COVID-Related suicide during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in India: A tip of the iceberg of mental health problems

Nishat Ahmed Sheikh¹, Abhimanyu Vasudeva², Richa Tripathi³

Departments of ¹Forensic Medicine, ²Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and ³Psychiatry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has influenced the entire world. There has been a great surge of mental health problems after the pandemic has started. The second wave has almost exhausted the Indian Health care system. There has also been cases of suicide due to COVID-19 infection. The objective of study was to highlight various factors involved in COVID-19 related suicide (CRS) during second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in India. CRS reports on the websites of 10 popular newspapers and television news channels in North India and official government websites such as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were searched between February 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021. We also searched the Medline and Google Scholar databases for CRS reports from India using the terms “corona”, “COVID-19”, “SARS CoV 2”, “India”, and “suicide” in various combinations. A total of 62 articles were included for the study. Most common mode of suicide was hanging and most common site was the deceased’s home. Fear of infecting family members was the most common cause of CRS during second wave of the ongoing pandemic in India. Many individuals lost their lives to suicide due to COVID-19 pandemic. The media report does not provide the exact picture of community suicide. Proper physician counselling at the time of providing treatment can help in reducing few CRS.

Keywords: COVID-19, fear, pandemic, reports, suicide

Introduction

The current coronavirus pandemic has had disastrous consequences for the economy and society. Many people have been infected with coronavirus, and many have died. For hospital admissions, prescription purchases, and even cremations, there has been a long queue. The Indian healthcare system is nearly depleted as a result of the second wave. The effect on psychological functioning has been enormous as well. There has been an increase in anxiety and depression since the main mechanism for coping with stress, such as social support, has failed to work efficiently. The warmth, affection, and support of a human touch cannot be replaced or nullified, no matter how much we talk about virtual connectivity. People are trying to cope with both the immediate and long-term effects of the pandemic. The circumstances are favorable for an increase in suicides.[1]

The media is an extremely effective tool for gathering and disseminating information. However, there has been very little systematic research on COVID-related suicides (CRS) to date.[2-4] Although regular psychological autopsy examinations involving family interviews may be the best way to uncover risk factors for CRS, doing such investigations during a pandemic can be...
prohibitively difficult. In this situation, media stories are a terrific place to start looking for CRS.

Materials and Methods

Search strategy and inclusion criteria

We looked for CRS reports on the websites of 10 popular newspapers and television news channels in North India (Times Now, India Today, CNN News 18, NDTV India, NDTV, AajTak, India TV, Zee News, ABP News, and DD News), as well as official government websites such as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, between February 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021. We also searched the Medline and Google Scholar databases for CRS reports from India using the terms “corona,” “COVID-19,” “SARS-CoV-2,” “India,” and “suicide” in various combinations. The original search was conducted by Author RT, who compiled a list of reports and publications. After eliminating duplicates, the other two authors (NS and AV) refined the search and generated the final list.

Data extraction

Date of publication, report source, and socio-demographic information on the deceased (including age, gender, religion, domicile status, state of residence, and immigration status) and suicide-related information were retrieved from every eligible report using a pre-designed proforma (location, mode, and suicide note). COVID-19 sickness facts, including travel history, comorbidity, symptom presence, doctor visit, quarantine/isolation status, COVID-19 test result status, or any possible mental illness or substance use disorder diagnosis, and reasons/stressors contributing to suicide. The second wave of the COVID-19 epidemic began in India in February 2021 and affected many more people than the first. As a result, we decided to study the data starting in February 2021. PROSPERO has been used to register the study.

Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed using licensed SPSS software (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 21.0, Armonk, NY). Means, frequency, and percentage were reported to summarize the data.

Ethical approval

The study did not require official approval from an independent ethics committee because it used secondary data analysis of publically available information.

Results

A total of 83 articles were collected from 1000 media items and 1200 papers from scientific sources (Medline and Google Scholar). However, only 62 articles were included [Figure 1]. Duplication, not adhering to the study time range, and not adding COVID linked suicide reports were all reasons for exclusion (None of the articles from scientific sites included CRS during the mentioned time frame and 39 were duplicates from media reports) [Table 2].

Socio-demographics of deceased

There were 48 boys and 22 females among those who died. The gender of the 20 people who committed suicide was not included in the report of the mass suicide. The suicide had nothing to do with a certain job. It included retirees, stay-at-home moms, daily wage laborers, doctors, engineers, and others. There was no information about their occupation available for a select few [Table 1].

