

## CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY IN INDIA

Adishree Singh<sup>1</sup>, Richa Dwivedi<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Symbiosis Law School, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, India

<sup>2\*</sup> Email: richa.dwivedi@symlaw.ac.in

### Abstract

Constitutional Literacy simply put means knowledge and education on and about the Constitution and the laws set in place for citizens of a nation. This article focuses on and analyzes the concept and status of Constitutional literacy in India. The research in this article emphasizes Constitutional literacy, its ambit, and its current relevance and standing in Indian society. An empirical research has also been conducted upon the same. The above-mentioned concepts are traced highlighting the present scenario, room for growth and possible structuration as well as the prospective benefits of the same. This article throws light upon the topic with special reference to its relevance in Rural India and furthermore analyzes data collected through surveying and interviewing individuals from different echelon of society.

This article analyzed an important question as to whether or not a constitution meant for all is actually in a position where it can be understood by all. A few recommendations have also been laid down by the researcher to possibly provide a solution in lieu of the existing rhetorical questions which shall be raised.

**Key words:** Constitutional Literacy, Education, Schools, Rural India, Clarity, Problems, Mandates, Empirical Study, Current Scenario, Solutions

### Introduction

India is a democratic country by which it means that in our political setup we follow the system of “government of the people, by the people and for the people.” By venturing into the Constitution assembly debates it is abundantly evident that when the forefathers were drafting the constitution, it was being drafted keeping in mind that it must be a document which covers the needs and rules for all citizens of India minus any bias or discrimination. Therefore, simply put, the constitution is the document which highlights a set of rules that guides how the country state or any other political organisation works. It also details what the branches of government are, what powers they have, and how they work. It also states the rights of the citizens.

The Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. This therefore puts into question, that if the document was drafted for all, is it not important for it to be brought to the knowledge and understanding of all. It plays an extremely important role in political activism and public argument in the country. Historian and lawyer Rohit De's *The People's Constitution*, he adds, shows that the Constitution was always owned by the people, and that it is not a document drafted by the elites for the people. (Rohit De, 2020)

In 1946, various men and women from a variety of intellectual backgrounds, and holding different ideas about the new nation, came together to form the Constituent Assembly (CA). However now, it can be seen that only a small sect of society seem to be aware of what it entails. Furthermore, most of these individuals seem to be associated with the highly educated class or those associated with the legal fraternity. What about the others? Is it important for the others to be educated on the same? The following questions will be addressed through this research paper.

Currently, under the constitution of India, Right to Education has been entailed under the three following parts:

- Fundamental Rights
- Fundamental Duties

- Directive Principles of State Policy

The 86<sup>th</sup> amendment added article 21-A which states that *“The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.”* (Indian Constitution, Art. 21A) The state is also under the duty to provide for free and compulsory basic education (Indian Constitution, Art. 42) and children be given opportunities for education (Indian Constitution, Art. 51A(k))

“The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act” or “Right to Education Act” are parliamentary enactments which describes the procedures and also explains the importance of free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. This Act makes it a right of every child to get education. (Vedanta Yadav et al., 2018) Right to education covers the ambit of primary school education for students between the ages of 6-14. In addition to this, education is mentioned in the form of religious education under the fundamental right to Right to Freedom of Religion.

As it can be seen, provisions have been made for primary education of children as well as for religious education but there is no provision in the constitution for adult literacy or constitutional literacy in particular. However, the constitution doesn't itself talk about its relevance and awareness in the people through education although the essence of understanding it has been indirectly incorporated through part IV of the constitution or directive principles of state policy (DPSP).

The following fundamental duties are relevant to the same:

**“51A. Fundamental duties.—***It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—*

*(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;*

*(b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;*

*(c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;*

*(k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.”*

However, even then it can be seen that while it is a duty for the state to provide an opportunity for education as well as a duty to ‘cherish the noble ideals and institutions’ of the country, there is no mandate for it to be essential to have knowledge of what the constitution says in its entirety. The empirical study shows that 60% people out of the sample of 240 from varied backgrounds have studied about the Constitution. This has been graphically represented in the below chart.

