

A Review of Suicides in Asia

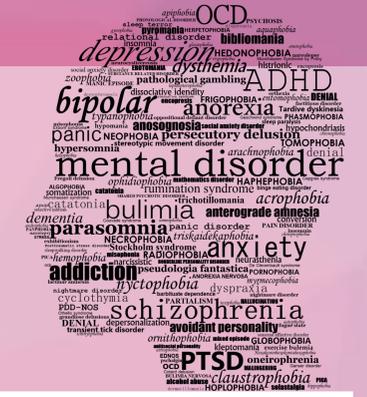
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Which part of the world is classed as Asia?



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Asia_(orthographic_projection).svg#metadata



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mental_Disorder_Silhouette.png



1) India – Regional districts – Poisoning, hanging and self immolation (1994-2005)



2) Sri Lanka – Whole population – Poisoning (pesticides), hanging, drowning and burning (1975-2005)



3) China – National sample of suicides – Poisoning (pesticides and rat poison) and hanging (1998-2000)



4) Japan – Whole population – Jumping, hanging and poisoning (1995-2006)



5) South Korea – Whole population – Poisoning, pesticides/chemicals, hanging and jumping (1995, 2000 and 2003)



6) Thailand – Whole population – Hanging, poisoning (agricultural chemicals) and drugs poisoning (2001-2005)



7) Pakistan – Summary from 7 studies – Poisoning, hanging, firearms, drowning, self immolation

1. Abstract

Asia is responsible for 60% of suicides that occur globally [1][2]. This high percentage may be due to socio-cultural differences as well as the lack of financial investments Asian countries have dedicated to help combat this issue. Asia is culturally and socially different in comparison to Western countries therefore issues such as mental health are largely unaddressed and even dismissed in Asia countries [6]. It is important to consider that suicide as a result of mental health issues is poorly discussed and researched within Asia when compared to Western countries. In Asia, lethal means of suicide are highly accessible and commonly involve pesticides or jumping from great heights [5]. This poster assesses the factors that are causing high percentages of Asian suicides; the uniquely cultural factors that contribute to suicide; cultural and religious pressures; suicide techniques which differ from Western countries; and demographics of impacted communities. Finally, the way suicide is viewed in forensics will be looked at and how knowing more information on Asian suicides may help with future investigations.

2. Research Aims and Objectives

- The most common methods used
- Why are some methods more common than others
- Why do rates differ across Asia
- Determine the factors that contribute to suicide
- How suicides are recorded across Asia

3. Background

- 60% of the World's suicides happen in Asia [1][2]
- 80,000 deaths occur each year due to suicide
- South Asia alone makes up 39.1% of suicides [3]
- Mental health not largely looked at across Asia – taboo subject and stigma [4]
- Many factors contribute to suicide
- Pesticide poisoning and hanging are most common methods of suicide in Asia
- Many countries don't have a national suicide surveillance system

6. How This Changes Forensics

- More consideration into what led to suicide including cultural and religious factors
- Why that method was used
- Crucial in suicides in ethnic minorities in Western countries – factors leading to suicide

4. Methodology

Based on method used in *Suicide Methods in Asia: Implications of Suicide* by Kevin Chien-Chang Wu, Ying-Yeh Chen and Paul S.F. Yip [5], the study would:

- Implement a National Suicide Surveillance system
- Collect suicide data from different countries in Asia using data from the whole population
- Determine each country's main method of suicide
- Gather data on gender and age suicides, inc. rates, methods, etc.

5. Potential Forensic Biases

- There is more research done on suicide in Europe and other Western countries which could lead to bias in Asian investigations.
- Cross-cultural biases may result in misidentification of evidence
- There are differences in male and female suicide across Asia. It's understood, globally, male suicide gets a lot less attention than female suicide – due to gender stereotypes, male suicides may not receive thorough investigations as seen in other casework

7. Do Quality Systems Help or Hinder Cold Cases

- Lead investigators of suicides cases have to remain neutral when it comes to investigation the case. However, quality systems developed with local communities may identify more evidence compared to Western quality systems.
- Due to countries following Western guidelines for suicide may lead to some factors not being considered, leading to a longer investigation or perhaps the cause of suicide not being identified.
- Due to limited research regarding suicide in Asia, prevention programmes might be based more on Western countries, reducing the impact on Asian deaths.
- Culture it not always a considered factor in suicide cases. Factors such as mental health are much more considered.

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