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## OVERVIEW OF SERIAL KILLINGS IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

According to the oxford dictionary serial killings are "one of a series of murders, typically having similar characteristics that are committed by the same person". The term 'serial killings' means a series of three or more killings, not less than one of which was committed within the United States, having common characteristics such as to suggest the reasonable possibility that the crimes were committed by the same actor or actors<sup>38</sup> This article tries put forth the analysis on the psychology of serial killers ad tries to get a broad view of overview of serial killings in india.

### WHO IS A SERIAL KILLER ?

Depending on his or her past and experiences, every serial murderer may have a different motivation for killing several people. The term "serial killers" lacks a common definition. The most uncommon type of homicide is serial killing. When a person kills more than two or three previously living persons, it happens. He or she has no idea. Every murder is followed by a cooling-off period. A person who murders three or more people without a good motive is considered a serial killer, to put it simply. Experts in law enforcement and academia have agreed on the definition described above, which offers a helpful framework for comparison.<sup>39</sup>

### IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SERIAL KILLINGS AND MASS MURDERS ?

Serial killing is different from mass murder. Serial killing is when a person kills more than

two persons in a different period of time where mass murder means killing a bunch of people in the same place and time. They call these murders as serial killing because there is a series of murders involved. Serial killers could be anyone like our father, mother, friend, husband or other closed people. Even if we may have seen some differences in their behaviour in some instances, we might not have known they were killing a lot of people. There may be a day, a month, or even a year between one murder and the next. In the eyes of most people, a serial murderer is portrayed as an evil creature with an odd look, yet in reality, they are regular people with ordinary appearances. But we as a society are unable to understand why they engage in these actions.<sup>40</sup>

In a study just released by National Crime Records Bureau, BHOPAL learns that in 2021, Madhya Pradesh had the greatest number of psychopaths & serial murdering cases in the country (NCRB). The NCRB found that compared to the year 2020, violent crime in the state increased by 11.8%. In 2021, there were 26,038 violent crimes reported in the state, up from 23,287 in the previous year.<sup>41</sup>

### PATTERNS OF SERIAL KILLINGS

1. In search of excitement and murder for its own sake
2. Those who are mission-driven rationalize their killing of innocents as a service to society.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/serial-murder#:~:text=The%20term%20'serial%20killings%20means,the%20same%20actor%20or%20actors.>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/serial-murder>

<sup>40</sup> <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/mass-murder-and-serial-murder/9783838212241#:~:text=While%20%E2%80%9C%20Mass%20murder%20%E2%80%9D%20refers%20to,significant%20anxiety%20in%20the%20publi>

<sup>41</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ncrb-mp-tops-states-in-serial-killings-violent-crimes-up-12/articleshow/93960172.cms>



3. Visionaries are certain they have received a divinen in search of excitement and murder for its own sake Command to kill certain individuals.
4. Those who want to dominate others and exert authority over them.<sup>42</sup>

### **HOW DOES A MAN TRANSFORM INTO A SERIAL KILLER ?**

A study has found that every serial killer has common emotional development issues and an above average intelligence. Several societal, cultural, and economic factors have been related to serial murder. A dysfunctional upbringing is one of the key causes of this behaviour. Children who grow up in homes that legitimise aggression and violence are more likely to develop these attitudes and actions. Children who experience violence are more prone to act violently and criminally as adults or children themselves.

There are many parallels between psychology and criminology. A study found that people with mental illnesses commit more crimes. Criminal activity is linked to schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and schizoaffective disorder. Youth with trauma commit more crimes. Many serial killers commit murder to satiate their lust.

Criminal behaviour has biological components that are related to psychophysiology, the brain, and genetics. Disorders and physiological signals are studied in psychophysiology. Skin conductance or heart rate are examples of psychophysiological markers (i.e., sweat rate). Electrochemical impulses are carried by neurotransmitters. Neglect, assault, and abuse throughout childhood can permanently depress serotonin levels, which can result in criminal behaviour. Crime may result from excessive rage brought on by elevated testosterone levels.

1. **Child in womb:** According to medical professionals, an unborn kid can hear everything their mother hears and only

has a limited range of emotional experiences. The child will also experience the same if a mom is really stressed, depressed, or experiencing any other emotion. It may impair the child's development not just while in the womb but also after birth, which could result in a variety of mental illnesses

2. **Infancy:** Every human being deserves more love and care right now. Our fundamental emotions emerge within the first twelve months of our lives. In order to avoid future issues, the youngster should receive more affection and physical contact. We can see that the majority of serial killers are adopted or abandoned children when we compare these beliefs to our everyday experience.
3. **Childhood ;** The majority of serial killers reported being bullied and feeling lonely as children. According to reports, they frequently struggled with dyslexia, which affected their ability to focus on their studies. They have also been bullied and disregarded by their peers as a result of their excessive weight, height, etc. Moreover, some serial killers have a history of sexual assault and harassment, which contributes to their mental illness.
4. **Fantasy ;** While most people have their own fantasies and are aware of reality, serial killers frequently live in their own fantasies. Their fantasies create the feelings in them. Their imagination is in charge of them. They simply act according to what their fantasies command them to do.
5. **Sadist:** Very few people become dependent on hearing the suffering, cries for help, etc. Their feelings are conflicted. They are eager to see blood. There are serial killers who make it a routine to have sex with the victim's

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/serial-murder#:~:text=Four%20types%20of%20serial%20murderers,'power%2Fcontrol%2Do.>



dead body after they've slain them. This is the height of sadism.

