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ORIGINAL PAPER

Pattern of homicide in gurgaon region

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ABSTRACT

***Introduction**: Homicide means killing of human being. It is very heinous crime done by a person against other human being.* ***Aim**: Aim of this study was to find out the most prominent method of homicide in Gurgaon region.* ***Method**: This study was a retrospective study done in the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, SGT University, Gurgaon in association with Mortuary of Civil Hospital Gurgaon.* ***Results**: A total of 1196 autopsies were conducted at Mortuary, Civil hospital Gurgaon during the period from January 2016 to December 2016, out of which, 60(5%) cases were of alleged homicidal death. Majority of victims were in the age group of 31-40 years with Male:Female ratio; 4.1 were observed. 78.3% victims were male. 51.67% of total victims were resident of place outside Gurgaon with majority of male victims. Contusion was found in maximum cases followed by fracture 78.3% death were due to mechanical injuries followed by asphyxial death which is in 21.7%. Head injury was observed as a major cause of death in 36.7% cases.* ***Conclusion**: The most affecting age group was 31-40 years with male predominance.78.33% cases were died due to mechanical injuries, out of which maximum due to blunt weapon.*

***Keywords**: Sharp weapon, blunt weapon, firearm*

INTRODUCTION

Life and death are two undeniable facts in this world. Like birth, death is also inevitable. There is only one way for birth, there are many ways to die. Homicide is legally defined as destruction of human life by the act, agencies, procurement or culpable omission of some other person or persons.[1] Homicide is prevalent all over the world.[1] Globally around 5,20,000 people die every year due to interpersonal violence, which equates nearly 1400 deaths every day.

The various methods of homicidal deaths are injury by blunt weapon, sharp weapon, firearm, strangulation, homicidal hanging (Lynching), smothering, poisoning etc. The pattern and incidences of homicides are increasing because of population explosion, changes in life style, modern needs of men and easy availability of various types of weapons. In view of the magnitude and frequency of such deaths and its impact on the society, the present study is under taken so as to find out the most vulnerable age group, sex incidence, pattern of homicide, residence of victim of crime, region of the body involved and cause of death.

In India, after many years of independence, the rate of homicides is increasing day by day. As per National Crime Record Bureau, violent crimes reported in India were 10.9% of the total Indian Penal Code crimes. The total number of murders recorded all over the India in 2010 was 33,335. There are consistent differences in rates of homicide victimization between males and females and young and old. In terms of age difference, homicide victimization rates are generally higher for young adults, especially young adult males.

METHODS

A retrospective study regarding the various patterns of homicide in Gurgaon region was done in the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, SGT University, Gurgaon in association with Mortuary of Civil Hospital Gurgaon during the period from January 2016 to December 2016. All the cases were included in this studywho were brought to the mortuary of Civil Hospital Gurgaon for the medico-legal post-mortem examination with alleged history of homicide. Cases of

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unnatural deaths where the cause of death could not be ascertained due to insufficient/improper history, gross decomposition and inadequate findings were excluded from the study. Autopsies were conducted as per the standards by the routine autopsy instruments.

RESULTS

During the period from January 2016 to December 2016, total 1196 Autopsies were conducted, of which 60 cases were of homicide (5.0%).

Table 1 According to age and sex of deceased

Age Group (yrs)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)	Total No. (%)
<1	00 (0)	00 (0)	00 (0)	00 (0)
01-10	02 (3.3)	02 (3.3)	00 (0)	04 (6.6)
11-20	05 (8.3)	02 (3.3)	00 (0)	07 (11.6)
21-30	16 (26.7)	02 (3.3)	01 (1.7)	19 (31.7)
31-40	15 (25.0)	05 (8.3)	00 (0)	20 (33.3)
41-50	08 (13.3)	00 (0)	00 (0)	08 (13.3)
51-60	01 (1.7)	00 (0)	00 (0)	01 (1.7)
Above 60	00 (0)	01 (1.7)	00 (0)	01 (1.7)
Total	47 (78.3)	12 (20.0)	01 (1.7)	60 (100)

