

CRIMINOLOGICAL STUDY ON SERIAL KILLERS; AN ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY

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ABSTRACT

Through this article, we can get ample information about serial killers, their behavior, and their history thereof. This article is all about serial killers who are psychopathological profile and commits crimes on a regular basis. A serial killer's method can include sexual abuse, torture, humiliation, and dominance. They occasionally leave their signature on the victim's corpse or the site of the crime. Serial killers carry out a string of homicides with a set amount of time passing between each one. The article contains a study on serial killers under the umbrella of criminology. Origin, history, and behavior of serial killers. And covers multiple cases decided in India and Obiter Dicta of the honorable judges on the issue and their way of treatment to such crimes.

Keywords: Serial Killer, Serial Murderer, Serial Murder, Serial Killing, Psychopath, Antisocial Personality; Serial Killers in India.

INTRODUCTION

True crime stories are a witching and lurid source of conspiracy for numerous people. Serial killers serve as some of the crucial numbers in these tales of mortal atrocity and wrong. It can be problematic to gauge what drives a person to kill on a habitual base.

Since the early 1600s, murder has been recognized as a crime in our society. Since the 1970s, West has made a significant investment in his studies on serial murders. Serial killers have been documented all throughout the world since ancient times, therefore the phenomena are not new. Serial murder is comparatively uncommon, accounting for less than one percent of all reported killings annually. Although the topic has its limits, there is a thrilling fascination with it that has given rise to a glut of writing, movies, and articles. One of the earliest examples was "Jack the Ripper," who was responsible for a string of unsolved killings of prostitutes in London's Whitechapel suburb in the late 1880s. An unidentified person using the moniker "Jack the Ripper" committed these killings and claimed responsibility in letters to the police. The

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majority of us are familiar with Ted Bundy, but few of us are aware of what he actually did to his victims. His victims were viciously beaten, stabbed, strangled, and raped. He nearly died but refused to confess to any murders. He confessed to 36 killings just before his death. Many people think that his actual death toll is substantially higher. Bundy was well renowned for having a highly attractive appearance, which helped him get away with most of what he did.¹

Serial killings are a frequent occurrence in India, but the majority of the literature on serial killers there is fictitious and only loosely based on actual events. From the example of 'Thug Behram', who is thought to have killed over 900 people in the eighteenth century, to the case of 'Chandrakant Jha', a migrant worker from Bihar who is accused of killing a number of 18 migrant workers in Delhi?

DEFINITION & MEANING OF SERIAL KILLER

A person who suffers from a personality disorder is typically known for their propensity to engage in violent and sociopathic behavior. A serial murderer is someone who, as a result of sorrow or betrayal, develops psychotic tendencies and believes that society is bad and that he should exact revenge. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's definition of a serial murderer requires that a person meet a few requirements. To demonstrate that several victims were not killed in a single rage, the suspect must have killed a minimum of three people but not all at once and each murder must have been committed under circumstances that show the perpetrator had a feeling of dominance over the victims. Additionally, in order for the killer to feel superior to the sufferers, the victims must be in some sense susceptible to the killer.²

A person with a personality disorder is typically known for their propensity to engage in aggressive and antisocial behavior. A serial killer is said to be a person who either by suffering or betrayal turns into a psycho-evil who thinks society is a villain and he has to take vengeance. A serial killer doesn't have any particular target people to kill but in some cases has a sure sort of filtration of his targets.

Who is a serial killer and how they become one: - The majority of experts concur that a serial murderer is someone who has intermittently committed a number of murders on several occasions, each with a pause in between.

¹ "Serial Murder" (FBI May 21, 2010) <<https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/serial-murder>>

² "Serial Murder" (FBI May 21, 2010) <<https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/serial-murder>>

Jack Levin, an expert in the study of murder, prejudice, and hatred mentioned that Researches reveal that many serial killers underwent abuse, incest, or neglect as children and develop terrible self-images. Serial killers frequently had a childhood devoid of any caring relationships. People usually came from families where the parents were unavailable or inefficient, there was no explanation of authority, and they were free to participate in harmful behavior without being stopped. Violence in play, animal cruelty, and arson incidents are just a few of the childhood behavior patterns observed in many serial killers.

