

Homicidal Trends in Tribes of Bastar

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Abstract

Background: Till now no significant study has been done in homicide cases related to the tribal communities of the Bastar region, our approach has been to extensive study of the tribal communities, their life pattern towards the arms, and analysis of the homicidal committed in the tribal communities

Objective: the objective of the study was to study the pattern of homicidal cases in the tribal communities of Bastar in a community wise scale so that necessary steps can be taken to prevent homicide in communities which has high scale of homicidal cases.

Material and Method: The data of postmortem reports of all cases of homicidal deaths of tribals of Bastar region Chhattisgarh occurred in 11 years (2011 to 2021), which had been brought to the mortuary of Forensic Medicine department.

Results: Out of total of 122 cases evaluated, it consisted predominantly of male population of the age 31-40 years, Maximum number of homicidal cases were from Firearm injury=27 cases, Axe injury sustained stood 2nd= 22 cases. Maximum cases were found in the year 2015=16 cases. Maximum cases occurred in the Month of August=24 cases.

Conclusion: In our study we have found that Madia community followed by Maria community has most of the leading cases, government need to more emphasize on them to prevent cases from occurring. Homicidal deaths among tribals was mainly due to firearm injury, main factor for it was Naxalite and Maoist movement, which is predominant in Bastar region

Keywords: tribal, Bastar, homicide, injuries

Introduction

Chhattisgarh tribals comes under middle region of the 5 broad regional groups of tribes of India, where more than 55% of tribal people of India live. Regarding the distribution of ST population by

states, Chhattisgarh stands in 7th position with 7.5% of tribal population. Bastar region is the country of tribes, about 70% of the total population of the Bastar region is tribal. Abujh Marias(Narayanpur, Bijapur, Dantewada region) approx. population 70000(1981 census); Bhatra Tribe(Kondagaon,

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Jagdalpur region) with an estimated of 117297(1981 census); Dorla tribe(Konta, Bijapur region) mainly subside on hunting, fishing, collection of forest products, panda(slush and burn cultivation), Abujh Marias of the Bastar district have been placed under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG's). Muria tribe(Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Antagarh region);Dhurwa tribe(konta region) with an estimated Of 42370(1981 census); Halba(all over bastar) with an estimated 23,6,375(1981 census) main occupation is cultivation of crops.¹

Material and Method

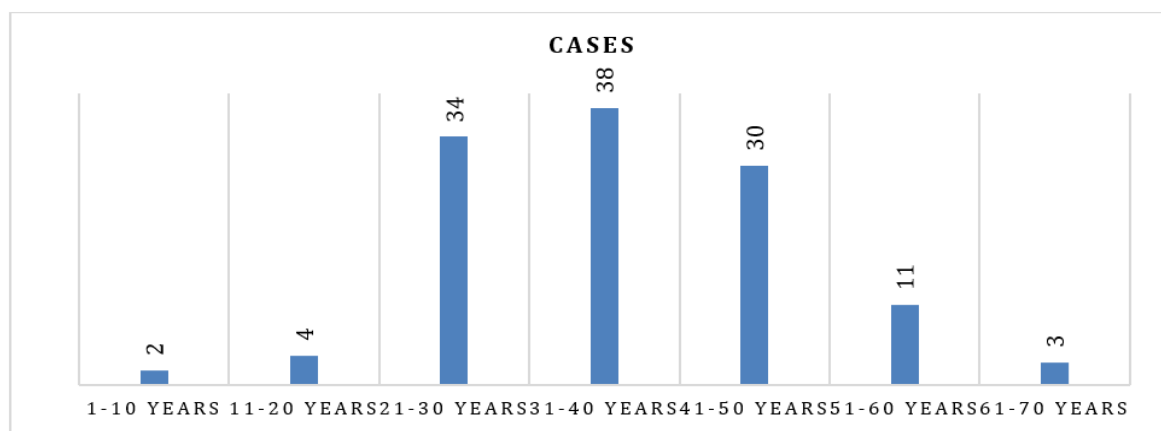
A data of post mortem reports of all cases of deaths of homicidal deaths of tribals of Bastar region Chhattisgarh been brought to the mortuary of Forensic Medicine department, Late Baliram Kashyap Government Medical College Jagdalpur, District Bastar Chhattisgarh from 2011 to 2022, total 14 years has been scrutinized and evaluated. In each

case a detailed examination was done on type of body region in which injuries were inflicted, which tribal community that person belonged, Manner of deaths, Cause of deaths was thoroughly evaluated.

