a) Logical Connection
The stronger the logical link between evidence and the fact, the higher its probative value.
b) Reliability and Accuracy
Evidence must be dependable. Scientific or verified evidence carries more weight.
c) Source of Evidence
First-hand (direct) evidence is stronger than second-hand (hearsay).
Independent sources increase probative value.
d) Consistency
Evidence that is consistent with other facts is more persuasive.
e) Corroboration
Supporting evidence enhances probative value significantly.
f) Absence of Bias
Unbiased witnesses provide stronger evidence.
6. Types of Evidence and Comparative Probative Value
a) Direct Evidence
Example: Eyewitness testimony
High probative value, but depends on reliability of the witness
b) Circumstantial Evidence
Based on inference
Can have strong probative value if forming a complete chain of facts
c) Real (Physical) Evidence
Example: Weapons, fingerprints
Often highly probative because it is tangible
d) Documentary Evidence
Example: Written contracts
Strong probative value if authenticity is proven
e) Expert Evidence
Based on specialized knowledge
Highly probative when scientifically valid
7. Probative Value and Judicial Discretion
Judges play a crucial role in assessing probative value. They must:
Analyze evidence logically
Avoid emotional or biased influence
Apply legal standards fairly
The judge's discretion ensures that justice is not based on weak or misleading evidenc
8. Balancing Probative Value and Prejudicial Effect
One of the most important principles in evidence law is balancing probative value
against unfair prejudice.
Prejudicial Evidence
Evidence that may:
Mislead the court
Create emotional bias
Unfairly harm a party
Balancing Test

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Courts exclude evidence when: 👉 Prejudicial effect > Probative value
This ensures fairness in trials.
9. Practical Applications
Example 1: Criminal Case
DNA evidence linking an accused to a crime scene has extremely high probative valu
Example 2: Weak Evidence
A rumor about a person's character has very low probative value and is often exclude
Example 3: Circumstantial Chain
If multiple pieces of circumstantial evidence point to the same conclusion, their combined probative value becomes very strong.
10. Role in Justice System
Probative value ensures that:
Decisions are based on logic, not emotion
Truth is discovered through reliable means
Innocent persons are protected
Guilty persons are convicted based on solid proof
11. Conclusion
Probative value is a cornerstone of the law of evidence. It determines the strength, reliability, and usefulness of evidence in proving facts. Courts must carefully evaluate probative value to ensure fairness, accuracy, and justice. Without this concept, legal decisions would risk being arbitrary and unjust.

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