

# Study on a Few Suicide Notes a Forensic Approach



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## Abstract

There is alarming numbers of suicidal Figures reported in India. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), MHA Govt. of India about 8 lakhs suicidal Figures is reported almost every year in the country. Usually suicide Figures are examined on the basis of forensic evidence detected from undisturbed crime spot and autopsy report to establish whether the Figure is suicidal, homicidal or accidental one. It is observed out of the total suicidal Figures reported in the state, about 2% (two percentages) of the Figures suicide notes are detected and received for forensic examination. The examination of such documents adds additional evidence to establish the crime. In this study 14 (fourteen) different suicide notes have been selected to know the peculiar mental condition of the writer before committing such horrible crime. The individual study of all the suicide notes has helped to draw some common observations of the state of mind of the deceased in all the suicide notes examined. The aim of the study is to evaluate the peculiar functional handwriting performance of such victims.

**Keywords:** Suicidal note; Emotional crisis; Handwriting evidence; State of mind; peculiar; Common observation

## Introduction

India is multilingual multi script country and different documents are referred to forensic science laboratory for examination. It is observed, 70% (seventy percentages) work related to forged documents majority of which requiring examination of handwriting or signatures where twenty-two official languages are constitutionally accepted. The handwriting evidence in suicide Figures are very helpful in providing valuable evidence and also provide additional evidence to eliminate suspicion about homicide/ suicide Figures.

The different reasons of suicide notes reported are:

- a) Suicide note stating no body/somebody responsible for death
- b) Tie tag on the wrist showing name/address etc for easy identification at unknown place
- c) Suicide note addressing to local police station stating not to harass family members like parent/wife
- d) Suicide note stating due to failure in examination
- e) Suicide note of boy/girl or both for failure in love affairs
- f) Suicide note for torture by in-laws

- g) Suicide note for poor economic condition
- h) Suicide notes for emotional attachment
- i) Unbearable life's problem/ incurable disease
- j) Failure in crop (farmer suicide)

In this paper fourteen different suicide Figures are narrated showing the suicide notes and admitted writings of the victim in each Figure study [1].

## Test Method

All the suicide notes along with respective admitted writings are examined with conventional methods including stereo microscope and Video Spectral Comparator (Foster and Freeman) [2].

## Observation

The common characteristics observed on writing in the above suicide notes are: -

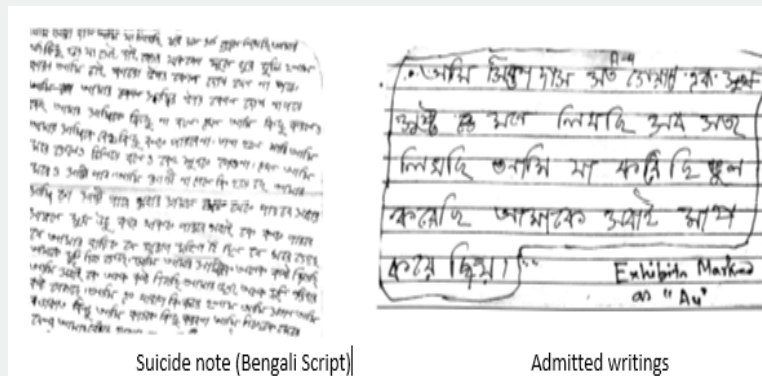
- 1) The individual and general handwriting characters of all the suicide notes written by different victims bear identical writing character which helped to establish the writer.

- 2) In all suicide notes unusual pressure indicates writer inferiority complex, moodiness, unsteady will power and emotional instability.
- 3) Inconsistent baseline on the suicide notes indicates mental instability.
- 4) The baseline of the sentences in suicide notes slants down to the right indicating severe depression and lack of self-confidence.
- 5) The suicide notes bear a constant baseline, but descending words indicates a fight against depression and lack of self-confidence.
- 6) In the suicide notes it is observed that at the right end of the sentences, the baseline of most of the letters suddenly drops indicating severe depression.
- 7) The words or lines of writing slope down in some suicide notes. The downward movements as the pen moves across the writings indicate a writer is running out of mental energy or stamina which leads to pessimism, depression.
- 8) In almost all suicide notes the size of letters smaller than

admitted writings indicating the existence of fear and isolated from others.

