

* INTRODUCTION

National Literacy Mission

PAGE NO. _____

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→ Knowledge of law is power and helps self realization.

India, the largest democracy in the world, has an emergent need for generating awareness of rights as knowledge so that people live in consonance with the true dictates of democracy and rule of law.

Around 35% of India's population are illiterate. Majority of Indians live in villages. Bulk of the illiterates is also in the rural areas, where social and economic barriers play an important role in keeping the lowest strata of society illiterate.

Literacy is an indispensable means for effective social and economic participation, contributing to human development and poverty reduction.

→ Even those who are literate are helpless and confused when there is violation of a right enforceable in law.

→ Government alone may not be able break barriers built over the centuries. However non-governmental agencies that have deeper contacts at

the grass roots than official government-machinery.

* Legal awareness

sense of self
↑
worth

Legal awareness is the empowerment of individuals regarding issues involving the law.

Legal awareness helps to promote consciousness of legal culture, participation in the formation of law and the rule of law.

→ Ewick and Silbey defines legal consciousness as the process by which people make sense of their experiences by relying on legal categories and concepts.

They explain that there are cultural schemas provided by law that people use to make sense of their experiences. They refer to this as legality.

★ CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

There are 16 Articles and other mentions in the Constitution and 4 specific amendments to advance the cause of education.

→ Education for social transformation

The Indian Constitution has recognised the significance of education for social transformation.

It is a document committed to social justice. The preamble affirms a determination to secure liberty of thoughts, expression, belief, faith and worship & equality of status.

supreme court in the case of Bandhua Mukti Morcha etc.

v/s

Union of India.

Judgement :- "In Maharashtra state Board of secondary & Higher education v. K.S. Gandhi JT 1991 (2) SC 296, right to education at the secondary stage was held to be a fundamental right.

In J.P. Unnikrishnan v. State SC 474, a Constitution Bench had held

education upto the age of 14 years to be a fundamental right ... It would be therefore incumbent upon the state to provide facilities of opportunity as enjoy enjoined under Art. 39(e) and (f) of the constitution.

specific constitutional provisions :-

<u>Part/Article</u>	<u>Provisions</u>
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- 1.) Preamble \Rightarrow To secure to all its citizens EQUALITY of status and opportunity.
- 2.) Fundamental Rights
 - Art. 12 \Rightarrow state aid, control & regulation so impregnating a private activity as to give it the color of state action
 - Art. 14 \Rightarrow state equality \Rightarrow equality before law
Invoked to regulate rules of admission
 - Art. 19 \Rightarrow Right to freedom of protection of speech, which has been interpreted regarding freedom as a right to know of speech, etc.

- Article 21 → Right to life ... the protection of life and personal liberty → finer elegances of human civilisation, right to dignity to health and healthy environ to clean water, to free education upto 14 years are part of life.
- Article 29 → protection of Interest of Minorities → cultural and educational rights - protection of Interests of Minorities. Although commonly Art. 29(1) is assumed to relate to minorities, its scope is not necessarily so confined as it is available to "any section of citizen resident in the territory of India."
- Art 30(1) → Right of Minority to establish and administers educational institutions → Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.

Directive Principles of State Policy

- Art: 39(f) → Certain principles to be followed by the state

This Article has been described as having the object of securing a welfare state.

Keshavananda Bharti v. State of Kerala.
- Art. 41 → Right to work, education & to public assistance in certain cases

Right to work, education and public assistance in certain cases. Court should interpret an Act as to Advance Art. 41.

Jacob v/s Kerala Water Authority.
- Art. 45 → provision for free and compulsory education for children

The state shall endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years from the commencement of constitution for free & compulsory education for all children until the complete of 14 yrs.

■ Art. 46 → The state shall promote the promotion of educational and economic interests of S.C, S.T & other weaker section with special care the educational & economic interests of weaker section of the people & in particular of the S.C & S.T & shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

■ Art. 51 A (h) → Fundamental duties to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of enquiry & reform.
Mohan v. UOI (1992)
supp 1 SCC 594.

- Other provision like Art. 246 and
- ① Art 254 which means concurrent list & inclusion of education thereunder. The scheme of distribution of legislative power under The Indian Constitution.
 - ② Art. 280 : Finance commission can suggest measures to augment the consolidated fund to supplement the resource of the panchayat in the state.

(3) Art. 337 special provisions with respect to educational grants for the benefits of Anglo Indian community.

(4) Part XVII: Official Language :- The whole part deals with language as inherent part of literacy with a specific mention in Art. 350 A for facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage.

* GOAL OF LEGAL AWARENESS :-

- (1) It empowers of the individuals regarding issues involving the law.
- (2) It help to promote consciousness of legal culture,
- (3) participation in the formation of laws and rule of law.
- (4) Enable people to make sense of what happens to them and what that might mean in terms of their right & options.

- (5) It gives knowledge associated with membership in a social class.
- (6) It refers to public legal education in primary & secondary schools.
- (7) To set up nation wide legal service clinic to familiarise law students of the country to the problem faced by masses ignoring about their rights & remedies provides under the law.
- (8) To attain idea of social economic & political justice as enshrined in constitution by reaching out of marginalised & under privileged section through legal service clinic.

* CONCLUSION //

- Legal literacy is that where one needs to have some broad information about legal provisions.
- It is the elementary knowledge of law and not an expert knowledge of an advocate. It is about awareness of country's political set up.
- It help in seeking legal remedies against exploitation & injustice.
- Legal awareness makes us aware of several laws which have been enacted for the welfare protection & security of citizens.
- Absence of legal literacy leads to to exploitation and victimisation in many fields.
- It makes us responsible person of a civil society and a society which is just and orderly, where everyone lives with honour & dignity.
 - In short "legal literacy reminds us about our rights, duties & legal obligation towards society!"