



RAMA UNIVERSITY

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FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Professional Ethics and
Professional Accounting System

SUBJECT CODE: BAL 704/BBL704/ LL.B. 503

LECTURE: 1

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Lecture-1



Historical development of Legal Profession in India

Legal history or the history of law is the study of how law has evolved and why it changed. Legal history is closely connected to the development of civilizations and is set in the wider context of social history. Among certain jurists and historians of legal process it has been seen as the recording of the evolution of laws and the technical explanation of how these laws have evolved with the view of better understanding the origins of various legal concepts, some consider it a branch of intellectual history. Twentieth-century historians have viewed legal history in a more contextualized manner more in line with the thinking of social historians.

They have looked at legal institutions as complex systems of rules, players and symbols and have seen these elements interact with society to change, adapt, resist or promote certain aspects of civil society. Such legal historians have tended to analyze case histories from the parameters of social science inquiry, using statistical methods, analyzing class distinctions among litigants, petitioners and other players in various legal processes. By analyzing case outcomes, transaction costs, number of settled cases they have begun an analysis of legal institutions, practices, procedures and briefs that give us a more complex picture of law and society than the study of jurisprudence, case law and civil codes can achieve.

India has a recorded legal history starting from the Vedic ages and some sort of civil law system may have been in place during the Bronze Age and the Indus Valley civilization. Notwithstanding this, the development of 'law' as a profession is only a recent phenomenon. The Indian legal profession is one of the largest in the world and plays a vital role in the world's largest democracy. While the roots of this profession lie before Independence, since then the profession has evolved immensely and currently faces various challenges; the most important being to provide access across the profession, ensure ethical foundations and modernize the practice across the board.

A well-organized and independent legal profession is an essential condition for proper administration of justice. It is also a necessary ingredient and guarantor of the rule of law. Its proper organization and maintenance of its independence are, therefore, necessary for a good and just society. This project, traces the history of our efforts in that direction. It will be too ambitious to trace that history from the time of ancient or even Muslim rulers because firstly, we have very little information about that and secondly, our present legal profession, like most of the other legal institutions, is based on the British model. Therefore, we trace the history of the Legal Profession in India from the advent of British rule.

SELF-TEST QUESTIONS

S.NO	Question	Option (a)	Option (b)
1.	Legal history is closely connected to the development of civilizations	True	False
2.	Legal history set in the wider context of social history	True	False
3.	India has a recorded legal history starting from the Vedic ages and some sort of civil law system may have been in place during the Bronze Age and the Indus Valley civilization	True	False
4.	A well-organized and independent legal profession is an essential condition for proper administration of justice	True	False
5.	Legal education is a necessary ingredient and guarantor of the rule of law	True	False

Answers: 1-(b),2-(a), 3-(a),4-(a),5-(a)