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INTRODUCTION

Death is an inevitable aspect of life. As a rule of Washington state department of health, manner of death should be defined while investigating the case. It can either be natural (illness and malfunction of an organ) or unnatural. Unnatural death is defined as all those human deaths that cannot be labeled as death due to any natural causes such as accidental, Homicidal and suicidal or undetermined.

Unnatural death is a result of many social and psychological factors, violence or crime being the leading cause.² Violence has remained an important aspect of society that majorly depending upon financial and occupational status of people in the country.

UNNATURAL DEATHS; PATTERN OF UNNATURAL DEATHS IN FAISALABAD.

Humera Parveen¹, Muhammad Naeem², Mobin Inam Pal³, Javed Iqbal⁴, Ijaz Hussain⁵

ABSTRACT... Introduction: Death is certain for every living creature and everybody has to taste death but death caused by unnatural means leave a permanent scars on the soul of society. **Objective:** To determine the pattern of unnatural deaths in Faisalabad during 2016. **Study design:** Retrospective study. **Duration of Study:** One year from 1/1/2016 to 31/12/2016. **Sample Size:** Total cases 288. **Sample Technique:** Convenient sampling. **Material and Method:** Data was collected by analyzing the pre autopsy requisites, autopsy reports, admission charts, death certificates and reports from Punjab Forensic Science Agency from postmortem unit of Faisalabad Medical University during the year 2016. **Results:** 288 autopsies were performed during the year 2016, 226 were male and 62 were females. The most prone ages were from 10 years to 50 years that is 79.16 % of total cases and more specific age is 20 years to 29 years (29.86%). The manner of death was, 142 cases were homicidal deaths and 98 cases accidental deaths were reported. The share of deaths caused by firearm injuries was 119 cases, RTA induced deaths were 98 case and 19 cases were caused by poisoning. **Conclusion:** Most common causes of death were medicolegal injuries and among them firearm injuries remains on the top. Provision of speedy justice, inclusion of most modern techniques during investigation, free education, and reduction in unemployment and implementation of laws without discrimination will help in decreasing the crime rate.

Key words: Unnatural Death, Homicidal, Suicidal, Accidental, Undetermined.

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Homicide is a manner in which a person kills someone with an intention. There are several ways to cause a homicidal death and that includes assault by sharp weapon, blunt weapon, firearm, strangulation, burn and poisoning, firearm being the major of them.

Accidental deaths are pertaining road traffic accidents and accidental injuries like falling from stairs etc. resulting in a death or injury to a person while suicidal is killing himself and is a 10th leading cause of death in the world. Suicidal death is an extremely complex phenomenon having medical, social, ethical and philosophical implementation. Commonly used methods are firearm, hanging and poisoning.

The firearm has become a weapon of choice as

a person can kill someone without any physical contact between the victim and offender and also offender have an opportunity to escape from the crime scene easily.

RESULTS

Keeping in view, most vulnerable age group is among 20 to 29 years and as a whole from 10 years to 50 years Table-I and Figure-1.

Age Group	Male	%age	Female	%age	Total	%age
0-9	15	6.637	4	6.451613	19	6.6
10-19	33	14.602	11	17.74194	44	15.28
20-29	61	26.991	25	40.32258	86	29.86
30-39	45	19.912	4	6.451613	49	17.01
40-49	39	17.257	10	16.12903	49	17.01
50-59	22	9.735	3	4.83871	25	8.68
60-69	9	3.982	3	4.83871	12	4.17
70-79	2	0.885	1	1.612903	3	1.04
80-89	0	0	1	1.612903	1	0.35
Total	226		62		288	100

Table-I. Age group wise distribution

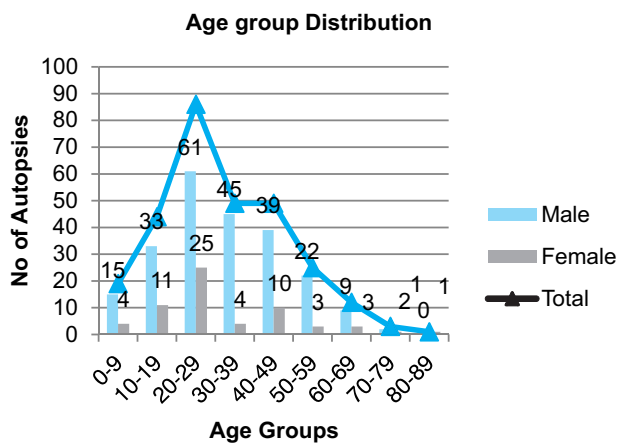


Figure-1. Age group Distribution among unnatural Deaths.

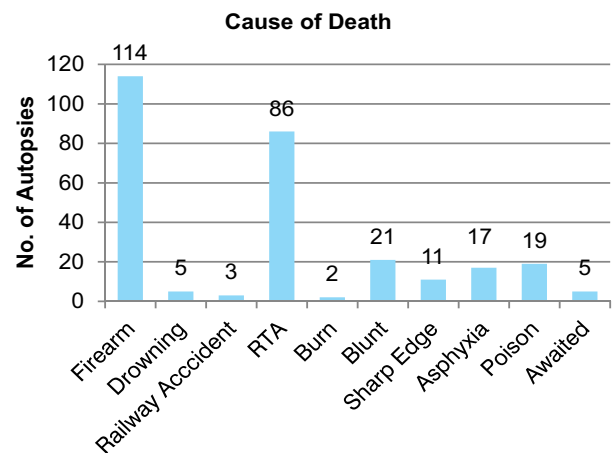


Figure-2. Distribution of cause of death.