Have you ever opened the constitution or read even an extract or article of it?  
240 responses

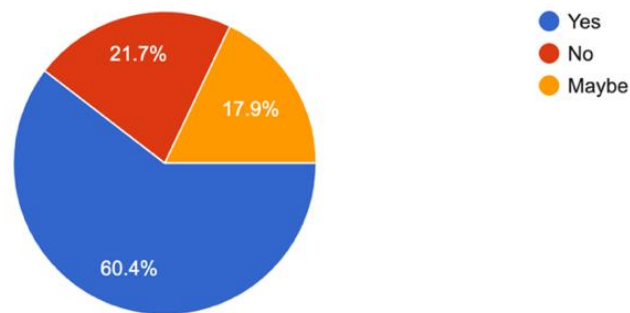


Fig. 1

### **Ambit of Constitutional Literacy**

The ambits of Constitutional literacy are fairly simple to understand. It aims at instilling knowledge of the Constitution amongst the citizens of a nation. While it is understandable that most of the constitution may be beyond comprehensibility of most of the Indian population and its awareness may not be relevant for everyday life or usage, some parts such as the topics stated below are of utmost importance for everyone to have awareness of. This may possibly cover the following topics:

- History of its evolution
- Ideologies of its framers
- The basic principles of the Constitution
- Basic structure of the state
- Fundamental rights
- Fundamental Duties
- What is sought to be achieved, Directive Principles of State Policy
- Secularism and faith
- Gender equality
- Freedom of individuals
- Basic Criminology
- Measures and steps that need to be taken to file a criminal complaint/police report/FIR
- Process of filing a case
- Correct Authorities that should be approached for various scenarios

Awareness of due rights and duties helps with the holistic growth and development of citizens which furthermore assists with ease of deliverance in the justice system. If there is more understanding of our laws, there will also be more sympathising and respect for them. Social justice was the foundation of democracy. Only by protecting the Constitution can democracy be protected.

### **Incorporation of Constitutional Literacy in Curriculum**

As mentioned earlier, a provision for constitution literacy has not been directly incorporated. There is no structural approach in place, however, to say that it is not being touched upon in even parts would be incorrect. While there are textbooks that inform students about the drafting process, they are largely limited to class XI and XII humanities students. The content of these textbooks is also often manipulated by the ruling regime.<sup>i</sup> () However, even if it is not taught as a subject or course as such, it has indirectly been incorporated in the education system in the following ways:

#### **1.1 Primary Education Level**

At the primary education level, the only way in which constitutional education seems to be incorporated is through History and Civics. Even then, the subject is covered at an extremely basic level without much attention to detail. No national, state or local education board in the country has formally incorporated formalised learning related to the subject at the moment. However, some schools are taking it into their own garb. Schools such as the Inventure Academy on Whitefield-Sarjapur Road has formulated a curriculum for eight years that teaches its students rights and duties enshrined in the Constitution. “This is taught to children from Class 5 onwards every year in the first term. We use case studies to make them understand how some Constitutional provisions are violated and what their role is to ensure they are dutiful citizens,” said Radhika Surendran, a founding faculty member at the school. (Economic Times, 2015)

When the high school level or class 11 and 12 is reached, then the form in which constitutional education is incorporated is through political science and history, both being optional, humanities subjects. When various students of different schools from across the country were asked what according to them were the constant ways that the constitution was incorporated into their school lives, the three most common answers that were received were:

- a. Through Student Council/ Student Government Elections
- b. Through celebration of Constitution Day
- c. Through Model United Nations, which helped with understanding the structure of governance.

All three being practical applications. No theoretical incorporations seem to have stood out. However, it must be noted that these three answers were summarised by interviewing students primarily of private schools or schools located in metropolitans. To broaden my research, I interviewed a few students of a local government school in Gurgaon, Haryana. When asked of what they are learning or have learned about the constitution, the answer seemed to be near nothing. Due to paucity of time and lack of uniformity in their classes, what usually happens is that since civics is an addition to the primary subject of history, many times the civics portion is omitted as it isn't considered to be as relevant as the rest of the topics. As a result, the understanding and knowledge of constitutional studies is scarce. While constitution day is still celebrated, it is often witnessed that the execution is lackadaisical. Therefore, there isn't much learning that is happening.

Backing this notion, an ex-journalism student interviewed had the following to say; “Constitutional studies, I feel, the government tries/tried with civics being a subject in primary school and Political Science being another in high school but I feel they've failed in actually explaining laws, and or incorporating the important ones. To be honest, the only rights I remember out of school, as sad as it may be, are Right to Education and Right to Information. If the way civics at school level is taught, with more interactive sessions and less practical ones, that might be a step in the right direction.” Moving forth, it shall be seen, this sentiment is echoed by many.

