

Jobless Lawyers: Educated unemployment in India

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Getting the right to use the word 'Advocate' as Prefix before the name, by being enrolled in BC1 after successfully passing a 3 years/ 5 years degree of law is a matter of pride for every lawyer.

But, how this matter of pride is gradually transforming into a matter of dismay for many junior advocates?

Is there no more need of lawyers?

After perusing a graduate, master or any professional degree, every person expects to get a good job to earn for a living. But many such professional degree holders even after accomplishing their education with all hard work and dedication, are not able to get a good job as per their standard and qualifications. This is not only an issue of any particular city or state, in fact this is a global issue. The contributing factors to this high rate of unemployment are largely due to the lack of job opportunities and also includes other factors like limited or no work experience, increasing size of population etc.

Today I am writing this article to throw a light on a very dismal situation of advocates in India, specially the junior advocates. I remember my boss telling us about his 1994 LL.B passed out batch "In 1994 about 300 students in their batch had become law graduates by a recognised university. 90% of them were enrolled at BCI and got a license to practice law in the same year. Few of them started working in some points on institutions, some other had started their practice in courts. But currently in 2020, only 15 to 20 of them are practicing as advocates and rest of others have left the litigation work.

I was really amazed after listening to this. But when I entered in this profession as a junior lawyer and met other advocate friends like me, after listening to their experiences and by my own experience and observation, it was concluded that it was not really amazing. After all there is an old saying that:

"The older a lawyer is the higher his value increases."

Then I got to know that there is not much value of junior advocates and it takes at least about 5 to 6 years of experience of practice in court to get your own case and to get into the flow in this profession, if you are a junior advocate, clients won't easily hand over their cases to you. And this is the reason that people have the profession either they don't have that much patience to wait for that time, or they are compelled by the family and financial responsibilities to do something else for a living.

However even after this juniors like us, who don't have so much responsibilities and have some patience too, stick to the practice anyhow, in the hope that one day you will get your own case, you are following the boss

holding files, filling forms getting photocopies, arranging the files and returning to your home, unable to earn even the amount equal to the expenses, of the tea you are having during the lunch break and the fuel. what all you are carrying with you is just the queries in the mind regarding the practical work. Even some are there who are better than the above category who could be called as 'daily wages worker' who are working under the guidance of their senior advocates with a little salary some are the successors of successful advocates who are walking on a readymade path success. The journey for them is not so difficult and time consuming as the others have. The biggest caused this is a huge difference b/w the theoretical knowledge which law students gain in the institutions to get good grades and the practical knowledge which one should possess to practice as an advocate. Other Causes are lack of support and legal training system from legal fraternity. And no incentives for someone starting out.

If you are fresh out of law school without any uncles, parents, family or friends to Sponsor you through those first awkward years in the court your journey of advocacy is very hopeless, difficult and miserable in the beginning years. This is the bone of our profession that:

When we have the most energy, we have the least to do, at least officially. And it become very difficult to answer your parents who have borne you tirelessly for 23 or 24 years, and now expect you to be at least self-sufficient, since you are licensed to practice law.

These situations gives a frustration and feeling to curse the day that made you take the black gown instead d the easier academic ways to well paid jobs. frankly, doctors. Chartered accountants, on company secretaries, i.e., all other self-employed professionals usually don't face such hardships at the beginning of their career. Even if they face any, it is not compared to that faced by an advocate

Inspite of these drawbacks there are many benefits of being a lawyer. Like it is said every coin has two sides. I paid in the beginning that being a lawyer is itself a matter of pride and honour of person: infact, many of the people pursue the law just to get a degree and a tag of advocate with there name to show off lawyer get a very unique respect and prestige in the society They have a strong power to make a difference in the system and society, because they are aware about all the rights and responsibilities of people in the society. They fight for the justice and rights of the people.

Conclusion :

In nutshell advocacy is a noble profession, but it is drawing day by day just because the young advocates are not getting motivated in the beginning and losing their faith from this profession. All what needed is the motivation and a strong support from the legal fraternity, BCI and senior advocates for the youth i.e . junior advocates, after all, this youth is the future of our society. If Bar Councils would provide dome legal training System and a small amount of incentive for the beginners, then these junior advocates would not get lost amidst the chaos. some senior advocates train there junior and give them opportunity to be a good pleader. But some seniors don't want to support their juniors as they conceive there juniors as they future competitors, which is only a misconception among them. This misconception must be thrown out, and these seniors could motivate and

support their Juniors to enter into litigation apart from this juniors themselves should understand that nobody is going to come and inspire you to do what you to do what you want to do and that can 1 be done only by you. You must work hard on yourself to develop your self- confidence and other necessary skills like drafting and oratory skills.

This is one profession where there is no shortcut to success you will have to work hard to climb the stairs of success and fame. If you can survive the initial struggle there is no profession as rewarding the legal profession

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