In **Table 1**, the distribution of cases among males is 78.3%, i.e., 47 cases and that of females is 20.0%, i.e., 12 cases. The maximum % age of homicidal cases in this study among males is 26.7% in the age group of 21–30 years followed by 25.0% in the age group of 31 – 40 years. While in Females, the maximum % age is in the age group of 31–40 years with 8.3% followed by 3.3% in the age group of 01–10, 11–20 and 21-30 years. The only case found in Unknown category in the age group 21–30 years which contributes 1.7%. No case received below the age of 1 year in all categories in **Table 1**.

Table 2 Community characters of victim

Area	Males (%)	Females (%)	Others (%)	Total no.(%)
Gurgaon	18 (30.0)	04 (6.7)	00 (0)	22
Outside Gurgaon	26 (43.3)	04 (6.7)	01 (1.7)	31
Unknown	3 (5.0)	04 (6.7)	00	07
TOTAL	47 (78.3)	12 (20.0)	01 (1.7)	60 (100)

Table 2 shows the distribution of cases as per the residence of victim. Among 47 cases (78.3 %) of males, 26 cases (43.3 %) were residents of other district than Gurgaon followed by 18 cases (30.0%) were resident of district Gurgaon, while there is equal distribution in all categories of Table no. 2 with 4 cases which contribute 6.7% in females.

Table 3 Type of Injuries

Type of Injury	Male	Female	Others
Abrasion	06	02	00
Contusion	21	10	01
Laceration	17	03	00
Incised Wound	02	03	01
Stab Wound	03	02	01
Fracture	24	07	00
Firearm Laceration	14	03	00
Nil (others)	00	00	00
TOTAL	87	30	03

In 53.3% cases were noted with contusion followed by 51.7% cases with fracture while lacerations were noted in 33.3% cases. 28.3% cases were noted with Firearm laceration, while 13.3% cases were noted with abrasion, incised and stab wounds were noted in 10.0% respectively as shown in **Table 3**.

Table 4 Region of Body involved

	Head & Neck			Thorax & Abdomen			Limbs (Upper & Lower)		
	Male	Female	Others	Male	Female	Others	Male	Female	Others
Abrasion	04	00	00	07	01	00	04	02	00
Contusion	37	19	01	28	15	00	21	09	00
Laceration	26	06	00	01	01	00	00	00	00
Incised Wound	07	14	00	00	03	00	04	20	12
Stab Wound	00	01	00	04	08	10	00	04	00
Fracture	15	02	00	04	01	00	06	02	00
Firearm Laceration	13	01	00	19	02	00	11	02	00
TOTAL	102	43	01	63	31	10	46	39	12
	146			104			97		

Head & Neck region was involved with a total number of 146 injuries among all the cases while Thorax and Abdomen region was involved with a total of 104 injuries in number. A total of 97 injuries were reported in extremities as shown in **Table 4**.

Maximum no. of cases was reported with injury by blunt weapon, i.e., 22 cases (36.6%) followed by 18 cases (30.0%) with firearms. Sharp weapons were involved in 7 cases with a % age of 11.7. Asphyxial cases were 13 with a distribution of 8 cases (13.3%) of ligature strangulation, 3 cases (5.0%) of manual strangulation and 2 cases (3.3%) of smothering as shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5 Type of weapon used

Type of Weapon	Male (%)	Female (%)	Others (%)	Total No. (%)
Firearms	15 (25.0)	03 (5.0)	00 (0)	18 (30.0)
Blunt Weapon	20 (33.3)	02 (3.3)	00 (0)	22 (36.6)
Sharp Weapon	04 (6.7)	02 (3.3)	01 (1.7)	07 (11.7)
Ligature Strangulation	06 (10.0)	02 (3.3)	00 (0)	08 13.3)
Manual Strangulation	00 (0)	03 (5.0)	00 (0)	03 (5.0)
Smothering	02 (3.3)	00 (0)	00 (0)	02 (3.3)
TOTAL	47 (78.3)	12 (20.0)	01 (1.7)	60 (100)

Head Injury was reported as cause of death in 22 cases with a % age of 36.7, while Shock & Haemorrhage was reported in 21 cases with a % age of 35, Asphyxia was reported as cause of death in 13 cases (21.6%) while 4 cases (6.6%) were reported with shock & septicaemia as shown in **Table 6**.

