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The Role of Social Norms in Determining the Importance of the Legal Profession in Bangladesh: An In-depth Exploration

MD. ASHIR MONSUR¹, SULTANA SAKHY², UMMAY TANZILA SULTANA³ AND MD. BILLAL HOSSAIN⁴

ABSTRACT

This groundbreaking research paper presents a comprehensive and incisive analysis of the profound impact of social norms on the perception and recognition of the legal profession in Bangladesh. By delving into the complex interplay between deeply ingrained social norms, rich cultural values, historical legacies, and ever-evolving socio-economic dynamics, this study promises to revolutionize our understanding of how societal attitudes significantly shape the perceived importance of legal professionals as custodians of justice, architects of social order, and guardians of individual rights. With its deep insights into the intricate web of social norms and their profound implications for the recognition and societal value accorded to the legal profession in Bangladesh, this research paves the way for transformative reforms and strategic interventions to reinvigorate the profession's image, solidify its vital role in upholding the rule of law, and ignite a resounding call to action among policymakers and stakeholders, all in pursuit of a more just, equitable, and flourishing society.

Keywords: Social norms, Legal profession, Perception, Societal attitudes, Cultural values, Socio-economic factors, Public trust, Legal education.

I. INTRODUCTION

The legal profession is a vital component of any society, serving as the backbone of justice, law enforcement, and the protection of individual rights. However, the perceived importance and societal value accorded to legal professionals can be significantly influenced by prevailing social norms. Social norms, encompassing cultural traditions, historical factors, and societal expectations, shape the perception and recognition of the legal profession within a specific context. Understanding the intricate relationship between social norms and the perceived importance of the legal profession is crucial for comprehending the dynamics that govern its

¹ Author is a Lecturer at Department of Law, First Capital University of Bangladesh, Chuadanga, Bangladesh.

² Author is a Lecturer at Department of Law, First Capital University of Bangladesh, Chuadanga, Bangladesh.

³ Author is a Lecturer at Department of Law, First Capital University of Bangladesh, Chuadanga, Bangladesh.

⁴ Author is a Lecturer at Department of Law, First Capital University of Bangladesh, Chuadanga, Bangladesh.

functioning and impact.

In Bangladesh, a country rich in cultural heritage and socio-economic diversity, social norms play a pivotal role in determining the status and significance of the legal profession. These norms are influenced by a range of factors, including cultural values, gender roles, educational backgrounds, and historical legacies. The exploration of social norms in relation to the legal profession in Bangladesh necessitates a comprehensive investigation to unravel the complexities that shape societal attitudes towards legal professionals and their role in upholding justice and maintaining social order.

By delving into the role of social norms in determining the importance of the legal profession, this research aims to provide an in-depth exploration of the contextual factors that influence the recognition and societal value accorded to legal professionals in Bangladesh. By critically analyzing the multifaceted dynamics of social norms, the study seeks to uncover the challenges and opportunities faced by individuals pursuing legal careers in Bangladesh. Furthermore, it aims to shed light on strategies to foster a positive perception of the legal profession and enhance its effectiveness within the socio-cultural context of Bangladesh.

(A) Research Objectives

- To explore the historical and cultural foundations that shape societal attitudes towards the legal profession in Bangladesh.
- To investigate the role of social norms in shaping the perception and recognition of legal professionals and their contribution to society.
- To examine the influence of socio-economic factors on the perceived importance and societal value accorded to the legal profession.
- To analyze the impact of social norms on public trust in legal professionals and the legal system in Bangladesh.
- To assess the implications of social norm dynamics on legal education, recruitment, and professional development within the legal profession in Bangladesh.

(B) Expected Contributions

By delving into the intricate relationship between social norms and the perception of the legal profession, this research will contribute to the existing knowledge on the socio-cultural context of legal occupations in Bangladesh. The findings will provide a nuanced understanding of the factors that shape societal attitudes towards legal professionals and their role in society. The research outcomes will offer insights for policymakers, legal practitioners, and educators to

develop strategies aimed at enhancing the recognition, trust, and societal value accorded to the legal profession. Ultimately, this study will contribute to shaping a more comprehensive and socially responsive understanding of the importance of the legal profession in Bangladesh.

(C) Literature Review

The importance of social norms in determining the significance of the legal profession in Bangladesh has been the subject of scholarly exploration. Social norms, encompassing cultural values, historical legacies, and societal expectations, play a crucial role in shaping the perception and recognition of legal professionals in society.

Studies have emphasized the influence of cultural values on societal attitudes towards the legal profession. Islam, as the dominant religion in Bangladesh, guides social norms and expectations. Research by Ali (2017) indicates that cultural values emphasizing justice, fairness, and equality enhance the perceived importance of legal professionals as upholders of these values. However, gender disparities persist, impacting the recognition of women in the legal profession (Siddiqui, 2019).

Socio-economic factors have also been found to significantly influence the perceived importance of the legal profession. Kabir and Mallick (2020) highlight that disparities in development, income inequality, and limited access to justice services can diminish the recognition of legal professionals, particularly among marginalized communities. This highlights the need for a more inclusive legal profession that addresses socio-economic disparities.

