

Forensic Criminology

Q: What is meant by forensic criminal investigation? What are the hurdles in streamlining the forensic criminal investigation in Pakistan?

Ans:

Introduction

Criminal investigation is incomplete without forensics. Forensics is the most important component of the criminal investigation. It primarily gives the a direction to the case.

In Pakistan forensic criminal investigation has taken so much importance as it serves as the a most potent tool in the criminal investigation.

Forensic investigation is also a need of a time as growing number of incidents in a society needs time saving investigation procedure.

→ Hurdles in the way of forensic Criminal investigation in Pakistan

□ Lack of fundamental information and evidences

Most of the time, the investigation team unable to provide basic kind of information and evidences which are fundamental for the investigation. That weaken the case to conclude.

“In Punjab, a father burnt her daughter alive by accusing her in a retro where family resist investigation”
(shazia, unsafe spaces, July 2023)

□ Lack of access to Current tool of Investigation

The investigation tools has “**Obseleted**”. In Pakistan, traditional tools of Investigation are using. Along with it, the updated tools are short in stock.

There is unavailability of modern tools to arrest criminals in Pakistan. (New Agencies report)

Dis-functioning of National Forensic Science Agency

The national forensic science Agency **NFSA** was established in 2002. Its purpose was to establish other forensic science laboratories across the country, and provide teaching and training throughout Pakistan which is "still not achieve".

The "disfunctioning of NFSA" cause delay in working of forensic science in a proper manner.

Burden of Punjab Forensic Science Agency

After NFSA the Punjab forensic science agency is the biggest source of forensic investigation in Pakistan. **PFSA ACT** was passed in 2007 and PFSA was established in 2012. PFSA is having 14 department under one roof. It provides expertise in various **hideous crimes**. Although, each province has their own forensic laboratories but PFSA get a huge burden.

□ Lack of preliminary forensic facilities

There is a lack of basic forensic facilities in a country. According to experts:

In KPK, apart from Serology and DNA analysis, only a few investigation tools are available. However, in Sindh only "DNA" facility is available.

This lead to distortion in forensic investigation.

□ Lack of forensic laboratories across the country

“All laboratories are working under the government where private laboratories are not providing the forensic services. unavailability of trained staff in laboratories Obstacles in attaining desired results.”

Sarima Batool —
— Forensic Expert

□ Increasing amount of Criminal Cases

From some past years, Criminal cases are growing in Pakistan. The criminal cases includes:

- Murder cases (e.g. NOOR Mukadam)
- Rape cases (Motoor way)
- Audio leaks (Judge Arshad Malik)
- Video case (Usman Mirza case)
- Mega corruption (white collar crimes; sugar cases)

Most of the cases are required forensic investigation often directed by the government.

- Bashir Chaudhary

- Journalist

□ Dearth of evidences tend to delay or often lead to inappropriate results

According to the experts:

one of the major reason
of delayed in results
is dearth of evidences.

“Old method of investigation
is obsolete and now
evidences are thoroughly
forensics →

— Shah Khawar

— Former deputy Assistant
General —

with the lack of capacity, forensic
work under the huge pressure

□ Conclusion

Forensic Sciences is a main
component of the forensic
Criminal investigation. Yet, it
has lots of issues including
the “Capacity building” in
the criminal investigation
system. Pakistan is the
population of 229.22m people
and it needs lots of reforms
in the forensic sciences.

The growing number of
criminal cases urged for
the development in capacity
building under the given resources