

# The Role of Forensic Science to Ensuring Justice: A Case Report

Shatruhan Singh Shyam<sup>1</sup>, Praveen Kumar Soni<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Rajesh Mishra, IPS<sup>3</sup>, Dr. T. L. Chandra<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Scientific Officer, Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Home (Police) Department, Govt. of C. G., Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India

<sup>2</sup>Scientific Officer, Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Home (Police) Department, Govt. of C. G., Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India

<sup>3</sup>Director, State Forensic Science Laboratory Home (Police) Department, Govt. of C. G., Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

<sup>4</sup>Joint Director, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Home (Police) Department, Govt. of C. G., Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

**Abstract:** *Investigating the intricate role of Forensic science, this case study dissects a suspicious death initially deemed a road traffic accident. Detailed Forensic analysis revealed inconsistencies with an accidental death, pointing instead to homicide. This study underscores the pivotal role of Forensic science in revealing hidden truths and guiding investigative processes, highlighting the necessity of meticulous scene analysis and evidence interpretation. This case study significantly contributes to Forensic science literature by detailing a comprehensive approach to crime scene analysis, thereby aiding in distinguishing between accidental and homicidal death.*

**Keywords:** Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Science, Evidence, Homicidal.

## 1. Introduction

Crime scene investigation is a very important part of any investigation either it is made investigation officer or Scientific officer (Forensic Expert). It is the meeting point of science, logic and law. Crime scene investigation is a long, tedious process that involves useful documentation, photography or videography of the situation or condition on the scene and position of the evidence. (Harendra Nath Singh). A crime scene is a location where an evidence of a crime may be located. It is not necessarily the location the crime took place, indeed. There are primary, secondary and often tertiary crime scenes. (Byard and Wilson, 2004). Crime scene investigation is the beginning point for the successful use of physical evidence by Forensic laboratory and crime investigator.

Crime scene investigation is more than processing or documentation of crime scene but, is it nor the collection, package of physical evidence, and, finally scene reconstruction (Dehaan, 2006). Every crime scene is unique and with experience, a crime scene investigation well is able to use this logical and systemic approach to investigate even the most challenging crime scene to successful conclusion (Aveni 2005).

The physical evidences collected by (Crime Scene Investigation) are then transferred to a lab, in strict accordance with chain of evidence procedures. (Guio Qiang 2004). Crime scene search patterns may vary according to the cases but they share a common goal of providing a systemic structure to ensure that no item of physical evidence is missed or lost (Davis 2004).

Accidents represent a major epidemic of non - communicable diseases in the present century. They are part of the price we pay for technological progress. (Park K 2009) Of all the systems that people have to deal with on a daily basis, road transport is the most complex and the most

dangerous. (Peden, M.2004). The problem is so severe that, by 2020, it is projected that road traffic disability - adjusted life years (DALYs) lost will move from being the 9th leading cause of DALYs lost to the 3rd leading cause in the world and will be 2nd leading cause in developing countries (Murray, C. J. L., Lopez, A. D.1997). According to a report of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, one accident occurs every two minutes in India, with the accident rate corresponding to 45 per 100 000 population (Verma PK, Tewari KN 2004). With enormous number of light motor vehicles being added to Indian roads daily the incidences of their accidents is on the rise (Sharma SM 2016). In India motorcycles are commonly used for personal travel as it is more convenient, time saving and economical. Motorcyclists are more prone for serious vulnerable road traffic accidents due to inherent instability of two wheeled vehicles (Harry Hurt 2011). In the present case the deceased had left the house with his motor cycle and found dead along with his motorcycle besides the road. So, it is difficult to conclude whether it is a case of road accident or homicide for police investigating officer.

### Aim

The purpose of this paper is to delineate the nuanced differences between deaths resulting from road accidents and homicides, utilizing scientific observations of the crime scene and the victim's body.

## 2. Methodology

The Present research is, descriptive and conclusive. Both primary sources like scientific observation and secondary sources of data books, articles, Journals etc. are used for this study.

### 3. Case History

On 03/10/2021 I received a phone call from the Investigation Officer (IO) at 10 PM for Scientific add. As per IO a 26 year old man left his house on 02/10/2021 at 01.00AM to bring some books and copies from nearby village. In the evening his sister made call him to know about him, where is he? He told that his bike is breakdown, and he is repairing it. After some time she again called him, but this time his phone was switch off. Very next day on 03/10/2021 his dead body was found besides the road on suspicious condition, his motorcycle was upon his body. We have visited the same spot and gave the direction to the IO on the basis of our observations, physical evidences found in spot and the case was solved at spot of occurrence.

### 4. Observation

A fundamental principle of Forensics is that every contact leaves a trace. This may be contact of a person with a person, contact of a person with a vehicle or location, or of a vehicle with a location etc. Forensic expert should apply their knowledge and skill to identify the fact in the crime scene, so that the fact may be accepted by the sentencing authorities in the court. (Siegel J. A) Our team's observations at the spot are as follows:

At the spot one dead body was lying below the motorcycle beside the road. The deceased was wearing a parrot color half T - shirt, white color Banyan, black color lower and

black color underwear. The dead person had injuries on right forehead, above the right eyebrow, right side of nose. Blood coming out of right ear and mouth, an injury was found above front neck, dried blood stains were found on the face. Ligation mark was found on neck. Arm and wrist of left hand and arm, elbow and palm of right hand had injuries. Right side of the chest had injury. Injuries were found in the knee of both legs. The blood stains were found below the knees of both legs and also found a swarm of black ants.

