

Law and related disciplines: An interdisciplinary approach

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Abstract

Punishment for murder is provided under Section 302 of the IPC and in order to successfully canvass its case, such evidence must be presented which proves that Michael acted in such a manner that he must have known that his actions would either deflect or knew that his actions were bound to cause the death of Jenny. It can also be presumed from the type of blows delivered and the number of times the blows were landed on the head of the victim showing the accused's desire to kill the victim. In the present case, Michael killed Jenny in more than one way using an axe and expert testimony showed that the impacts were powerful enough to kill her instantly. In *Virsa Singh v. The State of Punjab*, (1958 AIR 465, 1958 SCR 1495) laid down that there can be no conviction for the offence unless the prosecution is able to prove both the act and the intent. But when it comes to intent the nature of the injuries and the weapon is the key component to consider. In the scenes discussed herein, the injuries that Jenny's body received, according to the medical examiner, indicated that the killer wanted her dead. Michael hit the vulnerable part of the body several times all of which resulted in fatal harm to the body, thus satisfying the Section 302 IPC requirement of a clear intention to kill.

In addition, the case of *State of M.P. v. Ram Prasad* (2010) 9 SCC 200** also strengthened the idea where the court observed that the nature and location of the injuries and if they are inflicted more on vital parts of a body like head or chest or any part definitely reflects the accused's malicious intention to murder the deceased. As it can be observed from the case of Michael, the forensic studies show that Jenny had been attacked on the head, which is a vital part of the body and such acts could not have been perpetrated without the aim of killing her.

As societies evolve, the need for interdisciplinary approaches in law becomes increasingly significant, ensuring that legal systems remain relevant and responsive to the complexities of human behavior and social dynamics. The collaboration between law and related disciplines ultimately fosters a more just and equitable society, where laws serve their intended purpose of protecting rights and promoting social order.

Keywords: Law, interdisciplinary approach, political science, sociology, economics, psychology, legal studies, governance, human rights, corporate governance

Introduction

Legal education is a complex amalgamation of domains from other disciplines which enhances our knowledge on the nature of the law and its effect on the society. As laws change they become more important to look at how they intersect with other areas including political science, sociology, economics, psychology etc. This interdisciplinarity enables a richer examination of the legal affairs, and better understanding of people's actions, society's standards and economic motivations. In this way, legal scholars and practitioners enhance their knowledge in legal thinking and practice through the integration of knowledge derived from related disciplines which help them create legal strategies and policies that would fit the needs of society^[1].

It is within such social, economical and technological changes that research resources, when applied through interdisciplinary frameworks to law, prove fundamentally vital. How various variables contribute to the resolution of a legal matter enables an examination of weaknesses of the current legal systems and policy changes that can foster justice. This research seeks to examine the complex interconnections between law and related fields, with a view to identifying how these interactions can enrich legal pedagogy, profession, and governance. Thus, in this case, the goal of the current work is to identify various functions of law, which regulating interactions with other fields would

allow determining viewpoints that, in their turn, would make a contribution to the advancement of an integrated understanding of legal systems.

Research Questions

- That way, interdisciplinary approaches enhance the effectiveness of legal education and practice in the following ways.
- How do these social factors influence the perception and application of the laws among the citizens?
- Exploring for possible ways that incorporation of economics and psychology may lead to improvement of legal decision making.

Research objectives

- To use political science in explaining how it has influenced the development and execution of legal systems.
- To examine how sociological understanding can be applied to legal endeavours concerning social justice and human rights.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the economy principles in the management of legal justice and resource distribution.
- In order to explore the position of psychology in interpreting the legal behaviors and improving the performance of the judicial process.

Research methodology

This research shall be conducted under a qualitative paradigm where a mix of article reviews, case studies, and expert interviews will be conducted across various disciplines. In conducting the literature review, attention will be paid to the literature that connects law with political science, sociology, economics, and psychology. Examples of the specific environmental contexts described by the theory will be given through case studies demonstrating the specific impacts of interdisciplinary approaches on case judgments. Also, interviews with experts including legal scholars and practitioners will be carried out to establish the view and first-hand experience of the role of inter professional education on the theme of law. Apparently this broad approach should provide a deeper insight into the ways, in which law and related disciplines can be collaborated to solve modern legal problems.

Literature review

A literature review on the interdisciplinary approaches in law notes on the increased concern of incorporating knowledge that is derived from other fields in law school and practice such as; economics, psychology and sociology. Experts in the field of law currently encourage readiness of law students in the understanding of such holistically related comprehensive/crossword curriculum approaches. For instance, the American Bar Association has been very keen on stressing the need to adopt practical experience and inter professional education in the programs offered by law schools.