When we analyze patter of cause of death, Gun shot injuries are the major causative agent 119 cases which is 41.32% and the second major cause is road traffic and railway accident injuries ,89 cases 30.90% Table-II and Figure-2.

Cause	Cases	%age
Firearm	119	41.32
Drowning	5	1.74
Railway Acccident	3	1.04
RTA	86	29.86
Burn	2	0.69
Blunt	21	7.29
Sharp Edge	11	3.82
Asphyxia	17	5.9
Poison	19	6.6
Awaited	5	1.74
Total	288	100

Table-II. Distribution of cause of death

On analyzing manner of death, homicidal deaths are major component 49.30%, 142 homicidal deaths and second position is taken by accidental deaths 34.02% Table-III and Figure-3.

Manner	Cases	%age
Homicidal	142	49.306
Suicidal	32	11.111
Accidental	98	34.028
Natural	11	3.819
Un-Identified	5	1.736
Total	288	100

Table-III. Distribution of manner of death

Gender distribution is male dominance 78.47% and females are 21.53% Table-IV and Figure-4

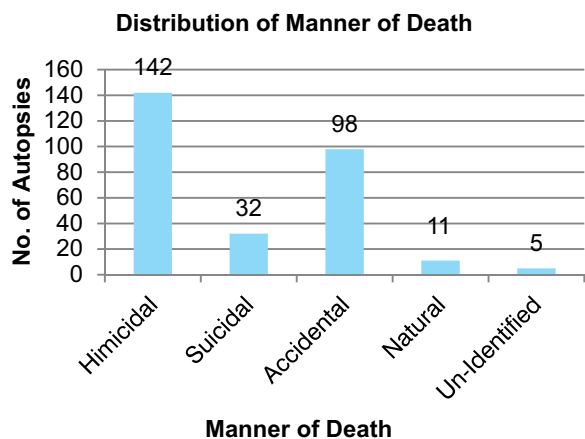


Figure-3. Distribution of manner of death.

Gander	Cases	%age
Male	226	78.47
Female	62	21.53
Total	288	100

Table-IV. Male female ratio in autopsies

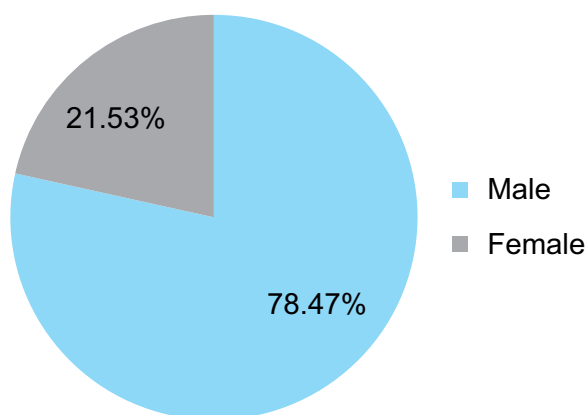


Figure-4. Gender distribution of autopsies in 2016.

DISCUSSION

Unnatural deaths are a big dilemma of under developed countries like Pakistan and India where the literacy rate is much lower than the developed countries, lack of basic education, unwanted egoism, untrained drivers and poverty are the major factors pertaining to these unnatural deaths.

In our study, during one year 288 cases were registered in autopsy unit of forensic medicine department Faisalabad Medical University

Faisalabad, males were the major sufferer of unnatural deaths having a percentage of 78.21% which are 226 in numbers while the share of females was 62 out of 288 cases, 21.25%.

Keeping in view the manner of death, among these 288 cases, 142 cases (49.30%) were mannered as homicidal death, killed by some other person due to some reason with or without intention, actus reus with or without mens rea. 32 cases were labeled as suicidal deaths known by history, police investigation and autopsy finding. Out of these 288 cases, 98 cases 34.02% were reported as accidental death by the due to road traffic accident or accidental poisoning⁶ 11 cases 3.81% declared as natural due to some disease and 5 cases were remained undetermined.

Keeping in view the cause of death major proportion was of firearm death which is 41.32% of total cases, 119 out of 288 cases⁶ second major cause of death include injuries during road traffic accidents which is 86 cases, 29.86%^{2,7} Roman Malik et al with 3 cases of railway accidents.

22 cases were declared as death due to pathological asphyxia including manual and ligature strangulation, hanging and drowning. 7.29% cases which are 21 cases were caused by blunt weapons and 11 cases were caused by sharp edge means.

Age group distribution reveals most vulnerable ages are from 10 years to 50 years which are out of 288 cases, 79.16% of total deaths similar to.^{4,8} Due to their major exposure to environment and emotional period of life.

CONCLUSION

Unnatural deaths are a bad reflection of a civilized society which results sad domain to various families leading to the deterioration of the socio economic balance of the society.

These unnatural deaths unveil a violent behavior of the members of the society towards each other which is mainly the result of poverty, overcrowded society, congested roads, lack of patience, undue egoism and low literacy rate.





By improving literacy rate, proper check and balance on transportation system and by providing employment to the youth, the crime rate and number of unnatural deaths can be brought down significantly. A happy and satisfied society is the ultimate solution of these tragedies.

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