

## SIMPLIFYING THE LANGUAGE OF LAW: PERCEPTIONS OF PAKISTAN'S LEGAL COMMUNITY ON PLAIN ENGLISH PRACTICES

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### Abstract

*The study aims to determine the perceptions of law discourse community to revolutionize the legal settings by initiating Plain English Movement to achieve the academic and professional tasks efficiently in Pakistan. In this regard, data was gathered from 150 participants including, law practitioners and law teachers, of all provinces of Pakistan in the form of questionnaire followed by open ended questions. Data was analyzed qualitatively by employing thematic analysis. Majority of the law practitioners and teachers suggested to convert the legal documents including statutes and judicial judgments into simplified versions to achieve the academic and professional tasks. This study will be beneficial for legal stakeholders to achieve their tasks efficiently and get the justice speedy and different problems regarding complexity, length, obscurity, terminology, syntactic intricacy and time consuming process etc will also be resolved.*

**Keywords:** Legal Language, Plain English Movement, language of statutes and judicial judgments

### Introduction

Within the legal landscape, effective communication and comprehension are frequently hampered by the complexities of legal language. This study explores the perceptions of Pakistan's legal discourse community about the *Plain English Movement's* implementation, acknowledging the need for reform. The issue revolves around the transformation of the legal landscape by creating an atmosphere that can facilitate to complete the professional and academic tasks more efficiently.

The employment of intricate and complicated terminology in statutes and judicial judgments has become a major barrier to clear communication and comprehension within Pakistan's legal system. The intricacy of the language presents difficulties for legal stakeholders, hindering their capacity to carry out professional and academic duties effectively. This linguistic complexity frequently leads to a lack of clarity, which hinders legal professionals', practitioners', and teachers' ability to communicate and understand one another effectively. This problem has its origins in historical norms, when formalistic, antiquated terminology, and complex syntax were hallmarks of legal language. The necessity to review and update the conventional language used in legal writings has been increasingly apparent in recent years as the legal landscape has changed and become more diverse. The intricacies of legal terminology have presented difficulties for young legal practitioners to understand and apply statutes, as well as for law teachers who are responsible for passing along their expertise to the upcoming generation of legal professionals.

The problem affects the legal community as a whole and goes beyond academic contexts. The use of complicated jargon in courtrooms and legal procedures can cause misunderstandings, causes delays in the process, and, in certain situations, make it more difficult for people who are not familiar with legal nuances to access the justice. There is a dire need to make the legal language more understandable, since legal systems around the world are realizing the value of accessible and unambiguous legal communication. Solution for this enduring problem is the *Plain English Movement*. It is a global movement that was started in 1970s with the goal of improving communication and comprehension between the legal community and the general public by supporting the use of clear, succinct, and accessible language in legal documents in USA, UK, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Ghana, Singapore, India, and New Guinea. Etc (Tiersma, 1999). The movement

emphasizes the significance of language that is not only legally exact but also simply understandable, which is in line with the worldwide trend towards legal reform. In light of this, the purpose of this study is to ascertain how Pakistan's legal discourse community views the *Plain English Movement*'s acceptance. This research attempts to provide important insights by examining the historical background, difficulties presented by complicated legal language, and possible advantages of accepting a more approachable linguistic approach. In this regard, following research questions have been generated:

1. Out of the two versions of legal English (original & simplified), which one is better in terms of academic and occupational achievements
- 1.1. Can the existing statutes (all, or some most commonly used) be converted into simplified versions?
- 1.2 Can the reported judgments (all or some most commonly referred to) be converted into simplified versions?

### Literature Review

Wydik & Sloan (2019) and Kimble (2012) emphasized the worth of the Plain English Movement, supporting succinct and accessible language in context of law. The movement, coining in the mid-20th century, has gained popularity internationally, reflecting a paradigm shift towards pellucidity and user-friendly legal communication. They argued that the movement aligns with current legal needs, situations emphasizing precision without sacrificing comprehension. Similarly, Garner (2013) provided concrete discernments about the implementation of plain language techniques along with norms in legal writing. Stressing the role of plainness and transparency, departure from archaic legal conventions was advocated. And a comprehensive guide for legal professionals seeking to augment their writing skills and to pave the way towards clear legal communication.

