Role of Clinical Psychologists in Forensic Sciences

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Abstract: Forensic psychology encompasses a number of related disciplines like personality theory, forensic psychology, environmental psychology, psychotherapy, and therefore the relatively new field of criminal investigative psychology. While these fields relate in how to general psychology, certain segments within each field deal directly with criminality. Forensic psychologists testify in court as experts on the potential danger that's posed by a defendant. Environmental psychologists study how humans behave within the environment. Criminal investigative psychology is defined because the systematic examination of unsolved crime constituents and therefore the application of scientific methods to provide investigative support to enforcement. However the role of psychotherapist is usually arbitrarily explained. This text is an investigation on the role if psychotherapist during this field. It'll review topics like typical forensic psychology, ethics, therapeutic conflicts, and therefore the specialist assessments and interventions used with the criminal population. This review reveals that clinical psychologists are vital in solving many forensic problems. Psychological assessments, which analyze behavior, personality and psychiatric problems, offer a good caricature and the prime motive of an assailant to law enforcement officers. This could help them solving the crime as well as plan on relapse from them after release or during parole. They could also provide vital information in case of serial killing and assaults. Even being one of the promising fields of psychology; many of us are unaware about the roles, scopes and importance of clinical psychologists in this field. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that clinical psychologists in all specialties are duly equipped to work with forensic issues and to comprehend when to refer to a specialist service may be warranted. The purpose of this seminar is to provide an introduction to the role of clinical psychology in a forensic setting. It will review topics such as typical forensic psychology, ethics, therapeutic conflicts, and the specialist assessments and interventions used with the criminal population. This article speaks on to alleviate most of such confusions.

I. INTRODUCTION

Forensic psychology is a budding field in India is what one frequently heard while communicating to professionals who deal with crime in the nation. Prior to tracing the legal footprints of Forensic Psychology in India, it is crucial to comprehend the justice system and what part of the conundrum of the judicial system does forensic psychology fit. After a crime has been committed the first summit of contact is the police who eventually collect evidence from the scene of the crime and would deliver it to the Forensic science laboratories. These laboratories complete their scientific assessment and would sent to the court of law to help in deducing who, when, where, what, why and how. Part played by forensic Psychology is mostly in rendering answers to – why?. However their role is minimized mostly in the country.

Clinicians and forensic psychologists are two types of psychologists who are often requisite to appear as witnesses in court proceedings. The clinical psychologists are vital in solving many forensic problems; their psychological assessments, which analyze behavior, personality and psychiatric problems, can offer a good caricature and the prime motive of an assailant to law enforcement officers. This could help them solving the crime as well as plan on relapse from them after release or during parole. They could also provide vital information in case of serial killing and assaults. Even being one of the promising fields of psychology; many of us are unaware about the roles, scopes and importance of clinical psychologists in this field. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that clinical psychologists in all specialties are duly equipped to work with forensic issues and to comprehend when to refer to a specialist service may be warranted. The purpose of this seminar is to provide an introduction to the role of clinical psychology in a forensic setting. It will review topics such as typical forensic psychology, ethics, therapeutic conflicts, and the specialist assessments and interventions used with the criminal population. This article speaks on to alleviate most of such confusions.

II. FORENSIC SCIENCES & FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Forensic science is the application of scientific methods to criminal and civil laws, during criminal investigation, as governed by the legal standards of acceptable evidence and criminal course of action. There is more curiosity nowadays in forensic science than at any previous time in its history. More dramas are embedding forensic scientist as a magical department who comes to crime scenes and entail important evidences in most curious fashion. In real forensic scientists obtained evidences from microscopic traces of body fluids, drugs, and explosives of satisfactory quality for it to be pivotal in an inquiry or trial. In many countries there has been a parallel revolt in how the police
investigate crime. It is probably more effective, faster, and more reliable to inspect the crimes that affect us most such as burglary and car theft using DNA and fingerprints than by traditional police methods. Forensic scientists employ DNA profiling and the development of DNA and fingerprint databases to trace culprits. In foremost crime, such as homicide such as murder, stabbing, and serial killings; forensic scientists are in forefront of international investigations. Forensic science is now steadfastly entrenched in the criminal justice outline since it can answer investigative queries in many instances better than any other means accessible.

III. FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY & FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST

Forensic Psychology traces back its roots to 1968 when the first lie detection division was developed at the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Forensic psychologists may be trained as either clinical psychologists or experimental psychologists and engage in a variety of roles within each of these two broad areas [1]. A central responsibility played by a forensic psychologist or forensic psychiatrist would be to led light on the “mens rea” of suspects [2]. The term “Mens rea” depicts the state of mind of the accused who generally pleads on ‘not guilty’ in the witness stand during a trial. Sometimes those who plead guilty would claim that they have commenced the crime under the influence of addictive substances or fro help self being unaware etc. Such plead could help them with lesser punishment or procrastinate the final verdict of the judiciary. It would be necessary for experts to step in and assimilate a systematic forensic interview and assessment to critic how accurate the individual’s statement is. This interview and assessment is provided by clinical psychologist who determine if a suspected criminal suffers from a mental illness, or may be asked to provide treatment to individuals suffering from substance abuse and addiction issues. This helps the judiciary to execute a verdict, which is fair and in light of the safety of the society and the individuals.

According to Huss [3], some of the functions typically performed within forensic psychology include:

- Competency evaluations
- Sentencing recommendations
- Evaluations of the risk of reoffending
- Testimony as an expert witness
- Child custody evaluations

IV. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND FORENSIC SCIENCE

According to American Psychological Association[4], Clinical psychology is the psychological specialty that provides continuing and comprehensive mental and behavioral health care for individuals and families; consultation to agencies and communities; training, education and supervision; and research-based practice. It is a specialty in breadth one that is broadly inclusive of severe psychopathology and marked by comprehensiveness and integration of knowledge and skill from a broad array of disciplines within and outside of psychology proper. The scope of clinical psychology encompasses all ages, multiple diversities and varied systems.

Clinicians and forensic psychologists are two styles of psychologists who are regularly required to seem as witnesses in courtroom proceedings. Their roles, duties, and duties in legal issues are highly different, but it's feasible for them to overlap. It is crucial for psychologists to well known both the responsibilities and barriers of their duties when testifying. An increasingly essential place of civil litigation is the medical psychologist’s involvement in:

- Personal injury litigations following commercial accidents or aircraft accidents. In such cases, the psychologists’ attempts to evaluate the diploma of emotional harm sustained through the victim and relate the capacity cost of expected remedy and disability.
- Sexual harassment lawsuits. The clinical psychologist’s determines the volume of psychological harm sustained via the victim and the future expected disability, if any.
- Child sexual molestation and abuse.
- Workmans reimbursement injuries of a mental nature which include the development of post-worrying strain sickness following the witnessing of an business tragedy[5].
According to Hugaboom (2002) [6], clinical psychologists play a crucial role in legal issues regarding their clients. Clinicians could also be asked to submit records to insurance companies, report suspected incidents of kid abuse, and testify on behalf of or against their clients during a court of law. Unfortunately, when asked or required to participate in legal proceedings of any sort, clinicians are faced with indistinct guidelines that blur between legal and ethical requirements[6]. The American Psychological Association (1992) [4], views that one of the first requirements of a practicing clinician is to take care of confidentiality with a client. Once a client discloses private information to a therapist in an environment during which it’s expected that the knowledge won’t ordinarily be disclosed to 3rd parties, it becomes confidential [6][7].

Legally and ethically, a clinician must break confidentiality whenever required. Corey (2001)[8] lays out several circumstances during which counselors must legally report certain information.

- Counselors are required to break confidentiality and report or even testify when clients pose a danger to themselves or others, and when a counselor believes that a minor (a person under the age of 16) may be a victim of rape, incest, or abuse.
- Therapists must release certain information if it becomes an issue in court action.[6]

Smith-Bell & Winslade [7] views that besides these specific situations, a clinical therapist is legally required to testify to all or any other psychotherapeutic communications unless that material has the status of being privileged. Refusal to do so may result in the therapist being charged with contempt of court [6].

