

"INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN LEGAL REGIME: INITIATIVES IN EMERGING LAW INSTITUTES"

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***Abstract:** Interdisciplinary is a key concept in today's curriculum, which goes beyond mere teaching to enable students to appreciate different perspectives differently. It can build specialised understanding of the society and governance. It is important to face new challenges associated with dynamic sectors of global world which require an interdisciplinary and international approach. This approach synthesises more than one discipline and creates the team of teachers and students that enrich the overall educational ambience. It develops much needed lifelong learning skills that are essential to the expectations from the students in future.*

Knowledge of various social sciences and humanities is lamentably very thin and their comprehension of outside world is the need of the hour. Many statistical reports conclude that students of interdisciplinary techniques have higher test scores both in core knowledge and critical thinking problems. Faculty members usually identify themselves primarily in terms of particular discipline rather than with interdisciplinary itself. Thus specialization in one field alone creates barrier for further integration. Faculty has to cultivate interest and expertise in interdisciplinary courses.

In Amity Law School much emphasis is given to impart collaborative teaching and also for non-law teachers to acquire qualification in Law, so that they could associate themselves with major discipline of law. Through this orientation faculty and students continue to synthesise the characteristics and methods to develop lifelong learning skills. In this way ALS Institute will be uniquely qualified to offer academic law degree and legal education in real meaning.

Globalisation process has led to various opportunities for rapid developments across the world. The fast pace of capitalism and materialistic approach, is a setback on the socio-economic and cultural aspects. There is a need to relook on a number of issues that affect the humanities. The interdisciplinary sources provide multiple aspects and opportunities to explore and understand man and his activities. Humanities with diverse branches open a plethora of thoughts concerning human beings, right from individualism to social dynamics and cultural studies, and from developmental standards of economy to ruling polity governance. The interdisciplinary approach contributes a lot to society at large. In the form of troubleshooters social science has significant role in solving contemporary issues.

INTRODUCTION

Interdisciplinary approach involves the combining of two or more academic disciplines into one activity. It is about creating something new by crossing

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boundaries. Interdiscipline is an organizational unit that crosses traditional boundaries between academic disciplines with new needs and emerging professions. To gain better understanding of the society and in doing so trends in political economical, cultural, social aspects have to be determined. This, in turn may help the management in allocation of resources within the society as well as in bringing social cohesion and general consensus. Thus it allows law to determine how to live and indicate what the society expects. The purpose to teach law students is to train them to find logical solution to problems of changing society.

Although interdisciplinarity are frequently viewed as 20th century terms, the concept has historical antecedents, most notably in Greek philosophy. It is perceived as a remedy to the harmful effects of excessive number of ideas and further complicating the results and integration of knowledge. At another level interdisciplinarity is seen as a remedy to the harmful effects of excessive specialisation. Both disciplinarians and interdisciplinarians may be seen in complementary relation to one another. Most participants in interdisciplinary ventures were trained in traditional discipline, would need to learn to appreciate differing in perspectives and methods.

Since the end of scientific revolution, various other have been emerging which have sufficient theoretical structures. There is less need of experiments at studies and scientific equations. Human behaviour, affected by social and environmental factors, is being enquired through interdisciplinary approach. These various emerging disciplines may be named as social research of medicine, sociobiology, neuropsychology, bioeconomics and history of science and sociology of science etc. Increasingly, quantitative research and qualitative methods of all disciplines in an integrated form are being studied in analysis of human actions with its implications and consequences. (1)

As one of the major phenomenon, "social science" may be referred either as specific sciences of society. Early sociologists and philosophers- Comte, Durkheim, Marx, and Weber, and many more established this phenomenon. Thus the modern period has termed Social science as a distinct field, constituted by law, education, health, economy and trade and art. The modern period has seen "social science" first used as a distinct conceptual field. Social science was influenced by positivism, focusing on knowledge based and actual positive sense experiences while avoiding the negative and metaphysical speculation. Auguste Comte had used the term "science social" to describe the field, taken from the ideas of Charles Fourier; Comte also referred to the field as social physics. (2) During the 20th century, theory of enlightenment was challenged and various other domains are substituting the classical theories. The development of different branches of social sciences became more quantitative in methodology. Social Sciences developed with the positivist philosophy of science. It originated from

1. Vessuri, H. (2002). "Ethical Challenges for the Social Sciences on the Threshold of the 21st Century". *Current Sociology* 50: 135–150.
2. An Inquiry into the Principles of the Distribution of Wealth Most Conducive to Human

Happiness; applied to the Newly Proposed System of Voluntary Equality of Wealth (1824) by William Thompson (1775–1833) the moral philosophy of the time. Moral philosophy is required for the well functioning of society and social science provides the ground for its development. On other hand according to one interpretation morality is the thought, out of which different aspects of social sciences took birth one by one. Moral philosophy offered a most comprehensive discussion of human relations and institutions and it is sometimes equated with ethics. Thus social sciences standard approach action as instrument and also theorize the social dimensions of human agency with moral philosophy and positivism. (1)

With the end of scientific revolution, development of social science has become very quantitative one. Emphasis is laid to approach social science research and interdisciplinary research to find contingency and heterogeneity particularly among the phenomena of human agency. Social science may be at the best when they focus on identifying and documenting a range of social mechanisms and legal processes. These processes impact human well being and human sufferings. All the emerging disciplines and methods are being increasingly integrated and developed in the overall study and comprehensive evaluation of human actions as well.

