

EXPLORATION OF KNOWLEDGE

AND

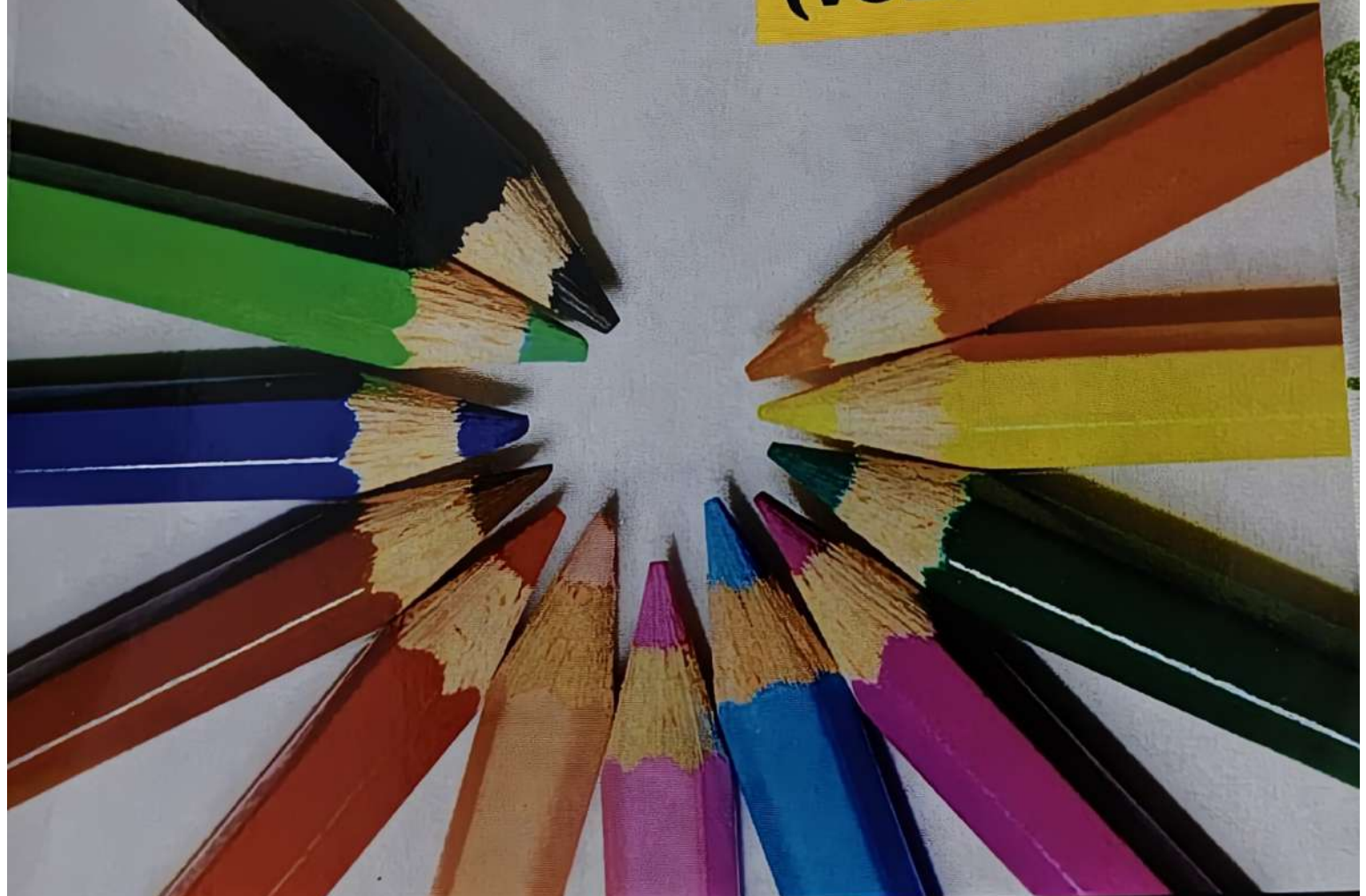
INFORMATION

IN

HUMANITIES AND

SOCIAL SCIENCES

(VOLUME-II)



D. K. Mandal
Prof. B. N. Basu

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

Dr. Suganthini

Abstract

Legal education has undergone significant changes due to the growing technologies. The traditional approach has changed to modern approaches. This Article will discuss the recent developments in Legal education and how it has impacted Students, Researchers, Academicians, Lawyers, etc. The legal profession is not just about knowing laws and precedents; but it must be applied effectively while arguing a case. Lawyers require practical knowledge to argue cases, draft all kinds of legal documents, provide counselling to clients and in some cases negotiate deals. This cannot be done just by reading textbooks and bare acts. More research is required and this is more satisfied by the growing technology. Legal education also promotes the rule of law and plays an important role in educating individuals on their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