**Clinical psychologist’s competencies in criminal process**

For forensic settings there are few specific competencies which are unlikely to be achieved without specialist input from practitioners working in such settings, whilst other competencies are more generic and thus may be met through work in other specialties. Those that are specific to the field of clinical psychology are [6]:

- Experience of generalising and synthesising prior knowledge and experience in order to apply them to work with clients with atypical and complex presentations including those relating to mental health, social functioning and offending behaviour for which there may be no direct previous clinical or research evidence or knowledge [6].
- Ability to develop and maintain effective working alliances with individual service users, carers, other professionals and services. Ability to develop a therapeutic alliance with individuals who may be detained in hospital or receiving treatment about which they may feel ambivalent [6].
- Ability to conduct assessments which vary in relation to
  - Focus (e.g. Mental health needs and offending behaviour);
  - Purpose (e.g. Informing the legal process about placement and identifying treatment need);
  - Method (e.g. Self report psychometrics and structured interviews);
  - Approach (e.g. Individual assessment; collaborative, MDT and indirect methods);
  - Recipient (i.e. a individual, service or court) [6].
- Ability to choose, use and interpret a broad range of assessment procedures, including structured and semi-structured interviews, psychometric information and third-party information in order to conduct a comprehensive assessment (e.g. of mental health needs and offending behaviour). Demonstrate an awareness of team approaches to assessment and the information different professional groups may bring to an assessment [6].
- Understanding of the approaches and methods for conducting comprehensive risk assessments, such as those based upon actuarial approaches and structured clinical judgment, and to contribute to risk management[6].

**Clinical psychologist’s competencies to stand trials**

in spite of of the mental condition of the accuse at the time of commencing a criminal, the accused cannot be taken to trail unless they are able to understand the nature and purpose of the proceedings against them and to assist in their own defense [6]. The trial of a someone who is debilitated would be a breaching of due process. The per the penal code mentally incompetent accused even after conviction may not be subjected to the any criminal penalty affixed to the convinced crime or offense. This law applies to every form of penalty, including the fatality penalty. The accused, will be sent for incarceration in a mental hospital for their own and the public’s protection [9].

The psychologist’s testimony can be given in situations other than where insanity is the question [6]. The clinical psychologists may help determine the capability or impeachability of a witness. They may also be asked to determine whether a defendant was competent at the
time of a confession or whether there is a question of the admissibility of a confession[6]. There are many considerations when determining a person’s mental state. The major types of disorders are [6]:

1. Mental retardation
2. Organic brain syndromes, including senile and pre-senile dementia, alcoholic psychosis, and others of similar nature
3. Psychosis not attributable to physical conditions, including paranoid states, schizophrenia, and affective psychosis
4. Neurosis
5. Personality disorders, including alcoholism, drug dependence, and sexual deviations.

Clinical neuropsychologist as criminal forensic neuropsychologist

Clinical neuropsychologist is one who specializes in neuropsychology within clinical psychology. Criminal forensic neuropsychology is viewed as a hybrid of at least two practice specialties (neuropsychology and forensic psychology) and one subspecialty (criminal forensic psychology). It has become increasingly less difficult to find neuropsychologists familiar with the intricacies of civil forensic practice[6]. Conversely, it is still not easy to find neuropsychologists with the requisite training in criminal practice[6]. A competent criminal forensic neuropsychologist will have had obligatory training and experience in clinical neuropsychological assessment in the area pertinent to the particular case (eg, traumatic brain injury, cerebro-vascular accident, dementia) and in the application of psychology to the pertinent area of criminal law[6]. Knowledge of malingering head trauma sequelae and experience in its identification is a necessary aspect of work in the criminal forensic arena. Knowledge of the pertinent criminal statute(s) is a necessary, but often not sufficient, condition of such practice[6]. Although not required, a familiarity with pertinent jurisdictional case law and the relevant literature is helpful[6]. The goal is to provide the trier of fact with well-informed opinions. Neuropsychologists without this training are not in a position to provide such assistance[6].