Presence of a stressor

The majority of those who died committed suicide as a result of their COVID positive status or the dread of infecting their family. In the current pandemic scenario, a few of the deceased committed suicide owing to financial hardship resulting from job/work loss.

Suicide-related details

There were 22 institutional suicides, 35 suicides at residences, 2 suicides in hostels, 3 suicides in front of a vehicle (bus/train), 7 suicides by drowning in a nearby pond, and 1 suicide at a hotel. Hanging (32), jumping from great heights (20), drowning, and pesticide poisoning were the most common methods of suicide (seven each). The least favored methods of suicide were cutting one’s throat (one) and throwing oneself in front of a bus or train (three).

COVID status and physician contact

A total of 55 people were found to be positive for the COVID-19 virus. Most reports did not mention whether they were in contact with a physician or not, but 22 of the deceased had previously been admitted to the hospital.

Table 1: Socio-demographics of deceased

| Socio-demographic factors                  | Numbers |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| Gender                                    |         |
| Male                                      | 48      |
| Female                                    | 22      |
| Age                                       |         |
| Up to 60 years                            | 57      |
| More than 60 years                        | 13      |
| Marital status                            |         |
| Unmarried/separated/divorced              | 17      |
| Married                                   | 53      |
| Substance use                             |         |
| Alcohol                                   | 16      |
| None                                      | 54      |
| Suicide note                              |         |
| Present                                   | 09      |
| Absent                                    | 61      |
## Table 2: Suicide related details of deceased in COVID-related suicide

| Date       | Location       | News paper                  | Age       | Occupation/profession       | Attempted Reasons for suicide |Mechanism               | Suicide note | Occupation/profession/Profession | Mechanism  |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 6th March  | India (TOI)    | Times of India (TOI)        | 81 yrs    | Retired                    | No information               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 10th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 80 yrs    | Retired                    | No information               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 16th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 80 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 80 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 15th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 13th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 16th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
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| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| 18th April | Maharashtra    | Times of India (TOI)        | 60 yrs    | Retired                    | COVID distress               | Hanging                | Hanging       | Nil                             | Hanging    |
| Date          | News paper | Location         | No of People committed suicide with age | Suicide note | Occupation/profession | Attempted survivor | Reasons                                                                 | Mechanism                                                                 |
|--------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st May 2021 | TOI        | Rajkot           | 38 yr old woman suspecting she is suffering with COVID | Not found    | Home maker            | Nil                 | COVID distress fear of getting covid infection                           | Consumed bathroom cleaning liquid                                         |
| 2nd May 2021 | TOI        | Gurgaon UP       | 25 year old man suicide infront of O2 Plant failed to get a cylinder till evening | Suicide      | No information        | Nil                 | COVID distress and relationship issue                                    | Hanged himself from a tree                                                |
| 3rd May 2021 | TOI        | Kota Rajasthan   | Husband 75 and wife 70 Both +ve afraid of getting grandson infected committed suicide | Not found    | Retired couple        | Nil                 | COVID fear of getting infected to grandson committed suicide             | Suicide by jumping before a moving train                                  |
| 3rd May 2021 | TOI        | Kota Rajasthan   | 20 yr old male, mentally challenged    | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | Mentally challenged                                                      | Hanged himself from a ceiling fan. He was mentally challenged            |
| 3rd May 2021 | TOI        | Hyderabad        | 32 yr old man. Soon after confirmation of COVID +ve | Not found    | Hotel worker          | Nil                 | COVID fear. Soon after doctor confirmed COVID+ve by CT scan and advised it. | Threw himself under an RTC bus                                          |
| 4th May 2021 | TOI        | Gurgaon          | Retired male. Suicide from civil hospital +ve | Not found    | Retired sub divisional officer of electricity department | Nil                 | COVID fear. Jumped from window of civil hospital                        | Jumped to death from the third floor of Civil Hospital                   |
| 6th May 2021 | TOI        | Bhopal           | 45 yr old male COVID +ve               | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | COVID fear                                                              | Jumping off the fifth floor of a private hospital                        |
| 6th May 2021 | TOI        | Vadodra Gujarat  | 22yr old MBBS student. due to stress   | Suicide note | MBBS student          | Nil                 | Due to stress                                                           | Hanging in his hostel room                                              |
| 23rd April 2021 | TOI   | Vadodra Gujarat  | 22-year-old physiotherapy student     | Not found    | Physiotherapy student | Nil                 | Was forced to work in the COVID-19 ward despite her co-morbidities.      | Hanging                                                                  |
| 7th May 2021 | TOI        | AIMS Nagpur      | Middle age woman. COVID +ve patient    | Not found    | Home maker            | Nil                 | COVID fear                                                              | Jumped off the fifth floor of covid ward.                                |
| 8th May 2021 | TOI        | Rajkot Gujarat   | Mass Suicide. Mother 57 Son 39 and 35 yns. After father succumb due to COVID-19. | Not found    | Catering business     | Nil                 | COVID fear. Soon after father succumb to COVID-19.                     | Consumed pesticide                                                       |
| 10th May 2021 | TOI       | Hyderabad        | 48-year-old COVID +ve patient         | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | COVID fear, deeply upset with the COVID-19 situation outside, felt embarrassed and thought it was a stigma | Suicide by hanging                                                       |
| 11th May 2021 | TOI       | Warangal Telangana | 25yr old Male. Depressed after COVID +ve | Not found    | Daily wages worker    | Nil                 | Disturbed after testing positive, feared losing his livelihood.         | Jumped to death in front of a speeding train                             |

