THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE INDIAN LEGAL SYSTEM ANDLEGAL EDUCATION: A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

DR. JOGIRAM SHARMA□ &DR. MOHD. IMRAN□□□

□ Additional Secretary BCI, (B.A., M.A, MBA, LL.B.,LL.M., Ph.D. in Law)

□□□Assistant Professor, N. M. Law College, Hanumangarh Town (Raj.) (LL.B., LL.M., PGDESD, NET, Ph.D. inLaw)

Abstract

The Indian judicial system is currently experiencing a significant shift as a result of theincorporation of technological advancements such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, automation, and data analytics. Efficient, accessible, and effective legal services such as case administration, research, and conflict resolution can be enhanced by the utilisation ofthese technology. In order to enhance the efficiency, collaboration, and productivity of their judicial processes, the Supreme Court of India and other law firms have used technology-basedsolutions, including the e-Courts Project, e-SCR, SUVAS, and SUPACE. In order to enhance efficiency and case administration, it is imperative for the Indian legal education system to embrace technological advancements. These technological technologies facilitate the digitization of the judicial system, granting stakeholders internet access to court-related information services, and enhancing the efficiency of analysts and judges. The article highlights the necessity of incorporating technology into the Indian legal education system to enhance efficiency, foster collaboration, expedite processes, improve access to information, reduce costs, promote transparency, enable data analytics, provide predictive insights, and better casemanagement in the Judicial System.

Keywords: Case Management, Digital Transformation, Judicial Efficiency, Legal Education, Technological Advancements. e-Courts Project, e-SCR, SUVAS, and SUPACE.

INTRODUCTION

The Indian legal system is currently on the verge of a significant period of change, characterised by the incorporation of state-of-the-art technical innovations. The integration of technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, automation, and data analytics, is significantly transforming the legal services sector by improving its operational efficiency, accessibility, and overall efficacy. The foundations of a proficient legalsystem encompass efficient case administration, thorough investigation, and prompt conflict resolution. The incorporation of technological tools holds the potential to enhance these foundational elements, offering a transformative change in the provision of legal services. Significantly, the shift has been led by the Supreme Court of India and several legal firms, whohave adopted technology-driven solutions like as the e-Courts Project, e-SCR, SUVAS, and SUPACE. These initiatives have the dual objective of optimising court processes and promotingcollaboration and productivity within the legal field. The potential for optimising judicial operations through the incorporation of technology is significant, but its impact extends beyondthe confines of courtroom procedures. Acknowledging the necessity for a comprehensive overhaul, it is crucial for the legal education system in India to adjust and develop in parallel with technological progress.

Through the utilisation of these tools, educational institutions may foster a fresh cohortof legal professionals who possess the expertise and understanding required to traverse a digitalized legal environment. This study highlights the significant significance of integrating technology inside the legal education system of India. Technology plays a pivotal role in drivingrevolutionary change by enhancing efficiency, fostering collaboration, streamlining procedures, and enhancing information accessibility. Furthermore, it allows for financial savings, improves clarity, simplifies data analysis, offers predictive analysis, and optimises themanagement of cases within the legal system. Therefore, the incorporation of technological innovations in India's legal system is not only imperative but also fundamental for enhancing its capabilities in the 21st century.

Legal Technology: What Does It Mean?

The legal sector has seen a substantial transformation due to the advent of legal technology,[1] which has revolutionised crucial operations such as case management, electronic payment systems, and online document storage. The primary emphasis of legal technology solutions lies in practice management and litigation technology. However, it is important to note that these solutions have broader applications beyond the legal domain, providing benefits to both solicitors and corporations in enhancing their legal practices. Legal technology seeks to enhance several parts of legal practice worldwide by utilising breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, machine learning, automation, virtual reality, augmented reality, and data analytics. Case management is a central domain in which legal technology has made significant progress. Advanced case management systems empower legal professionals to effectively arrange, monitor, and oversee case-related data, documents, time limits, and correspondences.[2] These solutions facilitate the optimisation of workflow procedures, foster enhanced collaboration across legal teams, and ultimately boost the overall efficiency of case administration.

The Legal and Court Case Management Module (LAMS) software offers, *"various features such as document management, calendar and deadline management, task assignment and collaboration, data analysis and reporting, communication tracking, and secure access. It provides centralized storage, version control, and access controls for data security. It also enables real-time updates and communication, promoting efficient teamwork even in geographically dispersed locations. LAMS is a cloud-based platform for secure access."*

Furthermore, legal practitioners now have the ability to utilise sophisticated legal research tools that are driven by artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms. These tools offer extensive legal knowledge and precedents in a prompt and precise manner. In addition, legal technology provides solutions for the management of contracts and automation of documents, thereby streamlining the process of creating, customising, and overseeing legal contracts and agreements. By means of automation and digitalization, these systems effectively decrease the duration and exertion associated with manual tasks, concurrently mitigating the potential for errors and inconsistencies. Furthermore, online dispute resolution systems utilise technology to expedite the resolution of legal disputes from a distance, providing a quicker and more convenient alternative to conventional litigation. Legal technology plays a vital role in enhancing the accessibility, affordability, and transparency of legal services, hence contributing to the improvement of access to justice.