Results

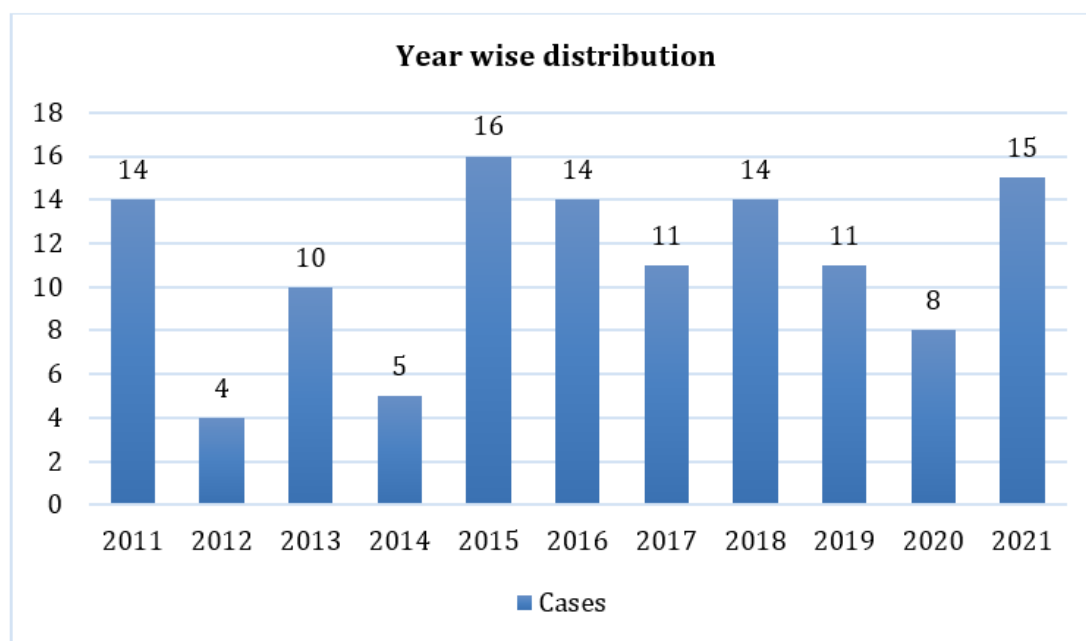
In the study conducted it was found that total 122 cases of deaths were reported in the period of 11years i.e., 2011 to 2021. The following the finding found out in the study.

1. **Sex Ratio of Homicidal cases among Tribal population:** Male- 94 cases, Female-28 cases.
2. **Age Group in cases:** It was divided in to 10-10 years age group e.g., 1-10 years,11-20 years etc. Maximum number of cases were found in the age group of 31-40 years i.e., 38 cases and Minimum number in 01-10 years i.e., 2 cases. [Graph 1]



