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A Study on Economic Inequality and the Administration of Law

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of economic inequality on the administration of law in India. It analyzes how socio-economic disparities influence access to justice, quality of legal representation, and fairness in judicial processes. The research adopts both doctrinal and non-doctrinal methods to assess constitutional provisions, statutory frameworks, and practical challenges faced by economically weaker sections. It highlights issues such as judicial delay, ineffective legal aid, and unequal enforcement of legal rights. The study also explores the role of courts and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in addressing inequality. Empirical data collected from respondents supports the doctrinal analysis. The findings reveal that economic inequality continues to undermine the principle of equality before law. The research emphasizes the need for institutional and legal reforms. It aims to contribute to policy discussions on inclusive justice. Ultimately, the study seeks to promote equitable administration of law in an economically diverse society.

Keywords: Economic Inequality, Administration of Law, Access to Justice, Legal Aid, Judicial Delay, Equality before Law, Legal Representation, Rule of Law.

1. Introduction

Economic inequality has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges faced by modern societies, influencing not only social and political structures but also the functioning of legal systems. Law is often perceived as a neutral instrument that guarantees equality and justice for all; however, in practice, access to legal remedies and the outcomes of legal processes are frequently shaped by economic status. This disparity raises critical questions about whether the administration of law truly operates on the principle of equality before law or whether it inadvertently reinforces existing social and economic hierarchies. The increasing gap between the rich and the poor makes it essential to examine how legal institutions respond to economic inequality and whether justice remains accessible to all sections of society.

The choice of this topic is motivated by the growing realization that economic conditions significantly affect an individual's interaction with the legal system. Wealth can influence the quality of legal representation, the ability to sustain prolonged litigation, and even the likelihood of favorable outcomes. On the other hand, economically disadvantaged individuals often face barriers such as lack of legal awareness, financial constraints, and limited institutional support. These realities prompted an interest in understanding how economic inequality intersects with the administration of

law and whether legal frameworks effectively address or unintentionally deepen these inequalities.

This study seeks to explore the relationship between economic inequality and the administration of law by analyzing how economic disparities impact access to justice, fairness in legal procedures, and the overall effectiveness of the legal system. It aims to examine whether laws and judicial mechanisms function uniformly across different economic classes or whether systemic biases exist. By critically analyzing legal principles, judicial practices, and socio-economic realities, the study attempts to highlight the challenges posed by economic inequality to the ideal of justice. Ultimately, this research aspires to contribute to a deeper understanding of how law can evolve to promote substantive equality and ensure justice for all.

2. Statement of the Problem

The problem addressed in this study arises from the observable gap between the ideal of equality before law and its practical application in societies marked by economic inequality. Although the legal system claims to administer justice impartially, economic disparities often influence access to legal resources, quality of representation, and the ability to effectively pursue or defend legal claims. This creates a situation where justice may appear equal in theory

but unequal in practice. The choice of this topic stems from the concern that economic disadvantage continues to limit meaningful access to justice for a large section of society. The core issue examined is whether the administration of law genuinely serves all individuals equally or whether it indirectly perpetuates economic and social inequality.

3. Review of Literature

Shreya Sharma, Nikaiah & Maria Da Silva (2021) ^[1] state that economic inequality significantly affects access to legal services in India, particularly for marginalized and low-income groups. Their study highlights that high litigation costs, lack of legal awareness, and limited access to professional legal assistance restrict effective participation in the justice system. They argue that economic disadvantage transforms legal rights into theoretical guarantees rather than practical realities. The authors emphasize that inequality in access to justice weakens public confidence in legal institutions. They conclude that addressing economic barriers is essential for achieving substantive equality in law.

Tyagi (2022) ^[2] states that despite constitutional promises of equality and justice, the Indian legal system remains inaccessible to economically weaker sections. His research focuses on procedural delays, court expenses, and inadequate legal aid as major barriers to justice. He argues that economic inequality undermines the administration of law by disproportionately disadvantaging the poor. The study stresses that formal equality before law does not ensure fairness without institutional support. Tyagi recommends reforms in legal aid and judicial efficiency to address these challenges.