Individuals and organisations can conveniently access legal information, resources, and support through online platforms and self-service technologies, even without considerable legal expertise or financial resources. Furthermore, the utilisation of data analytics technologies offers legal practitioners the opportunity to gain valuable insights from legal data, hence facilitating well-informed decision-making and the development of optimised legal strategies. The utilisation of e-discovery and e-filing systems enhances the efficiency of legal procedures by enabling the identification, examination, and presentation of digital evidence inside legal proceedings. Through the adoption of legal technology, professionals can improve productivity, cooperation, and openness, ultimately achieving superior results for their clients. The ongoing advancement of technology will inevitably lead to an increased significance of legal technology in influencing the trajectory of legal practice. This development will bring forth novel prospects and complexities for legal practitioners on a global scale.

Origin and the Development of Legal Education in India

Legal education in India commenced in Punjab in 1868; in 1870, the Anjuman-i-Punjab assumed this responsibility. The course was two years long, taught in English and Urdu, and there were no entrance tests or exams. The Punjab Chief Court conducted its own leadership and bar exams. In 1873, the Senate of Punjab University established regulations mandating the successful completion of an entrance examination as a prerequisite for enrolment in law courses. The course lasted three years, from 1885 to 1906, with passing the intermediate test being a requirement for entry to law courses and the graduate examination for legal licensing. In 1874, the old state of Travancore offered vernacular legal studies. Allahabad University was formed in 1885, whereas Punjab University was

founded in 1882.The state's first law institutionwas Raja Lakshmi Law Institution, which provided legal instruction to individuals who passedthe intermediate exams. Government Law College, Bangalore's second, was founded in 1948 by the Mysore government. From 1947 to 1960, legal education saw significant development in the absence of sufficient planning and funding. In 1985, the Bar Council of India founded the National Law School of India University in Bangalore.[3]Significance of Legal Technology in The Present

During the COVID-19 crisis[4], legal professionals used virtual software like Microsoft Teams, Google Docs, and Lego desk to work together and share information in real-time. Legaltechnology provides instant access to vast databases of legal information, facilitates faster andmore accurate research, and enables lawyers to find relevant precedents, analyse legal issues, and develop stronger arguments. The Supreme Court of India, the High Courts, and other law firms have taken steps to adapt and embrace technology for completing their tasks easily and quickly. In the case of **Swapnil Tripathi vs. Supreme Court of India**,[5] the SC emphasised theimportance of live-streaming of court proceedings and the need for open courts. The SupremeCourt of India has invited financial bids, technical bids,[5] and EMD for the design, development,and implementation of AI tools for transcribing court proceedings and arguments.

The Indian Supreme Court has implemented advanced technology-based tools [6] toenhance the efficiency of its judicial processes. These include the e-Courts Project, e-SCR,[7] SUVAS[8] (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software), and SUPACE[9] (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency). The e-Courts project digitises the judicial system, providingelectronic services for efficient and transparent functioning. It integrates with the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)[10] and aims to enable litigants, lawyers, and stakeholders to access court-related information and services online.

Benefits of Legal-Tech in Legal Case Management System

Law enforcement agencies face significant challenges in managing casework, which can negatively impact clearance rates and the quality of services provided. Delays in case resolution are common due to a lack of collaboration, manual processes, difficulty accessing information, and inaccurate reporting. Without proper safeguards, sensitive information can beat risk of theft or compromise, posing serious consequences for the law enforcement agency and the community. Legal case management systems provide several advantages, such as effective case tracking, streamlined invoicing, and insights derived from data. Putting such technologies into use may improve processes, reduce stress from the burden, and increase operational efficiency. It organizes case information, deadlines, and client interactions, automates tasks, and organizes calendars. Using this program may change the course of a lawyer's legal career.[11] Adopting case management software is crucial for law enforcement agencies to streamline their processes and improve efficiency. A case management platform enables easier management of the full lifecycle of an incident, from the initial report to buildingand preparing the case for court. Benefits of case management software include improved collaboration, increased efficiency, better decision-making, enhanced data security, improved reporting, and improved outcomes. Case management software centralises case information, allowing different departments to access and share information.[13]

It also automates routine tasks, freeing up time for officers to focus on more importanttasks. Automated data ingestion and analysis reduce errors, improving the accuracy of investigation results and increasing the chances of successful case resolution. In other words, adopting the right law enforcement software can help law enforcement agencies solve more crimes faster, improve clearance rates, and become more efficient and effective.[12]

