

Original Article



Demographic Profile of Homicide Cases Occurred at Rajshahi District of Bangladesh

Md. Kafil Uddin¹, Muhammad Zubaidur Rahman², Md. Nasir Uddin Gazi³,
Md. Mizanur Rahman⁴, Manasi Saha⁵, Samaunnur Shuvo⁶.

Abstract

Background: Homicide is the significant issues of major public health crisis in relation to health and safety of all individuals. The number of homicide is increasing in Bangladesh at alarming rate day by day. **Objectives:** Considering this context, we aimed to study and explore the demography of homicidal deaths occurred at Rajshahi district in 2020. **Materials and methods:** The statistics presented here is based on the post-mortem of the dead bodies that were submitted from different police station in the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology (DFMT) at Rajshahi Medical College. This present data based on the observed mark which might be analogous with corresponding manner of homicide. **Results:** A total 37 homicides were occurred in January 2020 to December 2020. Among them, 59% were male and 41% were female. Almost 50% victims were between 16 and 30 years old. Maximum of the male victims were farmer in profession, whereas all of the females were house wife. Surprisingly, 24% cases were from area of Charghat police station. **Conclusion:** The overall situation suggests taking proper action that may decrease the homicidal deaths.

Key words: Homicide, Charghat Police Station, Rajshahi District, Bangladesh.

Date of received: 16.05.2021

Date of acceptance: 20.08.2021

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3329/kyamcj.v12i3.56555>

KYAMC Journal.2021;12(03): 138-141.

Introduction

The term homicide refers to killing of a human being by another.¹ Argument, revenge, financial conflicts, property gain, mental illness of offender, infidelity, etc. are the common motives behind homicide.² Based on the manner of the death, homicides can be classified into - murder, manslaughter, justifiable homicide, killing in war, euthanasia, and execution.² These diverse types of homicides are being considered differently based on situation in human societies.² A few cases were being measured as crime, while others are acceptable or even ordered by the legal system such as a justifiable homicide which are being performed by the administrative management to apply justice for implement the death sentence or the maintenance of justice as in suppressing riots or killing of a person who attempts to rape a woman or executing arrest.³ The excusable homicide is caused in advertently which is occurring in good faith e.g.

killing someone for self-protection or anything else that is unintentional.² But, the illegal homicides are termed as crimes like murder, culpable homicide amounting to murder or not amounting to murder and rash or negligent step.³ Man slaughter is the inexcusable, unpardonable, and intended killing of a person without deliberation, premeditation and malice.⁴

However, the culpable homicide which is amounting to murder when it is made intentionally to cause death or to cause injury in body that leads to induce death or act with knowledge that may cause death.³ On the other hand, the culpable homicide which is not amounting to murder occurred under severe and unexpected provocation or with good assurance of the right of private defense of a person or property or for the encroachment of public justice or without premeditation or when the person above the age of 18 years takes the risk of death with personal consent.³ Rash or negligent act may happen without due

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi, Bangladesh
2. Associate Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College, Sirajgonj, Bangladesh
3. Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Satkhira Medical College, Satkhira, Bangladesh
4. Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, Bogura, Bangladesh
5. Lecturer, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi, Bangladesh
6. Lecturer, Department of Forensic Medicine, Shaheed M. Monsur Ali Medical College, Sirajgonj, Bangladesh

Correspondence: Md. Kafil Uddin, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi - 6100, Rajshahi, Bangladesh; E-mail - mdkafiluddin1982rnc@gmail.com; Mobile no: 01716-437637.

thoughtfulness and caution which thereby insufficient to provoke the risk of inducing death or any terrible hurt can be referred as rash. ⁴

Homicides are increasing globally day by day and over 500,000 deaths are being occurred yearly worldwide.⁵ The rate of homicide in Bangladesh is also alarming. According to the data of the Global Economy.com, the number of homicide is fluctuating between 2.2 and 2.9 cases per 10, 00, 00 people in between 2000 and 2017 (Figure 1).