V. DIFFERENT PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS USED IN FORENSIC SCIENCES

Psychological testing may not be the first subject that springs to mind when thinking of forensic psychology, but it’s arguably one of the most important topics within the discipline. Psychological testing — including intelligence tests; psychomotor tests for attention, memory, and conceptual thinking; and personality tests — are used to detect the presence of psychopathologic characteristics. One such test, the Rorschach, is a projective test that attempts to determine the subject’s inner attitudes, fantasies, and defenses. The results of the testing and the clinical examination are summarized into an opinion of the person’s mental state; the clinical psychologists may also make a recommendation and a prognosis in his report.

Some tests are listed below under different purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Neuropsychological Tests &amp; Batteries</th>
<th>Psycho-educational, IQ, Attention Deficit &amp; Achievement Tests for Children, Teens &amp; Adults</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Luria-Nebraska Neuropsychological Battery (LNNB-II) (Multi-scale test battery)</td>
<td>- Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III/IV (WAIS-III/IV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Screening Test for the Luria-Nebraska Neuropsychological Battery (LNNB-ST)</td>
<td>- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-IV)</td>
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<td>- Dementia Rating Scale-II (DRS-II) (Multi-scale test battery)</td>
<td>- Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI)</td>
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<td>- Mini-Mental State Exam-II (MMSE-II)</td>
<td>- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-II (WIAT-II/III)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Wechsler Memory Scale-III/IV (WMS-III/IV) (Multi-scale test battery)</td>
<td>- Children’s Memory Scale (CMS) and Wechsler Memory Scale-III/IV (WMS-III/IV)</td>
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<td>- Wide Range Assessment of Memory &amp; Learning (WRAML-II)</td>
<td>- Wide Range Assessment of Memory and Learning (WRAML-II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS-III/IV) (Multi-scale test battery)</td>
<td>- Test of Variables of Attention (TOVA)</td>
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<td>- Booklet Categories Test (BCT)</td>
<td>- Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST)</td>
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<td>- Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST)</td>
<td>- Children’s Color and Intermediate Trail Making Test</td>
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<td>- Stroop Color-World Test</td>
<td>- Neuropsychological Tests Listed Above</td>
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<td>- Boston Naming Test (BNT-R)</td>
<td>Psycho-diagnostic &amp; Personality Testing for Adults and Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Exam (BDAE)</td>
<td>- Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-II (MMPI-II/RF)</td>
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VI. THEORETICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLINICAL AND FORENSIC EVALUATION

Major differences between clinical and criminal forensic evaluations are on supported goals. The goal of forensic evaluation is most frequently to work out whether a defendant’s psychological problems meet a legal standard or to help authorities to develop a concept of management (eg, sentencing). The diversity in goals creates different assumptions, roles, alliances, and methods [10].

Assumptions: In clinical practice, it’s assumed that patients will fully seek help as they are aware and are in requisite to alleviate their distress. The therapeutic alliance, then, becomes one in every such collaboration and belief. There is often a diagnosable condition that outstrips the service, whether the service is assessment or intervention. Criminal defendants, however, might not be self-directed nor do they necessarily suffer from a psychological or neuropsychological malady. The likelihood of harsh punishment can create tremendous motivation to govern the evaluator and judicatory. Therefore, it’s counterproductive to assume that defendants want help for bothersome symptoms or to trust without verification. The differences in assumptions naturally end in different roles for psychologists [10].

Roles: The clinical psychologist maintains the role of helping the patient. More than being a patient-helper, the forensic psychologists should attempt to take care of a task of “seeker of truth” and judicial educator. It’s a difficult role to take care of, but they should realize that his or her opinion may do away more harm than good and therefore the potential consequences will be great. For instance, the evaluator’s opinion in capital cases may pave the thanks to a death sentence for the defendant [10].
Alliances: The working alliance with the patient may be a hallmark of excellent clinical rehabilitation and practice. Developing the link to foster motivation and hopefulness on behalf of the patient is crucial in the case of clinical patients. During this beam, two issues are relevant inside the forensic appraisal. First, the encounter with the client in hand is not for a therapeutic endeavor. Second, the adherence is with the reality, not with the defendant. The neutrality of forensic evaluation doesn't, however, obviate the prerequisite to develop rapport with the defendant or to treat him or her with dignity and respect [10]. This backbone of alliance; the establishment of rapport fosters self-disclosure and motivation to perform during psychological testing; however it's possible to take care of an expert and ethical relationship while maintaining the strict boundaries of the forensic evaluation process. The difference in alliance between clinical and forensic evaluations is exemplified within the potential lack of confidentiality in criminal forensic practice [10].

