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LAW OF WRITS AND THE PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF AWARENESS AT PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH

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ABSTRACT

The Constitution of India provides an effective mechanism for the protection of fundamental rights through writ jurisdiction under Articles 32 and 226. These constitutional remedies empower citizens to approach the Supreme Court and High Courts in cases of violation of their rights. However, the effectiveness of these remedies largely depends upon the level of public awareness.

This research paper examines the level of awareness regarding the importance of the law of writs and constitutional remedies among students and employees of Panjab University, Chandigarh. It specifically analyses the extent to which individuals are aware of their rights in situations involving the violation of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India. The study further evaluates awareness of procedural aspects, including who can file a writ petition, against whom a writ can be issued, the circumstances under which writ jurisdiction is available, the procedure for filing a writ petition, the time limits involved, and the appropriate forums namely the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

The paper concludes by suggesting measures to enhance legal awareness and improve access to constitutional remedies, thereby strengthening their practical effectiveness in the protection of fundamental rights.

KEYWORDS

Writ Jurisdiction, Fundamental Rights, Public Awareness, Legal Education, Panjab University

1. INTRODUCTION

A **writ** is a formal written order issued by a court or authority directing a person or body to do or not do something. The concept of writs originated in England during the Anglo-Saxon period, where the King issued such orders, and it later became part of modern legal systems.

In today's democratic and welfare states, administrative authorities have wide discretionary powers, which can sometimes be misused. Therefore, **writ jurisdiction** acts as a control mechanism to ensure that all government actions follow the **rule of law** and are fair, reasonable, and lawful. Through judicial review, courts check whether authorities have acted properly.

In India, the Constitution gives the power to issue writs to the **Supreme Court**¹ and to the **High Courts**². These writs are extraordinary remedies that help individuals seek justice against illegal administrative actions. They play an important role in protecting **Fundamental Rights** and ensuring **natural justice**.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This research aims to:

- i. Examine the concept and scope of writ jurisdiction in India
- ii. Assess the level of awareness of writ remedies among students and employees
- iii. Compare awareness between law, non-law students and employees
- iv. Identify barriers to accessing constitutional remedies
- v. Suggest measures to improve legal awareness

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopts an empirical research approach.

- **Type of Study:** Descriptive and analytical
- **Data Collection:**
 - **Primary Data:** Survey questionnaire among students and employees of Panjab University

¹ The Constitution of India, 1950, art. 32.

² *Id.*, art. 226.

- **Secondary Data:** Books, journals, articles, and online sources
- **Sample Size:** 100 students (50 law students + 30 non-law students + 20 employees)
- **Sampling Method:** Random sampling
- **Tools Used:** Questionnaire and percentage analysis

4. WRITS

The main idea in English and Indian legal systems is that if you have a right, there is a way to fix it if someone does something wrong to you. It's like two sides of a coin the right and the fix for it always go together. So, if someone in authority does something illegal that violating your rights then protection are also providing against these violations through special legal documents called "prerogative writs"³. In the old days, the king was seen as the source of justice, and these writs came from his court⁴.

4.1 Meaning of Writ

The word "writ" comes from Latin and English words that mean "written" and "brief." So, it's like a short written order. In the past, it was often a letter to a specific person. In Germany, they used the word "brief" for a letter. Over time, a "writ" became known as a royal order written in a special way. The word "writ" isn't defined in the Constitution.

According to the Black's Law Dictionary⁵, it's a written order from a court or legal authority that tells someone to do something specific or stop doing something.

Blackstone, a legal expert, said a writ is "a letter required by law from the King in Parliament, sealed with an important seal. It's sent to the sheriff of the place where something wrong happened. The sheriff is told to make the person accused either do the right thing for the person complaining or come to court and answer the accusation."⁶

4.2 Types of Writs under Constitution of India

I. Habeas Corpus

Habeas Corpus means "produce the body." It is a legal remedy used when a person is illegally detained or imprisoned. The court orders the authority to bring the person before it

³ Acharya Dr. Durga Das Basu, *Constitutional Remedies and Writs* 7 (Kamal Law House, Calcutta, 1994).

