

Social Networks in Legal Profession : A Case Study of Indian Lawyers

Virendra Pal Singh

The entrance of a person into profession requires acquisition of competent skills through requisite training. When the profession relates to legal sphere of life in a predominantly rural society, there is an additional demand on the person for maintaining his links with the clientele largely drawn from the rural areas. The culture of first migrant generation of lawyers comes handy in ensuring the maintenance and nourishment of rural-urban connections by extending and activating primordial ties. The present paper makes an attempt to analyse the patterns and role of social networks in legal profession at two points : (a) in the professional training of the lawyer; and (b) the professional performance of the lawyer. The study was located in Meerut city, headquarters of a district court in the Uttar Pradesh (India). The data were collected through administering a questionnaire on a random sample of 200 lawyers. The information about social networks was collected through intensive conversations with some selected lawyers. The present paper is anchored on the leads drawn from existing studies in three areas viz. law, rural-urban articulations and social networks.

The term 'network' was first introduced by Radcliffe Brown in his definition of social structure as a 'complex' network of relations' (1940: 222). But the idea of using of network as an analytical tool was first introduced by J.A. Barnes (1954) in his analysis of Norwegian Island Parish. He identified three fields of interaction, namely, stationary, fluid and 'third' field. In case of Bremnes Island, the stationary field was denoted by the domestic, agricultural and administrative areas; the fluid field generated by industrial system consisted of 'a large number of interdependent, yet formally autonomous units such as fishing vessels, marketing cooperatives and herring oil factories connected with each other functionally' (Barnes 1954: 236-237). The 'third' field, which links the other two-stationary and fluid field of interaction, was termed as 'social network'. The third field has "no units or boundaries; it has no co-ordinating organization. It is made up of the ties of friendship and acquaintance which every one growing up in Bremnes society partly inherits and largely builds up for himself". The elements of this social field are not fixed for new ties are continually being formed and old links are broken or put into indefinite cold storage" (Barnes 1954: 237). Barnes uses the term social network in its socio-centric sense. By network he has the image of "set of points some of which are joined by lines. The points of the image are people or sometimes, groups, and the lines indicate which people interact with each other" (Barnes 1954: 237). What

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does he mean by this is “that part of the total network that is left behind when we remove the groupings and chains of interaction which belong strictly to the stationary and fluid fields” (1954: 237).

Since Barnes the network analysis has been extended to various facets of social life. One of the basic contributions to network analysis can be traced in the work of Elizabeth Bott (1971). She used the notion of social network in analysing the performance of conjugal roles in terms of the extent to which husband and wife carried out their activities and tasks separately and independently of each other. She found that the immediate social environment of an urban family was consisted of a network rather than an organized group and the differences in degree of conjugal roles were associated with difference in network connectedness. These networks varied in degree of connectedness which refers to “the extent to which the people with whom the family maintains relationship carry on relationship with one another” (Bott 1971: 217). These variations in network connectedness were particularly evident in informal relationships between friends, neighbours and relatives. She used the term ‘close-knit’ to describe a network “in which there are many such relationships among component units” and the term ‘loose-knit’ to describe a network ‘in which there are few such relationships among the component units’ (Bott 1957: 59). Barnes (1969) suggested the term ‘density’ in place of the term ‘connectedness’. Another pioneer work on the concept of social network is of Adrian C. Mayer (1966) who used the idea of social network in the field of political interaction by mapping the linkages of municipal election candidate in a district town of central India. He pointed out that the term network can be referred to both ‘bounded’ as well as ‘unbounded’ entities. He preferred to use the term, action set’ in case of ‘a bounded set of relations in a social network’. He identified five characteristics of an electoral action set which are as follows : (1) in an action set a wide variety of bases for linkage are involved but despite of varied ‘outward’ content is always the same, (2) the links in action set are based on group membership; (3) the action set contains paths of linkages, and is thus combination of relationships linking people directly to ego and of those linking people to intermediaries who are themselves in direct contact with ego (4) the action set is a bounded entity; and (5) action set is not a ‘permanent’ entity like the group”.

