



I5 The Study of Sociological and Demographical Variables of Unnatural Deaths Among Young Women in South Delhi Within Seven Years of Marriage

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The present study has tried to find various sociological and demographical factors in unnatural death in young married girls in Delhi.

This study was carried out between July 1998 and November 2000 to study the dynamics of dowry deaths in South Delhi. A total of 117 cases were studied. Illiterate, issueless Hindu housewives of lower socioeconomic class were the worst affected. The most vulnerable age group was 21-25 years. The most common cause of death was burns followed by poisoning. Of the total deaths, 59% were accidental in nature followed by 30% suicidal deaths. About 23% cases had alleged history of dowry demands, harassment, torture, and subsequent death. In the initial three years of marriage, 57% of the victims died indicating possible maladjustment and strenuous relationship between husband and wife or that with in-laws. The associations between various social and economic forces have given shape to the phenomenon of dowry demands in India leading to dowry deaths of young girls. In this paper all such variables are discussed.

Dowry Death, Bride Burning, Unnatural Death