



THE IMPACT OF THE NEW CRIMINAL CODES ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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ABSTRACT

New criminal laws have a significant impact on legal education and training, requiring curriculum and pedagogical techniques to be reevaluated. The impact of recent changes to criminal laws on legal practitioners' professional growth and education is examined in this abstract.

Significant modifications to legislative interpretations, procedural guidelines, and legal concepts are frequently brought about by new criminal codes. Legal education establishments must thus modify their curriculum to reflect these revisions to guarantee that trainers and students are knowledgeable about the most recent legal norms and procedures. This adaptation includes updating case studies, updating course materials, and incorporating newly passed legislation into hands-on training activities.

Furthermore, the evolution of legal frameworks affects the acquisition of new proficiencies and abilities. The primary goal of legal education should be to provide students with the skills necessary to successfully traverse intricate legal systems, understand newly enacted legislation, and apply updated procedural rules. To keep practitioners up to date with current developments, continuing professional development must also be emphasized in training programs for practicing attorneys.

These changes have an effect outside of educational environments as well; they have an impact on how bar exams and certification procedures are created. Preserving the integrity and efficacy of the legal system requires future attorneys to be proficient in navigating the new codes.

KEYWORDS

criminal codes, legal education, legal training, criminal procedure, legal curriculum, interdisciplinary law, legal technology, criminal justice system, legislative changes, law students.

INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the New Criminal Codes

Globally, criminal law systems have experienced major changes in recent years to handle new legal and societal issues. New criminal codes that update antiquated legal frameworks and address improvements in fields like cybercrime, human rights, international law, and technology have been implemented because of these changes. The values that support justice, accountability, and fairness in the criminal justice system are included into

these new criminal codes, which are made to handle the complexity of contemporary criminal activity.

These legislative adjustments sometimes entail extensive modifications to both procedural and substantive criminal law, changing the way crimes are classified, investigated, prosecuted, and punished. Legal practitioners today must manage a quickly changing legal landscape, which directly affects legal education and the preparation of upcoming attorneys. New criminal laws have an impact on how law is practiced, but they also necessitate a review of



legal education to better prepare students for these developments.

2. Purpose of the Research and Importance of the Topic

This study's main goal is to investigate how the new criminal codes have affected legal education and training, specifically in terms of how legal educators and law schools are adapting to the changing criminal justice system. Comprehending this effect is essential because it emphasizes how legal education institutions must adapt to legislative changes to guarantee that upcoming attorneys have the skills and information needed to work in a changing legal environment.

The primary objective of this research is to examine the impact of the new criminal codes on legal education and training, with a particular focus on the ways in which law schools and legal educators are adjusting to the evolving criminal justice landscape. Understanding this effect is crucial because it highlights the necessity for legal education institutions to adjust to changes in legislation to ensure that future lawyers have the knowledge and abilities necessary to practice in a changing legal environment.

3. Overview of Legal Education and Training in the Context of Criminal Law

To provide students the skills they need to enter the legal field, legal education often combines academic knowledge, case law analysis, and hands-on training. Students are usually taught fundamental concepts related to criminal law, including criminal procedure (which describes how criminal cases are decided) and substantive criminal law (which specifies crimes and punishments). Moot courts, internships, and clinical programs offer hands-on experience that helps students gain advocacy skills and comprehend how criminal law is used in the real world.

On the other hand, legal education is changing as a result of new criminal codes. In order to teach students about the new offenses,

processes, and punishments brought about by these statutes, law schools must revise their curricula. In addition, they need to make sure that students are proficient in employing technology in legal practice and stress the significance of newly developing legal fields like cybercrime and international criminal law. Legal educators play a crucial part in this process because they must strike a balance between the needs of a quickly evolving legal environment and traditional teaching methods.

This paper will look at how legal education and training organizations are adjusting to these developments, the difficulties in adding new material to the curriculum, and how well the existing methods are educating future criminal law practitioners.

Overview of the New Criminal Codes

India has introduced three crucial laws—the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita—that would significantly alter the country's criminal justice system. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 are being replaced by these new laws, which went into effect on July 1, 2024. These laws are expected to bring about significant reforms aimed at modernizing and streamlining the legal system of the nation.

