



E8 Medico-Legal Autopsy Trends at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Science Dharan, Nepal

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The goal of this presentation is to present to the government and law enforcing agencies the cause of unnatural and untimely death so that the government can plan effective measure to prevent unexpected death in the country and society.

Nepal is a land-locked country nestled in the midst of the world's highest mountains, strategically situated between the vast plains of the Indian subcontinent to the south, east and west and the high Tibetan Plateau of China to the north. The total land area is 147,181 square kilometers. The population is estimated at about 22 million; about 90% are Hindus, and more than 90% live in rural areas.

Topographically, the country can be divided into three well-defined physiogeographical belts running from east to west. The terrain (plane land) contains 23% of the land area and 45% of the population; it is 2001000 feet above sea level. The hills contain 42% of the land area and 47% of the population; this area is 1000-16,000 feet above sea level. The Mountain covering 35% of the land area and the remaining 8% of the population lies above 16,000 feet.

Administratively, the country is divided into five development regions and 75 districts. The economy of Nepal depends heavily of agriculture, which provides employment of more than 91% of the economically active population and account for about 60% of export earnings. Tourism plays an active part in foreign exchange earnings. Approximately 25% of tourist came from India, 38% from Western Europe and 37% from the rest of the world. Many Nepalese also have relatives in adjacent sites of India and both sides move freely across the border.

So far no concrete data regarding unnatural deaths in eastern region of Nepal is available, therefore to find out trends of medico-legal autopsy at B P Koirala Institute of Health Science (BPKIHS), a retrospective study of 750 cases of unnatural death brought to BPKIHS mortuary for autopsy during seven-year duration (1993 – 2000) has been done in the present study. Age, Sex, Race, and Religion have been considered cause of death wise and incident wise. Data has been critically analyzed to find out death in different circumstances. Appropriate data would be of immense help to the policy makers and law enforcing agencies to minimize and prevent such untimely and unexpected death in the country and society. It would also be a boon to the public in creating awareness to impending dangers.

Autopsy, Postmortem, Death