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| Date       | Newspaper | Location       | No of People committed suicide with age | Suicide note | Occupation/ profession | Attempted survivor | Reasons                                                                 | Mechanism                                                                 |
|------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12th May   | TOI       | Kanpur         | 40 yr old Male, reportedly in depression | Not found    | Assistant Registrar at IIT Kanpur | Nil                | His younger son, who is just one and a half year old, had tested COVID positive, was under treatment for depression since 2011 | Hanging from the ceiling fan in his official residence                   |
| 15th May   | TOI       | Vishakhapatnam AP | Mass suicide: Depressed after one of them was infected with COVID-19, three members of a family committed suicide by consuming some harmful chemical and jumping into a well near a temple Mother: 80 Son : 62 Daughter in law: 37 | Not found | Retired                | Nil                | Depressed after one of them tested positive, which led to the mass suicide | Suicide by consuming some harmful chemical and jumping into a well near a temple |
| 16th May   | TOI       | Howrah Kolkata | 38 yr old Male, killed himself after his parents tested positive for COVID and their condition turned critical | Not found | worked in a private firm | Nil                | Fear of losing his parents due to COVID-19 +ve status                  | Hanging from the ceiling fan                                            |
| 21st May   | TOI       | Beed Maharashtra | 35-year-old COVID-19 patient allegedly committed suicide in a private hospital | Not found | No information          | Nil                | COVID fear and financial crunch                                        | Hung himself from an iron rod                                            |
| 22nd May   | TOI       | Vijayawada AP   | Mass suicide: Husband 40, wife 37. Depressed after testing positive for COVID-19, a couple committed suicide by hanging themselves at their residence | Not found | No information          | Nil                | Fears that they might inadvertently pass on the infection to their children | Suicide by hanging themselves at their residence                         |
| 26th May   | TOI       | Vijayawada      | 50-year-old COVID-19 patient committed suicide by jumping from the COVID block on the third floor of hospital | Not found | No information          | Nil                | Been depressed after contracting the disease                            | Suicide by jumping from the Covid block on the third floor of hospital    |
| 28th May   | TOI       | AIIMS Patna     | 57-year-old man under treatment for COVID-19 at AIIMS-Patna | Not found | No information          | Nil                | Facing tremendous mental pressure and are losing hope due to anxiety which is leading to depression and suicidal tendencies. Financial vulnerability too is driving people to end their lives |                                                                 |
| Till 30th  | TOI       | State of Andhra Pradesh | Total 20 COVID-19 Patient committed suicide | Not found | No information          | Nil                |                                                                                       |                                                                 |
| 31st May   | TOI       | Ahmedabad       | 80 Yr old man committed suicide fearing Mucor mycosis. Had diabetes and cholesterol issues. Had recovered from COVID. Found some white spots and fungal infection on his scalp which he self-diagnosed as mucormycotic. | Suicide note found | Retired                | Nil                | Fear of Fungal Infection: Mucor mycosis                                    | Consumed a pesticide                                                    |

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### Table 2: Contd...