Thus, an action set is a distinct type of social network which is a bounded entity and is composed of direct and indirect linkages of the ego. These links are activated by ego in order to achieve specific goal. Thus, the set of persons depends on the nature of goal. With the change in goals same ego can change his set of persons activated. Mayer uses the term in its egocentric sense.

Epstein (1969) distinguished between two parts of ego’s social network, namely, ‘effective’ network and ‘extended’ network. The effective network is composed of those persons with whom he ‘interacts most intensely and most regularly and who are therefore likely to come to know one another’ (Epstein 1969: 110-11). The remainder part constitutes the ‘extended’ network. In a similar fashion, Granovetter (1973; 1974) suggested that the ego’s network is composed of strong and weak ties. His distinction is based on the strength of the tie which he defines as “a (probably linear) combination of the amount of time, the emotional intensity, the intimacy (mutual confiding) and the reciprocal services which characterize the tie” (Granovetter 1973: 354). A tie may act as a bridge between corresponding networks of two individuals. A bridge is ‘a line in the network which provides the only path between two points’ (Granovetter 1973: 357). He further emphasized that it is the weak ties rather the strong tie which form the bridge between two networks because ‘the strength of the tie is directly proportional to the proportion of individuals in their network to whom

they will be both tied, that is, connected by a weak or strong tie. This overlapping in their networks disqualifies a strong tie from being a bridge' (Granovetter 1973: 358). He found that the weak ties are more useful in getting information about job in his study of job changers in Boston suburb of United States. The job information was passed through short path rather than long path in most of the cases. Thus, the weak ties are important resources in making possible mobility opportunity (Granovetter 1974). When a person changes his job (intragenerationally as well as intergenerationally) he is not only moving from one occupational position to the other but he is also changing his network. He has to extend his network in a new situation. In this process some ties of his network perform the function of a bridge between The concept of social network has been extended to Indian situation by a number of sociologists. Srinivas and Beteille (1964) discussed at a length the usefulness of network in understanding of processes of Indian social structure. They pointed out that "the concept of social network paves the way to an understanding of the linkage existing between different institution spheres and between different systems of groups and categories" (Srinivas and Beteille 1964:165). They also emphasized the networks have been important entities in traditional as well as in contemporary Indian social situation. Sabarwal (1976) finds 'focussed network' useful in mobility process. Sachchidanand (1976) used the notion of focussed network in his study of Harijan elite and identified nine occasions when these networks were activated. The ties of caste, kinship and friendship play important role in approaching the elite. Sharma (1976) also attempted to use the concept of social network in a rural setting to examine the process of social change. Chauhan (1979) examined the relevance of the notion of social network in the analysis of rural urban articulations in India. He emphasized that social network can be used as an analytical tool in mapping of rural urban interactions along cultural, political - administrative and economic dimensions. He pointed out that "studies on networks can be approached from three vantage points: (a) with the urban centre as focus of attention, (b) with the rural units as focus, adopting the village outward, approach and (c) with both rural and urban centres as areas of inquiry along interconnected themes" (Chauhan 1990:103).