Graph 1: Distribution of cases as per age of the Victims

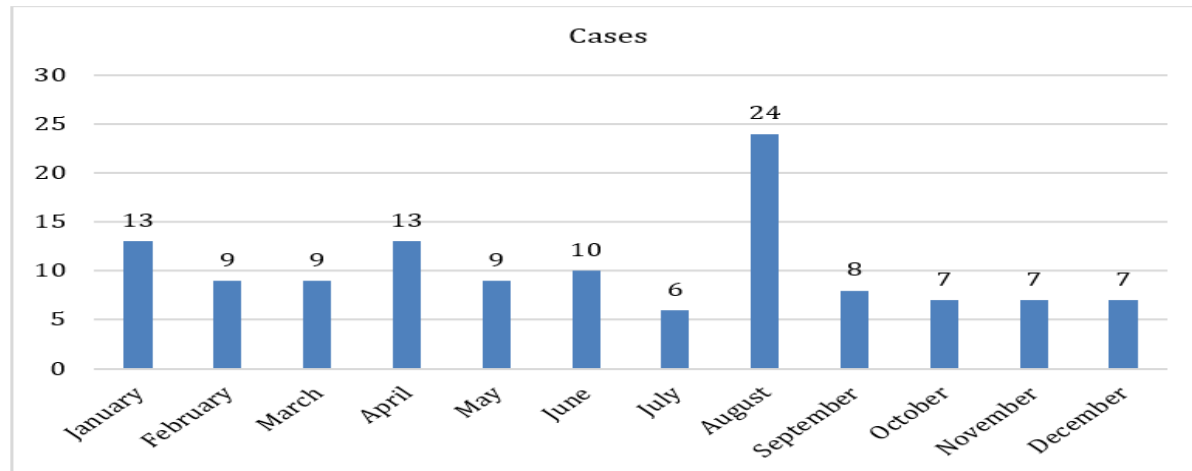
3. **Year of Cases Reported:** In detailed analysis of the cases reported, Maximum number of cases were found in the year 2015- 16 cases, 2011,2016,2018-14, 2017,2019-11,2013-10, 2020-8, 2014-5,2012-4 cases. [Graph 2]



Graph 2: Year wise distribution of cases

4. **Month of reported cases in the period of 2011-2022:** In detailed analysis of the cases reported, it was found that maximum

number of cases occurred in the Month of August-24 cases followed by January, April -13 cases; June- 10 cases. [Graph 3]



Graph 3: Month wise distribution of cases

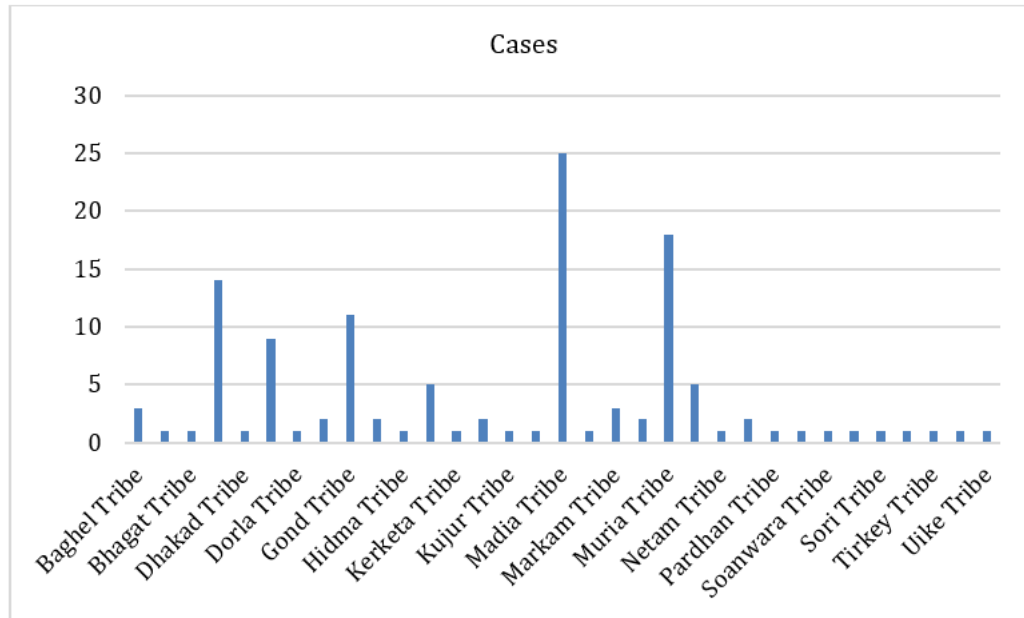
5. **Types of Homicide cases committed by different tribal community of Bastar region, nature of crime:**