| Date       | Newspaper   | Location                  | No of People committed suicide with age | Suicide note | Occupation/ profession | Attempted survivor | Reasons                                                                 | Mechanism |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 28th May   | TOI         | Chennai                   | Mass suicide: A 65-year-old man and his two daughter aged - 35 and 30 committed suicide in Tiruvallur district as the man developed COVID-19 symptoms. | Suicide note found | Electrician             | Nil                | COVID death fear; hanging. “Their bodies were in a decomposed state and they may have died three days ago” | Hanging   |
| 31st May   | TOI         | Chandigarh                | 16-year-old blind and mute boy from Faridabad who recently lost his father to COVID and mother to suicide has been placed under the care of the Haryana government. | Suicide note found | Nil                   | Father Mother committed suicide | | | |
| 1st May    | India Today | Delhi                     | Medical Doctor 36 yrs old, was on COVID duty for the past one month and was dealing with ICU patients. He would provide CPR to about seven to eight patients every day. Despite efforts, not many would survive, was “frustrated” with the prevailing situation and the condition of patients. | Suicide note found | Medical Doctor         | Nil                | Severe stress amid the deadly second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Frustration with prevailing situation of COVID. | Hanging   |
| 28th April | India Today | Pune                      | 45-year-old woman died after she fell from a washroom window of Sassoon Government Hospital in Pune. She had been arrested for abetment-to-suicide and was admitted to the hospital after testing positive for COVID-19. fell to her death from the eighth floor of the hospital while allegedly trying to escape through a bathroom window | Not found | Accused in a case of Abetment to commit suicide | Nil | Fell to her death from the eighth floor of the hospital while allegedly trying to escape through a bathroom window | Fall from window from 8th floor of hospital window |
| 29th April | India Today | Indore MP                 | 34-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide after learning about her husband’s death due to COVID-19 | Not found | Home maker              | Nil                | COVID stress. Lost husband in COVID. hanged herself from the ceiling fan at her home | Hanging   |
| 16th April | India Today | Nanded Maharashtra        | Distressed over her husband’s death due to COVID-19, a 33-year-old woman allegedly ended her life by drowning herself in a lake. three-year-old son also followed her into Sunegaon lake in Loha and drowned as a result. | Not found | Home maker              | Nil                | COVID fear. Husband succumbed to death due to COVID. She committed suicide by drowning followed by 3 year old son. | Drowning  |
| 18th April | India Today | Pune                      | 42-year-old woman, who tested positive for the COVID-19 infection, ended her life at her house. husband has accused the authorities of refusing to admit her. | Not found | Home maker              | Nil                | COVID fear. Not being admitted to hospital | Hanging herself with a dupatta |
| Date       | News paper     | Location              | No of People committed suicide with age | Suicide note | Occupation/profession | Attempted survivor | Reasons | Mechanism                      |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 11th May 2021 | India Today    | Bhopal                | 50-year-old COVID-19 patient allegedly committed suicide in a state-run hospital in Bhopal jumped off the sixth floor of Hamidia Hospital | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | COVID fear jumped off the sixth floor of Hamidia Hospital | Jumped off the sixth floor of Hamidia Hospital |
| 11th May 2021 | India Today    | Mumbai                | Following the death of his wife from COVID-19, a 36-year-old man in Mumbai's Vile Parle area murdered his six-year-old daughter before committing suicide | Suicide note found | Nil                  | Depression after his wife, Madhavi, succumbed to COVID-19 in June 2020 | Killed his six-year-old daughter. Committed suicide by hanging by rope from the ceiling |
| 15th May 2021 | India Today    | Haveri of Karnataka | 70-year-old COVID-19 patient reportedly died by suicide in the special ward | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | Frustrated over COVID +ve | Hanging |
| 4th May 2021  | India Today    | Bhopal                | 45-year-old COVID-19 patient in Bhopal died after he jumped off the fifth floor of a hospital | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | COVID stress          | Jumped off the fifth floor of a hospital |
| 3rd May 2021  | India Today    | Rewari Haryana        | 60 yr old former government employee, who was undergoing treatment for COVID-19 at a government facility in Haryana's Rewari district, died after he allegedly jumped from the hospital's third floor | Not found    | Retired govt servant  | Nil                 | COVID stress          | Jumped from the hospital's third floor |
| 18th May 2021 | India Today    | Indore MP             | Woman threatens to commit suicide if Amphotericin Injection not given for her husband Macor mycosis fungal infection | Threatens    | Home maker            | Threatens           | COVID Mucor mycosis fear and stress. | Threatens to commit suicide |
| 17th May 2021 | India Today    | Jabalpur MP           | 30-year-old man awaiting his coronavirus test report allegedly committed suicide by slitting his throat in a government-run college here in Madhya Pradesh. The coronavirus test report of the man turned out to be negative after his death | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | COVID fear           | Killed himself by slitting his throat inside the ward |
| 22nd April 2021 | India Today    | Raisen MP             | Depressed over the death of her mother, a woman committed suicide in Raisen | Not found    | Home Maker            | Nil                 | COVID fear           | Jumped from her fourth-floor apartment |
| 22nd April 2021 | India Today    | Dewas MP              | Woman ended her life on the same day after three members of her family died within a week | Not found    | Home maker            | Nil                 | COVID Fear           | NO information |
| 24th April 2021 | Zee News Hindi | Noida UP              | 53 yr old man admitted to hospital, COVID +ve. Under depression jumped from 5th floor of hospital | Not found    | No information        | Nil                 | Depression           | Jumped from 5th floor of hospital |