Empirical sociological studies of legal profession are very few. Kidder (1974) studied the dynamics of lawyer-client relationship in Bangalore (a Metropolitan town of Karnataka State of India) and found that both lawyers and clients depended on each other but their encounters and relations were marked by deep distrust of each other (Kidder 1974:27). Morrison (1972,1974) has focussed on the role of para-professionals in the legal profession and found that one kind of para professionals the *Munshi* (munshi is the clerk of the private lawyer who assists him) - contributes significantly to the daily organization of a district law practice in India. Like the lawyer-client relationship of mutual distrust as noted by Kidder, he also found a pattern of distrust between the lawyers and their munshis. There were conflicts over the fees or commissions to be paid to munshis. Munshis, according to him, "undoubtedly acted as touts, but their success in performing this function was a matter of conjecture" (Morrison 1974: 470). In 1980's two important sociological studies on legal profession have been published. Gandhi (1982) studied the lawyers and the forms of touting in a district rooted in Govindgarh district courts. Even munshis of the lawyers work as touts who did not constitute a formal role- category". (Gandhi 1982:152-154). Sharma (1984) emphasised in his study of lawyers of Jaipur bar that "the old or regular clients constituted a sort of network for the lawyer who got their clientele increased through them" (1984:190). The patterns of social network which operate in legal profession require special attention in context of Indian Society as intermediation is an important element of Indian social life.

Duration of Professional Training

The entrance of an individual into legal profession after passing a degree course in law is followed by professional training under a senior lawyer. Although such a training is not required formally as after completion of three years degree course in law one can start independent legal practice in the courts. But for all practical purposes it is considered necessary to receive professional training from a senior practicing lawyer over a period of two to three years.

In general most of the aspirants of legal practice start to receive this training during the last year of their degree course in law so that they can attain practical knowledge of the legal practice. In this section, the role of social network in professional training of the lawyer is examined. In the sample of 200 subjects, as many as 190 lawyers had passed through training under atleast one senior lawyer. However, of these 54 lawyers had gone through further training under another senior lawyer. The duration of professional training under a senior lawyer was up to one year in about the half (48 percent) of the cases. The another 40.5 percent lawyers received training for two to five years and 6.5 percent lawyers received training for a period of more than five years. About 5 percent lawyers did not receive any professional training. Thus, in most of the cases the lawyer received professional training but the duration of professional training varies from one to five years of time. Age wise distribution of the subjects in relation to duration of training under a senior lawyer indicates that the duration of professional training increases as one moves from older generation to younger generation. For older generation of the lawyers duration of training was up to one year in as many as 83.7 percent cases. But 43.8 percent middle aged lawyers had gone for professional training for a period of two to five years. In the younger generation, about two-third of the lawyers received training for a period of two to five years or more. It suggests that period of professional training over the past three generations of the lawyers is increased which may be an indicator of an increase in specialization of professional

Nature of Acquaintance with Senior Lawyer

In the process of professional training, very first step is to contact a senior lawyer. A beginner has to receive practical training from the senior lawyer. It is not only in interest of a junior lawyer to receive training from a senior lawyer as it seems on the face of it. But senior lawyers also have their own interest in having one or two juniors. Firstly, it leaves a good impression on the clients. In the sense, that they think that his lawyer is a senior one in the profession. Secondly, it provides them assistance in performing minor works in the courts such as filing of suits, applications, documents related to the cases etc, and finally the senior lawyers also get a good number of cases through their junior lawyers as they are not competent in handling these cases independently. A part of the remuneration is shared by the junior lawyers in all such cases which varies from 25 to 50 percent of the total remuneration depending upon the nature of case and usefulness of junior lawyer in the eyes of senior lawyer.

In the process of contacting a senior lawyer for professional training two patterns of contact are found. First type of contact is *direct contact* with senior lawyers. In this type of contact junior lawyer has a pre-established relationship with senior lawyer. It includes the ties such as father, father's Brother and other members of extended family, his teacher and neighbours. In second type of contact the junior lawyer is not acquainted with senior lawyer and he contacts him through some one. It may include the ties of kinship, friendship, neighbourhood, workmates and other weak ties of acquaintance. The distribution of the subjects in relation to the nature of acquaint

tance with senior lawyer indicates that a little more than one-third of the lawyers had a direct contact with the senior lawyers, while as many as 62.1 per cent of the lawyers had activated the ties of their social network in order to contact a senior lawyer. Thus, the dependency of the lawyers on direct contact was less in comparison to dependency on indirect contacts. The subject's father and kinsmen both were the mediators through whom the senior lawyer was contacted. The ties of friendship were also activated by the subject to contact the senior lawyer. The weak ties of acquaintance were also found significant for making contact in 13.6 per cent cases.

