Introduction

CRIMINAL Profiling is the process of developing "profiles" or descriptions of characteristics and traits of unknown perpetrators in criminal cases. Criminal profiling is often used in cases where Law Enforcement Officers have no suspects for a crime. Criminal profiling, also known as offender profiling, criminal personality profiling, criminal investigative analysis, criminological profiling, and behavioural profiling, should not be confused with psychological profiling. Criminal profiling can be described as a forensic technique, which aims at providing the Investigating Agencies the specific information, which will help focus attention on individuals with personality traits compatible with the traits of other perpetrators of similar offences. In other words, criminal profiling is a process of identifying personality traits, behavioural tendencies and demographic variable of an offender based on the characteristics of the crime.

Criminal profiling consists of analyzing a crime scene and using the information to determine the identity of the perpetrator. While this doesn't directly give the perpetrator's name, it is very helpful in narrowing down suspects. For example, a profile based on a crime scene provides information that may include the perpetrator's personality, sex, age, ethnic background, and possible physical features, such as disfigurements or height and weight. This information can then be used to identify possible suspects, depending on who fits the profile. Personality is one of the most important parts of a criminal profile. Criminal profiling is the process of using psychological and criminal principles to create profiles of offenders. These profiles can then be used to find the person responsible for the crime. Criminal profiling has been used for over a hundred years, but it was made famous by the FBI during the 1960s and 1970s. During this time, top FBI profilers developed a step-by-step method to use profiling to apprehend criminals. This process also explains how criminal profiling works.

The crime scene provides ample clue to the personality characteristics of the criminal. Criminal profiling is a process that begins with a careful analysis of physical evidence available at the individual crime scenes. Criminal profiling is to use information gathered from the scene of crime, witnesses and victims in order to formulate a specific biographical sketch of the perpetrator of the crime. By compiling typical offender characteristics observed in similar previous crimes,

the Investigator of any crime may be more focused in one particular direction and resources may be diverted to more pinpointed direction. The deliberate analysis of physical evidence at individual crime scenes may be used in explaining the behaviour and motivations of specific offenders involved in those specific crime scenes. Criminal profile represents a form of expert opinion that is provided by one party to another party, who seeks an opinion concerning the likely perpetrator(s) of a crime or series of crimes. The process of profiling generally involves seven steps:

1. Evaluation of the criminal act itself;

2. Comprehensive evaluation of the specific of the crime scene(s);

3. Comprehensive analysis of the victim;

4. Evaluation of the Preliminary Report;

5. Evaluation of the Medical Examiner's Autopsy Report;

6. Development of profile with critical offender characteristics; and

7. Investigative suggestions predicted upon construction of the profile.

Criminal profiling is an investigative technique that uses crime scene characteristics to generate probable descriptive information about the behaviours and the personality of an offender, narrowing the field of suspects, and aiding in apprehension efforts.

Profiling may use a mix of Psychological, Sociological and Socio-legal theories and concepts to try and establish something of the characteristics of the offender. Criminal profiling is an investigative technique that is based on the analysis of the nature of the crime committed and the manner in which it was done.

Types of Profiling

Three types of profiling should be carefully distinguished among others:

● **Crime Scene Profiling:** Uses information from the scene of the crime (physical and other evidence) to generate a full picture of the unknown offender. Crime scene profiling is specifically based on the techniques developed by the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit, which has evolved into the Profiling and Behavioral Assessment Unit.

- **Psychological Profiling:** The use of standard personality tests together with interviewing in order to assess the extent to which the individual fits the known personality template of a certain type of offender, such as child sex abusers. Psychological profiling involves investigating an offender's behaviour, motives and background in an attempt to further guide an investigation. Research shows that offenders that repeatedly rape or kill are driven by a heightened public fear for their actions and Media attention, which could eventually lead to their arrest. Analyzing the criminal's habits and rituals allows Investigators to trace similarities between previous crimes. When these details of their lifestyle are made public, friends, neighbours and colleagues may recognize them. Psychological profiling may be described as a method of suspect identification, which seeks to identify a person's mental, emotional and personality characteristics.

- **Offender Profiling:** The collection of empirical data in order to collate a picture of the characteristics of those involved in a certain type of crime. **Offender profiling,** also known as **criminal profiling,** is a behavioural and investigative tool that is intended to help Investigators to profile unknown criminal subjects or offenders.

Psychological profiling will tend to use the expertise of a professional Psychologist, who will draw on his knowledge of personality theory to attribute personality traits to the offender. Criminal profiling will tend to use Crime Scene Analysis as the base for drawing conclusion about the offender. While offender profiling will use a mix of all available information, be it from Crime Scene Analysis or from a Psychiatrist. Terminology is not always rigorously applied in this field and other terms are used to refer to much the same type.

Purpose of Profiling

Profiling needs to be able to provide the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Systems with a psychological assessment of the offender. This assessment should contain information concerning the social and psychological attributes of the offender, and must consider such things as race, age, gender, employment type, religion, marital status and education. The profile can help reduce the scope of any police investigation by helping the police towards a successful resolution,

and by attempting to predict future attacks and possible victim types and locations.

The profile should also provide an evaluation of belongings kept by the offender. These include souvenirs kept by the offender from previous attacks, which may include items of clothing, photographs, personal belongings and on occasions, even body parts - all these acting as a reminder of the attack. By attempting to predict the offender typology, the profiler may also be able to suggest other items in the possession of the offender, such as pornography, and/or weapons and so on.

Profiling can also help the investigation by suggesting effective ways of interviewing, in relation to specific offender typologies. Not all offenders or suspected offenders will react to questioning in the same way. What is an effective way of questioning for one person may be totally inefficient for another, it is understood that not all serial killers kill for the same reason, equally they need different strategies towards interrogation. In summary:

- The main purpose of profiling is to assist the Criminal Justice System in the fight against crime.