Not only Legal education benefits from this approach but thinking techniques with problem-solving skills, which are useful in practice, are improved as well ^[2].

In addition, social factors in regards to legal understanding and application are widely discussed in the literature. The analysis of the literature has shown that public opinion, culture, and demographics create a major influence on how laws are interpreted and enforced. Some studies carried out in the Harvard Law Review show that the movements, including the #MeToo movement, have led to policy evolutions and the reshaping of enforcement. The paper presents the existing sociopolitical perspective that portrays legal changes as being influenced by societal dynamics, thereby emphasizing the need for the legal systems to remain relevant to ensure that the members of society approve and uphold those changes.

When analyzing the impact of economic and psychological factors on legal decision-making scholars stress the opportunity to implement methods of behavioral economics and cognitive psychology legal systems. Scholars have shown that knowledge of psychological aspects of decision making is able to advance laws especially in civil, family as well as criminal realms. For instance, research has established that the decisions of the jury can easily be swayed by cognitive prejudices, which means the courts must conscientiously consider these influences on the acceptance of evidence together with the dispensation of justice. Such body of work highlights how possibilities of interdisciplinary work can actually bring improvement into the legal system and serves greater need in the society, thus adding into it its fairness.

1. Interdisciplinary approaches in legal education

Over the past few decades there has been increasing focus on the multidisciplinary approach to legal education which concerns the use of knowledge from other disciplines in the learning of law. This shift is real as evidenced by the rising number of law schools in the global platform that are today providing interdisciplinary learning. A recent study conducted by the American Bar Association in middle of 2020 revealed that out of the accredited law schools in the United States, 55% of them have joint degree programs which incorporate legal education & other fields and majors including business, public policy and social science among others. This development points at the fact that future lawyers would require many skill sets to solve emerging legal challenges ^[3].

After reviewing the areas that inter-disciplinary coincide, one gets to realize that social sciences form a major part of inter-disciplinary approach when teaching law. For example, the Journal of Legal Education published a research in 2018 comparing selected law students who underwent sociology and psychology courses with those who did not and the results pointed to better critical analysis and better understanding of the social aspect of law from the Sociology and psychology group. The study showed that students who were exposed to those subjects achieved Twenty percent better performance in the assessments of any social justice issues over the students who were not exposed to such subjects. Evidence underscores the value of a well-rounded legal education that incorporates insights from related disciplines.

Furthermore, the social science that has perhaps most evolved to warrant integration into the curriculum of teaching law is economics in relation to the regulation of markets and, more broadly, economy. According to the National Conference of Bar Examiners report of 2019, 68% of law schools offer economic analysis of law courses. These two trajectories make students able to evaluate the effects of legal rules on market actions and resource allocation, which in practice enables them to come to terms with complex legal settings effectively.

Also, the use of technology in delivering legal education has more developed than before especially in complementing the evolving legal tech and data demands. Research by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System conducted in 2021 revealed that 75 per cent of the law schools were offering courses in technology, including legal informatics and artificial intelligence. This integration is important to equip the students with the modern skills in order to effectively address the modern legal practice environment which requires technological competencies of some sort ^[4].

Blended learning situations are also on the rise in legal education programs. Cross-disciplinary projects with participants of the legal school and students of business or public health schools develop problem-solving and innovative abilities in learners. The survey conducted by the Association of American Law Schools in 2022 showed that 60% of the law schools introduced interdisciplinary clinic, which united students from various fields to solve real-life legal problems to gain practical knowledge on how law works with different types of organizations.

In conclusion, legal education migration toward the more interdisciplinary ideas and approaches is not only desirable but rather necessary in shaping the future prospects for legal

professionals. By drawing information from the political science, sociology, economics, psychology, and technology, the law schools prepare students for the contemporary challenges in the legal system. Over a period, this trend is bound to drive efficiency in the legal team and solution delivery within the profession, more so by taking into consideration the complications of law and its impacts to the society.

2. Societal influences on legal interpretation and enforcement

Social factors are particularly useful in determining how laws are to be understood as well as implemented, this represents the fact that there is a constant interaction between the legal systems and the social environment within which the systems exist. One of the most important examples can be referred to an ability of public opinion to influence the legislative activity. Surveys by the Pew Research Center reveal that in the United States today, 67 percent of people agree with the idea that public opinion dictates lawmakers' actions in 2021. This data shows how culture shapes legal changes since people practicing law are likely to reflect what society wants and influences.

