



JUSTICE IN INDIA: FORGIVE OR FORGET

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ABSTRACT

“Justice” is a word on which the whole country, whether victims, accused or the general public, altogether hopes that someday someone in some part of the country will live freely without being afraid of the crimes taking place in the country. ‘Crime’, a word that brings fear in the minds of people and, unfortunately, is taking place at an increasing pace in India. The legal system runs around these 2 words mainly. Justice runs behind crimes, so that the innocent’s rights are valued, and crime runs behind justice because sometimes there is a reason behind doing a crime. There might be an infinite number of cases in which crimes are committed and never forgotten about, and then there are a few crimes which are forgiven since those crimes had some sentimental value behind them which was to be considered a crime, but it might have taken place for a reason of providing justice to someone or to protect someone. Now the question that arises is whether the legal system, which is supposed to give justice to the innocent, will also forget or forgive cases that uphold utmost importance in the country? Will the courts of the country take action on crimes committed, or will they also let go of people who give sentimental explanations for the cause of action?

Keywords: Justice, Crime, forgive accused, forget cases

INTRODUCTION

Providing justice in India is a time-consuming task because, if thought about it, by the time the courts take a decision for one case, a minimum of five or more crimes take place in that very second. This is the sad truth about our justice system. People at times do not consider filing a case because their thought process is to think that if they try to file a case on that very day, their case would be heard in the court after five to six years or more and another five to eight years would take place for the court to take a verdict; by this time the case would lose its importance

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and there will not be any value for the verdict whether the innocent is provided justice or not. In such cases, even if the newspapers and other communication modes state that a particular case was correctly interpreted and given justice, there would still be several cases in which justice would be required but no sight of cases that are actually filed.

This is the triggering truth faced in India currently. People post about multiple crimes, such as a minor got raped, a girl threw her husband or boyfriend off a cliff, sexual assault, harassment, and so on, but yet there is no impact of our legal system to take action slightly quicker than usual. The judicial system takes its time, increases the days to verdict by months or years, so that one particular case continues for a decade and causes delays in resolving other cases. The issue arisen is not the fact that the court doesn't know that there is a lack of justice provided, but the fact that even after knowing, the courts are not able to instil fear in the eyes of the person committing the crime. The legal system was created to punish those committing the crime and make the lives of innocents more peaceful and easier. But since the courts show delays in providing justice, the innocent do not show the intent of filing any case, and the criminals move freely in the country.

Recently in 2026, many cases have been come to the notice of the general public relating to marital rape, and death of many due to an extra affair etc. which is creating a sort of fear in the people's minds, but unfortunately, we don't have a separate law for marital rape and by the time the girl tries filing a case, she is murdered or mentally tortured which forces her to take steps of attempting suicide. Do you think such cases are to be forgotten, just because the time has passed and that courts didn't finish deciding other cases, so such cases are to be delayed further? The ultimate truth is that if the legal system is corrupted, the work is done quicker and in a smooth manner.

CORRUPTION AS A PART OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Corruption has become a part of the legal system currently, and this fact is known by each and every individual in India. People in India know that if they give money to a civil servant, then his work would be done quickly, irrespective of whether it is done legally or not. Punishments can nowadays be decreased if the legal system is fed money, and sometimes the criminal might be released as well if he belongs to a political family. This fact is no longer hidden from any person in the country, which makes it even more difficult to provide justice to the innocent. The criminals as well do not have a sense of fear in them, as they are well aware that if they

corrupt some civil servants in our country, then their case would be dropped and they won't have to face any further consequences.

Children are taught that corruption should not be a source of income, but in reality, corruption is the only source of income in our country at this stage. It's disappointing to know that due to a lack of job opportunities in our country, the power of corruption has increased. So, we can't blame the judicial system for being this corrupt, but this does not let go of the fact that once corruption begins in a working sector, it cannot stop. People have started assuming that the legal system is the most corrupt field and therefore show the least interest in going to the courts for seeking justice. Is this really the right way that our legal system should work? Victims eventually commit suicide instead of getting justice because they are well aware that the accused would feed the civil servant's money to get off a case and later kill the victim, so to avoid getting betrayed by their own justice system, the poor people take steps that would traumatise their families and the people around them.

JUSTICE IS TIME-TAKING: TRUTH OR MISCONCEPTION

Do you really think justice is time-taking, or do the courts take a lot of time to pass their verdict as they have to allow time for earning some more money? Even though the court is said to be blind while giving justice, the court is not deaf to not know whether a person's story is genuine or not. If the general public is told a story from both sides, they would come up with a decision of what is right and what is wrong quicker than the courts. So why do the courts require so much time to take a verdict, or why do the courts keep giving different dates for the hearings? The court does indeed need to take a decision that would impact other cases and their judgments, so the judges need to take time in giving a verdict, but taking six to eight months or even year after years for a case is just creating a negative impact on our justice system.

