

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary  
Peer Reviewed

[www.ijlra.com](http://www.ijlra.com)

## DISCLAIMER

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, transmitted, or distributed in any form or by any means, whether electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the Managing Editor of the *International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis (IJLRA)*.

The views, opinions, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the articles published in this journal are solely those of the respective authors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board, Editors, Reviewers, Advisors, or the Publisher of IJLRA.

Although every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy, authenticity, and proper citation of the content published in this journal, neither the Editorial Board nor IJLRA shall be held liable or responsible, in any manner whatsoever, for any loss, damage, or consequence arising from the use, reliance upon, or interpretation of the information contained in this publication.

The content published herein is intended solely for academic and informational purposes and shall not be construed as legal advice or professional opinion.

**Copyright © International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis.  
All rights reserved.**

## ABOUT US

The *International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis (IJLRA)* (ISSN: 2582-6433) is a peer-reviewed, academic, online journal published on a monthly basis. The journal aims to provide a comprehensive and interactive platform for the publication of original and high-quality legal research.

IJLRA publishes Short Articles, Long Articles, Research Papers, Case Comments, Book Reviews, Essays, and interdisciplinary studies in the field of law and allied disciplines. The journal seeks to promote critical analysis and informed discourse on contemporary legal, social, and policy issues.

The primary objective of IJLRA is to enhance academic engagement and scholarly dialogue among law students, researchers, academicians, legal professionals, and members of the Bar and Bench. The journal endeavours to establish itself as a credible and widely cited academic publication through the publication of original, well-researched, and analytically sound contributions.

IJLRA welcomes submissions from all branches of law, provided the work is original, unpublished, and submitted in accordance with the prescribed submission guidelines. All manuscripts are subject to a rigorous peer-review process to ensure academic quality, originality, and relevance.

Through its publications, the *International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis* aspires to contribute meaningfully to legal scholarship and the development of law as an instrument of justice and social progress.

## ***PUBLICATION ETHICS, COPYRIGHT & AUTHOR RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT***

The *International Journal for Legal Research and Analysis (IJLRA)* is committed to upholding the highest standards of publication ethics and academic integrity. All manuscripts submitted to the journal must be original, unpublished, and free from plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, or any form of unethical research or publication practice. Authors are solely responsible for the accuracy, originality, legality, and ethical compliance of their work and must ensure that all sources are properly cited and that necessary permissions for any third-party copyrighted material have been duly obtained prior to submission. Copyright in all published articles vests with IJLRA, unless otherwise expressly stated, and authors grant the journal the irrevocable right to publish, reproduce, distribute, and archive their work in print and electronic formats. The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors alone and do not reflect the views of the Editors, Editorial Board, Reviewers, or Publisher. IJLRA shall not be liable for any loss, damage, claim, or legal consequence arising from the use, reliance upon, or interpretation of the content published. By submitting a manuscript, the author(s) agree to fully indemnify and hold harmless the journal, its Editor-in-Chief, Editors, Editorial Board, Reviewers, Advisors, Publisher, and Management against any claims, liabilities, or legal proceedings arising out of plagiarism, copyright infringement, defamation, breach of confidentiality, or violation of third-party rights. The journal reserves the absolute right to reject, withdraw, retract, or remove any manuscript or published article in case of ethical or legal violations, without incurring any liability.

# **THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMINAL PROFILING AND ITS IMPACT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM**

AUTHORED BY - VINAY MALIK  
(Research Scholar)

Jagannath University, Department of Law, Bahadugarh

CO-AUTHOR - DR. SUNIL KUMAR  
(Assistant Professor), Faculty of Law

## **ABSTRACT**

Inferring the traits of individuals responsible for committing criminal acts has commonly been referred to as criminal profiling. Professionals engaged in the practice of criminal profiling have historically included a broad spectrum of investigators, behavioral scientists, social scientists, and forensic scientists. Their involvement in unsolved casework has most commonly been concerned with criminal investigative efforts and suspect identification. In that capacity, a wide variety of faith-based, inductive (statistical/experiential), and deductive (logical/rational) criminal profiling techniques have been sought out to help identify criminals, narrow suspect pools, assist with case linkage, and develop investigatively relevant leads and strategies with respect to unsolved cases. Criminal profiling has also been referred to, among less common terms, as behavioral profiling, crime scene profiling, criminal personality profiling, offender profiling, psychological profiling, criminal investigative analysis, and, more recently, investigative psychology. Because of the variety of profilers, their respective methods, and their various levels of actual education on the subject, there remains a general lack of uniformity or agreement in the applications and definitions of these terms across and even within some profiling communities. Criminal profiling has a legal history that can be traced back to the blood-labeling of Jews in Rome. Over the past 200 years, professionals engaged in the practice of criminal profiling have included a broad spectrum of investigators, behavioral scientists, social scientists, and forensic scientists. The practice has never been the province of a single discipline or agency.