Historical factors contribute to shaping social norms regarding the legal profession. The legacy of British colonial rule has left an indelible mark on societal attitudes. Mazumder and Rahman (2016) explore how the perception of the legal profession as an elite domain, stemming from colonial influences, impacts the recognition and importance accorded to legal professionals in Bangladesh.

The perception of public trust plays a vital role in shaping societal attitudes towards the legal profession. Rahman (2018) points out that corruption, judicial delays, and a lack of accountability can erode public trust, leading to a diminished perception of the importance of legal professionals in upholding justice and the rule of law. Ensuring transparency and accountability is essential for restoring public trust.

In examining the role of social norms in determining the importance of the legal profession, it is crucial to consider the broader socio-cultural context of Bangladesh. Rahman and Mannan (2019) emphasize that public perception of the legal profession is influenced by various factors,

including cultural values, socio-economic disparities, historical legacies, and public trust. A comprehensive understanding of these dynamics is essential for promoting an equitable and effective legal system.

(D) Research Methodology

This paper will explore the perceptions and attitudes of common people and students towards a specific term and measure. And the research methodology employed a self-administered survey approach to collect data from a sample of 200 respondents. The data were collected by serving them a structured questionnaire.

(E) Sampling Strategy

A purposive sampling technique was utilized to select the participants for this study. The sample consisted of common people from various demographic backgrounds and students from different educational institutions. Participants were selected based on their availability and willingness to participate in the study.

(F) Data Collection Instrument

A carefully designed and structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire consisted of both closed-ended and Likert-scale questions, ensuring standardized responses and facilitating quantitative analysis. The questionnaire was tailored to align with the research objectives, focusing on capturing the perceptions, attitudes, and opinions of the participants concerning the research topic.

(G) Data Collection Procedure

The self-administered questionnaires were distributed to the participants in physical form. Detailed instructions were provided to ensure that the participants understood the purpose of the study and how to accurately complete the questionnaire. Adequate time was allocated for the participants to complete and return the questionnaires.

(H) Data Analysis

The collected data was subjected to analysis using both computer software and critical thinking methodologies to gain comprehensive insights and draw meaningful conclusions. This approach allowed for a multi-faceted examination of the data, combining the power of statistical tools with the researcher's analytical skills.

(I) Limitations

It is important to acknowledge some potential limitations of this research methodology. The

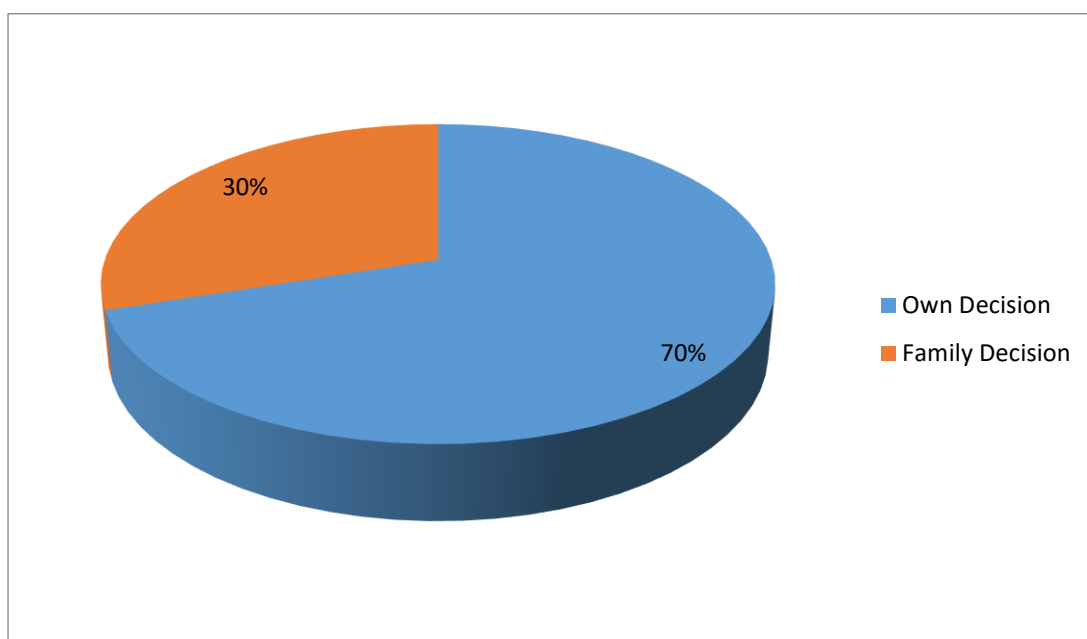
sample size of 200 participants may limit the generalizability of the findings to the entire population. Furthermore, self-administered questionnaires relied on self-reporting, which could introduce response biases or social desirability effects. However, despite these limitations, the study provided valuable insights into the perceptions and attitudes of common people and students regarding the research.

However, this research employed a self-administered survey approach to collect data from a sample of 200 respondents, including common people and students. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire, enabling quantitative analysis. The research methodology employed rigorous sampling techniques, ensured ethical considerations, and addressed potential limitations, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the participants' perceptions and attitudes towards the study.

II. FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

(A) Decision to Study Law

The decision to study law is a significant choice that individuals make, and it is interesting to note the varying factors that influence this decision. In a survey conducted among 100 respondents (all are students of Law), it was found that 70% of them stated they had made the decision to study law entirely by their own volition. This suggests that a majority of individuals are drawn to the field of law due to their personal interests, aspirations, or a genuine passion for justice and legal principles. These individuals are likely to have explored the subject, considered its challenges and rewards, and made a conscious choice to pursue a career in law.

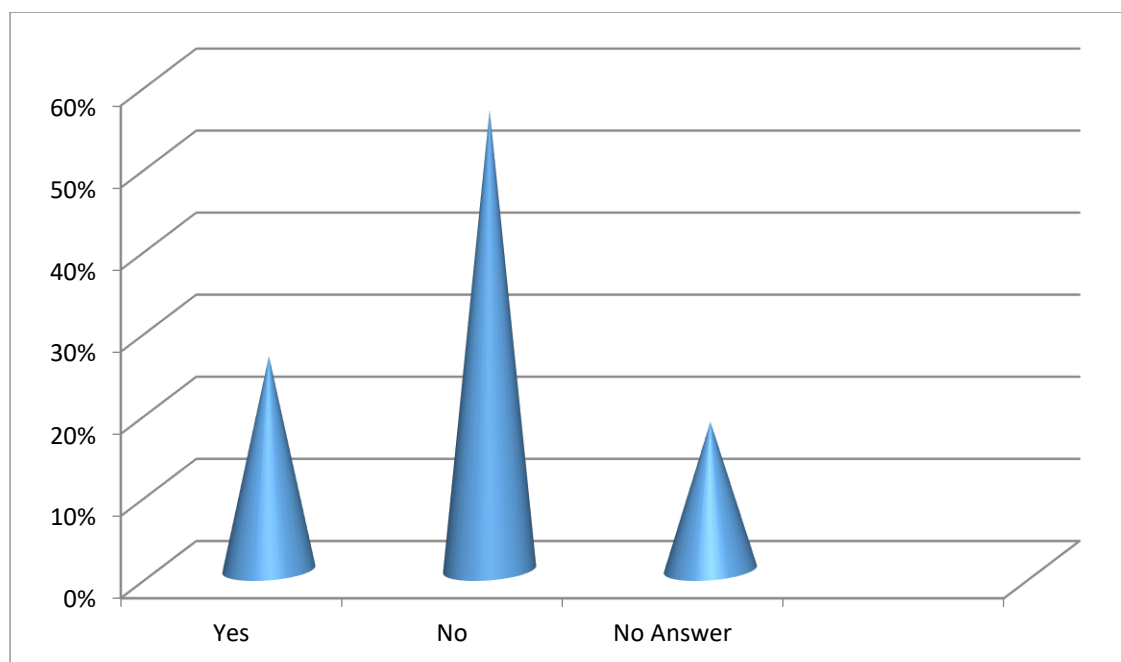


On the other hand, the survey revealed that 30% of the respondents mentioned that their decision

to study law was influenced by the will of their family. This indicates that for a significant portion of individuals, family expectations and support play a crucial role in shaping their career path. It is common for families to encourage their children to pursue certain professions, including law, due to its perceived stability, financial prospects, or the prestige associated with the field. In such cases, the decision to study law may not solely be driven by personal passion or interest but also by the desire to fulfill familial expectations.

(B) Family Members of Law Students Engaged in Legal Profession

The survey results indicate a mixed picture when it comes to the involvement of family members in the legal profession among law students. Among the respondents, 26% confirmed having family members engaged in the legal profession, highlighting a notable portion of students with familial connections to the field. This suggests that these students may have access to unique insights, support, and networking opportunities within the legal industry.



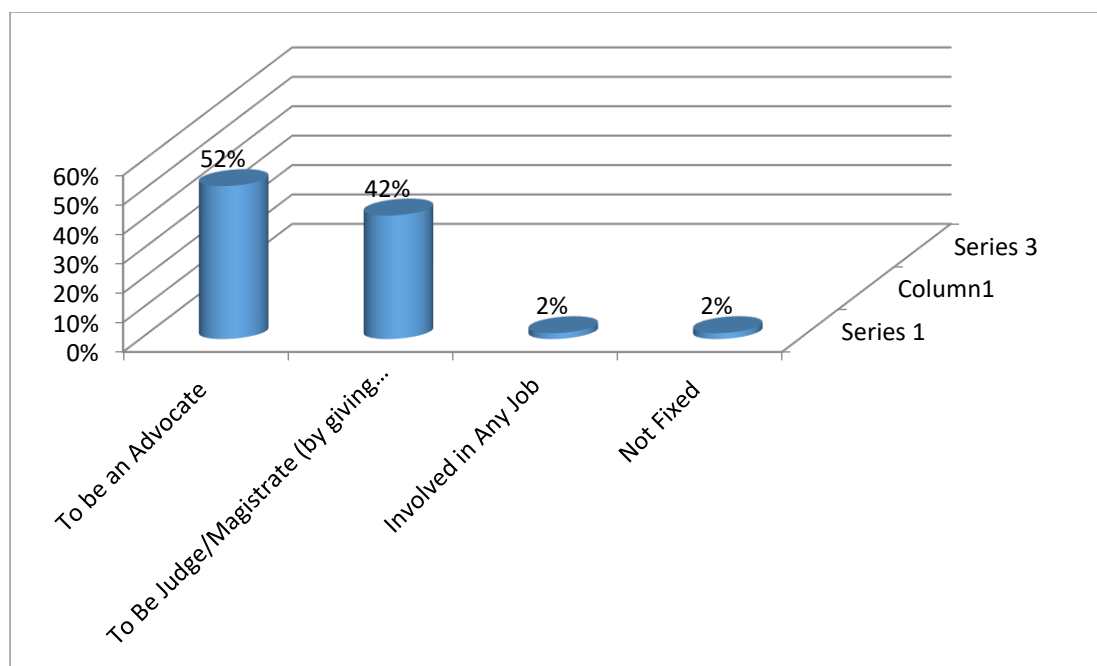
On the other hand, a majority of 56% stated that their family members were not involved in the legal profession. This indicates that a significant portion of law students do not have direct familial ties to the legal field. While they may not have the advantage of immediate family connections, these students can still rely on other sources such as mentors, professors, or professional networks to navigate their legal education and career paths.

