

Original Article

VIOLENCE PREVALENCE IN NORTH LAHORE: FORENSIC DEMOGRAPHICS

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Objective: Demographic analysis of incidence of violence in North Lahore to objectify the prevalence of criminalistic variance categorization

Methods: It was a cohort prospective analysis throughout the year 2018, conducted in the emergency medicolegal section of Services Hospital Lahore. All cases reporting to medicolegal section were part of research project who were either accompanied by police or presented via divergent modes.

Results: Statistical perusal revealed that out of 2341 cases registered in 2018, 70% were escorted by police. 10-12% were brought by either a relative or a friend. 3% each were either self-presented cases or were rescued by 1122 to hospital. 89% were either of 18 years age or more. 78% were male and 22% were female patients. 63% were subjected to a variance of physical assault.

Conclusions: Survival is a subconscious instinct which at times can make a person take extreme measures. Sometimes violence is optional at times a desperate sequelae, however at times it is such an inexplicably heinous that it requires instantaneous justice. All this categorization of deplorable immorality is to be channelized via medicolegal examination, which is mandatory part of legal chain of custody.

Keywords: violence, medicolegal, docket, assault.

Introduction

Violent behavior is usage of physical force with intent to harm anyone in mind, body, reputation or property either individually or collectively resultant in morbidity or mortality. Violence application can be due to blunt trauma, sharp edge injury infliction, firearm weapons and in the form of sexual predation.¹ It ranges from trivial assault charges to lethal use of force and also includes sexual advances ranging from harassment to rape. Violence has only been a second nature to human beings since their origin. Being aggressive as defensive act or to embark supremacy over fellow humans comes naturally to those who believe in survival of the fittest. For centuries man has believed in law of the jungle that strongest and the fastest have the right to exist and all others should perish. In order to weed out the weak use of violence has been the trend in the human timeline.² Use of might by the powerful led to the creation of weapons by the weak for their defense and survival. From the initiation of the known human timeline man has evolved in many ways. One of these evolutionary steps was nomadic life style developing in sedentism. Human colonization in resourceful areas marked the era of might is right as to mightiest took charge of the place with most natural resources befitting human

settlements. Primarily it was the agriculturally fertile land that was targeted, which today has been surpassed by urbanization and advanced computed technological advances. With time human desires and demands have altered but the instinctive nature to take charge has remained an undeterred factor which only enhanced sophistication in weaponry. The basic instinct of survival subconsciously drives the aggression for acquisition of power or self-perseverance.³

Global violence caused around more than a million deaths in 2013, with 842,000 fatalities attributed to suicidal manner and 405,000 were resultant of social violence activity. 31000 were war casualties as well as legal intercession. Among these firearm assaults was the preeminent reason of fatal outcome amounting up to 180,000 estimated numbers. Repercussions of violent deaths involve hospitalization, psychological consequences and social dilemmas for survivors who are either directly involved in the feuds or are just innocent passerby individuals who are afflicted as they happened to be on the scene of crime at the time of incidence.⁴

Violence is an avoidable variable redeemable by multitude of factors like modifiable measures to check poverty, socioeconomic status, gender bias and intake of the root cause of all social evil, alcohol. Strategic planning needs to be chalked out for effective

prophylaxis of violence by improving the social attitudes individually as well as in a collective form.⁵ Trauma has been categorized by World Health Organization, as self-inflicted, social evils and mass disaster whether it be war or an act of terrorism, which can be further sub-classified as physical, sex oriented and psychological. Yet another way to portray illegal activity is either through use of a weapon or a reactionary hostility.⁶

Medicolegal way to systemize the barbarity variables can be narrated as use of blunt force, sharp edge infliction whether incised or stab wound, firearm weapon usage, rape, sodomy, unnatural sexual offences, burns, poisoning, and alcohol intoxication.⁷ This is a check and balance system to maintain societal law and order, as apprehension of being indicted in an offence is more of a prophylactic maneuver than being actually subjected to punishment. It is a general consideration that fear of punishment is more of a deterrent factor in commission of crime rather than actually being subjected to punishment.⁸ Legal diversification is prevalent universally but all the legal frameworks are programmed to a common goal of rectification of malevolence. The best way to scrutinize the remedial steps is to have statistical substantiation. It not only elaborates on the prevalence of insidious nature of crime but also dissects out the efficacy of restorative counteractant legal procedures.