Technological Impact on Law Education: Transforming Legal Education

The legal profession in India has changed dramatically throughout time, encompassingmany elements of human existence. Adopting the CLAT and LSAT as qualifying tests has increased student proficiency and simplified legal education. The Indian legal system is booming due to globalization, technology, and legal rights awareness. However, India's legal education needs help with issues such as language, subject relevancy, and the examination system. A Directorate of Legal Education has yet to be established by the BCI's Resolution, [13] and the Union Government's proposal to shift

regulation to the National Commission on Higher Education & Research eliminated the institutional framework.[14]

Legal technology, often known as legal tech or law tech, plays an important role in the Indian legal system by increasing the efficiency, accessibility, and efficacy of legal services.[15] Legal technology plays critical functions in Indian law, including case administration, legal research, contract management, document automation, online dispute resolution, access to justice, legal analytics, e-discovery, and e-filing. The use of technology in law has various advantages, including higher efficiency, improved collaboration, faster processes, easier access to information, cost savings, ease of access, increased transparency, data analytics, predictive insights, and better case management. The pandemic problem compelled legal practitioners to embrace virtual technologies and cloud-based platforms to efficiently collaborate and communicate.

Student-Focused Approach

The legal business is adopting legal tech education to stay competitive. Law students should educate themselves with legal tech solutions since more law schools are offering postgraduate legal technology degrees and an LLB (Hons) Law with a Legal Innovation and Technology degree. The incorporation of legal technology in law education has numerous advantages, such as the automation of repetitive work, enhancement of research abilities, promotion of Collaborative learning, and facilitation of data-driven decision-making. Law students can Implement concrete measures, such as completing legal tech internships, interacting with IT/innovation teams, and acquiring the necessary skills, to integrate technology into legal education. Internships offer a chance to acquire expertise in legal technology and familiarise oneself with contemporary work methodologies. IT professionals from the firm or law school IT departments can offer significant expertise and perspectives. Ultimately, merging legal technology with legal education is critical for success in the legal profession. Integrating legal technology into law education enables students to acquire useful experience, enhance their research skills, and thrive in their professional endeavours.[16]

The Function of BCI in Promoting the Use of Computers in Legal School

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has underscored the significance of computer education in legal training, as delineated in the Bar Council of India Legal Education Rules of 2008. This is because the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Functioning of Virtual Courts/Court Proceedings.[17] Through Video Conferencing recently made this proposal. The committee advises that the BCI include computer courses as one of the disciplines in three-year/five-year courses so that students may learn to use computers and adapt to online systems while studying law.

The BCI's Legal Instruction Rules currently require computer instruction for all law students and highlight the need for sufficient computer, library, and technical resources, including internet access, as well as the availability of internet-connected computers in libraries. These regulations demonstrate the BCI's dedication to equipping the legal community to meet the demands of the digital era. The BCI strongly advises those responsible for legal education to strictly follow the BCI's Legal Education Rules, aligning their institution with the

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes the need for technology in Indian legal education to promote efficiency, cooperation, speedy procedures, access to information, cost savings, transparency, data analytics, predictive insights, and case management in the Judicial System. Several technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, automation, and data analytics, are contributing to the revolution that is now taking place in the Indian judicial system. In the realm of legal services, such as case management, research, and dispute resolution, these technologies enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and efficacy of the services. The Supreme Court of India and other law firms have used technology based tools including the e-Courts Project, e-SCR, SUVAS, and SUPACE to improve the efficiency, cooperation, and productivity of their legal procedures. In addition, the Indian legal education system has to include technology to enhance both its efficiency and its ability to handle cases. These technologies digitize the judicial system, make court-related

information and services available online, and boost the efficiency of analysts and judges.

Legal technology has played a significant role in the Indian legal landscape, providing benefits such as increased efficiency, improved collaboration, accelerated processes, enhanced access to information, cost savings, easy access, increased transparency, data analytics, predictive insights, and improved case management. These benefits have been beneficial to the Indian legal system. The use of legal case management systems offers many benefits, including efficient case tracking, simplified billing, and insights that are drawn from data. Getting the right tools for law enforcement can help them solve more crimes faster, get more people out of jail, and work more efficiently and effectively.

The Indian legal profession has seen tremendous change as a result of globalization, technological advancements, and increased knowledge of legal rights. It is important to note that legal technology, often known as law tech, plays a significant role in the Indian legal system, contributing to increased efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness. In the areas of case administration, research, contract management, document automation, online dispute resolution, access to justice, legal analytics, electronic discovery, and electronic filing, it performs essential responsibilities. The epidemic has driven legal professionals to use virtual technology and cloud-based platforms for more effective cooperation and communication. For competitiveness's sake, the legal industry is implementing legal technology education. Law students should learn about legal tech solutions as more law schools offer postgraduate legal technology degrees and LLB (Hons) Law with Legal Innovation and Technology. Integrating technology into law education is important to legal success. The Bar Council of India (BCI) has emphasized the significance of computer technology in legal education, mandating computer instruction for all law students. The BCI urges institutions to play a major role in fostering computer education, cultivating technological knowledge in future legal professionals, and advancing the legal sector in this era of digital transformation.

