

Forensic Psychological Tools and its evidentiary value in INDIAN courts

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Abstract

Crime is something that has an impact on each and every individual's life either directly or indirectly and recently there has been an observable increase in the crime rate of our country. Criminal Investigation has then played a very significant role in the investigation and curbing the offences to a large extent. The exposure of media and other resources has created much awareness even for offenders when it come to eliminating physical evidence left on the crime, and thus making it relatively difficult for the investigating agencies to gather evidences which will lead them to the perpetrator of the particular crime. Initially, 3rd degree torture was the most frequently used technique while interrogating a suspect, however, it was a very crude way of investigation and also it was found that innocent suspects confess to crime under the pressure of 3rd degree torture due to fear. Therefore, there has always been a need for the use of standardized techniques to be utilized for the purpose of investigation. Some of these scientific techniques have gained importance in recent times such as Polygraph, Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling (BEOS), etc. However, these psychological techniques have at times created controversies and its utility has been questioned, especially after the Supreme Court judgment. Thus, there has been a need to understand the legal interpretation associated with the tests, and it's evidentiary value in the honorable courts. This paper is an attempt to understand the evidentiary value of the Psychological Techniques such as Polygraph, Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling, Narco-analysis through various case studies as well as judgments associated with the test.

Keywords: Psychological Techniques, Polygraph, BEOS, Narco-analysis, Evidentiary Value, Corroborative Evidence.

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