Do you think it is necessary for constitutional studies to be a mandate at the primary education level?

240 responses

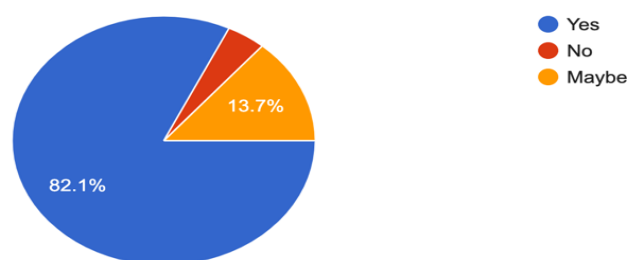


Fig. 2

The study shows that 82% respondents were in favour of incorporating Constitutional studies at Primary Level. It is important so that the constitutional spirit is inculcated amongst the people from the very early age. Also, the students will be aware of their rights.

Do you think that if it is made mandatory, citizens will have a better understanding and grasp of their rights?

240 responses

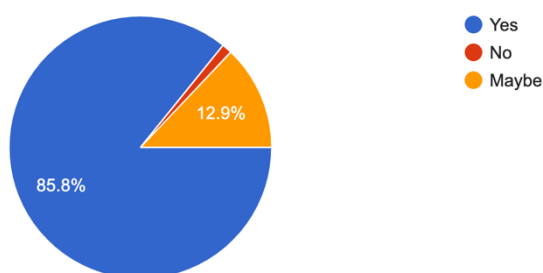


Fig. 3

## 1.2 Higher Education Level

At the higher studies level, the key fraternity when constitutional literacy has been fully incorporated naturally is the legal education field. When it comes to the constitution of India, many students at the higher education level believe it to be 'boring' and 'irrelevant.' After conducting research and interviews, the trend I witnessed was that student pursuing higher education in fields such as journalism, law, psychology, sociology, history, and liberal arts seem to be the most interested and keen in venturing into constitutional knowledge. The two possible reasons when asked why seemed to be:

- The student in the past was a humanities student and when exposed to topics in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, found them interesting to dwell into
- It was still relevant to the career they are pursuing

The first part is what seemed to be interesting and of importance. Students in almost all fields are exposed to some amount of constitutional literacy as part of their higher studies curriculum, most commonly by exploring

and studying the laws associated to their field. For example, in economics, taxation laws are ventured into. However, these students don't seem to be invested in gaining more knowledge on the constitution and the laws in place. The key variable seems to be the fact that they were not exposed to it in detail at the high school level. Therefore, it leads one to wonder, if more exposure is meted out at that level to all students, will it make a significant and viable difference?

On November 25, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the need for school and college students to read aloud the preamble of the constitution to understand its real-life importance. However, nothing concrete has been implemented on this till now. Infact, several humanities courses are being shut down, due to 'fund-crunches.' (*The Wire*, 2018) The University Grants Commission set out on a quest to ensure that all colleges in the country are laudable in their attempt to celebrate constitution day but again, like at the primary schooling level, many institutions fall short, and this seems to be the key factor in putting across constitutional literacy unanimously at the higher education level.

### **State Constitutional Literacy Programmes**

At present, Kerala can be seen to be the only state in India which promoted the importance on constitutional literacy in a wide spread way. Education minister, C. Ravindranath at the inauguration of the programme said, "The Constitution is the base for our unity. The safety and security of the future generations are dependent on this document. At a time when the Constitutional values are under attack, it is the duty our every Indian to take Constitution literacy to the masses." (*The Hindu*, 2020) He also added that it is his firm belief that celebrating diversity through a secular culture will prove to be the real strength of India. The State Literacy Mission which was responsible for programme, produced a handbook entailing the basic constitutional principles. It includes excerpts from the Preamble, fundamental rights and duties of the citizen in a simple language, and many illustrations to make it more appealing. The history of formulation was also dwelled into as part of the programme structure. A minimum of 50 lakh people were expected to be covered under the initiative. It was started in lieu of giving individuals constitutional awareness due to the amount of debates surrounding the Sabrimala Case in 2018. The programme saw success as a result of which a second phase was launched in January 2020. It was conducted by hosting a series of lectures on various different topics. An interview was conducted with a student of The Choice School Kerala, who assisted and volunteered with the initiative and her take on it was, "I really saw it help a tremendous amount of people, and I saw how beautifully adults got a grasp on concepts which are otherwise very hard for everyone to understand. It was simplified to an extent where it for convenient to understand and learn but at the same time intensively informative."