- 9) In the suicide notes slant leading to the left and letters with twisted lower zones indicating lack of self-confidence.
- 10) In some suicide notes observed the writings and signatures deteriorates or dramatically changes indicating stress and severe mental depression [3-5].
- 11) In the suicide notes observed a stroke in any area of writings that suddenly stops, and changes direction indicates stress or irresolution in the writer's life.
- 12) In few suicide notes observed extreme left slant represent the fear of the future possible evading of reality.
- 13) In the suicide notes observed slow writing indicates bearing torture for long time and becoming unbearable.
- 14) Irregular slants are observed in the suicide notes indicating extreme sensitive character of the victim.
- 15) In three suicide notes observed a line under the signature indicates the writer determined to end his/her life.

**Conclusion**



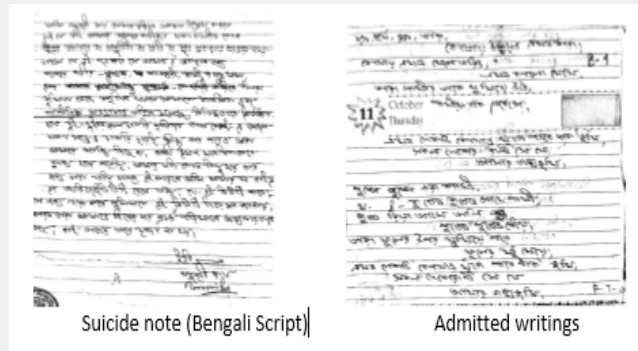
**Figure 1:** One housewife about 28-year-old committed suicide due to psychological factors (loss of morale and hope) by hanging and left a suicide note stating nobody is responsible for her death.

The suicide note of (Figure 1-9) are showing almost similar characteristics such as displaced pressure unusual pressure, the baseline of the sentences slants down to the right, a constant baseline but descending words, the size of letters smaller than admitted writings, a stroke in any area of writings that suddenly stops and changes direction. All the six female victims were almost age between 22 to 30-year age group and having 3-4 years conjugal life. The victims in all six Figures left all hope of their future due to family dispute. Their writing characteristics indicated that they were frustrated and ended life by suicide [6]. The suicide note of (Figure 6-12) are showing similar characteristics such as inconsistent baseline/slant, the spacing between the words becomes larger than the admitted writings, extreme left slant and irregular slants. The four victims were school going boys/

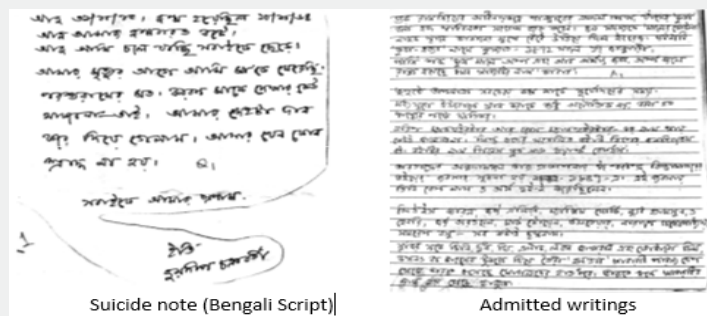
girls age between 16 to 18 year. They were immature and their writing characteristics indicated they were ashamed and wanted to escape from society due to failure in examination and also love affairs. The suicide note of Figure 3 & Figure 9 both the male victims age about 30 to 35 year are unable to leave their beloved and shows common characteristics such as inconsistent baseline, baseline of the sentences form curve, extreme left slant etc. The suicide note of Figure 5 & Figure 9 both female victims age between 18 to 22 year are determined to sacrifice their life to free their beloved husband from any obligation and the decision was taken suddenly which indicated by their common hand writing characteristics such as large size of letters than the admitted writings and very short suicide note. All the above-mentioned significant characteristics of suicide note were observed one or the

other places and the extent of these characteristics are depending on the mental condition of victims [7]. Male persons are generally bearing strong mentality than the female one and so female's handwriting suicide notes show more extent characteristics. Further the school going teenagers are more sensitive and bear inconstant behavioral nature and so handwriting characteristics also indicated the same. Suicide note also known as death note or message left by someone who commits suicide or who intends to commit suicide (Figures 11-14). It is the last and the final word

