

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

Volume 7 | Issue 1

2024

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Freedom of Speech in 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 social media. Legal awareness is a process of self-empowerment which leads to the realization of human rights. It is function of the state to established a social system by making appropriate laws and providing equal opportunities for development to all. 70% of the population of India in rural areas who are not fully aware of the rights of constitution. In poor socio-economic conditions, more than 33% of the populations are illiterate who are living below the poverty line. The good role of media is for maintaining democracy. The responsibility of the state has increased manifold because of the transformation of media. It is important for various laws passed by the Parliament to reach the wider population for their benefits.

The fourth pillar Media of democracy is a powerful tool in India, a welfare country. The positive role and use of freedom of expression is the strongest weapon to sustain democracy. The Constitution of our country guarantees complete equality to all its citizens regardless of caste, creed, community, and India has transformed itself into a 'Welfare State.' 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 awareness among the poor. Providing legal awareness support to the poor can help them solve basic problems of survival and bring a big change in their lives. Legal empowerment is built on the concept of human rights, and its active use can promote development by strengthening the voices of communities at the grass roots level. This paper mainly focuses on the role of social media in promoting awareness.

Keywords: *Legal education, social media, Legal awareness, Welfare, Society.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian Constitution follows the welfare state model. The Constitution mandates the state to follow cooperative laws and development policies and points towards accelerated development with a welfare state. The most powerful means of maintaining democracy is the good role and use of freedom of expression. Freedom of speech and expression is understood as the belief that

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every individual has a natural right to express himself or herself freely without any outside interference. Freedom of expression is a complex right subject to certain restrictions provided by law. Because freedom of expression brings with it special duties and responsibilities.

The term freedom of expression has existed since ancient times. Some of the most agreed definitions of freedom of expression that are considered valid international standards: Every person shall have the right to freedom of expression. This right includes the freedom to receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, orally, in writing, in the form of print, art, or through any other media of one's choice. Everyone will have the right to express their opinion without any interference. Every person has the natural right to express themselves freely without outside interference, such as censorship, and without fear of reprisal, such as threats and harassment. Based on the arguments of John Milton, freedom of expression is understood as a multidimensional right, encompassing not only the right to express or disseminate information and ideas, but also the right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas. The right to do so is also included.

Similarly, Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India also provides the citizens of India the right to "freedom of speech and expression". Freedom of speech and expression means the right to freely express one's beliefs and opinions orally, in writing, printing, drawing or in any other way. This also includes the right to propagate or publish the ideas of others. Article 19(1)(a) guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression subject to reasonable restrictions for the protection of public order, decency, and morality. Furthermore, Article 19 of the UDHR and Article 19(2) of the ICCPR also provide for freedom of speech and expression.

The main objective of the law is to deal with the rights and responsibilities of the media. There is no need to go to scholarly books to answer any basic question or doubt. All you must do is visit law related social media accounts; This saves a lot of time and effort, however, on the other hand, it has also led to the spread of false news. Such information misleads the public by spreading and giving unnecessary reasons. Print and electronic media, along with social media, assist society in the search for justice. Social media has emerged as the most powerful influence on the public, with far-reaching effects at all social levels. It has reached the point where our emotions and various reactions are dictated by people in far-flung corners of the world.

Social media can be defined as any Internet and mobile technologies-based platform that enables individuals to exchange generated content and communicate interactively. Social media is a blend of telecommunication technology and social interaction and provides a platform to communicate through words, pictures, and music. The good thing in improving the legal system

of India is that it has increased legal knowledge by spreading news, judgments, and laws on various social media platforms, allowing more people to become familiar with their concepts and laws/legislations.

Media are used to communicate between people in the form of print, social, mass, electronic. With the progress of mass media, a new era of transparency has emerged in the society. Social media has also played an important role in eradicating corruption. Any illegal action can be broadcasted on social media within seconds making it easier to collect evidence of crime. The culprit can be punished using photos, video clips, audio clips or any combination. Judiciary and tribunals have benefited from the growth of social media.

Social media provide a powerful resource. Social media has become the most used and perhaps the easiest way to help those in need. With the use of social media sites, anyone can raise their voice, create awareness, and get help which is then used by organizations to spread awareness around the world. Many organizations have had record success in spreading their message and sharing news with their followers. Social work is fruitful and if you have sympathy for the underprivileged, it is time to work for a cause. By providing legal aid support to needy people, they can get food, clothes, place to stay for their family. One can help the needy people by understanding their wishes, views and fulfilling those needs in a respectful manner without reducing their dignity.

II. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Internet and social media have become an important communication tool through which individuals can exercise their right to freedom of expression and exchange information and ideas. There has been a growing movement of people across the world advocating for justice, equality, accountability, and respect for human rights. In such movements, social media has played an important role in allowing people to instantly connect and exchange information and create a sense of solidarity. Freedom of expression for NGOs through voluntary programs is a great way to help the poor and needy. This will help you gain experience in social work. Demonstration rallies help you create awareness and fight poverty in legal awareness in your community.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee has also attempted to give mobile communications practical applications to freedom of opinion and expression in a fundamentally changed media landscape. Describing new media as a global network for the exchange of ideas, the Committee said that States should take all necessary steps to promote the independence of these new media and ensure access to them. Additionally, Article 19 of the UDHR and Article

19(2) of the ICCPR provide for freedom of speech and expression in the case of the Internet and social media. Thus, it is observed that freedom of speech and expression has been recognized as a fundamental right to be exercised in any medium under the Constitution of India and other international documents. And considering the increasing use of the Internet and social media as a medium for exercising this right, access to this medium has also been recognized as a fundamental human right.

(A) Restrictions on freedom of speech and expression

Freedom of speech is not absolute. Freedom of speech and expression does not give citizens the right to speak or publish without responsibility. It is not an open license to every possible use of language and prevents punishment for those who abuse this freedom. According to Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India, the legislature may make laws to impose restrictions on the right to speech and expression on the following grounds: Sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to commit any crime.

III. LEGAL AWARENESS

In a developing country like India, there is a lack of equal opportunities and information for a large section of the population, including disadvantaged groups. Governments have made genuine efforts to close the equitable development gap, but barriers remain against the disadvantaged. In a democratic country like India, freedom of expression in the media is a very powerful tool for making the state a welfare state. There is a lack of information due to discrimination of disadvantaged groups in India. Knowing the society is in need of legal awareness in India, the social media system takes the help of law volunteers, students as well as lawyers. Legal awareness can make communities understand about government schemes. Legal empowerment of the poor, the ability to know and claim their rights depends on equality, participation, and accountability.

Along with maintaining transparency in the justice system, our country follows the system of open court for hearing as well as giving orders. The news media has got access to print the judgements of the court also. There are some restrictions on the media in publishing court decisions. The media cannot criticize the judge based on the decision. Media has the power to disseminate information to the public instantly, hence the usefulness of media in relation to work is increasing day by day. Court orders can be uploaded on the internet on the same day. Parties get information immediately. The media are allowed access to the court except in certain types of cases or in accordance with a court order to keep them out of publication.

The social media has opened the door of opportunity to access to the judgements of the courts in India. The judgements of the Supreme Court and High Courts have the direct impact on the Lower Courts and Tribunals. For this purpose, the public as well as the lower courts and tribunals are equipped with the regular update of the cases and its progress. A few updates are on the social media internet regarding the latest happenings in legal awareness field. Legal awareness through social media is a big step in this direction and can remove barriers to accessing justice.

The success of legal awareness depends on the political will and commitment of the government. NALSA in collaboration with other legal service institutions conducts various awareness activities to make people aware of their rights. To achieve these objective various types of seminars, lectures, distribution of pamphlets, cultural programs on legal issues, Various competitions like painting, essay writing, debate and speech etc. are used. The need of the hour is to disseminate information through various schemes of the government, thus promoting awareness programs to create awareness about rights and ensure justice.

People who need knowledge on their rights can visit any law-specific social media page, saving their time. social media is a powerful tool to raise awareness about existing law. Indirectly, social media has understandably increased people's awareness of people's rights. However, there has been no proper legal awareness initiative in India. Legal awareness campaigns launched through social media have been successful as people were not only interested in knowing about their rights but also fighting for them.

IV. SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

(1) Social media helped the poor and needy person: social media is a very powerful tool helped the poor and needy person to get effective justice and if used properly it can be life changing. It is rightly said that Happiness comes not from what we get, but from what we give. Helping needy people is a form of gratitude and service to God and humanity. People should always be looking for opportunities to help each other. We should make efforts which will benefit us as well as the society. Let us all help humanity together by sharing resources and information on X, Facebook, Instagram, Whatsup and all these platforms to help those in need. One such platform can be social media.

