

NEEDS OF THE CITIZEN REGARDING THE INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC LAW

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Abstract

Information plays an important role in human's day-to-day life. The importance of information in the development of human life is dominant. The world has become a global village due of the transfer and availability of information. India has been experiencing transformation of information from human values to technology like the remaining world.

KEYWORDS :

Citizen Regarding , Public Law , global village , technology.

INTRODUCTION:

Many branches of knowledge have contributed a lot in the development of human beings. In the same way, with the techniques from 'Library and the Science of Information' one can study direct or indirect summary writing of research work, index, service, analysis of content, user study and so on. While doing this one can cover the study of the system of information, the origin of information and the behaviour of the user.

INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

Is it possible that there exists an individual who does not know the meaning of term information? Is there anyone who does not know the importance of information and the impact of its existence and absence on his life? Information is universal. It is available almost in every language. Information is an inseparable part of our life. We receive a lot of information during the whole day. During the early hours of the day we receive information through newspapers & radio. In the same way we are provided information by the milkman, shop-keeper, house maids & many more people. At our working places we exchange information with our seniors, juniors & colleagues. We always ask our friends for information regarding cricket score, the climate change during next 24 hours, and the best brand of washing machine available in the market.

We visit libraries for some more information. We refer to periodicals for the information required for assignments & project work. In short there is not a single field where the availability of information is limited.

Ugen Garfield says in his article entitled 'The Unfulfilled Needs of the Society about Information' that the information scientists should not limit themselves only by educating people of technology. They should try to know & solve problems related to information. This only is their responsibility.

In the recent times Library & Information science deals with the needs of the scholars, scientists, technicians for information & how their needs are fulfilled. But the needs of information do not fulfil the needs of information of the common people. No information system is available about the same & no

information is made available to the common people about their requirements in day today life. Management development system has been developed only for the technicians, professionals & planners. No information is made available to the common people regarding education, health & finance. But "Kisan Call Centre" is an exception to this. On a toll free number information is made available to the farmers.

LEGAL LITERACY

We should think over the information about law more seriously. If no information is available about the essential matters regarding day-to-day life, it results into indirect loss e.g. diet literacy. If information about proper diet and its nutrition value is not made available the needy faces adverse effects. However it's the duty of every citizen to know more about law. The main principle of law is that 'ignorance of law has no excuse'. So every citizen must know the relevant information about law of his own country. One cannot say that he was unknown about a particular law in case of the breach of the same. Thus the knowledge of law regarding the day-to-day life is almost necessary. This is useful to both the rurals and urbans, for the same a systematic and scientific information system is required.

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

If law assumed that the citizens have adequate knowledge of law and if they do not have, there would be breach of law and would argue that they were unknown about the same. Therefore everyone must have minimum knowledge of law. In this case, it is the duty of the government to make the citizens aware of the functional laws and it is the duty of the legislature to make citizens known about the importance of law. This is expected in the democratic countries. So the citizens will abide by law and the state will have law abiding citizens.

Unfortunately in India public legal education is not the responsibility of any individual due to some historical reasons. Citizens know a little about law through media and the education in high schools. Some efforts for legal literacy have been made by political parties, workers, organizations and the NGOs through camps.

In this regard the social institutions will do positively with the help of schools, colleges, radio, televisions, adult literacy schemes, extension education, street plays, bulletins, newspapers, cinema, and libraries and so on.

Public legal education creates self-confidence for justice among the citizens and makes them alert, skilful and knowledgeable and makes them aware of their rights. Public legal education not only teaches citizens to help one another but also teaches them the need of it for solving different legal problems. It also teaches them how to abide by law. Therefore it is necessary to form a particular information system of public law. Therefore there is a need for the assessment of the needs of the citizens for the information regarding law. It will be followed by the development of a model of the information related to the public law. Accordingly a systematic study has been made in this article.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

A detailed study has been made about the citizens' needs for the public law, and at the same time the user study and the information needs of the citizens have been discussed in the information science at the same.

We require a lot of information in our day-to-day life to solve our basic needs, some time we collect information out of our curiosity also.

However, in this article the information regarding the knowledge of Law has been made. The number of Laws is huge. However twenty five important Laws to which the citizens are concerned within their day-to-day life have been discussed in this article. For study Ahmednagar city and Ahmednagar District have been selected.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To study the needs of the citizens about the information of Law.
2. To assess the level of the citizens of their knowledge of Law.
3. To try to know how the Library science information can be utilised to meet the needs of the citizens for the Information of the Law.

4.To find remedies and to make suggestions for the development of Legal Information system through the Legal Literacy.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The writing of any article does not get influential or effective unless review of Literature about the research is made. Justice R. Ravindra Bhat in an article, 'Perspective on legal Literacy' of NALSA NYADEEP Vol. 7 Date 03/07/2006 says that legal literacy will result in to the 'Rule of Law'.