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Suicide occurred most frequently at home, followed by hospital/institutional settings, which is concerning. Hospitals are places where greatest security, care, and surveillance are provided, yet the current pandemic appears to be bypassing all of that. Combining our findings, a typical case and sequence of circumstances leading to CRS during the second wave of the epidemic could be summarised as follows: When a healthy young or old man develops a fever and cold symptoms, he goes to the doctor, gets himself tested for COVID-19 and is found to be positive, is placed on a home quarantine, listens to the news every day, visits social media sites, learns about the shortage of health care-related services and people dying as a result, becomes fearful, believes he will infect his family, develops ideas of hopelessness and helplessness, suffers severe stress, and commits suicide.

Our findings underscore the importance of sharing accurate and sufficient information about COVID-19 on an individual and population level in order to alleviate anxiety, stigma, and misconceptions regarding the virus. The ramifications of our discoveries for the COVID-19 virus are considerable. Because this virus has the ability to infect humans in multiple waves, it’s crucial to invest in these measures now.

There was no mention of physician contact in these cases, but given that 22 suicides occurred in hospitals, we assume that a physician interaction occurred prior to the suicide. According to the research, proper clinician sensitivity is critical in detecting and managing psychological difficulties in COVID-19 suspected cases.

Discussion

Suicide has a complex etiology that includes genetics, familial factors, physical or psychiatric condition, substance abuse, temperamental style, parental upbringing, social support, and many other factors. It would be a disservice to the departed and their survivors to put the cause of suicide in just one cup. In the case of suicide survivors, the cycle of guilt and despair seldom ends. The COVID-19 epidemic has shook the entire planet. As a result of the epidemic, there has been an increase in mental health issues. Several suicides were reported in the Indian media during the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our research aims to identify the elements that influenced suicide attempts during the COVID-19 pandemic’s second wave. According to the findings, socio-demographic characteristics, stigma associated with a COVID-19 diagnosis, fear of contaminating others, and inability to obtain treatments are some of the factors linked to CRS indicators. In the second wave, the majority of cases in India were of the coronavirus delta subtype, which was thought to have a high infectivity. The second wave has killed a large number of people, both young and old. When one considers the scenario, one might get a sense of the overall population’s mental state. There was a shortage of beds, oxygen, and medicines, as well as a fresh outbreak of fungal diseases (mucormycosis) among COVID-19 patients who were already afflicted. This instilled anxiety in the broader public, particularly among those who had already been infected.

Table 2: Continued

| Date     | Location            | Newspaper | Occupation/ profession | Attempted suicide/ survivor | Reason            | Mechanism                          |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 20th March 2021 | Zee News Hindi | Singer    | Financial stress        | Attempted suicide by slashing his wrists | Suicide note found | Hanging                            |
| 24th April 2021 | Zee News Hindi | Singer    | COVID stress            | Attempted suicide by hanging in toilet of COVID ward | Not found | Suicide note not found |
| 29th April 2021 | Zee News Hindi | Teacher   | COVID stress            | Attempted suicide by hanging in toilet of COVID ward | Not found | Suicide note not found |
| 31st May 2021  | Zee News Hindi    | Medical Doctor | Nil                      | Attempted suicide by hanging in toilet of COVID ward | Not found | Suicide note not found |
patients. This will assist in the early detection and prevention of at least some CRS, which can occur in the hospital setting. Because quarantine facilities (including health-care facilities) were the second most common site of suicide, our data suggest that these may be high-risk areas for suicide. Close supervision and environmental alteration (Sakinofsky, 2014) should be considered in this regard, including eliminating fasteners, avoiding ligature points, and reducing breakable and sharp objects.

There were some limitations to this investigation. We gathered information entirely from web sources and news portals, rather than directly from suicide survivors. The majority of our suicide reports come from media accounts, which may or may not be representative of community suicides. As a result, there is a pressing need for government surveillance to collect data in a methodical manner. Suicide warning indicators and various suicide prevention measures should also be made available to the general public.

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Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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