

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Homicide is the act of killing one person by another. A homicide requires the volitional act by another person that results in death and thus a homicide may result from accidental, reckless or negligent acts even if there is no intent to cause. According to the circumstances of the death the homicide can be divided into several legal categories. These different types of homicides are often treated very differently in human societies that some are considered as crimes while others are permitted or even ordered by the legal system.

Categories of homicides are murder, manslaughter (culpable homicide) and justifiable homicide. If a person or someone that a person know has been involved with a homicide, it is a very serious matter and you should contact a competent & experienced attorney.^[7]

The most common are first- and second-degree murder. First degree murder is the most serious of all the homicide categories. It is the situation in which when someone is accused of killing another person after having planned to kill the victim. It requires evil intent and forethought. These cases are usually considered as the most heinous crimes and most severe punishments are usually reserved for these convictions including life in prison or the death penalty.

Second degree murder applies to the cases in which if someone may have intended to kill another, but did not have time to plan it. In such situations the defendant will face life in prison or a similarly harsh sentence though the death sentence is not an option.

Manslaughter is the situation where the accused neither did not plan the crime nor did him/her intended for the victim to die because of his or her actions; sentences for those convicted vary widely depending on state laws and the circumstances of the event in question, but are usually somewhat less than second degree murder.

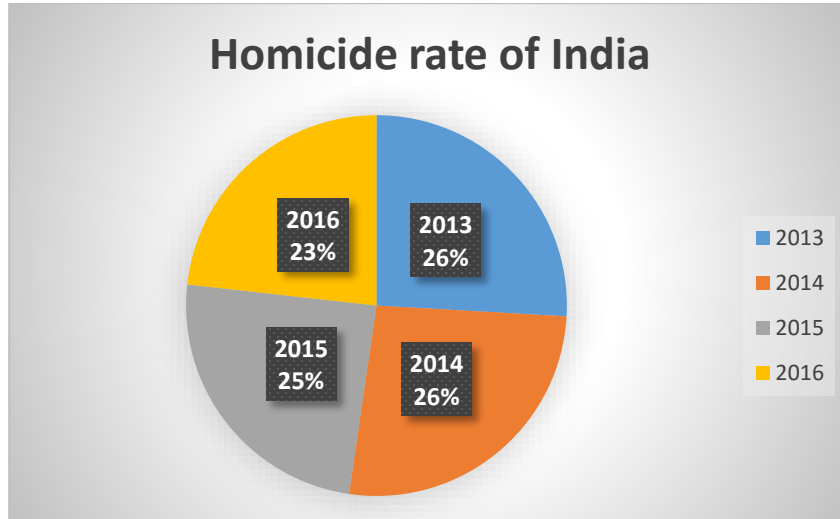
Justifiable homicide is the situation where an individual killed another in self-defense or similar circumstances. This is not really a legal charge but rather a classification that police can use in an event where an individual died but no crime was committed. Because the killing was justifiable, the person who committed the killing will not be held criminally liable for the death, though civil penalties may still apply under certain circumstances. Some states have developed other forms of homicide crimes. States laws are constantly evolving and diverging, so other forms of homicide may exist or may come into existence in the future.^[11]

CAUSES AND MOTIVES

- Money.
- To get insurance policies by killing their partner.
- Physical or emotional abuse.
- For the protection of child or a family member or a friend.
- Sexual satisfaction.
- Mental illness.
- Family problems.
- Dowry.
- Political issues.
- Religious believes.
- Superstitious believes.
- Racism.
- Communalism.
- To get great pleasure.
- Greed.
- Jealously.
- Anger/revenge.
- Due to usage of alcohol or other drugs.

Overall homicide rate in India has decreased by 10% over a period of six years till 2015 but the trend increased “noticeably” in some northern states, according to UN report. The Global Study on Homicide 2019 published by UN Office found that the number of female homicide victims were more than that of males in India. Males constitute less than 20 % of the total homicide victims in 2016 in India, the UN report revealed.

In India, the overall homicide rate decreased by 10% over the period 2009 to 2015 from 3.8 to 3.4 per 100,000 population. The study found that Mumbai, which has one of the over 18 million, has one of the lowest homicide rates. In 2016, homicide rate for India was 3.2 cases per 100,000 population. Homicide rate of India fell gradually from 4.8 cases per 100,000 population in 1997 to 3.2 cases per 100,000 population in 2016.^[12]



Pathanamthitta is the southern part of Kerala in India. This district is 10.03% urbanized. It is one of the richest district in India with 1.17% of poverty as of 2013 which places the district in the top 5 districts in India with the least poverty. Total population is about 11.97 lakhs with average of 96.55% of literacy.