These changes represent a thorough overhaul of India's criminal code to better reflect modern society, not merely a surface-level update. The long-standing shortcomings and inefficiencies of the current statutes—which have drawn criticism for being antiquated and inattentive to the demands of contemporary society—are the focus of the new legislation. The need to improve legal processes, incorporate technological innovations, and provide a stronger defence of individuals' rights propelled these reforms.

With an emphasis on substantive criminal law, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita seeks to modernize and simplify existing legal rules to



consider emerging technologies and cultural norms. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita modernizes procedural elements to guarantee speedier and more effective administration of justice. In the meantime, the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam updates the laws of evidence to incorporate electronic and digital records, which are becoming more and more important in the current digital era.

It is expected that these changes will have a significant effect on a number of sectors, including the public, the court, and law enforcement. The new legislation aim to improve the criminal justice system's efficiency, accountability, and transparency by implementing methods including digitalization of procedures, videography during search and seizure, and integration of forensic science.

IMPACT ON LEGAL CURRICULUM

The introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam in 2023 is expected to have a profound impact on India's criminal justice system. These reforms are designed to enhance efficiency, improve conviction rates, and ensure the protection of citizens' rights.

- **Improving Conviction Rates**

One of the main objectives of the new regulations is to increase conviction rates through more dependable and efficient judicial procedures. In this sense, the combination of digital and forensic evidence is essential. The new regulations guarantee the admissibility and credibility of electronic documents as evidence in court by establishing precise criteria for their gathering and presentation. This is especially crucial in situations involving financial fraud and cybercrimes, as digital proof is frequently essential.

- **Use of Scientific and Forensic Evidence**

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam's requirement that forensic teams be involved in important crimes is anticipated to greatly improve the calibre of investigations. In order to

prove the facts of a case, minimize the possibility of erroneous convictions, and guarantee that justice is done, forensic specialists can offer crucial insights. For instance, as demonstrated in countless cases throughout the globe, the use of DNA evidence has proven crucial in cracking cases that have remained unsolved and clearing innocent parties.

- **Mobile Forensic Labs and Quick Analysis**

The government has launched mobile forensic labs that can swiftly arrive at crime scenes and offer prompt analysis in an effort to promote the use of forensic evidence even further. With the most up-to-date technology available, these laboratories can do on-the-spot testing and analysis, speeding up the time it takes to process evidence and enhancing the criminal justice system's overall effectiveness. Several states have successfully embraced this effort, which has resulted in quicker case resolution times and increased conviction rates.

CHANGES IN THE TEACHING OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

The procedural aspects of criminal law have also been substantially altered by the new criminal codes, leading to changes in how criminal procedure is taught in law schools. Key areas of focus include:

- **Updated Rules of Evidence:**

The use of technology and digital evidence in criminal proceedings has led law schools to adopt new guidelines for the management and admissibility of this type of evidence. In criminal cases, students are increasingly taught how to evaluate the validity and trustworthiness of digital evidence (such as email communication, social media activity, and data from electronic devices).

- **Victims' Rights and Procedural Protections:**

In the criminal court system, victims now have better rights because to the new criminal codes. These protections include the right to redress, financial assistance, and safeguards against



becoming victims again. In response, legal education now places greater emphasis on the rights of victims and how those rights relate to those of defendants. Students must comprehend how to strike a balance between safeguarding victims' rights and giving accused parties a fair trial.

Technological Advancements in Criminal Procedure

The use of technology in criminal law procedure, including electronic case filing, remote hearings, and artificial intelligence (AI) in legal research, is increasingly included in legal education. When using these technologies, law students are instructed to be aware of both their benefits (like cutting down on court process delays) and drawbacks (like guaranteeing due process in virtual hearings).

Speedy Trial and Fair Trial Standards

The revised regulations address the long-standing problem of delays in criminal procedures by emphasizing the necessity of resolving cases promptly. In response, legal education institutions have taught students about procedures that are becoming more and more crucial to accelerating the criminal justice system, such as alternative dispute resolution techniques, diversion programs, and plea bargaining.