The contemporaneous inquisition collates vehemence preponderance during 2018. It is a narrative description of medicolegal cases per se reported in as police investigation or on magisterial inquisition. Primarily 13 allocated police stations of Lahore district were targeted for inquisitor purposes but any life-threatening situation were delved with to accommodate and facilitate law and order situation.

Method

Medicolegal section of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology is based in the emergency department of Services Hospital Lahore. Cases were followed up as they reported in medicolegal office of emergency unit Services Hospital Lahore, during the year 2018. It is an emergency facility run 24 hours a day 7 days a week. By and large bulk of cases reported were from 13 allocated Police Stations, by the Government of Punjab. Most of reported cases were brought in by Police along with a Police Docket or a Court Order for medicolegal examination of the injured. The rest either reported with implied consent of getting themselves examined for the injuries procured

during fight or homicidal manner of infliction.

Results

A total figure of 2341 cases were reported during the year 2018. 1651 of these cases were brought in by Police along with Authority letter, for the medicolegal examiner, requesting to examine, either the injured or the accused assailant, which amounted to about 70% of the total turnover. 3% each were either brought in by rescue 1122 or were the patients themselves who reported in the emergency. Besides this statistical turnover 243 individuals were brought in by relatives with multifaceted accusations. 4.6% of cases did not follow up in the sense that they never came back to recollect even initial examination report let aside to get it finally declared after expert opinion or radiological feedback. **(Fig-1)** 89.3 % (2090/2341) cases reporting in the medicolegal clinic were of the age of majority and the remaining 251 (10.7%) were minors either brought in by relatives or police or both (6%). **(Fig-2)** 1834 of 2341 recorded cases were of male gender while remaining 21.7% were female. **(Fig-3)**

Table-1: radiological feedback.

Brought by	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Police /Docket	1651	70.5	70.5
Self	73	3.1	3.1
1122 Rescue	83	3.5	3.5
Passer by	1	.0	.0
Relatives	243	10.4	10.4
Fariends	42	1.8	1.8
Police + Relatives	140	6.01	6.0
No follow up/ non-issued	108	4.6	4.6
Total	2341	1000.0	100.0

Table-2: radiological feedback.

Age	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Major (=18 years)	2090	89.3	89.3
Minor (< 16/18 years)	251	10.7	10.7
Total	2341	100.0	100.0

Table-3: radiological feedback.

Sex	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Male	1834	78.3	78.3
Female	507	21.7	21.7
Total	2341	100.0	100.0

Of these issued medicolegal reports 53.1 % were during the spring and summer season whereas during fall and winter season 42.3% cases were registered. 108 of the total cases were not followed up either by victim or by the police. Among this annual promulgation of cases the diurnal variation was also observed with 48.6% of inscribed incidence during night duty hours followed by 22.9% and 23.9% notarization during morning and evening timings of duty roster. Area engaged in high criminalistic activity was sorted out to be cantonment section of North Lahore subdivided further into north and south cantonment police stations. Collectively 555 cases were adumbrated from cantonment followed by Ghaziabad police station where 282 complaints were lodged. Defence, Gulberg and Ichra filed 233, 220 and 185 cases each. Relatively low number of incidences occurred in jurisdiction of Sarwar Road, Shadman and Race Course police stations enumerating from 0.8% to 2.2% and 4% respectively. (Fig.4)

Table-4: radiological feedback.

Area/Police Station	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Shadman	51	2.2	2.2
Mustafaabad	159	6.8	6.8
Race Course	93	4.0	4.4
Sarwar Road	19	.8	.8
Guldasht Town	104	4.4	4.4
Miscellaneous	209	8.9	8.9
No follow up/non-issued	108	4.6	4.6
Gulberg+Ghalib market	220	9.4	9.4
Defence A B	233	10.0	10.0
Ghazi abad	282	12.0	12.0
Millat Park	118	5.0	5.0
Ichra	185	7.9	7.9
North cantt	333	14.2	14.2
South Cantt	222	9.5	9.5
Lytton Road	.5	.2	.2
Total	2341	100.0	100.0

Analytical categorization docketed the crimes as physical assault being the top of classification with 63% (1474/2341) of total declared cases. Domestic violence was the next most reported incidence with 323 cases out of 2341. This was succeeded by heinous criminality of sexual predation with 219

penned down activity. However, in 2018 only 180 cases were brought in by police for medicolegal examination of individuals with alcohol intake. (Fig.5)

Table-5: radiological feedback.