Methodology: Common clinical practice incorporates an interview with the patient, and maybe an informant acquainted with the patient, and psychological testing to characterize the patient’s difficulties or to reach a diagnosis and make treatment recommendations[10]. Forensic assessment requires a way broader base of knowledge sources than is typical of clinical practice[10]. It can take time to locate and review past medical and academic records and interview others acquainted with the defendant [10]. The evaluator must also place more weight on objective test results than subjective complaints, self-report checklists, and behavior during clinical interviews. In essence, the evaluator must do the evaluation very like a detective would try and sleuth out the reality[10]. The explorer for the reality requires that the forensic psychologist gather information from a large style of sources apart from the defendant [10].

VII. THERAPEUTIC AND FORENSIC ROLE CONFLICTS

As discussed already the clinical psychologists who provide psychotherapy to patients involved in proceedings are sometimes obliged to present themselves to the attorneys to provide expert witness testimony. It may be appropriate for a psychotherapist to testify when there are questions involving the nature of a patient's symptoms, response to therapy or prognosis. However, in other proceedings, such as child custody disputes or allegations of child sexual abuse, a therapist who has not performed a forensic evaluation or interview lacks the necessary foundation for forming or expressing an opinion and should not agree to provide expert testimony [11]. It is essential for attorneys to understand the distinction between psychotherapeutic and forensic roles to keep away from retaining a psychologist-therapist who provides improper testimony. It is also critical to recognize and challenge testimony when it deviating from the professional standards [11].

Different attitudes: Another important difference between the therapeutic and forensic role is the attitude that the professionalism in the relationship. Therapists strive to listen to their patients, while communicating an unconditional positive regard is maintained. The therapist always take care to maintain professional competence and try to put forward a safe place atmosphere for their clients or patients. When it comes to forensic role, mostly this in contrasts, need to convey a dispassionate attitude and maintain impartiality while discussing an examinee's difficulties. They might deliberately focus on obtaining information that is relevant to the instant legal question(s), even if doing so may upset the examinee or be perceived as adverse to a hoped-for outcome [11]. They might focus on confrontation of these assailants especially for non guilt feeling assailants.

Degree of scrutiny: Historical information is gathered by both therapists and forensic examiners, except for different reasons. Therapists obtain historical information to grasp the patient's intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics, to form a diagnosis and to formulate a treatment plan. While the therapist recognizes that information obtained only from the patient has limitations, this can be not generally considered an obstacle to conducting therapy, and such information is usually accepted at face value. Thus, if a toddler reports that s/he has been sexually abused, the therapist accepts this allegation at face value and doesn't conduct a forensic interview to ascertain whether the kid is accurately reporting the event [11].

When conducting a forensic evaluation, it's common to carefully scrutinize an examinee's report, and to contact collateral sources that will be ready to validate or disconfirm the knowledge provided so as to help in making a judgment about the examinee's reliability. Collateral sources may include teachers, employers, physicians, or therapists, and knowledge obtained from their records or other sources [11].

Different goals: The knowledge collected by a therapist differs from that gathered by a forensic examiner and is employed for various purposes. People enter therapy seeking relief from their problems. Irrespective of a patient's reason for entering treatment, therapists only gather historical information sufficient to form a diagnosis and initiate treatment and to not form an opinion about any legal issue. The therapist-patient relationship may be a helping one because its main consideration is improving the patient's well-being. The link isn't adversarial and therapists carefully refrain from making judgments about their patients' behavior [11].