It is worth noting that 18% of respondents did not provide an answer regarding their family's engagement in the legal profession, which leaves room for individual circumstances or the lack of knowledge about family members' professional backgrounds. Overall, the survey reflects the diverse backgrounds and experiences of law students, with some benefiting from family

connections in the legal profession, while others rely on alternative avenues for support and guidance.

(C) Goal in Life after Completing the Study of Law

After completing their study of law, the goals of law students vary based on the survey results. Among the respondents, 52% expressed their aspiration to become advocates, indicating a significant majority of students aiming for a career in legal advocacy. This suggests a strong interest in practicing law and representing clients in various legal matters.



Furthermore, 42% of the students stated their goal of becoming a judge or magistrate by giving the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) exam. This indicates a considerable number of students with ambitions to join the judiciary and contribute to the administration of justice from the bench.

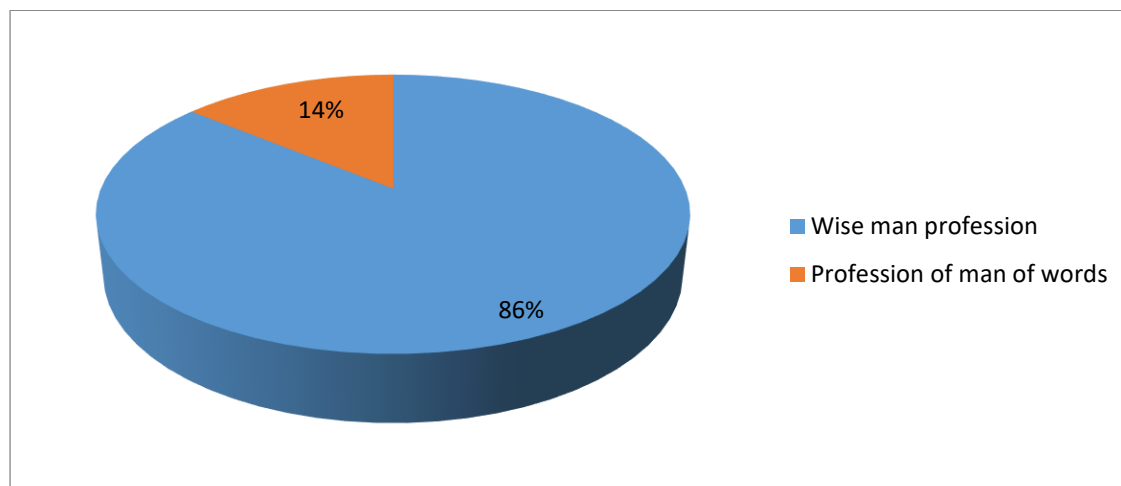
A small percentage of 2% mentioned their intention to be involved in any job, suggesting that they may consider exploring legal career opportunities beyond traditional advocacy or judiciary roles. Additionally, another 2% of respondents expressed that their goals were not yet fixed, indicating a need for further exploration and decision-making regarding their post-law study plans.

(D) Aspect of Common People and Law Students towards Legal Profession

a. Aspect of Common People towards Legal Profession

The legal profession is often regarded by the majority of people as a profession of wise individuals. This viewpoint is held by approximately 86% of the population. People believe that