**Keywords:-** Criminal, Investigation, Identification & Behavioral Profiling.

## INTRODUCTION

Criminal profiling is the inferring of an offender's characteristics from his or her crime scene behaviour. According to Douglas and Olshaker (1995) "Criminal profiling is the development of an investigation by means of obtainable information regarding an offence and crime scene to compile a psychosomatic representation of the known architect of the crime." For example, a profiler might try to infer a criminal's age, gender or employment history commencing from the manner he or she have performed throughout the period the crime was carried out. This practice has been referred to by names including offender profiling, psychological profiling and specific profile analysis. Criminal profiling is typically used with crimes where the offender's identity is unknown and with serious types of crime where the offender's identity is unknown and with serious types of crime, such as murder or rape. Profilers are also likely to work on crime series, which are collections of crimes that are thought to have been committed by the same offender. The different types of criminal profiling can be broken broadly into two types: geographical profiling (which is how the offenders got to and from the crime) and the profiling of an offender's personal characteristics. The latter is what people most commonly associate with the term criminal profiling. The types of tasks that a criminal profilers might be asked to complete depend on the type of profiler they are. A geographical profiler could be asked to identify the likely location of an offender home from the geography of his or her known offences. A criminal profiler might be asked to construct a profile of an unknown offender giving details of his or her likely characteristics as inferred from the offender's behaviour at the crime scene. When a criminal is apprehended the profiler might also be asked to advise the police on the way that particular suspects should be interviewed. From all indications, criminal profiling is therefore an umbrella term for a number of different practices.

A number of different materials can be used by a criminal profiler in constructing a profile or in geographically profiling an offender's likely home. One of the most important sources of information for constructing a profile would be the victim's or witnesses' accounts of the crime. In some types of crime it is possible that a victim's account may not be available, for example in the case of murder. In such cases, an offender profiler might instead have to rely on post-mortem reports, sketches of the crime scene and accounts from others about the victim. Regardless of the documentation used in constructing the profile, a criminal profiler has a lot of information to absorb and process when trying to profile the offenders or their location.

Geographical profiling is typically used to identify the likely area of an offender's residence from the location of the crime. Such an approach can be very useful in narrowing down a pool of suspects or enabling the police to prioritize an area for investigation or DNA

sampling. Geographical profiling has its history in environmental criminology. The aim of environmental criminologists to identify areas where criminals were likely to offend from the locations of the offender's residence, the aim of geographical profiling is the reverse. Using the locations of an offender's crime as his or her starting point, the geographical profiler tries to predict the area in which the offender lives. Routine Activities Theory and Pattern Theory are relevant to geographical profiling. This suggests that criminals will offend in an area with which they are familiar. In other words, while criminals are going their daily life, they will notice potential targets. The area with which criminals are familiar and which surrounds their residence has been called the 'home range', while the area in which they commit crimes has been called the 'criminal range'. These theories also relate to the idea in geographical profiling that offenders have a cognitive or mental map of their (Familiar) geographical areas. These theories have led to the development in criminal psychology of geographical profiling principles and definitions of types i.e., typologies of offenders.

## **JOURNEY OF CRIMINAL PROFILING IN INDIA<sup>1</sup>**

Compared to other countries where the practice has been developed over many decades, India has a recent history of criminal profiling. With the majority of its development taking place in the past few decades, criminal profiling has not been developed and is underutilized in India. A timeline and important information on the history of criminal profiling in India are provided below:

### **1. Early Investigation (Prior to the 1990s)**

**Traditional Investigation Techniques:** Indian law enforcement has always depended on traditional investigative techniques including witness testimony, tangible evidence, and interrogation. In India, criminal profiling as an organized method was essentially nonexistent. **Police Protocols:** Indian methods of law enforcement were impacted by British techniques during the colonial era and even after independence, emphasizing forensic evidence (such as fingerprints) above behavioral or psychological investigations.