The greatest challenge in responding to issues of the day is not necessarily one of scientific or management. It is about dealing with diverse cultures, interests, vision, priorities and needs. Philosophers like Plato and Aristotle were great advocates of social sciences. Their philosophies are based on the objectives of social science. Education of humanities as the subject matter of social sciences contribute to the strengthening of unity together with critical and analytical thinking. Networking of information is essential to the development of global movement. Social Science is not remain a mere topic. It has become a compulsory integrated part of each technical and professional degree curriculum now a days. A world of knowledge needs people who are able to integrate a variety of knowledge who come from different intellectual roots with its mutual dependency and mutual effects. It requires a range of binding institutions to work together.

Law is a social phenomena. In the same manner legal education curriculum treats humanities as a distinct conceptual field. Several branches of humanities deal with the origin and activities of human groups ranging from family, tribe, nation upto the relationship between nations. Subject matter of social science was studied long before the sciences themselves. Hence there is need to explore the

ideas to gain accurate perspectives of the world around. For better understanding of the society, issues regarding polity, economy, religion, law and moral trends have to be determined. Social sciences are the fields of academic scholarship that explore aspects of human society.

An acknowledged objective of social science is to develop rational and independent thoughts, through an emphasis on thinking skills, such as making judgemental results and, evaluating evidence recognizing values and detecting bias as well as drawing conclusions. The emphasis is on teaching of humanities to law students for the overall intellectual and social development of the students. Technology and social sciences are important in ensuring the maintenance and functioning of a stable society and to provide a better understanding of governance and various institutions.

1. Social sciences, *Columbian Cyclopedia*. (1897). Buffalo: Garretson, Cox & Company. Page 227

Law and society has mutual relationship as it is said that law is a social phenomena, with different methods, terminology, institutions, practices and processes. Law making can only be processed in respect of social actions. studies address the mutual relationship between law and society with its different actors, institutions, and processes. Law is created and put into practice through societal processes. Certainly law affects the social change. Both of them have a causal relationship. Law is further understood to constitute social institutions such as the polity, family, property, corporation, crime, even the individual. The study of law in respect of other specializations in the social sciences are thus closely interlinked. Social science experts contribute a lot to the field of law through various branches such as anthropology, cultural studies, history, jurisprudence, linguistics, philosophy, sociology, and political science etc. Law can only be understood in its association and interaction with other societal sectors.

Law, on other hand, is also understood to constitute various institutions of social life. These links can be explored for virtually all sectors of social life. For the areas of law in its relationship to religion, politics, health and the family, marriage law, women and child laws etc. Here several areas can be described to provide examples for the cases of organizations, culture and collective memory, the economy, markets, property rights, science and technology, social inequality, and human rights.

Law enforcement is only possible through institutions of various disciplines. Some of the laws have been emanated from social norms and traditions only. (1) These are known as Customary laws and certainly have ethical foundation. Law is applied in all the social institutions. (2) Legal policies and regulations are adapted by every single branch of social disciplines. Rule of Law is based on constitutional principles and in this way Law is politics. (3) Politicians play important role in

making of law. Law is philosophy too due to its moral and ethical approach. Law has historical base and long history to get evolved and developed. All the precedents, codification generated through the ages. (4) Economic principles and theories have been derived from and based on legal concepts. And in this way Law is Economics also. Company Law, Contract, distribution of wealth, taxation, Agreements, Insurance are various wings justified only on legal grounds. (5) In legal domain needs proper drafting for which language and communication skills has very relevant role to play (6). It is significant in respect of interpretation, case laws, judgements, legal reports (7).

