CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND MOTIVIES OF HOMICIDES

The study on homicide offence in Gulbarga district is explorative in nature. It explores the socio-economic and political conditions, nature and pattern of crime, causes and consequences on individual, children, family and society, particulars of family orientations and procreation.

The study is mainly based on a number of secondary source of data, which have been consulted for present research work concern data which are drawn from all criminal homicide files in the Gulbarga district superintendent of police official (District Crime Record Bureau) and district criminal court Gulbarga and central prison Gulbarga.

Records examined included the court docket books, individual case files, present reports, police reports of offenders statements regarding the offence and case transcripts in addition to new paper files were examined where race sex, or relationship between victims and offenders were not clear from the official documents.

A total number of 500 cases filed as criminal homicide were initially reviewed and of these a total of 85% were responsible to social background, 9.8% represent to economic background and hardly 1.6% to politically, motivated and the aspects examined were gender, male, female, weapons used, such as knife, axes, others and relationships between victims and offenders such as relative known person or stranger.
The front view of District and Session court, Gulbarga

Researcher with collecting information by chief Administrator, Mr. M. R. Deshpande District and Session court. Gulbarga
3.1.1. SELECTION OF SAMPLE

Gulbarga district encompasses ten talukas which are localized in north Karnataka, a mostly rural to semi-rural region with high population density and small towns, and average of 257,236 people inhabited in each taluka between 1990-2000, 775 deaths were classified as homicide which were examined at the district superintendent of police office Gulbarga. Offender and victim data were collected from the Superintendent of police office, numerous public record sources, death investigators report, police report, news paper, court transcripts, supplementary police record, using of this information narratives were created for each of the homicide to allow for classification of motions independent of victim offender relations.

Of 775 classical homicides in districts between 1990-2000 a number of cases had to be eliminated for want of relevant samples of intentional and non-accidental homicide cases. Other cases were dropped due to the following reasons: being accidental in nature, lack of suspicion, indeterminate motive, being justifiable homicides and insufficient or missing data.

The final sample included 500 homicide cases, which were randomly taken at the rate of 50 cases every year during 1990-2000.

3.1.2 DATA COLLECTION

A structured interview schedule was constructed to collect data from homicide cases. It consists of personal profile, particulars of family of procreation, education, parental treatment, residential description, childhood criminal behavior, employment details of the respondent, enquiry for homicides
Researcher collecting data from court

The front view of superintendent of Police office, Gulbarga
and non-homicides particulars of adult crime record, causes, consequences on individual, children, family and society with the suggestions by the respondents to improve prison life and future plan after release.

3.1.3 TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION

The following two techniques were used for data collection. They are Personal observation and Interview of the homicide offender, and by observation methods various informations were collected while they were in prison. During the course of the interview close observation was possible to gather information regarding behavior of the homicide lifers, their inter-personal relationships with the staff and inmates etc.

Secondary sources of informations were by information recorded by using questionnaires prepared with the help of official reports. These contain gender, caste, religion, age, place, time, day, motive, modus operandi and weapons used. This kind of questionnaires technique was very helpful to establish a rapport with them which made the purpose much easier.

3.1.4. DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis the homicide rate of Gulbarga district in Karnataka was chosen because of the increasing homicide rate within the society which is analyzed with the help of socio-economic and political indicators. The analysis is done at three different points of times between 1990-2000. A picture of homicide rate is prepared for the sub divisions and talukas separately to have a clear picture of the spreading of homicidal criminality within the districts. The increase in homicide during the period of 1990-2000 is further analyzed
Researcher collecting data from (D.C.R.B) SP office Gulbarga

The Front View of Central prison Gulbarga
in detail with the help of 12 indicators. Statistical tools are used to draw the conclusion.