IJLLR Editorial Board (2025) ^[3] states that Article 39A of the Indian Constitution was enacted to prevent economic inequality from obstructing access to justice. Their analysis explains that free legal aid is a constitutional obligation aimed at ensuring equal opportunity in the administration of law. However, the study notes that implementation gaps weaken the effectiveness of legal aid mechanisms. It highlights challenges such as lack of awareness, insufficient funding, and uneven outreach. The authors conclude that constitutional ideals must be strengthened through effective execution.

ResearchGate Study on Legal Aid (2025) ^[4] states that India's legal aid system, though well-structured, fails to adequately serve economically disadvantaged communities. The research identifies bureaucratic inefficiencies and lack of accountability as major obstacles. It argues that economic inequality continues to influence legal outcomes despite statutory protections. The study highlights the need for reform in legal aid delivery systems. It concludes that access to justice remains unequal due to economic disparities.

Shreya Bhardwaj (2021) ^[5] states that access to free justice is a fundamental requirement for achieving equality before law in India. Her research critically analyzes Article 39A and judicial interpretations supporting free legal aid. She emphasizes that denying legal assistance due to poverty amounts to denial of justice. The study argues that economic inequality directly contradicts constitutional principles when legal remedies are inaccessible. She concludes that the administration of law must actively compensate for economic disadvantage.

4. Research Gap of the Study

Previous studies on economic inequality and access to justice in India have largely focused on legal aid mechanisms, constitutional provisions, and general barriers faced by economically weaker sections. However, limited attention has

been given to how economic inequality influences the day-to-day administration of law, including judicial discretion, procedural fairness, and enforcement of legal remedies. Most research discusses access at the entry level of the legal system but does not critically examine inequalities within ongoing legal processes. Further, there is a lack of integrated analysis connecting economic inequality with both civil and criminal justice administration. Existing literature also insufficiently addresses the effectiveness of institutional responses in reducing inequality. This study seeks to fill these gaps by examining how economic inequality shapes the practical functioning of the legal system.

5. Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study is to examine the impact of economic inequality on the administration of law and access to justice. It also aims to analyze the effectiveness of existing legal mechanisms in ensuring equality before law for all sections of society.

- i). To find out the extent to which economic inequality affects access to justice and the administration of law in India.
- ii). To analyze the impact of economic status on legal processes, including access to legal representation and procedural fairness.
- iii). To examine the effectiveness of existing legal aid mechanisms in addressing economic inequality within the justice system.
- iv). To evaluate the role of judicial institutions in ensuring equality before law despite socio-economic disparities.
- v). To understand the relationship between economic inequality and fairness in the enforcement of legal rights.
- vi). To suggest measures for strengthening the administration of law to promote substantive equality and inclusive justice.

6. Methodology

The present research is based on both doctrinal and non-doctrinal methods of study. Doctrinal research has been carried out through the analysis of secondary sources such as textbooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, All India Reports, statutes, case laws, and various e-resources. Non-doctrinal research has been conducted by collecting primary data from respondents using stratified random sampling. The sample size for the study consists of 105 respondents drawn from different socio-economic backgrounds. For the purpose of data analysis, statistical tools such as the percentage method and average method have been employed. The duration of the research study is three months.

7. Significance of the Study

This research helps to understand the relationship between economic inequality and the administration of law, particularly how economic disparities influence access to justice and fairness within the legal system. It highlights the practical challenges faced by economically weaker sections in availing legal remedies despite constitutional guarantees of equality. This research helps to understand the practical utility of the study for different stakeholders by identifying its applications. For the Government, It assists in evaluating the effectiveness of existing legal aid and access-to-justice policies. It provides a basis for framing inclusive legal and judicial reforms to reduce inequality. It supports evidence-based policymaking aimed at strengthening equitable administration of law. For Us, It enhances legal awareness

regarding the impact of economic inequality on justice delivery. It aids students and researchers in understanding the real functioning of legal institutions.

8. Hypothesis of the Study

This research based on following hypothesis,

- i). The current legal system does not provide equal justice for the rich and the poor.
- ii). Systemic issues within the administration of law, are significantly influenced by economic inequality.

9. Limitation of the Study

The study has certain limitations that need to be acknowledged. The reliability of the data may be affected as the research is partly based on the opinions and perceptions of respondents. The limited duration of three months restricts the scope of detailed and longitudinal analysis. The sample size, though sufficient for the study, may not fully represent the entire population. Responses may vary from region to region due to social and economic differences. The study relies on secondary sources such as journals and reports, which may contain inherent biases. Time constraints limited extensive fieldwork. Changes in economic conditions over time are not considered. The findings may therefore not be universally applicable. These limitations may influence the overall conclusions of the study.