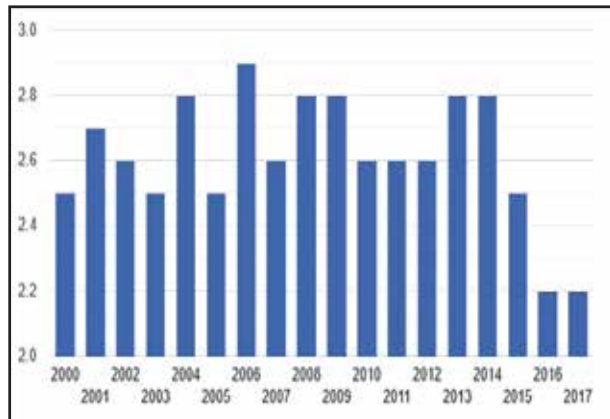


Figure 1: Number of homicide per 10,00,00 people in Bangladesh from 2000 to 2017.⁶

Rajshahi is one of the divisions in Bangladesh, comprising 8 districts including Bogura, Chapainawabganj, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Rajshahi, and Sirajgonj. Rajshahi is one of the major districts of Rajshahi division. But, there is lack of continuous exploration about the homicides occurred in this district. Therefore, we designed this study to explore the data of homicide occurred in Rajshahi district in 2020.

Materials and Methods

The data were collected from the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology (DFMT), Rajshahi Medical College (RMC), Rajshahi, Bangladesh. All of the information were collected from the the period of January 2020 to December 2020 forensic examination of the corresponding dead bodies which were submitted in DFMT at RMC for post-mortem examination.

The Statistical analysis were performed in Microsoft Excel (version 2007).

Results

A total 77 homicide related post-mortem were performed in Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology of RMC. Among those, 37 were from Rajshahi district. Rest of the 40 were from Chapainawabganj 8, Jhinaidah 2, Kustia 3, Natore 7, Naogaon 9 and Pabna 11 which were the referred cases from the respective police stations of corresponding districts.

Here, we are exploring the demography of the homicidal events 37 occurred at Rajshahi district in 2020. However, according to the data presented in Figure 2, among 37, 59% (22) victims were male and 41% (15) were female.

The victims have been divided into four age classes (Figure 3). Maximum number 49% (18) of victims were between 16 and 30 years old. People between 46 and 60 years were the next frequent homicide victim with a number of 32% (12), while only 16% (6) victims were between 31 and 45. The victim number 3% (1) is dramatically low in people after 60 years.

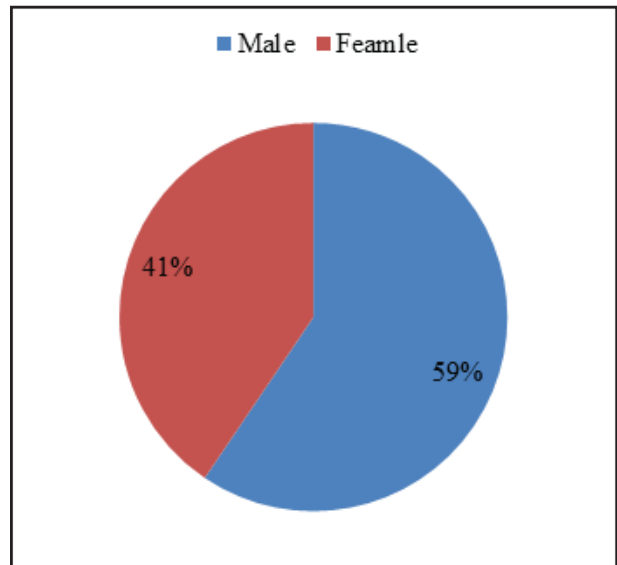


Figure 2: Distribution of the victims according to gender.

