

RESEARCH PROPOSAL
ON
**CHIVALRY IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS: EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS,
DISPARITIES AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS**

Submitted by

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CHIVALRY IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS: EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS, DISPARITIES AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT:

Chivalry: The word Chivalry means treating others with courtesy, sympathy and respect. According to 'Chivalry' theory the women who commit crime are given more concessions than men who commit crime and the police are less likely to charge or arrest the women who commit crime and even if women commit the same crimes as men, the courts tend to give women a lighter sentence. This term helps to reveal the disparities in Forensic and legal settings through various phases like crime scene search, collection and packaging, analysis, testimonials, verdict, sentencing, disposal of cases etc. which are comes under the broad concepts such as gender, money and power. Hence the study will be conducted to reduce the disparities and provide probable justifications behind this.

i. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Chivalry is derived from the ancient French word 'Chevalerie' meaning 'one who fights on horseback'. The modern definition of Chivalry suggests that very polite, honest and kind behavior especially by men toward women. Otto Pollak theory of chivalry reveals, most criminal justice agents such as police officers, magistrates and judges are men and men are socialized to be chivalrous towards women. It shows gender disparities and is important to aware equality before law. The value and role of chivalry have been called into question in current scenario. Chivalry is not dead. It's just different from the context of investigations, and because it's so rare, it gets noticed.

ii. NEED OF THE STUDY:

Studying the concept of chivalry in forensic investigation is crucial to ensure ethical and principled practices within the field. Understanding the concept can enhance public trust in the criminal justice system, prevent misconduct, and uphold the core values of fairness and justice. Additionally, examining the need for chivalry in forensic investigation may lead to the development of guidelines and training programs that foster a culture of ethical conduct among forensic professionals.

iii. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

With the above mentioned need or purpose, we need to know more about the disparities done during investigations from the context of Forensic criminology. So the statement of the problem will be discussed as “Chivalry in Forensic Investigations: Exploring Perceptions, Disparities and Ethical Implications”.

iv. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Chivalry thesis argues that women within the criminal justice system are treated much more leniently than men due to the idea of chivalry towards women so they are unwilling to charge, arrest or prosecute them (Otto Pollak 1950)

Some Scholars have revealed for the selective chivalry perspective, which suggests that only women who adhere to traditional gender roles and stereotypes are granted protection from severe punishments (Herzog & Oreg, 2008)

The chivalry hypothesis was evaluated among 323 police officers and 364 students, serving as a control group. The findings showed that the offender’s gender, more than his or her external appearance, affects differences in punishment severity. Female offenders were treated more forgivingly than male offenders. (Mally Bitton, 2018)

It seems to be related to a more general political and social pattern of paternalistic behavior towards women, which is often called the ‘chivalry factor’. The analysis focuses on gender differences in sentences for male and female defendants. Those data were derived from a national study of sentencing in the early 1960’s with California Bureau of Criminal Statistics records from 1970-74 (Moulds, 1978)

v. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

a) Research Design: The qualitative research will be used to understand how law practitioners and enforcers perceives and give meaning to the social reality, because the unfairness in investigation is one of the emerging challenge in current scenario. Besides that, they are the people who meet Criminal Justice Process directly. This descriptive study will also be designed in quantitative way, because opinion regarding the disparities faced by society on bias can be compared through quantitative research. So that, the research design for this study will be mixed of both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

b) Objectives of the Study

- To reduce disparities and special considerations in forensic investigations especially on gender basis.
- To find out the factors considering while investigating a forensic case.
- To aware 'equality before law.'
- To provide probable justifications regarding this disparities.

c) Research Questions

- What are the discriminations or disparities can be seen in investigations?
- Is really everyone equal before the law?
- What are the main factors considered when investigating a case in the context of chivalry?
- What is the best suggestion to reduce the real meaning of chivalry in investigation?

d) Universe of the Study

The samples for the study will be collected from the law enforcement agencies from Madurai and Kollam district. Therefore, the universe of the study for the purpose of collecting data will be the districts mentioned for half of the data from each.

e) Sample of the Study

The samples will be collected from Law enforcers and Practitioners. Hence I would like to mention the sample as the same.

f) Sample Size

I propose at least 500 samples considering the feasibility of this study.

g) Sampling Technique

Probability sampling technique will be adopted for the study. The technique will be used for collecting data through multi-phase sampling. The samples will be collected on a probable way without any consideration, because this study needs different phases on the opinion from Chivalry context.

h) Data Collection

Data will be collected through interview method and questionnaire method. It will include different kinds of questions ensuring confidentiality of samples.

i) Research Tool:

For this study, the research tool will be framed as Personnel Distribution Questionnaire (PDQ), with the help of this, it is required in various ways to fulfill the objectives.

k) Processing and Analysis of Data

The collected data will be analyzed and the findings from the data will be interpreted and summarized with the help of SPSS Software, which is reliable and valid for the present study. Proposed data will need to be analyzed using this software. It will allow the study to extract meaningful insights from an unstructured data.

vi) CONCLUSION:

In Conclusion, the research on the “Chivalry in Forensic Investigations: Exploring Perceptions, Disparities and Ethical Implications” will reveal notable disparities in how law enforcers interpret and apply chivalry factors within their investigation field. As an outcome, we will gain valuable insight on possible problems and opportunities for improving forensic investigations without the disparities mentioned. It will be essential to address and application of equality before law to ensure justice if it is in any cases of gender, money or power. This study will demonstrate the importance of continuing training and education in order to provide forensic practitioners or law enforcers with a common understanding of ethical standards, which will improve public trust in investigation procedures.

vii) REFERENCES

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