⁴ Justice C.K. Thakker, *V.G. Ramachandran's Law of Writs* 3 (Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 5th edn., 1993).

⁵ Bryan A. Garner, *Black's Law Dictionary* 1640 (Thomos Returns 8th edn. 2015).

⁶ Blackstone, *Commentaries, Vol.III*, CL 18.

and justify the detention. If the detention is unlawful, the court orders immediate release⁷. This writ mainly protects the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 and also ensures safeguards under Article 22 are followed. Its purpose is not to punish the authority but to restore the liberty of the person.

Who Can File?

- The detained person, or
- Any other person (relative, friend, or even a concerned citizen)
- The court can also act suo motu

Against Whom Writ of Habeas Corpus is Issued

The writ of Habeas Corpus is issued against the person or authority who has illegally detained or confined another person⁸. It can be issued against:

- **Police Authorities** – in cases of illegal arrest or custody
- **Government Authorities** – including preventive detention without following legal procedure
- **Jail Authorities** – if a person is unlawfully imprisoned
- **Private Individuals** – if someone is illegally confined (e.g., kidnapping or wrongful restraint)⁹.

Important Case Laws

- *Sunil Batra v. Delhi Administration*¹⁰ – The Supreme Court allowed even a letter to be treated as a Habeas Corpus petition, expanding access to justice.
- *Kanu Sanyal v. District Magistrate*¹¹ – The Court held that the legality of detention can be examined even without producing the detained person before the court.
- *A.D.M. Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla*¹² – During Emergency, the Supreme Court held that Habeas Corpus could not be enforced, a decision later widely criticized.

⁷ Justice C.K. Thakker (Revised), *V.G. Ramachandran's Law of Writs, Vol. II*, 1023 (Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 6th edn., 2019(Reprint).

⁸ *Supra* note 4 at 590.

⁹ *Dr. Anand Kumar Gupta v. Rajghat Education Centre And Ors.*, 2003 ALL. L. J. 587.

¹⁰ AIR 1980 SC 1579.

¹¹ AIR 1973 SC 2684.

¹² AIR 1976 SC 1207.

- *Subrata Roy Case*¹³ – Habeas Corpus petition was filed challenging detention, showing its continued relevance.

II. Mandamus

The term Mandamus means “we command.” It is a writ issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts directing a public authority, government body, or lower court to perform a public duty which it has failed to perform or to stop doing something illegal. The main purpose of this writ is to ensure that public authorities act within their legal powers and properly perform their duties¹⁴.

When is Mandamus Issued?

- When a public authority fails to perform its duty.
- When it acts beyond its powers (excess of jurisdiction).
- When there is abuse of power or violation of law.
- When principles of natural justice are violated.

Essential Conditions¹⁵

- **Legal right of Petitioner** – The petitioner must have a legally enforceable right.
- **Existence of Public Duty** – The duty must be public in nature, not private.
- **Mandatory Duty** – The duty must be compulsory, not purely discretionary.
- **Demand and Refusal** – The petitioner must request action, and the authority must refuse to act.

Against whom it is Issued?

- Government authorities
- Public officials
- Courts, tribunals, and administrative bodies.

Not Issued Against:

- President or Governor¹⁶

¹³ *Subrata Roy Sahara v. Uoi & Ors, AIR 2014 SUPREME COURT 3241.*

¹⁴ Dr. Narender Kumar, *Constitutional Law of India* 486 (Allahabad Law Agency, Faridabad, 11th edn., 2022).

¹⁵ *Supra* note 3 at 134.

¹⁶ *Supra* note 1, art. 53(2) & 161.

- Private individuals (generally)¹⁷
- Legislature
- Officials acting under superior orders¹⁸.

When Mandamus is not Granted¹⁹

- **Alternative Remedy Available** – If another effective legal remedy exists, the court will not issue mandamus.
- **Delay (Laches)** – If there is unreasonable delay in filing the petition, relief may be denied.
- **Private Contractual Matters** – Mandamus cannot be used to enforce private rights arising out of contracts.
- **Purely Discretionary Duty** – It is not issued when the authority has full discretion and no mandatory duty.