3.1.5. DURATION OF THE STUDY

The study cover the period of one decade i.e. from 1990-2000. Soon after the reorganisation of the state would have produced clear and comprehensive picture of the spreading of homicide in the district. Data were personally collected by using of questionnaires schedule, personal observations, discussions with prison inmates police officials (DCRB) and records from district criminal court Gulbarga.

3.1.6. LIMITATIONS

This study attempted to find out the socio-economic and political backgrounds of homicide offenders which have occurred in Gulbarga district during last decade. Only homicide offenders are considered in the present study with purely socio-economic and political approaches to understand the condition of the homicide offenders in criminological perspective. There are several limitations in this study to be considered. First, a large number of the homicides identified in the district for the period of studied had to be eliminated from the sample for diverse reasons as explained in the methods. One factor possibly showing the results pertains to the requirement that the identity of the offender be known, when the victim/offender relationship is secondary in nature. Particularly if the victim and offender are strangers to each other, finding of offender identity may prove difficult. Therefore, secondary relationship homicides may have been under-represented. However,
Researcher discussing with Baptist John Mortin
Superintendent of Central prison, Gulbarga

Researcher discussing with Dr, Mallikarjun Chief Jailer
central prison Gulbarga
this might be counterbalanced by under-representation of primary relationship homicide cases where the true offender is not considered a suspect. At times, getting offender’s identity may be delayed until long after a homicide investigation begins if the victim and offender had a close personal relationship and the conclusion is initially drawn by investigating officers that intimates, relatives, or friends are not at fault. Moreover, the categorization of human relationships is challenging due to the wide spectrum of people’s social interactions and emotional attachments. It attempted to minimize these potentially confounding influences by eliminating all cases for which relationship status could not be clearly defined. It was felt that a smaller but more homogenous and defined sample would provide the most meaningful results given the aims undertaken. Harris KN 1990, noted that the misclassification of homicides has historically limited our ability to undertake comprehensive, meaningful analyses.

Second, the methodology of this study did not allow for inter views of the offenders themselves in order to gain an understanding from their perspective of what motivated them and how they chose the weapons they used. Therefore official records might be the only reliable method for obtaining information concerning the homicide criminality. The collection of such data in future related studies would be a rich source of information.

Third, reliable information on the mental health, or lack of it, in the perpetrators of these homicides was less available. This would also have been interesting data to consider when looking at such variables as victim-offender relationship, motivation to kill, weapon choice, etc.
Lastly whether the lack of close personal relationship in the case of acquaintances justifies their inclusion in the secondary relationship category is debatable and merits further consideration. Studies with larger sample sizes could control for this uncertainty by analyzing intimates, relatives, friends, acquaintances and strangers separately.

For proper study of homicides, much patience and efforts are required on the part of the person who wishes to study the problem police records, court records and various related study of documents in a detected way is necessary.

3.2. MOTIVES OF HOMICIDE

While a motive is not an essential ingredient of the crime of murder, nevertheless the question of motive or lack of it is always one for the serious consideration of a jury in determining the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Proof of motive is never indispensable to a conviction for murder. Where testimony is presented which satisfies a jury that the accused did commit the crime although no motive has been proved, they may find him guilty, but the question of motive is always considered by a jury in their deliberations.

When the guilt or innocence of the accused depends upon circumstantial evidence, then the proof of motive becomes not only a material factor but also a controlling one in the decision of the jury.

Proof of motive is presented not for the purpose of explaining the reason for a murder, but rather for the aid it may render in completing the proof of the commission of the act when it might otherwise remain in doubt.
Doubts of motive are always doubts of guilt, and a reasonable doubt of guilt in the mind of a juror will result in an acquittal or a mistrial.

3.2.1. MOTIVE VS. INTENT

Motive is that which stems from within the individual, rather than from without. It is that which incites an individual to certain actions. Motive is the "why" of an act, the reason for it. Intent is the result of motive, and is the bridge between motive and action. Without intent no action would be taken.

When plans are made to do some act then an intent to do that act has been made as the result of some motivation. The intent in murder is to kill. The motive might be anything.