Place of Origin and Contact with Senior Lawyer

The place of origin of a lawyer also varies in relation to the nature of acquaintance with senior lawyer as shown in table 1 indicate that out of 118 lawyers who activated the ties of their social network to contact senior lawyers 64 (54.2 percent) had a rural origin. The urban subjects were relatively more dependent on their father's network to contact a senior lawyer while the rural subjects were depending on the ties of kinship and other weak ties of their network in addition to their father's network. It suggests that a rural lawyer has to depend more on his kinship ties and other weak ties of acquaintance for contacting a senior lawyer while an urban lawyer depends more and more on his father's social network.

In support of the above findings some qualitative data were collected in case of two lawyers. The social networks of two lawyers show how they had contacted their senior lawyers.

Case 1

A is a rural lawyer. After completion of his degree course in law he became interested to adopt career of a civil lawyer. His uncle (C) (Father's brother) who had acquaintance with a civil lawyer (B). B had a kinship relation in the village of A. A had approach to B through C and D. The senior lawyer B had agreed to take as his junior. He worked with him about one year. After that he started his own practice. (Figure 1).

CASE 2

It is a case of an urban lawyer E. He was interested in criminal practice. Just adjacent to his house a civil lawyer who was very senior in the profession was living. He requested him to introduce him with a reputed lawyer of criminal law for training. F who knows G as a colleague lawyer introduced E to G. E took training from G for a period of two years and afterwards started his own practice. (Figure 2).

Social Network of lawyers in Initial years

In initial years of practice, the main problem faced by the subjects was less amount of case work. They tried to solve this problem by extending their public contacts. The social network of a lawyer has to pass through a process of transformation during this period. The social network of a lawyer can be divided into five sectors for analytical purpose, namely kinship, friendship, neighbourhood, workmates and old clients. We have asked the subjects to mention who helped them in initial years of practice and who are those persons who are helping you in current years? By comparing the answers of these two questions we have made an attempt to analyse the change in the social network of the subjects over a period of time.

Table 1 : Place of Origin and Nature of Acquaintance with First Senior Lawyer.

Sl. No.	Nature of Acquaintance with First Senior Lawyer	Place of Origin		Total
		Rural	Urban	
1.	Through father	19 (38.8)	30 (61.2)	49 (100.0) [41.5]
2.	Through Kinsman	15 (68.2)	07 (31.8)	22 (100.0) [18.6]
3.	Through neighbour	06 (66.7)	03 (33.3)	09 (100.0) [7.8]
4.	Through friend	08 (47.1)	09 (52.9)	17 (100.0) [14.4]
5.	Through workmate	03 (60.0)	02 (40.0)	05 (100.0) [4.2]
6.	Through others weak ties of network (not specified)	13 (81.3)	03 (18.7)	16 (100.0) [13.6]
	Total	64 (54.2)	54 (45.8)	118 (100.0)

The distribution of the subjects in relation to their clientele network in initial years of practice as shown in table 2 indicates that out of 200 subjects, 75 did not respond to this question. Those who replied to this question mentioned that they were helped by a number of persons at that time. The nature of tie they had with these persons indicate the sectors of social network of the lawyer. The distribution of the lawyers in table 4 shows that in 20.8 percent cases each, the help was extended by friendship and kinship sectors alone to the lawyers in getting the cases. Kinship and friendship sectors together extended help to about one-fifth of the lawyers. Other weak ties of social network were effective in 12.8 percent cases. Thus, in initial years of the