As comparing to the other urban or developing places in Kerala such as Kochi, Pathanamthitta is the central Travancore in the state of Kerala with mostly village areas. As there is 22 police stations in the district with 3 sub-divisions, there are total 8884 criminal cases are registered in different police stations. Mostly house breakings, unnatural deaths, murders and usually more suicide cases are registered according to the data of District Crime Records Bureau (DCRB), Pathanamthitta.

To investigate the association between the homicide and the mental disorders is important. Since murder is considered as the most manifestation of violent tendencies, the violence committed by the individuals with severe mental disorders has increased the attention of physicians and law enforcement officials and the public too.^[5]

Earlier researchers and the previous studies found that about 96% of the severe mentally ill persons experienced psychiatric problems. So examination of the symptoms mentally ill offender at the offence place a major role. The societal impact of homicide is high and understanding the possible proximal factors that promote homicidal behavior among individuals.^[6]

Individuals with severe mental disorders are convicted of violent crimes more frequently than other individuals. The difference between those with mental disorders and those without in prevalence of committing a crime has found to be greater for violent crimes than for non-violent crimes. Despite the fact that various studies have demonstrated a significant association between the mental disorders and violence, but it remains unclear that why in some patients present violent behavior and others do not.^[8]

Thus, we can say that violent behavior is occurred due to some individual factors. It must be borne in mind that criminal conduct is a sociocultural process, and

that individuals with mental disorders act within the scenario. Therefore, variables such as level of education and socioeconomic status play a role in determining the rate of violent behavior in the general population as well as among the individuals with mental disorders. A mental disorder can be facilitator of violent behavior and not as a generator of criminal behavior. ^[1]

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The study of motives of the offenders or the individual who had committed homicides. Not only the mentally ill persons but also the normal people who were highly educated or people with high reputations and livings too commit the offences. Thus we can not only rely on the personality disorders of the individuals at the time of offence. Here comes the importance of the motives. ^[2]

Mainly the top motives of murders are personal vendetta, illegal relationships, dowry deaths and property disputes. As Pathanamthitta being a village area, the criminal activities of the people when compared to the most urbanized districts in Kerala such as Kochi, Trivandrum is less. Thus the mode of attempts and the type of deaths occurring in this places varies according to the daily routines and people. ^[3]

The motives of the people change accordingly. The motive of an individual with severe mental disorder or the person with any personality disorder thinks different from normal people. Serial killers or generally people with psychotic behaviors have different motives of killings. Their mode of attempt or the methods that they used to kill also varies with other cases. ^[4]

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

Simha F Landau et al (1974) studied on homicide victims and offenders. Although criminal homicide has been the subject of numerous investigations, the number of empirical studies is limited. One basic methodological assumption underlying this article is that the act of homicide cannot be explained by the simple, broad, unitary variable. The purpose of study is to identify these variables and to assess the relative contribution of each to the resultant act of criminal homicide. The analysis is limited to several characteristics of the victim and the offender in a homicide. This study shows the relative sex and the ethnic origin of both victim and the offender, the victim offender relationships and the motives involved in the criminal homicide.

Tewfik K Daradkeh (1988) studied on the possible reasons behind a high intentional homicide rate in Jordan. To investigate whether the high intentional homicide rate in Jordan was related to the low suicide rate or other different motives for homicide and different methods of killing, the variation in homicide and suicide in Jordan were correlated from 1979 to 1985. This study did not confirm a significant inverse or positive association between homicide and suicide in Jordan. But confirm the presence of a special unique motive not present among the murders in Iceland and India. This study also confirm the Jordan murderers used more lethal methods of killing, such as firearms etc.

Dominique Bourget et al (1992) studied on homicide, infanticide, filicide. To date, the relationship between homicide and mental illness remains controversial, particularly in regard to the proportion of the homicides perpetrated by mentally ill offenders. Among this population, the presence of psychotic condition is commonly diagnosed. Overall homicide remains an ill –understood, multifaceted phenomenon in which multiple cases hinder unitary prevention strategies, thus calling for a multidisciplinary approach.

