ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The pattern of homicide in Haryana – A retrospective study

Naveen Yadav[1], Jitender Kumar Jakhar[2], Gaurav Kaushik[2], Lait Chopra[2], Mahender Singh[2], SK Dhattarwal[2]

1 General Hospital, Rewari
2 Department of Forensic Medicine, Pt. B. D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana

Abstract

Homicide is an utmost crime in human society. Land dispute, women and revenge are the usual causative agent behind every homicide. The present retrospective study is conducted on 100 cases brought for autopsy in the mortuary of the Department of Forensic Medicine, PGIMS, Rohtak from 1st January 2017 to 10th November 2019. The commonest age group of victims was 31-40 years and same in age group 41-50 years. Male were victimized 5 times more than the females. Most incidents occurred in monsoon season i.e., July to September in between 6 PM to 12 PM midnight. Hard and blunt weapon was most common type of weapon used in 26 % cases. Brain was the most common organ involved leading to death in 43 cases. Previous enmity followed by property dispute were the most common motive behind the homicide.

Introduction

Homicide is killing of a human being by another human being.[1] Homicide may be considered as destruction of human life by the act, agency, procurement or culpable omission of some other person.[2] There are two important elements to commit murder, which include *Mens rea* which means pre-planning and Actus reus which means the actual execution. *Actus rea* and *Mens rea* should work together to constitute the Crime.[3] As per global study on homicide 2019 by UNODC, there were 6.1 homicide victims per 100,000 populations worldwide, compared with a rate of 7.4 in 1993. Globally around 464,000 people killed in homicide in year 2017 as a result of interpersonal violence which equates to 1271 deaths every single day.[4]

According to National Crime Record Bureau, 29017 murders were reported in India in year 2018 with a crime rate of 2.2 Percent. Percentage share of violent crimes were 0.9% of the total Indian Penal Code crimes. In our Haryana 1140 people killed in homicide in year 2018 with a crime rate of 3.9 percent.[5]

Materials and Methods

The present study is a retrospective study conducted in the Department of Forensic Medicine, Pt. B. D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak. Data of 100 cases of homicide brought to the mortuary of PGIMS, Rohtak for post-mortem examination was collected from the departmental record. The cases in which manner was

Corresponding Author

Dr Mahender Singh, (Resident Doctor)
Email address: dr_mahendersingh@yahoo.com
Mobile: +91-9859595997

suspicious were not included in the study. The details of all 100 cases namely; sex, age, season, time of assault, survival period, motive, weapon, cause of death, a vital organ involved and manner of death were collected from the departmental record with maintaining the confidentiality and keeping ethical issues in mind.

Results

In present study record of 100 cases was studies. Out of 100 cases, 84 were males and 16 were female. Majority of the assaults occurred during monsoon season (June to September) i.e., 37 cases followed by post monsoon season (October to November) i.e., 26 and 19 cases in summer season (March to May). Only 18 cases of assault occurred in winter season (December to February). As far as time of altercations concerned, majority of assaults i.e., 38 cases occurred from 6 PM to 11:59 midnight followed by 25 cases in time frame 12:00 noon to 5:59 PM and 20 cases during 6:00 AM to 11:59 AM. Only 8 cases incurred between 12:00 midnight to 5:59 AM and 9 cases were there in which time frame was not known.

Age-wise, maximum cases belonged to the age group 31 to 40 and 41 to 50 years i.e., 27% each group followed by 21 to 30 years' age group i.e., 15 %. (Table 1). As depicted in Table no. 2, most of the cases survived for more than 3 days i.e., 31 % cases. The previous enmity is the most common motive behind the homicide i.e., 34 % cases followed by a property dispute i.e., 22 % cases as shown in Table 3. As shown in Table no. 4, Iron rod and danda are the most common weapon used i.e. 26 % cases followed by 21% cases of the firearm. Table no 5 shows that the most common cause of death is injuries described and their complication i.e., 35% case followed by head injuries and their complication i.e., 31 % cases. As depicted in Table no. 6, the brain was the most common organ involved i.e., 43 % cases.

Table 1: Age-wise distribution of cases

Age group (years)	Number of cases	Percentage
01 - 10	02	02
11 - 20	02	02
21 - 30	15	15
31 - 40	27	27
41 - 50	27	27
51 - 60	11	11
61 - 70	06	06
71 - 80	10	10
81 - 90	Nil	Nil
91 - 100	Nil	Nil
Total	100	100

Table 4: Distribution of cases according to the weapon of offense

Weapon of offence	Number of cases	Percentage
Knife	09	09
Axe	10	10
Iron rod and danda	26	26
Laat mukka	06	06
Firearm	21	21
Brick/ stone	06	06
Sword	02	02
Car/truck	03	03
Scissor	01	01
Poison	02	02
Unknown	14	14
Total	100	100

Table 2: Distribution of cases according to survival period

Duration of survival	Number of cases	Percentage
Less than 6 hours	21	21
6 to 12 hours	22	22
12 to 24 hours	13	13
24 to 48 hours	06	06
48-72 hours	07	07
More than 3 days	31	31
Total	100	100

Table 5: Distribution of cases according to the cause of death

Cause of death	Number of cases	Percentage
Injuries described and their complication	35	35
Head injuries and their complication	31	31
Firearm injuries and their complication	19	19
Awaited	12	12
Others	03	03
Total	100	100