Motive or its absence may be of considerable importance in determining the intent of the defendant. Murderous intent may be inferred from motive clearly established, while absence of motive is more than pertinent to the question of intent where it is in issue.

In trying to arrive at some conclusion as to just what creates the criminal impulse that drives the knife home or presses on the trigger of the murder weapon, two major factors must be considered. The first factor is the circumstances surrounding the killing. These may involve a period of several years prior to the crime or they may concern only the situation at the time of the murder. Secondly, the natural tendencies of the murderer or the suspects in the case must be considered, as the characteristics of individuals are indicative of the manner in which they will react to most situations.
The investigation into the circumstances of a murder will reveal the situation which confronted the individual guilty of the killing, and a knowledge of the characteristics of each suspect will give the investigator some knowledge of how each of them would react to such a situation.

As a general rule the residents of a backward rural area are more inclined to kill, to have lower threshold to murder. However, in the past Ten years modern roads and the automobile have cut down such areas to a few mountainous or swamp regions. Today, the lowest threshold to murder seems to be in the “jungles” of large cities, those substandard areas housing minority groups.

According to several studies a person is more likely to commit murder if he is a male, of low economic status, uneducated, an alcohol user, feebleminded, or a mental case (from psychopathic personality to insanity). Age, physical condition, or marital status do not modify this threshold to murder to any great degree.

The male sex seems to have a stronger predisposition to murder than the female sex, the ratio being four to one. Their unique economic problems, and the inferiority feelings which arise from being a member of a minority group. Lack of schooling, economic factors, personality deviation, and insanity all serve to lower the threshold to murder in specific cases. However, it is alcohol more than any other factor that serves to lower a normal person’s threshold to murder.

It has been claimed that drugs like Brounsugar and cocaine have incited people to commit serious crime by their action, but it is doubtful if this is so.
It is much more likely that the personality of the individual is distorted by the effect of the drug.

3.2.2. CLASSIFICATION BY MOTIVE

The motivations for murder can be divided into seven definite groups:

1. Profit
2. Elimination
3. Revenge
4. Jealousy
5. Sadism
6. Sex

Profit

There's a curious lack of proportion in a murderer's mind when he can justify killing to get money. The man who kills for money is not the "felony-murderer" the criminal who kills during the commission of a burglary or a robbery but one whose act is a deliberate and premeditated one.

Murders for profit range from those who will gain by an individual killing to those who must kill with some regularity in order to profit by their acts. Any person who kills a close relative in order to profit in accordance with the terms of a will or an insurance policy kills for money. A business partner who kills in order to take over the entire business also murders for money. A person who owes a large sum of money and kills in order to avoid its payment is a murderer for profit.
Killers for profit must be apprehended as rapidly as possible. If they are not discovered and arrested they'll kill again as soon as the profit from a previous killing is dissipated. It is their way of earning a living.

**Elimination**

Removal of the person who happens to be “in the way” is the determining factor in a great number of murders. In the true elimination murder the continued existence of the victim is inconvenient or dangerous to the killer.

Lovers remove a husband or wife who is in their way, a youth kills a former mistress so he may marry the girl of his dreams, and the girl of someone’s dreams may kill an unwanted child in order to smooth the path of a proposed marriage. A blackmailer may be killed as the only feasible method of denying continued demands for money. These, and the killings of professional criminals, are murders motivated by a desire to eliminate the victim.

Professional criminals do not usually kill for any other motive than elimination. Certainly, they may kill in a rage, for revenge, or out of jealousy, but they are a group with a cautious attitude toward murder. The burglar who encounters a householder during the course of his criminal acts may push, beat, and even shoot the householder. The push may have sent the victim down a flight of stairs the beating may have been severe, and the bullets may have caused serious wounds, but the burglar did not intend to kill the householder. He wanted only to get away, and the victim of his push, his fists, or his gun was “in his way.”
And those concerned with organized crime, vice, gambling, and narcotics, will also kill. Perhaps it's a stool pigeon who is to be eliminated, a business competitor, or the “boss” himself. Murder is the method of discipline among the gangs of the organized underworld. It is also a regular technique of such business.