### **2. Initial Awareness (1990s - Early 2000s)**

In the 1990s and early 2000s, high-profile cases abroad provided motivation for India's increasing knowledge of criminal profiling. The media and crime show that portrayed

---

<sup>1</sup> From crime scene to Conviction- Criminal profiling in India, Jyothi Judiciary, (JAN,04,2026,10 AM).

criminal profiling also had an impact during this time, which progressively increased interest in the field. As the discipline of forensic psychology gained popularity throughout the world, its significance in India was somewhat recognized. However, it was not frequently applied in practical law enforcement investigations and was mostly limited to academic circles. Early Uses of Profiling in some cases, particularly high-profile ones involving serial offenders, profiling was used informally. Police may have sought advice from psychiatrists or psychologists, but this was not a systematic or uniform procedure.

### **3. The Nithari Case and Other High-Profile Crimes (Mid-2000s)**

The Nithari serial killings in Noida, when more than a dozen children were brutally murdered, were among the first popular incidents in India where criminal profiling came into importance.<sup>2</sup> Authorities were able to understand the psychological motivations of the criminals, Moninder Singh Pandher and his domestic helper Surinder Koli, due in part to behavioral analysis. The public's awareness of criminal profiling was raised by the media's coverage of the Nithari case and other cases that were similar (such as the Bangalore serial rapist case). The value of psychological profiling in understanding serial offenders became apparent to law enforcement.

### **4. Official Developments from the 2000s to the Present**

The Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was created to assist in the psychological profiling of criminals, particularly in situations involving organized crime, terrorism, and serial killings. Similar groups in Western nations, such the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit, served as the blueprint for the BSU. Development of Forensic Psychology in India are Professionals in these fields have been sought for their profiling skills, and academic institutions in India began to offer forensic psychology courses. Forensic psychology research has been supported by organisations such as the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS). State-Level Initiatives: While there has been little progress, several state police departments have started using profiling techniques in certain situations. Generally speaking, profiling is still only used in more complicated and well-known circumstances.

---

<sup>2</sup> Surendra Koli vs. The State of Uttar Pradesh, (2011) 4 SCC 80.

## 5. Criminal Profiling in Terrorism and Organized Crime<sup>3</sup>

Terrorist Group Profiling: Criminal profiling has been used in efforts to combat terrorism in recent years. For agencies like the CBI and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), understanding the mentality and actions of terrorists has become crucial.

It has proven possible to forecast the activities of terrorist organizations and organized crime by using behavioral analysis. Behavioral profiling can be used in rape and sexual assault cases in order to identify trends and prospective offenders. The Nirbhaya case, a 2012 Delhi gang rape case, and other similar instances have brought attention to the necessity for additional psychological examination in criminal investigations.

## ROLE OF CRIMINAL PROFILING IN TRANSFORMING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM<sup>4</sup>

Criminal profiling involves analyzing behavior and crime patterns to predict or identify offenders, and in the Indian legal context, several laws have historically regulated this practice. Here's how elements of criminal profiling may transfer from traditional acts like the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to new legislation such as the BNS, BNSS, and BSA Acts of 2023:

### 1. Indian Penal Code (IPC):

- **Relevance to Criminal Profiling:** The IPC defines criminal offenses and outlines penalties for various crimes. Criminal profiling, while not explicitly mentioned, aids law enforcement in applying IPC sections to offenders based on behavioral patterns.
- **Transfer to New Laws:** In the transition to newer laws like the BNS (possibly related to national security or biometric identification), specific IPC offenses may be categorized under emerging threats or crimes. Profiling might be used to identify offenders whose behavior signals national security threats, cybercrimes, or organized crime under these new acts.
- **For example:** Section 101 of BNS, 2023 deals with punishment for murder, but profiling may assist investigators in understanding the psychological motives of the offender, particularly in serial killings, leading to better crime-solving approaches.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Kaustubh Phalke, Criminal profiling and how it is used, blog.ipleader, (JAN,04,2026,10 AM).

<sup>5</sup> Act No. 45 of 2023, The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Section 101.