10. Result and Discussion

Part I: Doctrinal Research

Economic Inequality and Access to Justice in India:

Economic inequality plays a decisive role in shaping access to justice and the administration of law in India. While the Indian legal system is founded on constitutional principles of equality before law and equal protection of laws, the practical operation of these principles is often constrained by socio-economic realities. Access to justice does not merely mean the availability of courts or legal institutions, but also includes the ability of individuals to approach, understand, and effectively utilize legal mechanisms. Economic inequality limits this ability by restricting financial capacity, legal awareness, and institutional accessibility for economically weaker sections of society [6].

The existence of poverty and income disparity significantly affects the participation of marginalized groups in the justice delivery system. High litigation costs, lawyer fees, procedural expenses, and delays act as deterrents for economically disadvantaged individuals. Many people are unable to initiate or continue legal proceedings due to the financial burden involved, even when their legal claims are legitimate. As a result, economic inequality leads to unequal participation in legal processes, thereby weakening the principle of equal justice. The administration of law, in such circumstances, becomes inaccessible to those who lack economic resources.

In addition to financial constraints, social factors such as illiteracy, lack of legal awareness, and geographical distance from courts further aggravate inequality in access to justice. Economically weaker sections, particularly in rural and remote areas, often remain unaware of their legal rights and available remedies. This lack of awareness prevents individuals from asserting their rights or seeking legal protection. Consequently, legal institutions remain underutilized by those who need them the most, while economically stronger sections are better equipped to navigate legal procedures and assert their interests effectively.

The study of social and economic barriers to justice highlights

that legal aid mechanisms, though constitutionally and statutorily recognized, face limitations in implementation. Inadequate outreach, limited resources, and administrative inefficiencies reduce the effectiveness of legal aid services. As a result, economic inequality continues to influence who can realistically access justice. Unless structural economic barriers are addressed through effective legal reforms and institutional strengthening, the administration of law will continue to reflect existing socio-economic inequalities rather than serve as a tool for social justice and equality.

Judicial Delay and Economic Inequality in the

Administration of Law: Judicial delay is one of the most significant structural problems affecting the administration of law in India, and its impact is felt more severely by economically weaker sections of society. Although delay in disposal of cases affects all litigants, its consequences are disproportionately borne by those with limited financial resources. The Law Commission of India has repeatedly observed that prolonged litigation undermines access to justice and weakens public confidence in the legal system. Judicial delay transforms justice into a costly and time-consuming process, thereby excluding those who cannot afford to wait or sustain long legal battles [7].

Economic inequality plays a crucial role in determining how litigants experience judicial delay. Wealthier individuals and institutions possess the financial capacity to endure prolonged proceedings, engage senior advocates, and manage repeated adjournments. On the other hand, economically disadvantaged litigants often face severe hardship due to loss of wages, travel expenses, legal fees, and emotional distress. Many are compelled to withdraw cases or accept unfair settlements due to financial exhaustion. This creates an imbalance in legal outcomes, where economic strength indirectly influences the administration of justice rather than the merits of the case.

The Law Commission has highlighted that delay not only affects civil litigation but also has serious consequences in criminal justice administration. Undertrial prisoners from poor backgrounds often remain incarcerated for long periods due to delays in investigation, trial, and disposal of cases. Such prolonged detention violates the principle of personal liberty and disproportionately affects those who cannot afford bail or legal representation. Judicial delay thus reinforces economic inequality by subjecting the poor to greater legal vulnerability and prolonged injustice.

Further, delay in justice delivery undermines the constitutional promise of equality before law by creating unequal burdens on different economic classes. While the legal system remains formally accessible, its slow functioning effectively denies timely justice to those lacking economic resources. The Law Commission has emphasized that speedy justice is an essential component of fairness and equality in the administration of law. Without addressing systemic delays through judicial reforms, increased judicial capacity, and procedural efficiency, economic inequality will continue to distort the functioning of the justice system. Therefore, reducing judicial delay is not merely an administrative concern but a necessary step toward ensuring equitable administration of law in an economically unequal society.

