

Reported Cases of Sexual Assault in Civil Hospital Sanghar

MUHAMMAD QASIM AHMED KHAN MEMON¹, PARDEEP KUMAR², NADIA ASLAM³, EJAZ AHMED AWAN⁴, SHABIR AHMED CHEENA⁵, ABDUL SAMAD⁶

¹Associate Professor of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Suleman Roshan Medical College, Tando Adam, Sindh

^{2,4}Associate Professors, & ⁶Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, PUMHSW, Nawabshah, Sindh,

³Lecturer, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, LUMHS, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

⁵Chief Resident Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Sanghar, Sindh, Pakistan

Correspondence to Dr. Ejaz Ahmed Awan, Cell: 0300-3219531, E-mail: forensicawan@outlook.com

ABSTRACT

Aim: To evaluate the sexual assault against male and female.

Study design: Retrospective study

Place and duration of study: Civil Hospital Sanghar from 1st January 2020 to 31st December, 2020

Methodology: Forty two cases of sexual assault and recognize the associated factors were enrolled. The age between 6-35 years and either gender were included.

Result: There were 28.6% females and 71.4% males, highest victims were among age between 6-18 years was 17(40.5%), illiterate was 23(54.7%), assaulted by a neighbour was 30 (71.4%) and time lapse <1-2 days was 19(45.4%) sexual assaults.

Conclusion: Majority of victims were males, assailant relationships of neighbour and illiterate.

Keywords: Sexual assault, Victims, Assailants

INTRODUCTION

Sexual assault is described as any sexual activity without the perpetrator's consent, including improper touching, anal and oral penetration, rape, sexual assault, and child molestation, as well as torturing the victim in a variety of ways¹.

Sexuality is a vital element of a person's health, quality of life, and overall well-being, and it is seen as a human right to have a healthy sexuality. There has been a lot of violence recently. Recognized around the world as a violation of basic human rights, Millions of women around the world are affected, and it cuts across cultural lines. And religious hurdles, obstructing their participation totally integrated into their society².

Sexual violence is horrific when it happens, but it can also have long-term severe consequences for one's physical health³.

In the general female population, the percentage of women who have experienced sexual abuse at some point in their lives is believed to be between 20% and 25%⁴. A multitude of psychological, sociological, economic, and cultural elements all have a role in this phenomenon³.

One of the most challenging duties in forensic medicine is the examination of alleged sexual offences in both females and males, victims and accused, whether alive or dead. The severity of the fines imposed for such offences, as well as the personal, social, and family implications, the risk of allowing genuine crimes to go unpunished, and the injustice of wrong conviction, make the doctor's obligations even more important.⁵

The aim of this study is to review the reported cases of female and male sexual assault in the Civil Hospital Sanghar, to identify the pattern and risk factors associated with the crime, and to assess the function of forensic examination in these cases.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

This retrospective study was carried out at Civil Hospital Sanghar from 1st January 2020 to 31st December, 2020 after permission from IRB. Forty two cases of sexual assault cases, age between 6-35 years, both male and female, educational status and time of lapse were included. The patients who have site of injuries, residence of victims and mental state of victims were excluded. As a result, it only includes the examination of forensic reports from females and males who have reported rape, sodomy, or zina and have been seen and examined by medico-legal authorities. The data was entered and analyzed through SPSS-25.

RESULTS

There were 30 (71.4%) males and 12 (28.6%) females with highest age victims 17 (40.5%) was among age between 6-18 years. Thirty (71.4%) sexual assault victims were carried out by a neighbor. Majority of cases time lapse between alleged assault and forensic examination of sexual assault victims was between <1-2 day with 45.3% (Table 1).

Table 1: Demographic information of the patients (n=42)

Variable	No.	%
Gender		
Male	30	71.4
Female	12	28.6
Age (years)		
6-18	17	40.5
19-25	14	33.4
26-35	11	26.1
Level of education		
Illiterate	23	54.7
Primary	2	4.8
Middle	1	2.3
Matric	8	19.0
Inter	4	9.6
Bachelor	4	9.6
Relation		

Neighbor	30	71.4
Cousin	5	11.9
Colleague	2	4.8
Uncle	4	9.6
Teacher	1	2.3
Time lapse		
<1 day	4	9.6
<1-2 day	19	45.3
<2-3 day	3	7.1
<4-7 day	3	7.1
1-2 Weeks	3	7.1
2-4 weeks	3	7.1
>1 month	7	16.7

DISCUSSION

Although new-borns and women in their 80s have been assaulted, sexual assault is more common among women in adolescent years. The majority of sexual assault reported to authorities are in between strangers. These attacks, on the other hand, account for a minor percentage of total sex attacks. At least 80% of sexual attacks happen between people who know one another.⁵

Several studies have sought to establish "typical" aspects of sexual assault in diverse populations. A common sexual assault amongst university students occurs during a date, at either the man's or the woman's house, and is preceded by mutual kissing. Furthermore, the attack involves a single offender who twists the woman's arm or holds her down without using a weapon. The woman who is convinced that she has made it plain that she does not consent, and that she is attempting to resist through logic and physical struggle.⁶

The average sex assault narrative in a typical population - based sample involved a woman being assaulted by a single offender who was either an acquaintance or a colleague and who used combined verbal and physical coercion, which the victim sought to resist. The most common excuses given by victims are that they believe it is a private affair and that they are frightened of retaliation from the attacker. Furthermore, sex assault offenders are wrongly blamed on women, with perpetrators escape with a light sentence if caught. Accosted women are sometimes treated as misfits, if not worse, by their own families. The arduous and unpleasant report shall at the police precinct and afterwards in the courts may be to blame for the low number of reported cases. When a

person claims to have been raped, he or she is often met with scepticism and is rarely accepted.⁸⁻¹²

CONCLUSION

Majority of cases were males belong to the age 6-18 years, and the majority of assailant relationships with the victim that the assailant was neighbour of the victim. Victims were illiterate with the highest percentage and time-lapse between the alleged assault and forensic examination of sexual assault victims within <1 to 2 days.

Conflict of interest: Nil

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