Fig. 1 Contact Network of a Rural Lawyer

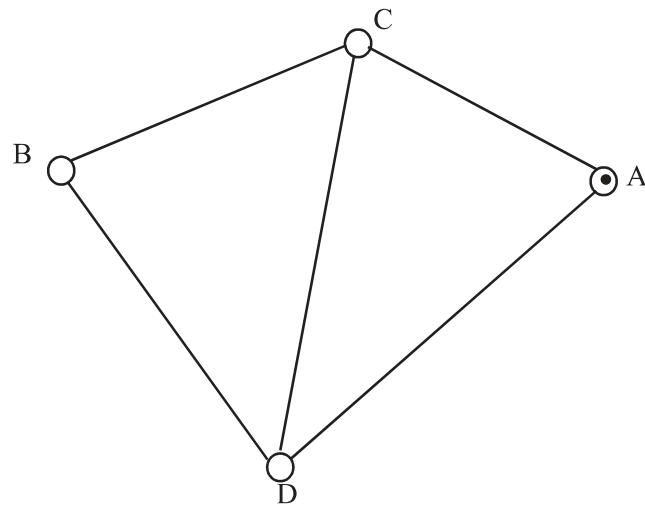
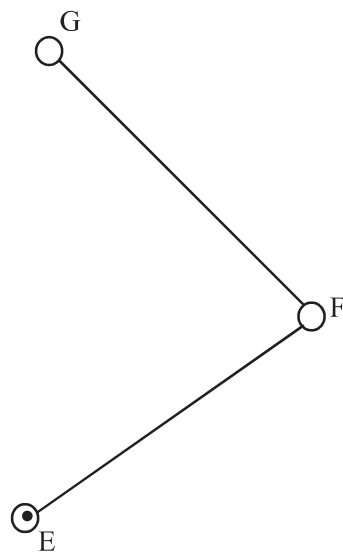


Fig. 2 : Contact Network of an Urban Lawyer



practice, the lawyers mainly seek help from kinship and friendship sector of their network. The weak ties of social network were also found effective in this context.

In later years, the social network of a lawyer had gone under a process of change and a shift in the strength of various sectors was observed after a period of five years of practice. The assessment of his work is done by his clients who come into his contact in connection with their own cases. The professional competence and efficiency of a lawyer is communicated to others by these clients. In later years of practice, these clients form an important sector of a lawyer's social network. As it is evident from the data presented in table 3, which show the distribution of the subjects in relation to their sectoral division of their social network and length of practice. The data indicate that over a period of five years of regular practice the shift in the social network of the lawyer's was observed. The dependency of lawyer for clientele decreased on the ties of kinship and friendship and a new sector composed of old clients emerged on the scheme. It suggests that in initial years of practice the lawyer's has to depend more and more on the ties of kinship, friendship and neighbourhood for getting case work but gradually, his social network develops and his old clients start to communicate about his efficiency to other clients.

In order to find out nature of lawyer-client network we traced the network of two clients.

Client 1

R.A. is an electrician in Meerut city. He works on salary basis. Two years ago he along with his brother was charged with a criminal case. He was arrested by police and sent to jail. His mother (A) approached his employer (B) who engaged a lawyer (C) who was his neighbour. The lawyer moved an application in the court concerned for the grant of bail.

The bail was granted and R.A. was released on bail. But this lawyer charged a huge amount from R.A. family for moving the bail application.. When hearing of the case started, he (R.A.) contacted one of his friend (D) who was working as helper in a court of magistrate. He (D) was in the contact of a number of lawyers who used to come at his office for their work. He was impressed by lawyer (X) and his munshi (Y) was very friendly to him. He introduced R.A. to the munshi (Y) and the lawyer (X). The lawyer agreed to plead his case. Later on R.A. referred to this lawyer his friends at a number of occasions.

It is clear from the above example that for engaging a lawyer the client consult knowledgeable persons. But in a situation when there is no knowledgeable person available immediately he can engage even an average lawyer on a high fee, though this type of clientele is temporary in nature. That is why R.A. has changed his first lawyer (C) and engaged lawyer (X) on genuine charges. RA also referred to this lawyer his friends also. It suggests that the behaviour and competency and genuineness of the charges of a lawyer impressed the client and he refers to such a lawyer the members of his social network at the time of need.