Economic Inequality and Access to Constitutional

Remedies: Access to constitutional remedies is a vital aspect of the administration of law in India, as it enables citizens to seek protection of fundamental rights. Articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution empower individuals to approach the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively for enforcement of constitutional rights. However, economic inequality

significantly influences the ability of citizens to effectively utilize these remedies. While constitutional remedies are theoretically available to all, the practical exercise of these rights often depends on financial capacity, legal awareness, and access to competent legal representation^[8].

The Supreme Court of India has recognized that constitutional remedies are meaningless if individuals are unable to approach courts due to economic constraints. Filing writ petitions involves expenses such as court fees, advocate fees, documentation costs, and travel expenses, which may discourage economically weaker individuals from seeking relief. As a result, constitutional litigation is more frequently initiated by individuals and organizations with sufficient financial resources, while marginalized groups remain underrepresented in constitutional courts.

Economic inequality also affects the quality and effectiveness of constitutional litigation. Wealthier litigants are able to engage senior advocates and legal experts, enabling detailed arguments and sustained legal battles. In contrast, poor litigants often face difficulties in presenting complex constitutional issues effectively. This imbalance influences judicial engagement and outcomes, indirectly shaping the administration of constitutional justice. Although public interest litigation has expanded access to constitutional remedies, its effectiveness in addressing individual grievances of the poor remains limited.

The Supreme Court has emphasized that access to constitutional remedies must be meaningful and inclusive. In *Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India*, the Court adopted a liberal approach by allowing non-traditional standing to protect the rights of bonded labourers, recognizing that economic and social barriers prevent direct access to courts. Such judicial interventions demonstrate an attempt to counteract economic inequality within constitutional adjudication. However, reliance on judicial discretion alone cannot address structural inequalities.

To ensure equitable access to constitutional remedies, there is a need for systemic reforms such as simplified procedures, expanded legal aid for constitutional litigation, and increased legal awareness among disadvantaged communities. Without addressing economic inequality, constitutional remedies risk becoming instruments accessible primarily to the privileged, thereby undermining the constitutional vision of justice, liberty, and equality.

Economic Inequality and Judicial Discretion: Judicial discretion is an essential component of the administration of law, allowing judges to interpret statutes, apply principles of equity, and deliver justice based on the facts of each case. However, economic inequality can indirectly influence how judicial discretion operates within the legal system. While judges are expected to remain impartial, the socio-economic context of litigants often affects legal proceedings, particularly in matters involving bail, sentencing, compensation, and procedural reliefs. As a result, judicial discretion may produce outcomes that disproportionately affect economically weaker sections^[9].

Discretionary powers also arise in civil matters, particularly in granting interim reliefs, injunctions, or stays. Economically stronger litigants are often better positioned to seek and sustain interim orders due to their ability to pursue prolonged litigation. Poor litigants may struggle to comply with procedural requirements or contest repeated applications, thereby placing them at a disadvantage. This creates an imbalance in litigation dynamics and allows economic power to influence procedural advantages within the legal system.

Further, judicial discretion in awarding compensation or damages may not always adequately reflect the socio-economic vulnerability of victims. Uniform standards applied without consideration of economic hardship may fail to provide meaningful relief to disadvantaged individuals. The Supreme Court has recognized that justice must be tempered with equity and fairness, especially when dealing with economically marginalized groups. Failure to account for economic inequality in judicial discretion risks reinforcing existing disparities rather than correcting them.

To ensure equitable administration of law, judicial discretion must be exercised with awareness of economic inequality and its implications. Judicial training, guidelines, and sensitization programs can assist judges in understanding the socio-economic dimensions of legal disputes. By incorporating principles of equity and proportionality, judicial discretion can serve as a corrective mechanism rather than a contributor to inequality. Addressing economic inequality within judicial decision-making is essential to uphold the constitutional promise of justice for all.

Need for Legal and Institutional Reforms to Address Economic Inequality:

The persistent influence of economic inequality on the administration of law highlights the urgent need for comprehensive legal and institutional reforms. Although the Indian legal system is grounded in constitutional principles of equality and justice, structural economic disparities continue to limit the effective realization of these ideals. The Directive Principles of State Policy, particularly Article 39A, emphasize the State's responsibility to ensure that justice is not denied to any citizen due to economic or other disabilities. However, the gap between constitutional intent and practical implementation remains a major concern.