Elimination killings which occur among gangsters and other criminals are truly difficult to unravel. A body is found and police know of several people who would profit from the elimination of the dead man, others who may have threatened to “get him,” and some who may have thought of him as a man that “has to go.”

However, in over 90 percent of these gang killings the persons who have the motive for the killing never handle the gun that fires the fatal shots, nor drive a car that may be used in the killing. They are involved in the conspiracy and are guilty of murder because they procured the “trigger men” who did the actual killing, but they have an alibi to prove they were many miles away from the scene of death at the time of the homicide.

The actual killers are generally not local boys, but are imported from some other town to do the killing. They return home as soon as the job is completed.

Gangland murders must be apprehended, not because of their number, but because of the boldness of their acts of killing and their apparent ability to avoid arrest or, when arrested to beat the rap. Many a murder has been committed by a non-criminal individual with no connection with the underworld mob just because he thought he could get away with it.
In classifying a murder many investigators tend to place the classic crime passionel under the heading of sex crimes because the murderer may have killed a husband or wife to satisfy a so called grand passion. However, when a person kills another to clear the way for a love affair, it is better to classify this as an elimination killing. When one or both of those involved in an affair kills a husband or wife that stands in the way, it is certainly a murder motivated by a desire for elimination.

These are vendetta killings. The father of a ravished young girl swears a death oath. A criminal who has been turned in by a stoolie swears that he'll get him.

Revenge is sometimes with jealousy in a double motive killing. A woman scorned or a man rejected may be motivated solely by a desire to get even when they kill the object of their desires or affection, but it is more frequently tied in with jealousy.

Jealousy

Killings having their origin in the jealousy of one person for another have a great range. It's truly amazing that ordinary jealousy can lead to so many murders. While many of the “unwritten law” (husband has the right to kill whoever is breaking up his home) killings stem from sudden rage, a great number of them are ordinary jealousy killings. Wives, without the sanction of any unwritten law, have killed their husband's girl friends. This is usually plain jealousy as most of these killings take place during what might be termed the "too late" period-nothing that the wife could do would bring her husband back to her. Certainly murder never resulted in a reconciliation.
Sadism

This is a form of sex perversion in which the perpetrator derives sexual pleasure from inflicting minor or even fatal injuries upon another. Sadists usually confine their attentions to members of the opposite sex.

Satisfaction, usually ejaculation, is derived from acts of cruelty which the sadist inflicts on his victim. It may be cutting with a knife or razor, biting, or striking with a whip or other instrument.

Most sadists do not kill. They are satisfied with the infliction of pain. However, a lust killing may occur when a sadist goes beyond what might be termed his individual norm or when sadistic acts formerly enjoyed no longer satisfy and the sadist goes on to more violent acts.

These killings are marked by cuttings of the vagina, lower abdomen, and breasts, coupled with deep biting of the face of the victim. In reconstructing the case it appeared that the killer started with the biting and then progressed to more revolting acts, culminating in the fatal injury.

In these cases the killer secures satisfaction of his lust and his urge to hurt in the cruelty of the acts preceding the killing. There is no sexual connection with his victim at the time of or just prior to the murder.

Sex

When one person kills another simultaneously with or just after a sexual act, it is classified as a sex killing. The killing must be part of the sexual gratification to so classify it. When a killer has outraged a young girl, woman,
or boy, and then kills to conceal the outrage, it is not a true sex killing but rather one motivated by the desire to eliminate someone who may identify him at a later date.