Among the tribal communities of Bastar region, Madia community has been found to be predominant in the leading homicidal cases with total of 25 cases, maximum by beaten by stick=6 cases, Axe injury=6, Firearm injury=5, Beaten=2, knife injury=1, sharp weapon injury=1, Throttling=1,

Blast injury=1, Hit by spade=1, Strangulation=1. The Muria community stood second with total of 18 homicidal cases maximum were of Axe injury=5 cases, followed by knife injury = 3 cases, Beaten=2, Beaten by rod=1, Beaten by musal/ghotla=1, Beaten by wooden/peetha=1, beaten by rod=1, Firearm injury=2, Murdered and Hanged=1, Sharp weapon injury=1, Smothering=1. Bhatra community stood third with 14 cases. Maximum Beaten=4, Beaten by

stick=3, Axe injury=2, Iron barcha injury=1, Stab injury=1, Sharp weapon injury=1, Spade injury=1, Strangulation=1. Gond community stood fourth with 11 cases, Firearm injury=2, Beaten by stick=2, Burn injury/kerosene oil=2, Beaten by stone=1, Axe injury=1, Sharp weapon injury=1, Knife injury=1, Quarrelling=1. Dhurwa community stood fifth with

9 cases, Beaten=2, Sharp weapon injury=2, Beaten by brick=1, Beaten by stick=1, Axe injury=1, Knife injury=1, Spade injury=1. Kashyap community with 5 cases Axe injury=1, Firearm injury=1, Head injury=1, Multiple beating injury=1, Knife injury=1. Nag community with 5 cases, Firearm injury=2, injury by sone=1, Beaten by stick=1, Blast injury=1. [Graph 4]

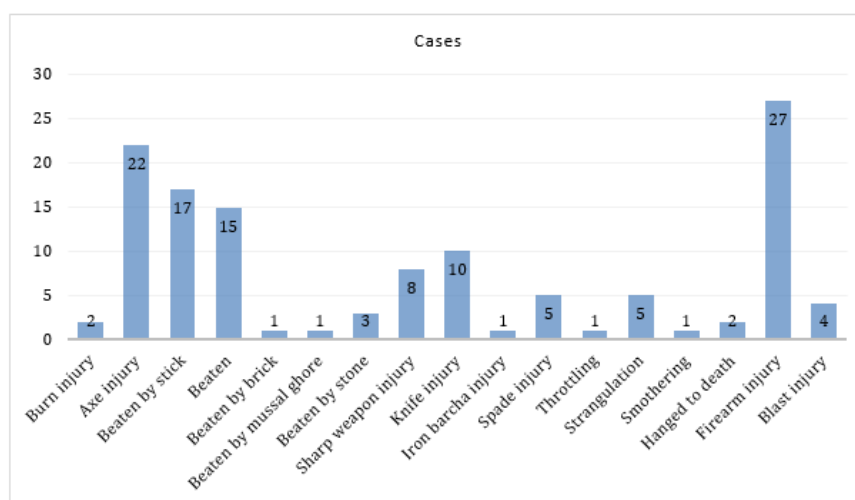


Graph 4: Distribution of cases as per different tribes

6. Pattern of Injury/Cause of Death among the Tribal population:

The Maximum number of fatal injury was from Firearm injury=27 cases followed by Axe injury total

22 cases, followed by Beaten by stick=17 cases; Beaten =15 cases; Knife injury=10 cases; Sharp weapon injury=8 cases; Spade injury & strangulation = 5,5 cases; Blast injury= 4 cases etc. [Graph 5]