The Law Commission of India has repeatedly stressed that access to justice is a fundamental component of a democratic legal system and that economic inequality weakens this access. Reforms aimed at simplifying legal procedures, reducing litigation costs, and strengthening legal aid institutions are essential to counter the exclusionary effects of poverty. Procedural complexity and delays not only discourage economically weaker individuals from approaching courts but also erode public confidence in the justice delivery system. Therefore, reforming procedural laws to make them more accessible and cost-effective is a necessary step toward inclusive justice^[10].

Institutional reforms must also focus on expanding and strengthening legal aid services. While statutory frameworks exist, their effectiveness depends on adequate funding, trained personnel, and widespread awareness. Legal aid should not merely provide formal access to courts but must ensure quality representation and meaningful participation in legal proceedings. Strengthening institutions such as Legal Services Authorities and improving coordination between courts and legal aid providers can significantly reduce inequality in justice administration.

In conclusion, economic inequality poses a serious challenge to the equitable administration of law in India. Legal and institutional reforms must be guided by constitutional values of justice, equality, and human dignity. Addressing economic inequality within the legal system is not merely a policy choice but a constitutional obligation essential for preserving the rule of law and ensuring justice for all sections of society.

Relevant Case Law:

i). **M.H. Hoskot v. State of Maharashtra (1978):** In this landmark case, the Supreme Court addressed the reality

that economic disability often prevents a person from accessing the appellate process. The petitioner was unable to file an appeal because he did not have the financial means to obtain a copy of the judgment or hire a lawyer. The Court held that the right to free legal services for the indigent is a constitutional mandate under Article 21 (Right to Life and Liberty). It ruled that the "administration of law" is not fair if a person is denied their right to appeal solely due to poverty. The Court further directed that a copy of the judgment must be provided free of cost to every prisoner. This case established that legal aid is not government charity but a constitutional right^[11].

ii). **Hussainara Khatoon v. Home Secretary, State of Bihar (1979):** Often referred to as the first major Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India, this case highlighted how economic inequality leads to a breakdown in the administration of justice. The Supreme Court discovered thousands of "undertrials"—mostly poor people—languishing in jails for periods longer than their maximum potential sentences because they could not afford bail or legal representation. Justice P.N. Bhagwati

ruled that the right to a speedy trial is an integral part of Article 21. The Court emphasized that the legal system's failure to provide a fair procedure for the poor made it "blind and deaf" to their suffering. It resulted in the immediate release of over 40,000 prisoners and mandated that the state provide legal aid to the indigent^[12].

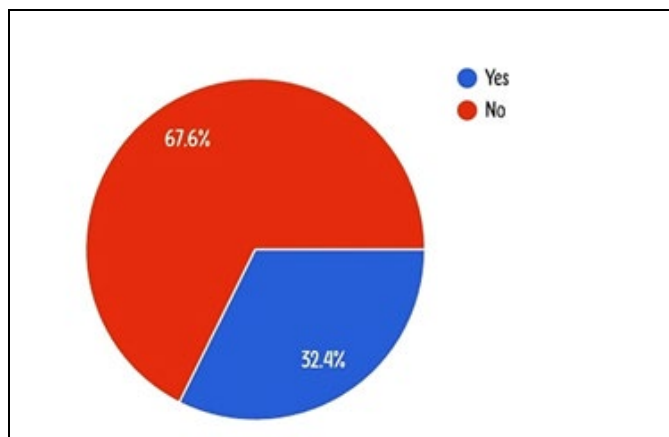
iii). **Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985):** This case, famously known as the "Pavement Dwellers Case," explores the direct link between economic status and the right to exist. The Supreme Court dealt with the eviction of thousands of pavement dwellers in Mumbai who lived in slums due to extreme poverty. The Court ruled that the "Right to Life" under Article 21 includes the "Right to Livelihood," arguing that no person can live without the means of living. It held that the administration of law cannot be used to summarily evict the poor without following the principles of natural justice, such as providing a notice and a hearing. While the court did not stop the evictions entirely, it mandated that the state must provide alternative sites for resettlement, acknowledging that poverty should not strip a person of their constitutional dignity^[13].

PART II: Non-Doctrinal Research

Table 1: The current legal system does not provide equal justice for the rich and the poor.

