In contemporary times murder or homicide inspires instant horror. It is regarded not only an offence against the state, but also in terms of gravity, an offence of the first category. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) differentiates between ‘murder’ and culpable homicide not amounting to murder mainly on the basis of ‘intention’ behind the commission or omission of a person causing death of another person. In this connection, it would be relevant to recall the provisions in section 299 of the IPC which reads as follows: “Whoever causes death by doing an act with the intention of causing death, or with the intention of causing such bodily injury as is likely to cause death, or with the knowledge that he is likely by such act to cause death, commits the offence of culpable homicide.” While going through the IPC as well as other laws, it is difficult to miss the fact that the focus invariably is on the offence and the offender.

Murder, like most other crimes, is a ‘duet’ behaviour involving an offender and a victim. When a murder takes place, a large number of psycho-social factors combine and both the offender and the victim get involved in ways more than one. It is therefore unjustifiable to pay attention only to the offender and by pass the existence of the victim who sustains “psychological, physical, material or social damage on account of being the object of depredations…” (Khan and Singh, 1980).
Crime Vs Societal Change

Criminologists of current decades prefer to explain the etiology of criminality in human behaviour with reference to 'interaction' of man in relation to his/her community or society, in certain sensitive situation of life. A logical reciprocal relationship between social change and crime has been admitted also in the research reports round the globe. Data-based studies suggest that industrialisation and urbanisation can alter fundamentally the relationship between 'property crime' and other 'cognizable crime' rates.

Homicide accounts for a very tiny fraction of arrests made by police every year. Even then it has been able to seek attention of everyone who holds unusual fascination as a subject for research from all walks of life. Homicide is a unique kind of offence for it has the quality of absolute finality as its consequences for the victims cannot be undone which is not the case with other kinds of offences. Homicide has been subjected to a fair amount of researches because civilized societies place a very high premium on the sanctity of human life. The killing of one person by another is considered to be ultimate violation of behaviour norms. Therefore, being the most shocking and ghastly crime, it is assigned the most rigorous punishment including capital punishment under Indian Penal law.

Durkheim (1938)\textsuperscript{58}, a social scientist remarked: "Crime is a social fact and a human act. No society could be exempt from it." In India, one observes enhancing criminal activity.

The concept of criminal homicide is intricately connected with the existence of the victim (Wolfgang, 1958)\textsuperscript{4} because homicide involves intense
personal interaction between the victim and the murderer. Hence, the victim is not a passive object but an active agent of his or her own victimization (Devasia, 1980).95

Socio Background of Homicide Offenders

Analysing the social background of homicide offenders, it was predominantly found that homicide criminals were in the age-group of 20-40 years. Therefore, this is the problem of young generation. Mostly, they were married and mentally immature to cope up with the expectations of their husband and in-laws. This results in maladjustments between them and their family members. Rani (1983)96 found that a slightly more than 50% women criminals belonged to backward caste. The incidence of homicide is high in low social and economic class than 50 per cent female criminals were dependent whose household members income was below 500. More than 56 per cent homicide offenders came Rs 500 income group (low income). Thus a majority of the households were living with great difficulty on their meagre incomes. It reveal that urban areas provide less homicide offenders than rural areas. Furthermore, it is pointed that illiterates tend to commit homicide and that the criminality increased as the level of education decreased and vice versa. The correlation between education and homicide criminals is an established one. Therefore, it may be said that homicide criminals are generally younger in age, married, illiterate and also come from low economic classes. This reflects women's nature (adjustment), need (economic and social condition) and situation (environment) for the explanation of crime and criminality.

In the present context it seems relevant to examine the linkage between certain situational factors and homicide bulk 70.2% of total homicide in
Gulbarga are committed in rural areas. Most of them are prompted by petty brawls on issues like the tenancy rights over a patch of land, grazing rights, the drainage-course, the place for stabling cattle, sex relations and the like. The position with regard to urban areas may be very different. The offence of homicide tends to vary with seasons and the hour of the day as well as weapon of homicide. In a vast number 48% of homicide cases, a sharp, weapon has been used. An overwhelming majority of homicide in the district during 1999-2000 has been committed during night hours with the help of sharp-edged weapons like sword, knife and spear. This study has shown that most homicide have offences have been committed between sunrise and sunset, in residential and congested areas, and with sharp-edged weapons. Similarly, motives behind homicide in Gulbarga district are found to be varied, personal vendetta, dispute over property, sexual causes, sudden provocation, etc. The position with regard to situational factors underlying homicide committed by women 13% and men 87% of total homicide. Stressful family situation, marital maladjustment, conflict-prone relationship with husband etc. compel to commit heinous crimes like homicide. Husband having the habit of drinking, gambling, drug addiction, lack of interest in the family and love, a forced marriage, illegal connection with in-laws and others due to husband's maladjustment, jealousy due to husband's illegal connection with other women, low income and excessive expenditure, sexual jealousy and jealousy of property, etc. are the major areas of conflicts faced by homicide offenders in Gulbarga districts. It is also observes that domestic factors, victim's provocation and lover's/friends instigation contribute substantially.
to homicides. The sharp-edged instruments have been commonly used for perpetrating the offence. Among specific reasons, domestic quarrel seem to be the main motives. Due to women liberation movement, their active participation in politics and increase in employment opportunities patterns and levels of crime have been changing rapidly. The findings in general reveal that murderers mostly come from higher caste, illiterate, low income group, and rural homes or joint families. As compared with other offenders they usually suffer from the problems of adjustment and have more anxiety, neuroticism and psychoticism.

The position with regard to homicide offenders is not much different. Homicide offenders in Gulbarga district 56% fall in the low income group (monthly income varying below 500).

Investigation have observed that murder in basically a crime of emotionality and high irritability. In most of the personality studies, Eysenck’s three factor theory of criminality has been empirically verified. According to Eysenck (1970), violent types of criminals lie in the psychopathic quadrant, i.e., they are high on neuroticism, psychoticism as well as on extraversion. So far as neuroticism are concerned, there is a general agreement among the investigators that the criminals are high on these dimensions. But similar uniform results have not been obtained with regard to extraversion dimension.

It may be noted that this kind of mortality of young married women, though unrelated to dowry, encompassed both suicides and homicides. In social factors referred to earlier, a young and newly married woman is called upon to adjust to relatively unfamiliar persons and surroundings. She may be
further handicapped by the general perception of the place of women in society, as well as by the many and demanding roles expected from her, by her husband, father, mother, brothers, and sisters-in-law. Furthermore, she may have own social and psychological limitations. In most cases, young married women are able to bring about workable adjustment between themselves and their new environment. In quite a few other cases, maltreatment at the hands of husband and in-laws, family discord and mental tension may weigh down the newly married women.

In a almost all the cases of unnatural death of their daughter, parents try to affix the label of homicide. In order to avoid social stigma, husband and in-laws try to make all suicides into accidental deaths. In respect of homicides, their first choice is for the label of accidental death, and if it fails, they go in for the suicide theory.

In the light of studies referred to above, we come to the conclusion that there is a dearth of research investigations exploring the psychodynamics of homicide offenders. However the findings of available researches are consistent, but not conclusive.