This case suggests that a new lawyer who is not acquainted the law procedure may create problems for the clients, and this failure effect the future work due to his bad image in his own social network (Later on this lawyer has left the practice and is now working in a private factory as Security guard).

Table 2 : Clientele Network in Initial Years of Practice

S. No.	Sector (s) of Lawyers Social Network	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Kinship	26	20.0
2.	Friendship	26	20.0
3.	Neighbourhood	02	01.6
4.	Workmate (colleague, munshi, clerks etc)	12	09.6
5.	Kinship and Friendship	24	19.2
6.	Kinship and Neighbourhood	06	04.8
7.	Kinship, friendship and Neighbourhood	09	07.2
8.	Friendship and Neighbourhood	04	03.2
9.	Other Wead Ties of Network	16	12.8
	Total	125	100.0

Table 3

Sectorwise Division of Social Network and Length of Practice of Lawyers

Sl. No.	Sectorwise Division of Lawyers Social Network	Length of Practice in years				Total
		0-5	6-5	11-20	20 & above	
1.	Kinship	03	07	03	—	13
2.	Friendship	04	12	02	03	21
3.	Workmate	01	04	02	02	09
4.	Old clients	—	08	03	16	27
5.	Kinship and friendship	06	12	04	—	22
6.	Kinship and Old clients	—	02	—	—	02
7.	Friendship and old clients	—	03	03	04	10
8.	Kinship, Friendship and Old clients	—	02	01	01	04
Total		14	50	18	26	108

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2.	Friendship	04	12	02	03	21
3.	Workmate	01	04	02	02	09
4.	Old clients	–	08	03	16	27
5.	Kinship and friendship	06	12	04	–	22
6.	Kinship and Old clients	–	02	–	–	02
7.	Friendship and old clients	–	03	03	04	10
8.	Kinship, Friendship and Old clients	–	02	01	01	04
Total		14	50	18	26	108

The above illustration suggests that the client engage a lawyer after knowing his efficiency and competence in the legal profession as well as his connections with the officers concerned. For this purpose, he always goes to those persons who have knowledge in this regard.

Client 2

Client 2 (C2) has a pan shop in Meerut city. His son (K) was once arrested in a case of theft with one of his friend (L). C2 was very angry with his son and for 15 days he did not try for his bail. But when his wife insisted, he consulted one of his friend-cum- customer (M) who had a good knowledge of law and lawyers. He advised him to engage a young lawyer (N) who has started his practice three-four years ago and was also C2's customer because it was a bailable offence and an ordinary lawyer could have plead the bail application of the accused. Accordingly C2 engaged lawyer N for his case. The co-accused of this case, however, engaged another lawyer (O) for their bail. Lawyer O was a senior lawyer and lawyer N was advised that he should first allow to argue the lawyer of co-accused. But lawyer N did not followed this advice and he moved bail application immediately and put his arguments before the court. But his arguments could not satisfy the court and the bail was rejected. Then, he (N) moved bail application in Session Court on the same ground and it was also rejected by session court as well. C2 told M about all this and he was very surprised to know all these developments because the case was very simple. By this time two months have already been passed. M was aware of the procedure that if the prosecution is failed to submit the charge sheet within 60

days of the arrest of an accused and accused is in jail, the concerned court may release the accused even on personal bond. M asked the lawyer N to move the bail application on this ground. The lawyer N argued that there was no such procedure and now he had to move bail application in High Court. M asked him to return all the papers related to that case. In the meantime the lawyer of co-accused moved the application on the same ground and the application was granted by the court. M suggested the C2 to contact the lawyer of co-accused. He moved the application of accused K and it was also granted and the accused was released on bail. This case suggests that a new lawyer who is not acquainted with legal procedure may create havoc for the clients, and this failure may also effect the future work prospects of the lawyer due to his bad image in his own social network (Later on, this lawyer left legal practice joined a private factory as Security guard).

