

A Study on the Reliability of Eyewitness Testimony Based on Age, Gender and Educational Background in Bukit Rimau, Shah Alam

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Abstract

Most psychological research studies on eyewitness testimony are aimed at discovering the factors influencing the accuracy of an eyewitness account. This research was particularly conducted to determine whether age, gender and educational background affect the eyewitness account given. Out of the 100 samples obtained, 63 were males and 37 were females ranging from age 18-60, with various level of education from those who attended high school to post graduates. Based on a video shown, these groups of respondents specifically were able to identify the type of crime, criminal act, color of the car, specific features of the suspect and they also believe that withholding information related to the crime from the legal system might affect certain cases in terms of evidence. But only 27.9% of the respondents are of this age group in the selected sampling area. To improve the accuracy of identification and also eyewitness testimony, the best method applicable is a cognitive interview. It is proven to be more structured and effective with cooperative witnesses.

Keywords: Eyewitness testimony, age, gender, educational background