In India, it has by far been the only state project of the kind to be conducted on such a large scale and both phases were seen to be successful. It is worth considering that if it has been tried and tested as successful in one state, similar results may be seen in others if a step is launched towards the same.

### **Data Analysis**

Constitutional Literacy in the context of Rural India is a topic which has to thoroughly be analysed. After researching the sample group, the topic can be addressed in the following manner:

#### **5.1 School and Primary Education System**

In Rural India, in the context of constitutional illiteracy, the first topic that may be identified is in relation to the school and primary education system. For research purposes, a sample group of students from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra were spoken to. When asked about how much they had studied and knew of the constitution of India, the students were not very familiar or confident. They had in school learned of its history and significance. "The constitution is where all the rules are," is what one of the girls had to say. When asked what else is there, she seemed to be unaware. Out of the two schools that the students belonged to, the students of one school seemed more well equip to answer the questions asked than the other. They were aware of the fact that not only is the constitution where the rules and regulations are written, but it also tells us our duties and

responsibilities. They were also aware of the fact that there are certain authorities in place to decide the right from wrong and the law cannot be taken into one's own hands. Maybe by mere coincidence but unlike the other school, this is school takes part in proper celebrations on occasions such as republic day, independence day as well as constitution day. One of the faculty members at the school when asked why responded by saying, "Unless students get a practical feel of what it is that is being taught, they get bored and loose concentration. The constitution and associated studies as you can understand are rather complicated in nature and can be simplified only to a certain extent. Therefore, to properly explain their message, it is important to provide a practical feel and experience, especially for small students." She also added that as all students in one class are at different levels of reading, writing and comprehending abilities, it is harder for them to get a theoretical grasp, therefore, practical experiences help a lot. Therefore, it can be seen that celebrating a day commemorating a day dedicated to our constitution does seem to help in this case. However, when the survey group was asked for their opinion, this was the response received:

Do you think alternate methods of creating awareness such as 'constitution day' are sufficient?  
 237 responses

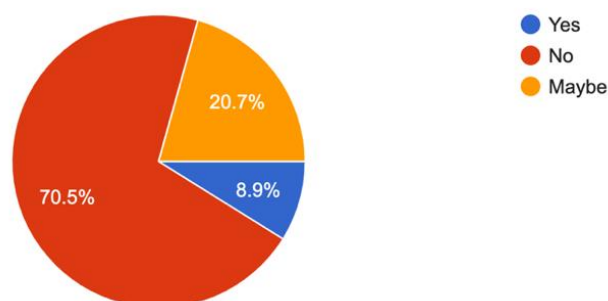


Fig. 4

70.5% of the 237 responses believed the contrary. However, since the survey group is a population primarily urban in nature, it is possible that the stark contrast between the urban and rural population in India requires the topic of constitutional literacy to be addressed in polar opposites. As stated earlier, most schools and curriculums in cities feel that more emphasis needs to be given to developing a theoretical approach as the primary basic knowledge has been set and is intact. A more detail oriented approach must be adopted. However, since many students in rural India struggle will achieving a strong basis, it is harder for them to try and grasp a more detailed oriented approach. The inevitable way forwards is adapting to a practical approach as it seems to be more effective.

Here it is also important to notice a keen problem which stands out. This approach depends from school to school. It has been mentioned a few times now that when it comes to practical approaches being carried forward, many institutions get lacklustre and feel that organising is a waste of time and resources. Therefore the question must be raised, if there is no solid theoretical basis and half-hearted implementation of practical methods, then how will constitutional literacy not fall behind? Is this one of the possible reasons why it is important for the government to step in and mandate the incorporation of constitutional studies formally to ensure that the literacy levels remains sufficient and on the rise. This is the opinion of the survey group.