Important Case Laws

- *Raman v. State of Madras*²⁰ – Mandamus cannot enforce non-statutory instructions.
- *Praga Tools Corporation v. C.V. Imanuel*²¹ – Mandamus can be issued against a private body if it performs a public duty.

III. Certiorari

The term Certiorari means “to certify.” It is a corrective writ issued by the Supreme Court or High Court to an inferior court or authority. Through this writ, higher courts call for the records of a case to examine the legality of the decision. If the decision is found to be illegal or improper, the court can quash (cancel) the order. Originally, it was used only for courts, but now it also applies to judicial, quasi-judicial, and even administrative authorities to ensure fairness and legality²².

Grounds for Certiorari²³

- **Lack of Jurisdiction** – When the authority has no legal power to decide the case.

¹⁷ *Sohan Lal v. Union of India*, AIR 1957 SC 529.

¹⁸ *Supra* note 3 at 138.

¹⁹ *Supra* note 7 at 1160-61.

²⁰ AIR 1959 SC 694.

²¹ AIR 1969 SC 1306.

²² M.P. Jain, *Indian Constitutional Law* 474 (Lexis Nexis, 8th edn., 2018).

²³ Justice B.P. Bangerjee, *Writ Remedies*(Rev. by Bhaskar Prosad Banerjee) 168 (Lexis Nexis, 7th edn., 2019).

- **Excess or Abuse of Jurisdiction** – When power is misused or used beyond limits.
- **Error of Law** – When there is a clear legal mistake on the face of the record.
- **Jurisdictional Facts Missing** – When decision is based on wrong or absent essential facts.
- **Violation of Natural Justice** – When fairness is denied (e.g., no hearing or bias).

IV. Prohibition

The writ of Prohibition is issued by the Supreme Court or High Court to a lower court or authority to stop it from proceeding with a case when it is acting without jurisdiction or beyond its powers. It is mainly a preventive writ, used to stop illegal actions before they are completed²⁴.

Grounds and Conditions for Issuance: Same as the writ of Certiorari.

Main Difference from Certiorari: The writ of Prohibition stops a proceeding before it is completed when a lower court or authority acts without jurisdiction. Certiorari quashes or corrects a proceeding after it has been completed and found illegal or invalid²⁵.

V. Quo Warranto

The term Quo Warranto means “by what authority.” It is issued by the Supreme Court or High Court to question a person who is holding a public office without legal authority. The court asks the person to show under what authority they hold the office, and if found unlawful, the person can be removed from the position²⁶.

Purpose of Writ of Quo Warranto

- **To Prevent illegal Occupation of Public Office** – It removes persons who hold office without legal authority.
- **To Ensure that only Qualified Persons hold Public Posts** – It checks that appointments are made according to law.

Essential Conditions

²⁴ Mahendra Pal Singh, *V.N. Shukla's Constitution of India* 635 (Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 14th edn., 2022).

²⁵ *Supra* note 7 at 1179.

²⁶ *Supra* note 24 at 643.

- **Public Office** – The office must be created by law or Constitution and involve public duties.
- **Substantive Nature** – The office must be permanent and independent.
- **Actual Possession** – The person must be actually holding the office.
- **Illegal Holding** – The appointment must be in violation of law.

When it may be refused

- **Mala Fide Intention** – If the petition is filed with bad faith or ulterior motive, it may be rejected.
- **Delay (Laches)** – Unreasonable delay in filing can lead to refusal of the writ.
- **Acquiescence** – If the petitioner has accepted or supported the act earlier, relief may be denied.

4.3 Writs under Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, and it has come into force on January 26, 1950. "Part III" of Constitution of India deals with fundamental rights of Indian citizens. If someone's fundamental rights are not being respected or violating by someone than some remedies are well defined under Indian Constitution to protect the fundamental rights. These remedies called prerogative writs. These writs are only issue by the Supreme Court²⁷ or High Court²⁸. These courts can issue a writ (like "habeas corpus," "mandamus," "certiorari," "prohibition," and "quo warranto") to protect fundamental rights. These rights can only be suspended for reasonable time period during emergencies²⁹. Since, these rights are guaranteed fundamental rights, so they cannot be whittled down by any legislative enactment or by any amendment in the constitution made in accordance with the procedure laid down³⁰.

