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VICE-CHANCELLORS OF TOP LAW SCHOOLS SPEAK



Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow was the only one among the top 10 to not provide data on its UG students, even though it offers a five-year integrated BBA-LLB programme. Six of the top 10 law colleges have less than 50% female students enrolled in UG courses.

Of the 21,670 students in UG programmes at the 28 law colleges, 10,994 are male and 10,676 are female. The percentage of female students varies across institutions, ranging from 29% in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Varanasi, to as-high as 77.5% in Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala.

The five law schools with the highest percentage of female students in UG are Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala (77.5%), Army Institute of Law, Mohali (63.5%), Shanmugha Arts Science Technology and Research Academy, Thanjavur (66.7%), Symbiosis Law School, Pune (56.2%), and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar (55%).

The lowest percentage of UG female students are at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (28.8%), Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (35.7%), Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (36.7%), National Law School of India University, Bengaluru (36%), and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi (42.2%).

Muskan, a final-year LLB student from Chandigarh

Among the top two UG law colleges, the percentage of female students doesn't even touch 40%. The only one among the top 5 colleges with at least 50% female students is Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Male students get more opportunities while representing cases in moot courts of law colleges. Many of my fellow female classmates dropped out from law courses in second and third year because they felt they were not meant to make a career in law. The field is still dominated by male judges and advocates," she said.

Among the top 30 institutions, Shanmugha Arts Science Technology and Research Academy, Thanjavur, is the only law college which does not offer a PG programme and Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, is the only law college without a UG one.

PG law courses

In postgraduate law, women have significantly better representation. At NLSIU, 54% of the PG batch is female, at NALSAR Hyderabad, close to 60% is female.

University, said, "I wanted to be a clinical psychologist and also wanted to pursue criminology. But in India, you cannot study criminology separately. So, I pursued LLB and I will go for psychology for my masters degree. But for the time being, I want to be a criminal litigator."

Although she has not faced gender discrimination herself, she said she has "heard" of incidents from juniors and students in other institutions. "There have been incidents where male candidates are prioritised over females in projects and assignments by faculties.

PG Students: Gender ratios in top law schools

Institute	Male	Female	% Female
National Law School of India University, Bengaluru	23	27	54
National Law University Delhi	48	33	40.7
Nizam University of Law, Hyderabad	30	43	58.9
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata	49	33	40.2
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	32	34	51.5
Symbiosis Law School, Pune	26	54	67.5
Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar	28	41	59.4
Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, Bhubaneswar	35	40	53.4
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	18	29	61.7
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow	32	44	57.8
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai	14	16	53.4

Institute	Male	Female	% Female
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar	23	67	74.5
Christ University, Bengaluru	48	120	71
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	43	33	43.4
Lovely Professional University, Phagwara	3	12	80
Indian Law Institute, New Delhi	179	95	34.6
National Law Institute University, Bhopal	103	73	41.7
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi	21	23	52.2
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala	16	24	60
Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow	16	12	42.8
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	107	56	34.3
Amity University Haryana, Gurgaon	92	78	45.8
National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi	16	23	58.9
Alliance University, Bengaluru	12	28	70
Army Institute of Law, Mohali	7	8	53.4
Nirma University, Ahmedabad	8	22	73.3
National Law University and Judicial Academy, Kamrup	18	13	41.9
Manipal University Jaipur	21	39	65
National Law University, Cuttack	27	23	46

The total number of PG law students across the 29 institutions is 2,078, including 1,011 male and 1,067 female students. Some institutions, such as Lovely Professional University in Phagwara and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in Bhubaneswar, have notably high percentages of female students (80% and 74.5%, respectively), while institutions like IILM New Delhi and BHU have lower percentages (34.6% and 34.3%, respectively).

The five institutions with the highest percentages of female students in PG law are Lovely Professional University, Phagwara (80%), Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar (74.5%), Alliance University, Bengaluru (70%), Symbiosis Law School, Pune (67.5%), and Manipal University Jaipur (65%).

The law institutes with the lowest percentage of female students in PG courses are FIILU (34.3%), Indian Law Institute, New Delhi (34.6%), WBNUJS, Kolkata (40.2%), NLU, Delhi (40.7%), and NLIU, Bhopal (41.7%).

More women in law

A Delhi University professor, on conditions of anonymity,

said that the classrooms of law colleges are still dominated by male students. "However, we are witnessing a continuous increase of female students in the law courses," he said. "Several states have also reserved women's seats in law colleges and judicial services. This will help more women pursue law."

Gautambhala Nandeshwar, principal associate at MV Kirti Law Firm in Mumbai, said that in a few fields within law, men have the upper hand. But there is space for everyone to make a career in law.

"Domination of men is in every field. It does not mean that women should not pursue their careers. To think that there is no space for women in law fields is completely unsatisfactory. In every field, you have to make your own space and if you are good enough there is work for everyone," she said. "There are no major problems for female students in law colleges. They are apprehensive of the problems they will face when they start actual practice in courts. This sentiment is not there in civil practices and corporate law firms, but in criminal law, where men have the upper hand. Women officers are not very comfortable with visits to the police station, every now and then. It depends upon the nature of work."