## 5.2 Adult Literacy

Adult literacy is the second topic that may be identified in the context of Rural India. In rural India, education and literacy levels amongst adults is significantly low. The quality of education in rural schools is dismal, on average. Among 14-18-year-olds surveyed by the Aser teams, only 43% could solve a class IV mathematics

problem. More than that percentage could not locate their state on a map of India. Twenty-seven percent of 14-year-olds, and 21% of 18-year-olds could not read a class II textbook in the regional language, and more than 40% in each age group could not read a simple sentence in English.(Aniruddh Krishna, 2018)

When the sample group, a group of 31 adults were asked, how much do you know about the constitution and are you aware of your rights, a common answer that echoed amongst many if not most was that, due to shortage of time, such matters seem too trivial to dwell into as most of our time goes into earning a living. In case of any disputes, the panchayat is approached as it seems to be the quickest and ‘most effective and binding’ authority present. Many individuals believe that they don’t need to possess the knowledge to fight for their own rights when the panchayat is capable of doing the same. However, this is not the same with all. Many just believe that the situation does not permit them to take time out to gain the knowledge. It is far more essential for them to work for their earnings. Another sad opinion that was echoes is that a few believed that knowing their rights and laws would not make a difference as everything depends on the economic standing of the parties involved. The triumphant party that will emerge will be the economically affluent one or the one with the higher societal standing. The opinion of the survey group is as follows:

If you agree with the statement above, do you think this can be reformed through citizens having sufficient knowledge of the law to identify the right from wrong  
 240 responses

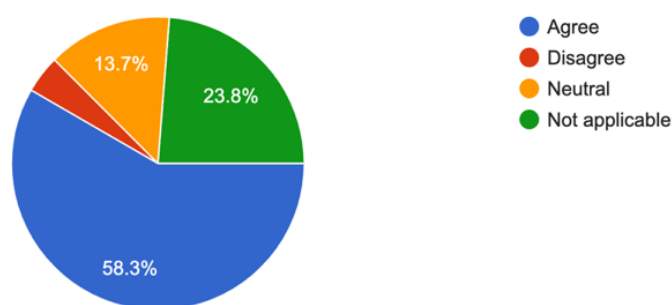


Fig. 5

If the response of the survey group is examined, 58.3% of the 240 individuals believe that the way out of the plight of the individuals is in fact what they believe to be not a relevant solution. One of the surveyed individuals was of the opinion, “The worst is that critical thinking is not taught anywhere in our country. Reasoning is something that is only for the privileged. The rest make do with what they can. Oftentimes this leads to deception, and can create a loop of negative feedback.”

As mentioned before, if the example of Kerala is taken, the state successfully held an adult constitutional literacy programme twice for lakhs of individuals. The programme was successful and had a massive out reach. Coincidentally, the state also has the highest literacy rate in the country. If one state is capable of pulling off a programme associated with constitutional literacy at such a large scale, it is important to note that it is not impossible for other states to do the same. A central or state government mandated scheme to aid with the same may be useful.

As it can be seen above, more than half the surveyed group believe that a government mandate on the same would be beneficial.

### 5.3 Reasons for Low Constitutional Literacy Rate



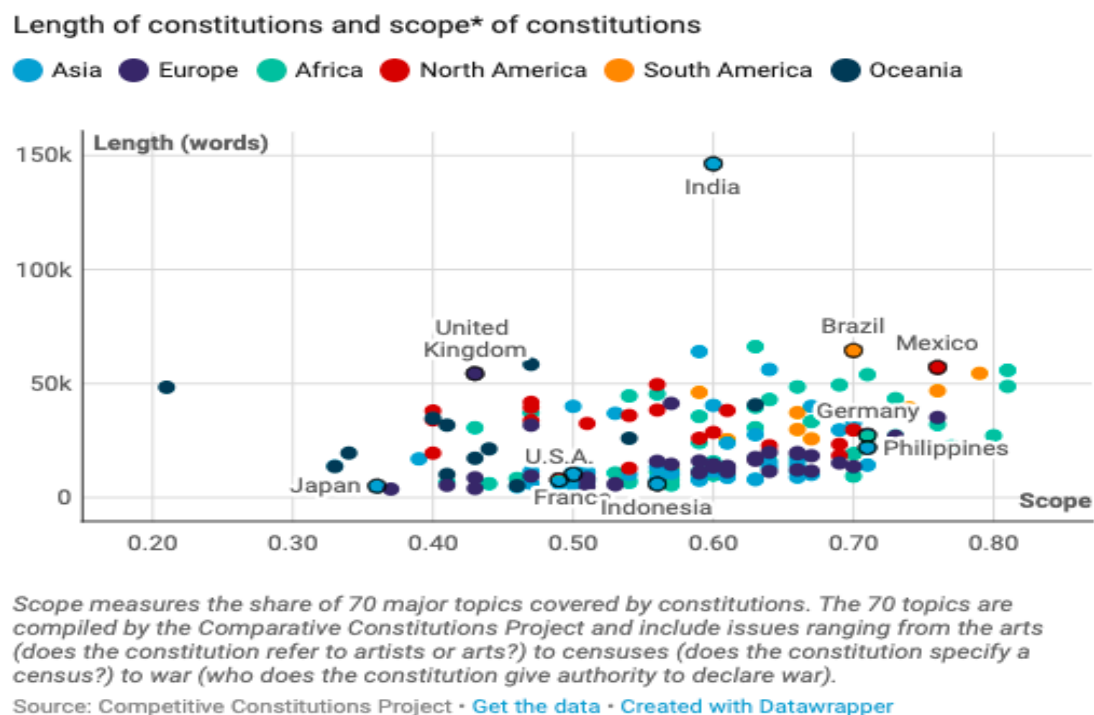
An aspect which is greatly in discussion and debate now days is, since the constitution is so intricately worded, is it too difficult and complicated to be understood for the layman?

