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## **STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGY MUST BE MADE AN INTEGRAL PART OF LEGAL COURSES**

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With the growth of civilization, grew curiosity to know the How's and Why's? Different branches of study developed either to understand civilization or to maintain ways to preserve harmony in civilisation.

Psychology is one such study which studies and understands the human emotions, behaviours and actions. It gives reason behind every behaviour and also provides logical solution to any behavioural complexities. Law as a subject mostly deals with basic rights and duties, whereby any infringement of such right, commission of act or omission of duty has its consequences. As a lawyer now and quite often during my college days I wondered why the subject psychology is not taught to us. We find terms like mental agony, schizophrenia, unsound mind, delinquent and such other relevant terms in the enactments but seldom know the correct approach to hold towards clients dealing with such a phenomenon. The area of law that mandatorily requires study of psychology is family law and jurisprudence.

### **Application of psychology and law.**

Psychology will enhance the lawyers to better understand the minds of clients. Most of the times when a person suffers from any underlining mental disorder or disease it goes ignored and such is accepted as one of the characteristic features of the person concerned like he or she is short/ill-tempered, cannot express emotions, they are introvert or extrovert. How often do we sit back and analyse the reason behind such behaviour. However, personality disorders like

borderline personality disorder (BPD), obsessive compulsive personality disorder (OCPD), narcissistic personality disorder (NPD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other such disorders take a huge toll on our inter personal relationships. Marriage is one such area where personality disorder hinders in forming a healthy relation with spouse. For example, a marriage with a narcissist takes a havoc toll on its victim's mental health. Gaslighting, manipulation, abuse after spells of love bombing often leaves the victims with post-traumatic stress disorder. Eventually when such cases are taken up for separation, empathetic attitude must be kept towards the victims by lawyers and judges and hence for such understanding basic concept of psychology is needed even in law. In abroad divorce lawyers many a times become narcissistic abuse survivor coach or life coaches.

Even in child custody cases the mental health of care providers be mandatorily be evaluated before providing custody. Emotionally unstable care givers often leave children with low self-esteem, disillusioned self-image, and everlasting childhood traumas.

To set up a family understanding of relation is necessary. Any person bereft of natural emotions is nothing else than a cold-hearted living animal.

While understanding concepts of jurisprudence like origin and purpose of legal system, psychology can be applied in interpretation and application of the texts of jurisprudence. Like the jurisprudence behind maintenance law is to provide the sustenance required for life to the indigenous dependents. Any deliberate offender of the maintenance laws is ought to be a sadist who deliberately deprives the dependents of their needs and derives pleasure out of the agony caused.

In terms of understanding heinous crimes like rape, molestations, murder, the profile of the accused plays a severely important role. Mere punitive provisions will never cure these menace if not the cause be uprooted from its origin.

### **Psychology in appropriate attitude development**

Ever since the law school days budding lawyers must be taught to keep an empathetic approach when dealing with family law cases specially divorce, child custody, maintenance, sexual abuse, juvenile delinquency. Such is possible only through in-depth understanding of human behaviour. Every person should be accountable for their action.

Though various courses on forensic psychology exists and one may study such at their option. Many colleges are now slowly introducing criminal psychology in law courses but making

study of psychology mandatory from scratch like sociology, political science or economics will enable all lawyers to develop empathy for clients.

### **Provisions of law and psychology.**

Conditions relating to marriage must be amended and blood tests, couple counselling be made a compulsory ground to be followed before solemnization of marriage. In cases for separation, children of broken homes must be provided child counselling sessions and lawyers can play a pivotal role therein by providing counselling to such person in need. Apart from this victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence are some area where provisions of law will never find solace to victims but adequate knowledge of their frame of mind will help lawyers in providing moral support to the clients.

### **Conclusion**

Study of psychology will add another diverse arena of speciality to the law degree. It will enhance the moral skill sets like empathy, sympathy, compassion. Ethical practise of law will gain momentum and delicate spheres like divorce, child custody, crimes related to body like molestation, rape, dowry death will be dealt with an empathetic approach and not as money making areas. Lastly it will enable lawyers to frame arguments more on logic backed by science and not vague assumptions.