Wade C Myers et.al (1997) studied on psychopathy and personality in juvenile sexual homicide offenders. This project describes the psychopathology and personality findings in 14 juveniles who committed sexual homicides. The presence of personality disorders and moderately high psychopathy scores at follow up were common. Sexual homicide includes some form of sexual assault or sexually symbolic behavior combined with homicidal act. Nearly all of these youth conduct disorder criteria at the time of crime.

Hanna Putkonen et.al (1998) studied on Finnish Female homicide offenders. Female homicide has been associated with several psychiatric disorders. They studied the written reports of forensic psychiatric evaluations of female offenders committed homicides during the year of 1982 to 1992. Of the investigated women they were diagnosed with a psychotic illness, with alcoholism and with a personality disorder. Those diagnosed as psychotic were not considered legally responsible for their acts. Most offenders have previous psychiatric care. All the women offenders were diagnosed with personality disorders and none was deemed fully responsible for her act.

H. Putkonen et.al (2003) studied on risk of repeat offending among violent female offenders with psychotic and personality disorders. The aim of this study was to examine the rate of criminal recidivism among the female homicide offenders evaluated by the forensic psychiatrists, to compare this rate with that of other violent female offenders, and to analyze the explanatory variables of recidivism. As a result they found that those who committed repeat offences, 81% were diagnosed with personality disorders. It seems that women and men who are violent and personality disorders are comparable in their risk of recidivism.

Hans Schanda et.al (2004) studied on homicide and major mental disorders; a 25 –year study. The aim was to investigate the association between major mental disorders and homicide. The increased likelihood of homicide in subjects with MMDs cannot be fully explained by comorbid alcoholism. The results point to the special importance of sufficient treatment for a subgroup of mentally ill individuals being at higher risk of

violence. The mental disorders of the offenders were compared with the disorders of the general population.

Jenny Shaw et.al (2006) studied on rates of mental disorder in people convicted of homicide; national clinical survey. To examines the relationship between definitions, verdict and outcome in court. Rate of mental disorder was estimated based on lifetime diagnosis, mental illness at the time of offence, contact with the psychiatric services and hospital disposal. The findings suggest an association between schizophrenia and conviction for homicide. Most offenders with mental disorders are not actually ill or under mental health care at the time of offence.

Andreas Hill et.al (2006) studied on sexual sadism and sadistic personality disorder in sexual homicide. This exists about the diagnostic validity of sexual sadism and its relation to sadistic personality disorder in sex offenders. The aim of this study was to investigate which diagnostic, developmental and criminal characteristics differentiate sexual sadistic from non-sadistic sexual homicide perpetrators. It reports on 166 men who had committed a sexual homicide were evaluated regarding psychiatric sexual and criminal history.

JE Douglas et.al (2008) studied on sexual homicide; Patterns and Motives. Who are the men committing the rising number of serial homicides in the US – and why do they kill? The increase in these violent crimes over the past decade has created an urgent need for more and better information about these men: their crime scene pattern, violent acts and their motivation for committing these shocking and repetitive murders. Data was obtained from official criminal records, courts transcripts, prison records as well as exclusive interview with the offenders themselves.

CHAPTER III: AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim:-

To analyze homicide cases in the district of Pathanamthitta, Kerala.

Objectives:-

- To study homicide cases from the year 2010 – 2019.
- To study homicide cases on the basis of genders occurred during 2018 - 2019.
- To study motives of individuals who committed murders and culpable homicides.
- To suggest counter measures on the basis of the homicide rate.

CHAPTER IV: MATERIALS & METHODOLOGY

Materials:-

Data from the DCRB related to homicides.

