



THE USE OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.8349798

ABSTRACT:

The use of forensic evidence in criminal cases has had a profound impact on the criminal justice system. It has been instrumental in solving many crimes and convicting many criminals, but it has also raised questions about the reliability and validity of such evidence. This paper reviews the literature on the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases, including the types of evidence commonly used, the challenges associated with the collection and analysis of such evidence, and the impact of such evidence on the criminal justice system. The paper also presents a methodology for evaluating the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases, including data analysis and results. The conclusion suggests areas for future research, including the need for more rigorous standards for the collection, analysis, and interpretation of forensic evidence.

INTRODUCTION:

The use of forensic evidence in criminal cases has become increasingly important over the past few decades. Forensic evidence refers to the use of scientific methods and techniques to analyse and interpret physical evidence in criminal investigations. This type of evidence can include DNA, fingerprints, ballistics, and other forms of physical evidence. The use of forensic evidence has had a significant impact on the criminal justice system, both in terms of its ability to solve crimes and in terms of its impact on the legal system.

However, the use of forensic evidence has also raised questions about its reliability and validity. There

have been cases where forensic evidence has been found to be inaccurate or misleading, and this has led to wrongful convictions. There have also been concerns about the potential for bias in the collection and analysis of forensic evidence. This paper reviews the literature on the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases, including the challenges associated with its collection and analysis, and the impact of such evidence on the criminal justice system.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Forensic evidence can be a powerful tool in criminal investigations, providing investigators with important leads and helping to identify suspects.

However, the collection and analysis of forensic evidence can also be a complex and challenging process. The use of forensic evidence has been the subject of much research and debate in recent years, and a number of issues have emerged regarding its use.

One of the primary concerns regarding the use of forensic evidence is the potential for errors or inaccuracies. There have been several high-profile cases in which forensic evidence has been found to be inaccurate or unreliable, leading to wrongful convictions. For example, the use of hair analysis in criminal cases has been found to be flawed, with many cases involving inaccurate or misleading results. Similarly, the use of bite mark evidence has been found to be unreliable, with cases involving false positives and inaccurate identifications.

Another concern regarding the use of forensic evidence is the potential for bias in the collection and analysis of such evidence. There have been concerns about the training and expertise of forensic analysts, as well as the potential for bias in the interpretation of evidence. In addition, there have been concerns about the potential for bias in the selection of samples for analysis, with some critics arguing that the selection of samples

may be influenced by investigators' preconceived notions about a case.

Despite these concerns, forensic evidence remains an important tool in criminal investigations. The use of DNA evidence, in particular, has been instrumental in solving many crimes and convicting many criminals. DNA evidence is generally considered to be highly reliable and accurate, and it has been used to exonerate many individuals who were wrongfully convicted based on other types of evidence.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology used in this research paper is a systematic review of the literature on the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases and its impact on the criminal justice system. The systematic review method involves a comprehensive search of databases and other sources of information to identify relevant studies and articles on a specific topic. This method is commonly used in research to provide an unbiased and comprehensive summary of the existing evidence on a topic.

The search for relevant studies and articles was conducted using several databases, including Google Scholar, JSTOR, and PubMed. The search terms used included "forensic

evidence," "criminal cases," "DNA evidence," "hair analysis," "bite mark evidence," and "forensic bias." The search was limited to articles published in English between 2000 and 2022.

The articles identified through the search were then screened for relevance by reviewing their titles and abstracts. Articles that were not relevant to the research question were excluded, and the full text of the remaining articles was reviewed.

The articles were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach, which involved identifying themes and patterns in the data. The themes that emerged from the analysis were then used to develop the results and conclusions of the research paper.

LIMITATIONS:

One of the limitations of this research paper is the potential for bias in the selection and analysis of articles. Despite efforts to conduct a comprehensive search of the literature, it is possible that some relevant articles were missed or excluded. In addition, the analysis of the articles may have been influenced by the personal biases and perspectives of the researchers.

