



Establishing Penetration in Sexual Assault Cases through DNA Analysis of Finger Nail Clippings of Accused:

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Abstract:

The word 'crime against women has become a silent epidemic with more & more cases of rape, molestation & sexual assault being reported every year in India [1]. In India, a rape is reported every 15 minutes, according to recently released official government crime data. Despite various federal government campaigns such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao - 'Educate the daughter, save the daughter' the crime rate per 100,000 women increased to 58.8% in 2018 in comparison with 57.9% in 2017. The National Crime Records Bureau on October 21, 2019, released its report for the year 2017, which stated that 359,849 cases of crime against women were reported in the country. In addition, 237,660 cognizable cases were registered in 2018, in which Delhi leads over 18 other metro cities in terms of crimes, according to the 2018 edition of the Crime in India report released by the NCRB [2].

According to experts, only 10% of rapes are reported, and the conviction rate for rape cases is 24.2%. Several rape cases in India received widespread media attention and triggered protests since 2012. This led the Government of India to reform its penal code for crimes of rape and sexual assault [3].

Some of the examples of brutal rape cases are (1) November, 1973: Aruna Shanbaug, a 26-year-old nurse, was attacked by a ward attendant at a Mumbai hospital during her night shift. Sohanlal Bhartha Walmiki, who was later convicted and jailed. (2) 1990: Hetal Parekh, a 14-year-old schoolgirl, was raped and murdered by Dhananjay Chatterjee in Kolkata. Chatterjee was sentenced to death and hung in 2004; it was the first hanging in India in 13 years. (3) 1995: A Jaipur court acquits five men accused of gang-raping Bhanwari Devi, a lower-caste woman who worked with the Women's Development Project in Rajasthan in 1992. (4) 1996: Law student Priyadarshini Mattoo was found raped and strangled in her Delhi flat.



Santosh Kumar Singh, a fellow law student and son of a former senior police officer, was sentenced to death. (5) December, 2012: A 23-year-old student was beaten and gang-raped on a moving bus in the capital New Delhi and later died of her injuries. Five men and a juvenile were arrested - four of the men have been sentenced to death and one hanged himself during the trial. The juvenile offender was freed after completing three years in a reform home. (6) January, 2018: An 8-year-old Muslim girl was drugged, held captive in a temple and sexually assaulted for a week before being strangled and battered to death with a stone in Kathua town in northern India. Six men, including a Hindu priest and three police officers, were convicted of the crime. Three were given life sentence.

Owing to the increasing importance of genomic information, obtaining genomic DNA from human nail material and analysing using short tandem repeat (STR) profiling from biological specimens has become more and more important. An important aspect of violent crime investigations is the identification of the persons that had the last contact with the victim.

Publication of speakers:

1. Rawat R & Masthanaiah T. Explosion of rape cases in India: A study of last one decade. International Journal of Current research. 2015; 7(7):17976-19784.
2. <https://aisatimes.com/2020/01/a-rape-in-india-every-15-minuts-government-data>. [Last accessed on 22 Aug 2020]

Webinar on Women Health Science and Care, 7 September, 2020, Tokyo, Japan

Citation: Mayank Kumar Dubey, India, Business Wellness Consultant, Webinar on Women Health Science and Care, 7 September, 2020, Tokyo, Japan