The Constitution empowers the aggrieved person to approach the Supreme Court when their Fundamental Rights are violated. This right is so important that *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar* called it the **"heart and soul of the Constitution."** Although it is a guaranteed right, it can be **suspended during a national emergency under Article 359**. The Supreme Court has also declared Article 32 as part of the **basic structure of the Constitution**, meaning it cannot be removed or destroyed.

²⁷ *Supra* note 1.

²⁸ *Supra* note 2.

²⁹ *Supra* note 1, art. 359.

³⁰ *Id*, art. 368.

On the other hand, Article 226 gives **wider powers to the High Courts**. It allows them to issue writs not only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights but also for “**any other purpose**,” which includes other legal rights. This means that even if no Fundamental Right is violated, a person can still approach the High Court under Article 226. Therefore, in comparison to Article 32, the scope of Article 226 is broader. If a matter does not involve a Fundamental Right, it cannot be taken to the Supreme Court under Article 32, but it can still be challenged in the High Court under Article 226.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This part of the paper presents an analysis of survey responses related to the **awareness of the Law of Writs and the protection of Fundamental Rights at Panjab University, Chandigarh**. A total of **100 respondents** participated in the survey, providing insights into the level of understanding and awareness among individuals regarding writ jurisdiction and constitutional remedies.

➤ Responses and Analysis

The responses collected from the survey have been systematically analyzed to understand the level of awareness among participants. The data has been analyzed using the **percentage method** to ensure better understanding and clarity. Each response is converted into percentages, which helps in showing the proportion of participants holding a particular view. This method makes it easy to compare different responses and identify trends or patterns in the level of awareness among respondents.

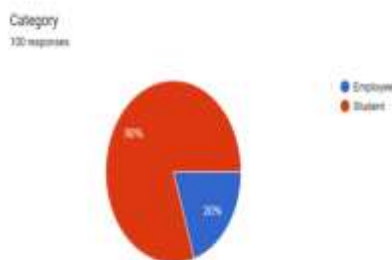


Figure 1: Category of Respondents

Figure 1 presents the classification of respondents who participated in the survey. The study is based on a total of 100 respondents from Panjab University, Chandigarh, comprising both students and employees. Out of the total, 80 respondents were students, while 20 were employees, thereby ensuring representation from both academic and administrative sections of the university.

Among the student respondents, 50 belonged to the law discipline and 30 were from non-law backgrounds. This distribution provides a balanced perspective by including both individuals with specialized legal knowledge and those from general academic fields, enabling a comprehensive assessment of awareness regarding the law of writs and fundamental rights.



Figure 2: Educational Qualifications of Respondents

Figure 2 presents the educational qualifications of the respondents, indicating a diverse academic profile. A total of 4 respondents had qualifications up to matriculation and another 4 had post-matric (12th) education, all of whom were employees. Further, 8 respondents were pursuing graduation from non-law disciplines, while a significant proportion, 36 respondents, were pursuing law graduation (LL.B.), reflecting strong representation of law students.

In terms of completed qualifications, 19 respondents were graduates, including 10 students (3 law and 7 non-law) and 9 employees. Additionally, 24 respondents were postgraduates, comprising 22 students (9 law and 13 non-law) and 2 employees. At the research level, 4 respondents were pursuing Ph.D., including 3 students (2 law and 1 non-law) and 1 employee.

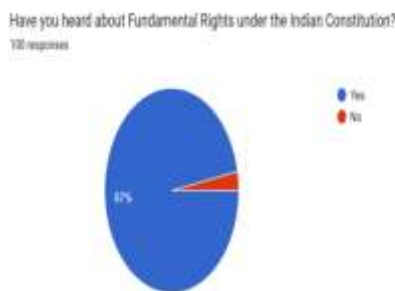


Figure 3: Awareness of Fundamental Rights

Figure 3 illustrates the respondents' awareness of Fundamental Rights under the Indian Constitution. The findings show that an overwhelming majority, 97% (97 out of 100), are aware of Fundamental Rights, while only 3% lack such awareness.