Even though several translations of the constitution are available, sometimes individuals get lost in the attempt of trying to understand and de-word it. When individuals of the survey group were asked if the constitution was too hard to understand, this was the response:

If too much complexity is involved, it is not hard to imagine why it is an area of study which is not dwelled into often. "It gets too heavy and boring to understand sometimes," said a second year engineering student when asked why there was no interest in the field. "Often times, even while sitting and studying, the words seem like a different language to me. I'm a law student, I have finished two years of college and still it is too hard sometimes. I cannot imagine how one can expect everyone to understand and comprehend the text when so many of us studying it on a daily basis can't," said a third year law student.

An important question to be raised is, is such complexity required?

Examining the picture below(Vishnu Prabandhan & Pooja Dantewadia, 2020) it can be seen:



The Indian Constitution is much longer than the example of some of the other constitutions stated, however, it is not the most detailed and extensive despite its length. Sometimes its essence or message is lost in the intricacy of the language. However, it is not impossible for it to be simplified.

Taking an example, The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy is one body which has dwelled into research on the same. Mr.Arghya Sengupta, one of the founders of the august body, in one of his lectures talked about how simplification of the constitution would in no way change its meaning or significance, but would ease understanding amongst the masses and also speed up the justice delivery process which is very delayed. It is worth looking into that if there is more understanding of the text amongst the people, it would lead to an increase in its knowledge and intern help individuals get a grasp of what it is that their legal standing in society is. Delay of justice is a major problem, or crisis that the Indian Judicial System is suffering with at the moment, and steps such as increasing constitutional knowledge amongst the masses may be useful in creating more awareness. When the surveyed group was asked its opinion on the same, the answers received were as follows:

"A constitution written for all should be read and understood by all"

240 responses

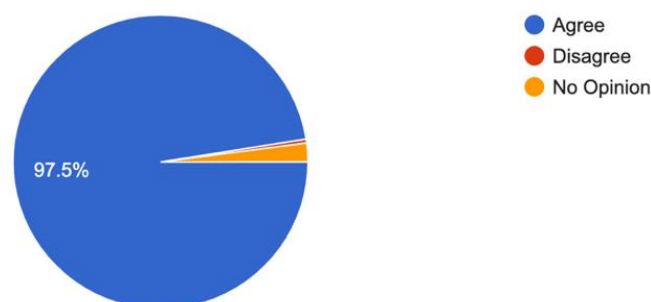


Fig. 6

While amending the constitution on a large level to improve understanding is not necessary or feasible, it is possible for other methods to be employed. Going back to Kerala's literacy programme, as a part of their programme, they prepared a brochure simplifying the text, illustrated with many images and examples easy to associate with to distribute to everyone as part of the initiative. It is a simple but efficient way to create involvement and understanding while putting across the message in an easy manner. Therefore, simplification can seem as an important step to boost constitutional literacy.

#### 5.4 Mandating Constitutional Literacy

Constitutional Literacy looks to be seemingly low in India, and this opinion is held by the majority as well. The question of whether or not it should be mandated strikes as an important one. At present, since it is not mandated, the rates seem to be quite low and scarcely on the rise. While Mr. Modi has mentioned wanting to compulsorily add constitutional studies to different curriculums, the same has not been done yet. At present, in the urban scenario, barring history and civics and political science at the high school level, the only other methods which have been adopted to incorporate constitutional studies is celebration of special days and practical applications such as elections and model united nations. This however is not very extensive in nature as most individuals interviewed, who had graduated school could barely remember anything beyond their fundamental rights. There is no retention of what has been taught. At the college level, there is paucity of knowledge which is given attention to unless the course demands it in respect to the chosen field.

