

**SURVEY REPORT****Public Perception on Forensic Science and Its Importance**\*Pradeep Loyed Martis<sup>1</sup> and Don Caeiro<sup>2</sup><sup>1, 2</sup> Department of Forensic Science, Jain University, Bengaluru, India\*Correspondence: [pradeeployedmartis@gmail.com](mailto:pradeeployedmartis@gmail.com)**Abstract**

A study was conducted in order to evaluate awareness about forensic science among general public. For this study 50 Individuals were interviewed and their opinions were recording against different parameters to define their knowledge about the field of forensics. According to the study conducted, majority of the public are not aware of the use of forensic science and its importance in crime investigation. The maximum number of respondents i.e. 52% said that they have come to know about forensic science through movies and serials. The most of the respondents i.e. 50% feel that forensic science is mainly used in police department. Maximum number of respondents i.e. 52% feels that public needs awareness to improve the field of forensic science. Thus we can conclude that there is a lack of awareness among public regarding this field. Because of that lack of knowledge, the field of forensic science is not given much importance and value in the field of crime investigation and the public unintentionally disturb or distort the scene of crime and further disturb vital evidences that may be present.

**Keywords:** Forensics, Public Perception, Crime Scene, Judicial, Evidence, Fingerprints**Introduction**

Forensic Science is the application of science to the processes of law involving the scientific examination and evaluation of evidence. It is scientific analysis and comparison which is used in the detection and investigation of crime. The collection of forensic evidence and the application of forensic sciences have become essential in criminal investigations and prosecutions. Forensic evidence plays a very important role in crime investigations. Forensic scientist plays a very important role in scientific method of collection of physical clue materials and physical evidences from the crime scene (Waggoner, 2007).

Crime Scene is the place where the criminal offence occurred. Each crime scene is unique and dynamic. Although a standard set of procedures must be followed at every location by the crime scene investigator. There are two types of crime scene. Primary crime scene is the main place of crime occurred and secondary crime scene is the place where the related articles or evidences are found. It may link the offenders with the offence.

The term evidence includes all the alleged facts, the truth which is submitted to the investigation at judicial trial, is accepted or disproved. It is the information given to court whether the crime has committed or not. It helps to prove or disprove that a crime was committed or not and by whom it was committed (White, 2007).

To help fight crime with technical means, there has been an increasing need for enhanced education in forensic awareness and forensic science in countries. The ultimate goal is to provide more knowledgeable and better skilled academic communities and public work forces. These will include the police and law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories and legal systems. Forensic science is to be used in each and every case so that the cases are solved easily.

Today we can see that lots of cases are pending and some cases are rejected due to lack of evidence or failure in collection of evidence. Police play an important role in crime investigation, proper education and training has to

be given to improve their knowledge and skills towards forensic science. Forensic scientists have to be called for every crime scene for the collection of evidences. Police has to give some outputs to the public regarding the protection of crime scene and how can they proceed after the crime takes place. Thus improving the knowledge towards forensic science.

**Methodology**

I hereby declare that this project entitled ‘Public perception on forensic science and its importance’ is a bona-fide survey carried out by me under the guidance of Mr Don Caeiro, Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic science, school of graduate studies, Jain University.

- The aim of the study was to find out public perception on forensic science and its importance.
- To find out the knowledge of forensic science among public.
- To find out the public perspective of importance of forensic science.
- To find out various opinions of forensic science according to public.
- To find out how can forensic science be improved?
- To find out how public, police and government can develop forensic science.

The sample chose for the purpose of this study was done by random sampling method. The random sampling method was done through a process of purposive sampling. The sample size chosen for this study is fifty. The sample population selected for this study are working professionals. Professionals working in Jain University were excluded for this study as they will have some or the other knowledge of forensic science and may give biased answers. Since this study is focused on the awareness of forensic science among general public the professionals of Jain University were excluded from the study.

This study begins with an interview study, where the questions are set based on the importance and knowledge about forensic science. This study is done to know what knowledge, public has towards forensic science and why this forensic science is used in crime investigation. This interview study contains 21 questions were each of the questions are based on current

situation and use of forensic science in India. The questions are set in according to focus on forensic science and knowledge of forensic science among public. Interview has to be done of working people aging from 21-40. I have used interview schedule for this study and this method was used to know what is the opinion of public towards forensic science, what can be done by them to improve forensic science, what is the value of forensic science in crime investigation, importance given to forensic science, why forensic science is needed and role of public towards forensic science. To give them an idea about forensic science this study is done. 50 samples are collected pertaining to this study.

For the purpose of this study, an open-ended interview schedule was designed. The interview schedule was divided into four different parts. The first part consisted of personal details about the respondents like age, gender, qualification, years of experience etc. The second part of the interview schedule consisted of six questions which concentrated on the public opinion towards forensic science. The next part consisted of seven questions which is related to public’s rating towards forensic science. The last part was about the public opinion towards improving Forensic science comprising of five questions.

A code book was prepared in order to segregate the data and make the tabulations. This was achieved by tallying the questions and answers for that particular question with respect to the respondents. The data tallied is then put into tables and further analysis was done based on the objectives framed before the conduction of the study.

