

## AN ASSESSMENT OF AWARENESS OF FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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### Abstract

“Information is not knowledge.”

— Albert Einstein

In this age of information, knowledge is considered a synonym for information. But the truth couldn't be more different. The education system we follow must be built on the solid pillars of knowledge & wisdom, & not information alone. Present-day students must be well-equipped with the requisite knowledge to face any contingency, whichever or whenever it may occur. Basic legal knowledge remains one such area of vital & indispensable knowledge.

The purpose of this study was to assess the level of awareness of undergraduate students about basic legal knowledge & procedures. The study was conducted on a sample size of 100 students randomly selected from the Indira College of Commerce & Science, Pune. The instrument of data collection was titled “Level of Awareness of Basic Legal Provisions among Students Questionnaire” (LABLPSQ) was validated by three experts from the institution itself. The Cronbach's Alpha method of reliability was utilized to determine the reliability of the instrument. The instrument yielded a reliability estimate of  $\alpha = .77$ . The data collected was analyzed using means and standard deviation.

**Keywords:** Students, awareness, enforcement, legal provisions, universities

### INTRODUCTION

Managers, academics, and non-academic staff at higher education institutions must recognise their responsibility by engaging in management process re-engineering to improve optimum service delivery while maintaining high ethical standards in order to satisfy their customers and avoid legal ramifications. A university can be defined as a community of scholars who have the freedom to pursue knowledge without undue interference from outside sources, or, to put it another way, it is a universe in a city. Universities are the highest level of education available to students after completing secondary school, with the goal of producing highly skilled labour for the economy. This is a fundamental level of education provided to youths in a given society in order to provide them with the necessary skills and knowledge for sociopolitical, economic, and technological advancement. As a result, students at this level of education are reasonably rational, have a good sense of legal judgement and appreciation, and are aware of their rights both on and off campus. As

a result, administrators and lecturers cannot act on whims and caprice or arbitrarily, as this could be professionally hazardous.

Wikipedia (2017) highlighted the objectives of lawful instruction to incorporate:

1. Promotion of person mindfulness of their lawful rights and obligations in arrange to work out or expect them. A endless lion's share of person may need fundamental information of their rights and obligations and may not work out or expect these rights if the require emerges hence enduring unreasonably. Consequently, legitimate instruction could be a essential device through which people can gotten to be commonplace with their rights.
2. Know where and how to discover data on a given law: Through legitimate mindfulness students are enlightened on where satisfactory data may well be gotten almost a specific legitimate arrangement to know their standing in a given circumstance. Whether an activity really sums to legitimate breach or satisfactory confirmations can be give to encourage authorizations of their rights.
3. Know when and how to get appropriate legitimate help. Legitimate mindfulness makes a difference understudy to be mindful the primary harbour of call at whatever point things emerges, it too prepares them with the methods for laying complaints, and the formal channel to enlist grievance.

#### **OBEJECTIVES**

- 1) To know the awareness level of undergraduate students towards the fundamental legal provisions and procedures for a number of offences;
- 2) To study the basic legal provisions and procedures requisite for the undergraduate students.

#### **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

Perception has appeared that present day colleges are perplexed with a few issues with sensible legitimate suggestions for both staff and understudies, these issues cut over staff-students, student-student, students-management connections and or intuitive. These intuitive, more frequently than not lead to either encroachment of person essential crucial rights or a few other legitimate infractions. All things considered, a common wonder is that on the off chance that such infractions are committed by staff against understudies, they are oftentimes trivialized and cleared out unnoticed.

Subsequently, the issue to consider is expressed hence: what is the level of students' legitimate awareness and knowledge of fundamental legal provisions & procedures?

#### **METHODOLOGY**

This study was carried out in the Indira College of Commerce & Science, Pune. The research design adopted for the study is the survey research design because the phenomenon under consideration is an ongoing activity. The population was made up of approx. 2000 students of ICCS, random sampling technique was used to select a total of 100 students as sample for study. The instrument used for data collection was Level of Awareness of Basic Legal Provisions among Students Questionnaire (LABLPSQ) which comprised two sections; section "A" dealt with demographic data of respondents, while section "B" deals containing 10 items measuring the variables of the study, 10 items measured each variable. The instrument was validated by experts in measurement and evaluation, while the reliability of the instrument was established using the Cronbach's alpha reliability which yielded reliability estimate of 0.77. This indicated that the instrument is both valid and reliable for the study. Data was collected by the researchers with 0% of attrition. Using statistical & interpretation methods, the data was analysed.

