

A STUDY ON INFLUENCE OF WRITING INSTRUMENTS ON AN INDIVIDUALS HANDWRITING

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ABSTRACT

The distinct and individual method by which a person writes characters, symbols, or script by hand with a pen, pencil, or other writing instrument is known as handwriting. It displays the unique handwriting patterns and style of a person. Writing instruments are considered a significant factor influencing handwriting. While commonly associated with pens, writing instruments encompass a broader range of tools that can impact handwriting characteristics and are therefore crucial in forensic analysis. Understanding the extent to which a writing instrument affects handwriting is essential for drawing precise and accurate conclusions during forensic examinations. This study aims to investigate the influence of pen and pencil on handwriting variation among children. The objectives of the study are: to examine the differences in handwriting style when writing with a pen versus a pencil; to assess the legibility of handwriting produced with both pen and pencil; to compare handwriting characteristics of an individual written in pen and pencil; and to analyze the extent to which an individual's handwriting characteristics remain consistent across different writing instruments. Handwriting samples were collected from 50 children studying in 3rd, 4th, and 5th standards from Kozhikode city. Three samples written in pen and three samples written in pencil were obtained from each child, resulting in a total of six samples per participant. The collected samples were analysed using tools such as a magnifying lens, stereomicroscope, and measuring scale. Additionally, the Handwriting Legibility Scale and chi-square test were employed for statistical analysis. The findings of the research indicated that, in examining both class and individual characteristics of handwriting samples, the handwriting of each child remained consistent across samples written with both pen and pencil. The statistical analysis further revealed that there was no significant difference in the handwriting of individuals when using different writing instruments, such as pen and pencil.

Keywords: handwriting characteristics, class characteristics, Individual characteristics, Handwriting legibility scale.