Newspapers term such a criminal a "sex maniac." When he is apprehended and tried, his attorney promptly takes advantage by pleading insanity as the defense. In support of this claim the attorney admits the killing and tries to explain it as a sex killing. However, the detective assigned to the case can overcome a defense of this type if he can show some time lapse between the sexual act and the killing. It need not be a long time. All that need be shown is that the killer paused and thought before he murdered.

If he continued in the so-called "mad frenzy" of his sexual act to the actual killing, then a plea of insanity has some worth. However, if the police and prosecutor can show that at the end of the sexual act he thought of the possibilities of being caught by the police, of being identified by his victim, that he realized such identification would mean prison or worse, and concluded that the only safe course was to kill his victim, then the police and prosecutor can overcome a plea of insanity.

When it is shown that a killer paused before a killing of this type, most juries will believe he was motivated by thoughts of his own future safety. Police must show some time for thinking to prove an elimination killing, as these killings are based on premeditation and deliberation.

So far as the element of intent is concerned, reliance may be placed on the fact that a person intends the natural and probable consequences of his
A jury will usually decide against a defendant who stabbed another in the heart with a knife, unless the act can be shown to be excusable or justifiable homicide or manslaughter, because the intent to kill (design to effect death) is presumed from the nature of the act.

However, murderous intent can only be inferred from a clearly established motive. When the possible proof of motive is clouded by rage, intoxication, homosexuality, and the various neuroses and psychoses, it is often difficult to prove motive. In some cases it is impossible.

When a killing does not readily fit into the pattern of murder, then the killer may be said to have committed a murder without apparent motive. Further investigation may reveal a motive, but it may be so clouded by anger, an alcoholic haze, a twisted personality, or mental disease, that there is even some doubt of its existence.

**RAGE KILLINGS**

Anger is a fairly common emotion. We have all been angry at some person during our lifetime. However, when reason and judgment are lost, then ordinary anger becomes rage. We know that all normal persons are capable of great rage. Rage has been called a passion that may rise to unreasonable and uncontrollable heights.

The heat of passion referred to must be provoked by the victim for the killing to be termed a rage killing. Rage may exist solely within the slayer, without any outward manifestation, and it may be provoked by words as readily as by acts, but there must be active provocation. It need not be sufficient
cause to provoke a reasonable man; it is sufficient that the person assaulted actively provoked the passion.

ALCOHOL AS A RELEASE MECHANISM

When an intoxicated person kills another the fact of intoxication does not make the act less criminal, but the jury may take into consideration the intoxication of the accused in determining the existence of a motive or a particular intent.

Alcohol releases the individual's repressions, increases his emotionality, and disturbs the intellectual functions of reasoning and judgment. It is, therefore, difficult to assign a motive to the murderer who kills while under the influence of alcohol. Motives, in such instances, are so slight as to be almost unidentifiable.

All of these alcohol killings follow the same pattern. None of the killers seemed to realize the terrific force of the blows or the tightness of the handkerchief wrapped around the victim's neck.

HOMOSEXUAL MURDERS

Many of today's homosexual or "fag" killings are closer to rage murders than any other classification.

These "fag" killings are fast becoming a problem to the police of large and fairly large cities. Of course, some of them are motivated by profit, but regardless of the original motivation they sometimes end up as rage killings. Some of them seem to go beyond mere rage and may be due to a feeling of
guilt because of the slayer's own latent homosexuality. He projects his self
condemnation to the homosexual he is attacking.

It is the so-called straight individual, the active partner in anal sodomy
and the passive partner in oral sodomy that commits most of these killings.
Once in a great while one "homo" will kill another because of jealousy, but
such killing is usually the exception rather than the rule.

The killers of homosexuals repeat their crime if un apprehended, and
oftentimes a killer will be located by the police because of the fact that he has
a previous history of preying upon or associating with homosexuals.

More recently the combination of psychology plus social work, known
as orthopsychology, is helping to educate us in the dual role of both these
sciences in the study of behavior problems. But even our latest theories should
not be too zealously accepted for we must bear in mind that behavior in
humans follows a very complex pattern. For instance, what we consider
"normal" response in a psychological, emotional, or social plane in one group
may not be normal in another group.