This high level of awareness indicates the effectiveness of constitutional literacy through education and media. However, the small percentage of unaware respondents suggests that such knowledge is not entirely universal and may vary across different groups.

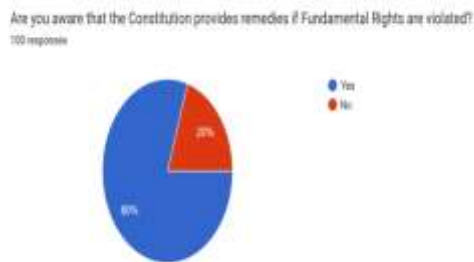


Figure 4: Awareness of Constitutional Remedies

Figure 4 presents the respondents' awareness regarding the availability of constitutional remedies in cases of violation of Fundamental Rights. The findings indicate that 80% of respondents are aware that the Constitution provides such remedies, while 20% are not aware.

Although a majority demonstrates awareness, the decline from 97% awareness of Fundamental Rights (Figure 3) to 80% awareness of remedies highlights a clear gap between knowledge of rights and understanding of their enforcement. This suggests that while respondents are generally familiar with their rights, they are comparatively less informed about the legal mechanisms available for their protection.

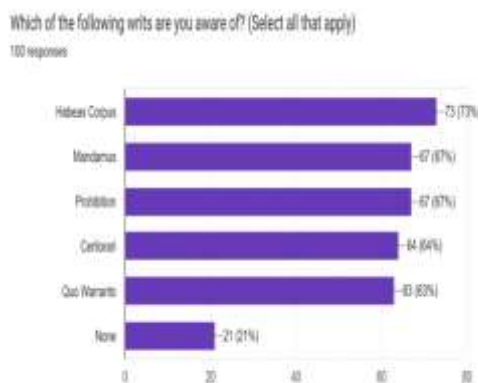


Figure – 5, Awareness of Specific Writs

Figure 5 illustrates the level of awareness among respondents regarding specific writs under the constitutional framework. The results indicate varying levels of awareness:

- Habeas Corpus : 73%
- Mandamus : 67%
- Prohibition : 67%

- Certiorari : 64%
- Quo Warranto : 63%
- None : 21%

The data reveals that Habeas Corpus is the most widely recognized writ, possibly due to its direct association with personal liberty and frequent mention in public discourse. Awareness of other writs such as Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, and Quo Warranto is relatively moderate but still significant.

However, the fact that 21% of respondents were not aware of any writs is noteworthy. This indicates that a considerable segment of the population lacks knowledge of specific constitutional remedies, reinforcing the observation that awareness becomes more limited as the complexity of legal concepts increases.

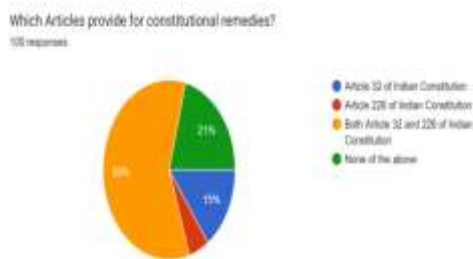


Figure – 6, Awareness of Constitutional Provisions (Articles 32 and 226)

Figure – 6, evaluated respondents’ knowledge of the specific constitutional provisions that provide remedies for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights. The responses were as follows:

- Article 32 : 15%
- Article 226 : 5%
- Both Arts 32 & 226 : 59%
- Not aware : 21%

A majority of respondents (59%) correctly identified both Articles 32 and 226 as sources of constitutional remedies, indicating a reasonably good level of informed awareness. However, a combined 20% (15% + 5%) identified only one of the Articles, reflecting partial knowledge. Additionally, 21% of respondents were completely unaware, which aligns with the findings of the previous question regarding limited knowledge of writs.

This distribution highlights that while a significant proportion possesses accurate knowledge, there remains a notable gap in comprehensive constitutional understanding, particularly concerning the institutional mechanisms for rights enforcement.