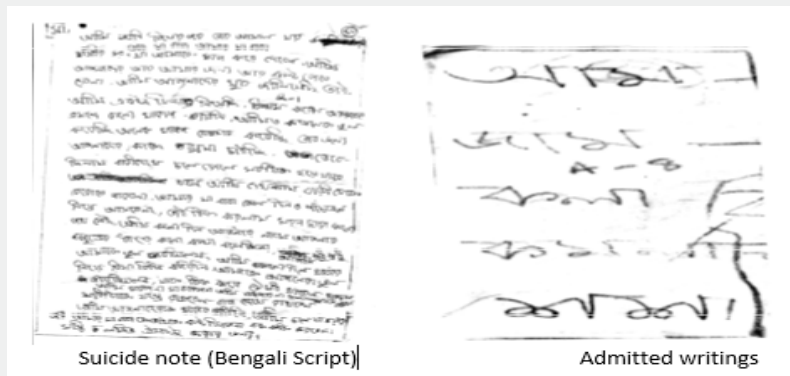
which get to the suicidal mind before death. Due important should be given at the site of crime for recovery of suicide note as it is an important piece of evidence showing mental condition of the victim and plays an important role in understanding reasons of suicide [8]. Analysis of handwriting as a tool to understand the emotional state of person can be implicated during psychiatric assessment. The science of graphology need to be explored and guidance of expert on the subject be taken for interpreted the suicide note in a very accurate manner.



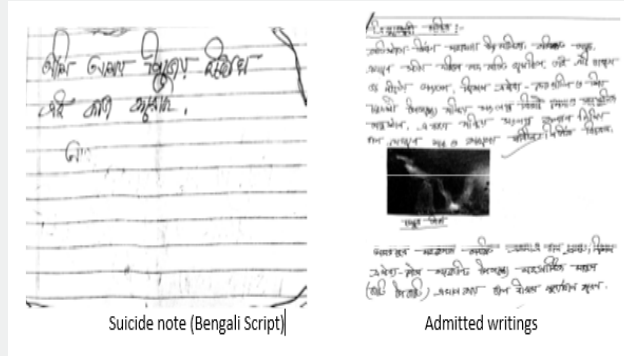
**Figure 2:** One housewife about 30year old being tortured, committed suicide by consuming poison and left a suicide note stating her in-laws and husband are responsible for her death.



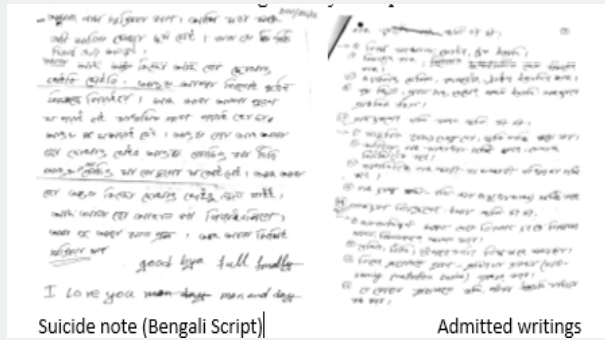
**Figure 3:** One male person about 35-year-old committed suicide by hanging due to mental depression and family dispute leaving a suicide note stating he killed his mother before committing suicide because nobody was there to take care his mother after death.