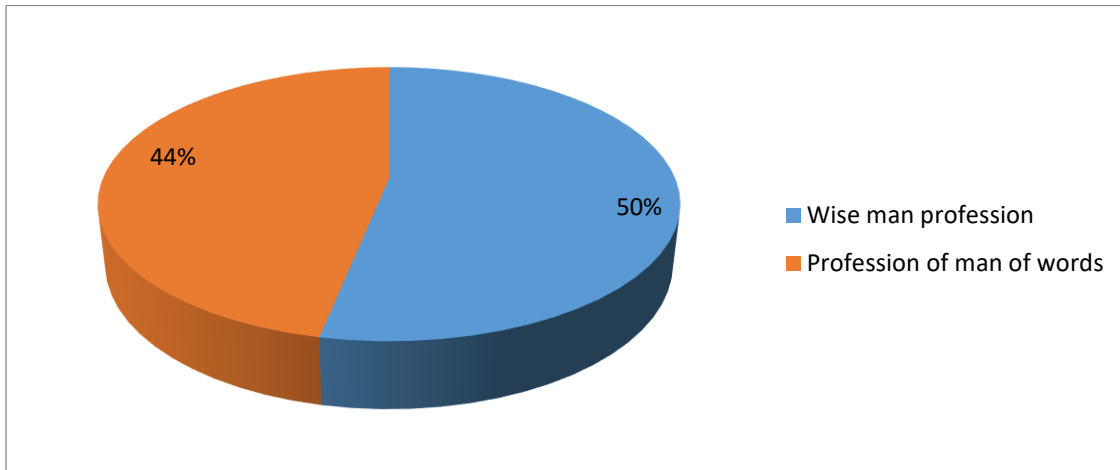
those who choose this career path possess a deep understanding of the law, legal principles, and a comprehensive knowledge of the legal system. They perceive lawyers as highly knowledgeable professionals who provide expert advice, guidance, and representation to their clients. The perception of wisdom associated with the legal profession stems from the belief that lawyers possess the ability to analyze complex legal issues, navigate intricate legal frameworks, and effectively argue their cases in court. This perception often leads people to seek legal counsel and trust the judgment and expertise of lawyers when facing legal matters.



However, there is also a smaller segment of the population, around 14%, who view the legal profession as one dominated by individuals skilled in the art of persuasion and rhetoric. According to this perspective, lawyers are seen as "men of words" who possess the ability to articulate their arguments convincingly and sway the opinions of judges, juries, and other parties involved in legal proceedings. These individuals focus on the importance of effective communication, negotiation skills, and the ability to construct persuasive arguments. They may believe that success in the legal profession hinges more on the ability to present a compelling case rather than solely relying on deep legal knowledge.

b. Aspect of Law Students towards Legal Profession

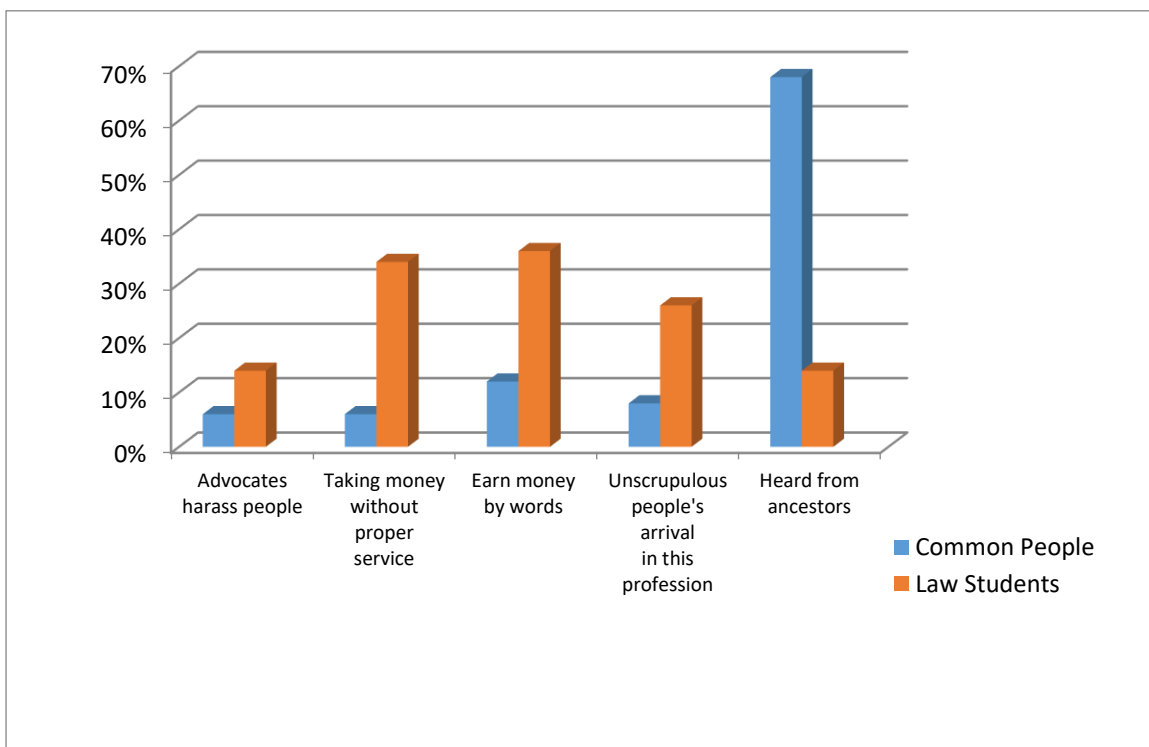
The perception of law students towards the legal profession reveals interesting insights. A significant portion of 50% of the respondents mentioned that they perceive the legal profession as being associated with highly wise individuals. This suggests that most of the law students hold lawyers in high esteem, attributing them with intelligence, knowledge, and expertise in matters of law. It highlights the general belief that legal professionals possess a certain level of wisdom and intellectual capacity that is essential for their role.