**Neuroses**

There is a classification of wholly emotional disorders recognized by
the medical profession as being disabling to some extent. While not recognized
legally, they exist in fact and should be explored by the homicide investigator
in relation to the determination of motive in murders. These disorders are
termed neuroses, and include anxiety states, depressions, hysteria, compulsive
drives, obsessions, irresistible impulses, and phobias. Such conditions are in
reality an exaggeration of normal behavior patterns, though they might be the preceding manifestation of a definite abnormal psychological disorder. There are numerous neurotics who are not murderously inclined, and many of them make rapid adjustments and return to normalcy. But some neurotics will kill.

These persons may be termed “moral imbeciles.” They are not unintelligent in an ordinary sense, but sometimes they are definitely lacking in good moral sense and wisdom. Many of them have a very low threshold to murder, and to a normal individual their motive for murder is so pitifully thin and faint that it does not appear to exist. However, in the minds of many neurotics their motive is clear and sharp. They know why they kill; in many cases they think that they must kill. To many of them the basic motive is so exaggerated that it might be termed compulsive.

Psychoses

The psychoses, which include all of the grave mental disorders, are divided into two groups; organic and functional. Organic psychoses are disorders known to have a definite anatomical basis, while those without an anatomical origin are termed functional psychoses.

Schizophrenia means a splitting of the personality and is characterized by an absorption in fantasy almost to the exclusion of reality. The major types are dementia simplex, catatonia, paranoia and hebephrenia.

The outstanding single characteristic of the simple schizophrenic (dementia simplex) is lack of interest, basically an attempt to escape from reality.
The catatonic type is a progression from simple schizophrenia. Gradually the individual withdraws from his environment to such an extent that he'll refuse to take food, speak, or even move in some cases. From this stupor he alternates with an excited phase during which his behavior is truly "crazy." Fantastic, movements, rapid walking and even running, shouting and frenzied and unwarranted attacks on nearby persons mark this phase. Such individuals are quite dangerous and may kill if not carefully handled during this period.

The paranoid type of schizophrenic is characterized by silly mannerisms and talk, fantastic and transitory delusions, grandiose ideas, and marked suggestibility in identifying self with celebrated personages. The emotional apathy of all schizophrenics is also present.

True paranoia is characterized by highly systematized and fixed delusions. This disorder usually starts when an individual cannot adjust to some difficult situation. The extreme mental conflict becomes so unbearable that some of the more difficult factors of the situation are avoided. This repression results in a feeling of self-condemnation which is usually projected upon others. The persecution complex is strong. There is a constant awareness of hidden meanings in everything that those about the paranoid individual say and do. This progresses to a belief that large groups, as the Democrats or the Republicans, seek to do him harm, and that even his closest friends are planning to hurt him in some manner. There may also be a development of grandiose ideas, but this individual is marked by an unbearable feeling of guilt and inferiority. The fact that this feeling is compensated for by projecting the
condemnation so that it appears to come from others is what makes this individual dangerous. When the persecutory ideas become overwhelming, dangerous antisocial reactions may take place.

Maniac-depressive psychoses are characterized by feelings of either elation and depression, or in what are termed circular cases, a feeling of both elation and depression. The outstanding symptom of the manic stage is excitement. The manic cannot be still, he must be on the move. This individual is restless and never seems to tire. The excitement is marked in the acute stage, the individual becoming irritable and angry, and in this stage he may make a dangerous assault upon others or wantonly destroy property. In the hyperacute stage the individual reaches the top degree of excitement, is difficult to restrain, and is not only dangerous to others about him but may injure himself.

Motives to homicide stems from extreme desire, selfishness and the wrong illusion that one can some how get away ever after committing that grave offence. Usually neurotic and mentally unsound people are highly prone to this crime of homicide.