



Questioned Documents Section – 2011

J8 Determination of Variations in the Writings of Rural and Urban People From Their Letter Characteristics in Roman Script

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The goal of this presentation is to narrow down the investigation when a sample of handwriting is found at the scene of crime.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating features that differentiate skilled rural writers in India from urban writers.

In the present study, a comparison of letter characteristics in samples of handwriting written by “ruralites” and “urbanites” coming from different educational backgrounds has been made. This study was performed to examine the handwriting characteristics of writers from different educational backgrounds. This study will provide information regarding the effect of the educational background on handwriting. It is estimated that the study will provide useful information and help in the investigation in the field of forensic science and document examination.

Two hundred samples of writing written by individuals coming from different educational backgrounds (rural and urban) written in Roman script were collected in order to examine letter characteristics. It has been observed that some letters in Roman script show marked differences and variations in their form between the rural and the urban writer. On the average, it was possible to differentiate the writings between the rural and urban writers 90% of the time. The observations could not be made in 10% of the cases, where the letters and strokes were made in an illegible manner. Hence, the results have been found to be highly reliable and informative as to the variations in writing characteristics between urban and rural writers. This information may be useful in assessing the possible background of an individual, particularly a writer of an anonymous letter. It can be derived from the present study that the educational background of the individual influences the development of handwriting characteristics. The details of the results will be presented.

Roman Script, Letter Characteristics, Marked Variations