1)H.N. Prasad has written a book entitled 'Information needs & Users'. This book is elementary on this subject. It has been stated by him that the needs about the information of the user should be taken into consideration to provide satisfactory and effective services to the user and information systems regarding the same can be developed.

2)Prof. Biku T. Lal has touched upon a new subject. He wrote a book entitled. 'Information need and Information seeking Behaviour' by taking into account the behaviour of the user information need and the collection of information by the user.

3)Karen E. Fishar has edited a book entitled. 'Theories of information Behaviour'. It contains 70 articles. These articles deal with, how information is sought, how the information is managed & exchanged.

4)Jafet Attic has emphasised on the importance of fulfilment of the needs of the citizens regarding the law in his article entitled the needs of the common people regarding legal information.

5)A note has been prepared by kunz Werner on the analysis of the needs and the methods of assessment. This is an important record on this Subject.

6)C. V. Narsimha Reddy had selected public Information management as his Subject for ph.d. The information selected and published by the Government is one sided. Economic Poverty has its origin in 'Information poverty' Economy poverty ends with the end of the poverty of Information. A theroum has been put forward.

7)Shaila panty has edited a book published by Library Association, London in 1999. The title of this book is 'Social Information Networking'. The theme of this book is Good information for Good citizen.

RESEARCH – METHODOLOGY

Descriptive research methodology has been used for this research, because the concerned study is related to the present Relevant information has been collected with the help of enumerates. A questionnaire has been prepared and it has been evaluated with the help of pilot project for its correctness. An effort has been made to make the questionnaire correct after its assessment on logical criterion. Information has been collected with the help of non-probability system from Ahmadnagar city, & 12 Tehisils. Respondents were selected by enumerators by Random sample system. Tables were prepared on the basis of the information collected.

From this information many factors/elements of Information came to be known Recommendations and suggestions were made after conclusion from the information. The uncommonness of the Subject has been discussed in this article.

PRESENTATION OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION.

The population of Ahmadnagar district including the population of Ahmadnagar city is 40,40,462. It includes male & female population. 20 Innumerater travelled across the, District to collect Information. They Contacted 1000 Respondents and information given by 720 respondents was found to be useful for research.

Table No. 1
The Classification of Responders as per age groups.

Sr. No.	Age Groups	Respondents	Percentage
1)	Up to 25 Years	236	33%
2)	26 TO 50	304	42%
3)	Above 51	180	25%
	Total	720	100%

It is clear from the above table that the 33% respondents are in the age group 0 – 25 years, Their number is 236, 304 i.e 42% respondents are from the age group 26-50 years. Whereas 180 i.e. 25% respondent are above 51 years. It is also clear that most of the respondents are the Adults can express their views correctly.

Table. No. 2
The status of respondent in the family

Sr. No.	Respondent Status in the Family	Persons	Percentage
1)	Karta of the Family	164	23%
2)	Head of the Family	175	24%
3)	Members of the Family	381	53%
	Total	720	100%

When the enumerator visited different families, he founded those 23% respondents i.e. 164 in number were kartas. 175 i.e. 24% respondents provided information as the heads of the family where as 81 i.e. 53% respondents were family members.

From this it is clear that those who play different roles in their respond positively by providing useful Information.

Table No. – 3
Response regarding Legal Information

Sr. No.	Response	Respondent	Percentage
1)	Yes	646	89%
2)	No	74	11%

Table no.- 3 shows that 646 i.e. 89% people feel the necessity of legal information where as 74 i.e. 11% people do not. It is also clear that the number of people who do not feel the necessity of legal information is very less.

Table No. – 4
Whether a citizen should be aware of Legal Information

Sr. No.	Nature of Reason	Respondents	Percentage
1)	To Avoid Cheating	304	42%
2)	To Control Crimes	48	7%
3)	To Protect their rights	210	29%
4)	To make legal knowledge in their day today life	158	22%
	Total	720	100%

From the above table, It is seen that 304 (42%) citizens require legal information to avoid Cheating , 48 (7%) to control crimes, 210 (29%) to protect their rights & 158 (22%) to make legal knowledge in their day today life Thus it can be concluded the legal knowledge controls unfair means in the society.

Table No. – 5
The Laws that citizens need to know.

