

Necrophilia: A Cruelty Towards Corpse-Review Analysis

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Abstract

Necrophilia is a paraphilia in which the offender finds sexual gratification in having sex with the dead. Most nations and jurisdictions have laws against this practice. According to a report from Legal Services India, currently, cases of Necrophilia in India are being referred to under the provisions of Section 297 and Section 377. There hasn't been much research done in that field. History and several case studies indicate that this is exceedingly destructive, not just for the person with the disorder but also for society as a whole. The focus of the current research project is to describe and investigate the problem of sexual encounters with corpses and their social repercussions. The paper explores conceivable motives for having sex with the deceased. Additionally, how such drives can impact the psychological forensic evaluation of criminals who have had sex with corpses.

Key Words: Necrophilia, Corpse, Psychological Forensic Evaluation.

Introduction

Necrophilia is attraction towards the dead whether sexual or asexual and this is not a usual or customary practice but is a paraphilic disease. It is also known as necrophilism, necrolagnia, necrocoitus, necrochlesis, and thanatophilia². It can occur alone or in conjunction with a number of other paraphilias, such as sadism, cannibalism, vampirism (the practice of drinking blood from a person or animal), necrophagia (eating the flesh of the dead), necropedophilia (sexual attraction to the corpses of children) and necrozoophilia (sexual attraction to the corpses of or killings of animals – also known as necrobstantiality). It is classified as a paraphilia by

ICD10 and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)¹⁴. According to historical evidence and a few case studies, this is tremendously destructive to society as well as the person with the disease. It can be used to describe someone's arousal and interest in fantasies or actual sexual interaction with the deceased. The necrophile may engage in sexual activity with the corpse in a variety of ways, including oral sex, penilevaginal to anal intercourse, or masturbation while the body is still.

Due to the fact that the deceased cannot consent, necrophilia is regarded by specialists and policymakers as being non consensual. The management of a person with necrophilia may

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benefit from cognitive therapy, the use of sex-drive-reducing drugs, and support with enhancing social and sexual relationships.

Historical Background

In the ancient world, sailors returning corpses to their home country were often accused of necrophilia. Long travel distances, isolation, and a lack of witnesses all permitted and even encouraged sailors to engage in acts of necrophilia involving dead bodies. Since individuals have been practicing necrophilia for years, it is thought to be an ancient notion.

In the 1980s, archaeologists discovered paintings of Moches, popularly known as the "Greek of the Andes," in pyramids that showed dead people having sex. There are also theories that claim that some civilizations once engaged in necrophilia as a tradition or rite. The father of history wrote in his book "The Histories" that Egyptians had a tradition of letting a woman's body rot for three to four days prior to preservation in order to forbid having sex with the corpses. Necrophilia is most frequently observed among gravediggers and mortuary workers, who may be drawn to it by their proximity to dead people and sense of loneliness. Additionally, it's conceivable that they were necrophiles before choosing this line of work. It is common knowledge that necrophiles select careers that give them unrestricted access to dead bodies.

Classification of Necrophilia

It is not a new idea to abuse a body, but it took a while for it to be recognized as a serious medical problem. Different authors have tried to categorize different types of necrophiliacs because there are different forms of the practice. But via his research, Dr. Anil Aggarwal (a professor of forensic medicine) has suggested a new, ten-tier classification of necrophilia, which is as follows;

Class I: Role Players This kind of necrophiliacs are more into role play. Their sex arousal is not particularly for the dead but for living persons pretending to be dead. Some authors have also named it as Pseudonecrophilia.

Class II: Romantic Necrophiles When necrophiliacs have romantic tendencies which they

want to fulfill after being separated from their loved ones, they tend to continue their sexual relationship by preserving the dead bodies of their loved ones or parts of them to feel sexual arousal in future.

Class III: Necrophilic Fantasizers When people only fantasize about having sexual relationship with the dead and just the presence of the dead or any cemetery gives them sexual arousal, erections or pleasure.

Class IV: Tactile Necrophiles Tactile Necrophiliacs are one step ahead of Class III Necrophiliacs. The people falling in this category may have to touch the dead to feel orgasm or assault the dead body to get their sexual arousal. Medical students who get erection while dissecting also fall in this category.

Class V: Fetishistic Necrophiles This class of necrophiliacs is also known as necrofetishists because they tend to cut out parts of the dead to preserve it for their sexual arousals just by feeling the parts but they are different from romantic necrophiles as they do not preserve parts out of affection or their romantic feelings.

