



**Engaging Canada Series: National Legal conference on
“Role of Legal Education in the changing Economic World”**

20th January 2013

At National Law University, Dwarka, New Delhi, India

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List of Participants:

Prof. (Dr.) V. Vijayakumar, Vice Chancellor, The Tamilnadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University;

Prof. (Dr.) P. Ishwara Bhat , Vice Chancellor, The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences;

Prof. Jawahar Lal Kaul, Professor, Campus Law Centre;

Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University;

Prof. (Dr.) Gurjeet Singh, Director General, National Law School & Judicial Academy, Assam (NLS&JAA);

Prof. (Dr.) Paramjit S. Jaswal, Vice Chancellor, The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab;

Prof. M.K.Bhandari, Prof. of Law, Jain Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur;

Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath, Pro Chancellor / Vice Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University;

Prof. Rose Varghese, Dean, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia;

Prof. K.P.S. Mahalwar, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Maharshi Dayanand University;

Prof. R.G. Babu Bhagavath Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh University of Law Visakhapatnam (Main Campus);

Dr. Udayakumara Ramkrishna B.N., Dean, Academic Affairs, Gujarat National Law University;

Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Head, Faculty of Law, University of Kashmir;

Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad;

Dr. V. R. C. Krishniah, Dean, S. V. University of Tirupathi ;

Dr. TSN Sashtry , HoD, Faculty of Law, University of Pune;

Prof. Rajmal Dungawat, Director, Amity University, Rajasthan;

Prof. Gurdip Singh, Dean, Faculty of Law, Law Centre – II;

Prof. Dr. M. Pinheiro, Director, School of Law, Raffles University,

Prof. Sivakumar , Director, Indian Law Institute;

Prof. (Dr.) M. Afzal Wani, Faculty of Law, GGSIP University;

Dr. Navneet, Faculty, NLU Delhi;

Dr. Ranbir Singh, President, SICI and VC, NLU Delhi;

Dr. Shanti Johnson, Vice President, SICI and Professor, University of Regina;

Dr. Rajesh Tyagi, Secretary Treasurer, SICI and Professor, HEC Montreal;

Dr. Biju Paul Abraham, EC Member, SICI and Professor, IIM Calcutta;

Dr. Ravi Shankar Rao, EC Member, SICI and Professor Mangalore University;

Dr. Bilkis Vissandjee, EC Member, SICI and Professor, University of Montreal;

Ms. Anju Taneja, Finance Officer, SICI;

Ms. Meenakshi Malhotra, Administration Assistant, SICI;

Dr. Prachi Kaul, Programme Officer, SICI;

Ms. Reshma Rana Verma, In Charge Library, SICI;

Ms. Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee, Programme Officer, SICI;

Introduction:

SICI New Delhi organized a national level legal conference on "Role of legal education in the changing Economic world" under Engaging Canada Series funded by DFAIT, Canada. This Event brought together over 25 participants from different parts of country including Vice- Chancellors, Deans and Faculties. The event provided an opportunity for face-to-face interactions and deliberations on different emerging issues of globalization in legal education with emphasis on India and Canada.

Welcome address:

Prof. Ranbir Singh, President SICI and Vice-Chancellor gave welcome address and briefed the theme of the conference. After this all participants introduced themselves. Prof. Shanti Johnson, Prof. Biju Abraham and Prof. Ravi Shankar Rao from Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute represented SICI there as EC members. Dr. Poonam Puri from

Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, who was present through Skype gave a presentation on “The Canadian Experience”

Dr. Puri: gave some data with regard to the students currently studying in Canada from India per year. In York University itself 290 students comes for higher studies. In her presentation she discussed the scope for Indian Scholar going to Canada for short or long term internship. She raised concerns over some issues in legal education and commented that there are some lacuna’s that needs to overcome. There was no question answer session for this particular presentation as Ms. Puri got disconnected.

Prof. Ranbir Singh: suggested that institutions are not market places; neither education is a commodity traded on demand and supply. Institutions are knowledge spaces and education is a value in itself to distinguish between fair and unfair, just and unjust. The need of the hour is to set the goals which should set the house in order to gear up for meeting the challenges of Globalization. He also commented that Globalization in the modern sense is launched from the pad of International Legal Order and not from Missile silos. For negotiating this, it not just values and emotions but skills and reasoning have to be important.