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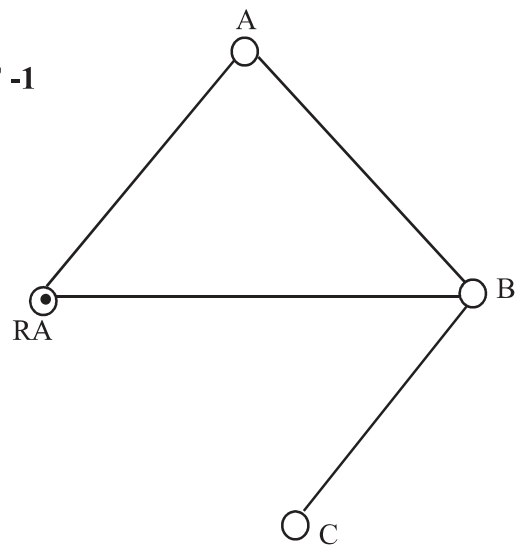
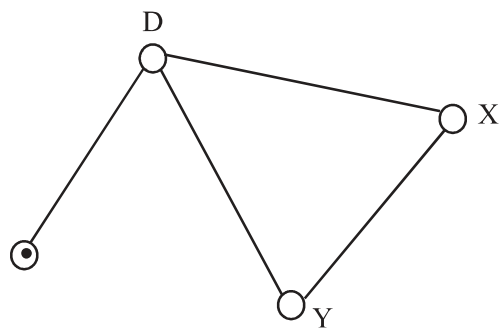
The occupational mobility as a process starts with the entry of a person into legal profession after completing degree course in law. At the very first step in the profession he has to go for professional training under a competent senior lawyer from two to five years so that he can have necessary skills of professional practice. At this point, we have analysed the role of the ties of social network in the process of professional training. The second stage in the mobility process is when a beginner after completion of his professional training starts his independent practice. The problems he faces at this stage are the problem of paucity of financial resources due to lack of work on the one hand and of understanding civil and criminal procedures on the other. Sometimes, he has no place to sit in the court compound and at the same time, he has to study regularly and has to subscribe books and periodicals to update his knowledge. He has to activate the ties of his social network from kinship, friendship, neighbourhood and so on. At this stage his dependency for case work is solely on his social network. Gradually, as he gets more work and his links with his clients grow over a period of time, his acquaintance with law procedures increases, his career gears up and he moves in the professional hierarchy. At this stage his clients form main sector of his social network and help him in promotion of his business connections.

Conclusion

Two patterns of contact, namely, direct contact and indirect contact were identified in the process of contacting a senior lawyer for getting professional training of legal practice. The dependency of the lawyers was more on the indirect contact rather than the direct contact. It suggests that the ties of social network play an important role in professional training of the lawyer particularly in contacting a senior lawyer. The father and kinsmen of the lawyer extended their help in contacting the senior lawyers. These ties constitute the strongest sector of the social network of the lawyer. However, the weak ties of acquaintance are also played a significant role in this context.

2. In order to contact a senior lawyer for professional training the ties of social network were found more significant in addition to structural relations such as family members, kinsman lawyer and teacher to whom the subject was knowing directly. The weak ties of acquaintance were found relevant in this context in addition to kinship, friendship, neighbourhood sectors of lawyer's social network.