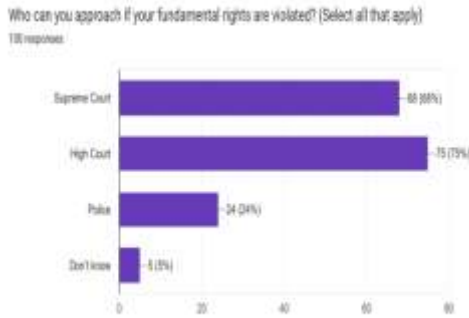


Figure – 7, Authority to Approach in Case of Violation of Fundamental Rights

Figure 7 assesses respondents’ awareness regarding the appropriate authorities to approach in case of violation of Fundamental Rights. The findings reveal that 75% of respondents identified the High Court, while 68% selected the Supreme Court as the appropriate forums for seeking remedies. This indicates a relatively high level of awareness about the role of constitutional courts in the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

However, **24% of respondents also selected the police**, and **5% indicated that they did not know** whom to approach. This reflects that while a majority correctly recognize constitutional courts as the primary forums for enforcement of Fundamental Rights, a notable proportion still confuses **judicial remedies with administrative or enforcement agencies**. The inclusion of police as an option suggests partial understanding of the legal framework, where individuals may associate immediate relief mechanisms with law enforcement rather than constitutional adjudication.

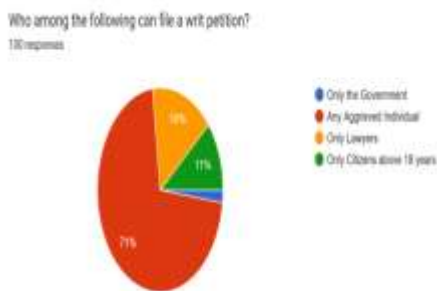


Figure-8, Knowledge of Who Can File a Writ Petition

This figure evaluated respondents’ understanding of locus standi in writ jurisdiction. The majority, **71%**, correctly identified that **any aggrieved individual** can file a writ petition. However, **16% believed that only lawyers can file writ petitions**, **11% thought that only citizens above 18 years are eligible**, and **2% believed that only the government can file such petitions**.

These responses highlight that while a significant proportion possesses correct knowledge, there remains **considerable misunderstanding regarding accessibility of writ remedies**, particularly the misconception that legal professionals or specific categories of persons exclusively hold this right. This undermines the inclusive nature of constitutional remedies, especially in the context of Public Interest Litigation.

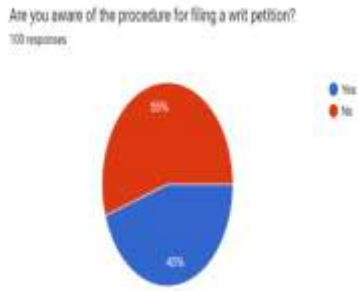


Figure – 9, Awareness of Procedure for Filing Writ Petition

The responses indicate that **45% of respondents are aware of the procedure**, while a majority, **55%**, is not aware. This finding reveals a **substantial gap in procedural knowledge**, even among individuals who may otherwise be aware of their rights. The lack of procedural awareness can act as a significant barrier to accessing justice, limiting the practical utility of constitutional remedies.

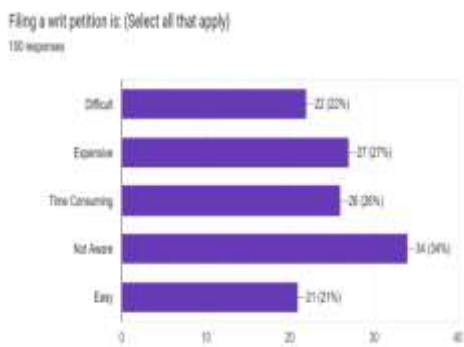


Figure – 10, Perception Regarding Filing of Writ Petitions

The perception of respondents regarding the nature of filing a writ petition shows a mixed pattern:

- **Difficult** : 22%
- **Expensive** : 27%
- **Time-consuming** : 26%
- **Easy** : 21%
- **Not aware** : 34%

The data indicates that a considerable proportion perceives writ litigation as **costly, time-intensive, and complex**, while only a smaller segment considers it easy. Notably, **34% of respondents were not aware**, suggesting limited exposure or understanding.

