

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary
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**ROLES AND PARTICIPATIONS OF LAW SCHOOL
PROFESSORS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
OBJECTIVES TO ENHANCE THE PEACE AND
JUSTICE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Keyword: Sustainable development, law school, teacher, citizens, legal literacy

Abstract:

This research article examines the critical role and participation of law school faculty members in promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions within the framework of the Sustainable Development Agenda. It highlights that limited access to legal education results in citizens being more vulnerable to injustice, lacking the capacity to resolve legal disputes effectively, and facing significant barriers in obtaining necessary legal advice. The study emphasizes that one practical solution to address these challenges is the establishment of a system where professional law school instructors offer free legal consultation services to the public. By implementing such initiatives in Mongolia, it would not only expand access to legal education for a broader section of society but also foster greater public awareness of legal rights and responsibilities. Furthermore, it would contribute significantly to strengthening peace and justice in society and enhance the practical legal experience of both citizens and future legal professionals. Thus, the involvement of legal academics plays a vital role in achieving sustainable development goals related to justice and strong institutions.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is a developmental policy aimed at addressing the pressing economic, social, and environmental issues facing countries worldwide, and creating a sustainable and healthy environment for future generations. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 have become a pivotal document providing guidance for the policies and actions of every nation. Mongolia has been developing policies at the national level to implement these goals and is taking various measures to establish a supportive legal framework. However, the successful implementation of these objectives requires the participation of multiple sectors, and the role of legal professionals, in particular, is of paramount importance.

Another fundamental condition for sustainable development is peace and justice, which has been incorporated as the 16th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 16). Since 2016, Mongolia has focused on developing policies and establishing a legal framework, however, the involvement of legal professionals, particularly law school faculty remains crucial for the effective implementation of these goals. As experts possessing legal knowledge, a deep

understanding of the principles of justice, and critical thinking skills, law school instructors are well-positioned to make a tangible contribution to fostering a culture of human rights protection and the rule of law in society. Nevertheless, challenges such as limited legal literacy among citizens, restricted access to legal advice, and excessive judicial workloads in Mongolia continue to hinder the strengthening of peace and justice.

Research Objective: The objective of this study is to define the role and participation of law school faculty in strengthening peace and justice, and to explore opportunities for making legal education more accessible to the public. The primary goal of the research is to examine international best practices, identify applicable methods for Mongolia, and propose specific recommendations for implementation.

Research Methodology: To conduct this study, a survey was administered via online forms to faculty members from several major law schools, including the School of Law at the National University of Mongolia, Shihutug University, Ogtontenger University, and the University of Internal Affairs. The data collection process and survey remained active for approximately two weeks to gather the necessary research results.

II. MAIN BODY

2.1 The Concept, Impact, and Significance of Promoting Peace and Justice within the Sustainable Development Agenda

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), initiated and adopted by the United Nations, began global implementation on January 1, 2016. Mongolia joined this initiative and, by a 2016 resolution of the State Great Khural, adopted and implemented the "Sustainable Development Vision-2030" document. However, in 2020, this document was revoked by Resolution No. 52 of the State Great Khural and replaced by "Vision-2050," a more long-term development policy document. Within this new framework, the objective to "Strengthen Democracy and Just Governance" aligns in content with the 16th goal of the global Sustainable Development Agenda: Promoting Peace and Justice.

Although the objective of promoting peace and justice within the global Sustainable Development Agenda may appear to be a straightforward and general goal, it encompasses a remarkably broad scope. This objective aims to foster peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

As it supports the protection of human rights, the reduction of corruption, the strengthening of the rule of law, and the improvement of policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable development, it serves as a fundamental prerequisite for achieving a stable global environment. Justice involves the principle that every individual enjoys equal rights and duties; as legal entities, all people must be equal before the law, which is intrinsically linked to strengthening a fair judicial system. Immanuel Kant famously described justice as "a morality based on the fundamental rights and duties of human beings." Consequently, for humanity, justice is an essential lever of development, which is why it has become a core goal of the Sustainable Development Agenda. In Mongolia, justice is specifically regulated both in the Preamble of the Constitution and in Article 1, Section 2, as a fundamental principle that must be strictly adhered to in all state activities.

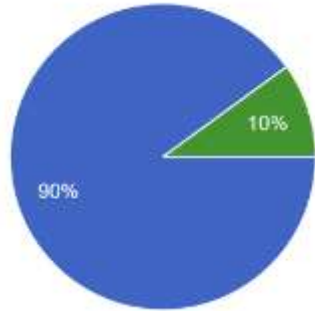
Peace is the fundamental prerequisite for social, economic, and environmental development; without it, society faces conflict, chaos, instability, and violence. Consequently, development is hindered, leading to the loss of human life, health, economic resources, and property. Therefore, collective effort is vital to ensuring the implementation of these goals. Peace and justice cannot exist without shared responsibility and coordination. In defining the institutions involved in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the scope extends beyond national governments, ministries, and state agencies to include non-governmental organizations, universities, and individual citizens. Thus, it is crucial for everyone to contribute to creating a collective force to establish peace and justice. Among these, the institution requiring the greatest engagement is the university; specifically, the expertise and skills of law schools and their professional faculty are essential to achieving these objectives.