Kamalu (2018) examined the necessity of a shift towards more accessible and clear drafting practices by underlining the challenges presented by intricate legal language and the significance of plain language as a precondition for effective legal drafting.

Crystal (2018) clarifies the functions of grammar in legal writing. He advocates that legal communication requires clarity, readability and comprehension are improved by paying attention to grammatical structures. It acts as a link between language concepts and the real-world implementation in the legal field. The study of legal writing in business, government, and the legal field by Kimble (2016) emphasized the importance of clear communication in terms of both finances and the workplace. He emphasized the financial and professional advantages of implementing plain language procedures and highlighted the benefits of Plain English Movement in real-world applications outside of linguistic. Similarly, Tariq (2021) emphasized to implement the legal language principles in corporate laws to make ease for the public and all stakeholders. On the other hand, Xu & Casal (2023) emphasized on simple language pedagogy in legal language classrooms to improve the writing skills. Likewise, Rubab (2019), (2020), and (2022) carried out the experimental studies to make emphasis on the impact of implementation of Plain English principles on statutes and judicial judgments to make the better understanding of legal stakeholders of Pakistani academic and professional legal settings.

Literature has been reviewed to make a gap of the undertaken study. This gap is filled by the undertaken study by taking the perceptions of law professionals and teachers to initiate in Pakistani legal contexts and to make the understanding of the significance of simplified legal language. It clearly supports the innovative notion of breaking the barriers of traditional legal language and emphasizes the universal relevance of the *Plain English Movement*. Plain English has been popularizing among law professionals, and helping to change the communication on legal language reforms by encouraging clear and concise communication.

## Research Methodology

This study is aimed to revolutionize the academic and professional legal settings by initiating a step towards implementing Plain English movement in Pakistan as all over the globe. For this, data has been collected from fifty law teachers and hundred law practitioners in the form of questionnaire. Ten Law teachers from each Law Department of selected five public sector universities representing all provinces of Pakistan. And twenty law practitioners from each provincial capital. Questionnaire was comprised of open ended questions to investigate the perceptions of law discourse community about the conversion of legal texts including statutes and judicial judgments into simplified version. Out of 150 questionnaires, 109 questionnaires were received from the participants. And then data was analysed qualitatively in terms of thematic analysis.

### Analysis

The qualitative analysis regarding the perceptions of law discourse community about the conversion of legal documents into simplified versions has been dissected into two parts. Part I deals with the qualitative analysis of perceptions about the conversion of all legal documents in relation to Statues into simplified version. And part II deals with the qualitative analysis of perceptions about the conversion of all legal documents in relation to judicial judgments into simplified version.

#### **Part I: Qualitative Analysis of perceptions about the Conversion of All Legal Documents Relating Statutory Laws into Simplified Versions**

This perceptions of the lawyers and judges about the conversion of legal documents into simplified versions have been qualitatively analysed in light of thematic analysis. Following themes are emerged out of it:

