



Role Of Social Media In Legal Awareness

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ABSTRACT

The establishment of legal education has been one of the most beneficial results of the use of mass media which seeks to transform human lives through the service of the justice system. The pathetic state of legal literacy in India is a matter of concern. Legal literacy, according to scholars, is a process of self-empowerment which leads to the realization of one's rights. In poor socio-economic conditions, more than 33% of the populations are illiterate who are living below the poverty line. In view of these incidents, awareness and dissemination of legal literacy is necessary to ensure their legal rights. Media is a very powerful tool in a India. If the laws made for public welfare are not being used properly, then it will be considered a failure. Social media platforms play an increasingly important part of social life, communication, and dissemination of information. They inevitably touch the lives of most of the people. If the human is not aware of their rights, then the very essence of the law is lost. In such a situation, the law becomes a toy in someone's hands, which is a more dangerous situation. Whatever progress the country has made, a lot of laws can be introduced by the Parliament or administrative authority to the public only with the help of the media.

The fourth pillar of democracy is media. The positive role and use of social media is the strongest weapon to sustain democracy. Our country has transformed itself into a Welfare State. Because of this change, the responsibility of the state has increased manifold. Because in today's globalized world violation of human rights and freedoms can be seen. Social media, if used wisely and responsibly, can help us in many ways to promote good influences in our daily lives. Social media can reach to the greatest extent through extensive reporting and wide distribution across sections of the society and help in promoting and propagating legal literacy among the poor. Keeping this in mind, this article focuses on legal literacy, how it affects the society and how social media is helpful in promoting legal literacy. In addition, the paper mainly focuses on the role of social media in promoting awareness.

Key Words: Legal education, social media, Legal awareness, Welfare, Society.

Introduction

In the present era, social media help the society in seeking justice. It is clear that those social and legal cases originated in the society in which media has taken initiative, it has got more legal support and it reaches to the conclusion sooner. Every day, social media platforms are used by more than a billion people across the world, the mass media is indeed playing a pivotal role in the exchange of information across the globe, including legal consciousness and perception, which is very important in one's life depicting the concept of democracy. As the world's largest democracy, India should be aware that people are informed about their freedom and right to live according to true democratic standards and governance by law. Individuals, especially those from oppressed and disadvantaged communities, may acknowledge and more actively challenge injustice if they are aware of what the law can provide.

The main objective of the state is to ensure that the constitutional promise is fulfilled in its letter and spirit and that there should be "equal justice for all" to the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society. The fact that free legal aid has been recognized as an essential part of the rule of law, the legal aid movement has not been able to achieve its goal. There is a wide gap between the goals set and the goals achieved. We all know that India is a country devoid of illiteracy, poverty and innocence of people; it is in a position to make people aware in every matter. There is no question of illiteracy in every person here, they should know about the basic law of the country. Legal awareness movement in social media cannot achieve its goal unless people are aware of their fundamental rights.

Legal awareness and legal aid is the responsibility of the state and the right of the citizens. Another major hindrance to the legal aid movement in India is that the delivery system for legal aid is very inefficient. When the poor are not aware of their legal rights, they are subjected to exploitation and ultimately deprived of the rights and benefits provided to them under the law. The key to a successful free legal awareness support system is increased awareness among the public and a more efficient delivery process. Law is a form of social science. Society and law are closely related to each other. Law asks nature to live a social life and with social change, law also changes and plays an important role in meeting social needs, so there is a provision for constitutional amendment to meet social needs and it is the responsibility of the judiciary to Law which violates constitutional provisions, public interest and fundamental rights should be declared void.

In Hussainara Khatoon v. Home Secretary, State of Bihar, This was a Public Interest Litigation filed regarding the rights of undertrial prisoners in Bihar. The court discussed the problem of undertrial prisoners not being released on bail and highlighted the need for a comprehensive legal services programme. It held that legal services are an essential component of just, fair and reasonable process under Article 21. The court said that it is the constitutional right of every accused person who is unable to engage a lawyer due to poverty, indigence or other reasons. Finally, it stressed the need for the government to launch a comprehensive legal services programme.

In Sheela Barse v. State of Maharashtra, This was a Public Interest Litigation filed in response to the custodial violence against female prisoners in Bombay. The court issued directions on the need to provide legal aid to all prisoners lodged in jails in Maharashtra. The court reiterated the constitutional imperative of providing legal aid to poor accused that are deprived of life or personal liberty. It emphasized the importance of this right to restore faith in the justice system, to protect the rights of prisoners against torture and ill-treatment, and especially when their incarceration may prevent access to legal aid.