2.2 Participation of Law School Faculty in Promoting Peace and Justice: Research Results

In this section, I will first present the results of my own research. The study was conducted by surveying faculty members from prominent law schools, specifically the School of Law at the National University of Mongolia (NUM), Shihihutug University, Otgontenger University, and the University of Internal Affairs, based on a questionnaire tailored to the chosen topic. A unique feature of this research is its narrow focus, involving a total of 55 specialized law school instructors. According to the findings, out of the 55 participants, the majority—66.7%—teach at the undergraduate level. Notably, 90% of these faculty members

responded that they have the potential to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting the significant importance of their participation.

Do you believe that faculty members have the potential to contribute to sustainable development?

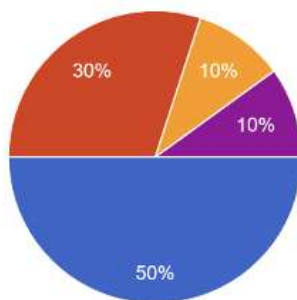


- *Yes - 90%*
- *Moderate / Intermediate level - 10%*
- *No*
- *Not sure / Don't know*

Diagram 1. Potential for Law School Faculty to Contribute to Sustainable Development

According to the survey results, 60% of the participants (33 instructors) reported having a "sufficient" understanding of Sustainable Development. Regarding the importance of faculty participation in implementing the specific goal of promoting peace and justice, 50% of the surveyed instructors responded that it is "very important," while 30% considered it "relatively important." These findings further support the thesis that the involvement of law school faculty is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under study.

How important do you think the participation of faculty members is in implementing the goal of promoting peace and justice within the framework of sustainable development?



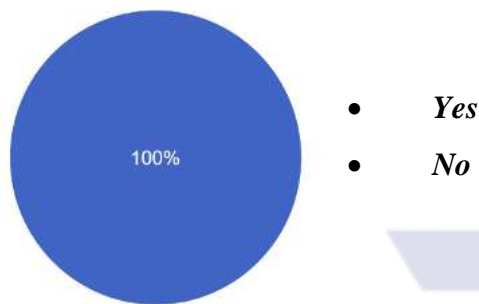
- *Very important - 50%*
- *Relatively important - 30%*
- *Not that important - 10%*
- *Out of interest / Just curious - 10%*
- *Not important at all*

Diagram 2. Importance of Faculty Participation in Promoting Peace and Justice

The survey yielded significant results relevant to the research topic. A majority of the participating law school faculty members expressed that the legal literacy of citizens is

currently inadequate, highlighting the essential role that professional instructors play in improving it. Furthermore, a remarkable finding of the study was that 100% of the surveyed faculty members reported having provided free legal advice to citizens, representing a highly commendable contribution.

Have you ever provided free legal advice to citizens?



In implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda, utilizing the expertise and skills of professional faculty members who represent a concentrated group of knowledge and capability alongside state institutions will yield significantly positive outcomes.

The influence of university faculty in Mongolia, particularly professional law school instructors, is vital to promoting peace and justice within the framework of sustainable development. This is because their expertise extends beyond specific technical fields to the in-depth study of fundamental societal factors such as legal norms, human rights, and freedoms. Furthermore, they possess the critical capacity to evaluate issues through the lens of equality and justice, making balanced decisions while wielding the significant skill of advocating for the rights of others. Consequently, their involvement makes the realization of a peaceful and just society far more attainable.

III. CHALLENGES / ISSUES

Justice is a major constituent of social peace, aiming to ensure equal rights within society according to the law, establish a system that guarantees the rights and freedoms of every individual, and remain free from corruption and bureaucracy.

The legal literacy of a nation's citizens is of paramount importance for maintaining social stability and, specifically, for realizing the sustainable development goal of promoting peace and justice. Conversely, when citizens are unaware of national legislation and their own

inherent rights, it leads to a decline in the protection of human rights and negatively impacts the implementation of justice and the legal system. Viewed from a broader perspective, this poses a significant risk of regressing societal development.