## 2. Indian Evidence Act (IEA):

- **Relevance to Criminal Profiling:** The Indian Evidence Act governs the admissibility of evidence in court. Criminal profiling techniques, such as behavioral analysis, forensic evidence, and psychological assessments, can be considered circumstantial evidence under this act.
- **Transfer to New Laws:** With the implementation of new amended acts like the BSA (perhaps related to surveillance and security), evidence rules may adapt to include advanced profiling techniques like biometrics, AI-driven behavioral analysis, and predictive algorithms. The legal framework may evolve to accommodate these technologies while protecting civil liberties and ensuring that evidence is admissible and reliable. Sections related to admissibility of forensic evidence in the BSA, 2023 make it easier for profiling-based evidence, such as psychological assessments or behavioral studies, to be used during trials.<sup>6</sup>

## 3. Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC):

- **Relevance to Criminal Profiling:** The CrPC outlines the procedural aspects of criminal law, such as arrest, investigation, and trial. Criminal profiling helps law enforcement in identifying suspects, obtaining warrants, and conducting interrogations in alignment with the CrPC.
- **Transfer to New Laws:** BNSS Act<sup>7</sup> (possibly relating to biometric data and surveillance), criminal procedures might incorporate advanced profiling based on biometric and behavioral data. The act might establish protocols for using profiling tools like facial recognition, DNA analysis, and psychological evaluations during criminal investigations.
- **For example:** Section 154 (new procedure for FIRs) introduces a mechanism for law enforcement to assess the credibility of information, allowing the use of profiling to screen for suspects in serious offenses.

## 4. New Acts (BNS, BNSS, BSA ACT 2023)<sup>8</sup>

- **BNS (Biometric/National Security-related):** This act may focus on national security threats, data collection, and identity verification using biometric data. Criminal

---

<sup>6</sup> Act No. 47 of 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Act No. 46 of 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Prof.Dr Priya Sepaha, Criminal profiling of psychopaths, 3,2022.

profiling will likely rely on technology such as biometric markers, digital footprints, and data analytics to assess risks and identify criminals.

- **BNSS (Surveillance and Security-related):** Profiling under this act may involve surveillance technologies, AI-based crime prediction models, and advanced forensic techniques, drawing on the procedural foundation laid out by the CrPC and the evidentiary guidelines from the IEA.
- **BSA (Biometric Security Act):** This act may specifically deal with the use of biometric data in security and criminal justice. Criminal profiling would involve collecting and analyzing fingerprints, DNA, facial recognition data, and other biometric markers to identify and profile offenders.

## CASE STUDY

Here are a few recent and notable cases in India that have involved aspects of criminal profiling, investigative psychology, or behavioral analysis:

### Nirbhaya Case (2012)<sup>9</sup>

**Significance:** The brutal gang rape and murder of a young woman in Delhi prompted extensive media coverage and public outcry. The case involved profiling the suspects based on their behaviors and backgrounds, leading to swift investigations and eventual convictions.

**Impact:** This case highlighted the need for better criminal profiling techniques and sparked discussions about women's safety and legal reforms.

### How criminal profiling used in this case:

- **Evidence Gathering:** Investigators meticulously analyzed the crime scene to gather physical evidence, such as DNA samples, fingerprints, and other forensic details. This analysis helped establish the sequence of events.
- **Behavioral Indicators:** The nature of the assault-its brutality and the circumstances-provided insights into the psychological state and motivations of the offenders.
- **Patterns of Behavior:** Profilers studied the methods used by the attackers, including how they lured the victim and the means of assault. This MO suggested a degree of premeditation and a willingness to use extreme violence.

<sup>9</sup> Mukesh & Anr. v. State (NCT of Delhi), (2017) 6 SCC 1.

- **Group Dynamics:** The involvement of multiple assailants indicated a group mentality that may have influenced their actions. Profilers examined the dynamics between the group members to understand how they operated together.
- **Understanding the Victim:** Investigators analyzed the victim's background, lifestyle, and the circumstances leading up to the incident. This helped in understanding why she was targeted and the nature of the attack.
- **Identifying Patterns:** The profiling process included examining other similar incidents in the area to determine if this case was part of a larger pattern of crime.

## APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL PROFILING IN INDIA<sup>10</sup>

It is mostly used in-

- Heinous crimes – rape, murder, sexual related assaults and homicides
- Unique homicides – torture, mutilation, evisceration, and ritualistic violence
- Assassination
- Child molestation and abduction
- Fire setting, arson and bombing.
- Extortion.
- Habitual offenders
- Cyber crime

## SUGGESTIONS

To enhance criminal profiling in India, a multi-pronged approach is needed, focusing on specialized training, better data management, technological integration, and a robust legal framework.

1. **Establish Specialized Behavioral Analysis Units:** Create dedicated units within the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), National Investigation Agency (NIA), and state police forces, staffed by trained forensic psychologists and profilers.
2. **Enhance Training and Education:**
  - a. Integrate forensic psychology and criminology into standard police training curricula.