This article further examines how digital platforms, online resources, and innovative teaching methods are enhancing accessibility, flexibility, and quality in legal training. Further, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), legal research tools, virtual classrooms, and e-learning platforms in law

schools are discussed here, providing a complete overview of the opportunities and challenges. The development of technology helps to bridge the gap between rural and urban legal education by providing access to quality resources and mentorship remotely. This article assesses the future course of legal education in India, emphasising the need for a balanced approach to technology adoption that preserves the core values of legal training while preparing students for a rapidly evolving legal environment.

Keywords: Legal Education, Technology, India, AI in Law, Digital Platforms, Legal Environment

1. Introduction

Legal education in India has customarily followed a traditional model centred on textbooks, lectures, and court internships. However, with the digital uprising extensively across all sectors, legal education is also transforming into technological changes. This happened especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which required the rapid adoption of online learning platforms across law schools. Today, technology is not just a support tool but a fundamental component of modern legal training. The digital transformation of education has left a significant imprint on legal education in India.

2. Evolution of Legal Education in India

Legal education in India has evolved through various phases:

- **Pre-Colonial Period:** All religions followed their personal laws; the Hindus followed the Dharmasastra-based system and the Muslims followed Islamic Law. These were the two main legal systems. Apart from that, other religions also had their own laws and regulations. During this period, Legal education was informal and was conducted in temples, mosques, or personal teaching under scholars and jurists. There was no proper infrastructure or curriculum at that time and only knowledge was transferred orally or through ancient texts like the Manusmriti, Quran, Hadith, etc

- **Early Colonial period:** During the British period, education was mainly on the study of British law through government-affiliated institutions. The British started administering justice in their controlled territories. The British set up Mayor's Courts in 1726 in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras under a royal charter. Early courts used English law, Hindu law, and Islamic law, depending on their religion. There was no formal legal education system in India during this period.

After the East India Company took control (1757 onwards), the British gradually replaced traditional systems and introduced English common law. The Supreme Courts were established in the Presidency towns of Calcutta in the year 1774, Madras in the year 1801 and Bombay in the year 1823, where the English Law was applied. British judges and officials were trained in England to serve in the Indian Courts.

Indians were also trained to serve as interpreters between the people and the government.

Slowly, Legal education came into existence and Colleges were set up in 1855 in Bombay, named as Elphinstone College, Presidency College, Calcutta and in 1869, the Madras Law College was established. Various Universities like the University of Calcutta, University of Bombay, and University of Madras started law departments.

The Curriculum was based on English law and subjects like Contract Law, Criminal Law, and Property Law were enacted. The Legal profession was developed and there was a need for Indians to serve as Vakils, Judges, Legal clerks and assistants. Hence, they were appointed after giving proper training in the legal profession. Some of the Indians went to London and pursued their legal education and served as Barristers In India.

- **Post-Independence Era:** After independence in 1947, legal education largely continued in the colonial model for some time. Universities offered 3-year LL.B. degrees (after graduation) through traditional law colleges established during the British period. Curriculum was still focused on rote learning, outdated statutes, and Anglo-centric legal principles.
- **Modern Era:** The Bar Council of India was established and was given powers to regulate legal education under the Advocates Act, 1961. It set minimum standards for law colleges in

India. 5-year integrated B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) program was enacted. The Law schools took up legal theory with practice, interdisciplinary courses, and clinical legal education. National Law Universities and National Law Schools were established. Many Private universities also started Law Schools.

- **Digital Era:** The development of Technology and access to the internet has transformed Legal Education. Digital transformation in courts and legal processes, like e-Courts, increasing demand for cyber law, data protection, and AI regulation, were the major changes in the digital world. After COVID-19, Legal education also changed to Online learning and lots of E-Resources were introduced.

3. Technological Innovations in Legal Education

3.1 E-Learning Platforms and Virtual Classrooms

- Tools like Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams have enabled law schools to conduct lectures remotely.
- Institutions have adopted Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle and Blackboard for organising course materials and assessments.
- With the rise of Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Google Classroom, and Microsoft Teams, law schools in India have adapted to blended learning models, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. These platforms

- have enabled seamless dissemination of lectures, assignments, and evaluations¹. According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), over 95% of higher education institutions moved to online teaching during the pandemic².
- The Bar Council of India (BCI), initially hesitant about online legal education, has gradually recognised the role of hybrid models in modern learning environments³.
 - Technology has undoubtedly transformed the scope, delivery, and methodology of legal education in India. From e-learning platforms and AI-powered legal research to online moot courts and Legal Tech-based courses, these advancements are preparing law students for the rapidly evolving legal ecosystem. However, to make this transformation inclusive, stakeholders must ensure equitable access, faculty training, and infrastructure support.