Social Sciences are also referred as policy making disciplines, concerning with matters of social national wellbeing in their professional capacities with that much surety and certainty as in any of the physical sciences. In Law programmes, interdisciplinary studies are dedicated to provide excellence in legal education. It includes

1. Robertson, Geoffrey (2006). "Crimes Against Humanity". Penguin. p. 90. ISBN978-0-14-102463-9.
2. Hart, H.L.A (1961) "The Concept of Law" Oxford University Press. ISBN0-19-876122-8
3. Dwarkin, Ronald (1986). "Law's Empire". Harvard University Press. ISBN0-674-51836-5
4. Raz, Joseph(1979). "The Authority of Law." Oxford University Press. ISBN0-19-956268-7
5. Austin John (1831) "The Providence of Jurisprudence Determined".
6. see Etymonline Dictionary
7. see Merriam- Webster's Dictionary personal growth, civil awareness and unique learning experiences with offer of cutting edge programs relevant to the needs of Lawyers. It is very much desirable for law students to focus and have broad exposure to the very complex and interdisciplinary programmes. These will provide students centred - learning opportunities to explain phenomenon, solve problems, create new knowledge or to raise new questions, which would have been unlikely through single discipline. In Law Institutes each programme with new methodology in non-Law subjects, each stream helps in culminating in a capstone experience that offers to the students opportunities for research, internship and innovations.

Social Sciences are the fields of academic scholarship that explore aspects of human society. Natural Science distinguishes the scientific methods to study nature from the methods of social sciences. Methodology may be different to assess and to view science and social sciences but in the 20th century very positive explosion

is evident in both of them. A spectacular diffusion is visible in sciences both physical and social. Hegemonic shift from sciences to social science. (1)

Outstanding feature of social sciences is the presence of cross disciplinary fusion within a single ambit. The techniques of one social science can be seen consciously incorporated into another or into several social sciences. "Another characteristic of each of the social sciences in the 20th century was its professional approach. Without exception, the social science has become bodies of not merely research and teaching but also innovations in medicine, engineering, management or law. Until World War II, there were rarely sociologists, economists and psychologists, and number of bankers, industrialists, were relatively little. All has been changed profoundly on a vast scale. During the late 20th Century a number of sociologists, political scientists, economists are found rising in government, industries and private practices constantly."(2)

Role of social science nearly includes all aspects of life and it has also become a major focus of recent researches. Its participatory and transformative potential are visibly enthusiastic in each and every faculty of education.. Social scientists have certainly wide approach in different directions and are increasingly working across the disciplines with technological, legal and management etc.They offer new ways of studies and new dimensions of research.

Likewise, law in interdisciplinary approach should not be viewed as only a set of legal rules, principles, or doctrines to be taught simply by developing it from different fields of society. The operators of the legal system, whether judges, lawyers, prosecutors, or administrative agency officials, activate legal rules, principles, or doctrines in their due course of their roles and functions. They are directed by the requirements of various aspects of society

1. Law and Society by Joachim J.Savelsberg, And Lara L. Cevaland
2. Hull, Kathleen. 2006. Same-sex marriage: The cultural politics of love and law. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

and different human activities. Formal legal institutions like courts, legislatures, law-enforcement organizations, or administrative agencies, have been created for certain functions to perform for maintaining discipline in the society. Institutions of diverse interests –legal or non-legal have some common elements which show their interdependence. Interinstitutional interactions involve a lot of effort at coupling these structural elements across institutional boundaries. A major challenge for the inter disciplinarians is to find out the diverse connections and linkages between them by educating law students accordingly. In this way they can consider various elements concerning human beings as individual and society as a whole. Legal personnel could measure the impact on societal goals by assessing the impact of this dependency and also observe human actions and behavior.

Legal system reflects all the energy of life within any society. Law has the complex vitality of a living organism. In other words, they change as per the changing scenario and requirement of the society. The purpose of law is to maintain discipline. Law is intended to move society towards a particular direction. Law is a social science characterized by movement and adaptation. Rules are neither created nor applied in a vacuum. Rules are created and used time and again for a purpose. Rules are intended to move society in a certain direction that is assumed as good. Violation of the set rules is believed to be bad. Law is enforced by the State. The objective of law is to bring order in the society so that its members can progress and develop with requisite security regarding the future.

One major aspect is that all social science subjects may be utilized as troubleshooters and problem solvers as well. They pose the societal changes, which need to be taken care by rules and regulations and to apply to repair and modify the processes. Troubleshooting is needed to develop and maintain complex systems where the symptoms of a problem can have many possible causes. Various branches of social science are responsible to highlight what law is expected to fulfill. Troubleshooting is used in many fields such as economy, polity culture, society and many more. Finally, through branches of social science course it is confirmed whether solution restores the process to its working state after implementations or not. In this way problems are initially described through social science as symptoms of malfunction, and there are processes of determining and remedying the causes of these symptoms through law.