Class VI: Necromutilomaniacs This class of necrophiliacs is considered to be very disturbed but they do not engage in any sexual intercourse with the dead. They find erotic pleasure by mutilating the dead bodies in a severe way and masturbating simultaneously.

Class VII: Opportunistic Necrophiles This class of necrophiliacs are opportunistic in nature. They generally do not have intercourse with the dead at first instance or fantasize about having sexual intercourse with them but if the situation is such that they get an arousal or erection while in presence of a dead body under any circumstance then they take full advantage of the opportunity and intercourse with the dead.

Class VIII: Regular Necrophiles This class of necrophiliacs are the classic example as they do not feel pleasure while having sexual intercourse with living beings but only find pleasure in having intercourse with the dead although they engage in sexual activities with living persons from time to time.

Class IX: Homicidal Necrophiles This class of necrophiliacs are the most dangerous because they

kill people to satisfy themselves sexually. These people are mostly found to be engaged in unnatural sex and often involved in cannibalism.

Class X: Exclusive Necrophiles This class of necrophiliacs find having sexual intercourse with living persons next to impossible and a dead body is a necessity for them to find pleasure¹.

Legal Consideration

It is actually lawful in many nations to have necrophilia, a psychosexual disorder. Additionally, it is now illegal in other nations that respect the privacy of the deceased and view abuse of the dead as a crime. However, the laws in the less developed and ambiguous nations that contain penal provisions relating to the culpability for necrophilia are not very clear.

Indian law does not specifically address necrophilia, however Section 297 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, criminalizes acts such as "trespassing in burial places," which can result in up to a year in prison, a fine, or a combination of the two. However, there is no specific offense for mistreating the deceased. In India, Section 297 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 is the only provision that can determine a person's responsibility in situations of necrophilia. There was no opportunity for punishment under any other Indian legislation prior to 2018, as Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 provided for punishment for engaging in unnatural relations. India has different kind of laws to protect different communities from sexual abuse and offences such as Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act, 2012, The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Human Rights Act, 1993, Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, Sections providing for punishment of Rape and other offences related to sexual abuse in the Indian Penal Code, 1860. But none of the laws provide for protection of the dead or their dignity⁴.

Psychology and Necrophilia

Psychology of necrophiliacs is a distinct concept from that of a criminal because it is not essential that a necrophiliac is committing an act with criminal mind

or intention. Although erotic dreams and cravings are typically present in necrophiliacs, it is still difficult to pinpoint the precise psychology behind those who engage in these types of actions. Few psychologists still hold the belief that necrophiliacs believe the dead are free from pain and that using their corpses for a little pleasure will not harm them, despite their understanding of the psychology of necrophiliacs through case studies. In the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), recurrent, intense sexual interest in corpses can be diagnosed under other specified paraphilic disorders (necrophilia) when it causes marked distress or impairment in important areas of functioning⁴.

Methodology

The present study focuses on reviewing and analyzing research articles and newspaper reports published on Necrophilia. An online information search was conducted through sites such as online newspapers, blogs, and articles etc. Data as well as information, were collected from different sources like Newsday, Shodhganga, Researchgate etc. Each Combined data was analyzed and discussed qualitatively.

Case Reports

CASE- I

The Noida Serial Murders was a series of serial murders committed by Moninder Singh a businessman, and Surinder Koli his house servant in their village. This case was the rarest of rare cases in the history of India. The 'Nithari' case came into light in 2006, when eight skeletons were found in a drain of one house in Noida. 16 people died as a result of House of Horror, one of numerous serial killers that exist worldwide. The peculiar aspect of this case is that no one, not even the home's owner, is aware that Surender Koli, his domestic helper, has a history of committing heinous crimes. The murders began in 2003, when an unusually large number of youngsters from Nithari Village were reported missing. Even in 2004 and 2005, there were numerous reported missing children that could be seen. The accused in these murders, Surinder Koli and Moninder Singh, were identified before the end of 2006. In fact, the victims of Koli's killer have grown with time. In

his final confession, Koli described in detail how he lured a total of 16 victims (9 female children, 2 male children, and 5 adult women) into the residence, brutally murdered them, attempted to have sex with their dead bodies, chopped and consumed their body parts, and threw the corpses at the back of the house and into a drain on the main road³.

