A STUDY OF DEATHS DUE TO RAILWAY ACCIDENTS
AUTOPSIED IN GOVERNMENT KILPAUK MEDICAL
COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, CHENNAI

ABSTRACT

AIM OF THE STUDY:

○ The present study was taken to study the pattern of injuries in railway accident cases and to arrive to a reasonable conclusion on their contribution to the deaths.

○ To analyze the possibility of differentiating the manner of death specifically bound to the pattern and type of injuries.

○ To suggest preventive measure that can be adopted to prevent railway accidents.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Study group : All cases of railway accidents brought for Autopsy in Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital, Chennai.

Study design : Descriptive study

Place of study : Government Kilpauk Medical College & hospital, Chennai-10.

Duration of study : 17 months

(August 2015 – December 2016)
OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

The study of autopsies from 01-08-2015 to 31-12-2016, indicated out of 2845 cases 160 cases (5.62%) were brought by railway police. Total number of male patients are 129 with 80.6%. For every female case there were on an average 4 male cases, showing that males are more prone to Railway Accidents than females. The maximum incidence of cases were seen in third decade of life (26.2%) followed by fifth & fourth decades. On analysing the educational qualification of cases of railway fatalities, majority were middle school level which contributed to 26.9% of the total percentage, followed by cases with primary school level with a percentage of 16.2% of the total. 6.9% cases were illiterate. In this study, 48.75% with 78 cases were from the low socio economic status which contributed to the majority of cases, followed by upper lower class which contributed to 31.9% of the total number of cases. Most of my cases were Hindus (86.9%) with a total of 139 cases.

The railway fatalities were more of accidental (89.4%) in nature with 143 cases, less frequently suicidal and very rarely homicidal. Accidents were more during the morning hours (5am to 12pm) with 87 cases (54.4%) when people rush to their workplaces, schools, colleges etc. Railway fatalities were more during the rainy season (51.9%) with 83 cases followed by summer season. August (20%) was the month with
more number of mortality accounting 32 cases. The accidental deaths by railway injuries occurred mostly while crossing the track with 132 cases (82.5%). From my study it is evident that most of the deceased are coolie (54.4%) forming 87 cases out of total 160 cases. From the analytical study of the Railway Fatality injuries it was revealed that fractures in 140 cases (87.5%) were most commonly seen. Internal organs commonly involved are spinal cord followed by brain, intestines, lungs, liver etc. It is also found that injuries to the upper half of the body are more common when compared to that of lower half of the body. Most of the cases were found outside the railway track (42.5%). All cases were spot dead (100%) and the most common cause of death is due to multiple injuries accounting for 133 cases (83.1%), which clearly shows the severity of railway injuries.

**KEY WORDS:**

Railway accidents, age and sex distribution, manner of death, cause of death.