

DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICO-LEGAL CASES ACCORDING TO GENDER, SEASON AND WEAPON

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ABSTRACT

Background: Injured patients brought in the emergency and trauma centre of healthcare facilities are subject to medical treatment, medico-legal examination and certification. Probability of indulgence of male and female population in physical assault and use of various kinds of weapons are different in diverse communities. **Objective:** To determine the pattern of medico-legal cases among males and females, and type of weapon used during the physical assaults. **Methodology:** It was a cross sectional study conducted in the Rural Health Centre, Ellahabad of Distt. Kasur, during the period from 1st January to 31st December 2014. Data pertaining to medico-legal record was analyzed by using IBM SPSS Statistics version 22.0. **Results:** Out of the total 441 cases, 359 (81%) were male and 82 (19%) were female. Mostly blunt weapons 260 (59%) were used. Road side accidents were only 51 (11%). **Conclusion:** Male were more involved in causing physical assault. Results obtained are in conformity with the prevailing norms of the male dominant society. Blunt weapons were used more frequently than any other weapon.

Keywords: Medico-legal, Blunt weapon, Sharp edged weapon, Sexual assault, Domestic Violence

INTRODUCTION

In dominant religions of the world like Muslims, Christians and Jewish, human beings are regarded as creation of God. No one can have any privilege to take away a human of his freedom, capabilities or his life.¹ In the present time the law presumes after investigation that the aggressor is responsible for his act and, on the proof, he is punished for his wrong doing. But if it is proved that his wrong act was due to the defect in intellect or due to disease of mind or administration of an intoxicant involuntarily then he is not held responsible due to such acts. Anyone who administers criminal force or intoxication to another one and restrain him from his freedom and assault him to injure or kill, is made punishable proportionately to the harm brought to the victim.² The development of criminal law to its present stage passed through various stages.³ The law to deal with the criminal offences such as physical assault resulting in wounding or killing was an English law in our country which was repealed by the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance 1991 amended in 1997, and this brought it in conformity with injunction of Islam as laid down by Quran and Sunnah. The law prefers the word hurt to use in spite of wound. So Qisas and Diyat has introduced a new classification of hurt and beside this the law has provided compensation for the suffering of victims. In Pakistan for the first time, the provision for compensation are Arsh, Daman, Diyat, and Qisas.^{2,3} When an injured person is brought in emergency & trauma centre of the hospital, casualty medical officer in

addition to providing treatment, issues a Medico-Legal certificate which is a legal document for the description of all injuries. This document is vital report and evidence for further legal proceedings.⁴

Hurts, wounds or injuries are of different varieties, they mostly are result of assaults, by definition one can understand the meaning of assault, which means the offer of threat, or the application of force to the body of another in angry or hostile manner.⁵ Hurt is described as whoever causes illegally to a person any harm, pain, disease, infirmity, injure or disable or dismember any organ or part of the body of someone is said to have caused hurt to that person.^{5,6} On the other hand, in the current situation any criminal act of anyone against the other individual is now investigated first by the society to establish the fact of injury which is defined as any harm illegally caused to a person in body, mind, reputation, and property. Wound is said to be the solution or disruption of anatomical continuity of tissue of the body externally or internally.^{7,8,9,10}

The objective of present study was to know the distribution of the Medico-Legal cases on the basis of gender month and the weapon used during the quarrels.

METHODOLOGY

This was a cross sectional study, conducted in the Rural Health Center Ellahabad of Distt. Kasur. Findings belonged to all medico-legal cases presented in that Rural Health Center, during the period from 1st January to 31st December 2014, source of data for this study was the medico-legal record of the healthcare facility. The basic data like

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age, sex, type of injury and type weapon used was obtained from the medico-legal record of the Rural Health Center was tabulated according to the need and subjected to statistical analysis by using IBM SPSS Statistics version 22.0.

RESULTS

Out of the total 441 cases, 359 (81%) were male and 82 (19%) were female. Overall mostly blunt weapons 260 (59%) were used, as far as use of different weapons was concerned; in 234 male cases and in 26 female cases. Overall sharp edged weapon were used in 80 (18%). Firearm was used by 24 (5.5%) Road side accidents were in 51 (11.5%) and 6 (1.3%) cases of sodomy were only among the males.(Table I) Figure I shows that monthly number of case increased during the hot summer months of year.

