

“Constitution in Action: Not Just in Books”

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Why Jalna Needs a Legal Awakening and Why We at Samruddhi Foundation Are Committed to Leading It

Every year, as the nation celebrates **Constitution Day on 26th November**, we bow our heads in respect to the vision of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and the countless freedom fighters who imagined an India built on equality, liberty, and justice. For most people, this occasion is symbolic—a reminder of the day our Constitution was adopted.

But for me, and for us at **Samruddhi Foundation**, Constitution Day is not a ceremonial event. It is a **daily responsibility**. It is a reminder that a nation becomes strong not when the Constitution is written, but when it is **understood, felt, and practiced** by every citizen.

Our belief is simple but powerful: **“Precaution is better than cure-and awareness is the greatest precaution.”** In a country as large and diverse as India, the Constitution is not just a legal document. It is a shield, a guide, a moral compass, and the greatest tool of empowerment available to ordinary people. When individuals understand their rights, injustice loses its power. When citizens know the law, exploitation fades. When society becomes aware, the nation becomes stronger. This is exactly why Samruddhi Foundation has made **constitutional literacy** its central mission.

Why Legal Awareness Matters—Especially Today

As a third-year law student at National Law University Mumbai, I experience the Constitution both academically and emotionally. I have seen how legal knowledge can protect, empower, and transform lives. But I have also seen the opposite—how the lack of awareness allows injustice to spread silently.

In our district of Jalna, this gap is wide.

- Jalna’s literacy rate stands at only **around 70%**, one of the lowest in Maharashtra.
- Human Development Index indicators in our region lag behind state averages.
- People face daily challenges—from land disputes and documentation issues to basic violations of rights—but **lack the knowledge to defend themselves**.

This is why the Constitution must leave the textbooks and enter the lives of the people.

The truth is simple: **A constitutionally aware citizen is not easy to exploit. A legally literate society is harder to suppress. An informed community is a prosperous community.**

If citizens know their rights under Articles 14, 15, 19, 21, or their duties under Article 51A, they not only protect themselves but also reduce unnecessary legal conflicts, police pressures, judicial burdens, and administrative delays. When people are informed, they avoid mistakes,

take timely action, and prevent problems before they grow. This is why we believe legal awareness is not just empowerment-**it is nation-building**.

Samruddhi Foundation's Initiative: Taking the Constitution to the People

Over the past months, we at Samruddhi Foundation have taken this responsibility seriously. Our work has not remained on paper; it has been happening on the ground, among the very people who need it most.

Constitutional Awareness Sessions in Schools

We have visited schools across Jalna district, interacting with students, teachers, and communities.

In every session, we explain:

- The **Preamble**-what it truly signifies
- Fundamental Rights-not as theory, but as everyday protections
- Fundamental Duties-why they matter for nation-building
- The real meaning of democracy “for the people, by the people, of the people”

Students respond with curiosity, excitement, and a sense of pride. For many of them, it is the first time they understand that the Constitution is about *them*.

Reaching Over 10,000 People-On Ground, Personally

So far, we have empowered more than **10,000 citizens** in Jalna-not through online posts or booklets, but through direct personal interactions.

We have spoken to children, youth, teachers, workers, women, and marginalized sections.

This 10,000 is not just a number-it represents 10,000 lives better equipped to face the world.

A Strong Rural Plan: Taking the Constitution to Villages

Our next step is crucial.

We are preparing to reach the villages of Jalna district-the communities where:

- Legal exploitation is highest
- Awareness is lowest
- Protection is most needed

Villagers face issues related to land, water, caste-based discrimination, police complaints, documentation errors, and welfare schemes. Many suffer silently because they do not know the rights the Constitution gives them.

This is where our mission becomes even more meaningful.

Focused Program for Marginalised Communities

We plan to extend our awareness drives to:

- Dalit communities
- Nomadic tribes
- Economically weaker families
- Women in rural belts
- Young students who are first-generation learners

Because when marginalised communities understand the Constitution, they gain a voice. And when they gain a voice, society becomes more just. **Our Vision: Making Jalna a Constitutionally Aware Model District for India** My dream-and the dream of Samruddhi Foundation-is clear and ambitious: **To make Jalna the first truly constitutionally literate district in Maharashtra, and a model for the entire nation.**

We want to show India what is possible when:

- Students understand the Preamble
- Women know their legal rights
- Villagers understand land laws
- Citizens know their protections under Articles 14, 19, and 21
- Communities recognise injustice and stand up against it
- People realise they are the strength of democracy

If we can achieve this in a district with low literacy and high marginalisation, then every district in India can achieve it too. We want to inspire a **national movement**-one district at a time. and this movement aligns perfectly with the idea of our Constitution makers-a nation where every citizen participates, understands, and contributes to democracy.

Why I Feel Personally Responsible as a Law Student

For me, this mission is not just organisational; it is personal. Studying at National Law University Mumbai, I have been blessed with resources, knowledge, and an academic understanding of constitutional law. But I realised early that legal education means little unless it reaches those whom it is meant to protect. I believe strongly in one idea:

“The Constitution must be in action, not only in books.”

If we keep laws confined to classrooms and courts, then we fail as future lawyers. As law students, it is our **responsibility, duty, and ethical obligation** to ensure that people-especially the underprivileged-have access to legal awareness.

I want to dedicate my life to bridging this gap:
from the classroom to the village,
from academic theory to real-life empowerment,
from law books to living rights.

Guiding Wisdom from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

No Constitution Day message is complete without remembering Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, whose foresight continues to guide our nation.

Some of his most powerful words inspire our work:

1. “I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved.”

Our awareness drives strongly focus on women’s constitutional rights.

2. “Be educated, be organised, and be agitated.”

This is exactly the foundation of our campaign-education before agitation.

3. “Freedom of mind is the real freedom.”

Legal awareness liberates the mind from fear, ignorance, and exploitation.

4. “Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.”

Knowledge of rights is the highest form of empowerment.

These messages are not quotes; they are guiding principles for our journey.

The Road Ahead-The Movement Will Continue

The work has only begun.

Jalna has far to go, but we walk with hope, determination, and the belief that awareness can change everything.

In the coming months, Samruddhi Foundation will:

- Expand school programs across the district
- Conduct village-level constitutional camps
- Empower women’s groups with legal tools
- Hold youth workshops on rights and duties
- Build volunteer teams across talukas
- Create a structured model that any district in India can adopt

Our aim is not temporary awareness-it is **permanent empowerment**.

A Call to Action

On this Constitution Day, I want every citizen of Jalna-and readers across Maharashtra-to reflect on one simple truth:

The Constitution belongs to you.

But it protects you only if you understand it.

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This is why we at Samruddhi Foundation are working tirelessly not for recognition, not for headlines, but to ensure that no child, no woman, no worker, no villager ever feels powerless in front of injustice again.

A strong nation is built not by laws alone, but by **aware citizens who stand up, speak up, and participate.**

Let us together make Jalna a beacon of constitutional awareness.

Let us make Babasaheb proud.

Let us make democracy meaningful.

Let us put the Constitution into action-not only into books.

