

# A Study of Wearing Apparels for Retrospective Reconstruction of Crime Scene in Homicide

**Janmenjoy Mondal**

Bankura Sammilani Medical College & Hospital, Bankura  
2nd Proff MBBS Student, B.S. Medical College, Bankura, W.B.  
E-mail: janmenjoymondal268@gmail.com

A Study Of Wearing Apparels For Retrospective Reconstruction Of Crime Scene In HomicideField of Research - Forensic Medicine and Forensic scienceAuthors - 1.Janmenjoy Mondal - 2nd Proff MBBS Student, Bankura Sammilani Medical College, Bankura 2. Dr.Suparna Datta - Associate Professor and Head, Deptt of FSM, Bankura Sammilani Medical College, Bankura.

## Introduction

Wearing Apparel which literally means a covering designed to be worn on a person's body can act as important physical evidence which can help in retrospective reconstruction of a crime scene in a case of homicide. The ancient world lacked standardized forensic practice which aided criminals in escaping punishment. Criminal investigation and trials relied on forced confessions and witness testimony. However from the 16th century Europe practitioners in army and University settings began to gather informations on the cause and manner of death based on physical evidence that led to emergence of criminalistics i.e. the application of various sciences to answer questions relating to examinations and comparison of biological evidences, trace evidences, impression evidences, ballistics and other evidences like biological stains and injuries over wearing apparels in crime laboratories.

## Materials and Methods

1. 50 cases of homicide/ suspected homicide, both male and female whose postmortem were done in Bankura Sammilani Medical College, Department of FSM, and the wearing apparels eg.T-shirt for males, blouse and sarree for females mainly etc. showing cut marks with or without bleeding.2. Examination of wearing apparels macroscopically under naked eye and hand lens, microscopically and also physical, chemical and DNA test of trace evidences in forensic science laboratory.

## Results

Out of the 50 cases examined the findings concluded which helped the investigating authorities for retrospective reconstruction of the crime scene are-a. The injuries were caused by sharp weaponb. Number of cuts over the wearing apparels points towards the number of times the victim was hit.- in 82% of cases it was over the back showing sudden hit where victim were unaware.c. The distribution of blood in 75% of cases it was more over the back and less over front concluding that the first hits were on back to make the victim unconscious easily and mild bleeding over front shows they were in most cases postmortem extravasations

due to retained fluidity of blood.d. In only 20% of cases the sharp injuries over the wearing apparels were associated with blunt head injuries at the back of head signifying that sharp weapons are more preferred by the assailants.e. In 85% of cases the victims were male with robust figure with cut over back of wearing apparels signifying that it is very easy to kill even a robust male person single handedly by a sharp weapon hit from back.f. The DNA profile determination have determined the residual blood in wearing apparel to match with that of suspected assailant even in the cut areas of fibers in 90% of cases.g. In female sexes these homicides with cut in wearing apparels are in 95% of cases associated with sexual assaults.h. The pattern of distribution of blood over the injured areas of wearing apparels in all cases has shown the blood to be arterial or venous and as also the time passed since death.Under Sections 324 and 326 IPC 1860 instruments for cutting and causing sharp injuries on human body have been described as dangerous weapons and the punishments for causing grievous hurt with these weapons on human body [1]. From the medicolegal point of view, every injury recorded by the doctor who has examined the injury and needs to be medicolegally diagnosing it in correct perspective in the disbursement of justice is an 'Expert witness' in the eyes of Law.[2] In assault cases apart from the detail injuries the description of pattern of tear in wearing apparel is a valuable clue to the weapon of offence.[3].

## Conclusion

1. A forensic medicine specialist or an autopsy surgeon being an expert witness should be able to diagnose the medicolegal injuries in their right perspective to help the investigating authorities and the Court of Law for their logical conclusions.

2. Apart from the role of expert witness he or she must also maintain the comprehensive data pertaining to the injured and injuries in all possible ways from the body as well as trace evidences for epidemiological records for future surveys in crimes on humanity and behavioural treatment of the criminals particularly in case of homicide.

## References

1. Indian Penal Code 1860.
2. Indian Evidence Act 1872.
3. Dalal JS et al: Clue of weapon from description of apparels; JPAFMAT 2005, vol.5, p-47.

Keywords: Homicide, Wearing apparels, Retrospective reconstruction.