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Social Media is a Medium of Legal Awareness & Legal Literacy

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ABSTRACT

Social media is the only platform by which we can spread legal awareness on a mass level. The social media can work as assisting the society in its quest for justice. Any matter come in the light of media take the face of fire and had greater support and by which it can be resolved more quickly than those that have received lesser media attention. Whenever government make any law in any particular area the main object of such law is lost if the people are unaware of their rights and responsibilities. Legal awareness is the process of self-empowerment, as legal literacy is scenario in India is a concern. Keeping this in mind that this paper is trying to concentrate on legal literacy, how it helps the society, how social media is a means of promoting the legal awareness.

Keywords: *Online platforms, Young Generation, Government, Law, India, Rural and Urban Area, News, Consumer.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Websites and programs that emphasize collaboration, sharing of content, engagement, and community-based feedback are collectively referred to as social media. Every day the social media platforms are used by billions of people over the globe around **59% of the world's population** use social media. The number of users of social media is **4.76 billion people around the world**, the average time spent by the user on the social media is around **2 hour 30 minutes**. Only the users are busy in just scrolling the posts and watching the reels, short video. The awareness spread with the help of media is a great tool for implementation among the people of the country. We can say that legal awareness is also called as Public Legal Education, it empowers individual regarding issues involving law. It also motivates the people to be conscious of legal culture and participation in formation of laws. It also empowers the people to raise the voice against crime. Our country having some Non-Governmental Organization plays an efficient role for providing awareness. In our country constitution gives the rights to the people and make the judiciary the safeguard of it and give the power to the court and make

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Social media is rapidly growing platform and which become an important part of people in daily life. Through social media they can communicate , read , comment and also create content by which they can aware the people. Social media is a great tool by which we influence the public to take a step forward to know about the law which is regulating in their society it is good or bad and what type of duties and rights you are having, it can be done by social media with far reaching across the all social strata. Social media also work in molding and reforming the Indian legal system. On the other side it also increase the knowledge of the public realted with news, orders of the court's , and legal information provided on the social meddia platforms. By the means of social media we can easliy provide the answers of the basic questions or doubt we have no need to go through with the books and all, by this we can save a lot of time and get proper knowledge without extra efforts, you just need to visit the social media platforms pages where the knowledge realted to law is provided. But on the other side as well you have to double check that the information is correct or wrong.As we are a democractic nation, everyone has the knowledge of their freedoms and rights to live accordingly the rules provided.

Legal literacy is also called the awareness of legal education which empowers the public in accordance to the issue of the law in our society. As India is a nation which has a lot of laws on various subjects but due to lack of knowledge there is a small number of benefit be there.Also illiteracy still persists in India, and citizens have no knowledge of the numerous legal provisions in force for their benefit. There is a need to educate people in such a changing culture. There is a need to expand the reach of legal education in the masses. People ought to be made aware of the guidelines and policies needed for their progress.Legal Literacy also contributes in fighting injustice against women thus empowering them. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kabir has recently pointed out that lack of knowledge and education are the key sources of discrimination against the especially women. Women should be aware of the laws that protect their rights, so that they can submit their complaints to the appropriate authority in order to ensurejustice. It is therefore essential to recognise that basic legal education is the first step towards the emergence of India as a super-power country that easily tackles social problems by preventing exploitation of its citizens.³

II. YOUNG GENERATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The invention of social media is a two-edged sword that has both benefits and problems.

³Available at <https://ijalr.in/volume-1/issue-4/acceleration-of-legal-literacy-through-social-media-by-anshita-naidu-jahanvi-jain/>

Whatever its advantages—religious, physical, or social—are outweighed by its drawbacks. It's now up to the people to choose how they want to use it. Despite the fact that the situation and the actions demonstrate that even the lawful social media users are unable to shield themselves from illicit activities. It has been noted that in the modern period, women spend 68% of their time on social media, compared to 32% for men. According to some analysts, social media is responsible for 80% of social discrimination, upheavals, and family system collapse.⁴

Facebook Depression, an emotional disorder linked to social media use, is the most well-known adverse effect of social media on youth. When someone feels inferior to those on social media, they frequently fall into despair. In a similar vein, people are more interested in finding out what other people are doing than in taking time for themselves. As a result, those who use social media more frequently suffer from despair and anxiety since it negatively impacts their mood and mental processes.