Graph 5: Distribution of types of weapon and causes of death

Discussion

As per bulletin 'Crime in India 2019 Statistics Volume 1' published by National Crime Records Bureau(Ministry of Home affairs) Govt. of India page 46 Table 1A.4 IPC Crimes(Crime head -wise & State/UT-wise)-2019 for(murder section 302 IPC, The number of Incidences/Cases(I)=913, No. of Victims(V)=950, Crime Rate Per Lakh Population (R) =3.2²; In our study it was found total of 11 cases of homicide/murder was from ST population of Bastar region in the year 2019 comprising of 0.012% of total Homicide/Murders committed in the Chhattisgarh state. As Par "Homicides of American Indians/ Alaska Natives -National Violent Death Reporting System United States, 2003-2018" published by Centre of Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Surveillance Summaries/ Vol. 70/ No. 8 November 19,2021; Total homicides committed by American Indians/Native Americans for the period of 2003 to 2018 was 2226 with males predominating 1681 cases and females= 545 cases in 34 states of US. Median age of AI/AN victim was 32 years(interquartile range 23-44 years) more than 1/4th (27.5% of AI/AN victims were aged 25-34 years. In the Method of Injury Firearm injury=1078 cases(48.4%), Sharp Instrument=467(21.0%), Blunt Instrument=208(9.3%), Personal weapons (hands, feet or fists) =206(9.3%), Hanging/Strangulation/ Suffocation=72(3.2%)³; While in our study total homicides committed by tribal community of Bastar for the period of 2011 to 2021 was 122 cases with males predominating=94 cases and Females = 28 cases in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh(India). Median age of Tribal community victims was 34.5 years, Near to 50% of total 122 cases(49.2% of Tribal community were aged 25-40 years. In the manner of injury/cause of death Firearm injury= 27 cases(22.1%), Axe injury=22 cases(18.03%), Beaten by stick=17 cases(13.9%), Beaten by (hands, fists, feet)= 15 cases(12.3%), Knife injury=10(8.2%), Sharp Instrument= 9(7.3%), Blunt instrument =7(5.7%), Hanging/Strangulation/ Throttling/ Smothering= 9(7.4%).

Knauff et. al. have reported in their paper on the incidence of Gebusi Tribe Homicide; of 394 adult deaths in genealogical survey; nearly 1/3rd (129=32.7%) were homicidal. Homicidal accounted

for 29.3% of female death and 35.2% male deaths⁴; While in our study out of 122 deaths, male tribal population accounted for 77.94% & Female tribal accounted for mere 22.95%.

Tekade et. al. have reported in their paper on the Study of Deaths due to firearm injuries in tribal region of Bastar; in the 150 cases of firearm deaths from 2010 to 2015, Male : Female ratio was found to be 5:1(125 Males:25 Females). In the age group firearm injuries were predominant in 21-30 years accounting for 38.7%, followed by 31-40 year. The homicidal cases predominantly accounted for 136/150 cases(90.7% cases) and rest 14 cases were suicidal(9.3%)⁵. While in our study Male : Female ratio was found to be 3.5:1, In the age group firearm injuries were predominant in 21-30 years=14 cases(52%) followed by 31-40 years (48.1%). Homicidal cases of firearm injury accounted for 127(99.2) cases while suicidal firearm injury was only 1 case(0.8%).

Conclusion

In our study we have found that Madia community followed by Maria community has most of the leading cases, government need to more emphasize on them to prevent cases from occurring. Homicidal deaths among tribals was mainly due to firearm injury, main factor for it was Naxalite and Maoist movement, which is predominant in Bastar region, Government needs to pay attention to the main issues of tribals, their life and culture depends on forests, deforestation should be stopped, counselling sessions should be made to tribals about government welfare schemas. Second predominant cause of homicide was axe injury, in 2012 police personnel implemented ban on tribals from carrying axe and other traditional weapons in weekly market⁶, but these axe etc are a part of tribal society culture, instead of banning government should arrange for fast track solution of disputes in village level and counselling sessions should be arranged for disturbed tribals of the locality.

Ethical Clearance: Not Applicable

Source of Funding: Self

Conflict of Interest: Nil

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