



DRUG-FACILITATED STREET AND TRAVEL RELATED ROBBERY: IS THE PROBLEM PROPERLY ADDRESSED BY THE AUTHORITIES?

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ABSTRACT

Robbers are wise enough to achieve their aim by using many methods. One such method is changing of the behaviour of the target individual by administering drugs causing clouding of consciousness, amnesia and narcosis. Sedatives, hypnotics, benzodiazepines and opium derivatives are the desired drugs used widely. Forensic clinicians not infrequently encounter patients with same odd yet stereotyped history of meeting a friendly stranger during long-distance travelling or on the streets who offers a drink or even liquor in a very persuasive manner making them drowsy as soon as consuming the drink several hours later to realize that he had been robbed of his valuables and dropped off at a distant place often with minor abrasions and bruises. Drug facilitated sexual offences are not discussed here.

Case 1: A 71 year old wealthy man was robbed by a three wheel driver after offering a drink.

The following day he was found at a distant place devoid of any valuables.

Case 2: A three wheel driver was robbed by two passengers after offering short- eats and a drink.

The public including the school children are not well aware of this possibility. The medical doctors in general medical wards should extend their help in identifying the chemical agents used for this purpose. The forensic specialists, police officers, magistrates and such other stake holders should identify and maintain a database of such occurrences and agents used so as to prevent further occurrences and formulate legislative enactments.

Keywords: drug related crimes, street and travel related robbery, inadequate awareness