

A Retrospective Study of Murder Cases Autopsied at Chengalpattu Medical College And Hospital in the Year 2021

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Abstract

Background: In southern India, homicide has grown to be a prevalent habit that reflects wrath. This study's aim was to pinpoint the vulnerable victims and probable risk factors. The data from 46 cases are analysed in this retrospective study. According to our research, the victims were primarily males between the ages of 21 and 30 who were married (52.17%), uneducated (41.30%), from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and residents in rural areas. Both male and female housewives as well as labourers and farmers were largely impacted. More incidences (76.08%) occurred outside. The majority of victims (60.08%) were innocent and had never been convicted of a crime. 45% of victims had blood alcohol levels that were positive. Hemorrhage and shock were the most frequent causes of death, and sharp cutting weapons were frequently utilised. The two main factors that contributed to this horrible crime were prior animosity and family discord. The majority of patients had damage to several body areas. A few potential danger factors are listed at the end, along with associated countermeasures.

Keywords: Autopsy; Homicide; Familial Disharmony; Victim

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Introduction

The two sides of every coin are life and death. Death is a given when there is birth. There are numerous ways to pass away, but there is only one way to be born¹. Premature death brought on by a disease process is acceptable, while violent crime-related deaths are undesirable to society. These days, violent crimes like murder, dacoity, kidnapping, and abduction are all too common.

Homicide/murder is one of the violent crimes that threatens life. Homicide literally translates to "killing a human person" (homos: "human being," caedere: "to murder"). According to legal definitions, homicide is the intentional taking of another person's life through their act, agents, procurement, or culpable omission.¹ Such actions damage the peace and tranquility of society and instil a sense of unease and anxiety in the neighbourhood.

Violence is now widely acknowledged as a threat for global public health. Violence and injuries are responsible for 12% of all disability adjusted life years (DALY) and 9% of all worldwide mortality [2]. According to the Global Burden of Armed Violence Report, 2011 [3], between 2004 and 2009, there were 79 violent deaths per million people on average worldwide. Interpersonal violence claims the lives of over 520,000 individuals worldwide year, or 1400 people every day.

Indian figures on homicide aren't too far behind those of the rest of the globe. Even 65 years after gaining independence, poverty, ignorance, and unemployment have all but rendered living in villages impossible. Religious superstitions and the stigmatised caste system are still in use. Local political figures and extremists can easily influence the naive populace to serve their own agendas. In the end, this causes both empathy and resentment among the populace. The homicide rate in our nation is rising day by day in a geometric progression as a result of the current unstable socio-economic, political, religious crisis and rise in corruption. According to the National Crime Record Bureau, 10.9% of all offences under the Indian Penal Code were violent crimes.

Materials And Methods

This study was carried out 46 murder cases autopsied in the year 2021 at the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Chengalpattu Medical College & Hospital, Chengalpattu. The history and sociological aspects of deceased were obtained from accompanying persons/relatives and police as per the predesigned proforma. Each homicidal case was examined and evaluated at autopsy, both externally and internally.

Results

Table 1: Sex distribution

Sex	Numbers	Percentage
Male	34	73.9%
Female	12	26.1%

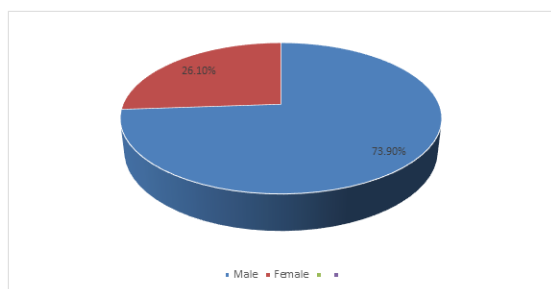


Figure 1: Sex distribution

Table 2: Age distribution

Age	Numbers	Percentage
18-30	28	60.8%
30-40	14	30.4%
40-50	4	8.6%

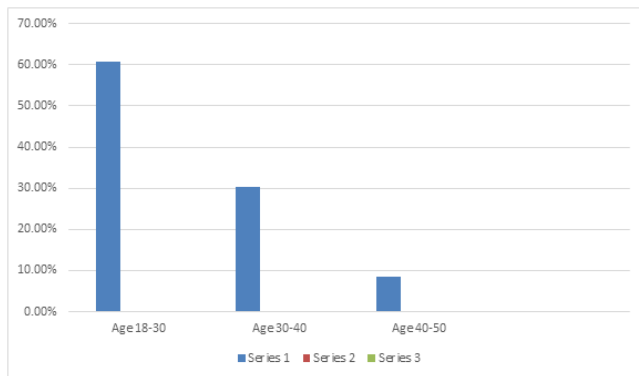


Figure 2: Age distribution

Table 3: Educational status

Education	Numbers	Percentage
Illiterate	19	41.3%
Primary	9	19.5%
High school	12	26%
College	6	13%