Those who need knowledge about their rights need not read scholarly studies; instead, they can go to a law-specific social media page, which saves them time and is also easier to understand. Indirectly, social media has increased public awareness of people's rights. However, there is no proper legal awareness initiative in India. However, it is certain that the legal awareness campaign launched by social media will be a success, as there have been other social awareness campaigns which were a great success, where people were not only interested in knowing about their rights but also fighting for them. Social media has emerged as one of the most powerful influences on the masses, which has had a far-reaching impact on all social strata. Some of them are Nirbhaya case incident in Delhi and Indian campaign on Oxfam etc.

The media has a significant impact on how the future of a country is shaped. Various forms of social media are used to communicate between people, including print, social, mass, electronic, etc. With the advancement of social media, a new era of transparency has emerged in the society and the government. It has reached a point where random people in far flung corners of the world dictate our feelings, reactions and reactions to various situations; the ability to incite or stifle public outrage directed at specific acts or persons. The boom has not even spared the legal system, because social media plays an important role in molding and improving the legal system of India.

The authorities are required by law to take appropriate action if they are a party. Before arriving, they are also informed. Progress in a country is closely related to freedom of expression and the press. The most pressing issues in this profession are the safety of journalists and the freedom of the press. Journalists cannot work in risky situations due to fear of losing their life or liberty. It is important to avoid such situations at all costs. It is important for media persons to be safe and protected while covering news in troubled areas. The use of free and open media will improve the welfare of society

Awareness about the legal aid system and its schemes should be learned by them. Social media play an efficient role for the purpose of providing awareness. Those organizations engage people to make them understand their rights and give them free legal aid in court. Media has also played an important role in eradication of corruption. All those who were suspected of conspiring with public officials or taking bribes now fear that they will be caught. Media has benefited from the development of judiciary and tribunals.

Any illegal act can be broadcast on social media within seconds, and such an incident can easily attract the attention of thousands of participants in a free-media environment. Using photographs, video clips, audio clips or any combination, the offender can be convicted in cases where no evidence is available or where a witness has changed his mind due to his own interests or fear of force. Sting operations are more common these days, which makes it easier to collect evidence of crime.

Law plays an important indirect role in relation to social change. For example: a law establishing a compulsory education system. On the other hand, law in many cases indirectly interacts with basic social institutions in a way that creates a direct link between law and social change. For example: A law made to prohibit polygamy. Law plays the role of an agent of modernization and social change. It is also indicative of the nature of social complexity and its associated problems of integration. Apart from this, the strengthening of our faith in the age-old Panchayat system, abolition of the abominable practices of untouchability, child marriage, sati, dowry, etc. are typical examples of social change being brought about in the country through legislation.

Social Media and Legal awareness

Media effects on many levels of society. It all comes down to a point where random people from different parts of the world make judgments on our feelings, reactions, and reactions to certain events: the ability to incite or control collective anger directed at specific events or individuals. The change from rule of law has not gone unnoticed, as social media platforms play a significant role in defining and modifying India's legal system. Most notably, through the dissemination of news, judgments, and laws through various social networks, this has led to a great spread of legal consciousness, allowing most people to become familiar with values and laws they might not otherwise have known about. Media has opened the door of opportunity to access the decisions of the courts and tribunals in India. The decisions of the Supreme Court and High Courts have a direct bearing on the decisions passed by the High Courts, lower courts and tribunals. For this purpose, the public are equipped with regular updates of cases and its progress.

Social Media helped the poor and needy person: Social Media has many times helped the poor and needy person to get effective justice. Many committees and schemes were started by the government for the welfare of the economically and socially backward people. There is still some backlog in grabbing that right and opportunity due to lack of awareness among the people. That's why people, despite being illiterate and poor, should increase their rights, approach the court and seek justice, regardless of their status. The approach of the court is also highlighted by the media and the system is morally compelled to act. First Information Reports were also sometimes refused to be registered by the police stations. Cases in which a lot have been registered due to leaking of news in the media. The media acts as a watchdog for those events. Big public interest is involved in these matters.

Social Media works to open the veil of corruption: Social Media works to open the veil of corruption in our country. , These revelations make the media more valuable in the eyes of the general public. The media sometimes exposes relationships between corrupt politicians and public servants. If this is known then the public becomes responsible that someone is watching. Media has the power to see. Vigilant media, favoritism and illegality make the road difficult for corruption.

