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PROVISIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR LEGAL LITERACY IN INDIA

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PROVISIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR LEGAL LITERACY IN INDIA

Law touches the daily life of every citizen in myriad ways. However, it touches that of the India's socio-economically weaker section in a rather ironic manner. From corruption in public distribution system (ration), to getting the share of work under the NREGA, it is they who need to be most aware of their right and of the entitlement which various government policies offer to them. For them it is question of survival and their unawareness amount to vulnerability; an open invitation to exploitation. For them knowledge is, truly, the much needed power. And therefore, legal literacy assumes critical significance for them.



Around 35% of India's population is illiterate with the bulk of our illiterate population living in rural areas. In these areas social and economic barriers play an important role in keeping the lowest strata of society suppressed. Even, the poor people of upper caste also have been suppressed by rich people of same caste in villages. Their unawareness about their rights feed into this vicious cycle. In such a situation, even government programs and other social welfare and empowerment initiatives, in various categories such as employment generation etc. will achieve intended results only when people are aware of their rights and are able

constitution will be nothing but illusionary rights if people are not aware of them or do not understand them. Democracy has no meaning for the citizen unless the citizen is able to secure his basic human rights, namely education, employment and the right to live a life of dignity and self-respect. Therefore, for all these reasons this set of population becomes the most crucial in terms of reaching out to them via sustained efforts at promoting legal literacy.

Moving on, before we come to devising an effective models and different provisions for legal literacy, we must understand as to what we mean by the term legal literacy.

Well, in the simplest terms it can be seen as a tool based on the power of information to bring

rights, demanding implementation and challenging faulty enforcement. In essence it is the common man's vehicle to question the system and to get from it what is due to him.

Article 39A of our constitution of India gives a directive to the states to ensure that the operation of the legal system does promote justice on a basis of equal opportunity. It directs the state to provide free legal aid of suitable legislation (such as the National Legal Service Authority Act) or schemes and ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen for reason of economic or other disabilities.

take advantage of them. The fundamental rights enshrined in part-iii of our	about a change at the grass-root level. It is the starting point towards beginning to exercise our
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This paper is isolated into four sections:-

A Goals and targets of lawful proficiency:

Following targets we need to accomplish by lawful proficiency:-

- People need to remember they have legitimate right or obligation so as to practice or accept it.
- People need to perceive when an issue or struggle is a lawful clash and when a lawful arrangement is accessible.
- People need to realize how to make fundamental move to maintain a strategic distance from issues and where this is unimaginable then how to help himself properly.
- People need to know how and where to discover data on the necessary law.
- People need to know how and when get reasonable legitimate help.
- People need to comprehend the procedure plainly enough to see the equity has been finished.
- Raising awareness and building capacity in the public.
- Training the trainer.
- Community education and empowerment.
- Exposing the law student for social justice work.
- Strengthen the community solidarity and supporting grass- root advocacy.
- To reduce the number of cases in the courts. Because most of people do crime without the knowledge of law.

B. Methods and provisions adopted to promote legal Literacy:

- National and state legal service authority (NALSA and SLSA)
In 1987, the legal service authority act (LSAA) was enacted by the parliament which came into force on 9th November, 1995 with an object to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal service to the weaker section of the society on the basis of equal opportunity. District level, state level and national level legal service authority are constituted on the basis of this act. These authorities are providing free legal aid to poor and persons belong to weaker section whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 50,000.
- Legal mindfulness is additionally accomplished through lawful guide camps, address, classes, workshops and so forth.
- Others techniques are street appear, radio talk, road and theater play and so forth.
- Publications of applicable books, periodicals, blurbs and graphs that manages specific law. Show of canvases and representations in funnies are different approaches to guarantee exposure for different legitimate activations exercises.
- Strategically found presentation sheets and hoardings out in the open spots, transport stations, commercial centers, before significant open workplaces and police headquarters are likewise used to help in understanding the soul of law.

C. Obstacles and Challenges for Legal Literacy:

- Problem of character building.
- Problem to develop a sensitive citizen and integrated society.
- Lack of access to quality education.
- Lack of awareness about rights and duties.
- Drop out from schools and colleges.
- Problem of language and communication.
- Half heartedly efforts by the government.
- Poverty and Population

D. Suggestion for legal literacy:

- ❖ Legal literacy should be included in Syllabus at senior secondary and college level classes.
- ❖ Religious, caste and other social organization and NGO should take part in the legal literacy mission.
- ❖ Political parties and grass root level democratic institutions like urban and rural local bodies should take responsibilities to impart the legal awareness to the citizens.
- ❖ Government should fixed responsibilities to different club house to impart legal and environment education in the society.
- ❖ All law colleges and law universities of our country should take over nearby villages for legal awareness.
- ❖ Use local language to disseminate legal education and awareness to the society.
- ❖ Print and electronic media may be helpful to aware the general mass regarding legal education.

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