History	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Physical Assault	1474	63.0	63.0
Self-infected	9	.4	.4
Unnatural sexual effence	3	.1	.1
Rape with minor	33	1.4	1.4
Sodomy with minor	36	1.5	1.5
Male accused of rape	45	1.9	1.9
Male accused of sodomy	15	.6	.6
Domestic violence	323	13.8	13.8
Road Traffic Accident	103	4.4	4.4
Sodomy with adult	37	1.6	1.6
Rape with adult	50	2.1	2.1
Alcohol intake	180	7.7	7.7
Poisoning	12	.5	.5
Dacoity	6	.3	.3
Abduction	15	.3	.6
Total	2341	100.0	100.0

Discussion

The main objectivity of this exercise for requisition of data regarding violence was to assess the prevalence of crime in the north segment of the city and what remedial steps can be maneuvered to rectify such law and order situations. Further elucidation was meticulously catalogued into type of crime ranging from trivial roughness to ferocious crimes. This study not only highlighted occurrence of such heinous crimes but also introduces as to how to educate the masses to discipline their behavior as well as encourage them to inform about any illicit felonious transgressions. Year 2018 was targeted for this malfeasance scrutiny. Variables for the study purposes included age, gender, area of incidence, history and the procedural steps of divulgence with forensic specialty. Research based anatomization has explicitly annotated that fear of punishment is the prime deterrent factor rather than the actual penalty sentence carried out against the accused. Consequently, an impartial effective law and order scenario is more convincing efficacious machination for execution of discipline in the societal norms. As commination implementation against one perpetrator is a relatively less effectual directive in contrast to a practical intimidation. Public

awareness needs a mapped-out solution which ought to put an end to illegal ventures.⁹ Statistical perusal revealed that out of 2341 cases registered in 2018, 70% (1651) were brought in by police who were either the victims or the accused. 89% (2090) were of age of majority and among these 78% (1834) were of male gender. 63% (1474) had a presenting complaint of being subject to a variance of physical assault. Besides these facts and figures 10-12% were accompanied by either a relative or a friend. 3% each, walked in emergency either on their own or were rescue deliverance to hospital. Of all the 2341 individuals 10.7% (251) were minors out of which 3% were subjected to sexual odious monstrosity with yet remaining minors were victimized physically in one way or another by blunt means, sharp edge weapons besides sexual predation.¹⁰ North and South Cantonment Police stations were conspicuous due to high malefacere demographics of 14.2% (333) and 9.5% (222) reciprocally. This crime rate was closely followed by Police Station Ghaziabad enumerated by 12% (282) turnover in the medicolegal office. Least notoriety was observed in Lytton Road, Sarwar Road and Shadman Police Stations as per medicolegal record depicted by 0.2%, 0.8% and 2.2% outcome reports. Remaining strength of police stations had a range of cases between 5-8% brought in by the police, rescue or were reported by self-representation. Although this limited study does not cover the entire scope and capture the veritable in every aspect but in the least, it portrays tip of the iceberg, pointing out the locale of the hub. What

circumstances give rise to such situations where either people choose to adopt collateral routes for necessity fulfilment or are actual offenders by disease of mind or they do crime just because it the easy way out or crave a curiosity or vent out frustrations.¹¹ What protocols are to channelized in order to improve society norms. How are these individuals handled during the police investigation procedure and what is the outcome when the cases finally make it to the judicial system? These are the queries for a further data mining. Role of forensic expert is to establishment of presentable documentary facts to the court of law for prosecution. Case declaration and issuance was at a mentionable percentage of 95.4% with only 108 cases that remained without any follow up. This entire exercise of apprehended offenders for consequential culmination in furtherance of justice is the targeted denouncement, to discourage deplorable felonious activities in the society.

Conclusions

Survival is a subconscious instinct which at times can make a person take extreme measures. Sometimes violence is optional at times a desperate sequelae, however at times it is such an inexplicably heinous that it requires instantaneous justice. All this categorization of deplorable immorality is to be channelized via medicolegal examination, which is mandatory participle of legal chain of custody.

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