



RIVA POCHA - FOUNDER

Riva Pocha has a master's degree in forensic science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, and a master's degree in biochemistry from Wilson College, Mumbai University, India. She is a consultant and a forensic educator with over 24 years of training experience in the field. She specializes in consultancy pertaining to crime scene investigation, DNA forensics and forensic toxicology (including alcohol-related incidents).

As the founder of FACTS, her vision is to build a bridge between forensic science and the law, while providing the country with accessible quality forensics in the private domain. She remains clear on her objective to contribute to society in the form of awareness building so as to drive social change / reform. In her efforts to build forensic awareness in community she has been invited to conduct trainings at the Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Bombay Bar Council, Bombay Press Club, and Mumbai Police. She has worked with senior advocates of the Mumbai Sessions and High Court providing technical consultancy services and assisting in defence strategies in matters pertaining to rape, sexual assault, poisonings and drunken driving. Her outreach efforts include speaking at Lions Club & Rotary Club, providing forensic career counselling in Mumbai schools, and educating women on personal safety from a forensic perspective.

As an educator, Riva began her career in 2004 at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai where she conceived, designed & executed the one-year part time Diploma Program in Forensic Science and Criminal Law. This program has graduated over 500 students and she continues to be actively involved in lectures and practical training of the science undergraduates and law students. Striving to build forensic awareness, Riva has developed forensic certificate programs in several Mumbai Colleges (Jai Hind College, Pravin Gandhi College of Law, KC Law College, Sophia College and KES Law College). Furthermore, she delivers guest lectures and forensic workshops at professional & educator forums like LAWyersclubIndia, Symbiosis Law School Nagpur, Amity Institute of Forensic Sciences, and TEDx. In the corporate sector, Riva has developed technical training programs for financial institutions in questioned document analysis and has worked with HR departments in upskilling professionals using team building and skill development forensic programs. With her strong pedagogical skills and years of experience in the field, Riva prides herself in being a 'forensic translator' making the technical knowledge easily available to the 'man on the ground'.

She is an Associate member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and a member of COFSE, USA (Council of Forensic Science Educators). She has also been appointed onto the National Forensic Educators Forum in India, and Indian Forensic Teachers Association.

Most recently, Riva has been engaged as a knowledge partner with ILA (International Legal Alliance) network of lawyers and SOS Crisis Management.

Apart from her objective to impart and share the knowledge she holds in educating future generations, she enjoys chess, cooking, listening to music, and reading.