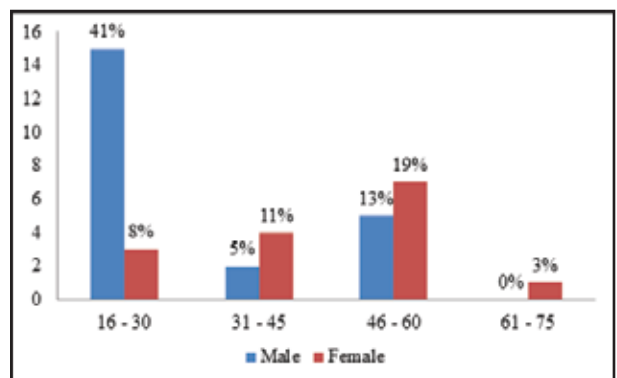


Figure 3: Distribution of the victims according to gender and age class.

In term of profession (Table I), though diversity was found in male victims, all female victims 41% (15) were house wife. In case of male, half 29.5% (11) of the victims were farmer in profession, followed by 10.5% (4) businessmen, 5% (2) day labors, 3% (1) driver, 8% (3) students, and 3% (1) unknown (as identity was not found).

Table I: Distribution of the victims according to gender and profession.

Gender	Profession	Frequency
Male	Business	10.5%
	Farmer	29.5%
	Day labor	5%
	Driver	3%
	Student	8%
	Unknown	3%
Female	Housewife	41%

According to the Figure 4, the highest homicides 24% (9) were occurred in the area of Chorghat police station, whereas the lowest number 3% (1 event in each police station) of homicides was recorded in Airport, Chandrima, Durgapur, Matihar, and Paba. The area of Bagmara and Damkura police stations comprised 11% (4) homicidal events each. Further, a total of 24% (9) homicides (3 in each police station) were took place in Godagari, Mahanpur, and Puthia. Finally, homicide cases also recorded 5% (2) Bagha, 5% (2) Rajpara, and 5% (2) in Tanore police stations.

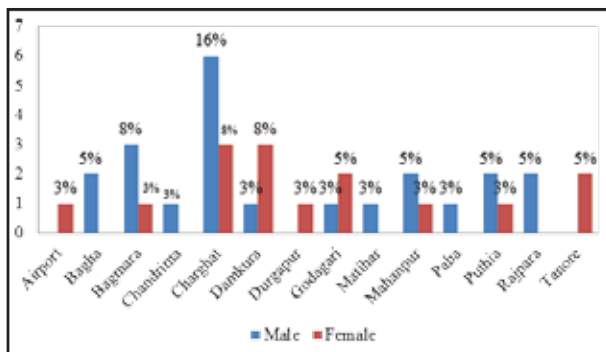


Figure 4: Distribution of the victims according to gender and police station.

Discussion

The most heinous and dangerous mode of crime is homicide. We are getting news of homicide incidents in our country almost daily. According to a prior study⁷ based on report of daily newspapers showed that between 2006 and 2015, the maximum number (>150 yearly) homicides was occurred in Dhaka district. In Rajshahi district, the number was between 21 and 40 from 2006 to 2015.⁷

However, according to our data, 37 homicides were occurred in January 2020 to December 2020 at Rajshahi district. Because, the industrialization provokes competition among the people of the corresponding region and acts as an influencing factor of

crime.⁷ The Narayanganj is such a district where the homicide is increasing parallelly with industrialization.⁷

Among the 37 cases, 59% (22) victims were male and 41% (15) were female (Figure II). The number of male victim is high compared to the female victims. Male are the concerning person in every family and they have to face all challenges in term of income, property issue, protecting family member, communication with others, etc. Therefore, sometimes they involve themselves in argue. But, if they cannot reach to a satisfactory ending, they start fighting to win by anyway which may cause severe injury to anyone that provokes death of the injured person. On the other hand, the number of female victims is low compared to male victims as they rarely involved with the issues like their male counterpart. As we found, all female victims were house wife (Table I) and this is an alarming issue for our society. The married women usually are murdered by his spouse himself or spouse’s family members, and sometimes by his child. The most usual issues behind this are dowry requirement by the husband family, extramarital relationship of husband and/or wife before or after getting married, and inability of the wife to give birth of baby.

