ID 807

The Importance of a National Criminal DNA Database for Sri Lanka: A Comparative Study

DS Arambawatta [1#]

[1]Faculty of Criminal Justice, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

[#]40-bcj-0008@kdu.ac.lk

Abstract

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is an organism's genetic material inherited from one generation to the next. DNA can be used to identify criminals with remarkable precision. Therefore, in forensic science, it is used as evidence to show who dumped bodily parts such as hair, bones, teeth, saliva, and blood at the crime scene. This study investigated whether a national criminal DNA database can increase the efficiency of Sri Lanka's criminal justice system. Although DNA evidence is admissible in Sri Lankan courts under the current legal framework, still a national DNA database is not available. The objective of this study was to identify the significance of maintaining a criminal DNA database in Sri Lanka by analysing the features of DNA databases in the UK, the USA, and Germany. This is a qualitative study based on secondary data such as academic articles, journals, academic documents, books, and other related cases. According to the analysis, national DNA databases have been established in several countries such as the UK, the USA, the Netherlands, Australia, Germany, Finland and Norway and many other countries are developing DNA database systems. The findings indicate that the national criminal DNA database in the UK, the US, and Germany enhances the efficiency of the country's criminal justice system by facilitating quicker identification of suspects, reducing recidivism, and improving overall crime prevention efforts. Establishing a national criminal DNA database in Sri Lanka is crucial for enhancing the efficiency of the criminal justice system.

Keywords: *national criminal DNA database, comparative study, efficiency, criminal justice system*