3.2 Online Legal Databases

- Platforms like Manupatra, SCC Online, HeinOnline⁴, and JSTOR offer students and

¹ Mishra, L., Gupta, T., & Shree, A. (2020). Online teaching-learning in higher education during lockdown period of COVID-19 pandemic. *International Journal of Educational Research Open*, 1, 100012

² University Grants Commission. (2020). *Report on the Impact of Online Education during COVID-19*.

³ Bar Council of India. (2021). *Guidelines for Legal Education in the Online Era*.

⁴ Indian Law Institute. *Guide to Legal Research and Writing in the Digital Age*. ILI Publications, 2021.

faculty access to a vast repository of case law, statutes, journals, and commentaries.

- These tools enhance research capabilities and familiarise students with digital legal tools used in practice⁵.

3.3 Virtual Moot Courts and Simulations

- Law schools now conduct online moot court competitions, arbitration simulations, workshops, conferences and client counselling sessions.
- Software tools simulate courtroom scenarios, helping students practice advocacy and legal reasoning in a controlled, digital environment.

3.4 Artificial Intelligence and Legal Analytics

- AI tools such as ROSS Intelligence, Casemine, and Lexis AI are being introduced to help students analyse case patterns, automate legal writing, and improve legal research efficiency.
- These tools also foster critical thinking about the ethical and procedural use of AI in law.

3.5 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

- Platforms like Coursera, edX, and Swayam offer legal courses from top global universities, democratizing access to high-quality legal education and exposing Indian students to

⁵ Bar Council of India. (2020). Guidelines for Online Legal Education.

international legal standards.

3.6 National Education Policy (NEP):

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, introduced by the Government of India, has significant implications for legal education in India. Though it doesn't focus exclusively on legal studies, the NEP lays out a broad framework for transforming professional education, including law, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary innovation and access⁶. NEP emphasises a research-driven culture in higher education. The policy introduces multiple exit points and an Academic Credit Bank (ACB) system, allowing for flexible movement across institutions and programs⁷. Propose the establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF) to fund high-quality legal and interdisciplinary research. NEP calls for better training and evaluation of faculty, with a focus on pedagogy, ethics, and student engagement. Promotes international collaboration and exchange programs. Encourages community engagement and practical learning. Law schools are expected to work on legal aid, clinical legal education, and real-world problem-solving.

4. Challenges in Integrating Technology in Legal Education

Many students, especially in rural or underprivileged backgrounds, face challenges due to a lack of access

⁶ Ministry of Education, Government of India. *National Education Policy 2020*.

⁷ University Grants Commission (UGC). "Guidelines on Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programs." August 2021.

to devices and reliable internet. Not all faculty members are equally comfortable with digital tools, leading to inconsistency in delivery and engagement. Most Indian law curricula have not yet integrated subjects like Legal Tech, Cyber Law Practice, AI Ethics, or Digital Evidence, which are increasingly relevant. Online assessments and data sharing raise privacy concerns, which must be addressed through institutional policy and secure platforms.

5. Government and Institutional Initiatives

- Bar Council of India (BCI) and University Grants Commission (UGC) have issued guidelines encouraging the use of technology in education.
- Law schools like NLSIU Bengaluru, NLU Delhi, and Jindal Global Law School have adopted hybrid teaching models and invested in digital infrastructure.
- National Digital Library of India (NDLI) and e-Pathshala offer legal content to promote open-access legal education.

6. The Future of Legal Education in India

The future of legal education lies in creating a blended learning environment that combines traditional teaching with digital innovation. Areas like blockchain law, tech policy, cybercrime, and AI governance are becoming crucial. Law schools must adapt,

- Updating curriculum to include legal technology and ethics

- Investing in faculty training
- Creating partnerships with tech firms and international institutions
- Ensuring digital inclusion through subsidised access programs

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates for an end to academic silos by encouraging interdisciplinary learning. Law schools are moving toward integrating subjects like technology, economics, environmental studies, sociology, and international relations into their curricula.

This broader knowledge base is essential for preparing legal professionals who can:

- Understand complex social issues
- Navigate overlapping legal and regulatory systems
- Work effectively in global and cross-sector environments⁸.

The next decade will witness deep technology integration in legal education. Tools such as AI-powered legal research platforms, blockchain-based case management, and virtual courtrooms are not just part of legal practice—they're becoming part of the classroom.

