

# Study of Unnatural Deaths of Women Brought to Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences for Medico-Legal Autopsy

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## Abstract

Discrimination against women in our society is deeply embedded within family context of the women. Women are subjected to violence from husbands and from their relatives in their natal as well as marital homes. This study was designed to determine unnatural deaths of females in Raichur during the year 2017. total 362 cases were autopsied where as 77 women of unnatural deaths were autopsied. Third and fourth decade were common age group. Most of the unnatural deaths were suicidal and road traffic accidents. This study reflects the susceptibility of women to unnatural deaths, thus needs to enhance the multipronged protective system, to curb these potentially preventable unnatural deaths of females

**Key Words:** unnatural deaths, females, suicidal, RTA, hanging.

## Introduction

An unnatural death is an intentional or unintentional death due to external causes. this can often be violent, mutilating or destructive. when natural death involves women, it shatters the lives of the survivors and famil.

Suicidal death is one type of violent deaths which is caused by a deliberate act of decedent with the intent to kill himself.<sup>1,2</sup>data on such suicidal deaths in a geographic can give reflection of social and mental status of females. Suicidal deaths of married women have exponentially risen in Indian society in recent past. The women are often subjected to violence by husband and relatives in their natal as well as marital period. Violence against women includes not physical aggression but sexual abuse, psychological abuse and emotional abuse. Present study was conducted in Raichur to evaluate factors to unnatural deaths in females.

## Materials and Method

This study is retrospective study undertaken at RIMS mortuary, Raichur during the year 2017. all cases of unnatural deaths of women were subjected to medico-legal autopsy during study period. The unnatural deaths were broadly classified as accidental, suicidal and homicidal depending on manner of death. Next as per the various pattern of modes of death encountered during the study, the unnatural deaths were classified as RTA's , burns ,fall from height , poisoning , assault ,

asphyxia deaths etc.,

## Results

**Table.1-Age Wise Distribution**

0-10	04
11-20	14
21-30	17
31-40	17
41-50	08
51-60	09
>60	08

Out of 77 female unnatural deaths, most of the females belong to 21 to 30 years of age and second most common age being 11-20 years of age.

**Table.2-Marital Staus:**

MARRIED	57
UNMARRIED	20

Among unnatural female deaths majority of them were married.

**TABLE.3-MANNER OF DEATH:**

RTA	22
POISONING	22
BURNS	10
SNAKE BITE	05
HYPERSENSITIVITY TO DRUGS	02
HANGING	07
RAILWAY ACCIDENT	01
DROWNING	03
HOMICIDE	01
UNKNOWN INSECT BITE	02
SCORPION STING	02

Among manner of death RTA and Poisoning are the commonest manner where as burns is second most common cause.

**TABLE.4-MOTIVE FOR DEATH:**

EDUCATION FAILURE	03
MENSTRUAL PAIN	06
DOWRY	02
DEPRESSION	02
LOAN DEPT	02
CHRONIC HEALTH ISSUES	02
PSYCHIATRIC ISSUES	04
PARENTAL PRESSURE	01
HOMICIDE	01
HARRASMENT BY HUSBAND	01
ACCIDENTAL	53

Among motive of death menstrual pain is the commonest propelling factor for suicide followed by psychiatric issues due to various reasons stands second in the race

## Discussion

Incidence of unnatural deaths was 25%. Similar finding of Sharma et al<sup>3</sup> where incidence was observed to be 28%

In our study majority were in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> decades year age group which is consistent with other authors<sup>4, 5</sup>. suicide and accidents were common modes of death in my study. This also observed by Sharma et al<sup>3</sup>. however accidental manner of death was more commonly reported by Sharma et al<sup>3</sup>.

In this study marital status showed that most cases of unnatural deaths were from married group which is consistent with other author Accidents and hanging were most common cause of death followed by burns in my study. However these studies are not consistent with other studies<sup>4, 5,9,10,12</sup> poisoning was commonest cause consistent with Prajapati P et al<sup>7</sup>

**Conflict of Interest:** Nil

**Source of Funding:** Self

**Ethical Clearance:** obtained from rims ethical clearance committee

## Recommendations

1. Early marriage of woman should be discouraged to prevent them from innate stressful exposure at an early age.
2. Anti-dowry cell and women protection cell should be established.
3. NGO's and law protection should be established to prevent crime against women.
4. Counseling should be established at every district centre to counsel risk factors in women.

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