Indicators	Male	Female	Transgender	Total
Yes	20(19.04)	14(13.33)	0(0.00)	34(32.38)
No	43(40.94)	28(26.66)	0(0.00)	71(67.61)
Total	63(60.00)	42(40.00)	0(0.00)	105(100.00)

Source: Primary data



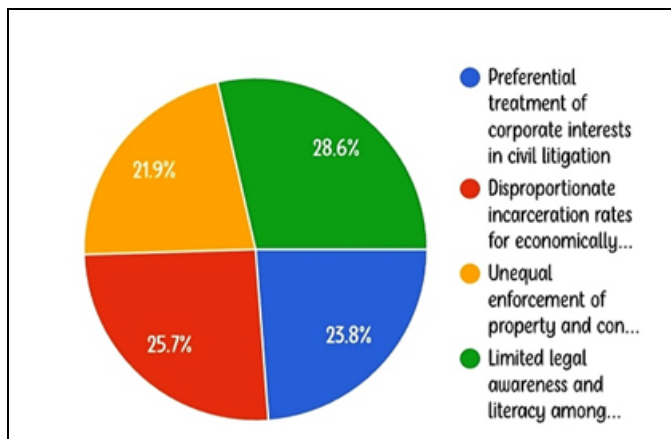
The table shows the gender-wise distribution of respondents across two categories. Males, fall in the first category of 60.00 percentage. Female with 40.00 percentage. No transgender respondents were recorded in either category. Overall, the first category includes 32.38 percentage, while the second

includes 67.61 percentage. The total sample size of the study is 105 respondents. Male respondents constitute the majority in both categories. Female participation is comparatively lower but significant. The second category has a higher concentration of respondents than the first.

Table 2: Systemic issues within the administration of law, are significantly influenced by economic inequality.

Indicators	Urban	Rural	Semi-Urban	Metropolitan	Total
Corporate Bias	7(6.66)	5(4.76)	6(5.71)	7(6.66)	25(23.80)
Economic Incarceration	8(7.61)	6(5.71)	6(5.71)	7(6.66)	27(25.71)
Property Inequality	5(4.76)	3(2.85)	10(9.52)	5(4.76)	23(21.90)
Legal Awareness	8(7.61)	1(0.95)	10(9.52)	11(10.47)	30(28.57)
Total	28(26.66)	15(14.28)	32(30.47)	30(28.57)	105(100.00)

Source: Primary data



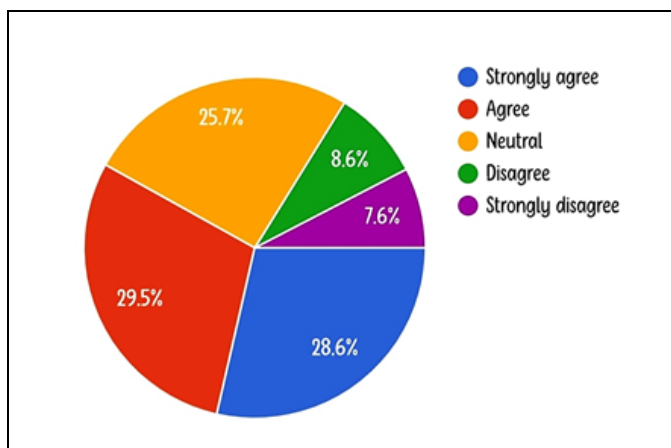
The table shows the area-wise distribution of responses across different indicators of inequality. For Corporate Bias, a total of 23.80 percentage were recorded, with Urban and Metropolitan areas contributing equally. Economic Incarceration accounted for 25.71 percentage, showing a fairly even distribution across all areas. Property Inequality had a total of 21.90 percentage, with Semi-Urban areas

recording the highest number. Legal Awareness recorded the highest to 28.57 percentage. Urban areas contributed 26.66 percentage overall across all indicators. Rural areas had the lowest contribution with 14.28 percentage. Semi-Urban areas accounted for 30.47 percentage. Metropolitan areas contributed 28.57 percentage.