Key trends include:

- Online and hybrid learning models

⁸ <https://www.education.gov.in>

- Virtual moot courts and arbitration simulations
- Use of legal analytics and automated research tools in training
- Development of Legal Tech electives and specialisations⁹

Legal education will increasingly mirror the digital-first legal system being adopted by courts, law firms, and corporations across India.

Traditional legal education in India has long been criticised for being theory-heavy and practice-light. The future demands a shift toward clinical legal education, with practical skills including:

- Legal writing and drafting
- Negotiation and mediation
- Client counselling
- Public interest lawyering and community outreach

Legal aid clinics, street law programs, internships, and pro bono fellowships will become a core part of the academic journey¹⁰.

With technology improving outreach, legal education is becoming more accessible to marginalised and rural communities. Initiatives like

⁹ Mehta, P. (2023). LegalTech and the future of Indian legal education. *Indian Journal of Law and Technology*, 15(2), 88–102

¹⁰ National Law School of India University. (2022). *Clinical Legal Education in India: Status and Challenges*. Bangalore: NLSIU Press

Swayam, e-Pathshala, and open-access legal resources aim to democratize knowledge.

However, to fully realise inclusive education, efforts must address:

- The digital divide (infrastructure, affordability, and literacy)
- Language accessibility, including vernacular legal education
- Greater representation of women, Dalits, Adivasis, and minorities in law schools¹¹

India's law schools are forming partnerships with global institutions for:

- Student and faculty exchange programs
- Joint research projects
- Dual degree options and international internships

As Indian law increasingly interacts with international trade, human rights, environmental law, and cross-border disputes, graduates will need global legal literacy¹².

The concept of "one degree for a lifetime" is rapidly fading. Lawyers must now reskill and upskill constantly, given the fast pace of legal and technological change.

¹¹ UNESCO. (2021). *Inclusive Education and the Digital Divide in South Asia*

¹² Jindal Global Law School. (2022). *Annual Report on International Collaborations and Global Engagements*. Sonipat: OP Jindal Global University.

The future will see growth in:

- Short-term online certification courses
- Executive LL.M. programs
- Modular learning paths for working professionals¹³

7. Conclusion

Technological advancements are reshaping the contours of legal education in India. While they offer unprecedented opportunities for innovation, accessibility, and global exposure, they also pose challenges that require thoughtful intervention. By embracing technology with a focus on equity, quality, and practical relevance, India can build a legal education system that is not only future-ready but also socially responsive.

Technological advancements have fundamentally transformed the landscape of legal education in India. The integration of digital tools ranging from online learning platforms and legal databases to AI-powered research assistants and virtual moot courts has made legal education more accessible, interactive, and aligned with real-world practice. These innovations have not only enhanced the academic experience but have also equipped law students with the skills necessary to navigate a rapidly evolving legal profession.

However, the benefits of technology are not

¹³ Bar Council of India. (2021). *Position Paper on Continuing Legal Education in India*. New Delhi: BCI Publications.

universally accessible. Challenges such as the digital divide, lack of digital infrastructure, uneven faculty training, and regulatory resistance persist, especially in rural and under-resourced institutions. The future of legal education will depend on how well stakeholders can bridge these gaps while embracing innovation.

8. Suggestions

To ensure that technological advancements in legal education are effective, inclusive, and future-ready, the following suggestions are proposed:

1. Strengthen Digital Infrastructure Nationwide
 - Government and private sector collaboration is needed to improve internet access, hardware availability, and IT support in law colleges, especially in rural areas.
2. Mandatory Faculty Training Programs
 - Regular workshops and certification programs should be introduced to train legal educators in digital pedagogy, the use of e-resources, and emerging Legal Tech tools.
3. Introduce Legal Technology as a Core Subject
 - Law schools should offer dedicated courses on Legal Tech, AI & law, blockchain, data privacy, and digital forensics, ensuring students are job-ready in modern legal markets.
4. Promote Clinical Legal Education through Technology

- Legal aid clinics and internships can be strengthened through virtual platforms, online case databases, and simulation software.
5. Ensure Equity through Government Schemes
- Scholarships, free digital devices, and subsidised data plans should be provided to students from economically weaker sections to prevent digital exclusion.
6. Collaboration with Tech Industry and Law Firms
- Institutions should partner with Legal Tech startups, law firms, and international universities to keep their curriculum updated with industry standards.
7. Regulatory Reforms by the Bar Council of India
- The BCI should revisit outdated norms and support blended, online, and modular learning models in line with global best practices and NEP 2020.