Incorporation of New Topics

The rapid increase in offenses connected to the internet has made cybercrime a crucial part of the legal curriculum. Hacking, digital privacy, online fraud, identity theft, and the use of forensic techniques to find and apprehend cybercriminals are all covered in cybercrime courses. The difficulties of jurisdiction are also discussed with students, as cybercrimes frequently include victims and offenders from several nations.

Law schools are including human rights law into their criminal law courses because of the new criminal codes' growing alignment with national and international human rights norms. Pupils learn that human rights safeguards must be

complied with by criminal legislation, particularly with relation to the treatment of suspects, accused individuals, and inmates, as well as victim rights. With this multidisciplinary approach, criminal law is integrated with international and constitutional law.

Because the new criminal codes are becoming more in line with national and international human rights standards, law schools are including human rights law into their criminal law curricula. Students are taught that criminal laws must respect human rights, especially when it comes to how suspects, accused parties, and prisoners are treated and victim rights. This interdisciplinary approach integrates criminal law with constitutional and international law.

In many jurisdictions, restorative justice practices which emphasize on rehabilitating criminals via reconciliation with victims and the community have been included into the new criminal laws. These days, law schools cover mediation, reparations agreements, and community service as alternatives to traditional punitive procedures. This change attempts to provide a more victim-centred and offendercentred approach to justice.

THE NEW CODES' EMPHASIS ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS

The emphasis on ethics and professional responsibility in the new criminal codes has resulted in a corresponding rise in these topics' attention in legal education. This is especially crucial considering how criminal law is changing and how complicated cases are becoming.

Law students are educated about the ethical ramifications of employing digital evidence, artificial intelligence (AI), and surveillance technologies as technology becomes more and more involved in criminal investigations and prosecutions. This involves talking about issues like privacy, the possibility of prejudice in AI-powered judicial systems, and the morality of managing digital data that is sensitive. The



necessity of protecting defendants' rights is emphasized by the new criminal codes, even as the rules against crime are harsher. More emphasis is placed in law schools on making sure that aspiring attorneys are aware of their moral obligations to defend the accused with enthusiasm and competence while upholding the rights of victims and the justice system.

It is the duty of prosecutors to pursue justice instead of just getting convictions. This obligation is emphasized by the new laws, and prosecutorial discretion, moral judgment, and the need to prevent erroneous convictions are now major topics in legal school. Students who take courses on professional responsibility are more equipped to deal with issues such as prosecutorial misconduct, conflicts of interest, and the lawyer's dual roles as an officer of the court and an advocate.

Global ethical issues have become more prominent in legal education when it comes to international criminal law. This entails learning about the worldwide norms for human rights and impartial trials as well as the ethical duties that attorneys practicing before international courts have.

PROTECTING CITIZENS' RIGHTS WITH THE NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

Additionally, the new rules prioritize safeguarding people's rights, especially those of victims of crime. To guarantee that victims get the help and justice they need, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita contains measures for victim support and compensation. With tools like computerized case monitoring and video recording of search and seizure activities, the rules also require accountability and openness in law enforcement.

- **Victims' Rights and Protection Measures**

For example, the new victim compensation measures aim to give victims of major crimes both financial help and rehabilitation. This is a big step toward acknowledging the effects of crime on victims and making sure they get the help they need to start again. The law also has

safeguards for witnesses, like protection programs and anonymity, so they may testify without worrying about facing reprisals.

- **Transparency and Accountability in Law Enforcement**

The new legislation also includes an important provision regarding the use of body cameras and videography in police operations. The aforementioned steps aim to enhance openness and accountability, hence mitigating instances of misbehavior and power abuse by law enforcement personnel. Studies conducted in nations that have adopted body cameras, for instance, have revealed a decline in complaints made against police personnel and a rise in public confidence.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS WITH THE NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

Several ethical and legal issues are raised by the new criminal laws in India, and they need to be addressed to guarantee their equitable and reasonable application. These factors include safeguarding human rights and privacy, maintaining non-discriminatory procedures, and striking a balance between modernization and tradition.

- **Maintaining Tradition While Modernizing**

The new rules use current legal principles and technology innovations in an attempt to modernize India's criminal justice system. However, the deep-rooted traditional values and customs of Indian culture must be respected in order to maintain a balance with this modernization.