#### **RESULTS**

##### **A. Findings**

The following two questions were asked in the instrument titled LABLPSQ;

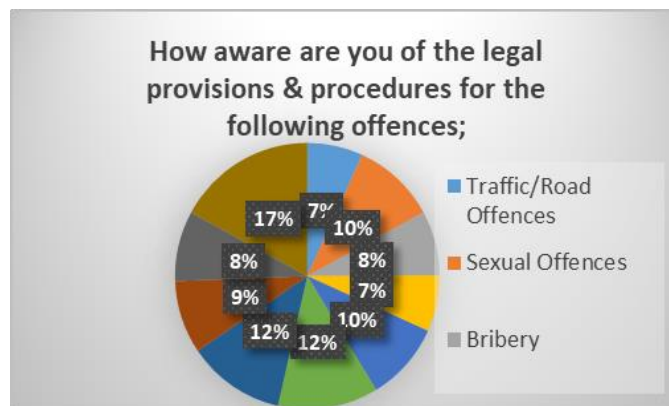
- 1) How aware are you of the legal provisions & procedures for the following offences;

Traffic/Road Offences  
Sexual Offences  
Bribery  
Theft  
Battery  
Domestic Violence  
Cyber Bullying  
Cyber Theft  
Drugs/Narcotics  
Others.

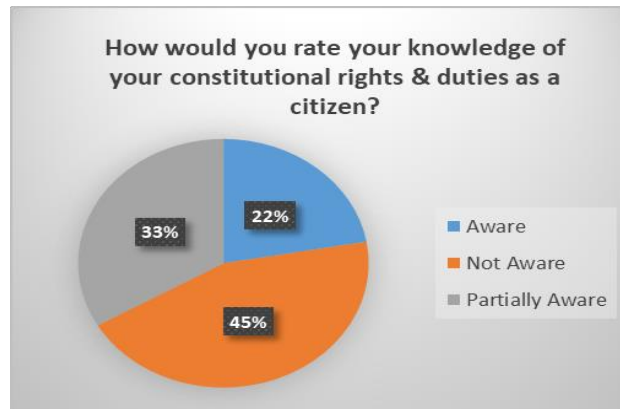
2) How would you rate your knowledge of your constitutional rights & duties as a citizen?  
Aware  
Not Aware  
Partially Aware.

The responses recorded from the surveyed students were as follows;

Offences	Aware	Not Aware	Partially Aware
Traffic/Road Offences	20%	30%	50%
Sexual Offences	30%	30%	40%
Bribery	23%	32%	45%
Theft	20%	18%	62%
Battery	28%	30%	42%
Domestic Violence	36%	28%	36%
Cyber Bullying	35%	30%	35%
Cyber Theft	26%	25%	49%
Drugs/Narcotics	25%	20%	55%
Others	50%	25%	25%



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### B. Interpretation

#### **From the above findings, we can conclude the following: -**

- Majority undergraduate students are partially aware of the legal provisions & procedures for the following offences: Traffic/Road Offences, Theft, and Drugs/Narcotics offences.
- The overall findings of the study are quite discouraging in nature. Majority of the students surveyed were unaware of the provisions and procedures requisite for handling the given offences.
- Also, most of the students were found to be wanting of knowledge about their constitutional rights & duties.

#### **Basic legal provisions and procedures requisite for the undergraduate students:**

Undergraduate students are expected to be well-versed with certain laws and legislations. This knowledge is mostly inculcated through the formal education system as well as mass media. This awareness adds to the already existing body of knowledge of the students, who are expected to be industry-ready in a short time. Being industry ready also means being a responsible citizen of the society, which requires the students to be aware of the said legal provisions and procedures.

#### **CONCLUSION**

From the above study, we may conclude that the level of awareness of undergraduate students about the legal provisions and procedures is significantly low. They were found to be unaware about their basic rights and duties guaranteed by our Constitution.

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