

# Profile of Pediatric Deaths in Bellary District

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## Abstract

Study was conducted in VIMS bellary on cases brought for autopsy. The data was collected from the postmortem report of the body brought for autopsy. The study done on 607 pediatric deaths in retrospective manner. In this study it was found out that male mortality was higher in comparison to females. The vulnerable or susceptible age group among the studied sample was 12 to 18 years. Road traffic accident was found to be one of the major killers

**Key words.** Paediatric death, Autopsy, Road traffic accidents

## Introduction

To improve maternal and child health it is important to find the cause of death and the quality of health services in that particular area. Infant and child mortality being a major concern in our country government is trying its best to take adequate measures. Initial 18 years of life is considered as childhood<sup>1</sup>. The measures can only be effective if it is supported by adequate statistical data. To improve child health and get reforms in the health care sector proper static is required to know the scenario existing in the health system. Understanding of various causes of death in this age group will help in implementing various preventive methods and its effectiveness<sup>2</sup>. The present study was a retrospective study numbered 607 which was studied and classified under various categories.

## Materials and Method

In the present study the information was collected from the postmortem reports of the autopsy done in the VIMS bellary mortuary. The study is a retrospective

study and the data collected was processed and analyzed. In this study 607 pediatric death cases were studied and various parameters were collected and analyzed.

## Results

In the present study most of the victims were male in comparison to females. Male preponderance was found to be more in this study (Table 1). The age wise distribution of deaths showed that maximum deaths were seen in the age group of 12-18 years and minimum was less than 1 year (Table 2). Road traffic accident was found to be one of the main cause of death followed by poisoning (Table 3).

**Table no. 1. YEAR WISE**

Year	Male	Female
2013	42	32
2014	66	26
2015	80	48
2016	78	50
2017	99	86

Sex distribution was 365 males and 242 were females. Mortality among males were slightly higher than females. The above table also depicts the year wise

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mortality among gender which also shows that death among males are higher

**TABLE NO 2. AGE WISE DISTRIBUTION.**

YEARS	MALE	FEMALE
INFANT < 1 YR	4	1
TODDLER 1-3 YRS	46	51
PRE SCHOOL 3-6 YRS	55	49
SCHOOL 6- 12 YRS	60	58
ADOLESCENT 12-18 YRS	200	83

Profiling of age wise distribution showed that death was highest in the age group of 12Yrs to 18Yrs. Death numbers in the age group of 3Yrs to 6Yrs and 6 to 12Yrs was almost similar. In this study least death was in the age less than 1 years

**TABLE NO. 3. MODE OF DEATH.**

MODE	MALE	FEMALE
RTA	176	90
POISONING	62	52
BURNS	47	40
DROWNING	50	48
FALL	30	12

Maximum number of people in both sex died due to road traffic accident. Road traffic accident was found to be one of the major killer.

**TABLE NO. 4. SEASONAL VARIATION.**

SEASON	MALE	FEMALE
SUMMER	165	95
RAINY	140	69
WINTER	60	78

Deaths were more during summer season than other seasons.

**TABLE NO. 5. MANNER OF DEATH.**

MANNER	MALE	FEMALE
SUICIDAL	93	63
ACCIDENTAL	288	163
HOMICIDAL	00	00

Accidental deaths were more common than other manner of death. Suicidal and accidental deaths were predominant in males in comparison to females

### **Discussion**

In this study mortality was more in the age group of 12 to 18 years. The most common mode of death being road traffic accident. This study gives an insight into the particular sex being more vulnerable and the problem of road traffic accident affecting the younger age groups. The male population being more vulnerable might be due to aggressive nature and risk taking behavior among male population. In this study it was found out that 12 to 18 years age group was most vulnerable<sup>1</sup>. In the study conducted in Virginia state similar findings were seen<sup>3</sup>. Males were more in number compared to females because of the risky activities and aggressive nature they are prone to causalities and similar findings were observed by Cekin et al.<sup>4</sup> and Vali et al.<sup>5</sup> Death due to drowning is due to activities of children's in water bodies like swimming, bathing and other recreation activities which was also found in study by Ahmed et al<sup>6</sup>

### **Conclusion**

This study gave an insight into the pattern of death in pediatric population. The study showed that male are affected more and most vulnerable age group is between 12 to 18 yrs. This study also brought into notice the road traffic accident affecting younger population. The study results bring into focus the various problems and dangers

affecting younger population which can further guide us in taking some preventive strategies in preventing mortality.

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**Conflict of Interest**-None

**Ethical Clearance**- Taken from VIMS, Bellary

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