(A) How to protect Young Generation

You may encourage appropriate social media use and reduce some of its harmful impacts by taking certain actions. Take into account these suggestions:

- **Define sensible boundaries**-Your teen should be taught how to use social media without allowing it interfere with his or her activities, sleep, meals, or homework. Keep phones and tablets out of teenagers' bedrooms and promote a bedtime routine free of electronic media use. Set an example by abiding by these guidelines⁵.
- **Watch your teen's online activity**- Inform your teen that you will be checking their social media accounts frequently. Aim to do this at least once every week. Make sure you act upon it.
- **Describe what is improper**- Encourage your kid to refrain from spreading rumours, harassing others, or harming their reputation, whether offline or online. Discuss with your teen what information is appropriate and secure to post on social media.
- **Promote in-person interactions with friends**-This is crucial for teenagers who are prone to social anxiety disorder.

⁴Available at <http://risingkashmir.com/the-impact-of-social-media-on-younger-generation>

⁵ Mayo clinic staff, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/tween-and-teen-health/in-depth/teens-and-social-media>

- **Discuss social media**-Talk about your own usage of social media. Inquire of your teen about how they are using social media and how it affects them. Remind your teen that the photos on social media are frequently inflated.

(B) Issues and Challenges

1. Wrong Information:

The main problem in legal awareness is spreading of correct information. The platform of social media is available for everyone and easily accessible. There is no guarantee that the information which is shared is right or wrong, which leads the confusion and mis-understanding of the information when it comes to legal issues. This can only be done by the people who want to mislead or manipulate the public.

2. Share Limited Content:

The another problem is in legal awareness on social media is that it has a limited scope of information sharing. Legal issues are very complex in nature and it is very difficult to convey all the relevant information on social media platform. Due to not sharing of full and proper information it leads to misleading and making confusion in the mind of public.

3. Legal Ethics:

Lawyers and legal professionals have a responsibility to maintain an ethics that they have to share the reliable, accurate information without violate any ethical rules. This can be very difficult to maintain on social media because there are a lot of people some are in favour or some are against using the abusive language, rudely comments, etc.

4. Language Barriers:

It's a global platform, but the legal language is very difficult to everyone to get connect with it because legal terminology can be complex and difficult to translate which lead to confusion and mis-understanding. This can be particularly challenging in regions where multiple languages are spoken.⁶

5. Online Fraud and Scams:

With the increase in online activity during pandemic, there has also increase in online fraud and scams. Like Cyberbullying social media also used as a tool for harass and bully the individuals who are seeking legal assistance.

“Equality before the law in true democracy is a matter of right. It cannot be a matter of

⁶Available https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355033543_Legal_Awareness_Compliance_by_Social_Media_Users_in_India/link/61592c62e7bb415a5d50cfb2/download

charity or favor or of grace or of discretion.”- Justice Wiley Rutledge (US. SC) ⁷

III. IMPACT OF LEGAL AWARENESS

The first step in comprehending the law that has the power to alter people's lives is legal literacy. Social media is the fastest approach to spread awareness of the law because it is the most efficient way to connect with people. The most powerful impact on everyone, with wide-ranging effects on numerous social strata, has been demonstrated to be social media. It has now reached the stage where unelected persons from various countries make decisions regarding our feelings, responses, and reactions to certain happenings. These decisions have the power to either fuel or stifle group rage directed towards particular events or individuals.

It has a positive impact on our society, it help the people to promote the justice and reduce the inequality by ensuring that all the individuals are aware of their rights and they can protect them. It makes everything transparent when everyone are aware about the law that govern their lives. It also help to promote the economical development as well.⁸

(A) Improving Legal Awareness:

There are a number of ways in which legal awareness can be improved. Through education, legal education should be a part of every school curriculum to learn their rights as well as duties to their nation. Through Public Outreach government and other organization as NGO should work together to provide the legal knowledge to the people this can be done by organizing the campaigns, workshops, seminar, and webinars.

IV. CONCLUSION

Legal awareness is the fundamental aspect of any democratic society. It gives an empowerment to the individual by giving them knowledge about their rights and duties for their nation which help to promote the justice and reduce inequality. If we are working together we ensure that everyone are aware about their rights and obligations and fairness are upheld. However it cannot be done without the challenges and issues but all the challenges that must be addressed in order to ensure that legal awareness on social media is an effective and reliable tool. By being aware about the laws every individual can protect themselves and avoid any legal consequences.

Social networking has been shown to affect our young in both positive and harmful ways. People should decide whether to continue using the websites, stop, or even restrict their usage.

⁷Available at <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-82-legal-aid-and-awareness-in-india-issues-and-challenges.html>

⁸Available at <https://ijirl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ROLE-OF-SOCIAL-MEDIA-IN-LEGAL-AWARENESS.pdf>

Parents should mentor and counsel their kids on modern issues like social media usage and caution them about the harm it may do if used improperly or excessively. In order to inform students that they need exercise caution when using social media, the education curriculum should also be changed to incorporate social media studies within its disciplines⁹.

⁹ Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Behavioral Health in California." Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Behavioral Health in California | National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth. N.p., 2011. Web. 20 Feb. 2017