

# Awareness of Legal Rights Among the Post Graduate Students of Bharathiar University

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## Abstract

In the era of global socio-economic and cultural changes, it is important to equip the young generation with mechanisms to form their social attitudes by deepening their legal awareness. Several educational activities teaching the basic principles of the rule of law serve this purpose. With this assumption, legal education is intended to encompass the entire society. Educated young people are not only familiar with legal regulations but are also able to skilfully navigate them. This translates into building a society that is knowledge-based, creative, and able to meet the challenges of the modern world. Legal awareness has a great role in creating a legal culture and an egalitarian, just society. Legal awareness about the rights of youth can play a significant role in supporting them in obtaining equality and strengthening their identity as an essential component of society. In many countries there is a concern about how well-informed youth are about the law, particularly students as frequently they are supposed to deal with various legal issues in daily life. To handle these situations successfully they must have a good understanding of the law. The present paper focuses on a perspective of legal awareness among postgraduate students.

**Keywords:** Legal Awareness

## 1. Introduction

In everyday life we often talk of our rights. As members of a democratic country we may speak of such rights as the right to vote, the right to form political parties, the right to contest elections and so on. But apart from the generally accepted political and civil rights, people today are also making new demands for rights such as the right to information, right to clean air or the right to safe drinking water. Rights are claimed not only in relation to our political and public lives but also in relation to our social and personal relationships. Moreover, rights may be claimed not only for adult human beings but also for children, unborn fetuses, and even animals. The notion of rights is thus invoked in a variety of different ways by different people.

A few studies have been carried out in the field of legal awareness among females in the past few years in India. Subasini, Sasikumar and Kalaiyarasan (2023) conducted an awareness study about women rights among student teachers from Sivagangai district. The level of awareness on women rights among student teachers was reported to be 81%. The findings of the study revealed that there was a

significant difference on awareness of women rights among student teachers with respect to gender, subject, locality, qualification, and age. Sunitha (2022) in her study of awareness on legal acts-(with reference to young women students in various colleges in Vijayawada city) found that around 56% students were aware of the legal provisions and acts. In case of awareness about toll free numbers, the majority of female students were aware about them. Nithyanantham and Rekha (2019) in their study about awareness of social rights and privileges for women among the female understudy educators (B.Ed. trainees) from Chennai found that majority of the female B.Ed. trainees had moderate to high levels of awareness regarding social rights and privileges for women. Shambhunath (2016) in a study about the awareness on legal rights of women in Kalaburagi district found that the majority of females surveyed did not have basic knowledge about the various important laws for the protection and safety, equality of women and their rights. This included both urban and rural area women with varying degrees of literacy and educational status. Das (2015) carried out a comparative study on the level of awareness about constitutional and legal rights among Dr. Sarah Basu (Pg.1-10) 3 Copyright © 2024, Scholarly Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies working and non-working women of Kokrajhar town. In the study, she attempted to gauge the awareness level of women regarding their constitutional and legal rights. The findings of the study revealed that highly educated women showed more awareness and understanding of constitutional rights than the women with no education. Mishra and Mishra (2012) in a study on awareness of women's rights in rural and urban adolescent girls of Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh surveyed the level of awareness regarding fundamental rights, right for education, health, property, marriage, dowry, pregnancy and abortion, wages and employment, domestic violence, prostitution and eve teasing. Findings revealed that majority of urban adolescent girls had knowledge about women's rights. Differences of knowledge were found among rural and urban adolescent girls regarding fundamental rights, women political right, right for education, health, property, marriage, dowry, pregnancy and abortion, wages and employment, domestic violence, prostitution and eve teasing, with urban adolescent girls showing significantly higher awareness levels as compared to their rural counterparts.

### **Need and importance**

Legal awareness can empower people to demand justice, accountability and effective remedies at all levels. Legal needs always stand to become crisis oriented because their ignorance prevents them from anticipating legal troubles and approaching a lawyer for consultation and advice in time. This magnifies the impact of their legal troubles and difficulties when they come.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- Identify the demography details of the students
- Analysis the awareness level of legal rights of students
- To find out the factor analysis for legal awareness among students

### **Methodology**

The descriptive survey method of research was students for the present investigation.

### **Population**

The students enrolled in various degrees in Bharathiar University Coimbatore were considered as population for the present study.