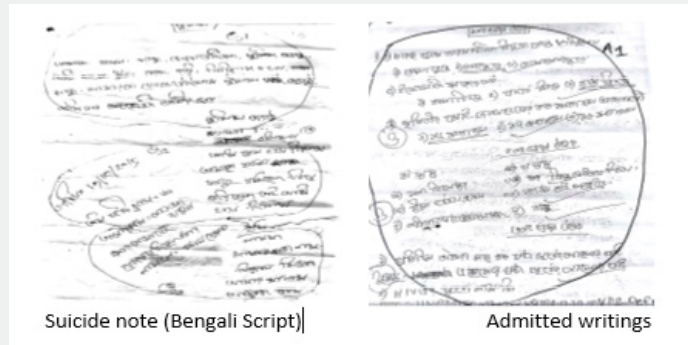
**Figure 4:** Relates to suicide of a housewife age about 28 year for dowry torture by in-laws and husband. She left behind a suicide note stating the husband/ in-laws are responsible for ending her life.



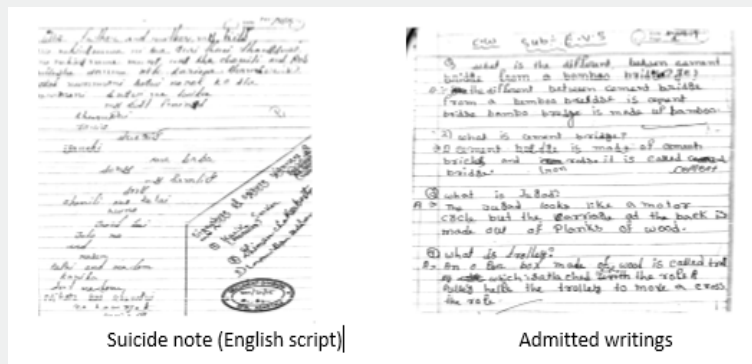
**Figure 5:** The conjugal life of a couple disrupted due to illegal relation of the husband with a girl. Knowing such relation, the wife age about 19 year committed suicide leaving a suicide note stating nobody is responsible for her death in order to save the husband from litigation.



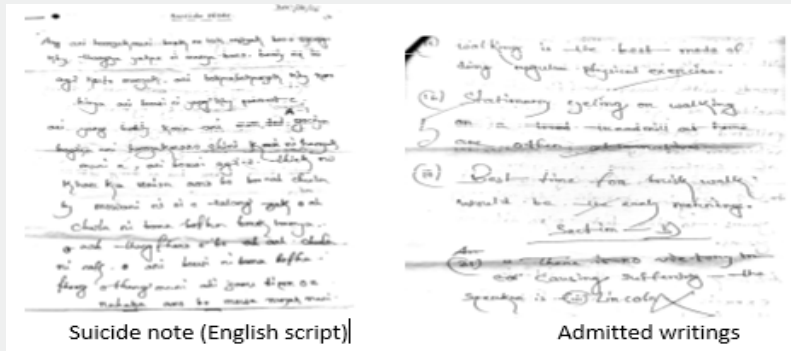
**Figure 6:** A school going girl age about 17 year being unsuccessful in the examination committed suicide. She left behind a suicide note stating nobody is responsible for her death.



**Figure 7:** One school girl age 16 year developed physical relation with a boy to marry. She was pregnant being raped several occasions. Subsequently the boy denied marrying and being depressed she hanged herself leaving behind a suicide note.



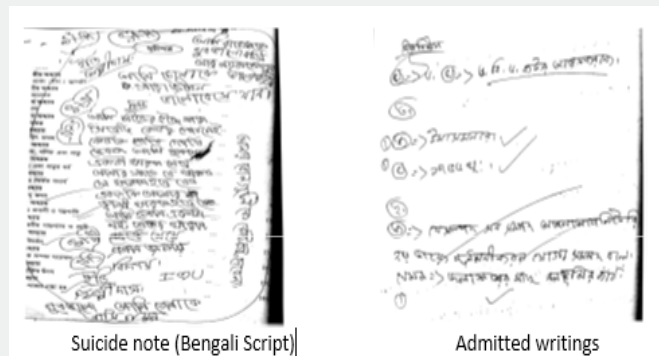
**Figure 8:** One school girl age 14 year committed suicide by hanging being tortured by hostel superintendent and friends stated in the suicide note.