Theme 1: All laws should be simplified

Theme 2: Existing laws need to be same, while new drafting should be simplified

Theme 3: Simplified and original versions should be given side by side

Theme 4: Difficulty in comprehending legal texts

Theme 5: No need of converting legal documents into simplified

### Interpretation

#### **Theme 1: All laws should be simplified**

Out of total 109 respondents, 36 law teachers and 73 lawyers asserted with reference to this open ended question that the language of statutes is so complex. In order to understand, linguistic adequacy is required in order to understand the statutes. A certain gap is felt between the linguistic faculty and text of the original statutes that arises a tension while referring and implementing the laws. In judicial and legislative realms, it has been making difficulties. The language of the statutes is ambiguous because of its lengthy sentences, grammatical structures, inappropriate punctuation and complex vocabulary. These features are influencing upon the intelligibility of the statutes. The research participants opined that all statutes should be simplified. In this context, one of the lawyers commented that: "As a lawyer, I strongly recommend that efforts should be made to improve legal language by converting all statutes into simplified versions. It would make an ease in the legal proceedings and save the time of law professionals". Teachers of law asserted that understanding of the statutes is considered a difficult area for the law professionals, specifically for the new entrants. So it is a demand of the law professionals to acquire an easy access to the laws. The following is the statement of a law teacher: "I strongly agree and recommend that the existing major legal documents should be simplified. It's an urge of the law professionals to get an easy and quick approach to the statutes". Most of the law professionals believe that the statutes and legal documents make bafflement while reading so they should be simplified with updated versions. But the spirit of law should be maintained

with parallel interpretations, and the meaning should not be deviated. A law teacher commented in this way: "It should be simplified and up dated with accurate interpretations by keeping in view the spirit of law language".

The law professionals were of the view that the simplified versions of the statutes make more sense and acted upon easily. In such a way, the common people and their clients would be familiar with the laws and case proceedings. "Yes, if all the statutes are simplified then they would be easily understood and implemented. On the other hand, their clients and common people must be familiar with their rights, obligations and laws". Mostly law professionals mentioned that it's important to take such a step in Pakistan to improve the legal system. It would be helpful to improve the legal system and to reduce the confusion arises by reading the complex structures. "It's very important to get more familiarity with the statutes by encouraging simplified versions in Pakistan. Complex and lengthy structures create ambiguity while understanding and implementing the laws".

### **Theme 2: Existing laws need to be same, while new drafting should be simplified**

The law professionals considered that conversion of legal documents into simplified versions is a serious step. It would be hard to simplify the all legal major documents but the new drafting can be simplified for better understanding of the lawyers and common people. One of the lawyers commented that: "It is good to change new drafting and major legal documents into simplified version but some words of original version are very necessary and without using those words we cannot understand the real meanings. In trying to explain the original version, the legal documents are made lengthy". The law teachers were of the view that Pakistan is a multilingual country where English is used as a foreign language and an official language. The influence of foreign languages; French, Latin and Italian, upon legal language, has made it more intricate. For enhancing familiarity and awareness of the legal language for lawyers and common people, the new drafting must be simplified. A senior law teacher commented that: "English language is not our national or mother language, for sake of better understanding, it's necessary to make it simplified as much as possible. For the sake of better understanding of every lawyer, it acts as a hindrance. The complexity of original language should be simplified". Mostly lawyers appreciated the conversion of legal documents into simplified versions and highlighted its significance for all communities. One of the lawyers opined that: "It is a good project. If it is possible, it will be very useful and helpful to understand by all communities. It would be difficult to change the existing laws but the new drafting should be simplified".

The law teachers recommended simplifying the legal drafting in order to reduce the gap between the legal text and readers' need. To keep the reader engaged in text, length and complexity of legal language should be trimmed down. The statutory laws and documents can be edited designed in the plain language in order to cater the lawyers and clients' needs. One of the lawyers asserted that: "I strongly agree and recommend that the existing major legal documents be simplified so that they may be understood and acted upon quite easily. The steps involved in legal proceedings should be in simple language". The law teachers mentioned that the law language is so confusing. People hailing from all fields need to understand it. By keeping in view the quality of legislation, language, style, content and clarity, all new legal drafting can be simplified by employing different techniques. A law teacher commented in this area: "Language of law should be simplified, easy to understand and up-to-date, specifically, new drafting of legal proceedings. It's very important to convert existing legal documents into simplified versions keeping in view the gist of original text and possible interpretations of original text". Mostly law professionals considered that: "Conversion with legal terminology of statutory laws and judicial judgments is good".