Table 6 Cases according to the cause of death

Cause of death	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)	Total no. (%)
Head Injury	21 (35.0)	01 (1.7)	00 (0)	22 (36.7)
Shock & Haemorrhage	14 (23.3)	06 (10)	01 (1.7)	21 (35.0)
Asphyxia	08 (13.3)	05 (8.3)	00 (0)	13 (21.6)
Shock & Septicaemia	04 (6.6)	0 (0)	00 (0)	04 (6.6)
Total	47 (78.3)	12 (20.0)	01 (1.7)	60 (100)

DISCUSSION

Homicide (homos: human being, caedere: to kill) means to kill a human being. Violence is a significant problem of the society and homicide is the severest form of violence, depriving a human being of his fundamental right to live. The pattern of homicide is affected by various factors such as economic condition, political condition, type of population, availability of weapons, behavioural problems, etc.

In this present study, total 1196 autopsies were conducted, of which 60 cases (5.0%) were of alleged homicide. In this study, the incidence of homicide is on the lower side than the incidence of homicide observed by Rekhi et al[2] (53.6%), Murty et al[3] (15.1%), Sinha et al[4] (5.9%), Basappa SHugar et al[5] (4.32%), Shah Jainik P et al[6] (2.70%). However, Gupta et al[7] noted the incidence of 5.0% of homicides out of the total medico-legal deaths which is equal to the incidence observed in this study.

In this study, the preponderance of victims (33.3%) was in the age group of 31- 40 years. It is towards the age group of 21-30 years in 40% of victims in study by B.C. Shivakumara et al[8], in age group 20-29 years in 49.2% cases by Basappa S Hugar et al[5] while Shah Jainik P et al[6] and Sachidananda Mohanty et al[9] observed maximum cases in the age group of 21- 30 years in 38% cases and 35% cases respectively.

Blunt weapon usage was observed in 36.6% cases followed by firearms in 30% cases while 50% of weapon was sharp followed by blunt weapon (30%) as observed by BC Shiva kumara et al.[8] Basappa S Hugar et al[5] observed sharp weapon as the most common in 33.25% followed by blunt weapon in 28% cases, Shah Jainik P et al[6] observed injuries sustained by sharp force were found in 40.26% cases followed by 33.77% cases having bunt force injuries. Sharp weapon was used in 36.61% cases followed by blunt weapon in 24.41% in the study conducted by Sachidananda Mohanty et al[9] Firearm was used as method of homicide in maximum cases (42.4%) followed by blunt weapon (13.6%) in study conducted by Upadhyay P &Tripathi CB.[10]

In this study, head injury was observed as a cause of death in maximum cases (36.7%) followed by shock and haemorrhage (35%). The cause of death was found head injury in 43% cases followed by violent asphyxia (14%) in study by Shah Jainik P et al[6] while Sachidananda Mohanty et al[9] observed haemorrhage and shock being the most common cause of death in 44.07% cases followed by cranio-cerebral injuries (34.58%).

CONCLUSION

- Incidence rate of homicidal death was 5.0% and affecting age group was 31- 40 years with male predominance.
- Majority of the victims of homicide were permanent resident of place other than Gurgaon region.
- 78.33% cases were died due to mechanical injuries, out of which maximum due to blunt weapon.
- Injuries over head were observed in majority of cases.
- Fracture of bones was noted in majority of the cases.

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