CASE- II

A 21-year-old woman was being pulled to a nearby bush by the accused Rangaraju on June 25, 2015, while she was walking home from her computer class. Then, in violation of Section 302 of the IPC, he killed the woman by slitting her throat, and after that, he "raped" her. After filing a chargesheet and registering a case, the police spoke with the accused in a voluntary statement. After taking note of the offense, the magistrate sent the case to the sessions court, who filed charges against the defendants under Sections 302 and 376 of the IPC for rape and murder. The session's judge concluded after reviewing the evidence that the prosecution had established beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant had killed the victim and then "raped" the body. For murder, the defendant was given a strict life sentence and ordered to pay a fine of Rs. 50,000. He received a further 10 years of harsh jail for raping the victim's dead body, as well as a fine of Rs. 25,000²⁰.

CASE-III

A 17-year-old kid was shockingly accused of killing a nine-year-old boy and then allegedly had sex with the corpse. The incident, according to accounts, happened in Kerala. According to police, the incident happened as a result of the adolescent wanting to replicate an act he watched in a pornographic video. According to reports, the nine-year-old child declined the teenager's approaches. However, this did not sit well with the 11-year-old, who beat up the latter and murdered him. The accused has confessed to the crime. According to police officials, the post-mortem reports indicate that the kid may have been subjected to sodomy after his death. Additionally, according to police officials, the accused knew the youngster was dead before having sex with the corpse. Police officers are currently looking into whether the accused has ever committed crimes comparable to this one¹¹.

CASE-IV

The city police have arrested a 24-year-old man from Mumbai, accused of necrophilia. The accused Nagesh Gholap an alleged necrophiliac was arrested for murdering and raping a 14 year old girl. According to the police, the girl went missing when she stepped out of her house to buy medicines from a nearby shop, from where she was lured by Nagesh, who took her to his house. Nagesh admitted to have murdered the girl first and then raping her. During his interrogation, the accused has said that he first drowned the girl in a water tub and then assaulted her with a rod so that she did not scream for help and after that raped her¹⁰.

CASE-V

People in Palghar were stunned by the dramatic case of a shopkeeper who is accused of killing a 32-year-old female customer and having sex with her corpse later. A novelty shop owner in Nalasopara town named Shiva Choudhary, 30, was detained and placed in police custody. Investigations reveal that the victim got into a fight with the accused over the cost of some items when visiting his shop to buy a few household items. Following the argument, the victim was assaulted by the accused, dragged behind his store by her hair, tried to be strangled, and had her neck chopped with a knife. The autopsy report also made the shocking revelation - that she had been sexually assaulted after her murder⁹.

CASE- VI

In Pakistan, a necrophilia case was reported in 2011, when a grave keeper named Muhammed Rizwan from Karachi was jailed after confessing to raping 48 female corpses. In a stunning revelation, parents in Pakistan are reportedly putting padlocks on their dead daughters' graves to protect them from rape. According to reports, necrophilia instances are on the rise in the country. The fact that a woman is raped every two hours in a society that takes great pride in its family-oriented ideals has been driven into our collective awareness to the point of repetition. The sight of padlocks on female graves, on the other hand, is enough to make a whole community hang its head in shame and never dare to gaze at the so-called vases of dignity¹³.)

CASE- VII

Dennis Andrew Nilsen (November 23, 1945 – May 12, 2018) was a Scottish serial killer and necrophile who murdered at least twelve young men and boys in London between 1978 and 1983. Nilsen was sentenced to life in prison on November 4, 1983, after being found guilty of six charges of murder and two counts of attempted murder at the Old Bailey. In December 1994, this recommendation was revised to a whole-life tariff. Nilsen was imprisoned at Full Sutton maximum security prison in his later years. Nilsen committed all of his killings between 1978 and 1983 at two North London homes. His victims were duped into going to these addresses and then strangled or drowned. Following each murder, Nilsen would undertake a ritual in which he cleaned and clothed the victim's body, which he kept for extended periods of time, before dissecting and disposing of the remains by burning them in a bonfire or flushing them down the toilet⁸.

CASE- VIII

A hospital electrician in Britain pleaded guilty to murdering then sexually assaulting two women in 1987 before, decades later, carrying out scores of sex attacks on corpses in mortuaries. He has previously been jailed for sexual assaults on 78 dead women and girls between 2008 and 2020. Fuller, 68, of Heathfield, East Sussex, appeared at the Old Bailey earlier this month and was sentenced to four years in prison for abusing another 23 women.