Knowledge has become important markers of the transition to a new regime of law and social science combination. For example history, as a subject, matters a lot as what is learnt from previous social transformations. History is the continuous, systematic narrative research on the past human events. It would definitely improve information and quality of social justice. All the subjects within social science raises how law can give shape to society within the different disciplines. It is also to notify how relevant the social science as objects of social research and how legal knowledge been taken up in the development of economy of a country. The humanities generally incorporate study of local traditions, their history, literature, music and arts, with an emphasis on understanding of individuals, approach and individual perspective. "The social sciences have developed scientific methods and techniques, distinct from those of the natural sciences, to understand social phenomena and to get objectivity in results. Likewise economic principles and theories have been increasingly applied in recent decades to other social situations such as, polity, psychology, history, religion, marriage and family life, and other social aspects." (1)

"Fields and subfields of political science include political economy, political theory, philosophy, civics and comparative politics, theory of direct democracy, political governance, participatory direct democracy, national systems, cross-

national political analysis, political development, international relations, foreign policy, international law politics, public administration, administrative behavior, public law, judicial behavior, and public policy. Political science also studies power in international relations and the theory of great powers and superpowers. Political science is methodologically diverse, although recent years have witnessed an upsurge in the use of the scientific method, "(2)

The fact that law secures its domination and authority through normative closure denies the commonality of discourses of social science. Institutional strength of law hampers access to empirical material, question the relevance of sociological insights into legal reasoning. A discipline that places more emphasis on quantitative "rigor" may produce practitioners who think of themselves (and their discipline) as "more scientific" than others; in turn, colleagues in "softer" disciplines may associate quantitative approaches with an inability to grasp the broader dimensions of a problem. An interdisciplinary program may not succeed if its members remain stuck in their disciplines (and in disciplinary attitudes). On the other hand, and from the disciplinary perspective, much interdisciplinary work may be seen as "soft," lacking in rigor, or ideologically motivated; these beliefs place barriers in the career paths of those who choose interdisciplinary work.

The most common complaint regarding interdisciplinary programme the lack of synthesis-that is students are provided with multiple disciplinary perspective but are not given effective guidance in resolving the conflicts and achieving a coherent view of the subject. At Amity Law School, more emphasis is given on interdisciplinary approach and students are taught to what extent social science subjects may be supplement to legal studies .Students are encouraged to pool their thoughts, club ideas and modify their approaches through various means such as legal aid clinics, workshops on entrepreneurship, symposiums and panel discussions with interdisciplinary perspectives. Recently

1. Lazear, E. P. (2000). "Economic Imperialism". *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115: 99-146
2. "humanity" 2.b, *Oxford English Dictionary* 3rd Ed. (2003)

Model Parliamentary debate was organized where students discussed latest issues of national importance with its legal aspects. Hence efforts are made here to make law students better citizens .They are better suited to the problem at hand including the courses where students are required to understand a given subject in terms of multiple traditional disciplines.

The legal function has now become a strategic one. "Today, those who are running businesses need to have a deep understanding of the regulations of changing environment, because many fields - telecoms, insurance, and aviation - are highly regulated". Amity Law School, like has given lot of attention to enhance

the potential of a combination of law and business qualifications. The Legal Management (or Legal studies) is a discipline that includes the State and its elements, Society at large, Law Practice, Legal Research and Jurisprudence, legal Philosophy, Criminal Justice, Governance, Government structure, Political history and theories, Business Organization and Management, Entrepreneurship, Public Administration and Human Resource Development. Course structure has been framed to bridge a crucial gap, and create synergies by bringing management and law together. "In any BBALLB. course, management skills are taught properly as it is understood that without a thorough grasp of company, labour, industrial and commercial law, graduates may not have a wholesome view of the relevant matters.."There's certainly the need to have knowledge of both management and law, to excel in sectors of marketing, sales, supply chain, and also in intellectual activities. The Legal Management Professionals are encouraged and commonly working as Legal Researchers, Paralegal and Political Analyst, Public Administrator, Policy Analyst, Business Manager, Entrepreneur, Social Entrepreneur, Human Resource Managers and several other related field of studies.

In the same manner in B.Com LLB., commerce and law courses integrated provides a sound understanding of the business world in respect of legal operations. This course combination put emphasis on case study approach. After attaining in depth knowledge of the field, foundation will be laid down in various business disciplines. This provides a career in a wide range of organizations, government services, legal aid, media, law reforms etc. Courses with the combined study of law and commerce provides ample of job prospects ranging from being a professional accountant, IT and system professionals, economists, financial planner, human resource manager, social and economic policy developer, international trade officer Real estate manager and taxation .Through this inter discipline segment, students will understand a different facets of corporate world. Students of law programme are motivated enough to demonstrate the disciplinary issue in various context of local and global nature.

Law Institutes have conceptualized social science education and concept of interdisciplinary teaching -learning methods. The goal of imparting law education in Indian legal education is to inculcate and develop ability of logic with sensitization about social issues. It is also proposed to articulate the participation of all in teaching - learning and in planning, management, and decision making. In law institutes, always it is considered as important to contribute to the strengthening of unity, involvement, harmony, honesty, creativity, critical and analytical thinking and commitment to accept changes and challenges. This diversified tasking is not feasible without the support of interdisciplinary approach. Law programs should offer in this way new perspectives and new ways of understanding law.

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