Prof. Ranbir Singh made Prof. Vijya Kumar the co-coordinator of the conference as we could not speak much due to some operation of his eyes.

Tea Break 11:45 PM resumed 12:00PM

First Session:

The first session stated with a presentation on “**Impact of globalization on Law, Legal Institutions and Legal Education**”. The Chair for this session was Prof. R. Venkata Rao and the co-chair was Prof. Vijay Kumar from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Prof. J.L Kaul started his presentation referring to a conference at Pondicherry University where it was difficult to reach at the definition of Globalization. He put up a question forward to the floor that what will be the impact and role of globalization on legal education in India? And how Global Education has affected our legal education? He said there are five international Universities which are coming to India for collaboration. Prof. Kaul advised one thing that domestic institutions must be acclimatized towards globalization.

Prof. M.K Bhandari: said that globalization has come with challenges. Here growth is not inclusive and we have to achieve the inclusiveness.

Prof. Venkata Rao posed a question to all present in the conference “Have we devised a way to include poor meritorious students in legal education? Why there is different treatment for legal Universities and legal Colleges? The gap has to be bridged and one way to do so, is that National Law Universities should go to the local legal colleges to improve the legal education. This presentation ended with his comment “ Passion for what you do and compassion for whom you do?”

Prof Afzal Wani: gave his observations and said that we can overtake and can be the best at international level. History is advancing in its way. The students are imitative of thoughts rather than productive of thoughts. He found that there are some deficiencies in the legal education which needs to be rectified. There is need to project and produce new thoughts. We have to change infrastructure and super structure will change itself.

Prof. ARC Krishnaiah: emphasized on the legal colleges and national law schools to be at par to improve the quality of legal education. He revealed the plight of legal education in his college and told that there is a college having strength of 2000 students with no permanent faculty. In first year there is strength of 350 students whereas bar council allows only 300 students. He mentioned some other problems like mass copying and sub-standard evaluation system and so on.

Prof. Farooq A.: said that centre of Excellence may come forward and open the door for programmes like faculty exchange to improve the quality of legal education.

The presentation was followed by question answer Session.

Prof. Venkata Rao: said that academic excellence is not possible without human excellence and this issue needs to be addressed.

Prof. Afzal Wani: mentioned that his university having two types of courses but argued that why the same institution has two courses running with same faculty and syllabi? He showed interests in summer and winter internship for law students.

Dr. Rosa: commented to focus not only on legal education but also on value added education. We have to imbibe values in our students.

Prof. Vijay Kumar: There are some challenges in the legal Education with regard to frequent amendments and new commissions coming up. He inquired whether the law schools are capable of incorporating these changed amended laws in their syllabi. We all should look at the challenges thrown. We must not lose sight how we have progressed. He also stressed upon the ODR mechanism.

Prof. Shanta Kumar: proposed to have training sessions for lawyers like IAS have at Dehradun. He also suggested to develop Indian Legal Congress.

Prof Vijay Kaul: commented that we have to look insight into the 5 year structure and to improve it with our own mandate.

Prof Venkata Rao: ended the session with his view that we are all from same thought of school and that we have to maintain the status and integrity of the society.

Lunch Break at 1:30 PM session resumed 2:15 PM.

Second Session:

The second session started with another presentation on “**Internationalization of Legal education: perception and Prospects**” The chair for this session was Prof. A. Lakshminath. He pointed out that the 1st conference was held in Canada 30 yrs ago. He gave examples of some scholarships like MRCP at international level and added to it that we can also have scholarships in law at that level. Then he informed that there was a proposal to formalize a body for legal education but still there is none.

Prof. Vijay Kumar: commented on the formation of the “Legal education Council” said that since 2005 there are efforts from a conference at Singapore to have “Legal Education Council” and consortia in India but nothing could materialize due to some unavoidable problems. All present agreed to have a consortium in Law for addressing issues and setting up of bylaws in legal education.

Prof KPS Mehra: raised two questions on setting up a new system and also about the possible ills that we may face. There are some universities that categorize legal education under professional studies and some other categorizes it under social sciences. Some of the universities even do not have separate department and neither have faculties to teach except one or two.