These perceptions point toward **practical and psychological barriers** that may discourage individuals from seeking judicial remedies, even when they are aware of their rights.

Do you know the difference between the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and High Court in writ matters?
130 responses



Figure – 11, Awareness of Jurisdictional Difference between Supreme Court and High Court

This data shows understanding of the distinction between writ jurisdiction under Articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution. The findings indicate that 61% of respondents are aware of the difference, while 39% lack such awareness. This suggests a moderate level of understanding, though a significant proportion of respondents still do not clearly distinguish between the jurisdictions of the Supreme Court and High Courts in writ matters. Although a majority demonstrates awareness, the relatively high percentage of respondents lacking such knowledge indicates **partial and uneven understanding of constitutional structure**. This gap may affect the ability of individuals to approach the correct forum for redressal.

Are you aware of the concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL)?
130 responses

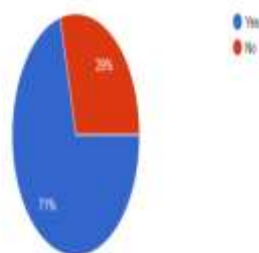


Figure – 12, Awareness of Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

The responses show that **71% of respondents are aware of the concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL)**, while **29% are not**. This indicates a **fair level of awareness**, likely due to the increasing prominence of PIL in judicial practice and media coverage. However, the

presence of nearly one-third of respondents lacking awareness suggests that the concept has not yet achieved universal understanding, particularly among non-law participants.

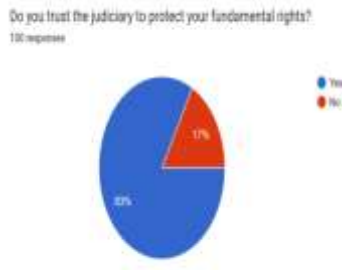


Figure – 13, Trust in the Judiciary

This part aimed to assess the level of confidence respondents have in the judiciary as a protector of Fundamental Rights. The findings reveal that a significant majority, **83% of respondents**, expressed trust in the judiciary, while **17% indicated a lack of trust**.

This high level of trust reflects the **institutional credibility and perceived effectiveness of the judiciary** in safeguarding constitutional rights. It also highlights the important role played by courts, particularly in the context of judicial review and writ jurisdiction. However, the presence of a notable minority expressing distrust suggests that **concerns regarding delays, accessibility, or cost of litigation may still persist**, affecting public confidence to some extent.

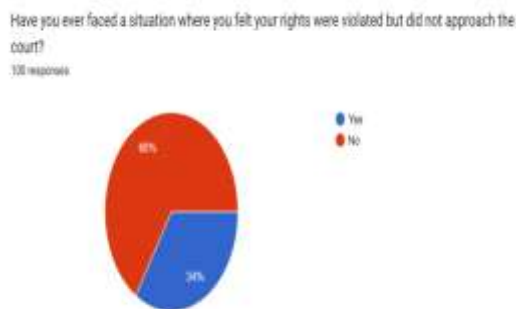


Figure – 14, Experience of Rights Violation without Legal Action

This figure deals with the question “Have you ever faced a situation where you felt your rights were violated but did not approach the court?” and explored whether respondents had experienced a situation where they felt their rights were violated but chose not to approach the court. The responses indicate that **34% of respondents answered in the affirmative**, while **66% reported that they had not faced such a situation or had not refrained from approaching the court**.

The fact that more than one-third of respondents have experienced rights violations without seeking judicial remedy is significant. It points towards the existence of **practical**

barriers such as lack of awareness, fear of legal procedures, financial constraints, or perceived inefficiency of the system. This gap between the existence of rights and their enforcement underscores the need for making legal remedies more accessible and user-friendly.

Do you think awareness programs on constitutional rights are needed in Panjab University, Chandigarh?
100 responses



Figure – 15, Need for Awareness Programs on Constitutional Rights

This figure shows whether respondents feel the need for awareness programs on constitutional rights within the university. The findings show that an overwhelming majority, 93% of respondents, support the need for such programs, while only 7% do not.