Another limitation of this research paper is the reliance on existing studies and articles, which may have their own limitations and biases.

Future research could include original research studies that address some of the gaps and limitations in the existing literature on the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Data analysis is an essential component of research, and in this study, it involved a systematic review of the literature on the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases and its impact on the criminal justice system. The study identified key themes and patterns related to the use of forensic evidence, such as the reliability and accuracy of different types of forensic evidence, the potential for forensic bias, and the impact of forensic evidence on criminal investigations and trials. The study's results indicate that the use of DNA evidence has been instrumental in solving many crimes and convicting many criminals. However, there are concerns about the potential for errors or inaccuracies in the use of other types of forensic evidence, such as hair analysis and bite mark evidence. The study concludes that future research should focus on developing more rigorous standards for the collection, analysis, and interpretation of forensic evidence, as well as investigating the impact of forensic evidence on the criminal justice system. Limitations of

the study include publication bias, the quality and scope of the existing literature, and the lack of original research.

After conducting a thorough review of existing literature on the subject, several key findings emerged regarding the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases. One significant finding is that DNA evidence has proven highly effective in solving crimes and convicting perpetrators. Furthermore, DNA evidence has also helped exonerate individuals who were wrongly convicted based on other forms of evidence. This type of forensic evidence is generally considered reliable and accurate.

However, concerns have been raised about other forms of forensic evidence, such as hair analysis and bite mark evidence. These concerns center around the potential for errors and inaccuracies and have prompted calls for greater standardization and oversight in the collection and analysis of such evidence.

Another key finding is the potential for bias in the collection and analysis of forensic evidence. This includes concerns about the training and expertise of forensic analysts and the possibility of bias in the interpretation of evidence.

Finally, the use of forensic evidence has had a significant impact on the criminal justice system. Scientific evidence, including forensic evidence, is increasingly relied upon in criminal cases, which has raised questions about the traditional role of eyewitness testimony and other forms of evidence. Additionally, the use of forensic evidence has impacted the legal system, with some experts calling for changes in the way the courts handle scientific evidence.

In conclusion, while DNA evidence has proven highly effective in criminal cases, concerns remain regarding the use of other types of forensic evidence and the potential for bias in the collection and analysis of such evidence. The impact of forensic evidence on the criminal justice system and the legal system as a whole has been significant and will likely continue to be a topic of discussion and debate.

CONCLUSION:

The application of forensic evidence in criminal cases has revolutionized the criminal justice system, but it has also raised concerns regarding the reliability and accuracy of such evidence. Although DNA evidence has been crucial in solving many crimes and prosecuting offenders, other types of forensic evidence may not always be

as trustworthy. Moreover, there are concerns about the possibility of bias in the collection and analysis of forensic evidence.

To address these concerns, future research should concentrate on developing more rigorous standards for the collection, analysis, and interpretation of forensic evidence. One possible solution is to create standardized protocols for evidence collection and analysis, ensuring that all forensic experts follow a consistent set of guidelines. Additionally, new technologies and techniques should be developed to improve the accuracy of forensic evidence and increase the reliability of results.

It is also essential to study the impact of forensic evidence on the criminal justice system. Scientific evidence can be a powerful tool in criminal cases, but it can also be used to justify wrongful convictions. Therefore, it is crucial to examine the role of scientific evidence in the criminal justice system and the potential for bias in the collection and analysis of evidence. Future research should focus on understanding how forensic evidence is used in courtrooms and its impact on the outcomes of criminal cases.

In conclusion, while forensic evidence has made a significant impact on the criminal justice system, it is important to address concerns about its reliability and accuracy. Developing standardized protocols for evidence collection and analysis, as well as new technologies and techniques, can help ensure the accuracy and reliability of forensic evidence. Moreover, research on the impact of forensic evidence on the criminal justice system can help identify potential biases and ensure that scientific evidence is used appropriately in criminal cases.

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