## Sampling

A total population is 1572 Students are enrolled various course in Bharathia University, 5 percentage population were selected for study. The sampling is 78 students was selected for the present investigation us in random sampling technique. Demographic distribution of the sample is as given below:

## Demographic details of the students

**Table 1: Demographic Details of the Students**

S. No	Variables	Category	Percentage
1	Age	20-22	54
		23-25	20
		Above 25	4
2	Gender	Male	47
		Female	31
3	Nature of Degree	Arts	54
		Science	24
4	Father Education	No Education	13
		SSLC	32
		HSC	10
		Graduate	4
		Post Graduate	8
		Other	11
5	Mother Education	No Education	30
		SSLC	17
		HSC	10
		Graduate	14
		Post Graduate	7
		Other	-
6	Father Occupation	Government	9
		Private	15
		Business	18
		Others	36
7	Mother Occupation	Home Maker	37
		Government	5
		Private	8
		Others	28

Table 1 shows the socio-economic profile of the students, 54 percent of the students are in the age group of 20-22 years, and 47 percent of the students are male. 54 percent of the students are in the arts stream, 32 percent of the student's fathers have completed SSLC, and 30 percent of the mothers are not educated. 36 percent of the fathers are employed. 37 percent of the mothers are homemaker. Socioeconomic status is also a factor affecting awareness. In this regard, the literacy of the father and mother is seen to be low. So that too may be a factor in achieving awareness.

## Level of Awareness about Legal Rights

The level of awareness of legal rights among students is measured by applying Likert type five-point scales. The students were asked to express their opinion in statements in the interview schedule. The students scoring pattern in the five-point scale for each variable is as follows.

Definitely true	Probably true	Do not know	Probably false	Definitely
5	4	3	2	1

The maximum score for each respondent in each statement is five, and the minimum score is one.

In order to find out the level of awareness, the scores assigned by 78 students for each statement and the total score for seven statements were calculated. Also, the mean and standard deviation for the total score was computed for the analysis.

Based on the scores obtained, the students are classified into three distinct groups such as students' high level of awareness, medium level of awareness and low level of awareness.

The arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the total scores of 78 student are computed towards the end.

Students whose scores are more than the arithmetic mean plus half standard deviation are classified as student with a high level of awareness.

$$\text{High level of awareness} \geq \text{Arithmetic Mean} + \text{Half of SD}$$

Students whose scores are less than the arithmetic mean minus half standard deviation are grouped as students with a low level of awareness.

$$\text{Low level of awareness} \leq \text{Arithmetic Mean} - \text{Half of SD}$$

Student whose total scores fall between the two extremes are the student with a medium level of awareness.

The total score obtained by 78 students is 390, and the mean score is 85.45 and the standard deviation is 26.70.

$$\text{High level of awareness} \geq \text{Arithmetic Mean} + \text{Half of SD}$$

$$\geq 85.45 + 13.35$$

$$\geq 98.8 = 98$$

Low level of awareness  $\leq$  Arithmetic Mean - Half of SD

$$\leq 85.45 - 13.35$$

$$\leq 72.1 = 72$$

Medium level of awareness in students =  $98 - 72$

**Table:2 Levels of Awareness of the Students**

S.No	Score	Level of Students	n	%
1	72>	High	22	28.5
2	72-98	Medium	36	46.5
3	<98	Low	20	25
		Total	78	100

It is inferred that the number students in the low awareness group is higher 58(75%) than the high and medium category. It is to be noted that 25per cent of the students taken for the study shows a low and medium level of awareness in the sample which reveals that the awareness of the students is significant

## Awareness of Legal Rights amongStudents (Factor Analysis)

Factor analysis is a statistical data reduction and analysis technique that strives to explain correlations among multiple outcomes as the result of one or more underlying explanations, or factors. The technique involves data reduction, as it attempts to represent a set of variables by a smaller number.

Factor analysis attempts to discover the unexplained factors that influence the co-variation among multiple observations. These factors represent underlying concepts that cannot be adequately measured by a single variable. For instance, one or more underlying factors may influence various measures of political attitudes.

**Table: 3 KMO and Bartlett's Test**

KMO and Bartlett's Test		
Kaiser-Meyer- Olkin Measure of Sampling adequacy		.806
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx.Chi- Square	3201.370
	Df	406
	Sig.	<.001

A study of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin's Measure of Sampling Adequacy (MSA) found an adequate correlation for the entire variables. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin MSA's score of 0.806 specified that the sample size is acceptable for sampling. Bartlett test of sphericity is used to test the overall significance of correlation matrices, and it is also providing support for the strength of the factor analysis. Results of this

study indicate that the awareness of legal Rights among Students is low. Bartlett's test is highly significant ( $<0.001$ ), which also shows that factor analysis is quite suitable for data.

