

## ABSTRACT

*This study examines the meaning and scope of circumstantial evidence as provided by judicial decisions, particularly in the context of Indian law. It highlights the reliance on circumstantial evidence in criminal cases due to the scarcity of direct evidence. The Courts emphasize that circumstantial evidence can lead to convictions if it meets certain criteria. The success of a trial depends on the strength of circumstantial evidence. The research has analysed numerous cases where trials were initiated and the fate of the accused was determined solely based on circumstantial evidence. The Courts recognize the significance of circumstantial evidence, considering it on par with direct evidence. The success of a trial depends on circumstantial evidence, subject to the fulfilment of certain requisites: complete establishment of circumstances, inconsistency with innocence, conclusive nature, exclusion of alternative hypotheses, and a complete chain of circumstances pointing to the guilt of the accused. The Courts exercise their discretion in determining whether the evidence satisfies these principles. The burden lies with the prosecution to establish the facts beyond reasonable doubt, while the defense aims to create doubt and break the chain of events.*

***Keywords: circumstantial evidence, court, criminal cases, conviction, trial.***