

PSYCHOLOGY OF JURIDICAL EDUCATION

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***ABSTRACT:** Psychology and the law are distinct disciplines of study. However, the study of psychology is important for the legal discipline, more particularly, criminal law. Criminal law employs terminologies associated with psychology which are integral for the constitution of offence-ingredients. The terminologies help the realization of the objectives of the criminal law. Considering the importance of psychology in legal discipline, the paper introduces the subject for the beginners of legal studies.*

***KEYWORDS:** Legal Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Psychological Jurisprudence.*

INTRODUCTION

Psychology and The Law are distinct disciplines. One studies human behavior while the other regulates it. But both aim for the betterment of society and enhancement of quality of living. Psychology is the science of mind and the behavior; it is the study of mind and behavior in relation to a particular field of knowledge or activity. The science of psychology provides a full and accurate explanation of human behavior while the famous legal jurist ‘Salmond’ defined law as “the body of principles recognized and applied by the state in the administration of justice”. He believed that law develops from popular practices of a society. Law evolves from customary practice prevailing in a community and it is also defined as a rule of conduct or action prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority. Law is the accumulation of rulings given by courts whereas psychology advances with the accumulation of data by scientists. Despite different psychological beliefs of people, the law is uniform for

all.

LAW AND PSYCHOLOGY

Legal rules, doctrines and procedures reflect basic assumptions about human behavior and their nature.

Psychology and law go hand in hand as the law is coded rules based on social psychology. Psychology and law is the scientific study of the effect of the law on individuals and the effect which individual have on the law. Without getting into the minds of the people, their usual practice, procedures, nature, want, beliefs and laying down the law to control them will eventually fail the entire legal system because the law is the product of its people's beliefs. The other side of it is Law demands consensus among the people, it takes into account the psychology of the majority of the people in the society, if the majority of individuals behave uniformly in the same type of situation that can be laid down as a law, binding for the whole society.

There are various ways psychology has the application in law and jurisprudence. One such branch is Legal Psychology that is basically, the application of psychological principles in the legal context. Legal psychology uses empirical research means to study issues that arise in the legal system. It helps to solve issues like eye witness accuracy, jury decision making, police selection, etc. Another branch of psychology is Forensic Psychology. Forensic Psychology often termed as clinical psychology involves the study of the mental state of mind, competency to stand trial, insanity or civil commitment, etc. Forensic psychology refers to professional practice by any psychologist working within any sub-discipline of psychology such as clinical, developmental, social and cognitive when applying the scientific, technical, or specialized knowledge of psychology to the law to assist in addressing legal, contractual, and administrative matters. Forensic

psychology is an integral part of the criminal investigation system.

JURISPRUDENCE AND PSYCHOLOGY

The study of founding ideas of law is jurisprudence. Jurisprudence is the knowledge of the law. The convergence of the study of jurisprudence and psychology is Psychological Jurisprudence. It is the area that aims to develop a platform on the philosophy of law and justice basing on psychological values.

Psychological jurisprudence is the use of psychology in the real realm and it relies on theories and methods of criminal justice and mental health to make decisions about intervention, policy, and programming. Psychological jurisprudence focuses more on understanding human motivation and human cognition and decision making.

CONCLUSION

The role played by legal and forensic psychology are beneficial for a health institution of administration of justice. These days psychologists are studying law as well to apply their knowledge in the legal system, to strengthen the legal system. If legal and psychological research recognizes the unique problems of the psychological study of law pose for, the objectives of both the disciplines shall be realized. At the last, the role of psychological scientists and their potential to overcome problems concerning law should always be hoped.

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