## "A STUDY OF HOMICIDE WITH RESPECTS TO RELATION AND MOTIVE OF OFFENCE AMONG THE VICTIM AND PERPETRATORS"

**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%). Previous enmity (31.82%) was the main motive, followed by Familial Disharmony (12.90). Victims were acquainted to accused in (40.86%) followed by relatives in 19.35% cases and friends in 13.97% cases Head Injury as the leading cause of death(45.52%).

## KEYWORDS

Homicide, male victim, motive, acquaintance, relative, friends, perpetrators.

**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.[1]

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 One year starting from November 2012 to October 2013 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, motive and relation of victim with perpetrator 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.
Ethical Committee approval No 369/12

**Result:**

During this period total 2878 autopsies were conducted out of which homicide death were 93(3.23%)

**Table No 1: Gender Wise Distribution**

| Sex | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| No Of Cases | 79 | 14 | 93 |
| % | 84.95 % | 15.05% | 100% |

**Table No 2:  Age Wise Distribution**

| Age Range | Male | %(Total Male) | Female | %(Total Female) | Total | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0-10yrs | 00 | 0 | 01 | 7.14 | 01 | 1.07 |
| 11-20yrs | 03 | 3.79 | 04 | 28.57 | 07 | 7.52 |
| 21-30yrs | 40 | 50.63 | 05 | 35.71 | 45 | 48.38 |
| 31-40yrs | 15 | 18.98 | 03 | 21.42 | 18 | 19.35 |
| 41-50yrs | 10 | 12.65 | 00 | 00 | 10 | 10.75 |
| 51-60yrs | 08 | 10.12 | 00 | 00 | 08 | 8.60 |
| 61-70yrs | 01 | 1.26 | 01 | 7.14 | 02 | 2.15 |
| >70yrs | 02 | 2.53 | 00 | 00 | 02 | 2.15 |
| Total | 79 | 100 | 14 | 100% | 93 | 100 |

As the male (84.95%) predominated the female (15.05%), the mostly affected age group (both sexes combined) was 21–30 years, constituting (45 cases) 48.38 % of all homicidal deaths, while 19.35% (18 cases) was found in 31 -40 years group.

**Table No. 3:  Distribution Of Cases As per motive of homicide.**

| Circumstances | No. Of Case | | | | Total | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | % | Female | % | | |
| Robbery | 4 | 5.06 | 1 | 7.14 | 5 | 5.37 |
| Criminal  Revelry | 8 | 10.12 | 1 | 7.14 | 9 | 9.67 |
| Familial Disharmony | 5 | 6.32 | 7 | 50 | 12 | 12.90 |
| Kidnapping For Monitory Benefit | 1 | 1.26 | 00 | 00 | 1 | 1.07 |
| Love Affair | 00 | 00 | 2 | 14.28 | 2 | 2.15 |
| Previous Enmity | 29 | 36.70 | 00 | 00 | 29 | 31.82 |
| Property Dispute | 8 | 10.12 | 00 | 00 | 8 | 8.60 |
| Rape And Murder | 00 | 00 | 1 | 7.14 | 1 | 1.07 |
| Sudden Emotional Outburst | 11 | 13.92 | 00 | 00 | 11 | 11.82 |
| Not Known | 13 | 16.45 | 2 | 14.28 | 15 | 16.12 |
| Total | 79 | | 14 | | 93 | 100 |

In large number of cases, the previous enmity (31.82%) was the main motive for homicide, followed by Familial Disharmony and  sudden emotional outburst accounted for 12.90% and 11.82% respectively. While in 16.12% of cases, the motive for homicide was not known..

**Table No. 4: Distribution Of Cases As Relationship Of Victim With Perpetrators.**

| Relation | No. Of Case | | | | Total | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | % | Female | % | | |
| Friend | 12 | 15.18 | 1 | 7.14 | 13 | 13.97 |
| Acquintance | 36 | 45.56 | 2 | 14.28 | 38 | 40.86 |
| Relative | 10 | 12.65 | 8 | 57.14 | 18 | 19.35 |
| Stranger | 7 | 8.86 | 00 | 00 | 7 | 7.52 |
| Not Known | 14 | 17.72 | 3 | 21.42 | 17 | 18.27 |
| Total | 79 | 100 | 14 | 100 | 93 | 100 |

Among all the cases victims were acquainted to accused in  (40.86%) followed by relatives in 19.35% cases and friends in 13.97% cases. Among relatives out of total number of 18 cases, 8 cases of spouse and 3 cases of parents of victims.