### **Theme 3: Simplified and original versions should be given side by side**

Mostly respondents believed that most of their time spends in reading laws and cases. The lawyers, who are not keeping adequate reading skills, cannot be successful lawyers. So making better understanding of the law professionals, both versions of the statutes should be given side by side. One of the law professional asserted in this context: "Original version should also be there with the simplified one". Respondents perceived that reading of statutory laws is essential in common law settings. The judicial decisions require the interpretation of statutory laws. These statutory laws need interpretations. So in this context, the statutory laws should be simplified but the original versions should also be there. One of the lawyers commented that: "Simplified should be useful but the original one should not be made obsolete". Respondents of this category mentioned that legal discourse community requires wide reading of statutory laws and judicial judgments as a matter of precedents. The judges write ambiguous and lengthy sentences which make the message unclear. They use their own writing styles that raise bafflement in the mind of the readers. Such ambiguous vocabulary and text need to be paraphrased in simplified way. A lawyer asserted that: "Due to difficult terms coined in English language from different other languages need to be simplified as complex texts are paraphrased". It's a difficult task on the part of the readers to get the sense of the cases. Each term has its own context, interpretation and usage, so for making an easy and better contextual understanding both versions should be kept side by side. A lawyer commented that: "For the interpretation of terminology in particular context, original version can be given with the simplified one". The participants stated that verbosity leads the misunderstanding among the target readers. They need discussion and guidance of some expert for making the legal documents intelligible. This step would be considered a milestone in the legal genre. One of the law teachers mentioned that: "To make the simplification accepted and implemented gradually, original version should be given with it".

### **Theme 4: Difficulty in comprehending legal texts**

In regard of this theme, the law teachers and lawyers stated that it is a main issue to absorb the legal language with accuracy. Complexity of legal language in terms of lengthy intricate grammatical structures, multifaceted terminologies, grim vocabulary, use of passive voice and excessive use of references make it hard to understand. It seems as this language has been governing the society by use of sublime expressions which were emerged in legal texts by prevailing different foreign languages in history that causes confusion among the readers to get the essence of legal language. Even the use of inappropriate punctuation causes to make the meanings and interpretations ambiguous to understand. A lawyer reported in this context: "Legal language is different from general English due to its volume, complex construction, ambiguous vocabulary that makes the legal text harder to comply with. So, the excessive raw material regarding laws is not in easy access to the lawyers". Language of law is not accessible to the lawyers because of its complex nature. Legal language has its own discourse that encompasses a unique style. It has its own details which are presented in different sections, convoluted grammatical constructions and intricate vocabulary that baffles to the lawyers. For this, time to time they need to consult the dictionaries. It requires large amounts of time to comprehend and causes mental exertions.

Lawyers mentioned that it is a hard to extract the required information from the legal text, specifically, for the new entrants. One of the senior lawyers stated that: "The standard of legal education is low in Pakistan. The admissions in law schools are given to the students without any merit. Few universities are maintaining their standards in Pakistan, otherwise all other universities/ institutes/law colleges are producing raw material. No proper legal education incorporating with academic and professional settings is provided to the law students". The new law practitioners are quite ignorant of the legal professional settings. It's

so hard on their part to navigate the information from the legal texts. For this, they have to spend a lot of time to be familiar with a web of statutes and subordinate details. Because in law schools they were not practiced to understand and cope large amounts of intricate materials. In this context, another lawyer said that: "Lack of interpretations and guidance is also major cause of making the legal language incomprehensible."

One of the law teachers said that: "British legal system is empowered in Pakistan. British legal language is regarded as a heritage of variety of the expressions of different non-native languages like French, Latin, Normans and Greeks. On the other hand, we are non-native speakers. No amendments are made in the traditional legal language regarding terminologies, lengthy sentence constructions, and complex vocabulary. So, they consider it a laborious task to read such a garbage of legal language while preparation of the cases in order to provide the precedents". A lawyer mentioned that: "The complex nature of legal language nurtures many problems among law professionals. It makes burden on the minds of lawyers, hinders good governing of judicial system and obstructs the economic activity. Ultimately it will slow down the legal proceedings in courts".