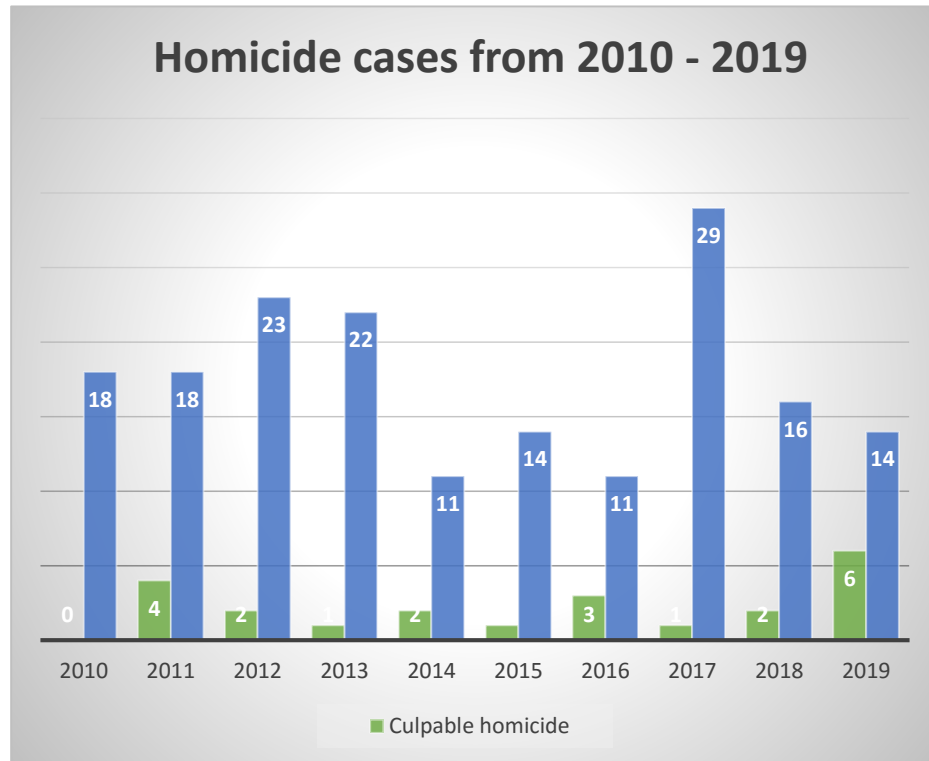
Methodology:-

The study was undertaken with the permission of Superintendent of Police, Pathanamthitta in Kerala. The data related to homicide cases from DCRB, Pathanamthitta was collected. Statistical analysis of homicide cases from the year 2010 – 2019 was done. After that gender wise statistics of homicides during the year of 2018 – 19 were calculated. Graphical representation of homicide cases was done according to the information from DCRB.

CHAPTER V: OBSERVATIONS

YEAR	CULPABLE HOMICIDE	MURDERS
2010	0	18
2011	4	18
2012	2	23
2013	1	22
2014	2	11
2015	1	14
2016	3	11
2017	1	29
2018	2	16
2019	6	14

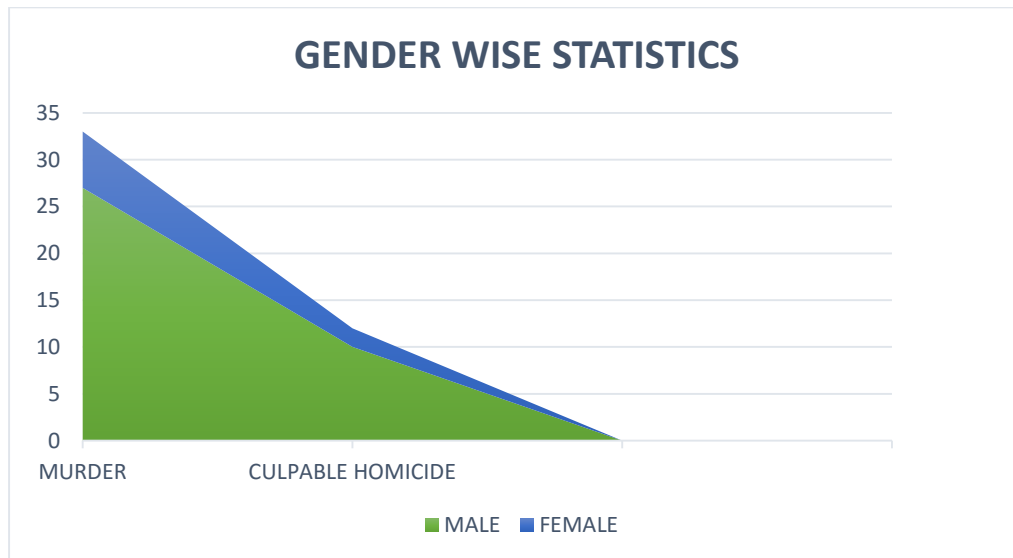
Table1: A statistical study of homicide cases reported during the year 2010 - 2019