44% of the students described the legal profession as the domain of "Man of Words." This suggests that people perceive lawyers as skilled communicators, adept at using language and rhetoric to argue their cases effectively. This perception highlights the importance of persuasive oratory skills and the ability to articulate complex legal concepts to both clients and in courtrooms.

(E) Reasons why the word "Advocate" is viewed with a bit of skepticism by the common people

Generally the word "Advocate" is viewed skeptically by the common people due to concerns about harassment, taking money without providing proper service, earning money through persuasive tactics, the presence of unscrupulous individuals in the profession, and anecdotal experiences shared by ancestors.



a. Advocates harass people

Among the common people surveyed, 6% expressed the belief that advocates harass people, while among the law students surveyed, 14% shared the same perception. This suggests that a small portion of both groups hold the view that some advocates engage in harassing behavior towards individuals.

b. Taking money without proper service

According to the survey, 6% of the common people surveyed expressed the belief that advocates take money without providing proper service. In contrast, a higher percentage of law students, specifically 34%, shared this skepticism. It means both common people and law students have concerns about some advocates not delivering the expected level of service despite receiving payment.

c. Earn money by words

The survey findings reveal that a notable 12% of the common people surveyed harbor skepticism towards advocates, suspecting that they primarily earn money through their persuasive skills. Interestingly, among the law students surveyed, a more substantial 36% share this perception. These results underscore the concern that advocates may prioritize rhetoric over genuine legal expertise, fueling doubts about their integrity and raising questions about the profession's ethical standards. The higher percentage among law students suggests that even those studying law are not immune to this perception, highlighting the need for advocacy and legal education to emphasize the importance of substantive legal knowledge alongside persuasive abilities.

d. Unscrupulous people's arrival in this profession

The survey results indicate that 8% of the common people surveyed hold the perception that unscrupulous individuals enter the legal profession. Similarly, among the law students surveyed, a significant 26% share this concern. These findings highlight the prevailing skepticism towards the presence of unethical individuals within the advocate community. The higher percentage among law students suggests that aspiring lawyers themselves recognize the existence of such individuals, emphasizing the importance of fostering ethical standards and integrity within the legal profession to address these concerns. Building trust and maintaining the reputation of advocates require collective efforts to ensure that only those committed to upholding the principles of justice and fairness are welcomed into the profession.

e. Heard from ancestors

Finally the survey results bring to light a compelling and noteworthy observation: an overwhelming 68% of the common people surveyed attribute their skepticism towards advocates to the influential narratives passed down through generations. This substantial majority underscores the powerful impact of ancestral accounts and stories in shaping public perception. Conversely, among the law students surveyed, a still significant 14% acknowledged the influence of ancestral narratives on their own perception of advocates.

These findings highlight the enduring legacy of skepticism that prevails within the wider community, fueled by deeply ingrained beliefs inherited from ancestors. It is crucial to recognize the influence of these narratives and engage in efforts to challenge and reshape them. By fostering open conversations, providing accurate and transparent information about the legal profession, and showcasing the ethical values and contributions of dedicated advocates, we can begin to counteract these deeply rooted biases. This proactive approach aims to cultivate a more positive and informed understanding of the vital role advocates play in upholding justice and ensuring a fair legal system for all.

III. RESTORING AND RETAINING THE PRESTIGE AND EMINENCE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION: ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Restoring and retaining the prestige and lost glory of the legal profession requires concerted efforts and a focus on several key actions and recommendations:

(A) Ethical Conduct and Professionalism

Ethical Conduct and Professionalism are crucial elements in restoring and retaining the prestige and eminence of the legal profession. Upholding high ethical standards and demonstrating professionalism not only ensures the integrity of the legal system but also enhances public trust and confidence in legal practitioners. This section will discuss the significance of ethical conduct and professionalism in the legal profession and provide recommendations for promoting these values.

Firstly, ethical conduct is essential for maintaining the integrity and reputation of the legal profession. Lawyers are entrusted with upholding justice and acting in the best interests of their clients. Ethical conduct entails adhering to the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and fairness in all aspects of legal practice. This includes maintaining client confidentiality, avoiding conflicts of interest, providing competent and diligent representation, and maintaining a respectful and courteous demeanor. By consistently adhering to ethical principles, lawyers

can inspire trust and confidence in their clients, the judiciary, and the public.

Secondly, professionalism is crucial in ensuring the smooth functioning of the legal system and the provision of quality legal services. Professionalism encompasses qualities such as competence, accountability, diligence, and respect for colleagues and the court. Lawyers should continually strive to enhance their knowledge and skills, keeping up with legal developments and practicing law with the utmost competence. They should also take responsibility for their actions, meet professional obligations, and advocate for justice while maintaining a respectful and collaborative approach towards colleagues, adversaries, and the court. Professionalism not only enhances the reputation of individual lawyers but also contributes to the overall credibility and effectiveness of the legal profession.

To promote ethical conduct and professionalism within the legal profession, several recommendations can be implemented. Firstly, legal education programs should incorporate comprehensive courses on legal ethics, professional responsibility, and practical skills to ensure that aspiring lawyers are equipped with the necessary knowledge and values from the outset of their careers. Continuing professional development programs can also be introduced to encourage lawyers to continually update their skills and deepen their understanding of ethical obligations.

