



## Changing pattern of suicide in central Kerala - A retrospective analysis of autopsied cases in a tertiary care centre

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**Objective:** National crime record bureau report of India shows decline in suicide rate from 2010 through 2014. We conducted this study to know whether our hospital data reflects the national data.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective record analysis of autopsied cases in Department of Forensic Medicine in a tertiary care hospital in central Kerala, India. Data on age, gender, cause of death of autopsied cases with alleged history of deliberate self harm (DSH) was noted.

**Results:** In 2010, there were total of 1739 autopsies in which 1040 cases were due to DSH (poisoning 33.7%, hanging 24.3%, burns 16.7%, drowning 15.9%, others 9.4%). In 2011 there were 1581 cases for autopsy in which 866 were DSH (poisoning 33.3%, hanging 29.6%, burns 17.6%, drowning 11%, others 8.5%). In 2012, there were 1475 cases for autopsy of which 771 were DSH (poisoning 24.4%, hanging 33.3%, burns 16.9%, drowning 15.6%, others 8.8%). In 2013, total number of cases were 1535 and DSH were 837 (poisoning 21.5%, hanging 34.6%, burns 20.8%, drowning 14.6%, others 8.5%). In 2014 total cases were 1521 and DSH were 826 (poisoning 19.7%, hanging 32.6%, burns 21.7%, drowning 16.2%, others 9.8%). There is a correlation between decrease in the number of poisoning and the total number of suicides ( $r = 0.77$ ,  $p=0.05$ ), but no correlation between number of poisoning suicides and other suicides was observed.

**Conclusion:** There is a decrease in trend in suicide over the 5 years from 2010 through 2014 with a decrease in suicide due to poisoning. Though there is minimal increase in suicide due to other causes, the change is not affecting much the total number of suicide.