**Table: 4 Total Variance Explained**

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	Per cent of Variance	Cumulative per cent	Total	Per cent of Variance	Cumulative per cent	Total	Per cent of Variance	Cumulative per cent
1	18.085	62.363	62.363	18.085	62.363	62.363	7.615	26.260	26.260
2	2.309	7.961	70.324	2.309	7.961	70.324	7.277	25.093	51.352
3	1.331	4.590	74.914	1.331	4.590	74.914	4.000	13.794	65.146
4	1.133	3.908	78.822	1.133	3.908	78.822	3.966	13.676	78.822
5	.904	3.119	81.941						
6	.756	2.608	84.549						
7	.678	2.337	86.885						
8	.558	1.925	88.811						
9	.495	1.708	90.519						
10	.441	1.522	92.040						
11	.337	1.162	93.202						
12	.292	1.008	94.211						
13	.285	.982	95.193						
14	.261	.899	96.092						
15	.180	.619	96.712						
16	.173	.597	97.308						
17	.149	.513	97.822						
18	.144	.497	98.319						
19	.100	.344	98.662						
20	.082	.284	98.947						
21	.071	.246	99.192						
22	.054	.188	99.380						
23	.045	.155	99.535						

24	.043	.148	99.684						
25	.029	.099	99.783						
26	.023	.079	99.862						
27	.018	.063	99.925						
28	.016	.054	99.979						
29	.006	.021	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis

Data is extracted using principal components analysis that helps regulate the factor underlying the relationship between variables. The total variable explained is signifying that it extracts four factors which accounts for 78.822 per cent of the variance of the relationship between variables.

There are only seven factors, each having Eigenvalues exceeding 1. The Eigenvalues of four factors are 18.085, 2.309, 1.331 and 1.133, respectively. The percentage of the total variance is used as an index to regulate how well the total factor solution accounts for what the variables together represent.

The index of current resolution accounts for 78.822 per cent of the total variations. It is pretty good extraction as it can economise on the number of factors (from 29 it has reduced to 4 factors) while we have lost information content for factors. The percentages of variance explained by loading factors one four factors are 62.363, 7.961, 4.590, and 3.908 per cent, respectively.

**Table: 5 Communalities**

		<b>Initial</b>	<b>Extraction</b>
1	Do you know your fundamental legal rights and obligations as a citizen?	1.000	.771
2	Do you understand the process of filing a complaint or seeking legal redress?	1.000	.762
3	Have you ever participated in any legal activities (e.g., mock trials, legal workshops, or debates)?	1.000	.730
4	Do you know how to access legal resources (such as legal aid clinics or online legal databases)?	1.000	.820
5	Are you familiar with common legal terms (e.g., due process, jurisdiction, or liability)?	1.000	.765
6	Do you follow legal news or updates related to court cases, legislation, or legal reforms?	1.000	.832
7	Do you believe that legal awareness is essential for responsible citizenship?	1.000	.813
8	Have you or your any friend ever sought information using the Right to Information Act?	1.000	.715
9	Do you believe that freedom of speech extends to educational institutions?	1.000	.826
10	Are you aware of your rights as a consumer under consumer protection	1.000	.835



	laws?		
11	Do you think legal awareness can help prevent discrimination and promote social justice?	1.000	.798
12	Do you believe that legal education should be included in school curricula?	1.000	.774
13	Are you aware of your rights related to privacy and data protection?	1.000	.772
14	Do you understand the concept of intellectual property rights (e.g., copyrights, patents, trademarks)?	1.000	.730
15	Have you ever questioned the fairness of certain laws or regulations?	1.000	.611
16	Do you think legal awareness can lead to positive changes in society?	1.000	.789
17	Does educational institutes play a role in legal awareness?	1.000	.786
18	Can technology, such as virtual hearings, contribute to faster case resolution?	1.000	.850
19	Is promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) an effective means to achieve speedy justice?	1.000	.863
20	Is strict enforcement of rules of evidence essential for a fair trial?	1.000	.739
21	Does PIL play a crucial role in safeguarding public interest?	1.000	.830
22	Can successful PIL cases serve as precedents for future matters?	1.000	.862
23	Should awareness about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms be promoted among litigants?	1.000	.697
24	Is gender-sensitive training for law enforcement and judiciary necessary?	1.000	.785
25	Does promoting women's legal literacy help protect women's rights?	1.000	.734
26	Is effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act crucial?	1.000	.856
27	Should medical negligence be addressed through legal measures?	1.000	.861
28	Is enforcing patients' rights important?	1.000	.813
29	Is raising awareness about civil rights through public campaigns effective?	1.000	.838

## Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis

Communalities Table 5 reveals that after four factors are extracted and reserved, the communality is 0. 863 for a 'promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) an effective means to achieve speedy justice', 0.862'successful PIL cases serve as precedents for future matters', 0.861 for 'medical negligence be addressed through legal measures' and 0.856for an 'effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act crucial'. The proportion of variance in any one of the unique variables, which is being captured by the extracted factor, is known as communality.

Loading on factors can be positive or negative. A negative loading indicates that this variable has an inverse relationship with the rest of the factors. The higher the loading, the more important is the factor. This study suggested that anything above 0.5 could be considered salient, with increased loading becoming more vital in determining the factor. All the loadings in the research are positive.



Legal Rights	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Does PIL play a crucial role in safeguarding public interest?	.808			
Have you or your any friend ever sought information using the Right to Information Act?	.774			
Can successful PIL cases serve as precedents for future matters?	.752			
Is enforcing patients' rights important?	.723			
Does promoting women's legal literacy help protect women's rights?	.721			
Do you think legal awareness can lead to positive changes in society?	.651			
Is raising awareness about civil rights through public campaigns effective?	.612			
Are you aware of your rights as a consumer under consumer protection laws?	.588			
Should awareness about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms be promoted among litigants?	.587			
Do you know your fundamental legal rights and obligations as a citizen?	.578			
Do you follow legal news or updates related to court cases, legislation, or legal reforms?	.563			
Does educational institutes play a role in legal awareness?	.541			
Can technology, such as virtual hearings, contribute to faster case resolution?		.759		
Is effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act crucial?		.756		
Do you understand the process of filing a complaint or seeking legal redress?		.714		
Are you aware of your rights related to privacy and data protection?		.713		

Have you ever questioned the fairness of certain laws or regulations?		.672		
Should medical negligence be addressed through legal measures?		.665		
Is gender-sensitive training for law enforcement and judiciary necessary?		.637		
Do you understand the concept of intellectual property rights (e.g., copyrights, patents, trademarks)?		.626		
Is promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) an effective means to achieve speedy justice?		.625		
Do you believe that legal education should be included in school curricula?		.610		
Do you know how to access legal resources (such as legal aid clinics or online legal databases)?			.872	
Do you understand the process of filing a complaint or seeking legal redress?			.851	
Is strict enforcement of rules of evidence essential for a fair trial?			.668	
Are you familiar with common legal terms (e.g., due process, jurisdiction, or liability)?			.649	
Do you believe that freedom of speech extends to educational institutions?				.814
				.652
				.576
<b>per cent of Variance</b>	26.260	25.093	13.794	13.676
<b>Cumulative per cent</b>	26.260	51.352	65.146	78.822
<b>Extraction Methods: Principal Component analysis</b>				
<b>Rotation method: Varimax with Kaiser normalisation</b>				
<b>Rotation converged in 7 integrations</b>				

Awareness of Legal Rights among students, the rotated component matrix determines which variables are most associated with the first variable. The second factor is highly correlated with the first variables. The third factor is highly correlated with the variables. The fourth factor is highly correlated with the first of the variables.

Legal rights are considered a serious ethical issue all over the world. Awareness levels among students are moderate. There is little awareness among students about legal rights, but educational

institutions, governments and other educational promoters can create awareness about legal rights among the younger generation. Technological development is growing rapidly, and thus, the government can easily provide legal rights knowledge to everyone in the society.

### Conclusion

The rights of students in India are an integral part of the country's legal, educational, and social framework. These rights ensure that every student has access to quality education, is treated fairly and without discrimination, and has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. Upholding these rights is essential for the overall development of students and the nation as a whole. There is moderate awareness about legal rights among students. In today's era, people are facing many problems with the growing technology. Today's students are the generations of tomorrow, so it is necessary to give them the best education and legal awareness. Therefore, it is necessary to give a picture of legal awareness in education.

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