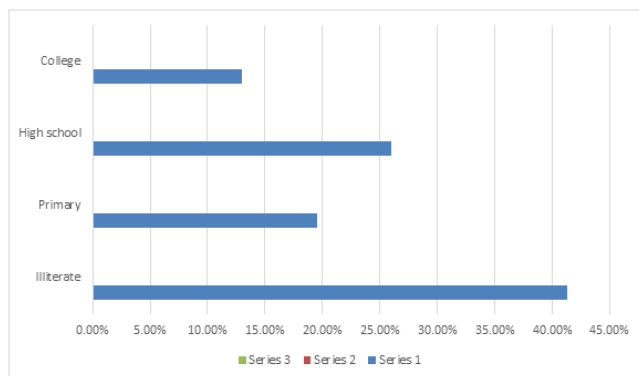


Figure 3: Educational status

Table 4: Socioeconomic status

Socioeconomic status	Numbers	Percentage
Low	24	52.1%
Medium	15	32.6%
High	7	15.2%

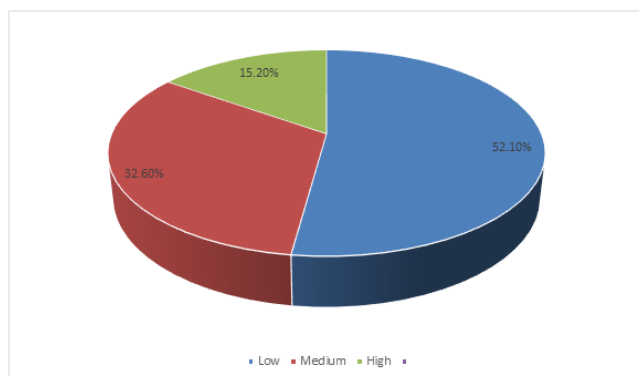


Figure 4: Socioeconomic status

Table 5: Marital status

Marital status	Number	Percentage
Married	25	54.3%
Unmarried	21	45.6%

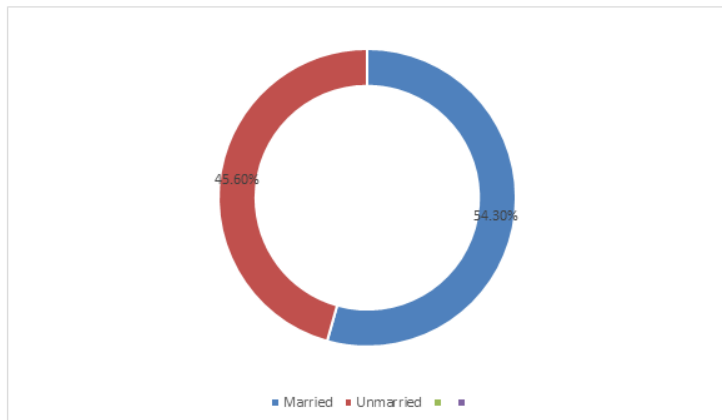


Figure 5: Marital status

Table 6: Motive

Motive	Number	percentage
Personal vengeace	18	39.1%
Gang rivalry	21	45.6%
Family issue	7	15.2%

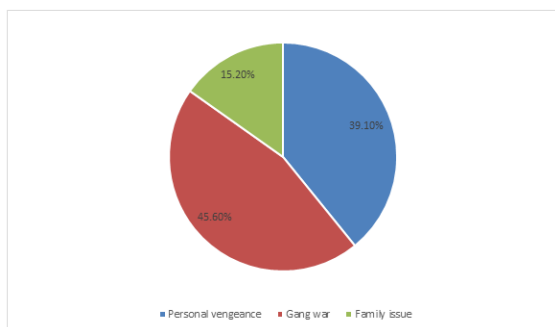


Figure 6: Percentage

Table 7: Weapons Used

Weapons Used	Number	Percentage
Blunt Weapon	10	21.7%
Sharp Weapon	32	69.5%
Fire arm	4	8.6%

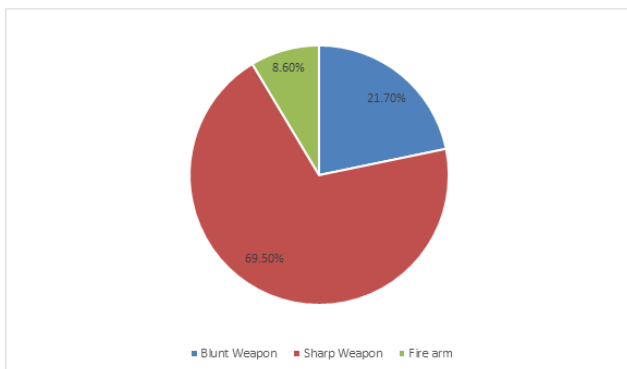


Figure 7: Percentage

Table 7: Cause of Death

Cause of Death	Number	Percentage
Shock & Hemorrhage	26	56.5%
Head injury	7	15.2%
Stab injury of Heart	7	15.2%
Stab injury of Neck	6	13.0%

