



Fundamentals – for A Lawyer In Making

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KEYWORDS

Today appraisal of a student's performance is done by individual teachers in the same old dogmatic fashion. We need to have a more open and flexible system where set goals have to be achieved. Teachers and students should have a dialogue in this matter before the session begins for each and every subject, on the basis of which the schedule for the semester should be prepared.

This should clearly delineate the role of the teacher and student in each and every part of the subject. Without a proper communication between them no goals can be really set or achieved. The age old system of class test and written seminars should be done away with from our system of evaluation. In the latter part of the last century a teacher's role has undergone a great transition. They are no more expected by students to teach but rather guide and orient them to their goals.

Information is available at just a fingertip away, so the role of teachers is not the traditional one – giving them law and case law. Students look for more from a teacher. Thus we need a full overhauling of the system. Coming to the structure of our courses, the three year and five year LLB courses should encompass student participation regarding the elements of the subject, apart from the basic framework. Curriculum change within the basic frame work as stated by the Board of Studies should be decided at the college level and should be flexible to be changed as the legal fraternity and needs of the College and Market demand. If this is not regularly modified, the course can easily become outdated and the college loses its charm and attraction for the students. To cite an example – in the first year of LLB a subject on contract law is generally taught, which should be subsequently extended in the next semester giving the student the option, e.g. Insurance Law, Company Law, Arbitration, Rent, etc. which are extensions of Contract Law. This would give the student his option depending upon his interest. The First Year should be a year during which the basic subjects of law are taught, which are constitution, jurisprudence, contract, family law, crimes and administrative law. During the first year apart from the students coming under their subject teachers, they should be put in tutorials of 10-15 students each under two teachers. This will give a strong guidance to the students' and one to one attention by the tutors. This would give chances of greater interest in the subject and would give them a good introduction to law. In the first year the system of valuation should consist of seminars, written and oral, classroom tests, testing of library techniques and external examination.

In the second year, the mode of teaching should be more of a self-motivated one. Here the students should be given different combinations of law connected with other socio legal and market oriented subjects. They should be made to attend classes only on certain days under the guidance of senior faculty. Here the role of teachers changes to those who guide them into problem solving activities. Here they should be made to take live events and problems of the society and correlate it with law. The teachers should be only guiding them with study materials and linking them with different legal and

socio-legal organizations. The students are expected to submit papers at various intervals along with open presentations, which in turn would be graded by a set of 3-4 teachers together. The object of this is to test the analytical and presentation ability, legal knowledge, awareness of practical problems, general awareness, legal writing and problem solving ability. The role of teachers would be like that of guide – keeping himself abreast of the changing law rather than being a stereo type classroom teacher. In the second year external examination, classroom testing and written seminars should be completely taken off. Internal valuation should be the rule and tutorials should be given more importance so that the teacher has stronger control over the students. The students should be given lot of activity and they should be busy modulating themselves to know their own interests and ability. This would orient them into the third year of LLB.

The final year should be focused on developing the student's specialty of subjects. Accordingly new subjects should come into the combination. Here the background and experience of tutors would be of great help. Depending on their specialization, they should be given the know-how in the fifth semester. In the final semester, they should be given a project, where they have to liaison with the judiciary, the different department of the government and NGOs. This semester should lead them to their outgoing process and selection into the various branches.

Simultaneously for the Five year course also the curriculum can be revised along the same parameters as of the Three year course except that they should be taught law subjects the first two years along with a valuation consisting of seminars, written and oral, classroom tests, testing of library techniques and external examination. The next three years can be scheduled in such a way that course subjects are linked with specialization offered by expert faculty in different branches in the college itself. This would give impetus to teachers to offer market relevant subjects and the demand for a certain specialization will bring in demand for a college in the local and national level. This will attract a competitive section of student community.

Initial changes proposed in the present system:

1. Student organization should be severed from political affiliations.
2. Each college should project the subjects offered and its combinations ahead of the entrance examination.
3. The schedule of classes along with dates should be projected. This schedule should be strictly adhered. Transparency should be maintained.
4. The number of students as in the present setup can be continued but tutorials should be formulated.
5. The Teachers required to support the permanent faculty as per changing requirements of each semester can be arranged through guest faculty.

If the above changes are brought in, it would enhance the standard of the students and also the teachers and would bring an overall change in education imparted to meet the

emerging standards. Today we are at the threshold of foreign invasion into the education sector. If we are adamant not to change, then there is every possibility that today's colleges will become history. Therefore this is a time to introspect and take decisions and this is the demand of the student fraternity also.

REFERENCES

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