According to data released by the Supreme Court of Mongolia regarding judicial transparency and cassation-level proceedings, the Supreme Court adjudicated 3,561 cases in 2024. This indicates that the court of highest instance resolves an average of 10 cases per day. From this, one can clearly infer the immense caseload handled by the courts of first instance and the appellate courts. Furthermore, a 2022–2023 study conducted by faculty at the Mongolian University of Life Sciences (MULS) revealed that the optimal workload for judges has been exceeded by 278%. The study established that a single judge in the capital city handles an average of 179 cases, while a rural judge averages 37 cases. Most strikingly, it was determined that in the most burdened courts, a judge works an average of 19.5 hours per day.

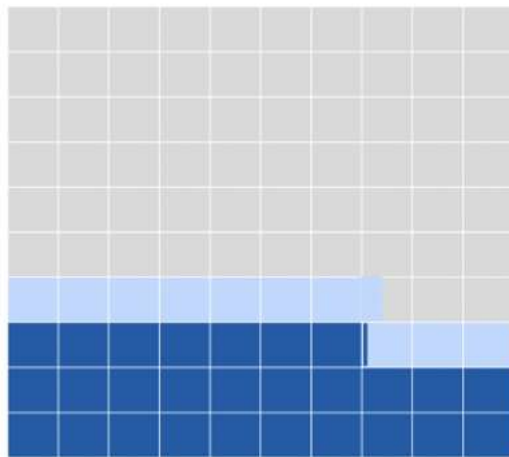
The aforementioned research indicates that rather than a mere shortage of judges, there is an excessive volume of legal issues facing legal entities. More profoundly, this reflects a significant deficiency in the legal literacy of the general public.

The inadequate legal literacy among citizens indicates a scarcity of accessible legal information and a lack of resources for legal advice within society. In studying the challenges arising from this deficiency in daily life, research shows that 54.8% of citizens have encountered difficulties with legal consequences, yet 50.5% of them made no attempt to resolve these issues. While various legal training and advisory programs are implemented as a matter of state policy to improve public legal knowledge, citizen participation remains low, often due to a lack of awareness regarding the importance of such initiatives. Furthermore, although it is common for individuals to seek legal counsel from professionals or legal entities to understand the implications of their legal relations, such services are typically subject to financial constraints. Consequently, the limited accessibility of legal advice for those facing legal issues remains a pressing challenge in today's society.

According to the "Poverty Profile-2022" report released by the National Statistics Office in 2024, the poverty rate stands at 27.1%, meaning that over 914,000 people have consumption levels below the designated poverty line. For this segment of the population, who struggle to meet even their most basic needs, accessing paid legal counsel to understand or

protect their rights is an impossibility. In other words, nearly one million people are at high risk of facing injustice due to a lack of legal literacy and the inability to afford legal advice. Furthermore, given the current socio-economic climate, there is a growing number of individuals who, despite living above the poverty line, still find themselves unable to afford professional legal services at prevailing market rates.

If the poverty line is increased by 15%, an additional 10.3% of the population is at high risk of falling into poverty



- *Population at risk of falling into poverty (if the poverty line is raised by 15%) - 10.3% / 346.4 thousand people*

- *Population with consumption levels below the poverty line - 914.2 thousand people*

Statistic 3. Poverty Level of the Population of Mongolia

According to a 2020 study by the National Statistics Office, 60% of rural residents reported difficulties in accessing information regarding government services, while no more than 25% had sought legal advice. This deficiency in legal literacy has led to an increase in instances where citizens inadvertently violate the law, suffer rights infringements due to ignorance, or remain unable to restore their violated rights. This, in turn, poses a significant challenge to the establishment of peace and justice.

Notable recent examples occurring in Mongolia include:

- Due to a lack of understanding of the Labor Law, citizens face significant risks such as labor exploitation, prolonged work in hazardous conditions, and discrimination. A particularly concerning trend is individuals signing employment contracts without fully comprehending the terms, thereby creating adverse legal consequences for themselves. For instance, while it is common for employees to work beyond standard hours, many are unaware that the law mandates overtime pay at a rate of 1.5 times the base salary. This ignorance leads to the devaluation of their labor and serves as a fundamental basis for systemic injustice.

- The divorce rate has been increasing annually, with a 61.1% rise recorded as of 2025,

which has brought the issue of joint family property to the forefront. There is a common misconception among spouses that upon divorce, property registered under one person's name belongs solely to that individual. However, according to the provisions of the Civil Code, assets acquired after marriage are considered joint family property and are subject to division regardless of whose name is on the title. The lack of awareness regarding this regulation often results in one party being left without their rightful share of assets, thereby creating a significant manifestation of injustice.

- In Mongolia, it is common for citizens to face severe economic hardship due to a lack of legal literacy when borrowing money from banks, financial institutions, or private lenders. For example, in 2023, Citizen O entered into a high-interest private loan agreement with an annual interest rate of 36%. Due to an insufficient understanding of the contractual terms, the borrower became unable to repay the debt. Having overlooked a specific clause stating, "In the event of default, the immovable property shall be transferred as collateral," Citizen O risked losing ownership of their apartment, which had been pledged as security.