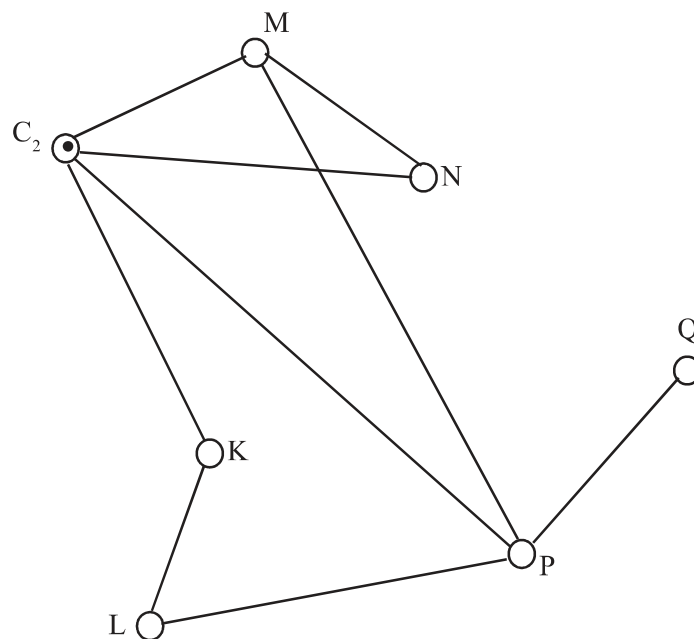
3. In initial years of legal practice, the dependency of lawyers on kinship, friendship,

Network of Client 1**EVENT -1****Network of Client 1****EVENT -2**

neighbourhood, workmate ties was more. But over a period of five years of regular legal practice, a shift was observed in the social network of the lawyers i.e., the sector of neighbourhood disappeared and a new sector composed of old clients of the lawyer emerged and contributed a significant part in occupational role performance of the lawyer. In the later years of practice the dependency of the lawyer on this sector was increased relatively. The performance of a lawyer was assessed by his clients and they communicated about the competency and efficiency of the lawyer to members of their social network which in many cases promoted the case work of the lawyer.

The main bearings of the study on concept of social network are: firstly, in his study of Bremnes Island, Barnes (1954) identified three fields

Network of Client 2



of interaction, namely, *stationary*, *fluid* and *'third field'*. The stationary field was denoted by the domestic agriculture and administrative areas; the fluid field by industrial area, consisting of fishing vessels, marleting, co-operatives and herring oil factories. The 'third field' which links the other two; stationary and fluid fields of interaction was termed as social network; it had no units or boundaries; it had no co-ordinating organization" (Barnes 1954 : 237). It was made up of the ties of friendship and acquaintance which every one was growing up in the Bremnes, partly inherits and largely build up for himself. The elements of this social network were not fixed, for new ties were continually being formed and old links were broken or put into indefinite cold storage (Barnes 1954 : 238). But in context of this study we found that the second field was not so fluid as it was in the Bremnes. The interactions beyond the boundary of the community like Bremnes may be very fluid in nature but in a situation where the members of village unit have a regular visit to the urban centres. The fluidness of second field decreases to certain extent. In such a situation, the social

networks becomes complementary unit of the social structure. In context of present study, the lawyer's social network in initial stage of practice is linked with formation of 'Stars' in form of the old clients starts. Each 'Star client' has his own set of linkages and the information flows through these ties about the efficiency and competence of the lawyer in the society.

The second issue which we raised in the review of literature of social network was that in the study of Granovetter (1973) the weak ties of acquaintance had acted as a bridge in the corresponding networks of two individuals and this bridge plays an important part in the flow of information about job situations. Secondly, the information about job situations follow short path rather than long path i.e., the number of intermediaries was not more than two in most of cases. In that discussion we had assumed that in case of intragenerational mobility, where most of the respondents were employed in a job situation and were seeking further job opportunity the weak ties may be important but in case of intergenerational mobility strong ties of social structure may be more relevant. The present study takes into notice that although the strong ties of kinship, friendship and neighbourhood were found relevant in extending network of a lawyer in context of contacting a senior lawyer for professional training as well as in getting the first case of his career but simultaneously weak ties of acquaintance were also significant to a certain extent. Further more, the number of ties between the lawyer and client follow short path rather than long path.

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