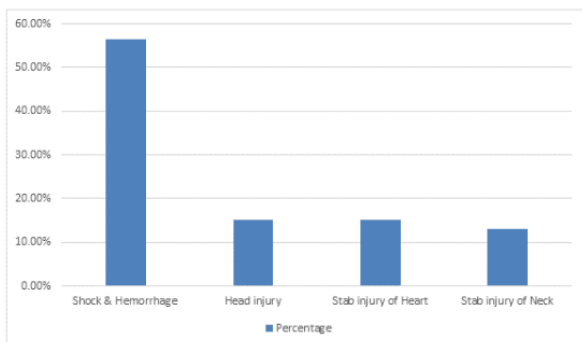


Figure 8: Percentage

Table 9: Substance abused by the accused:

Substance abused by the accused	Number	Percentage
Used	42	91.3%
Not Used	4	8.6%

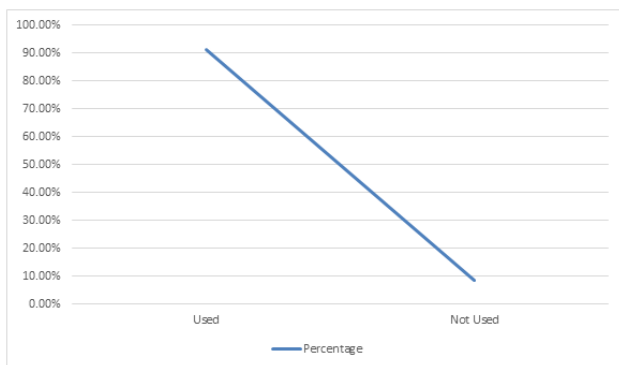
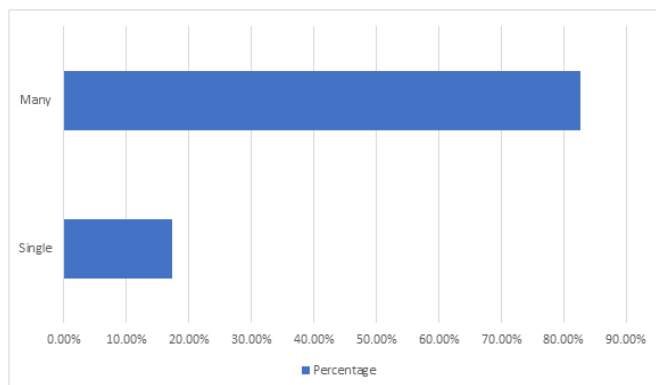


Figure 9: Percentage

Table 10: Number of accused

Number of accused	Number	Percentage
Single	8	17.3%
Many	38	82.6%

**Figure 10: Percentage**

Results

Majority of victims are male and more vulnerable for homicide. 68.8% of the victims were males at the age of 18 to 30. Majority of the victims (41.3%) males on educational status were illiterate and are low in Socioeconomic status. Most of the deceased (54.3%) males were unmarried. In most of the cases (45.6%) the motive of the murder was gang rivalry, followed by personal vengeance and family issues. In majority (69.5%) heavy and sharp weapons are used and Shock & Hemorrhage being the cause of death in most of the cases. In more than 90% of the substance abuse is done by the accused which is mostly alcohol and followed by ganja. In most of the cases the crime was committed by more than one person.

Discussion

Homicide is the rising crime in our country due to personal vengeance and rivalry between the humans. Men becomes the most vulnerable group as they are more active socially in comparing to women. In our study this was proven by the results that majority (68.8%) being the males who were in the age group of 18 to 30 years. In our study majority (41.3%) were illiterate and in low socioeconomic status. In our country the urban and suburban cases the motives for the murder is mainly rivalry between two gangs and vengeance upon one person, which is consisted with our study. In most of the cases sharp and heavy weapons were used by the accused and shock and haemorrhage constitutes the major cause of death in majority cases. Most of the accused were under the influence of substances like alcohol and ganja, so that will be aggressive and uncontrollable while committing the crime.

Conclusion

In our study the males (68.8%) were the most vulnerable group and who were in the age group of 18-30 years. Most of them being illiterate (41.3%) and in lower socioeconomic status. Majority of the murders were on the motive of rivalry between two gangs (45%) and most of the were under the influence of substance (91.2%) like alcohol and ganja. Majority (69.5%) of the cases sharp and heavy weapons were used by the accused and shock and haemorrhage constitutes the major cause of death in majority cases. Most of the murders (82.6%) were committed by more than one person i.e there were more than one accused for a case.

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