The goal of a forensic evaluation is to produce the court with information which will be of use in reaching a determination of the legal issue(s) involved. It's expected that the examiner will inquire into the examinee's credibility and supply an honest assessment of the individual's personality, including any psychological problems that the evaluation revealed[11]. A forensic examiner has to maintain a neutral, unbiased attitude and avoid becoming personally invested within the outcome of a case. A reputable forensic evaluator will advocate for the results of his/her evaluation, for the aim of rendering an unbiased opinion about the psycho-legal issue(s) of the case. The examiner-examinee relationship isn't intended to be helpful in a very manner almost like a therapist-patient relationship. Because the link isn't defined as a helping one, the likelihood is that reduced that an examinee will feel irreparably harmed by the examiner's opinion [11].

Different expertise: so as to produce effective treatment, therapists must be intimate with different therapeutic techniques and therefore the ways in which psychological disorders are manifested. They specialise in asking inquiries to assess personality dynamics and functioning and symptom severity, and utilize therapeutic techniques to resolve psychological distress. In contrast, forensic examiners must be intimate with
VIII. PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES

Mental health professionals engaged in forensic evaluation must maintain their roles as ethical standards in every setting [10]. In keeping accordance with American Psychological Association’s ethical guidelines and also the Forensic Specialty Guidelines, psychologist’s committed forensic activity during a criminal setting should have sufficient competence to practice. Forensic psychology, like psychology, requires a specialized mental object and expertise [10]. The healer practicing within the criminal arena not only needs appropriate training in psychotherapeutics, but also in criminal forensic psychology. Important to criminal forensic practice is providing appropriate consent in route to protecting the defendant’s Fifth Amendment rights [10].

Informed consent: Confidentiality is one such ethical code that will be under question when in criminal setting as we have already disused the therapist collects information for judicial purpose and is thus obliged to disclose the collected information’s from the client or assailant. In the “work product rule”, some judicious proceedings allow the maintenance of confidentiality between the psychologist and the defendant. On the other hand, various other jurisdictions do not provide for the mental health professional the explicitly confidentiality; in other words, the fact of the evaluation, and the evaluator’s opinion, is discoverable even if there was no report written and the requesting attorney does not wish testimony [10]. When providing evaluations as a result of a direct court referral or court order, confidentiality does not exist. It is imperative for the evaluator to understand the rule in use within that case jurisdiction [10].

Maintaining role boundaries: Forensic psychologists must maintain strict role boundaries. It is impossible for a treating clinician to provide an independent, unbiased, evaluation. It is common for treating clinicians to be requested to testify as experts about the nature of the defendant’s psychological, cognitive deficits and their effect on the legal case. As mentioned previously, doing so blurs the professional boundaries between the unbiased forensic evaluator and the therapeutically aligned provider of services. The most common occurrence is where attorneys, or the court, request a person who has evaluated competency to stand trial to also give an opinion regarding legal sanity or risk of dangerousness on release. Maintaining strict role boundaries always protects the rights of the defendant and the evaluator. [10]

IX. FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY IN INDIAN SCENARIO

Introduction of this article began pointing out that forensic psychology is emerging field in psychology. Forensic Psychology in India trace its footprints to 1968 when the first lie detection division was built in at the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFL) of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Jurisprudence of Forensic Psychology in India was based on trial and error of scientific tools used. The first court-authorized narco-analysis was conducted in 1989 by Dr. S.L. Vaya [2]. However, consent of the person in question was not sought during this procedure. After lots of debates and challenges and court proceedings finally in 2010 the honorable supreme court of India ruled that tests such as Narco analysis, Lie detection and Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature should be conducted with informed consent. The contribution made in 2003 by Prof. C.R. Mukundan, Professor at NIMHANS, a professor of psychology discovered the technique of Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature (BEOS). This procedure taps into the experiential memory stored of a suspect and not conceptual memory. It assists in deducing whether a suspect was a witness to the crime or part of the crime based on scientific facts [2].