Furthermore, legal associations and bar councils can play a crucial role in promoting ethical conduct and professionalism. They can establish clear codes of conduct and professional standards, ensuring that lawyers adhere to the highest ethical principles. Regular training, workshops, and seminars can be organized to raise awareness of ethical issues, provide guidance on ethical dilemmas, and foster a culture of professionalism within the legal community. Additionally, disciplinary mechanisms should be in place to address instances of ethical misconduct and uphold professional standards effectively.

Ethical conduct and professionalism are integral to restoring and retaining the prestige and eminence of the legal profession. Upholding high ethical standards ensures the integrity of the legal system and inspires public trust, while professionalism enhances the provision of quality legal services. By incorporating ethical values into legal education, establishing clear codes of conduct, and providing ongoing training and support, the legal profession can foster a culture of ethical conduct and professionalism. These actions will contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the legal profession's reputation and its vital role in upholding justice and the rule of law.

(B) Quality Legal Education

Quality legal education plays a vital role in restoring and retaining the prestige and eminence of the legal profession. It is the foundation upon which competent and ethical legal practitioners are developed. A well-designed legal education system ensures that law students acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and ethical values to excel in their professional careers. This section discusses the significance of quality legal education and proposes key actions and recommendations to enhance its effectiveness.

Firstly, quality legal education should focus on a comprehensive and balanced curriculum that encompasses both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Law schools should emphasize the teaching of core legal principles, critical thinking, legal research, and writing skills. Additionally, practical training through internships, moot court competitions, and clinical programs should be integrated into the curriculum. This hands-on experience enables students to apply legal concepts to real-world situations and develop practical lawyering skills.

Secondly, promoting faculty development and expertise is crucial for quality legal education. Law schools should invest in hiring highly qualified faculty members who possess practical experience and academic excellence. Continuous professional development programs should be offered to faculty members to update their knowledge and teaching methodologies. Encouraging research and publication among faculty members also enhances their credibility and enables them to stay abreast of legal developments.

Lastly, collaboration between law schools, legal professionals, and the legal industry is essential to ensure that legal education remains relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the profession. Law schools should establish strong ties with legal practitioners, law firms, and the judiciary to provide students with exposure to the practical aspects of the legal profession. Guest lectures, mentoring programs, and internships facilitated by these partnerships contribute to bridging the gap between academia and practice.

Quality legal education is paramount to restoring and retaining the prestige and eminence of the legal profession. A comprehensive curriculum, practical training opportunities, faculty development, and collaboration with legal professionals are key components of a robust legal education system. By implementing these recommendations, law schools can produce competent and ethical legal professionals who contribute to the advancement of justice and the rule of law. Furthermore, it ensures that the legal profession remains highly regarded, trusted, and capable of meeting the challenges of a dynamic and evolving society.

(C) Access to Justice

Access to justice is a fundamental pillar in ensuring a fair and equitable legal system that upholds the rights and interests of all individuals. It encompasses the availability, affordability, and accessibility of legal services and mechanisms for resolving disputes. However, in recent years, the legal profession has faced challenges in providing adequate access to justice, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations. Limited financial resources, geographical barriers, lack of legal awareness, and complex legal procedures have hindered individuals from effectively navigating the legal system.

To address this issue, it is essential to implement various measures that enhance access to justice. Firstly, legal aid programs should be expanded and strengthened to provide free or affordable legal assistance to those who cannot afford legal representation. These programs can be supported by government funding, pro bono initiatives from lawyers and law firms, and partnerships with civil society organizations. Additionally, efforts should be made to simplify legal processes, improve legal literacy, and enhance public awareness of available legal resources. This can be achieved through community outreach programs, legal clinics, and the use of technology to provide online legal information and services.

Furthermore, ensuring geographic accessibility is crucial for promoting access to justice. Establishing legal aid centers and mobile legal clinics in underserved areas can help overcome geographical barriers and bring legal services closer to communities in need. Moreover, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation and arbitration, should be promoted as cost-effective and efficient alternatives to traditional court proceedings. This can help reduce the burden on the court system and provide individuals with more accessible and timely resolution of their disputes.

By prioritizing access to justice, the legal profession can play a vital role in restoring and retaining its prestige and eminence. By ensuring equal access to legal services and empowering individuals to seek justice, the legal profession can regain public trust and confidence. It is crucial for legal practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders to collaborate and implement comprehensive strategies that address the barriers to access justice and foster a more inclusive and responsive legal system. Through these actions, the legal profession can uphold its core values and contribute to a just and equitable society.

(D) Strengthening Judicial Independence

Strengthening Judicial Independence is a crucial step in restoring and retaining the prestige and eminence of the legal profession. Judicial independence refers to the autonomy of the judiciary

from external influences, ensuring that judges can make impartial and unbiased decisions based on the law and principles of justice. This principle is vital for upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, and maintaining public trust and confidence in the legal system.

To strengthen judicial independence, several actions and recommendations can be implemented. Firstly, ensuring the appointment and promotion of judges based on merit and qualifications rather than political or external influence is essential. Establishing transparent and objective criteria for judicial appointments, such as standardized examinations and evaluation processes, can help safeguard against political interference and ensure the selection of competent and independent judges.