Social Media information quickly transfer from one person to another: Social Media messages travel quickly from one person to another. Any type of content, such as an audio-video, a presentation, or any other type of content can be easily developed and uploaded to the Internet. Debates, informative shows, news, documentaries and television advertisements add to our education and knowledge. Media has also contributed significantly to social peace. There are many electronic, print, digital and telecommunication media available in the twenty-first century. Cell phones are also being widely used in rural areas. Globally, social media platforms are the most efficient and successful means to drive campaigns. Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp are some of the most popular platforms among all users because they enable communication to be quick, simple, and potentially. On social media, webinars and documentary films are often organized.

Social media becomes the voice of the victims: In our country, the media has demonstrated this time and again. It is visible after various natural calamities in our country. When natural calamities like floods, earthquakes and rains hit, the media becomes the voice of the victims. It helps the government to prioritize the areas that require immediate attention. It is clear that the media reaches out much earlier than government employees and support. This media action is commendable. The country needs such hardworking media to improve the lives of the people and common people. People and society can use social media not only to get information but also to learn about government functions. In such a situation, only the media can tell the public about the benefits of this. This indicates that the media act as a link between the general population and the government.

Social media work for peace in society: Media has also done tremendous work for peace in the society. In the event of natural calamities like flood, earthquake, rain etc. the media becomes the voice of the victims. It helps the government to prioritize the areas that need immediate attention. It is clear that the media gets there long before government employees and support. This step of the media is totally commendable. To do this the country needs such conscious media for the good of the public at large. Media not only helps people to get information but also helps them to know about it

Social Media and society

Legal reforms have been central to the gender justice strategy agenda in India. The Uniform Civil Code has been merged in Article-44 by the Indian Constitution as a result of social change. It signifies a uniform code of conduct for all the citizens of the country irrespective of caste, religion, parentage, community and cultural recognition and also Article-21 'Protection of life and personal liberty' as a result of social change. Law is a medium through which social objectives can be achieved. That's why change in law is necessary with social change; otherwise law will be of no value.

Social awareness and Law is rooted in social institutions, in socio-economic networks. It is the result of personal and social interactions that are variable and often unpredictable. Thus there is a reciprocal relationship between law and society. The term 'social change' is also used to indicate changes that occur in human interactions and inter-relationships. And social change clearly means a change in the system of social relations where social relations are understood as social processes and social interactions and social organizations.

This is exactly where you should check the source of such information, double-check and confirm the authenticity of the source, and only then proceed to act upon it. You should rely on a reputable website to make sure your source is reliable. Social media moderates popular attitudes and knowledge, and any false information has the dangerous potential to be disseminated to millions of people. The massive public outrage it pours out over crimes that are lauded on social media sites like Facebook, the never-ending trolls on Twitter, the chain reactions, and the barrage of criticism government, police, and administration demonstrate the influence of social media. We do. Social media has become an important source of spreading awareness about existing laws and directions for changes in the law.

Social Media and Judiciary

Media has the power to improve not only the actions of the government and its servants but also the actions of the general public. News in the media can sometimes spread fear or favoritism, and this can be exploited by criminals to their advantage. Media has also developed a paid news system. The paid news system of media operates in both directions. It is a two bladed sword. This can sometimes benefit society, but it can also cause significant damage at other times. To regulate the media, a system of checks and balances must be used. It is important to note that the media should not be treated as a toy in the hands of anyone, and that there should be checks and balances for media individuals and the media sector for what they publish or present to the public.

It has increased legal knowledge by disseminating news, judgments and laws on various social media platforms, allowing more people to become familiar with concepts and laws/statutes that they would otherwise not be aware of. There is no need to go to scholarly books to answer basic questions or doubts; You only need to visit the social media accounts related to law; This saves a lot of time and effort.

In today's situation, the judgments of the Court are not only being tested on the touchstone of social justice, but in fact they are being cited as precursors of 'social rights'. The Court has actively and vigorously taken steps for social justice and has gone to the extent of articulating new social rights like right to food, right to health, right to education, thus, the march of law clearly is in favor

The Supreme Court has played an active role in the social transformation of the lethargic masses. It has certainly acted as a catalyst in the process of social transformation of the people, reducing caste inequalities, protective measures for the weak and vulnerable sections, providing dignified existence to those living in unhygienic conditions, etc. are illustrious examples.