Complexity of language of law gives rise to variety of problems in the society. It ignites the mental exertions while sorting out the required information from legal texts. Unclear, challenging provisions of statutes require time to comprehend and employ in legal proceedings that causes justice delayed. It indicates the bad governing of the judicial system. One of the law professionals commented that: "Even the law students who are good in language skills are not good in identifying the required information from the legal documents. They have the swinging ideas in order to specify the required information. For this instructions/briefing is given to them to navigate the information".

By the comments of law professionals, it is observed that the law professionals feel difficulty while coping with legal language in context of navigating rules & material facts as well applying rules in material facts.

#### **Theme 5: No Need of Converting Legal Documents into Simplified Version**

Many of the law professionals were against to the conversion of legal documents into simplified versions. They feel that the simplified versions are the distorted form of the legal language. They are used to of the original language that is complete with all respect. In this regard, a senior lawyer mentioned that: "Original version of the law is more comprehensive as compared to simplified version because the original text of law pertains the real spirit. Otherwise simplified version is exposed for misinterpretation. So I am in favor of original text of law. It is also worthy to mention here that the original text is also direct and articulate in its sense and reason. Simplified version will rather create complications and difficulties to some extent". The law professionals were of the view that the original text is more comprehensive as compared to the simplified text. By converting the terms, expressions and text of the law into simplified language, could be misinterpreted. In order to understand the real sense of the law language, we must rely on the original text. "In my view, original language of law is more comprehensive. If we explain it in simple words then we should care about the basic laws that should not be changed. The use of single wrong word can change the entire law and may direct into other sense. So rely on original text of the law".

Some of the lawyers reacted to the conversion of legal documents into simplified versions. They were of the view that without mentioning the original laws, how they could justify the answers of the different scenarios of the law. So they are satisfied with the original text of the legal documentations. One of the lawyers asserted that: "In my opinion, no need is required to convert major legal documents into simplified version. It is worth mentioning here that without considering the basic law regarding any question, it is difficult to answer the question i.e. Civil Procedure Court (CPC), Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), (Qanun e Shahadat

Order) QSO 1984, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Family Law, Constitution or Juvenile system etc.”. The law professionals opined that all legal proceedings held in English language, which are entirely complete. To simplify the language mislead them. The interpretations of the statutory laws are clear. Simplification would change the real sense and interpretations. So, no more amendments are required to change their language. In this context, one of the lawyers commented that: “Our judicial system depends upon the English system and the original laws are complete in all respect. All terms and interpretations are given in simplified language. Interpretations may be different according to language but original law is equal everywhere”.

It is concluded by the comments of law professionals regarding this theme, they are not in favour of converting the legal documents into simplified version. They feel that the real spirit of the legal language will deteriorate and the terminologies cannot be replaced by using plain language. In such a way, real meanings and interpretations will get deviate.

Overall findings in relation to qualitative analysis of statutes with reference to the conversion of original statutes (all, or some most commonly used) into simplified language. Out of which following themes were emerged out: all laws should be simplified; existing laws need to be same, while new drafting should be simplified, simplified and original versions should be given side by side, difficulty in comprehending legal texts, no need of converting legal documents into simplified. The majority the lawyers and teachers felt the gravity of the situation and favored the significance of text simplification for the achievement of academic and professional tasks.

## **Part II: Qualitative Analysis of Conversion of all Legal Documents Relating Judicial Judgments into Simplified Versions**

In this part, the perceptions of the lawyers and law teachers with reference to conversion of legal documents, specifically, judicial judgments into simplified versions, have been reported. First, the qualitative analysis of the perceptions of law professionals have been provided by making themes and then interpretations are given. In this regard, following themes are emerged out of it:

Theme 1: Difficulty in comprehending legal texts

Theme 2: Statute should remain as it is, judges should pass the judgment in a simplified way

Theme 3: Time constraint should be essential in the court proceedings

Theme 4: Awareness of laws and court proceedings

### **Interpretation**

#### **Theme 1: Difficulty in Comprehending Legal Texts**

With the perspective of this theme, the lawyers and teachers mentioned that it's a most difficult task of their profession to read the cases and get the essence of it. To comprehend the legal text of the cases, specifically use of terminology, vocabulary, lengthy grammatical structures and quoted illusions, is hard. The judges have their own writing styles and their ambiguous organization of ideas make them hard to understand. A lawyer commented in such a way: “The judges while writing orders/judgments use the complex vocabulary, which they never seen in legal text books and newspapers”.