Table 3: Distribution of cases according to the motive behind the homicide

Motive	Number of cases	Percentage
Property dispute	22	22
Previous enmity	34	34
Dowry	04	04
Rape	01	01
Animal dispute	01	01
Love failure	08	08
Sudden provocation	16	16
Unknown	14	14
Total	100	100

Table 6: Distribution of cases according to vital organs involved

Vital organs involved	Number of cases	Percentage
Brain	43	43
Lung	08	08
Liver	05	05
Spleen	03	03
Kidney	05	05
Heart	06	06
Others	17	17
Multi-organ involvement	13	13
Total	100	100

Discussion

In this study, males outnumbered the females and the overall male to female ratio is 5.25:1. because in India female is less likely involved in altercations outside the households. Findings of our study are consistent with Sharma et al, Sonawane et al., Gupta et al., Kiran et al., Mada et al., Mohanty et al., and Hugar et al.[6-12]

In the present study, maximum cases belong to the age group 31 to 40 and 41 to 50 years. Similar findings were noticed by some authors in their studies- Sonawane et al.[7] and Kiran et al[9] while 20 to 29 age group was most common in the study conducted by Sharma et al, Gupta et al., Mada et al., Mohanty et al., and Hugar et al. [6,8,10,11,12] The above findings can easily be explained by the fact that 31 to 40 years of age group is most susceptible to frustration in life because of many factors like failure of love affair, stressful marital life, financial crunches and pressure of making a good career after completion of studies etc.

This study showed that most common assaults occurred in monsoon season i.e., from June to September while Sharma et al[6] and Mohanty et al[11] found most of the homicide occurred in summers. As we all know that the Haryana is primarily an agricultural state and Rabi group of crops are ready for harvesting by end of march month. After the harvesting and sale of crop, people have the enough money in their hands and they also do not have agricultural work till next season of *Kharif*. In this free time and having enough money, they try to resolve the disputes of finance and land and involved in various illegal activities like physical assault and in extreme cases like homicide. This could be the reason for maximum homicides in monsoon season. The present study depicts that most of the quarrel occurred from 6 PM to 11:59 midnight similar findings were observed by Mohanty et al.[11] Most of the victims survived for more than 3 days, while maximum deaths occurred on spot in a study conducted by Hugar et al.[12] This is because the study includes the cases of assault that are brought to a trauma center for treatment. Revenge for a previous fight is the most common motive behind the homicide, similar findings were observed by Sonawane et al., Gupta et al., Kiran et al., Hugar et al.[7-9,12] An iron rod and danda are the most common weapon used. Our finding is consistent with the finding of Sonawane et al. while the sharp weapon was most common in studies conducted by Gupta et al. Kiran et al, Mohanty et al and Hugar et al.[7-9,11, 12] This is because danda and rod are the most common weapon which are easily available at the site of occurrence of crime. The most common cause of death is injuries described and their complication and brain is the most common organ involved.

Conclusion

Homicides are caused by the person of criminal intent. But sometimes, homicide occurs due to sudden heat of the moment with the help of nearby available weapons. If the accused would have been thought about the consequences for a small period of time, this type of incident can be prevented.

References

1. Reddy KSN, Murty OP. The Essentials of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. 34th ed. New Delhi: Jaypee Brother Medical Publisher (p) Ltd; 2017.

2. Vij K. Textbook of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Principles and Practice. 6th ed. New Delhi: Elsevier; 2014.

3. Mukherjee JB, Karmakar RN (ed). Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. 5th ed. Kolkata: Academic Publishers (p) Ltd; 2018.

4. Ummary E. GLOBAL STUDY ON HOMICIDE [Internet]. Unodc.org. [cited 2021 Dec 7]. Available from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/gsh/Booklet1.pdf

5. National Crime Records Bureau. Crime In India 2018. Gov.in. [cited 2021 Dec 7]. Available from: https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/Crime%20in%20India%202018%20-%20Volume%201.pdf.

6. Sharma G, Deepshika, Jain A, Khanagwal P, Punia J, Lathwal S et al. Homicide in District Sonipat in 2018 AD and comparison with all Haryana data. Indian J Appl Res. 2019;9(2):10-12.

7. Sonawane SS, Sukhdeve RB, Tyagi S, Kolle SR. Autopsy evaluation of homicidal deaths in western Mumbai region- 2 years prospective study. Sch J App Med Sci. 2017;5(12A):4840-4846.

8. Gupta N, Aggarwal NK, Verma SK. Pattern of homicidal deaths in North East Delhi and NCR. Indian J Forensic Med Toxicol. 2018;35(1):70-75.

9. Kiran M, Shetty M, Shetty SS, Shetty V. Analysis of homicidal deaths in a tertiary care center of a non-metropolitan city of South India: A retrospective study. J. Indian Acad. Forensic Med. 2017;39(4):384-386.

10. Mada P, Krishna PH. A Comprehensive study on homicidal deaths in Hyderabad. J. Indian Acad. Forensic Med. 2013;35(4):0971-0973.

11. Mohanty S, Mohanty SK, Patnaik KK. Homicide in southern India—A five-year retrospective study. Forensic Medicine and Anatomy Research. 2013;1(2):18-24.

12. Hugar BS, Chandra G, Harish S, Jayanth SH. Pattern of Homicidal Deaths. J. Indian Acad. Forensic Med. 2010; 32(3):194-198.