**Table No. 5: Circumstance and Relationship Of Victim With Perpetrators.**

| Relation Motive | Relative | Friend | Acquaintance | Stranger | Not Known | Total | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5.37 |
| Criminal Revelry | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 9.67 |
| Familial Disharmony | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 12.90 |
| Kidnapping For Monitory Benefit | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.07 |
| Love Affair | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2.15 |
| Previous Enmity | 0 | 8 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 31.82 |
| Property Dispute | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 8.60 |
| Rape And Murder | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.07 |
| Sudden Emotional Outburst | 1 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11.82 |
| Not Known | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 15 | 16.12 |
| Total | 18 | 13 | 38 | 7 | 17 | 93 | 100 |
| % | 19.35 | 13.98 | 40.86 | 7.53 | 18.28 | 100 | |

Victim was relatives of perpetrators in 19.35% (n-18) cases of which 12 cases were of familial disharmony and 4 cases of property dispute. In 13.98% (n-13) of cases victim was the friend of perpetrators of which 8 cases are were previous enmity. Victim was acquaintance of perpetrators in 40.86%(n-38) cases of which 20 cases were previous enmity. In 7.53% (n-7) of cases perpetrators was stranger to the victim and most of them were cases of robbery (n-4). In 18.28% of cases victim was not known to the perpetrators.

## 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 the 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)[6], Brady B. et al.(2006)[5].

The mostly affected age group (both sexes combined) was 21–30 years, constituting (45 cases) 48.38 % of all homicidal deaths, while 19.35% (18 cases) was found in 31 -40 years group. Similar findings were observed by Mohanty S.et al. (2013)[7] Edirisinghe et al.(2009)[8] Ghangale S.et al (2003)[3] Bhupinder S.et al (2010)[9] Marri M. et al(2006)4 Mittal S.et al (2007)[10] 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.

Among all the cases victims were acquainted to perpetrators in (40.86%) followed by relatives in 19.35% cases and friends in 13.97% cases. Among relatives out of total number of 18 cases, 8 cases of spouse and 3 cases of parents of victims. Similar findings were observed by Shivakumar BC et al.(2011)[12] Cooper A.et al. (2011)[6] Mohanty M.K.et al. (2010)[11]

In the present study, in most of the cases the motive of the offence of homicide was the previous enmity accounted for (31.82%), followed by Familial Disharmony and sudden emotional outburst accounted for 12.90% and 11.82% respectively. Our findings were consistent with Gadge S. et al.(2011)[13] Shivakumar BC.(2011)[12] Mohanty S.et al(2013)[7]. Mohanty S.et al observed in their study that previous enmity (35.59%), familial disharmony (18.65%)[7]

Victim was acquaintance of perpetrators in 40.86%(n-38) cases of which 20 cases were previous enmity. Victim was relatives of perpetrators in 19.35% (n-18) cases of which 12 cases were of familial disharmony and 4 cases of property dispute. In 13.98% (n-13) of cases victim was the friend of perpetrators of which 8 cases are were

previous enmity.

Among relative, friends or victim acquaintance with perpetrators, most of the time misunderstandings, arguments, any dispute, previous enmity, Stress, financial issue, abuse, poor social and familial situations, and overwhelming requirements leads anger outside of normal emotional scope with additive effect from some type of altercation such as drugs or alcohol which prompt a criminal behavior.

Family harmony provides a sense of belonging and a feeling of security unlike many other types of relationships. When conflict arises, it threatens that security and unresolved conflict may irreparably damage a marriage and the entire family if family members do not seek help and land into violent activity.

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 consistence with Rathod SN.et. al. (2013)14 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.

## Conclusion:
From the present study we concluded that..

1) Male predominate female and the most commonly affected age group was 21- 30 years, followed by 31-40 years age group.
2) Previous enmity (31.82%) was the main motive, followed by Familial Disharmony (12.90)
3) Victims were acquainted to accused in (40.86%) followed by relatives in 19.35% cases and friends in 13.97% cases
4) Head being leading targeted site for assault.

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