However, almost half 19% of the female victims were between 46 and 60 years age (Figure III) when female enter into the aging stage and that is why the male counterpart may involve in extramarital relationship which will become an issue of misunderstanding between the couple. Another 19% female victims were between 16 and 45 years. Female of this age group perhaps get murdered after frequent clash due to either inability to afford dowry or inability of giving birth of baby. In such situation, the husband usually wants to divorce wife without meeting his requirement. But, his wife’s family members do not go to a commitment and the consequence is loss of a life. The remaining 3% female victim was above 60.

In case of male, two third 41% were between 16 and 30 years and below 30 years old. In this age, the people are naturally aggressive and arrogant, and involve themselves in clash based on very simple issues. They usually start fighting with their friends, elder or younger brothers, relatives and neighbor based on an issue that can be ignored by the aged people easily. Therefore, this significantly highest number in term of homicide is the consequence of aggressiveness of this group.

In terms of profession, half of the percent of male victims 29.5% (11) were farmer. Rest of the victims was businessmen 10.5% (4), day labors 5% (2), and driver 3% (1), students 8% (3), while profession of 3% (1) victim was unknown. The victim with unknown profession was submitted for autopsy from the Paba police station as an unidentified dead body and it was the only one homicide incident found in the area of Paba police station. Besides, Airport, Chandrima, Durgapur and Matihar police stations also had 3% (1) case in each. However, among 37 incidents, almost a quarter 24% (9) was occurred in the area of Chorghat police station. This statistic may represent the area of Chorghat police station as a hotspot of crime in Rajshahi district. Crime hotspot is an area on a map which has high crime intensity.^{7,8} Developing map containing hotspot is an important policy and may help to gather knowledge about

different areas in a city and possibly why crime occurs there.^{7,8} Therefore, research to find out the actual cause behind the high homicide in Charghat police station is an urgent need. Further, the area of Bagmara and Damkura police stations comprised 11% (4) homicidal events each. A total of 24% (9) homicides (3 in each police station) were took place in Godagari, Mahanpur, and Puthia. Homicide case also recorded 5% (2) Bagha, 5% (2) Rajpara, and 5% (2) in Tanore police stations. Based on the overall demography, the homicide rate in the police stations of Rajshahi City Corporation is rare and it's a positive sign for this City Corporation.

Conclusion

The overall data of this study may suggest to increase scrutiny in the area under Charghat police station as this area is more prone to crime like homicide. Besides, the guardian having child less than 30 years should keep extra surveillance about their movement in terms of relationship with others. Moreover, the husbands and house wives should be aware about their family relationship.

Acknowledgment

We thanks all Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi, Bangladesh. Department of Forensic Medicine, Satkhira Medical College, Satkhira, Bangladesh and Department of Forensic Medicine, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, Bogura, Bangladesh.

References

1. Mant AK. Taylor's Principles and Practice of Medical Jurisprudence. 13th ed. New Delhi: B.I. Churchill Livingstone, 1994: 215.
2. Al Azad MA, Rahman MZ, Ahmad M, Majumdar MR. Socio-demographic Profile of Homicidal Deaths of 3005 Post-Mortem Cases. Journal of Armed Forces Medical College, Bangladesh. 2015; 11(1):30-33.
3. Reddy KSN. Medico-legal aspects of wounds. Editors: The Essentials of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. 29th ed. Saleemnagar Colony, Malakpet, Hyderabad; 2010, 259.
4. West's Encyclopedia of American Law: "The unlawful killing of another human being without justification or excuse." Via thefreedictionary.com. 2nd ed. The Gale Group, 2008.
5. Reza A, Mercy JA, Krug E. Epidemiology of violent deaths in the world. Injury prevention. 2001; 7(2):104-111.
6. The GlobalEconomy.com. https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Bangladesh/homicide_rate/
7. Abdullah-Al-Fuad TM. The nature and extent of homicide in Bangladesh: A content analysis on reports of murder in daily newspapers (Doctoral dissertation, University of Dhaka). 2016.
8. Ratcliffe JH. The hotspot matrix: A framework for the spatiotemporal targeting of crime reduction. Police Practice and Research. 2004;5(1):5-23.