In the rural scenario, the situation seems to be even more abysmal as the bare minimum levels of constitutional literacy are being achieved. The very basics are being scarcely touched upon and there is extremely lacklustre execution. The principal of a government school in Kolkata when interviewed was of the opinion, "When we are barely able to manage the syllabus in the regular curriculum because it takes time for our students to catch up, additional studies such as that of the constitution take a back seat. We are required to help our students prepare for their academics first, however, whenever we get free time, in the format of exercises and GK charts, we do try to incorporate it as much as possible."

Nearly, 70% of the people surveyed believe that it is absolutely feasible for constitutional studies to formally be incorporated in a structured manner. And 85% agreed that if it is mandated then citizens will have better understanding of their rights. Further, if asked if the government can mandate it, the following result was received:

Realistically speaking, do you feel that incorporation of constitutional studies in a structured manner is feasible?

240 responses

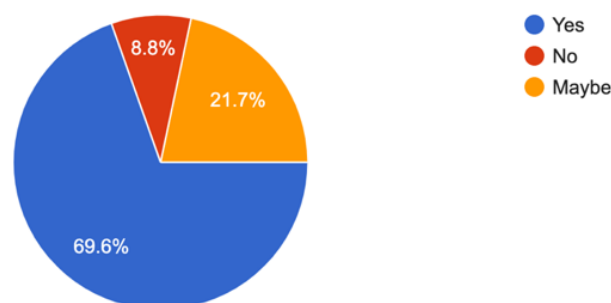


Fig. 7

Do you think that if it is made mandatory, citizens will have a better understanding and grasp of their rights?

240 responses

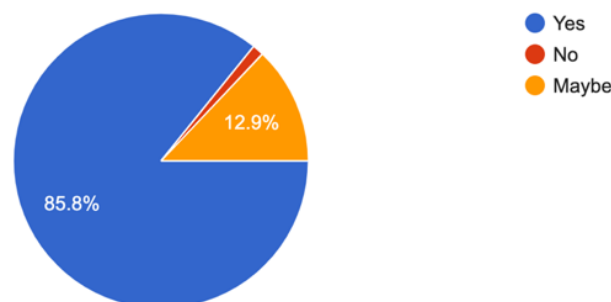


Fig. 8

If the two results are combined, it can be seen that majority believe that the government is capable of mandating constitutional education in India in a structured manner and it will be a welcomed move. Considering the fact that the literacy levels are so low in the current scenario, leaving the situation up to free will doesn't seem to be providing the desired results. Maybe a mandated push is required to push the through of constitutional literacy in the correct direction.

If a structured programme is put into place, it may provide uniformity which will aid understanding as to what needs to be achieved by increasing knowledge amongst people on this topic. Leaving it up to choice seems to be providing haphazard results which is leading to an ambiguous execution. Having a clear cut approach will lead to achieving desired results and will aid in achieving the constitutional literacy levels that are required.

Putting into place a curriculum which entails topics such as those that have been listed under 'ambits of constitutional literacy' in this paper will duly help this process. Enforcing it at the high school level and higher studies level in a strict detail oriented manner may help assimilate the knowledge amongst the youth. Having sympathy with the ideologies enshrined is of utmost important in now's day and time. It is the need of the hour.

Enforcing constitutional literacy as a subject or topic will not only increase awareness and knowledge but will aid holistic development of citizens and most importantly help instil certain discipline and finesse. It will help with the evolvement to responsible, dutybound citizens. It will also help individuals sympathise with the thoughts and framework of those who preceded while instilling pride in the culture and heritage behind its framing. In today's time, it is important to live with kindness, gratitude and respect to promote the growth of society and constitutional literacy is one area of study which can immensely aid with this. Finally, since it helps foster and help individuals grow, get in touch with and develop their fundamental duties, it will individually and holistically bring India closer as a country by helping the citizens work up making the directive principles of state policy (DPSPs), a reality. Therefore, it will help promote the sense of brotherhood and unity that the forefathers and framers envisioned through their ideologies and words.

As it can be observed from the responses that 90% of the 240 people of the survey group said that they would have personally liked to have been exposed to constitutional studies to increase their literacy in the area. If it is a sought after field of study, and will help with the holistic growth of society, its pursual is worth considering. It may hold great growth potential for the Indian community.

