

Gender-Based Distribution of Medico-Legal Cases at Peoples Medical College Hospital, Nawabshah

NADIA ASLAM¹, INAYATULLAH MAGSI², PARDEEP KUMAR³, MUHAMMAD QASIM AHMED KHAN MEMON⁴, SHAHLA IMRAN⁵, SYED PERWEZ ALAM⁶

¹Lecturer, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, LUMHS, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

²Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Chandka Medical College/SMBBMU, Larkana, Sindh, Pakistan

³Associate Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, PUMHSW, Nawabshah, District Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh, Pakistan

⁴Associate Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Suleman Roshan Medical College, Tando Adam, Sindh, Pakistan

⁵Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Bilawal Medical College LUMHS, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

⁶Associate Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Liaquat College of Medicine & Dentistry, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

Corresponding author: Pardeep Kumar, Email: drpardeepgoswami99@gmail.com, Cell: 0333-2727337

ABSTRACT

Background: Injured patients who are brought to a hospital's emergency room or trauma centre undergo medical treatment, as well as a medico-legal evaluation and certification. In different societies, the likelihood of male and female population members engaging in physical attack and the usage of various weapons varies.

Objective: To determine the pattern of medicolegal cases among men and women, as well as the type of weapon used during physical assaults.

Study Design: Cross-sectional study

Place and Duration of Study: Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Peoples Medical College Hospital, Nawabshah from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2021.

Methodology: Six hundred and forty eight cases were enrolled. The medical-legal records of the healthcare facility were used as the primary source of data for this investigation.

Results: There were 490 (75%) males and 158 (24%) females. Overall mostly blunt weapons 265 (40%) were used, as far as use of different weapons was concerned; in 216 male cases and in 49 female cases. Overall sharp edged weapon were used in 73 (11%). Firearm was used by 68 (10%), road side accidents were in 159 (24%) and 33 (5%) cases of sodomy males.

Conclusion: Males were more likely to be involved in physical assault. The results found are consistent with the dominant male's society standards. Sharp weapons were employed more than any other type of weapon.

Keywords: Medico-legal, Blunt weapon, Sexual assault

INTRODUCTION

Medicolegal cases are the most significant and least documented type of medical case, which is why the actual burden and repercussions of these situations are so great.¹⁻³ There are few cases around the world, and there are even fewer research. Pakistan is one of the developing countries that has access to this technology.^{4,5}

In Western countries, the patterns of injury and the causal weapon are thoroughly investigated, but data is scarce in Pakistan because to ethical constraints. The significance of the weapon type is indicated by the type of injury that the patient received and died from. Injury from a firearm is more dangerous than injury from a blunt object.⁶

There are a variety of reasons why a person may be examined for medicolegal matters and these varies across developing and developed countries, as well as from region to region. The recorded causes of medicolegal cases in Pakistan are unknown, but according to a study released in Pakistan, road traffic accidents account for more than 40% of medical or legal cases, while injury and physical assault account for 32% and 19%, respectively.^{6,7}

Acute exposure to physical methods such as mechanical energy, heat, electrical, chemical, or ionizing interacting with the body in amounts or at rates exceeding the human endurance threshold causes damage, according to the WHO's accepted definition. In other circumstances (frostbite and drowning), injuries are caused by a sudden absence of critical agents like oxygen or heat. The evolution of criminal law to its three current levels took place in stages.^{8,9}

The law that governs the prosecution of criminal offences such as physical assault that result in injury or death. In our

country, there was an English statute that was. The Qisas and Diyat Ordinance repealed it. 1991 was revised in 1997, and thus resulted in it being implemented. Adherence to the Islamic injunctions as put out Sunnah and the Quran The word "prefers" is preferred by the law. Despite the injuries, it hurt to use. As a result, Qisas and Diyat have created a new classification for pain and suffering. Aside from that, the law provides compensation for the victims' suffering.^{3,7}

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross-sectional study was conducted at Peoples Medical College Hospital, Nawabshah, Shaheed Benazirabad in Sindh, Pakistan, from 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021, for all medico-legal cases presented. The medical-legal records of the healthcare facility were used as the primary source of data for this investigation. There was a requirement to obtain basic information such as age and sex, type of injury and type of weapon used from the Rural Health Center's medico-legal record, and SPSS-22 was used to analyze the data.

RESULTS

Males comprised 75% of the total 648 cases, while females comprised 24%, as far as weapons are concerned, 265 (40%) of the cases involved blunt weapons; in 216 male cases and 49 female cases, respectively. In 73 cases, a sharp-edged weapon was employed 11%. 68 people had a firearm in their possession 10%. A total of 159 (24%) and 33 (5%) incidents of sodomy males were involved in roadside accidents. Month-wise distribution of medical-legal cases was shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Monthly-wise distribution of medicolegal cases

Month	Sodomy		Blunt		RTA		Sharp		FAI		Poisoning	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
January	2	1	15	10	10	1	2	1	3	2	2	1
February	2	2	16	5	5	2	3	-	5	1	3	2
March	1	1	3	6	13	3	4	1	4	2	6	1

April	1	1	52	10	14	-	3	2	2	1	-	3
May	-	2	20	3	16	1	8	1	3	3	-	2
June	-	2	28	2	20	4	15	-	4	2	2	2
July	3	-	30	4	10	4	1	2	5	1	1	1
August	2	1	15	1	8	3	1	2	6	5	2	-
September	-	2	9	3	7	2	15	1	5	1	1	3
October	2	1	10	2	10	4	2	1	4	1	3	5
November	4	1	15	3	8	3	3	1	3	2	2	4
December	1	1	3	-	7	4	2	2	2	1	1	3

DISCUSSION

Over the course of a year, cases were chosen in a systematic manner. Males were found to be more likely to be part in such activities, which is not surprising in a male-dominated society.^{10,11} In contrast to females, males are more likely to approach each other in disputes, resulting in violent physical contact and, in some cases, injury. Our findings are comparable to those of other national surveys. A survey found that most of the time, the parties fought with blunt weapons 21.6%, with sharp weapon use at 59%, firearm at 46% and roadside accidents at 12.8%, poisoning cases accounted for 23% of the total, while sodomy cases accounted for 18%. In female cases, blunt weapons were used 49% of the time, sharp weapons 14% of the time, firearms 22% of the time, road traffic accidents 31% of the time, and poisoned 27% of the time. It demonstrates the aggressive and anxious mentality of rural people. They grab any hard object to throw at the opponent. The most common cases recorded were blunt with 81% in males and females the most common cases were also blunt with the percentage of 49%. The lower percentage of poisoning and sodomy in rural areas is attributable to the fact that rural residents are more likely to be engaged in their own businesses.

CONCLUSION

Males were more likely than females to be physically assaulted. The results found are consistent with the dominant male-dominated society's standards. The use of blunt weapons was more common than the use of other types of weaponry than any other type of weapon.

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