**Findings**

- Majority of the respondents i.e. 60% feel that forensic science refers to crime investigation (Table 1)

<b>Table 1: Respondent’s General Opinion Towards Forensic Science</b>	
<b>Answers</b>	<b>No. of People</b>
Investigation	30 (60%)
Fingerprint	5 (10%)
Evidence Analysis	3 (6%)
Solve Cases	5 (10%)
Crime Scene	1 (2%)
Science and Law	6 (12%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- The maximum Number of respondents i.e. 52% said that they have come to know about forensic science through movies and serials (Table 2).

**Table 2: Respondent's Common Source of Learning About Forensic Science**

Answers	No. of People
From People	8 (16%)
Movies and Serials	26 (52%)
Education and Online	3 (6%)
Media	12 (24%)
Not Sure	1 (2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- It is seen that majority of the respondents i.e. 64% have no idea about the usage of forensic science other than solving crimes (Table 3).

**Table 3: Respondent's Opinion About Scope of Forensic Science**

Answers	No. of People
Private Agencies and Departments	8 (16%)
Medical and Research	8 (16%)
Public Purpose	2 (4%)
No idea	32 (64%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- The majority of the respondents i.e. 32% have rated the awareness of forensic science as 5 (Table 4).

**Table 4: Respondent's Rating Towards Forensic Science**

Rating	No. of People
1	1 (2%)
2	5 (10%)
3	5 (10%)
4	8 (16%)
5	16 (32%)
6	2 (4%)
7	7 (14%)
8	4 (8%)
9	2 (4%)
10	0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- It is seen that most of the respondents i.e. 26% have rated the importance of forensic science

as 9 and 24% of the respondents rated the importance of forensic science as 10 (Table 5).

**Table 5: Respondent's Rating Towards Importance of Forensic Science**

Rating	No. of People
1	1 (2%)
2	1 (2%)
4	4 (8%)
5	5 (10%)
7	5 (10%)
8	9 (18%)
9	13 (26%)
10	12 (24%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- The majority of the respondents i.e. 24% have rated the reliability of forensic science as 7 and 22% of the respondents have rated the reliability of forensic science as 8 (Table 6).

**Table 6: Respondent's Rating Towards Reliability of Forensic Science**

Rating	No. of People
1	1 (2%)
3	1 (2%)
4	5 (10%)
5	4 (8%)
6	4 (8%)
7	12 (24%)
8	11 (22%)
9	7 (14%)
10	5 (10%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- Most of the respondents i.e. 80% feel that there is difference between forensic science in India and abroad (Table 7).

**Table 7: Respondent's opinion towards improving forensic science**

Answers	No. of People
Yes	40 (80%)
No	1 (2%)
Don't Know	9 (18%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- Maximum number of the respondents i.e. 52% feels that public needs awareness to improve the field of forensic science (Table 8).

**Table 8: Respondent's Rating Towards Importance of Forensic Science**

Answers	No. of People
Awareness	26 (52%)
Helping Police and Government	5 (10%)
Support and More Information	4 (8%)
Helping in Preserving Evidence	1 (2%)
Educated and Interest	3 (6%)
No Improvement is Required	1 (2%)
Don't Know	10 (20%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- Most of the respondents i.e. 34% feel that police should be aware of techniques and he needs to upgrade techniques for fast crime results, 32% of the respondents feel that police should use forensic science in solving cases (Table 9).

**Table 9: Respondent's Rating Towards Requirement of Forensic Science for Law Enforcement Agencies**

Answers	No. of People
Use Forensic Science	16 (32%)
Aware of Technique and Upgrade Technique	17 (34%)
Education and Interest	6 (12%)
Loyal and Motivation	3 (6%)
Refer Abroad Forensics	1 (2%)
No Police	1 (2%)
Don't Know	6 (12%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

- The majority of the respondents i.e. 44% feel that government should improve technology and provide support to forensic science (Table 10).

**Table 10: Respondent's Rating Towards Establishment of Forensic Science**

Answers	No. of People
Funding Priority	9 (18%)
Advance Technology and Support	22 (44%)
Awareness	3 (6%)
Efficiency and Loyalty	2 (4%)
Don't Know	4 (8%)
Improve Institutions and proper Administration	7 (14%)
Law and Enforcement	3 (6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

## Conclusion

From the study conducted it is found out that majority of the public are not aware of the use of forensic science and its importance in crime investigation. Most of respondents have come to know about forensic science through movies and serials which specifies that public has less knowledge towards forensic science. Half of the respondents feel that forensic science is used only in police department, where it can be used in other fields such as banking, insurance and in companies. The study also shows that most of the respondents are not aware of usage of forensic science in India.

From the given rating majority of the respondents are not aware of the importance of forensic science in India. Most of the respondents are not aware of technology used in forensic science in India. Half of the respondents are confused about the reliability of forensic science in India.

Thus from this study it is proved that there is lack of knowledge of forensic science among public. Most of the cases, the crime scene is first seen by the public. So if they have knowledge about forensic science and its importance, they can also play an important role in forensic science. If they are aware how to react towards a crime then crime scene can be protected and evidences can be preserved.

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