---

<sup>10</sup> Criminal profiling understanding the Criminal Minds, legalservice of india, (JAN, 04, 2026, 10 AM).

- b. Encourage more universities to offer specialized courses and advanced degrees in this field, tailored to India's diverse socio-cultural landscape.
- c. Provide ongoing, hands-on training for judges and law enforcement officers to ensure a better understanding and appropriate application of scientific evidence in legal proceedings.

### **3. Develop a Centralized, Data-Driven System:**

- a. Create a national database for criminal behavior patterns, modus operandi (MO), and recidivism rates, which is currently lacking.
- b. Leverage data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) to identify patterns, predict offender behavior, and inform investigations more accurately.
- c. Implement standardized guidelines for the collection, storage, and access of forensic samples (e.g., DNA) to ensure integrity and speed up analysis.

### **4. Strengthen the Legal and Ethical Framework:**

- a. Expedite the passing and implementation of comprehensive legislation like the proposed DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019, to provide clear guidelines and address privacy concerns.
- b. Establish clear legal guidelines to ensure that profiling is used responsibly and ethically, preventing biases related to caste, religion, or social class.
- c. Clarify the admissibility of psychological profiles as expert testimony in court under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

### **5. Foster Research and Collaboration:**

- a. Encourage collaboration between academic institutions, forensic science laboratories, and law enforcement agencies to conduct research specific to the Indian context and develop culturally sensitive profiling methods.
- b. Implement an "Innocence Project" or similar consortium to review potential wrongful convictions and ensure the justice system is working effectively.
- c. By adopting these suggestions, India can move towards a more robust, scientific, and effective criminal profiling system, which is essential for solving complex crimes such as serial offenses, sexual crimes, and terrorism-related cases.

## CONCLUSION

Criminal profiling in India is still underutilized, but its potential in solving serious crimes is undeniable. With rising crime rates, especially involving serial offenses, sexual crimes, and terrorism, the need for a robust profiling system is more urgent than ever. By addressing the challenges of limited infrastructure, data availability and judicial skepticism, India can develop a more effective system of criminal profiling that aids law enforcement in delivering justice more efficiently. Criminal profiling is a relatively new field in India, but it is gaining traction as a valuable tool for law enforcement. Profiling can help investigators understand the motivations and behavioral patterns of criminals. This understanding can be crucial in narrowing down suspect lists and predicting future actions.

However, it is essential to use profiling ethically and responsibly, avoiding biases that could lead to inaccurate conclusions. With careful implementation, criminal profiling has the potential to significantly improve crime solving rates in India. Criminal profiling is now expanded through new criminal amended laws. It is developing in India. Criminal profiling aims to prevent the crime, speedy trial and suspect the correct offender. It is important tool to transforming the criminal justice. Criminal profiling can greatly help improve how crimes are investigated in India. Although it is still developing, with proper training, resources, and research, it can become an important tool for solving difficult and high-profile cases. By studying the behavior, motives, and traits of criminals, police can better predict and prevent crimes, making communities safer and supporting the justice system.

## REFERENCES

1. Kaustubh Phalke, Criminal profiling and how it is used, blog. ipleader, (Jan, 04, 2026, 10 AM),<https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-criminal-profiling>.
2. Criminal profiling understanding the Criminal Minds, legaservice of india, (Jan, 04, 2026, 10 AM),<https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-12673-criminal-profiling-understanding-the-criminal-minds.html>.
3. <https://indiankanoon.org/>.
4. Behavioral profiling and penology of crime, ijlmh, (Jan, 04, 2026, 10AM). , <https://www.ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Behavioral-Profiling-and-Penology-of-Crimes-in-India-A-Case-Study.pdf>.
5. Adya aditi Samal, minds in the Shadow – forensic profiling, 36, 2021 1From crime scene to Conviction- Criminal profiling in india, Jyothi Judiciary, (Jan, 04, 2026, 10

- AM).
6. <https://www.jyotijudiciary.com/criminal-profiling-in-india/>.
  7. <https://www.ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Behavioral-Profiling-and-Penology-of-Crimes-in-India-A-Case-Study.pdf>.
  8. <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-12673-criminal-profiling-understanding-the-criminal-minds.html>.
  9. <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-12673-criminal-profiling-understanding-the-criminal-minds.html>.
  10. The Times of India.
  11. Oxford Dictionary.
  12. Black Law Dictionary.