Secondly, providing adequate resources and infrastructure to the judiciary is crucial. This includes sufficient funding for courts, modernizing court facilities, and ensuring access to legal research materials. Adequate resources enable judges to perform their duties effectively, reducing the likelihood of external pressures or undue influence.

Additionally, fostering a culture of judicial ethics and professionalism is essential for maintaining judicial independence. Implementing codes of conduct and ethics for judges, providing ongoing training on judicial ethics, and establishing mechanisms for addressing misconduct or unethical behavior can strengthen the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

By prioritizing and implementing measures to strengthen judicial independence, the legal profession can regain its prestige and eminence. This will enhance public trust in the legal system, uphold the rule of law, and ensure equal access to justice for all individuals. Strengthening judicial independence is a collective responsibility that requires collaboration between the judiciary, legal professionals, policymakers, and civil society to create an environment where judges can make decisions independently and impartially, free from any external pressures or influences.

(E) Professional Networking and Collaboration

Professional networking and collaboration play a crucial role in restoring and retaining the prestige and eminence of the legal profession. Building strong networks and fostering collaborative relationships among legal professionals can have a profound impact on their career growth, knowledge sharing, and overall professional development.

Firstly, professional networking provides opportunities for lawyers to establish connections with peers, mentors, and experts in their field. By actively engaging in networking events, conferences, and professional associations, lawyers can expand their professional circle, exchange ideas, and stay updated on the latest developments in the legal landscape. Networking

also facilitates the exchange of best practices, enabling lawyers to learn from each other's experiences, enhance their skills, and gain insights into successful strategies for delivering high-quality legal services.

Furthermore, collaboration among legal professionals promotes a culture of teamwork and synergy. By working collaboratively on complex cases, legal projects, or legal research, lawyers can tap into diverse perspectives and expertise. Collaboration allows for the pooling of resources, knowledge, and skills, leading to innovative approaches and more effective solutions to legal challenges. Moreover, collaborative efforts can foster a sense of camaraderie, mutual support, and shared responsibility within the legal community, contributing to the overall reputation and public perception of the profession.

To promote professional networking and collaboration within the legal profession, several actions and recommendations can be implemented. First, legal associations and bar councils can organize regular networking events, conferences, and seminars that bring legal professionals together. These platforms can provide opportunities for lawyers to interact, share insights, and build meaningful connections. Additionally, mentoring programs can be established to facilitate the guidance and support of junior lawyers by experienced practitioners, fostering professional development and knowledge transfer.

Furthermore, leveraging technology can play a significant role in facilitating networking and collaboration among legal professionals. Online platforms and social media groups dedicated to the legal community can serve as virtual spaces for lawyers to connect, share information, and collaborate on projects. Webinars, online forums, and virtual conferences can also provide a platform for legal professionals to engage in discussions and knowledge sharing regardless of their geographical location.

Professional networking and collaboration are vital in restoring and retaining the prestige and eminence of the legal profession. By actively engaging in networking opportunities and fostering collaborative relationships, legal professionals can expand their professional networks, enhance their skills, and contribute to the overall advancement of the legal community. Through initiatives such as networking events, mentoring programs, and leveraging technology, the legal profession can foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning, ultimately strengthening its reputation and ensuring the delivery of high-quality legal services.

(F) Public Outreach and Education

Educating the public about the role and importance of the legal profession is essential for restoring its lost glory. Lawyers should actively engage in public outreach initiatives, including legal literacy programs, community legal education, and public speaking engagements to enhance public understanding of the legal system and the value lawyers bring to society.

(G) Embracing Technological Advancements

Embracing technology can enhance efficiency, accessibility, and transparency in the legal profession. Lawyers should adapt to digital tools, including legal research databases, case management systems, and online dispute resolution platforms, to deliver more effective and efficient legal services.

By implementing these actions and recommendations, the legal profession can rebuild its prestige and regain the respect and trust of the public. It requires the commitment and collective efforts of legal professionals, legal institutions, and the broader community to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and service to justice.

IV. CONCLUSION

The role of social norms in determining the importance of the legal profession in Bangladesh is a significant aspect that requires careful exploration. This in-depth analysis highlights how cultural and societal beliefs shape the perception and value placed on the legal profession within the country. The findings reveal that skepticism towards advocates stems from concerns related to harassment, inadequate service, monetary motivations, the presence of unscrupulous individuals, and the impact of ancestral narratives.

To foster a more accurate understanding of the legal profession, it is essential to address these perceptions and bridge the gap between public perception and the reality of the profession. This can be achieved through initiatives that emphasize ethical standards, legal expertise, and the role of advocates in upholding justice. Educating the public about the complexities of the legal system, promoting transparency, and ensuring accountability within the profession are crucial steps to challenge misconceptions and create a positive view of advocates.

Open dialogue and improved access to legal education are key factors in empowering individuals to make informed decisions and effectively navigate legal matters. By recognizing and addressing the influence of social norms, Bangladesh can work towards building trust and confidence in the legal profession, ultimately fostering a society that truly values and acknowledges the indispensable contribution of advocates in promoting a just and equitable

society.

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