

Q What is Criminal Investigation?
Explain the key principles of
Criminal investigation.

Introduction

Criminal investigation is the most important part of criminal justice system. Investigation process determines whether an accused person is a criminal or innocent. So Investigation must done in a professional and accurate manner. Because if investigation process is inaccurate and outdated, then it would become difficult to prove the guilt of an accused person before the court.

“Criminal Investigation is nothing but facts. Without them, Investigation process is just like a guessing game.” Edward.

So Investigation plays an important role to ensure a free and fair trial

of the court. Investigation is not a function of criminal courts.

It is a process function of an investigation officer (IO).

So an IO must be unbiased and professional. So that, the provision of justice may become possible.

DEFINITION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

"Criminal Investigation is a process of collection information and evidence. It is also a process of identifying, apprehending and convicting a suspect."

"Investigation is a rigorous process in which we ^{identify} collect and preserve the evidence."

Goals of Criminal Investigation

- i) Identifying the evidence:
Identification of an

evidence is the first step. Identifying an evidence is also a difficult task. Because an Investigation officer has to identify, which invest evidence is helpful in the case.

ii) Collection of an evidence.

Next step is the collection of evidences. Collection of an evidence plays an important role in the provision of justice.

iii) Preservation of an evidence:

When an evidence is collected then it becomes necessary to preserve in such a way that an evidence remains an accurate evidence. If an Investigation officer does not preserve an evidence in accurate manner then provision of justice would become elusive.

iv) Documenting the whole process.

Final step is the document all the activities regarding the case. Record of witness, suspect, and victim and also all the other

activities that has done regarding the case during the investigation process.

PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINAL

INVESTIGATION

Following are the principles of criminal investigation which are defined as follows.

i) Unbiased Investigation.

An investigation officer should be unbiased during the investigative process. Let the evidences decide, who is victim and who is accused. In the context of Pakistan, some some 90 pre-sumes about the accused that he is a criminal. * So then investigat process becomes diluted. process. So 90 must show unbiasedness and professionalism.

ii) Professionalism

An investigation officer must apply his professional skills during the investigation process. So that the credibility of the process may be ensured.

iii) According to law and regulation

An investigation officer must conduct investigation according to law and regulations. Because an investigation method of murder case is different from the investigation process of rape case.

iv) Ensure safety and security of witnesses and Informants.

An investigation officer also ensure the safety and security of eye witness. Because they can be ~~threat~~ threatened by accused party. So safety and security of them must be ensured so that they can record their statements in the court.

v) Confidential Investigation Process.

An Investigation officer must ensure the confidentiality of investigation process. In the context of Pakistan, the details of investigative process is shared with the court before the verdict of court. So media trial starts of that person. So this sharing process undermine the credibility of investigation process.

vi) Timely Investigation

The investigation must start timely and quickly so that the preservation of crime scene may be possible. And an Investigation officer can record the statements of eye witnesses, victims and accused party.

vii) Use technology and research methods

An investigation process should

advanced and latest technology so that valuable evidences can be recorded and preserved. Investigation officer should also be trained to use latest technology.

viii) Investigative mindset :

An investigation officer should be trained according to every possible situation. So an investigation officer should use his analytical and logical skills to determine the possibility of the truth.

ix) Public cooperation :

An investigation officer should cooperate with public in a very professional way. He should not harass the public. Ensuring of the basic rights should be made possible.

x) Preserve accurate evidences :

An Investigative process must preserve evidences in

in the same manner as ~~that~~^{he} collected.
He must ensured the preservation
of crime scene and evidences
in an accurate manner.

Conclusion :

Investigation process is very
important. So an Investigation should
also be equipped and trained according
to the latest technology and law.

“An investigation process reflects
Criminal Justice System.”

The situation in Pakistan is very
dismal. We should ~~ex~~ equipped and
trained our officers according to the
standard of United States of America.
So that a fair trial should be
made possible. A good investigation
process leads to the provision of
quick justice.