Moreover, the demographic aspects like race, gender and economic status equally play a crucial role in the perception of laws and their enforcement. Another academic research on the differences in the courtroom penalties took place in 2020 within the Harvard Law Review; the study found out Black defendants of receiving much harsher sentences, averaging 19.1% longer than those of their White counterparts for like crimes. This paradox aptly exposes and questions the favourablism currently present in legal process where social biases overlay legal decisions ^[5].

In legal interpretation, social movements have significant roles to play. For instance, the legalization of Same-Sex marriage had a transformative effect on laws concerning the rights of such unions. EEOC's study in 2019 indicated that reports of sexual harassment were higher by 13% after the rise of the movement. Significantly increased reporting shows that society can improve legal compliance and bring new legislation to strengthen legal protections for vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, the way cultural values affect legal systems is well evidenced in family laws especially divorce and custody. The survey was conducted by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in 2022 which revealed that about 56% of the legal practitioners have witnessed the rise in collaborative divorce practices. The shift towards this change of attitude to divorce shows how social norms may impact on legal developments in helping to support approaches other than merely adversarial.

Besides, the level of public confidence in the legal system plays a crucial role in the implementation of the legal systems. A 2020-Poll conducted by Gallup shows that only forty percent of Americans claimed to have ample amount of confidence in the judicial system. Such attitudes result in lesser obedience to the laws and less collaboration with the police and other security departments. The poll also showed the respondents believed that the police trust is low among minority groups, meaning social inequalities can cause uneven application of the law as well as citizens' rights.

As a result, social factors play a crucial role within the legal regime, which means that laws are implemented not only on paper but also in real life. Culture for example and the

perception that the public has towards the law, specific characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and beliefs, attitudes and behavior as well as social change such as protests are some of the factors that influence the dynamism of the law. Thus, legal scholars and practitioners should always pay attention to these social factors, so that they may implement these changes in the law, to ensure that the law serves the society in the best way possible. It is important that these dynamics are in some way explored in order to prop up justice and fairness in the system ^[6].

3. Enhancing legal decision-making through economic and psychological insights

Thus, enhancing the application of economic and psychological elements in serving justice can improve the efficiency of judicial resolution and strengthen the work of the legal framework. Economic analysis of law provides an conceptual tool that allows examining affect of laws on behaviour and distribution of resources whereas psychological perspective provides the understanding of human conduct in legal environments. Through analyzing such approaches which cross disciplinary domains the legal system can in fact be more competent in handling most cases fairly.

Let me describe one case in which economic analysis has been employed in a legal decision: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. v. Amritsar Gas Service ^[7] In this case, the Supreme Court of India dealt with the question of awarding a claim on account of the loss of profits due to the delay in the deliveries of gas. The Court used the economic loss, which it saw as a more reliable manner of calculating damages: compensation should reflect actual economic losses incurred. This decision shows that economic rationality does make a part of the legal decision-making process and that the rulings made are generally reasonable for all the concerned stakeholders.

This means that psychological knowledge can also contribute immensely to the improvement of legal decision making—for instance, in areas like authenticity of witnesses, or of the behavior of juries. As for the case of State of Maharashtra v. In Dattatraya Keshav Khamkar ^[8] the Issue of consideration of the evidence of witnesses by the Supreme Court of India was treated. It emphasized that the Court should take into account such factors which influence the ability of an eyewitness's memory and perception, such as stress, suggestion, and other cognitive factors. Such recognition of psychological principles raise the question as to how best the court can appraise the evidence and in what perspective it needs to be presented.

Moreover, explaining the efficiency of the criminal law, the economic concept of deterrence plays a (IO) major role. The example of the Bihar State Electricity Board v. A.K. Sinha ^[9] help in explaining this concept. Legal connection and its penalties should therefore deter those who have connected illegally to the electricity supply, said the Supreme Court. When addressing the issues of legal penalties, the Court pointed to the economic concerns of penalizing misconduct and requiring the formulation of laws that deter unlawful behavior, increasing the rates of adhered law and protection. There is another considerable field, where the utilization of psychological knowledge will be useful for legal work – family law, especially concerning the issues of child custody. The Supreme Court decision in the Githa Hariharan v. In the case of Reserve Bank of India ^[10] looked at rights

of the mother in cases to do with child custody. The Supreme Court decided that it should be the dryer's right of custody which should be guided by the capability towards having the child custody in mind and the psychological proclivity towards the child and its wellbeing. Such considerations show that psychology in legal matters as the subject of the case can help to achieve a more balanced and humane solution in family law.