Table 3: Improving access to justice for the poor would significantly boost overall national economic growth and social trust

Indicators	Illiterate	Primary School	High School	Higher Secondary	UG Degree	PG Degree	ITI and Diploma	Total
Strongly agree	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	1(0.95)	27(25.71)	0(0.00)	2(1.90)	30(28.57)
Agree	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	1(0.95)	27(25.71)	1(0.95)	2(1.90)	31(29.52)
Neutral	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	2(1.90)	24(22.85)	1(0.95)	0(0.00)	27(25.71)
Disagree	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	8(7.61)	0(0.00)	1(0.95)	9(8.57)
Strongly disagree	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	1(0.95)	0(0.00)	7(6.65)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	8(7.61)
Total	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	1(0.95)	4(3.80)	93(88.5)	2(1.90)	5(4.76)	105(100.00)

Source: Primary data



The table presents the distribution of responses based on the educational qualification of respondents. It shows the levels of agreement ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree across different education groups. The majority of responses fall under the categories of strongly agree and agree. Respondents with UG degree and PG degree contributed a higher number of positive responses compared to other groups. The ITI and diploma group also showed notable participation in agreeing responses. Very few respondents from the illiterate and primary school categories recorded strong agreement. Neutral responses were limited across most educational levels. Disagree and strongly disagree responses were comparatively very low in number. This indicates an overall positive perception among respondents regarding the indicators studied.

Test for Hypothesis:

Hypothesis 1: The current legal system does not provide equal justice for the rich and the poor.

Null Hypothesis (H₀): There is no significant difference in the Yes and No responses among male, female and transgender respondents.

Alternative Hypothesis (H₁): There is a significant difference in the Yes and No responses among male, female and transgender respondents.

Analysis

The gender-wise data shows that both male and female respondents recorded higher numbers of No responses compared to Yes responses. Male respondents contributed the highest number of responses, followed by females, while no

responses were recorded from the transgender category. Overall, negative responses were more dominant across genders. This variation in response pattern indicates a difference in perception among genders. Hence, the alternative hypothesis is supported, suggesting that gender influences the response outcomes. The dominance of No responses across both male and female categories reflects a common trend in perception. The absence of responses from the transgender group further highlights unequal participation among genders.

Hypothesis 2: Systemic issues within the administration of law, are significantly influenced by economic inequality

Null Hypothesis (H₀): There is no significant difference in responses across Urban, Rural, Semi-Urban, and Metropolitan areas with respect to the given indicators.

Alternative Hypothesis (H₁): There is a significant difference in responses across Urban, Rural, Semi-Urban, and Metropolitan areas with respect to the given indicators.

Analysis

Urban and Semi-Urban areas recorded comparatively higher numbers of responses across most indicators. Rural areas showed the lowest level of responses. Metropolitan areas also contributed significantly but not uniformly across all indicators. This uneven distribution suggests that geographical area has an influence on respondents' perceptions. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis is accepted, indicating significant differences among areas. The Semi-Urban region recorded the highest overall responses, indicating greater engagement with the indicators. Urban areas also showed consistently higher responses across most categories. In contrast, Rural areas reflected minimal participation in comparison to other regions. The variation in response levels across geographical locations suggests differing levels of awareness and experience.

11. Conclusion

This study has examined the complex relationship between economic inequality and the administration of law. It highlights how unequal distribution of wealth often leads to unequal access to legal resources and justice. Economic disparities influence legal outcomes, enforcement practices, and public trust in the legal system. The research shows that marginalized groups frequently face greater legal obstacles and systemic disadvantages. Such inequalities weaken the principle of equality before the law. The administration of law, when affected by economic power, risks favoring the privileged. Undermines fairness and democratic values in society. Legal reforms must focus on accessibility, transparency, and accountability. Strengthening legal aid and policy interventions can reduce these gaps. Ultimately, social justice and legal justice must progress together for sustainable development.

12. Suggestions

- i). To address the impact of economic inequality on the administration of law, the government should strengthen legal aid services to ensure access to justice for economically weaker sections and implement laws impartially without influence from wealth or social status.
- ii). Judicial procedures should be simplified and made cost-effective to reduce delays and financial burdens on litigants.

- iii). Public awareness programs must be conducted to educate citizens about their legal rights and remedies. Policy reforms aimed at reducing income and wealth disparities can contribute to a more balanced legal system.
- iv). Additionally, strict anti-corruption measures and greater transparency in legal institutions are essential to restore public trust and promote fairness in the administration of law.
- v). Training programs for legal professionals should emphasize ethical practices and social responsibility.

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