Law teachers mentioned that it is a difficult to follow the legal text, specifically, for the new entrants. One of the law teachers highlighted that: “They were not used to of reading the cases in their academic session. If a task of reading cases was given to them in the class, the teachers gave them briefing as well as main points/steps were narrated to them”. The vocabulary and terms carry very specific legal meanings, which are completely aside from the simplified/plain language. The lawyers intentionally use the convoluted and archaic language to maintain the legal essence. And sometimes it becomes a matter of ego of the lawyers of both parties to use the highly competitive drafting of legal documents that make

bafflement among the readers. One of the law teachers commented that: “The use of Greek, Latin and archaic phrases which are not used in modern English, but they are part of the legal language and mostly lawyers acquire them as a matter of prestige. Such phrases make the task complicated and put the new entrants in trouble”.

Another lawyer commented that: “With the perspective of grammatical structure, uniformity and parallelism is not followed by the judges. The judges adopt their own writing styles randomly, inductive or deductive that make hard to understand the legal documents”.

The language of the legal documents is convoluted. Even the judges also lament for unclear language used by the lawyers. To persuade the judge, the lawyers produce the arguments in a complex way. They are of the view that the clear and straightforward thoughts remove the legalese. One of the lawyers pointed out that: “Lawyers always learn the language by the other lawyers. They always try to adopt the writing styles and formats of other lawyers or as they feel proper. It is based on their own ideas how it should be and other lawyers’ instructions”. Most of the lawyers are of the view; the lawyers who entered in this field are not able to find the rules after reading the case. A fair amount of efforts are needed to find the rules from the cases. One of the lawyers highlighted that: “The law entrants, who are keeping good reading skills, are not sure in finding the rules from the cases. They are fluctuating about specifying the rules out of the case, either this...or that”.

### **Theme 2: Statutes should remain as it is, judges should pass the judgments in a simplified way**

Judgments should be in simple language to avoid the wastage of time. Most of the law professionals were of the view that the language of the judgments is so complex. The terminologies and illusions used in the legal text are not easy to understand. Even the judges also feeling difficulty while reading the case proceedings. The lawyers have to brief the case before judges to make more sense. So to save the time, the judgment should be written in a simplified way. One of the lawyers asserted that: “Judgments should be in a simple language to avoid the wastage of time”. The law teachers were of the view that the laws should be original because they could be understood in original form in better way while the judgments should be detailed because of carrying backgrounds, evidences, references and decisions. “Laws can be used in original form but the judgments must be explanatory and easy”.

In order to avoid wrong interpretations, the statutes should remain same. On the other hand, the language of the judgments should be comprehensible for the common man. The judges having heightened respect for linguistic adequacy and ambiguous use of language make the writings difficult. The lawyers and common men rely on this language, so it must be in plain language for being aware of legal proceedings but the terminologies and references used in the written text should be original. A senior lawyer commented in this way: “Judgments should be understandable for the masses to get to know how about judicial process while the basic terms and references should be original”.

Many respondents perceived that substituting words and legal terms may result misunderstandings and serious errors. So the statutes in original form are valuable to get accurate and clear meanings. On the other hand, the language of judicial judgments must be comprehensible with easy description. Meanings should be easier to access rather than particular syntax and vocabulary. A law teacher asserted that: “Statutes are valuable in original form but understanding and comprehension of judgments demand their easy description”.

