



भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

Press Release dated 10.06.2021

The Bar Council of India received and is still receiving thousands of letters and requests from the students of different Universities and law colleges of the country. Some heads of Institutions have sought guidance of the Council on the point of examinations and promotions of LL.B. Students.

The concern of majority of students was to grant them promotions on the basis of past performance or through some other method of assessment.

The students have expressed their grievances and assigned different sorts of reason for issuance of a general direction to all the Centers of Legal Education restraining them from holding any online or offline examination of any semester.

Even many final year LL.B. students have raised similar grievances and their demands are also of the same nature.

The Council vide its resolutions dated 29.05.2021 thoroughly discussed and deliberated over the issue. The related Judgments of Hon'ble Apex Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No.724/2020 titled as Praneeth K and Ors. versus University Grants Commission and Ors. and the Division Bench Judgment of Karnataka High Court was also perused by the Council.

In fact, the Bar Council of India in its resolution dated 29.05.2021 had clearly expressed its views that it does not wish to involve itself in the matters of examinations and it is for the Universities to take their own decisions depending on the local conditions. Of course, the Bar Council of India's concern is to maintain the standard of Legal Education and the Bar Council of India cannot compromise with the standard.

At the same time, the problems of students and Institutions was/is also to be taken care of by the Bar Council of India.

Since, the Council is the regulator of Legal Education and every student (particularly the students belonging to remote areas) is not supposed/cannot afford to move the Law Courts, therefore, the Bar Council of India had constituted a High Level Committee of Expert to consider the issue in details and to submit its report, so that the Council could take a final decision in the matter and could place its views before Hon'ble Delhi High Court and/or other Courts as and when necessary.

The proceedings and report of the Committee dated 08.06.2021 headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Govind Mathur, former Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court is reproduced herewith: -

Report Quoted: -

"Report of the High Level Expert Committee of the Bar Council of India to discuss and deliberate upon the issue of mode of intermediate semester examination/evaluation and promotion of intermediate LL.B students AND also to consider evaluation of the mode of examination before issuance of degree for Final year Law students, in view of the unprecedented situation arising due to the pandemic, held on 6th June, 2021 at 11.00 am through Video-Conferencing.

The following Members and Special Invitees were present in the Meeting.

1. *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Govind Mathur,
Former Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court,
Chairperson/Convener of the Committee.*
2. *Mr. D. P. Dhal, Senior Advocate,
Member, Bar Council of India;*
3. *Mr. Ved Prakash Sharma, Advocate,
Member, Bar Council of India;*
4. *Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha,
Director, Indian Law Institute, Delhi;*
5. *Prof. (Dr.) Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor,
National Law University Delhi;*
6. *Prof. (Dr.) Vijayakumar, Vice-Chancellor,
National Law Institute University, Bhopal,*
7. *Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice-Chancellor,
National Law University, Nagpur;*
8. *Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor,
National Law School of India University, Bengaluru;*
9. *Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor,
O. P. Jugal Global University, Sonipat;*
10. *Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeevi Shanthakumar, Director,
Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar;*
11. *Prof. (Dr.) Akhileendra Kumar Pandey, B.H.U., Varanasi*
12. *Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General,
Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi
Special Invitee*

13. *Dr. Rajani R. Gupte*
Vice-Chancellor, Symbiosis International University, Pune
Special Invitee
14. *Prof. (Dr.) Vandana, Dean,*
Faculty of Law, Delhi University, Delhi

"The Members deliberated at length regarding the mode of evaluation/examination for the promotion from intermediate semester to the next semester and for the award of the Law Degree.

After detailed discussion and deliberations, the Committee unanimously agreed that each University/Centers of Legal Education shall conduct examination for intermediate and final year students, as per their own dispensation, depending upon the availability of resources and the impact of COVID 19 in that region. It was unanimously agreed that an end-term examination is mandatory to be conducted by all Law Schools/Universities. It was further decided that University/Centers of Legal Education are free to determine the mode of examination [Online/Offline/Blended/Online Open Book Exam (OBE)/Assignment Based Evaluation (ABE)/Research papers].


The Committee also recommended that the Universities/Centers of Legal Education should ensure that sufficient time gap exists between regular and backlog examinations to avoid inconvenience to the students.

The Committee also took note of the earlier resolutions adopted by Bar Council of India on 27.05.2020, 06.09.2020, 05.10.2020 and 01.11.2020 which had stipulated examinations for all semesters, and wherein guidelines regarding the mode of conduct of examination/evaluation had been issued, and unanimously agreed that the University/Centers of Legal Education are free to determine the mode of evaluation/examination for promotion and for award of the Law Degree and for the conduct of examination.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair."

(Report ends)

The Council has considered and deliberated over the report submitted on 08.06.2021 and this Council resolves to accept the report of the Committee in toto.


(Srimanto Sen)
Secretary
Bar Council of India