EARLY SIGNS OF SERIAL KILLERS

Even though forecasting who might become a psychopath is not a precise science, there are several indications that can sometimes help to identify people who would have the greatest potential to commit murder on a large scale. These traits usually predict the violent behavior that killers engage in later in life, even though they are unrelated to serial activity. Extreme antisocial behavior is not a guarantee that someone has a disorder, but it is one potential sign. According to the 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fourth Edition (DSM IV)', an antisocial personality disorder is characterized by a lack of regret or guilt. Other indications that someone has an antisocial condition include lying tendencies, violent behavior, disobedience to social rules, and irresponsibility.³

Another clear indicator of probable serial killing behavior is the intentional murdering or harming of animals. They may harass, abuse, or even kill cats, dogs, and other animals. Even after becoming aware of the repercussions of their actions, the person will not exhibit any signs of remorse or sadness. Young animals are the most straightforward to fully dominate for serial killers who normally desire to take over the lives of their victims. Any child who exhibits this behavior faces an extremely high risk of growing up to be a serial killer.

MOTIVES OF A SERIAL KILLER

- Sexual Motivation;
- Psychological Pleasure;
- Thrill-Seeking;
- Anger;
- Monetary Gain;

³ "Early Signs of Serial Killers" (*Crime Museum* August 18, 2021)
<<https://www.crimemuseum.org/crimelibrary/serial-killers/early-signs>>

- Attention-Seeking.

TYPES OF SERIAL KILLERS

Four different sorts of serial killers have been discovered by Dr. Ronald Holmes and are mentioned in his book "The World of Serial Killers." The term "Visionary serial killer" is used to describe the first category. Voices of Visions lead the visionary serial killer to kill. The term "Mission serial killer" is used to describe the second kind of serial killer. The mission serial killer wants to purge the neighborhood of unpleasant people. A "Hedonistic serial killer" is the third classification of killer. Hedonistic serial killers are driven by lust, thrill, and comfort. "Power/control serial killers" is the last category for serial killers. Power/control serial killer kills because they want to be in control and have authority over others.⁴ Serial murderers are classified into three types by the FBI depending on how they commit their murders. Identifying which category, a serial killer falls in might help investigators better understand their actions and determine how to bring them to justice.⁵

THE MEDICAL KILLER

Even though this kind of murder is extremely uncommon, some people have used the medical field to carry out their evil actions. Killers of this type think they are safe because death frequently occurs in healthcare institutions. They are often incredibly intelligent individuals with a talent for artfully and methodically concealing their acts. If it appears as if the victim died naturally, no one will seek the guilty party or suspect foul play. Several health professionals in past have indeed been able to slaughter a large number of people before others figure it out.

THE ORGANIZED KILLER

This kind of serial murderer is the trickiest to track down and catch. They are generally smart and careful in their preparation. Every aspect of the murder is skilfully planned, as well as the killer makes every effort to leave no trace of their actions. After monitoring possible victims for many days, this sort of madman usually chooses a person as a target. Once the target has been selected, the killer will abduct them, usually using trickery to gain their sympathy, and take them to another place where he kills them. As once a person is dead, the killer usually takes precautions to ensure that the corpse is not recovered till the perfect moment. This type

⁴ Dr Ronald Holmes, "The World of Serial Killers" 2000

⁵ "Serial Murder" (FBI May 21, 2010) <<https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/serial-murder>>

of offender often takes great pleasure in their "work" and regularly follows news headlines about their deeds. One of their motivations may be to frustrate the police seeking to resolve their offense.⁶

THE DISORGANIZED KILLER

Rarely do these people make any preparations for their victims' deaths. The majority of the time, the victims are at the wrong spot at the wrong moment. When a chance presents itself, this style of serial killer seems to strike at random. They make no attempt to conceal traces of their activities, and they regularly move around to escape being captured. The majority of disorganized killers are exceedingly antisocial and have low IQs. They typically don't have family or close friends, and they don't stay put for very long. These murderers frequently admit to not remembering what they did or that they were driven by demons, voices in their heads, or other fictitious sources.

SERIAL KILLER'S VICTIM SELECTION

Nobody can foretell how a serial killer will choose a certain individual as a victim. Serial killers frequently give a variety of responses when asked why they commit their killings. The most widely accepted hypothesis says that the killer wishes to have complete dominance over the victims. They see murder as the pinnacle of human power and feed off the horror that their victims exhibit. The majority of experts concluded that serial killers fantasize about their victims. This individual would be viewed as their "ideal victim" depending on qualities such as race, gender, physical features, or any other element. Because it is rare for them to find victims who exactly match these requirements, the killers generally search for persons who share similar attributes. As a result, serial killings *Prima facie* look completely random; nonetheless, every deceased may have had a characteristic that the killer recognizes instantly.