Other side on the road scattered Samosa pieces was found. Two *maza* packets were found one of them was empty and another was half filled. Sky blue color pieces of cloth were also found on the road. Pieces of green color broken glass bangles were found scattered on the *pakki* road and besides the road, sky blue color pieces of cloth around 35cm was also found. One sleeper was found near deceased's left leg and another was found head side. It was of Paragon brand and white blue in color.

The motorcycle was lying above the dead body. It was blue colored Hero Honda Splendor motorcycle bearing the registration no CG 17/4787 was examined. Speedometer visor and front head light cover were broken. Both side rear view glasses were tilted. Key was present in the motorcycle, mud stain was found on both handles and both side footrest. Front side indicator light was broken and on it blood stain was found.

### Photographs



Figure 1: Observed Scene of Crime by Forensic Expert

### Revealed from the Crime Scene

The role of Forensic investigator starts at the crime scene with recognition and recovery physical evidence. Crime Scene is a treasure of information with silent witness (Nataraja Moorthy T.2019)

- 1) Body of deceased having several injuries as injuries on right forehead, above the right eyebrow, right side of nose, above front neck, Arm and wrist of left hand, arm, elbow and palm of right hand, right side of the chest and knee of both legs. the pattern of injuries sustained by the deceased during fatal motorcycle road accidents depends on various factors like type of motorcycle, speed of the vehicle, type of the road, helmet usage, type colliding vehicle, collision type, site of accident, surface of impact, etc, but above mentioned injuries were not so serious which lead to
- the death and make him helpless to call other for help as he was carrying his mobile phone with him. Other than these injuries were different from caused by road accident, which ruled out the possibility of road accident.
- 2) On deceased's neck ligation mark was seen, which is suspicious in a cause of road accident that confirm he may have been strangled by unknown person.
- 3) The presence of the broken blue color glass bangles on the spot of occurrence suggest that the involvement of a female in the incidence.
- 4) The presence of two number of *Maza* packet one was empty and another was half empty at the spot of occurrence confirms that the presence of two individuals at least.
- 5) Deceased's mobile Phone and wallet were not found in his pocket even in the spot of occurrence. It confirms

that it was not simple hit and run case or collision. His mobile Phone and wallet had been deliberately taken either hiding the evidence or looted.

- 6) it was very rarely seen in hit and run case or misbalancing of the motorcycle, deceased's body was fully overlapped by the motorcycle from head to leg that also ruled out the occurrence of accident.
- 7) At the spot of occurrence no evidence of collision was found, even there is no skid mark and tire mark both side of the road. Even from the Pakki road to the body and motorcycle were found, there were no impressions or slippery mark observed.
- 8) Different pieces of broken speedometer and headlight visor minutely observed by us but dent mark and scratch mark was absent on it. It ruled out the any type of collision, hit and run and misbalancing the motorcycle.
- 9) The pieces of side light indicator were found near deceased's head and on it blood stain was found. That was unusual because if the accident took place and he had got serious injury resulted lots of blood coming out and it flow towards the broken side indicator light then it could be possible.
- 10) The piece of cloth was found in the spot of occurrence maybe used for strangulation.

#### The real fact comes out after Forensic examination

The real fact of the incidence has come out after the crime scene investigation and investigation of the investigation officer. Deceased left his house to bring books and copies to nearby village, where he met with his girlfriend. They buy *samosa* and *maza* and went to outside of the village. They stop at the scene of occurrence and eating the same. There, a man was secretly waiting for them. The girl was girlfriend of secretly waited man too. Together they planned that the girl will bring deceased at scene of occurrence, where they will kill him. On the date of occurrence she brought deceased to place which they had decided earlier. When they were having *samosa* and *maza* accused came out and strangulated him with the help of sky blue color cloth pieces, in the process of strangulation she also helped by holding deceased's both leg, when he trying escaping from strangulation in that process her bangle was broken. The injury was found on the above mention parts of the body were because of struggling to save himself rather accident. Then they dispose his body beside the road and put the motorcycle over the body of deceased, and then they broke the speedometer visor and front light visor, side indicator light, and throw it near the body so that the incident looks like a road accident. Indicator light had blood stain because they put motorcycle put over the body, then they broke it. Deceased's mobile phone and wallet taken by them to hiding the evidence by them later it was recovered by the police personnel. The case was resolved the spot, all the evidence collected have been send to the laboratory for further and necessary examination.

## 5. Conclusion

The present case study, concluded with finding based both crime scene reconstruction and autopsy examination report the cause of death as homicidal and ruled out accident. It established that evidence tells a story and helps an

investigator re - create the crime scene and establishing the sequence of events. If those physical evidences (like blood stain, Bangle, cloth etc.) analyse and interpret properly will help to take right path for investigation agency.

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