Figure I: Gender wise distribution of medico-legal cases in RHC Ellahabad

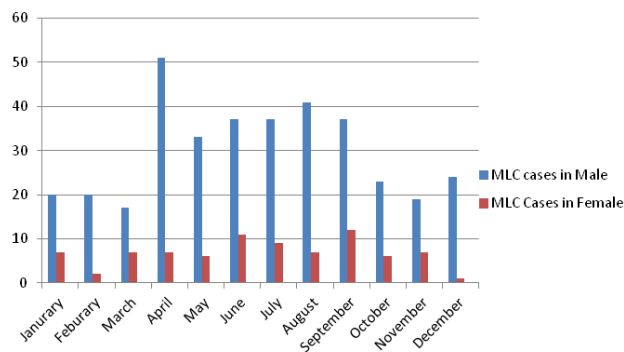


Table I: Weapon wise distribution of medico-legal cases in RHC Ellahabad

Month	Blunt			Sharp			Fire arm			RSA			Poisoning			Sodomy		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
January	12	3	15	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	2	1	3	2	0	2
February	11	1	12	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0
March	12	2	14	2	5	7	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	0
April	41	2	43	4	5	9	1	2	3	4	2	6	1	0	1	0	0	0
May	27	1	28	3	1	4	1	1	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
June	26	3	29	18	3	21	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	0	1
July	24	2	26	4	2	6	0	1	1	6	2	8	1	2	3	1	0	1
August	29	3	32	6	1	7	3	0	3	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	0	1
September	15	4	19	13	1	14	0	2	2	15	3	18	0	2	2	0	0	0
October	13	2	15	6	2	8	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
November	09	2	11	3	2	5	2	1	3	4	0	4	0	2	2	0	0	0
December	15	1	16	1	0	1	5	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	234 (90%)	26 (10%)	260 (100%)	63 (79%)	17 (21%)	80 (100%)	15 (63%)	9 (37%)	24 (100%)	35 (69%)	16 (31%)	51 (100%)	6 (30%)	14 (70%)	20 (100%)	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	6 (100%)

DISCUSSION

In this study, data was retrospectively collected from the available medico-legal record of a rural health centre. Cases were consecutively selected spread over a period of one year. The results showed that males were more likely to be involved in such cases compared to females. Our results are comparable with other national level studies.^{11,12} This is not unexpected in a male dominant society. Males frequently confront each other in disputes leading to violent physical contacts and ultimately causing injuries. In a study conducted in an urban area of Lahore,¹² 85.44% were male and 14.56% were female. In our study the male percentage was 81.40% and female percentage was 18.60%. It shows total conformity with the similar other studies.^{9,10}

A study¹² showed that the weapon used in the dispute or quarrels by the parties were mainly blunt 65.68%, cases of sharp weapon use were 12.53%, cases of fire arms were 4.17%, cases of road side accident were 9.74%, cases of poisoning were 1.67% and cases of sodomy were 1.67%. In female cases, percentage of the weapon use; Blunt weapon 31.70%, sharp weapon 20.73%, firearm 10.98, road side accidents 19.51%, and poisoning 17.07%. It shows the aggression and anxiety in the nature of rural people. They pick up any blunt thing to throw at the opponent. The percentage of planned rivalry is less. The less percentage of road side accidents showed the scarcity of motor vehicles in this rural community. This is also due to recently constructed one way road in this population.

The less percentage of poisoning and sodomy is due to the reason that people of the rural areas remain busy in their respective business. In women, the percentage of poisoning cases was comparatively high which may be attributed to their emotional state of mind.^{11,12}

CONCLUSION

Male were more involved in causing physical assault. Results obtained are in conformity with the prevailing norms of the male dominant society. Blunt weapons were used more frequently than any other weapon. Summer seasons with high temperatures have relatively high frequency of medicolegal cases reported at a rural health center.

Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest among all authors.

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