REVIEW AND SUGGESTIONS

1. It is necessary to know the history, applications, and stages of technology.
2. Based on the advantages in terms of time, money, etc., analysis may be provided.
3. Advantages of easy and broad circulation, etc., might also be provided
4. The research paper must also address any unfavourable effects or characteristics.
5. A footnote may be provided in the appropriate location and must follow the publisher's rules or follow a standard structure.
6. Information based on objectivity, discussion, conclusion, and recommendation may be offered.
7. References can be made to ensure that the consulted is given enough time.

REFERENCE

[1] Legal Technology refers to 'all devices and techniques that help users interact with and navigate the law. Law firms and legal departments are always looking to replace time- and labour-consuming processes with automated ones which offer greater speed, accuracy, and efficiency. That's important. But legal tech is also meant to be transformative.' available at: <https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/blog/technology-in-law-is-the-new-norm/> (last visited on January 08, 2021).

[2] 'Manage Land-related Legal Disputes Through the Legal & Court Case Management Module on LAMS,' available at: https://www.cyberswift.com/blog/court-case-management-module-on-lams/ ((last visited on January 08, 2021.)

[3] Aryan Sharma, 'Legal Education Scenario in India,' available at: https://lawbhoomi.com/ ((last visited on January 08, 2021).)

[4] Section 144 CrPC was imposed to 'enable social distancing and to break the continuous chain of COVID-19 infection and spread. The central government also requested Supreme Court for a blanket order to prevent news outlets from publishing any news related to COVID-19 without government clearance.' 5 (2018) 10 SCC 628.

[5] Swapnil Tripathi vs. Supreme Court of India, (2018) 10 SCC 628. In this case, a nine-judge bench of the Indian Supreme Court has ruled in favour of live streaming of court proceedings, stating, "it is in the public interest and should be subject to structured guidelines. The e-committee discussed rules for live streaming and the importance of technology in enhancing open courts. The court has already integrated ICT into the judiciary, with a unified Case Information System (CIS) software developed to cater to local procedures and languages. The court has also introduced AI tools for transcribing court proceedings and arguments. The court recently reopened with a futuristic LED video wall, digital video conferencing, and free WiFi facilities. The use of AI for translating judgments into different regional languages was praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

[6] Note: e-SCR offers digital versions of the official reports of judgements and orders issued by the Supreme Court of India.

[7] See, SUPACE is an AI research assistant tool that improves the productivity of analysts and judges by improving proficiency and reducing pendency. It provides information in a couple of seconds even from thousands of pages of documents.

[8] See, the object of NJDJ, "Since its launch under the e-Courts project, National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has served as a one-stop repository of all case related information pertaining to High Courts as well as District and Taluka Courts. With the onboarding of the Supreme Court of India's case data, NJDG has become the only website which offers single window access to the entire information relating to cases and Courts starting from the Taluka level Courts to the Apex Court of our country in a searchable manner. Visitors to this portal shall also have access to a variety of ancillary information such as analytical-comparative statistics of institution, pendency and disposal of cases, data of various categories of Benches and CORAMs, details of registered and unregistered cases, agewise break-up of cases in a transparent manner." available at: https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/ (last visited on January 08, 2021).

[9] Rene Cheng, What Are the Benefits of a Legal Case Management System? available at:

[10] https://www.practicepanther.com (last visited on January 08, 2021. 13 Ibid.

[11] bid.

[12] See, Bar Council of India Legal Education Rules of 2008

[13] See, Bar Council of India Legal Education Rules of 2008

[14] See, Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice (Verification) Rules, 2015, Gazette Notification dated 13, January, 2015 Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice (Verification) Rules, 2015.

[15] Simran Sinha, 'The Importance of Legal Tech in Law Education,' available at: <https://www.linkedin.com > (last visited on January 08, 2021).

[16] See, Bar Council of India Legal Education Rules of 2008.

[17] The BCI Rules of Legal Education embracing computer education would improve legal education and provide aspiring attorneys with vital skills for a modern legal practice environment. The BCI strongly promotes the significance of computer education and urges institutions to take a central role in this effort, creating an atmosphere that cultivates technical expertise in future legal professionals. Collectively, they may guarantee that prospective solicitors are proficient in managing digital platforms, hence enhancing the general advancement of the legal field in this age of digital revolution.