Suicide note (English script)

Admitted writings

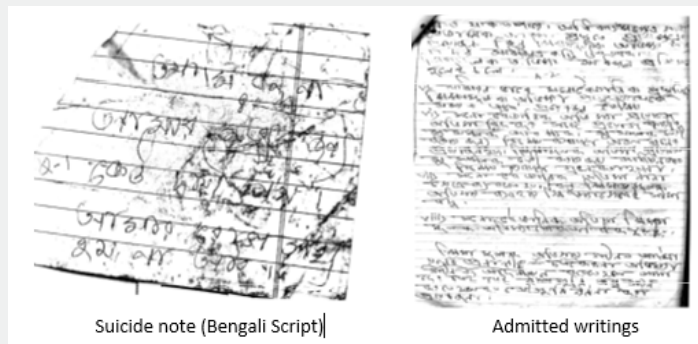
**Figure 9:** This is a love pact marriage and the parents of the boy insisted their son to leave the girl friend. Unbearable situation leading to depression in the mind of the boy and committed suicide leaving a suicide note.



Suicide note (Bengali Script)

Admitted writings

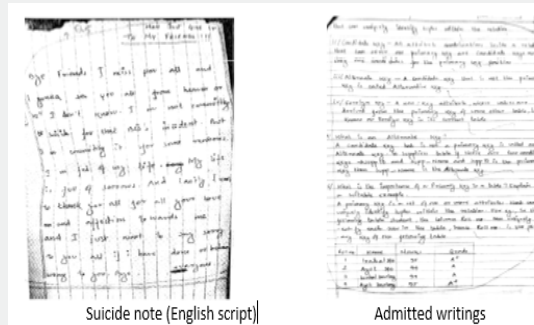
**Figure 10:** One housewife about 30 years developed illegal relation with a boy and as a result family dispute started and her husband pressurized to leave his house. She mentally got depressed and committed suicide by hanging and left behind a suicide note.c



Suicide note (Bengali Script)

Admitted writings

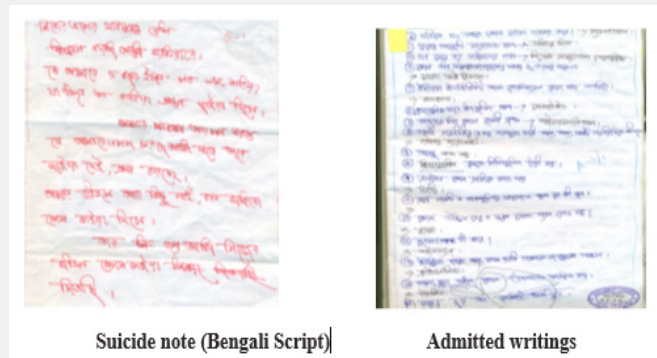
**Figure 11:** One housewife age about 21year committed suicide by hanging due to incurable disease and left suicidal note stating nobody is responsible for her death.



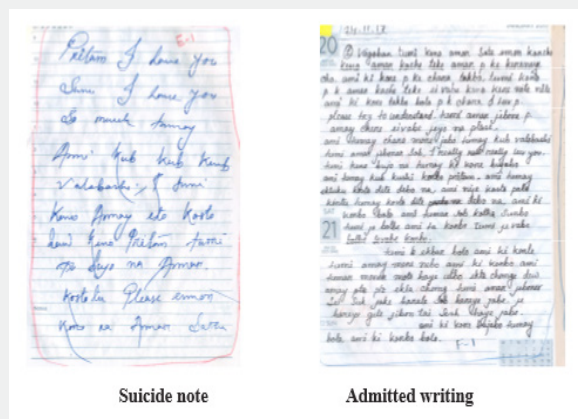
Suicide note (English script)

Admitted writings

**Figure 12:** One school girl age 16 year was caught red-handed when lifting some items from the store and accordingly the matter was reported to her principal. Being ashamed and to escape abuse from Principal and friends, committed suicide by hanging leaving a suicide note



**Figure 13:** This is a love pact marriage and after five years the husband left her to marriage another girl. As a result, the wife age about 23 years committed suicide by hanging leaving a suicide note stated her husband is responsible for her death.



**Figure 14:** Relates to suicide of a housewife age about 24 years for dowry torture by in-laws and husband. She left a suicide note states nobody responsible for her death.

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