India, as we know, the role of a forensic psychologist would ideally begin once they are called upon by the personnel, lawyers or judges to interview and assess criminals. The formal interview and assessment are then used as corroborative evidence within the court of law to assist executes justice effectively [2]. A Forensic Psychologist can even persistently work towards rehabilitation of a criminal or a victim under court mandate in an exceedingly medico-legal ward. In keeping with the Indian Evidence Act 1872, Section 45 states: “Opinions of experts” are taken when the Court needs to form an opinion upon a degree of foreign law or of science or art, or on identity of handwriting or [finger impressions], the opinions upon that time of persons specially skilled in such foreign law, science or art, 36 [or in questions on identity of handwriting] 35 [or finger impressions] are relevant facts [2]. Such persons are called experts.” As per the above clause, a forensic psychologist assists the system to execute the law in an exceedingly just manner by presenting facts. These facts are within the type of reports of in-depth interviews and thorough assessments of the suspects in question. It must be taken into consideration that a forensic psychologist acts as an expert who imparts his knowledge and expertise to the courtroom, which acts as corroborative evidence. At no point, the expert has the ultimate verdict in dispensing justice, which shall only be executed by the judge. The Indian Evidence Act 1872, section 45, allows forensic psychologists and psychiatrists to lend their expertise to solving in criminal investigations. This provides forensic psychologists a chance to create forensic psychological methods dynamic, unique and versatile befitting catering to the wants of cases with the assistance of feedback procured from the system i.e. police, lawyers, prosecutors, judges and other forensic professionals they assist [2].

Indeed, the country's criminal investigative and justice systems would have the advantage of opening up more domains to forensic psychologists, and using their expertise across various platforms. Indian prisons fall behind significantly when it involves offender interviewing and rehabilitation policies after sentencing. There's minimal structure in place when it involves remanding offenders. While in countries just like the UK, forensic psychologists conduct objective interviews of offenders so suggest a basic treatment plan to a psychotherapist, who delves into the subjective issues, no such hierarchy prevails in India, where a jail psychologist is essentially exceptional. Prisons in India have a hosting capacity for over 366,000 offenders. However, there's quite 110% overcrowding, and an appropriate offender-
psychologist ratio would be required so on grasp the perpetrators’ mind sets and guide them through their issues. While the concept that prison systems are speculated to be rehabilitative in nature is typically stressed upon, much must be drained order for that to be put into practice. Indeed, Indian prisons would benefit the foremost from usage of forensic psychologists.

A prison psychologist is additionally required to rearrange offenders, specifically first-time offenders, for all times in prison. Doing time can become stressful thanks to the strenuous ways of prisons, groupism, potential threat to life or other styles of bullying by hardened criminals. These facets may end in severe stress levels among prisoners, and this might take a toll on their daily functioning. In light of such scenarios, forensic psychologists may intervene so as that they will help inmates cater to fret and adapt to prison life in a very very healthier manner. Inmates often suffer from various psychological state issues, which get overlooked (unlike physical health concerns, which are emphasized). As a country with one in every of the absolute best crime rates within the globe, India faces several challenges when it involves handling different aspects of crime. While applying these interventions may sound good in theory, there is a protracted because of go before these are successfully implemented.

However for those fascinated by studying crime from a psychological perspective, India offers very limited courses in forensic psychology. Some institutes that provide a degree or a diploma within the area are the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, the Raksha Shaki University (Gujarat), the Institute of Forensic Science, Mumbai, and therefore the Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science. Varied modules are offered at these institutes, starting from training in suspect interrogation to criminal profiling. Finding employment for the identical is even harder.

X. RECOMMENDATIONS

As discussed forensic psychology plays a vital role in criminology. In India the numbers of crimes are increasing drastically augmentation and training of clinical psychologists will help identify antisocial traits and would accelerate the prevention of crimes. Right man for the right job often makes the functioning run smoothly; the technical skill set of a clinical psychologist must be taken into account and should take precedence over another professional's skill set. More institutions should provide options for clinical psychologists to specialize in forensic clinical psychology like other specializations in the field. This provide opportunity for students to comprehend and be beneficial in forensic mental health.

REFERENCES