(2) Social media works to open the veil of corruption: social media works to expose the curtains of corruption. Activism is not just about fighting and protesting for people's rights by marching on the streets, but it is also about advocating the issues of the deprived sections and spreading awareness. And social media is a great area for that. Social media can make people

aware about the problems of the needy. This can also help the government better understand the needs of the needy and deprived sections.

(3) Social media information quickly transfer from one person to another: Through social media, information and messages travel quickly from one person to another. It is common for the needy to seek help. Providing free legal information to poor and needy people helps them to grow as a person and live a better life. With the power of legal education, poor people can become self-reliant and better people. Through legal awareness, we can help the needy people to develop their skills

(4) Social media educate underprivileged children: Education is the greatest gift you can give to a child. Educate children by giving them free education. This is the right of every child whether he is rich or poor. If you want to help the poor and needy then be financially strong. Buy books for the poor and needy. Donate your old books to poor children and help them in their studies. Do not be limited to just your religion when trying to help the poor. Do charity for everyone. This is a big step towards helping the poor and needy. Educate children by giving them free education. This is the right of every child whether he is rich or poor.

(5) Social media becomes the voice of the victims: After various natural disasters in the country, social media appears to be the voice of the victims. Social media websites have changed the way victims around the world interact with each other. No longer limited to traditional means of communication, victims can now get information and spread news instantly on their favorite social networking sites. Beginning networking websites now connect victims' voices with their favorite organizations and charities, without the need for either party to send letters, make phone calls, or schedule appointments. Victim organizations in India are benefiting from social media as they spread their message, raise funds, and help those in need.

(6) Social media spreading Awareness: A large section of the poor population does not have access to the internet or social media. And the small proportion of people who have access to the internet or social media lack awareness about the various benefit schemes launched by the government. Social media can share information about government policies on a large scale to the needy, who can benefit from these policies on a large scale. In a democratic country like India, freedom of expression in the media is a very powerful tool for making the state a welfare state. There is lack of information due to discrimination of disadvantaged groups in India.

(7) Social media promote NGO: If you are interested in helping the needy, you can check out the list of NGOs in India and help promote their campaigns on social media for legal awareness. NGOs should cooperate in providing justice to the poor and help this poor society to get equal

treatment for all. This can also be taken as a volunteer internship in which you can assist them by handling and managing their social media presence. NGOs should sensitize the society to donate clothes and food to the poor. Help an underprivileged person get married and create jobs for the poor. This job will help them develop their confidence and above all self-esteem.

(8) Social media work for peace in society:

Social media has huge impact for peace in the society. Social media raises money to help poverty-stricken children get financial relief from their everyday life circumstances. Social media in the society has done tremendous work in helping the needy stand on their feet for peace. Peace can help in the ability to deal with problems and live a successful life. So that they can take the efforts to revive their lives into their own hands instead of always depending on outsiders. Every person should have access to justice and remedies through promotion of legal information.

V. CONCLUSION

Social media is a very powerful tool for exercising one's freedom of speech and expression. It is also being misused rapidly. While on the one hand, misuse of social media requires legal censorship, on the other hand, there are legitimate fears of people's civil rights being violated as an inevitable consequence of censorship. Therefore, what is desirable is regulation of social media, not its censorship. Can easily attract the attention of thousands of participants in a free-media environment. The progress of a country is related to its independence. Media has a significant impact on it. Legal empowerment is built on the concept of human rights, and its active use can promote development by strengthening the voices of communities at the grassroots level.

An inclusive approach has the potential to ensure that marginalized people are recognized and have a voice. India's current cyber laws are neither appropriate nor adequate in this regard. An analysis of existing IT laws reveals that there is unaccounted and immense power in the hands of the government when dealing with security in cyberspace. Yet this is not enough to prevent misuse of social media. Therefore, a specific law to regulate social media is desirable. Keeping all this in mind, it is suggested that the government should form a committee including technical experts to investigate all the possible aspects of use and misuse of social media and recommend a suitable way in which civil rights can be ensured. It can be regulated without creating hindrance.