- 6. Lust:** These killers' primary motivation is to fulfil their sexual desires. Serial killers who commit murders out of lust desire complete domination over their victims. Hence, they kill their victim to guarantee that they have power over them.<sup>43</sup>

### **INDIAN LAWS AND SERIAL KILLINGS**

Serial homicides are penalised by the Indian Criminal Code Sections 304 and 302. Serial murder is not prohibited in India. Culpable homicide is defined by Section 299 of the Indian Criminal Code as causing death by carrying out an act with the intent to kill, causing physical harm that is likely to kill, or knowing it would kill. Under Section 304, culpable homicide in India carries a life sentence or a 10-year penalty. According to Section 300 of the Indian Criminal Code, murder constitutes intentional homicide.

- If the aggressor aims to kill the victim through physical means,
- If anything is committed to harm another person, and the harm done is severe enough to induce death in a natural setting, it is murder.
- When an individual acts in a way that they know will almost certainly result in the death of another individual or in extremely serious bodily harm that is likely to result in death, they do so without reasonable justification.
- A person convicted of murder in India is subject to the death penalty, life in prison, and a fine under section 302 of the country's penal code.<sup>44</sup>

No act undertaken by a person who, at the time of the act, is unable to comprehend the act's nature or to realise that the act is wrong or against the law shall be regarded as unlawful.

An offender can only be found guilty of an offence under section 84 of the Indian Criminal Code if he has the required men's rea at the time of the offence. On the other hand, the offender would not be held accountable if he was mentally ill at the time of the crime because he would not have understood what he did was illegal. Raman Raghav, often known as "Jack the Ripper of India," was prosecuted and convicted in Bombay of killing over 40 people.

According to Section 84 of the Indian Criminal Code, a crime must have been committed by a person of unsound mind who was incapable of understanding the wrongness of his deeds. Nonetheless, one must make a distinction between legal and medical insanity because the court only takes the former into account. Legally insane people are those who are unable of understanding their actions are against the law. When claiming insanity as a defence, the accused must demonstrate that he was unable to employ reason or recognise that what he was doing was wrong at the time of the crime or an act similar to it.

The majority of convictions occur under section 302 of the Indian Criminal Code, as there is no statute in India against repeated murder. Insanity is not a crime under Section 84 of the Indian Criminal Code, hence criminals may claim it as a defence. Several Indians with chronic mental illnesses have committed crimes that are covered by section 84 of Indian law and are therefore treated the same as other offenders. The ideal solution is to rehabilitate mentally ill serial killers. Address their disease, not their transgression. Nevertheless, these individuals lack the necessary institutions and laws.<sup>45</sup>

### **THERE ARE OTHER CASES OF SERIAL KILLINGS IN INDIA CAME FORWARD**

1. The affluent businessman Moninder Singh Pandher's home, which is close to the Indian village of Nithari, was the

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-9017-serial-killings-in-india-an-insight-into-the-psyche-of-the-killers-and-impartation-of-justice.html>  
<sup>44</sup> <https://www.tutorialspoint.com/serial-killings-in-india>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.tutorialspoint.com/serial-killings-in-india>



scene of the Nithari serial killings, which occurred between 2005 and 2006. Surinder Koli, Moninder's domestic assistant, assisted him in his horrible actions as well. A neighbourhood parent discovered a rotting arm in the tank's outflow, which led to their capture. Police discovered the bones of other children in an adjacent plot of property after Moninder's confession.

2. Chandrakant Jha murdered 18 people between 1998 and 2007 over a nine-year period. He was also included in the Netflix documentary "The Predator." He used to make friends with people who were jobless, assist them in getting part-time work, and even let them stay in his home. When Jha lost his fury and began arguing with them over unimportant issues, the victims ultimately died. He used to murder people and dump their bodies outside Tihar, an Indian prison, with a letter stating that he intended to challenge the police on the corpse.
3. M. Jaishankar, often known as Psycho Shankar, was a psycho killer who raped 30 women and murdered 19 others over the course of three years. He used to keep a dagger in his backpack that he would use to slay any ladies who refused to engage in the forced physical contact he insisted upon. Typically, Jaishankar kidnapped sex workers, raped them, and then killed them. A month after the body of a police policeman who had been raped and killed was discovered, he was first detained. M. Jaishankar killed himself after failing to break out of prison.
4. KD Kempamma, also known as Cyanide Mallika, was a convicted serial murderer who killed six women between 1999 and 2007 over the course of eight years. The murder was committed in order to steal women's jewels. With great difficulty, Mallika made friends with the women

who visited the temple and instructed them to don good clothes and carry all the necessary jewellery so they could complete the ceremonies. As the ladies arrive sporting jewels and good clothing, Mallika gives them cyanide tablets and holy water before robbing them of their jewellery.<sup>46</sup>

### CONCLUSION

India has had a lot of serial killings. Serial killers sometimes suffer from paranoid schizophrenia, severe depression, or other serious mental illnesses. Numerous criminals lack awareness of the gravity of their actions, making it essential to develop particular legal provisions for them in India to address their mental health issues prior to conviction. The majority of serial murderer cases are known to be committed by psychopaths, and their behaviour cannot be contrasted to that of "normal" persons who comprehend them. Serial killers with paranoid schizophrenia, like Raman Raghav, are unaware that their actions are wrong.

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