

Report on Judgement Analysis study for C.I.D. Pune

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Being a law student and an aspirant lawyer-in-making, it is indispensable to understand the practical aspects of the field. One such opportunity presented itself a few months back when, I, Mansi Kulkarni along with my fellow classmates- Aabha Sahastrabhudhe, Siddharth Bhilare, Dhananjay Gaud, and Rasika Potdar, were asked to prepare a Judgement analysis report under the Memorandum of Understanding between DES Navalmal Firodia Law College and C.I.D. Pune. Through this report, I am elated to share our experience of working on this project.

On 15th June 2023, a team of 5 students was selected by our faculty- Dr. Aishwarya Yadav Ma'am and Asst. Professor Pooja Deo Ma'am to conduct the study on cases, which were being forwarded by C.I.D. Our task was to analyze the acquittal cases, in which we had to state the facts, provisions of the law, judgment, and reasons for acquittal. The cases were mainly related to assault and sexual offenses under the IPC and POCSO Act. For the purpose of analysis, we used various research methodologies-legal databases, police manual, and Acts- CrPC, IPC, POCSO, and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956. It was pertinent to note that two of the cases on POCSO were registered in the same area during the same time period related to the same offenses and the same accused.

It is observed that the acquittal rate is higher than the conviction. One of the speeches recently stated by Honorable Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Mr. Amit Shah, "India's conviction rate has to go up if the country's law and order situation has to improve and changes need to be made in criminal laws for the same." Through the reading of the judgments, it has been observed that there has been a large number of acquittals due to errors in the investigation, non-appearance of witnesses during trials, contradictory testimonies, and lack of sufficient evidence- medical reports and Panchnama which rendered it improbable to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Through this analysis, we were asked to recommend some suggestive measures that could be implemented in the investigation process in subsequent cases, like- protection for witnesses and victims, the appointment of a committee to review the wrongful acquittal, the appointment of experts in law to assist the police in the investigation, etc.

On 20th July 2023, our team accompanied the faculty, Dr. Sunita Adhav Ma'am, Dr. Aishwarya Yadav Ma'am, and Asst. Professor Pooja Deo Ma'am to the C.I.D office (Pune), where we were given a chance to interact and present the report to the Superintendent of Police (Law and Research department) Mrs. Pallavi Barge Ma'am. Our team and faculty were appreciated for being the only college to have taken the initiative in conducting the study. Apart from this, the discussion underlined the importance of investigation in any case and further emphasized, how we as law students could lend a helping hand to departments like- C.I.D, which would make the process more efficient.

On 2nd August 2023, we visited the DES office to present the appreciation letter to Dr. Sharad Kunte Sir, who congratulated the entire team and faculty for this initiative and gave us the opportunity to be present at the council meeting of DES. It was an immense pleasure to share our experience of working for C.I.D. Pune and to be felicitated by the Practicing Advocate of the High Court.

I would like to conclude, by conveying special thanks to the officiating Principal-Dr. Sunita Adhav Ma'am for her constant support and motivation throughout this project, and teachers Dr. Aishwarya Yadav Ma'am and Asst. Professor Pooja Deo Ma'am, for giving us the golden opportunity to be part of this project and to guide us at every step. Last but not least, kudos to my team, who with their diligent efforts made the execution of this project possible.