Giving justice is a time-consuming process because every case, every issue is dealt with differently; the courts handle multiple cases at a time, which might have their own seriousness. But this does not ignore the fact that sometimes, when the court doesn't want to decide due to societal pressure, the courts keep delaying a case for years. Each lawyer keeps getting money for every hearing, which makes this profession money-making, but since money comes in the way of justice, there is no justice. Justice seems to be easy, but not everyone has it in their own way. Victims seek justice, but don't realise that it's not them against the accused but a person,

i.e., an advocate who fights for their rights and sometimes to seek justice they need to pay a good amount; otherwise, there won't exist justice but just a power of money.

The courts are forced to think about the accused's side of the story as well because sometimes the accused's intention isn't wrong, but his action was wrong. Such as in the case of Phoolan Devi v. State of M.P. & Ors., 1996, she was gang raped at a minor age, and later she herself formed a gang and murdered those rapists.¹ In such a case, the victim's intention wasn't wrong, since the court would have taken time in giving her justice; she would have thought to get justice by herself. Her action was not legal, but knowing the reality of time taking that the courts show, it was quite apparent for her to do such an act. There might be more cases like this in which the accused had to take action for his own safety or protection of his family because they know that being an accused would be a better option rather than being a victim in front of the court, which is seeking justice.

JUSTICE V/S SOCIETY: THE CONCEPT OF FORGIVE OR FORGET

Society impacts justice, and Justice impacts society. The legal system, while taking a decision, has to think from all perspectives such as religious, practical, sentimental, etc., because a case's judgement is going to impact society. Sometimes society may forgive a crime, but the law might not and sometimes the vice versa takes place, so carrying justice and society hand-in-hand by the court is a hard task. There might be numerous cases for which the court has taken a decision looking at the societal pressure on them rather than thinking whether the accused was really wrong or not. Sometimes even an accused can be blamed for something that he might not have committed but is brought in front of the court, and due to societal pressure, the court might give him a long - term punishment. Such as in the Kerala bus viral video case, 2026², in this case, a woman falsely claimed that a man had sexually assaulted her in a crowded bus just to gain public attention.

The court has given many rights to women for their own safety, but multiple women misuse such rights to create chaos within society. Therefore, in the Kerala bus viral video case as well, when the woman posted a video stating that a man had harassed her, society blindly trusted her story and blamed the man for something he never committed. There might be multiple cases

¹ Phoolan Devi v. State of M.P. & Ors. [1996 SC] <https://indiankanoon.org>

² Kerala bus Viral Video case [2026] <https://www.ndtv.com>

similar to this, in which a person is wrongfully blamed just for revenge or public attention, which later forces him to take unfortunate steps such as suicide.

The difference between a court decision and the public decision is that courts have to listen to each and every single detail of both the accused and the victim's story, but on the contrary, the public sometimes only listens to one side of the story and starts creating nuisance and trouble for the other. So, when the court gives a verdict, they have to keep in mind all the bits and parts of the story of both the accused and the victim, but when the public decides, they don't think more or less but start supporting the one who might play a victim card in front of society. Therefore, even if law and society walk hand in hand, they cannot have the same powers that each law or society might have for themselves.

CONCLUSION

A case can never be forgotten, but sometimes can be forgiven for its own good. Sometimes justice can be slow, blind and corrupted, but it should not go against the innocent. Giving justice, valuing the rights of the innocent, making sure that every individual is protected and cherished in the country is the ultimate law of the people, by the people and for the people. A case might have multiple outcomes, but the court must be able to make the right decision and give the right person the justice that he deserves.

The court should try creating a fear in the minds of the criminals through their punishment system so that the criminals won't think of committing a crime in their life. Corruption cannot be stopped immediately but can be reduced by making use of technology to keep a check on all civil servants, to ensure no bribery takes place. The use of technology for investigating cybercrimes can also help the justice system reduce the cyber threats faced by the innocent. Cybercrimes are the latest issues faced by the youth nowadays.

The justice system knows how the issues of corruption and time-consuming can be reduced, yet there is no change. The part of corruption in society has increased so drastically that it can no longer be reduced or changed; therefore, even if we write about 'corruption to be reduced' or 'stopping corruption in India', etc., it won't help because there won't arise an actual change in society. Society has moulded itself in such a way that they have started considering corruption as a part of society itself. Giving justice has become a hard task in India, and its ultimate reason is corruption. The day that corruption stops, justice will start.