Graph1: Statistics of homicide cases from the year 2010 - 2019

GENDER	MALE	FEMALE
MURDER (302 IPC)	12	6
CULPABLE HOMICIDE (304 1PC)	10	2

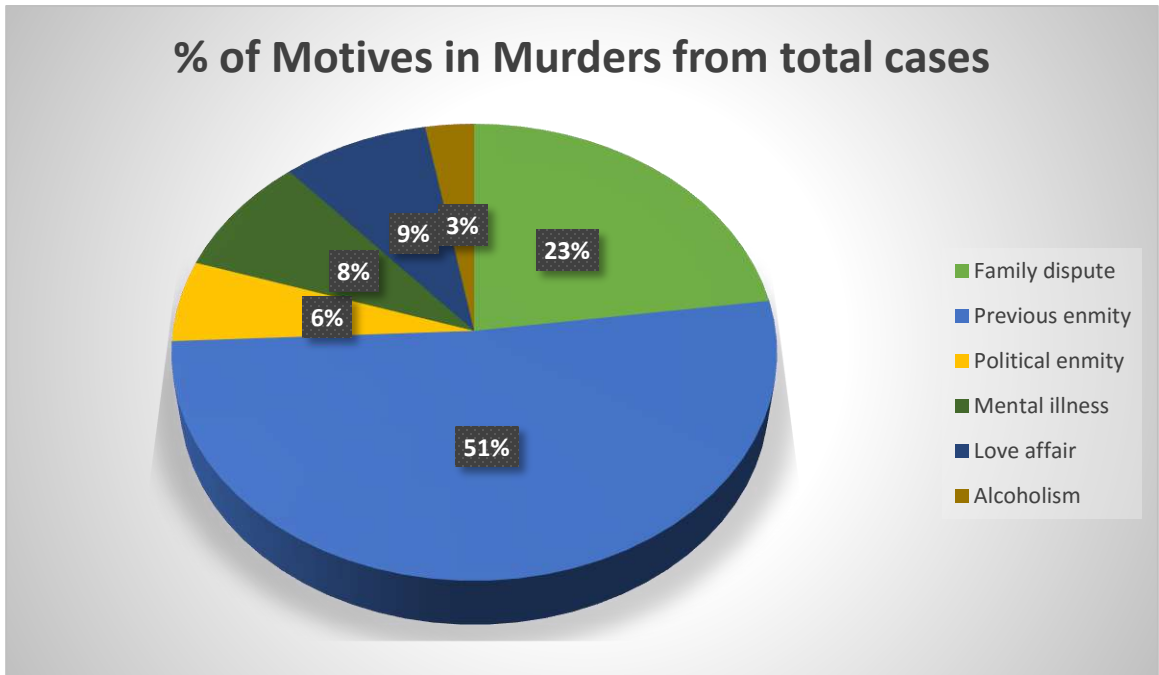
Table 2: A study on homicide cases reported during the year 2018 – 2019 on the basis of gender.



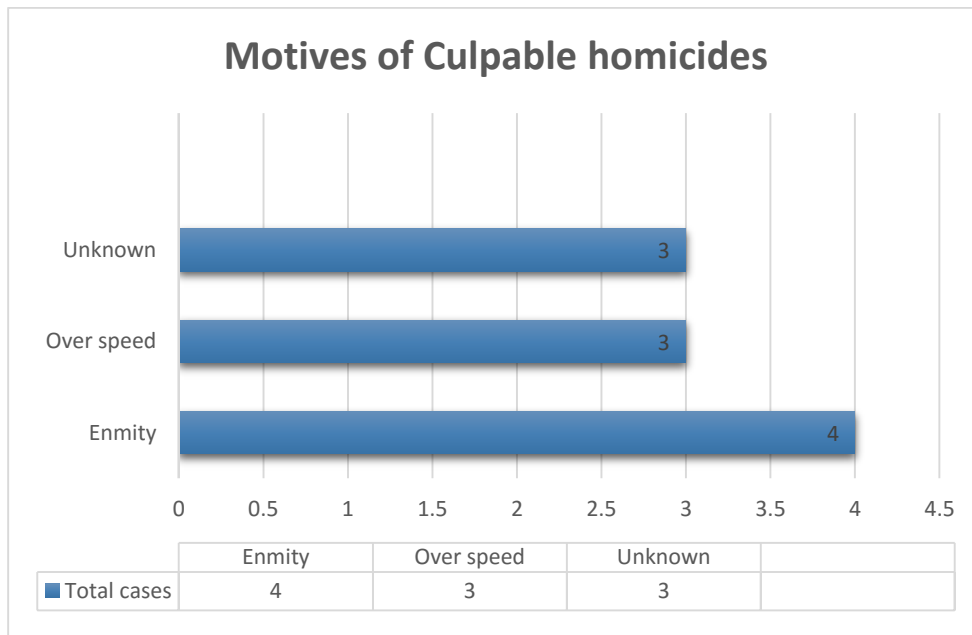
Graph 2: Statistical study on the basis of gender according to the cases from 2018 - 2019

