



D5 Analysis of Patterns of Unnatural Deaths in Females Reported at Tertiary Care Hospital and Medical College in Eastern Nepal

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand that violence against women is a universal reality. It is one of the important causes of morbidity and mortality in women. Violence against women has the greatest impact in South Asian countries, especially Nepal, where social and cultural norms seem to have accentuated the problem. It has major impact on the physical, social, and psychological health of women, leading to fatal outcomes like suicides and homicides. Though it's an important problem in society, little study has been conducted in this field.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by giving a glimpse of the existing problem of unnatural deaths in females in a developing country in South East Asia. The forensic community will have better knowledge of the problem, and can improve record keeping for assessment and better analysis of unnatural deaths in females. This would not only aid in justice, but would also help to mitigate the situation.

A retrospective study to assess the incidence and patterns on unnatural female deaths in 2062 B.S (April 2005-April 2006 A.D) was conducted at a tertiary care teaching hospital in Eastern Nepal. The study revealed that 87 cases of female unnatural deaths were reported out of 283 total autopsies conducted. The most common age group involved was 11-30 years of age (51.6%). Suicides were the most common cause of death (52.8%) followed by accidental deaths (40.22%) then homicides (6.8%). Homicidal cases were likely to be under reported. Poisoning was the most common method of suicidal deaths (56.52%). More than half (52%) of women who committed suicide were married. Most suicide cases belonged to major hill, hill native and Terai middle and occupational group. Violence against women is one of the major problems of South Asian countries which can be decreased by promotion of women's issues awareness and education, for which proper data on female unnatural deaths is very essential.

Violence Against Women, Unnatural Deaths, Suicides