

विधिक जागरूकता

(एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला)

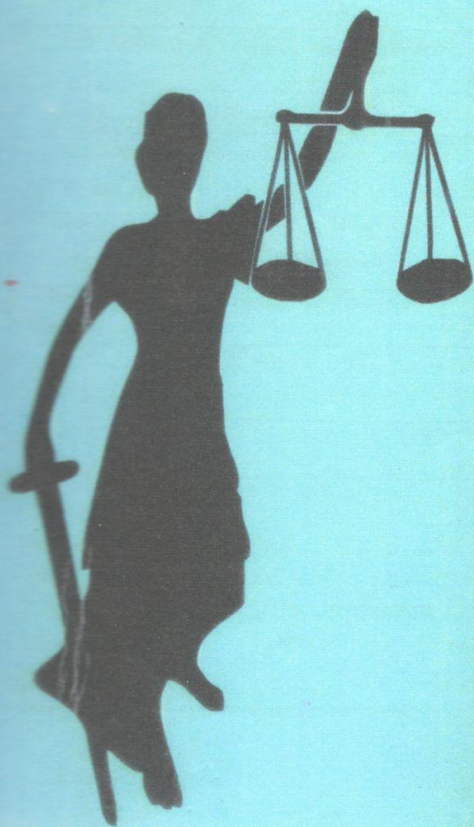
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Legal Awareness

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Legal awareness means Public legal education, it comprises a range of activities intended to build public awareness and skills related to law and the justice system. This term also refers to the fields of practice and study concerned with those activities, and to a social and professional movement that advocates greater societal commitment to educating people about the law. Anna-Marie Marshall explains that "in order to realize their rights, people need to take the initiative to articulate them. This initiative, in turn, depends on the availability and the relevance of legal schema to people confronting problems."^[1]A

Legal awareness also known as legal consciousness, it helps to promote consciousness of legal culture, participation in the formation of laws.

^[2] According to the American Bar Association, Commission on Public Understanding, legal awareness is, "the ability to make critical judgments about the substance of the law, the legal process, and available legal resources and to effectively utilize the legal system and articulate strategies to improve it is legal literacy".

Awareness about legal literacy is necessary to the empowered of individuals regarding issues involving the law, It can empower people to demand justice, accountability and effective remedies at all levels. ^[3] Legal needs always stand to become crisis oriented because their ignorance prevents them from anticipating legal troubles and approaching a lawyer for consultation and advice in time. This magnifies the impact of their legal troubles and difficulties when they come. ^[4] Without legal literacy people can get intimidated and alienated from law. This may evolve into a situation which results in people coming into conflict with the law, or being unable to obtain help from it. Courts have acknowledged the barrier raised by a lack of literacy to asserting guaranteed rights effectively. ^[5] Low literacy may block people's access to justice. At times, literacy requirements have been used to block access to rights and benefits ^[6]^[7]

Legal awareness is an integral part of the legal culture, and therefore an important element in determining the quality and legal culture level. It is