

International Journal of Biomedical and Advance Research

ISSN: 2229-3809 (Online); 2455-0558 (Print)

Journal DOI: [10.7439/ijbar](https://doi.org/10.7439/ijbar)

CODEN: IJBABN

Original Research Article**Retrospective Study of Profile of Medico-legal Cases in Tumkur Region, Karnataka****Dileep Kumar R^{*1}, Siddaramanna T C¹, Shailesh V Parate² and Hemanthraj M N³**¹Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur, Karnataka, India²Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, ESIC Medical College, Kolkata, West Bengal, India³Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Sridevi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Hospital, Tumkur, Karnataka, India***Correspondence Info:**

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E-mail: drdileep@gmail.com**Abstract**

The casualty department plays a vital role in treating in emergencies as well as in handling of legal implications of the cases. Common medico-legal cases include alleged cases of assault, road traffic accidents, burns, poisoning, snake bite, insect bite, industrial accidents, alcoholic intoxications etc. In present study 173 medico-legal cases were reported to the casualty department of Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur during the period from 1st January 2012 to 31st August 2013. Study shows maximum number of cases was males (72.83%) as compared to females (27.16%). In present study majority of cases were from age group between 21-30 years (53 cases) followed by 31-40 years (35 cases). In our study majority of cases were due to road traffic accidents (72 cases), followed by assault (38 cases), mechanical injuries (21 cases), poisoning (14 cases), fall from height (09 cases). These can be prevented by proper education, awareness, uniform enforcement of law and order strictly. Training of doctors who are involved in handling of medicolegal cases is needed.

Keywords: Medico-legal case; Age; Sex; Pattern**1. Introduction**

A medico-legal case (MLC) is a case of injury or illness where the attending doctor, after eliciting history and examining the patient, thinks that some investigation by law enforcement agencies is essential to establish and fix responsibility for the case in accordance with the law of the land.[1] Common medico-legal cases include alleged cases of assault, road traffic accidents, burns, poisoning, snake bite, insect bite, industrial accidents, alcoholic intoxications etc. Medicolegal cases are an integral part of medical practice in emergency departments of major hospitals. Profiling of medico legal cases is an integral aspect for the prevention of preventable causalities in future and to study the crime rate in area.[2]

Objectives

1. To study the age and sexwise distribution of cases.
2. To study the pattern of cases.

2. Method

The present study was retrospective analysis of all medico-legal cases came to the casualty department of Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur from 1st January 2012 to 31st August 2013. A total of 173 cases were included and cases with no medicolegal perspective were excluded from study. Information regarding gender, age, demography and manner of causation was collected from the medico-legal register. The collected data was analyzed, observations discussed and compared with other studies.

3. Observations and Results

Table I – Age and sex wise distribution of cases

Age group (Years)	Male	Female	Total
1-10	01	02	03
11-20	17	04	21
21-30	41	12	53
31-40	25	10	35
41-50	22	08	30
51-60	14	09	23
61-70	04	01	05
71-80	02	01	03
	126	47	173

Table I shows that maximum number of cases were belonged to the age group of 21-30 years (53 cases) followed by 31-40 years (35 cases) and males outnumbered the females (M:F:2.68:1).

Figure I: Sex wise distribution of cases.

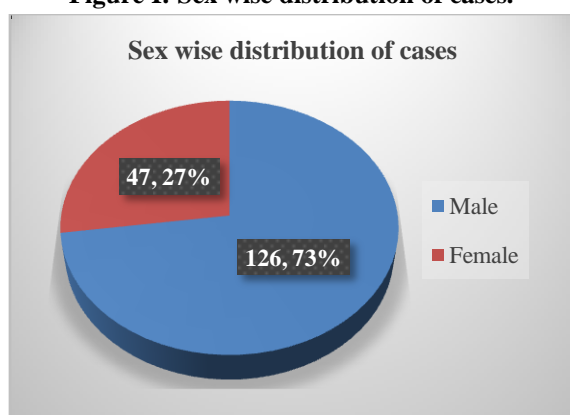


Table II – Pattern of cases

Sl. no	Pattern of cases	Number of cases	Percentage (%)
1	Road traffic accidents (RTA)	72	41.6
2	Assault	38	21.96
3	Mechanical injury	21	12.13
4	Poison	14	08.09
5	Fall from height	09	5.2
6	Bee sting and insect bite	08	4.6
7	Electrocution	04	2.31
8	Bull gore injury	02	1.15
9	Snake bite	01	0.57
10	Burns	01	0.57
11	Drowning	01	0.57
12	Scorpion sting	01	0.57
13	Gunshot injury	01	0.57
	Total	173	

Table II shows that RTA (72 cases) accounted for maximum number of MLCs, followed by assault (38 cases), mechanical injuries (21cases), poisoning (14 cases), fall from height (09 cases).

4. Discussion

In the present study 173 medico legal cases were reported to the casualty department of Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur during the period from 1st January 2012 to 31st August 2013. Study shows maximum number of cases was males (72.83%) as compared to females (27.16%). Similar

findings were reported by Malik *et al*[2] and Garg *et al*[3]. This is to the fact that males are more involved in outdoor activities and ambulatory compared to females, so this makes them more vulnerable to accident or injury.

In present study majority of cases were from age group between 21-30 years (53 cases) followed by 31-40 years (35 cases). Similar finding was also reported by Garg *et al*[3], Sahadev *et al*[4], Harish *et al*[5] and Sharma *et al*[6]. As individuals of these age groups lead more active life, involve in outdoor activities, sports and recreation activities, there by exposing themselves to environmental factors.

In our study maximum number of medico-legal cases were due to road traffic accident (72 cases), followed by assault (38 cases), mechanical injuries (21cases), poisoning (14 cases), fall from height (09 cases). This is in consistent with the study done by Garg *et al*[3] and study done by Harish *et al*. [5]

5. Conclusion

The casualty department plays a vital role in treating in emergencies as well as handling of legal implications of the cases. In present study maximum number of medicolegal cases were due to RTA, followed by assault, poisoning. These can be prevented by proper education, awareness, uniform enforcement of law and order strictly. Organized statistics about the types of medico-legal cases help in knowing the trend of occurrence of cases in the community. Training of doctors who are involved in handling of medicolegal cases is needed.

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