It's widely acknowledged that most serial murderers have a strong desire to murder others. They are, however, known as extremely caring individuals who will not choose a target unless they believe they have a very good possibility of success. These elements make it significantly more challenging to identify trends in a string of killings and identify the preparator.

⁶ "Types of Serial Killers" (*Crime Museum*, August 18, 2021) <<https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/serial-killers/types-of-serial-killers/>>

SERIAL KILLERS IN INDIA

THE RUTHLESS SERIAL KILLER THUG BEHRAM

The first person who comes to mind when you hear the term "serial killer" is usually someone like Ted Bundy or Jack the Ripper. But in fact, one of the most heinous serial killers in the world was based in India. 'Thug Behram' was successful in killing nearly 900 people between 1790 and 1841, under the era of the East India Company. His preferred tool was a piece of yellow linen.⁷

RAMAN RAGHAV A.K.A. Jack the Ripper of India:

Raman Raghav, otherwise called Thambi, Anna, Veluswami, or Sindhi Talwai, was a Khstra (formerly Patra) native who committed murders on a large scale in the middle of the 1960s. In the 1960s, Raghav went on a killing rampage that lasted more than three years and terrorized the entire city. At dusk, parks and streets became deserted, and in many neighborhoods, anxious locals patrolled the streets armed with sticks. Beggars and homeless guys have frequently been violently attacked by people in panic. Some people mention Raghav as a scavenger and a hunter. He had to murder, so he did. He never had enough money. In such a position, any other person would have committed petty theft or burglary. But Raghav was filled with a lot of evil impulses. Just like Shakespeare as written in King Lear, 'We are to the gods what flies are to wanton youths. They murder us for fun.'⁸

CYANIDE MALLIKA

The first female Indian serial killer to be found guilty is KD Kempamma (Cyanide Mallika). Mallika, who was found guilty of six charges of murder and is currently serving a life sentence, is regarded as the first female serial killer. She would approach women in temples under the guise of someone knowledgeable about rituals, become friends with them, and then summon them to a different time in a remote area. The victims would be expected to arrive dressed to the nines. Then Mallika would order them to eat prasad or drink holy water laced with cyanide. Then she would flee with their possessions.

7 Amirdha Varshini "Serial Killers in India" (Legal Service India - Law, Lawyers and Legal Resources) <<https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-3248-serial-killers-in-india.html>>

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HOW COURTS OF LAW TREAT SERIAL KILLERS IN INDIA: -

In **Surendra Koli v. State of U.P. 2011 4 SCC 80** the accused was a serial killer who preyed on young girls by luring them into homes, strangling them, having sex with their bodies, dismembering them, and eating their body parts. This Court affirmed the death penalty because it determined that no mercy could be shown for his terrible and brutal acts.⁹ Supreme Court stated “This case in our opinion falls within the category of the “Rarest of Rare” cases as set down in ‘Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab 1980 2 SCC 684’¹⁰, which has been later followed by ‘Atbir v. Govt. of NCT of Delhi 2010 9 SCC 1.14’¹¹”. Surendra Koli, the appellant, committed terrible and brutal killings. When he carried out these killings, he followed up a particular methodology and hence was awarded the death penalty which was confirmed by the High Court.

OBSERVATION

Killing a human being is always wrongdoing morally and legally. Those who enjoy killing people are mentally disturbed personalities. Homicide was always there in society since ancient times, and as time changed some intellectuals studied the behavior of criminals and many research reports have been published. These reports have explained great information regarding serial killers’ nature and their victim selection. FBI a crime investigation department has also published articles differentiating serial killers into multiple categories. It is found through research that serial killers enjoy killing. They select victims with a trigger in mind, their victims carry similar characteristics. Study on serial killers is part of criminology as it studies their behavior, method of killing, links, and similarities in their wrongdoings. Serial killers rise from society itself; it is found in many types of research that serial killers; in their childhood; go through many critical and haunting incidents that change their behavior and develop the traits of becoming serial killers. Serial killers don’t regret their heinous acts, they find it as the revenge of miss happenings that happened to them and it makes them more dangerous. But crimes cannot be hidden and appreciated the criminals get the result of their wrongdoing from the judicial authorities. In India, it was observed that courts of law in India treat serial killers as the most heinous and dangerous killers and punishes them accordingly; putting them in the rarest of rare case.

9 Surendra Koli v. State of U.P. 2011 4 SCC 80

10 Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab 1980 2 SCC 684

11 Atbir v. Govt. of NCT of Delhi 2010 9 SCC 1.14