

1st Hands-on Workshop on Human Remains Recovery: Exhumation to Examination

March 26 to 28, 2019

Department of Forensic Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur

Human remains are unequivocal pieces of evidence in medicolegal scenarios. Perpetrators of crimes very often resort to burial of their victims in order to conceal the evidence of crime and the identity of the deceased. Besides, in cases of mass disasters such as earthquakes and avalanches etc. victims may be found buried. Careful disinterment and analysis of these excavated remains are essential for identification. The whole process beginning from disinterment/excavation to examination of skeletal remains requires specific skills and tools. While forensic experts in the USA and Australia etc. undergo frequent trainings to acquire the skills of human remains recovery and further examination, no such training is imparted anywhere in India.

For the very first time in India, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur is conducting a 3-day hands-on workshop on the intricacies of excavation/ exhumation and examination of skeletal remains. The 3-day hands-on workshop would include on field demonstration, lectures and lab work relating to the entire process from exhumation to examination of skeletal remains.

About the Workshop:

During the 3-day hands-on workshop on human remains recovery and examination, the participants will acquire the necessary skills required for exhumation of skeletal remains, maceration of the remains, and their examination, all of which are essential for establishing the biological profile of the deceased and criminal investigations. The participants will be given on-field exposure to the entire process of excavation of the human remains on day 1. The participants will work on the excavated human remains (maceration, cleaning etc.) to obtain the bones for examination on day 2. The participants will be taught the finer details of skeleton remains examination including details of anthropometry on day three. All the on-field and lab work will be supplemented with lectures on the relevant topics. In the final session of day 3, the participants will be sorted into groups for the examination of human remains. They will be tasked with identifying individual bones, and estimate the sex, stature, and probable age of the skeletal material. This workshop will be very intensive and hands-on, and will cover all the three major topics of forensic anthropology: Exhumation, Maceration, and Examination.

Objectives:

At the end of this workshop participants shall be able to

1. Excavate and exhume human remains in a meticulous way
2. Perform techniques of maceration to obtain bones for examination
3. Identify different bones and differentiate between human and non-human bones
4. Estimate sex of an individual from their pelvis, skull, sternum, and long bones etc.
5. Estimate age from long bones, dentition, sternum, sacrum and skull etc.
6. Estimate stature from entire skeleton, and long bones etc.

Resource Persons:

International faculty from Nepal and experts from India