- The criminal profiling can add to the thought process of the Investigator(s) and help in supporting or rejecting a particular hypothesis, while investigating a crime.

- The profiling can give the police a new or different direction in their attempt to catch the offender.

- The basic purpose of criminal profiling is to provide a description of the probable(s), which will help in unfolding the facts and facets of the crime by focusing investigative resources in one particular direction.

- The criminal profiling in conjunction with other investigative process can lead to the eventual identification of the offender.

- The criminal profiling can help in inferring offenders motivation from the reconstructed crime scene behaviour as all behaviours are motivated and aim at fulfilment of a need. One single behaviour may have much potential motivation. A careful analysis may point out the motivation behind a particular crime scene behaviour.

- Criminal profiling is best viewed as a resource that can be used to assist a criminal investigation when conventional methods employed have stalled or even failed to identify the perpetrator.

Application of Profiling

Criminal profiling is used in many branches of the Criminal Justice System. It has been found to be of particular usefulness in crimes, such as serial sexual homicides. These crimes create a great deal of fear because of their apparently random and motiveless nature, and they are also given high publicity. Consequently, Law Enforcement personnel are under great public pressure to apprehend the perpetrator as quickly as possible. At the same time, these crimes may be the most difficult to solve, precisely because of their apparent randomness.

Profiling is traditionally used in serious cases of assault, sexual crimes, and murder, particularly where the police believe the offence to be part of a series. Many serial rapists or killers tend to plan their crimes well, so leaving fewer clues at the crime scene than the more opportunist offender.

Although cases involving missing or abducted children may often use a profile. Basically, the more violent the crime the more likelihood that a profile will be used. In summary, criminal profiling is most applicable in:

(1) Sex-related assaults and homicides;

(2) Unique homicides, such as those involving torture, mutilation, evisceration, and ritualistic violence;

(3) Assassination;

(4) Child molestation and abduction;

(5) Fire setting, arson and bombing; and

(6) Extortion.

Method of Profiling

Criminal profiling methods seek to compile a profile of a perpetrator that may include the age, sex, ethnic and economic background, possible professions, personality traits and even physical characteristics. During an offender analysis, various aspects of the suspect's personality composition are determined from choices the individual made before, during and after the crime. This information is pooled with other relevant physical evidence and details and then compared with the

characteristics of known anomalous traits and mental abnormalities to develop a working description, or profile, of the suspect.

Profiling may be achieved through inductive or deductive reasoning. Inductive reasoning is observing a set of characteristics based on a premise of broad generalizations and statistical analysis, which leads to the development of a hypothesis. Deductive reasoning is observing a set of characteristics that may be reasoned from a convergence of physical and a behavioural actions or patterns within an event or a series of events such as a crime or series of crimes.

Inductive

Inductive profiling involves the analysis of characteristics of other criminals (e.g., serial murders) and assumes that all serial murderers have similar characteristics. Primary users of the inductive method include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Psychologists and Criminologists. Inductive profiling involves broad generalization or statistical reasoning. An inductive criminal profile is a set of offender characteristics that are reasoned, by correlation, experiential and statistical inference, to be shared by offenders, who commit the same type of crime. An inductive profile is best understood as an average. It is the product of statistical or comparative analysis and results in educated generalizations, hence, the use of the term "inductive". It is very much like a syndrome in its construct. The result of inductive profiling is often a boilerplate: an average profile consisting of generalization about the characteristics of a certain type of criminal that those who use inductive profiling techniques believe, can be accurately inferred to unknown offenders.

Deductive

Deductive profiling, on the other hand, involves the construction of a criminal's characteristics based on the analysis of the forensic evidence acquired at the crime scene(s) of the offender's criminal activity. Primary users of the deductive method are those Police Officers, who actually investigate the crime scene. Deductive reasoning in criminal justice includes looking at a set of characteristics of the offender that are reasoned by the convergence of all of the physical evidence in the case as well as the behavioural evidence patterns within that case or series of related cases and crimes. A Deductive Criminal Profile is one that is deduced from the careful forensic examination and behavioural reconstruction of a single offender's crime scene(s).

After the offender's behaviours have been reconstructed, the crime scene characteristics are analyzed, and the victim characteristics are analyzed. From those combined characteristics, a profile with the characteristics of the individual, who could have committed that specific offence(s), with that specific victim(s) under the conditions present at that specific crime scene(s) is deductively inferred. It is a forensically and behaviourally contained process. The process of deductive profiling is most appropriately termed *Behaviour Evidence Analysis,* and depends on the Analyst's abilities to recognize patterns of behaviour within a single offender to deduce meaning. Offender emotions during the offence, individual patterns of offensive behaviour, and offender personality characteristics are deduced from that particular offender's crime scene behaviour and Victimology only. Assumptions of the Deductive Criminal Profiling method include:

● No offender acts without motivation.

● Every single offence should be investigated as its own unique behavioural and motivational existent.

● Different offenders exhibit the same or similar behaviours for completely different reasons.

● Given the nature of human behaviour, no two cases are really ever alike.

● Human behaviour develops uniquely, over time, in response to environmental and biological factors.

● Criminal MO behaviour can evolve over time and over the commission of multiple offences.

● A single offender is capable of multiple motives over the commission of multiple offences, or even during the commission of a single offence.

The multi-disciplinary Deductive Profiling method, though more time-consuming in the investigative end, will prove to be more effective because of its usefulness as an investigative guide, its competency at linking crimes, and because of its very high probative value in terms of thoroughly establishing signature and motivation. In short, the Deductive Profiling method encourages deliberation, competency, thoroughness, and requires a high degree of intra- and