CASES	MOTIVES
MURDERS	<p>Family dispute – 8 cases</p> <p>Previous enmity – 18 cases</p> <p>Political enmity - 2 cases</p> <p>Mental illness – 3 cases</p> <p>Love affair –3 cases</p> <p>Alcoholism – 1 case</p>
CULPABLE HOMICIDE	<p>Enmity – 4 cases</p> <p>Over speed – 3 cases</p>

Table 3: Study on motives of individuals who committed homicides in the year of 2018 – 2019



Graph 3: Motives of Murders in the year of 2018 – 2019



Graph 4: Statistics of motives of culpable homicide during the year 2018 – 2019

CHAPTER V: DISCUSSIONS

Preventive measures to avoid Homicides in Pathanamthitta district:-

As Pathanamthitta is known as the **Pilgrim Capital of Kerala**, because it is the main transport hub to pilgrim center Sabarimala and being one of the most village area of the Southern part of Kerala, the daily routines and way living will be totally different from other cities or urbanized places like Kochi, Trivandrum and Kollam etc. Changing people is more difficult and more costly than changing situations.

The ways to reduce homicides on the basis of statistics:-

- Fair and effective enforcement of laws is the basis of any sustainable delivery of violence prevention.
- Public health awareness among the police, private security services, courts, probation and parole system, youth justice system, prison system etc.
- Violence prevention at all levels of criminal justice system.
- Build up trust between the public health and law enforcement.
- Build violence prevention to modern technologies and infrastructures.
- Control alcohol consumption.
- Government should abolish illegal sales of alcohol and other drugs.
- Give counseling to the addicted people through families and schools.
- Awareness classes among students and parents in schools and colleges.
- Career guidance classes among students to build their future.
- Moral or value based educations should be provided.
- Classes regarding the values of relationships and families.
- Timely action to avoid the offences at the time of offence.

CHAPTER VII: RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Results:-

The more cases of murders are reported in the year of 2017 with 29 cases and less number of murder cases are reported in the years 2014 and 2016 with 11 cases. More number of culpable homicides is reported in the year of 2019 with 6 cases. Less number of culpable homicides is in the year of 2010.

Both murder and culpable homicide rate is very much high in males about 27 males in murders and 10 males in culpable homicides. Females are comparably very less in both murders and culpable homicide about 6 and 2. Murder is found as more in crime rate than culpable homicide committed by both men and women. From this it is concluded that more than females, males are committing homicides according to the crime statistics of homicide cases from 2018 -2019.

Most of the murder cases reported due to previous enmity about 51% of cases in the year. Second most motive is family dispute with 23% of cases. The least crime is due to Alcoholism and Political enmity about 3% and 6% respectively.

The culpable homicides due to enmity is higher when compared to over speed. About 4 cases are reported due to enmity and 3 cases where due to over speed. Other 3 cases here reported as unnatural deaths with unknown motives. Comparing all most of the homicide cases reported in Pathanamthitta district is due to previous enmity. From the analysis it is understood that normal people are committing more offences than other peoples with any personality disorders or mental health problems.

Conclusion:-

In the present study it is done with statistical analysis of homicide cases reported in Pathanamthitta district. It is mainly done with motives of individuals who committed homicides.

The study needs to analyze the causes of homicides and to know whether the normal people or the persons with any mental disorders were committed homicides in Pathanamthitta district.

From this study the most committed crime is murder (302 IPC) due to previous enmity and the males committed more crimes than females.

In future, this study can continue to analyze the crimes other than murders and culpable homicide in the district of Pathanamthitta, Kerala and the motives of it.

CHAPTER VII: REFERENCES

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