leads to unemployment. Unemployment among the low educated youth spurred a massive tendency for violence and crime. They don't have the fear of defaming their name. Such people frequently play hide and seek with the law and lands in trouble

Among all the cases of homicide, Head Injury (45.52%) was the most common cause of death followed by shock and haemorrhage due to injuries sustained (22.76%). and injuries to vital organs. These findings were consistent with Rathod SN. et. al. (2013)¹² Gadge S. et al(2011)¹³

As the head being the targeted for inflicting the injuries in a majority of cases. As most of external injuries either by hard and blunt or sharp edged weapon mostly on the head, It can be explained by the fact that majority of the homicide were executed by using commonly available house hold weapons like wooden stick, axe, spade, iron pipe, stone, etc

Conclusion:

From the present study we concluded that..

- 1) Male predominate female.
- 2) Most commonly affected age group was 21- 30 years, followed by 31-40 years age group.
- 3) 44.14% victims were illiterate (44.14%)
- 4) Most of the victims of homicide were either unskilled (48.97%) followed by semiskilled (37.93%).
- 5) Most of the victim (87.58%) belongs to low socio-economic strata.
- 6) Head being leading targeted site for assault.

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