ABSTRACT

Dyadic deaths involve deaths that occur when two or more persons die together or one after another in the same incident. Filicide-suicide is a variant of homicide-suicide which includes the killing of children by a parent. We bring here a rare case of a father with his two children found hanging in a shed with a use of single ligature material, nylon rope. The children were of age three and five years. It happened when wife of the man had run away with another man leaving them behind for 15 days.
DISCUSSION

Murder-suicide/homicide-suicide/dyadic death all refers to an incident where a homicide is committed followed by the perpetrator’s suicide almost immediately or soon after the homicide. Studies also mention that twice as many fathers as mothers committed filicide-suicide and older children are more often victims than infants which is like our case including older children. Maternal filicide, child murder by the mother, may occur either alone or as part of a joint filicide–suicide.

In Nepal, hanging is the most common method of committing suicide, followed by poisoning. Many reported cases involves two individuals whereas occasional reports have reported filicide-suicide involving three persons. We found one similar case from India, where the mother killed both her children by hanging them one by one from a ceiling fan in the same room and later committed suicide by hanging in another room.

Single ligature material, with each end of cloth was used for hanging by a couple during suicidal pact was reported in literature which is similar to our study where single ligature is used by three victims. Parental motives for filicide-suicide included altruistic and acutely psychotic motives and are the basis of this case report. One of the study also mentioned altruistic males to be the common victim of filicide suicide which contrast to our case.

As in Nepal social values plays a vital role in ones lives and altruistic nature causing this type of heartfelt incidence. Research have shown that parents frequently showed evidence of depression or psychosis and had prior mental health care.

Atypical features of this case include young aged children along with father using single rope as a ligature material. Filicide-suicide, tragically, is a permanent act, and the key to avoiding the devastating effects, for the perpetrator, the victim, and the community, is prevention.

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