The former electrician molested the ladies at hospitals in Kent and Sussex for 13 years. Between 2007 and 2020, he admitted to 12 counts of sexual penetration of a body and four counts of possession of extreme pornography⁷.

CASE- IX

Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer (1960–1994) was known to perform oral sex or masturbate, or both, upon the corpses of his victims before dismembering them. In unguarded, taped interviews with his defense attorney, Wendy Patrickus, Jeffrey Dahmer explicitly stated that he had sex with his victims before and after their deaths. He explained that he wanted to remain with the person as long as possible, preserving some of his victims' selected organs, skeletal tissue, and bones¹².

CASE- X

Ted Bundy (1946–1989) was an American serial killer who raped and murdered at least 30 young women during the 1970s. He also confessed to participating in necrophilic acts, claiming to have chosen secluded disposal sites for his victims' bodies specifically for post-mortem sexual intercourse¹².

Result and Discussion

Sexual relations with dead bodies or corpses are referred to as necrophilia. It is regarded as a serious criminal as well as a psychological condition. From the above data it is clear that most necrophiles are heterosexual males between the ages of twenty and fifty. Necrophilia is a particularly male thing. In the study mentioned earlier, 95 percent of the necrophiles were men. In addition, 100 percent of the cases of necrophilic homicide were perpetrated by men.

Some necrophiles attempt to work in mortuaries, where they have easy access to dead bodies. This troubling behaviour is motivated by a variety of factors. To begin with, the desire to have sex with dead bodies is frequently motivated by a strong aversion to engaging with potential living partners. Necrophiles believe that human corpses are not physically, intellectually, or emotionally detrimental. This gives them a more clear path for expression, sexual fascination, and sexual actions. Second, necrophiles may have complete control over their feelings during sexual intercourse with corpses because corpses cannot reject or disagree with them. Third, necrophiles lack sexual inhibitions, self-esteem, social recognition, and overall regret for the consequences of their actions. Finally, the habit of abusing the substance may lead to fantasies of intercourse with a corpse. They may regard sexual practices with dead bodies as loving and warm, allowing a reunion with a departed loving partner.

The study has gone through ten case studies which contain five Indian and five International cases. From the reviews and cases available, it is clear that the number of international cases is much higher compared to Indian. Also coming to the legal side also, there shows a huge difference in sentencing, punishing and criminalizing. Based on these reported cases, it is obvious that the majority

of them are homicidal necrophilia. The prospect of sexual deviants acting out their desires on unwitting victims is what frightens us the most. The victims are murdered so that the offenders might satisfy their violent cravings. Necrophilic homicides are very sensationalized cases, regardless of their relative rarity. These distressing stories involve serial killers and sadistic lunatics who murder the victim, dispose of the body, and then retrieve the body to either relive the murdering experience or simply enjoy sex with it again and again. As previously said, all necrophiliacs are not ill, some are pseudo necrophiliacs and others are opportunistic necrophiliacs, therefore distinguishing in terms of mental health is tough because there are several circumstances that alter a person's mental state from time to time.

Conclusion

Necrophilia is a morbid fascination with death and the dead and more particularly, an erotic attraction to corpses. The term "necrophilia" is extremely ambiguous. When analyzing necrophilic case studies, we can only do our best to categorize while also being aware of the constraints and applicability of our classifications. We must comprehend the motivations for loving the living in order to comprehend the varied necrophiles and the circumstances in which a person's preferences could shift to emphasize the dead. The term should be vigorously addressed by mental health experts, researchers, and policymakers because it is destructive to not just the person using it but also to other humans, whether they are alive or dead. Due to the nature of the disorder, both the social sciences and the field of mental health require greater attention.

The investigations of numerous researchers and prior cases reveal that the mindset of necrophiliacs is changing due to social, economic, and other circumstances, but no effective solution has been found, owing to the lack of a meeting point between medical science and legislation. With regard to social views, there might be considerable differences in treatment, punishment, or implications depending on the country and its values and laws. Necrophilia is still poorly understood and elicits more emotional responses than empirical study. There should be some methods to improve the legal stance on

necrophilia. Modifications and the creation of new provisions are required from time to time, but a lack of understanding and care in this area could lead to major consequences in the future.

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