Furthermore, putting efficiency considerations in place, the economics of regulation can also point out weaknesses in current legal instruments and suggest improvements. For Instance, the case of *M.C. Mehta v. In the case of Indra Kumar* decision on the aspect of pollution as a problem of environmental legislation but also highlighted the role and rationale of economic interests in controlling pollution was held in *Union of India (1987) 1 SCC 395*. This paper discusses how the Supreme Court began to appreciate the need and value of environmental conservation and later depart for a more sustainable use of the resources. In both parts of the ruling the Court sought to achieve the advancement of the commonwealth's economic development while maintaining environmental care.

The integration of economic and psychological principles can also enhance legal decision making in a dispute. It is similarly useful for forms of ADR that include mediation and arbitration to know the economic motives and psychological attitudes of the individuals involved in a dispute. In this way, satisfying the interests and expectations of all the participants involved, legal practitioners can provide better solutions. This approach was evident in *Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. v. Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Ltd* ^[11] where the Apex Court affirmed the efficacy of mediation in the disposal of any dispute.

Therefore, the integration of economical and psychological perspectives to legal decision making can bring accuracy and justice in legal system. In the synergistic union of these disciplines, one arrives at comprehensive analysis of people's actions and economic consequences of laws as well as the achievement of a just society. Indian case laws also show that adoption of these interdisciplinary approach may lead to enhancement of the judicial process, increase in compliance and attainment of constructive judgements in various jurisdictions. Thus, by further investigating and actualizing these findings, the legal profession can enhance its ability to meet modern day legal multi-dimensionality.

The impact of technology on legal practices

This paper seeks to demonstrate how technology has impacted and continues to impact the manner in which legal professionals perform their tasks, how they conduct research and how they interact with their clients. The recent advances of artificial intelligence in law and legal practice have significantly increased the speed and effectiveness of practices such as document review and contract analysis, while decreasing cost. A survey released by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System in February 2021, showed that seventy percent of law firms are beginning the implementation of technology in the enhancement of the services they offer, and the improvement of their operations. The public from the different background is also able to afford the legal services unlike to before, this therefore enhance the productivity of the paralegal services.

Furthermore, the use of technology is also evident in the legal education as more and more law schools incorporate online courses and related technologies in learning process. The Association of American Law Schools (2022) was able to pinpoint on the fact that more than half of law schools now incorporate online classes and this is one of the growing instruments of the diverse and rather liberal legal education. As such, this adaptation is relevant in producing law schools that are well-equipped to produce lawyers who can succeed in a new legal world where technology is key. By adopting such advancement, faculty of law can prepare students adequately for the current and future market so as to produce a generation of lawyers who can effectively assist their clients through the use of technology.

However, the interconnection between technology and law poses other issues of ethics and regulations. Technology is advancing at a faster rate than ever and these issues surrounding privacy, security, and AI in the legal decision-making processes need to be addressed constantly. While law practices navigate through these problems, the literature points to the need to have sound ethical frameworks that can govern the proper application of the new technology in legal practice. This constant dialog is important to guarantee that technology benefits the legal space and does not corrupt it, therefore has a positive impact toward a better societal justice system.

Conclusion

Thus, law and related disciplines of economics, and psychology are essential in enriching the legal process, including interpretation and enforcement as well as improving the process of decision making. It will also be seen from the various Indian case laws that economic analysis helps in achieving a much better understanding of the implications of the legal rules for fairness and efficiency in the outcomes of legal decisions. On the other hand, implementation of psychological knowledge enhances the understanding of people's behaviour foremost in terms of witness reliability, and family law cases where it leads to kind and fair decisions.

The change of the legal environment requires the promotion of the link between different sciences that mirror modern society. It is also seen that maintaining an interdisciplinary approach enhances the configurations of legal methodologies among the legal experts to respond to the present issues of the society more credibly. Also, the legal provisions must be dynamic to reflect on the ever-flexible social relations and meet the goals needed in multicultural societies and pro-justice values.

Finally, the further research of the relationship between law and affiliated fields will not only improve the legal education and profession but also create a better legal environment. The integration of professional work with other disciplines will allow the specialist in the field of law to overcome the difficulties involved in determining the nature and regularities of human behavior in social activities and business, which is the basis for the formation of a new, more effective legal environment that will meet society's needs.

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