- **Addressing Colonial Influences**

Removing the colonial heritage from the Indian Evidence Act, CrPC, and IPC is one of the main goals of the new legislation. Developed during British control, these laws frequently represented colonial interests above the demands of Indian society. India aims to establish a legal framework that is more in line with its democratic principles and cultural



background by revising and modernising these laws.

• Adapting to Contemporary Legal Standards

The new legislation must address colonial influences while still being in line with modern international legal norms. This entails incorporating best practices from various legal systems and making sure that the laws may be modified in the future. To ensure improved collaboration and comprehension in transnational crime investigations, India's legislative framework has been brought into compliance with international norms through the incorporation of legislation pertaining to cybercrime and digital evidence.

ISSUES PERTAINING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRIVACY

Concerns over Digital Privacy

There are serious worries about digital privacy raised by the new rules' prioritize electronic evidence and e-governance. Technology usage can increase productivity and openness, but it also puts people's right to privacy at danger. It is essential to make sure that digital documents are shielded against abuse and unauthorized access. To address these issues, the rules include provisions for cybersecurity and data protection safeguards, but their successful implementation will be essential.

Ensuring Non-discriminatory Practices

Making sure the new laws are implemented equally and without bias is another ethical concern. This involves defending the rights of disadvantaged and marginalized populations that law enforcement actions may affect disproportionately. To enhance accountability and decrease instances of prejudice and abuse by law enforcement officials, for instance, police activities are now required to be videotaped.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW INDIAN CRIMINAL LAWS

Training and Capacity Building

Law enforcement officers, judges, and other stakeholders must receive training and capacity building in order for the new laws to be implemented successfully. More than 5.65 lakh personnel have already received thorough training from the government to manage the new legal requirements and procedural adjustments. Maintaining current legal requirements and staying up to date with technology changes will need ongoing education and skill development.

Public Awareness Campaigns

Campaigns for public awareness are essential to ensuring that people are aware of their rights and obligations under the new legislation. The public's cooperation and faith in law enforcement authorities can be strengthened by these initiatives. The use of efficient communication tactics, such as community workshops, social media outreach, and educational programs, will be crucial in spreading awareness of the new legislative framework.

TAKING CARE OF POSSIBLE OBSTACLES

Resistance to Change

Overcoming opposition to change is a major obstacle in the implementation of the new legislation. There are a number of potential sources of this opposition, such as law enforcement organizations that are accustomed to outdated techniques, attorneys who are leery of novel approaches, and the general public who is sceptical of new laws. Incentives, ongoing education, and showcasing the advantages of the new system through effective case studies and pilot projects are all necessary to overcome this opposition.

Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Ensuring that the new laws accomplish their intended goals requires the implementation of strong monitoring and assessment procedures.



This entails establishing impartial organizations to supervise the implementation procedure, conducting frequent audits, and establishing feedback mechanisms to quickly detect and address problems. Data-driven methods can assist in evaluating the changes' effects and making the required corrections.

CONCLUSION

According to studies on how new criminal laws affect legal education and training, these modifications have had a profound influence on the content and mode of delivery of legal education. The legal curriculum has changed because of the addition of new subjects including cybercrime, human rights, and international criminal law as well as updated criminal processes. In addition, it is now imperative that law students prioritize experiential learning, legal technology, and developing practical skills in order to adequately prepare them for the constantly changing needs of the contemporary criminal justice system.

The results highlight how crucial it is for legal education to constantly change. To guarantee that upcoming legal professionals are equipped to handle modern legal difficulties, law schools must periodically update their curricula and teaching approaches in order to reflect the ways in which criminal law and legal systems are evolving in tandem with sociological, technical, and international trends. This entails incorporating new laws, keeping up with technology developments, and gaining useful skills for navigating the legal system.

In the end, legal education is essential to producing qualified attorneys who are prepared to handle the intricacies of contemporary criminal law. Law schools assist in producing professionals who can preserve justice, defend rights, and contribute to the integrity of the criminal justice system by encouraging a thorough grasp of both theoretical concepts and real-world applications.

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