This near-consensus reflects a strong demand for enhanced legal awareness and education among the university community. It indicates that although respondents possess some basic knowledge, there is a clear recognition that a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of constitutional rights and remedies is still lacking.

How can awareness about judicial remedies be improved? (Select your preferred option)
100 responses



Figure – 16, Measures to Improve Awareness of Judicial Remedies

Respondents were asked to identify the most effective means of improving awareness about judicial remedies. The responses were as follows:

- **Legal awareness camps /seminars:** 38%
- **Internet/Social media:** 36%
- **Free legal aid and advice centres:** 17%
- **Television/Radio programs:** 8%
- **Newspapers/Magazines:** 1%

The data indicates that **interactive and educational approaches**, such as legal awareness camps and seminars, are considered the most effective means of spreading awareness. The significant preference for **internet and social media platforms** reflects changing trends in information dissemination, especially among younger populations. The importance given to free legal aid centres also highlights the need for **practical support mechanisms alongside awareness initiatives**.

6. FINDINGS

The analysis of the survey conducted at Panjab University, Chandigarh, reveals several important findings regarding the awareness of the Law of Writs and the protection of Fundamental Rights:

- I. High Awareness of Fundamental Rights** – A vast majority (97%) of respondents are aware of Fundamental Rights, indicating strong basic constitutional awareness.
- II. Gap in Awareness between Law and Non-Law Students** - The survey shows that out of 80 student respondents, 50 were from law and 30 from non-law backgrounds. Law students had higher awareness of specific writs (e.g., Habeas Corpus 73%, Mandamus 67%) compared to non-law students, indicating that specialized legal education significantly improves understanding, while non-law students lag behind.
- III. Many Students Are Unaware of Basic Constitutional Remedies** - Although 97% of respondents knew about Fundamental Rights, only 80% were aware of constitutional remedies under Articles 32 and 226. This 17% gap shows that a substantial number of students, especially non-law students, do not know how to enforce their rights legally.
- IV. Complexity of Legal Procedures Discourages Access** - Only 45% of respondents were aware of the procedure to file a writ petition, while 55% were not. Additionally, perceptions about writ petitions being difficult (22%), expensive (27%), or time-consuming (26%) indicate that procedural complexity is a major barrier to accessing judicial remedies.
- V. Misunderstanding of Locus Standi** – Though 71% understood who can file a writ petition, others held incorrect beliefs, limiting awareness of accessibility to justice.
- VI. Legal Education Plays a Crucial Role** - A strong majority, 93%, supported the need for awareness programs on constitutional rights, and 38% preferred legal awareness camps/seminars as the best method to improve knowledge. This highlights the critical role of structured legal education in bridging awareness gaps.

- VII. Lack of Practical Exposure Reduces Understanding** – Thirty four percent (34%) of respondents reported experiencing rights violations without seeking judicial remedy. This indicates that even when aware of their rights, many students lack practical exposure or confidence to engage with writ remedies, reducing the effectiveness of these constitutional protections.
- VIII. Strong Demand for Awareness Programs** – Ninety three percent (93%) support the need for awareness programs, reflecting recognition of knowledge gaps.

7. SUGGESTIONS

Based on the above findings, the following suggestions are proposed:

- I. Increase Legal Awareness Programs** – Universities should regularly conduct seminars, workshops, and legal awareness camps on writs and constitutional remedies.
- II. Focus on Practical Knowledge** – Awareness initiatives should not only explain rights but also emphasize how to enforce them, including filing procedures.
- III. Use Digital Platforms** – Social media, online courses, and interactive content should be used to reach a wider audience, especially students.
- IV. Strengthen Legal Aid Services** – Establish or promote free legal aid clinics within universities to guide individuals in accessing justice.
- V. Simplify Legal Procedures** – Efforts should be made to simplify and publicize writ procedures to reduce fear and misconceptions.
- VI. Regular Surveys and Feedback** – Continuous assessment of awareness levels should be conducted to improve strategies and policies.
- VII. Organizing Workshops and Seminars on Writ Jurisdiction** - Conducting educational sessions to enhance awareness and understanding of writ remedies and their application.