### **Theme 3: Time constraint should be essential in the court proceedings**

Legal proceedings are so lengthy to approach a final decision. The lawyers have to prepare their arguments in order to appear before the judge by taking the direction from doctrine of stare decisis. In client’s favour, a lawyer has to look for the precedent cases. It is

difficult to find and evaluate the precedent cases. It requires time and analytical skills to find the material facts of precedent case and then organize them logically in the case at bar. Legal proceedings are so lengthy to approach a final decision. After a number of hearings, the decision is taken by the judge due to many reasons. As well, the attitude and hierarchy of the courts also play a pivotal role in providing the justice. The law professionals commented that: "Legal proceedings should be time bound to help the people get justice without delay".

The law teachers opined that speedy trials are essential to provide the justice to the innocent party because longer trials are so panic for the innocent party. Sometimes the civil cases may last for 15-20 years. The innocent party waste their time and money in the courts when the judiciary delays their cases. The justice is hard to achieve when the judicial proceedings take much time that causes frustration among the people. One of the law teacher commented: "When profession legal tasks do not complete at appropriate time, it creates frustration among the people".

With reference to the criminal cases, all evidences are made lost by the time the actual proceedings start, while the civil cases are waste of time, money, and peace of mind. The linguistic inadequacy of the law professionals play a pivotal role in justice delayed. Apart from this, other factors start to influence like biasness, political involvement, undue influence and coercion etc. People need speedy justice, specifically, who live mouth to mouth. Otherwise, it causes aggression and to involve in other criminal activities. A lawyer commented in this context: "Delay in justice causes aggression, self-deciding attitude and to increase crime rate in the society, and then they start using their own wrong ways".

The law professionals opined that the judges are not familiar with the literal meanings of the terms as well as interpretation of statutes causes delay in justice that offers a criminal/offender to fight in the court. In order to prevent a crime, an instantaneous justice should be implemented at the crime spot so that next time no one should dare to commit the crime. It would be helpful to reduce the crime rate in the society and ensure the faith of public in judicial system. One of the law teachers commented that: "Justice delayed means justice denied. So a system of in time proceedings needs to be developed".

#### **Theme 4: Awareness of Laws and Court Proceedings**

The law teachers highlighted in the context of this theme, by enhancing the legal literacy for the common man and to make the justice accessible and affordable, the legal language should be simplified. A lawyer commented that: "Awareness of law means solid step towards justice. People must be aware of legal proceedings and laws to get easy access to justice". Due to complexity of legal language, even highly educated people feel uncomfortable while reading the laws and understanding their interpretations. A trained lawyer's assistance is required who brings down the hurdles to legal literacy. So, simplifying the legal language while judicial proceedings would make ease for understanding of the common man. It is the basic right of the man to be familiar with their rights. If the people are aware of their rights, more chances will be to abide by the rules. One of the law teachers pointed out that: "Knowledge about the laws means knowing about their rights in the society".

By the awareness of the laws, the people may fight against injustices. To encourage it, does not mean to involve the people in litigation but reduce it by using different methods. If the people are unaware of laws, the concept of rules of law would be useless. One of the lawyers highlighted that: "If people are aware of laws and legal proceedings, they get conscious before committing some crime and the crime rate can be controlled".

By converting the original legal text into simplified, people may recognize their legal rights to exercise, when to approach for legal assistance, how to gain legal assistance, how to take a step to resolve the issues, how to facilitate themselves, and feel confident that the legal

system will provide justice. The law professionals mentioned that: “Knowledge about a specific field illuminates and helps out in solving and resolving rather avoiding problems”.

### Conclusion

In this paper, findings pertaining to conversion of traditional statutes and judicial judgments into simplified version to make ease for the stake holders to achieve their academic and professional targets. This study supports the findings of empirical study executed by (Rubab) Rubab (2019), (2020), & (2022). The findings demonstrate that mostly lawyers and teachers preferred the simplified legal texts in terms of more and accurate awareness with legal texts and legal proceedings, time constraints, clarity and understanding of content matter. In this regard, findings justified the aim of the study. So, the *Plain English Movement* is recommended in Pakistani academic and professional legal settings to achieve the tasks.

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