For the purposes of constitutional competence, these actions are described as actions falling within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India under Article 32 and the various High Courts under Article 226 of our Constitution. Habeas corpus, writ, mandamus, prohibition and eviction. Apart from devising measures to ensure that his orders are carried out, Courts have also resorted to private legal remedies such as injunctions and 'stay' orders in PIL cases. Thus, judgments in PIL cases constitute an active judicial dialogue within the entire legal system. "Most of the people of our country are subjected to this denial of 'access to justice' and overtaken by despair and helplessness, they remain victims of an exploitative society, The strategy of Public Interest Litigation has been developed by this Court with a view to bring justice within easy reach of the poor and deprived sections of the community.

Justice Sikri remarked that the media has completely changed in the digital age and "we are in the age of paid and fake news". There is a wide coverage of social media which can easily influence the opinion of an individual. Social media is a powerful medium to influence and mold public opinion. Social media is a very powerful medium that influences and molds public opinion. Under our law a suspect/accused has the right to a fair trial and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Thus, their prejudices emerge as a flaw in the society affecting the public mind. The most famous example is the KM Nanavati case, where public opinion influenced the conviction of the accused.

It is abundantly clear that social media is a very powerful medium for exercising one's freedom of speech and expression. While misuse of social media necessitates legal censorship, there are legitimate apprehensions of violation of civil rights of individuals as an inevitable consequence of censorship. What is therefore desirable is regulation of social media, not censorship. Section 66A of the Information and Technology Act 2000 was struck down by the Supreme Court. The Indian Court in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India*, due to confusion in

the meaning of the word 'negative' in the clause. The section suggested that sending objectionable messages through computer or any other means of communication would be an offence. Under Section 66A, such unlimited power was exploited by the State in curtailing and curtailing the freedom of speech and expression of the people, and hence it was struck down. Trial is essentially a process carried out by the courts. Trial by social media is certainly an unwarranted interference in the process of dispensation of justice.

In Special Leave Petition 804/2017, popularly called the **"WhatsApp Case"**, two students have challenged the new privacy policy of WhatsApp after it was acquired by Facebook. They claim that WhatsApp disclosed user data to Facebook which violates the fundamental right to privacy, as recently observed by a nine-judge constitution bench of the apex court on August 24, headed by **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd) and ANR. Versus Union of India and others**, A five-judge bench presiding over the case issued notices to the Government of India as well as Google and Twitter seeking their legal opinion on sharing of data with cross-border corporate entities, which are currently operating in India. Not governed by any law in force. Meanwhile, Facebook and WhatsApp have been ordered to file affidavits, testifying not to share user information with third parties.

Section 66A of the Information and Technology Act 2000 (IT Act) was struck down by the Supreme Court of India in **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India**, due to ambiguity in the definition of the word 'objectionable' in the section. The section states that it will be an offense to send an objectionable message on a computer or any other communication device. Such absolute power under Section 66A was misused by the government to curtail and suppress the freedom of speech and expression of the people and hence was repealed.

Conclusion:

Law is a system of rules and guidelines that are enforced through social institutions to control behavior, wherever possible. Acts as a social mediator of relations between people. The legal response to any social or technological problem is therefore in itself a major social action that can exacerbate or reduce a problem and help to solve it. information and ideas of all kinds, whether orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of your choice, regardless of frontiers Freedom to do would be included.

A specific law to regulate social media is desirable. The present cyber laws of India are neither proper nor sufficient in this regard. Keeping all this in mind, it is suggested that the government should constitute a committee comprising technical experts to look into all possible aspects of use and misuse of social media and recommend a suitable way in which It can be regulated without impeding rights. Successful legal aid delivery in India requires the government to launch a campaign to inform and educate the public about their right to free legal aid. In addition, the government should employ more efficient processes to improve legal aid delivery, including, but not limited to, increased compensation for legal aid lawyers. In its absence, the constitutional right to free legal aid becomes hollow.

The major hindrance to the legal aid movement in India is the lack of legal awareness. People are still not aware of their basic rights due to which the legal aid movement has not yet achieved its goal. It is the lack of legal awareness that leads to exploitation of the poor and denial of rights and benefits. More lawyers should be encouraged to provide free legal aid and legal awareness and a campaign should be launched to inform people about the existence of free legal awareness in social media.

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