Consequently, due to this deficiency in legal literacy, there is a rising trend of individuals entering into various types of contracts without understanding the legal implications, leading to varying degrees of personal and financial loss.

IV. SOLUTIONS / WAYS TO ADDRESS

While public legal literacy remains insufficient and opportunities for improvement are limited, addressing these challenges to realize the sustainable development goal of promoting peace and justice necessitates the specialized knowledge and skills of professional faculty particularly those within law schools.

Law school faculty members are uniquely positioned to directly impact public legal literacy, as they possess a profound understanding of legal reforms and a core commitment to protecting human rights and upholding justice. Specifically, professional law instructors often possess greater experience and a deeper grasp of legal applications than faculty in other disciplines; their pedagogical expertise is rooted in critical thinking and a problem-solving approach to providing legal assistance. By leveraging their knowledge and skills to offer pro-bono legal counsel, law school faculty not only enhance public legal awareness but also break down the barriers of limited accessibility. Providing such services ensures that even indigent citizens have the opportunity to protect their rights, thereby making a significant contribution to strengthening the overall system of justice within society.

When seeking solutions to pressing challenges, overly ambitious or grand-scale thinking can often lead to impracticality and failure in implementation. Instead, initiating actions that leverage existing resources, knowledge, and capabilities within a feasible scope is more likely to achieve rapid success. Ultimately, such practical and incremental initiatives are often more effective at driving genuine social change, reform, and development.

Comparative International Case Study

A recent example can be observed at Bangor University in the United Kingdom, where faculty members of the Law School began providing free professional legal advice through the newly established Bangor University Legal Advice Clinic in September 2024.

Led by qualified solicitors and experienced senior lecturers, the clinic aims to deliver high-quality legal guidance. Under this model, all advice provided by junior faculty and students is strictly supervised and reviewed by professional academic staff before being dispatched to clients. During the initial consultation, the clinic staff listen to the clients' legal challenges and gather all necessary information. Subsequently, faculty members conduct rigorous research and legal analysis to provide a detailed, tailored solution to each client within a 14 day period.

Solicitor and Clinic Director Tracey Horton stated, “The Bangor University Legal Advice Clinic represents a significant opportunity for our faculty, students, and the wider community. It enables our professional staff and students to provide invaluable legal support to those in need, while simultaneously allowing both new and experienced faculty members to further develop their expertise and gain practical experience.” Beyond its immediate benefits, such an initiative plays a crucial role in enhancing public legal literacy, empowering individuals to understand and protect their rights, and ultimately serving as a cornerstone for the sustainable strengthening of justice within society.

Similarly, numerous countries (such as Japan, the United States, and India) actively promote and implement initiatives where law school faculty provide pro-bono legal advice, consistently proving its vital importance to societal development. Consequently, for law faculty in Mongolia to offer free legal counsel to those in need represents the most significant impact they can make in addressing the current societal challenge of legal illiteracy. This not only

provides invaluable support to citizens and contributes to the establishment of justice but also allows faculty to apply theoretical knowledge to practice, gain experience, and train high-caliber legal professionals. Through these actions, they are actively participating in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

V. CONCLUSION

In implementing the Sustainable Development Goal of promoting peace and justice within Mongolia, the participation and essential role of law school faculty are of paramount importance. As demonstrated through various cases, the existing deficiency in public legal literacy has led to significant issues, including labor exploitation, domestic disputes, financial fraud, and exposure to unlawful decisions. Addressing these challenges by making legal education accessible to the public is one of the most effective strategies. International experience—specifically the Legal Advice Clinic at Bangor University in the UK, as well as systems in the United States and Japan—shows that establishing a framework where law faculty provide pro-bono legal counsel is highly effective in strengthening social justice and protecting citizens' rights.

Although various initiatives providing free legal counsel exist in Mongolia, often involving universities, these are typically sporadic and organized only on specific dates, making it difficult for many citizens to participate. To address this, law schools should take a leadership role by establishing a permanent legal clinic model. This framework would involve high-performing students working under the continuous supervision of professional faculty members to provide regular legal advice and practical assistance in drafting legal documents.

Such a sustained practice would not only enhance public legal literacy and contribute significantly to social justice and peace but also offer faculty members an avenue to refine their expertise. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, this model fosters the development of highly skilled legal professionals and a more robust legal education system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the faculty members of the School of Law at the National University of Mongolia (NUM), Shihihutug University, Otgontenger University, and

the University of Internal Affairs for their invaluable support and for participating in the survey conducted for this research.

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