Would you personally have liked to be exposed to constitutional studies to increase your literacy in the area?  
240 responses

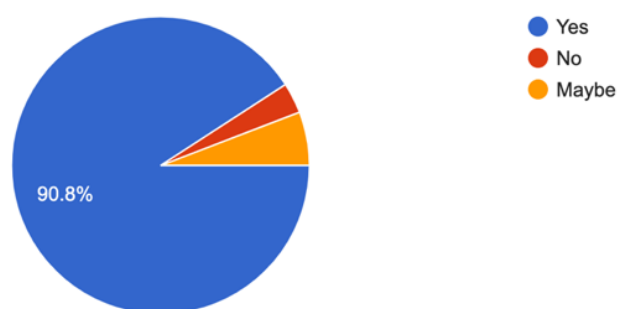


Fig. 9

## Conclusion

On a concluding note, the topic of constitutional literacy in India needs to effectively be addressed. We must play a more pro-active role by using mediums of advertising, announcements, awareness camps in villages and making the bare text of the constitution available in more vernacular forms. Including Constitutional Law as a subject in primary education will serve the purpose for the future educated population. However, it must be noted that it leaves a void for the generally uneducated citizens who have passed the age of primary education or persons in authority like the police and persons occupying positions of authority in Gram Panchayats or even Lok Adalat's, etc. They require this awareness in a timely manner, and require mediums of information about citizen's rights and liberties. We must make efforts to reach out and educate them on the same.

It is imperative that we are aware of our rights and understand the depth of the constitution of India which surely stands as a beacon of light and knowledge capable of being imparted to people who have limited access to education. National literacy has to be accorded top most priority by both Central and State Governments and in addition to curriculum based learning and development, it is important for us to recognise and imbibe the foundation our country is built on. Uplifting our levels of constitution literacy should be a method to uplift the nation. For the holistic development of our country, and providing everyone their due rights, a step must be

taken in this direction to ensure that we are in fact a democracy. Therefore, it is important for us to welcome constitutional literacy with open arms, so that everyone is aware of why, they are meant to be an equal.

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16/06/2020

Survey on Constitutional Literacy

## Survey on Constitutional Literacy

Hi! As many of you may know, our constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. It has detailed all that is important for the governance of the citizens of India. I am doing a study and writing a paper on how much knowledge and understanding the citizens of India have of the constitution and whether or not it is comprehensible for the layman or those not affiliated with the legal fraternity. Please answer these few short questions. Thank you!

**\* Required**

### 1. Age Group \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 10-20  
☐ 20-30  
☐ 30-40  
☐ 40-50  
☐ 50+

### 2. Occupation \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ School Student  
☐ College Student  
☐ Working

### 3. Is your occupation related to the legal fraternity? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

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Survey on Constitutional Literacy

4. Have you ever opened the constitution or read even an extract or article of it? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

5. Do you think the language is too complicated or hard to comprehend? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

6. Do you think most people are aware of their rights and are sufficiently knowledgeable of what the constitution entails? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

7. Can you justify why you feel this way?

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Survey on Constitutional Literacy

8. Do you think it is necessary for constitutional studies to be a mandate at the primary education level? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

9. Do you think that if it is made mandatory, citizens will have a better understanding and grasp of their rights? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

10. What parts of the constitution do you feel are of utmost importance for everyone to be aware of?

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11. If constitutional awareness is increased, do you think it can help ease the delay of justice delivery in this country? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

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Survey on Constitutional Literacy

12. It is commonly said that in rural India, 'What the Panchayat declares to be the law is the Law,' Do you agree? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Agree  
☐ Disagree  
☐ Maybe

13. If you agree with the statement above, do you think this can be reformed through citizens having sufficient knowledge of the law to identify the right from wrong? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Agree  
☐ Disagree  
☐ Neutral  
☐ Not applicable

14. Do you think alternate methods of creating awareness such as 'constitution day' are sufficient?

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

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Survey on Constitutional Literacy

15. Realistically speaking, do you feel that incorporation of constitutional studies in a structured manner is feasible? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

16. If the government was to mandate it, do you feel that it would be a welcomed move? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

17. Would you personally have liked to be exposed to constitutional studies to increase your literacy in the area? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Maybe

18. "A constitution written for all should be read and understood by all" \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Agree  
☐ Disagree  
☐ No Opinion

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Survey on Constitutional Literacy

19. Please feel free to share any thoughts on inputs on the topic that you can or would like to. Thank you!

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