Sr. No.	Title of the Law	Respondent	Percentage
1)	All Laws	149	20%
2)	Indian Constitutions	101	14%
3)	Right to Information Act	91	12%
4)	Consumer Protection Act	76	10%
5)	Matrimonial Laws	37	05%

If the citizens are asked which laws they need to know , 149 (25%) citizens feel that they must know were law , 101 (14 %) feel that they must know the detail regarding Indian constitution. At the same time 91 (12%) feel the necessity of Right to Information Act. 76 (10%) citizen have their choice for consumer Act where as 37 (5%) prefer to marriage Act. While choosing the laws in the above respect the respondents have related themselves to their own life. Most of the citizens feel that every citizen must know every law. He must know everything about Indian constitution. The Citizen feels that though the number of prevailing laws is big. The revolution Act. i.e. the R. T. I. Must be known by everybody. Whoever the citizen may be whether rich or poor is ultimately a customer them fore he feels the recession for consumer protection Act.

Table No. – 6
The Sources of getting legal information

Sr. No.	Sources of Information	Respondents	Percentage
1)	News Paper	329	45%
2)	All India Radio	199	27%
3)	Television	194	26%
4)	Lawyers	169	23%
5)	Discussions with friends & relatives	159	22%
6)	Others	106	14%
7)	Govt. Publications	79	10%

It is clear from table no. – 6 that whenever a person needs information he goes for its different sources. News papers are the dominant , Source in this respect, 329 (45%) respondents get legal information from various New papers, 199 (27%) from All India Radio. Whenever a person faces legal problems he approaches a lawyer. 169 (23%) people feel that the legal information comes from the lawyers. 159 (22%) people approaches the friends & relatives and 79 (10%) take the help of Government publications.

It also makes it clear that a sources of legal information are selected carefully. The society consists of the literate and illiterate. Those who are ignorant need not have the knowledge of the alphabets to watch the television or to listen Radio. Such get legal information only by listening also. In the same way the literate and the illiterate both can approach lawyers for legal information. The News paper is a dominant source more over it less expensive. Maximum number of Readers make Maximum use of News – papers. Some think that the people themselves is the best source so they have interaction with friends & relatives. Due to unavailability of Govt. Publication the response to them is very poor. Some think that the language in Govt. Publications should be Marathi for better understanding. Besides all this 106 (14%) respondents go for other sources of legal Information.

Table No. – 7
Means / media of the communication of legal Information

Sr. No.	Means	Respondents	Percentage
1)	T V , Serials	350	48%
2)	Workshop	240	33%
3)	Compulsory Curriculum	162	22%
4)	Street Play	154	21%
5)	Legal Awareness Camps	149	20%
6)	Library Services	145	20%
7)	Govt. Publications	106	14%
8)	Articles in the Periodicals	90	12.5%
9)	Courses in Vacation	75	10%
10)	Short Training Program	55	7.6%

It is observed from table no. 7 that 350 (48%) respondents regard televisions. As an important medium of the communication of legal information. 240 (30%) regard legal workshops. 162 (22%) regard compulsory Courses. 152 (21%) regard Street plays. 149 (20%) regard law awareness camps. In the same way 106 (14.5%) take Govt. Publication responsible in the respect. 90(12.5%) respondents regard, articles in periodicals as the medium of communication. In the same way 75 (10%) respondents give importance to Courses in vacation and 55 (7.6%) to Short Training Program. Among these respondents there is a group of respondents which thinks that Library is also a medium of the communication of legal Information.

Table No. – 8
The Nature of the difficulties in understanding Law. (Legal Information)

Sr. No.	Nature of Difficulty	Respondents	Percentage
1)	Difficult Legal Language	255	35%
2)	Use of Bookies Language	136	18%
3)	Unavailability of Legal Literature	115	16%
4)	Infirmity Complex in procuring information	18	3%
5)	Other	61	10%

The above table informs us that the oral and the Written language of law is difficult. 255 (35%) respondents feel the same. 136 (18%) respondents feel that, The Extensive use of Bookish language is made in a Law Literature 115 (16%) respondents say that Legal Literature is unavailable to most of the citizens, where as 18(3%) respondents think that due to inferiority complex legal information is never sought. Besides this, there are some other problems in getting legal information.

From the above discussion it is clear that the legal language must be simple, so that any common citizen will understand it without any difficulty. In the same way the bookish language related to law should be so clear that it will be understood by anybody. college lib. Should take Initiative in developing the collection of legal – literature.

CONCLUSION-:

From the data collected for this article it is clear that the common citizen always need different information. They meet their need from formal and informal information systems. Where ever scientific information is available the information help to solve basic problems. It is almost needful to have legal information and it is equally needful to get the same.

In the present research article the following points have been discussed in details :-

- 1) Why the citizens need legal information and for what.
- 2) When do they need legal information.
- 3) Which law is useful to them.
- 4) Which source is used by them to collect information of the useful law.
- 5) Which medium they think to be convenient to communicate legal information.
- 6) The difficulties faced by the citizens in the communication of legal information to the need .

This research article has been supplied with statistical information. By the use of the instructions and the recommendations made in this research article, A model can be created to meet the citizens need for legal information and the same model will develop ' Public legal information system'.

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