Prof. Bhagvat Kumar: said that only excellence in profession is not sufficient. Secondly skills set that are necessary to make students professional must make them good human being. We do not have our own jurisprudence. We usually consult other countries theories. Some of the problems in our legal system are that we do not have uniform legal education. If we want globalization of legal education then we have to make legal education uniform in all aspects. There should be joint degree programmes locally and globally. A consortium of teachers should be there for promoting legal education in country.

Prof. A Lakshminath: remarked that unless we have something of our own, we cannot invite others to come. He gave some of the measurements to overcome difficulties in legal Education. The knowledge of European Country law is also important. One law student must have knowledge of French and German. Cyber laws or IT should be uniformly a part of Syllabus. We should write to Bar Council to update Syllabi of all legal institutions.

Prof. Bhandari: commented that we have Manu Smiriti to look for legal consultation. Why we always look at European countries.

Prof. Gurjeet: further inquired on the feasibility of Prof. Lakshminath’s advice to make German & French compulsory and said that we are ready to incorporate new subject areas but the literature is very scanty and faculty is also not ready to take up such subjects.

Prof. Bhat: said that internationalization of legal education has taken a positive role. The Comparative Legal study has been made compulsory.

Prof. TSN Sastri: Commented that we have to take judges with us so that we can make it practical. It is very difficult to find subject expert when we want to introduce new paper in legal education.

Prof. Vijay Kumar: gave some objectives of internationalization of legal education that are to create a transnational layer; to take history of mankind from one generation to another; to consider the aspects of Millennium Development Goal; to identify some success stories; uniformity of grading system; keen to deal with legal education and profession

He said that SICI could play a vital role as far as Canadian Laws and legal system is concerned

Tea Break 3:15 PM resumed 3:30PM

Prof. Vijay: made announcement that two topics ‘**Legal research and Publication: issues & Development**’ and ‘**Legal Education & ICT: Implications & Importance**’ have been amalgamated as both are related topics The chair for this session was **Prof. Gurjeet Singh** and he mainly spoke on research methodology. He divided legal education into two main categories like teaching and practice. Though the number of journals has increased but the quality has decreased. Another thing he focused on that faculties need to update themselves regularly to justify themselves.

Prof. Bhat: spoke about the diversity of research topics in research methodology. He said that there should be more focus on ICT and IPR and less concentration on family law and constitutional law. He talked about some other issues like interdisciplinary research has marginalized, avoiding plagiarism is the best policy and students should come with original ideas.

Prof. M.K Bhandari: said that modern mantra is patent and prosper; publish or perish. Governance is a matter where research can be done. Importance of legal research should be emphasized

Prof. A. Lakshminath: said that today CCP is the norm which is very bad and faculty has to take this blame as they are not able to generate new ideas in students. He said that digitization is very important.

Prof. TSN Sastri: stressed on the interdisciplinary research and there is need of developing manual citation patter. He said that in Legal academia the concept of reading is missing. Quality research is something which comes out of honesty and integrity.

Prof. Jeet Singh Mann: spoke about role of ICT in developing legal research which is not at all problem free, ICT also has certain implications like authenticity, availability, currency and accuracy. ICT cannot supplement a teacher.

Prof. Vijay Kumar: asked about the quality research. He opined that it is simply a value addition by the researcher. There is a lack of applied research. Many Universities has made provision for honor court.

Prof. Bhat: To improve quality of research there should be reviewing of article and the draft of the research should be placed before committee in one month advance.

Prof. Gurjeet: concluded the session by thanking Prof. Ranbir Singh for inviting to such useful legal conference and thanked Prof. Vijya Kumar for well coordination of the conference.

Prof. Ranbir Singh: said that younger generation is not serious about research and teaching. This is a wakeup call for all of us. He advised to publish articles and put them on websites so that people may read them while searching through websites of the respective institutions. They can publish articles on free portal of Indian Law Institute. Prof. Singh laid stress on faculty exchange. Library is the centre of good research so every law school must have a sound and rich library.

At the end some concerns were raised over legal education and research like younger generation is not serious about research and teaching; there is need to share expertise in field of legal education; encouraging students and faculty to perform well so that the institution grows. Practically the legal conference was over but still participants were discussing some other issues related to legal conference.

The conferences ended at 6.00 PM