

ROLE OF LAW TEACHERS IN LEGAL EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

A law teacher is the first person who introduces law students to legal world and legal concepts. Law teachers are responsible for imparting a comprehensive understanding of legal principles, doctrines, and case laws. A law teacher helps student to develop skill to critically analyze legal systems, laws, and judicial decisions. A law teacher act as a mentor, guiding students in their academic and professional growth. A law teacher should encourage students to contribute to legal knowledge by researching on emerging issues, publishing articles, and even writing books. A law teacher has responsibility to instill professional ethics by inculcating values of integrity, fairness, and social responsibility in future lawyers.

Key words: law teachers’ role, legal skills. legal research, skills development, critical thinking

Introduction

The role of a law teacher in legal education is multidimensional and crucial in shaping future legal professionals. A law teacher is the first person who introduces law students to legal world and legal concepts. A law student learns legal principles, legal skills, legal research and even gain perception from his first mentor. Thus the role of a law teacher is prime important and has a duty to guide and help a law student to grow and develop career in law.

Role of Educator and Mentor

Delivering Legal Knowledge: Law teachers are responsible for imparting a comprehensive understanding of legal principles, doctrines, and case laws. A student gains his or her initial knowledge on legal subjects from a law teacher. The initial knowledge on the subject forms base for the future knowledge hence it hold prime importance. Unfortunately, this is

overlooked by both educator and learners at times and more focus is given to gaining knowledge for passing the exams. Its responsibility of a law teacher to encourage students to learn and understand law beyond classroom through modern resources where legal knowledge is simplified like YouTube videos and law articles. This not only builds a student’s legal knowledge but also help him or her in developing legal language and gets opportunity to learn according to his or her pace at the convenient of his or her space. It must be noted that such learning is only supplementary to classroom learning but it’s necessity cannot be denied in contemporary times as its keeps student in the loop of learning as today social media is eating away students vital learning time and energy. A great advantage of learning beyond classroom is that students develops interest and skill of self-

learning which a strength for any student in modern times.¹

Developing Critical Thinking: A law teacher helps student to develop skill to critically analyze legal systems, laws, and judicial decisions. A student should be encouraged to think critically as law is a dynamic and a challenging subject. Critical thinking² helps a law student understand law in a better manner and it also helps a student to understand the task and challenge of a Judge, legislators and law enforcement agency who constantly face new challenges and legal questions from dynamic nature of society and from growth and development of newer technology especially developments in cyberspace. It's a law teacher's role to guide students to understand law beyond classroom environment to practical working.

Guidance: A law teacher act as a mentor, guiding students in their academic and professional growth.³ Legal education being a professional education and it's a law teacher moral duty to guide students to develop legal aptitude and harness student's skills. Guiding students on varied sources of law learning resources like law journals, law commission's reports⁴, and land mark case help students to enrich its law learning.

Advancing Legal Knowledge: A law teachers should encourage students to contribute to legal knowledge by researching on emerging issues, publishing articles, and even writing books. Today online platform is providing ample opportunity to publish law papers, research work and books.⁵

Skill Developer

The role of law teachers as legal skills developer is important as they can help students in

developing essential legal skills like legal writing skills, advocacy skills by encouraging students to participate in various competitions, moot court, article writing competitions, internships⁶ etc. Today online platforms are providing easy access to information on competitions and opportunities.⁷

A law teacher should encourage his or her students to participate in different competitions. A student gain wide exposure to knowledge and opportunity when he or she participate in various national level competitions.

Ethical Guide

A law teacher has responsibility to instill professional ethics by inculcating values of integrity, fairness, and social responsibility in future lawyers. By encouraging student to read book written eminent lawyers and judges,⁸ a law student grows his perception about legal profession and gain valuable insight beyond classrooms.

Facilitator of Experiential Learning

A law student has opportunity to facilitate experimental learning by encouraging student to participate in debates, discussions, quiz, case law presentations etc. Students gain practical knowledge and interest in the subject through participative and experiential learning.

Conclusion

The law teacher serves as a cornerstone of legal education by blending the roles of educator, mentor and researcher. Their influence extends beyond the classroom, shaping not only the legal acumen of students but also their professional skills.

In essence, law teachers are instrumental in shaping the future of the legal professionals. By fostering intellectual growth, ethical consciousness, and practical competence, they contribute significantly to the legal system and society. By involving students in these activities,

¹ <https://globalindianschool.org/my/blog-details/importance-and-benefits-of-self-study/>

² <https://tscfm.org/blogs/the-benefits-of-critical-thinking-for-students/>

³ <https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/hub/motivation-in-education/>

⁴ <https://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/https-cdnbbssr-s3waas-gov-in-s3ca0daec69b5adc880fb464895726dbdf-uploads-2023-06-2023060150-pdf/>

⁵ <https://lujournal.com/importance-of-publication-for-law-students/#:~:text=By%20writing%20articles%20and%20having,as%20authorities%20in%20their%20field.>

⁶ <https://blog.ipleaders.in/why-internship-are-important/>

⁷ <https://www.lawctopus.com/>

⁸ <https://library.niti.gov.in/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=26208>



they emphasize the law's role as a tool for social reform and empower students to contribute meaningfully to society. Law teachers act as mentors, helping students navigate their academic and career paths.

