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Introduction

Welcome to the Indian Journal of Legal Affairs and Research (IJLAR), a distinguished platform dedicated to the dissemination of comprehensive legal scholarship and academic research. Our mission is to foster an environment where legal professionals, academics, and students can collaborate and contribute to the evolving discourse in the field of law. We strive to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed articles that provide insightful analysis, innovative perspectives, and practical solutions to contemporary legal challenges. The IJLAR is committed to advancing legal knowledge and practice by bridging the gap between theory and practice.

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Preface

The Indian Journal of Legal Affairs and Research is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence in legal scholarship. This volume presents a curated selection of articles that reflect the diverse and dynamic nature of legal studies today. Our contributors, ranging from esteemed legal scholars to emerging academics, bring forward a rich tapestry of insights that address critical legal issues and offer novel contributions to the field. We are grateful to our editorial board, reviewers, and authors for their dedication and hard work, which have made this publication possible. It is our hope that this journal will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, and will inspire further inquiry and debate within the legal community.

Description

The Indian Journal of Legal Affairs and Research is an academic journal that publishes peer-reviewed articles on a wide range of legal topics. Each issue is designed to provide a platform for legal scholars, practitioners, and students to share their research findings, theoretical explorations, and practical insights. Our journal covers various branches of law, including but not limited to constitutional law, international law, criminal law, commercial law, human rights, and environmental law. We are dedicated to ensuring that the articles published in our journal adhere to the highest standards of academic rigor and contribute meaningfully to the understanding and development of legal theories and practices.

DISSECTING THE MAGIC OF REPAIRING: FROM THROWAWAY CULTURE TO REPAIR REVOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

Because of the speed at which technology is developing and the increasing obsolescence of some items, the ideas of durability and the right to repair have taken on more significance in consumer protection laws. This article provides a full analysis of the relationship, looking at the problems and emerging digital product market trends. It emphasizes how crucial it is to provide customers with a strong chance to make repairs.

Technological innovation in the consumer market today is causing unprecedented rates of product obsolescence and introduction. A process known as planned obsolescence occurs when manufacturers purposefully shorten the life of their products in an effort to reduce their environmental effect and lower customer happiness. This behavior violates customers' rights to profit from their purchases and undermines the sustainability of consumption.

This makes the idea of durability—that is, the idea that things should be made with durability in mind appears as a crucial component of consumer protection. The physical sturdiness of a substance is simply one aspect of its durability. Readiness and flexibility in response to evolving technology norms are further considerations. Policies that place a high priority on lifespan can lessen the negative effects of design that are considered outmoded and promote a sustainable culture for both customers and the environment.

The owners think that producers shouldn't place undue restrictions on how they may exchange, store, and maintain their goods. In the discourse on sustainability, the right to repair is paramount. One component of the right to repair is the ability to provide third-party repairs without risking the warranty or drawing retaliation. Monitoring the equipment's maintenance capability is crucial for extending product life, boosting economic efficiency, and lowering the quantity of electronic waste produced.

Even though it is a fundamental right, the right to repair is beset with practical difficulties. Manufacturers frequently employ limitations, digital gates, proprietary software, and other methods. Furthermore, a lack of consistent policies and processes frequently results in unjust limitations on consumers' rights to maintenance and procedures.

Legislative and regulatory action must be taken in light of these difficulties to safeguard and enhance consumers' rights to redress. It is recommended that lawmakers enact legislation mandating manufacturers to disclose repairability information about their products, abstain from offering repair labels and replacement parts to customers, and enact anti-repair practices that restrict their capacity to repair. Law enforcement and businesses should collaborate to establish environmental guidelines, enhance product quality, and make lifetime product repairs easier.

In conclusion, present consumer protection laws are mostly motivated by the need for lifespan and the right to repair. Policymakers may create a fair and sustainable consumer market that emphasizes sustainable environmental well-being in the development of both customers and goods by confronting design flaws as outmoded and providing consumers with strong repair rights.

Keywords: Durability, Right to Repair, Consumer Rights, Planned Obsolescence, Digital Products, Consumer Protection, Legislative Frameworks

INTRODUCTION

With so many options available to them, customers in today's constantly changing consumer products market can choose from traditional consumer goods to state-of-the-art digital innovations. However, as consumer products become less sustainable, a worrying pattern appears: consumer rights are being undermined. The primary concern pertains to the growing utilization of planned obsolescence, when producers purposefully reduce the lifespan of their products, thereby enhancing customer demand for more modern substitutes.

Though it aids businesses in staying competitive in the market and promoting repeat business, scheduled obsolescence presents significant issues for customers and society. This intentional method produces more waste, worsening the environment even more if it does not

result in product failure from the start. Moreover, designed items hinder customers' ability to obtain long-term advantages from the goods they purchase and infringe against their right to make knowledgeable judgments regarding the upkeep and lifespan of the goods they purchase.

Beyond the actions of individual customers, products with planned obsolescence have significant negative effects on the economy and environment. Materials require more frequent replacements due to their endurance and complexity, which increases the quantity of materials and trash produced. In addition to depleting the finite supply of natural resources, the manufacture, transportation, and disposal of materials associated with these consumables increase their carbon footprint due to their lack of sustainability.

Legislation must be taken to address the broader issue and safeguard the interests of consumers given the intricate consequences of antiquated systems. Consider a legislative framework that ensures that products are prepared with longevity and consideration for their use in environmental development, thereby harmonizing manufacturers and users and creating a regulatory framework that places a high priority on sustainability and longevity.

This paper's goal is to investigate how consumer protection laws affect durability and the right to repair as a result. It explores the complex relationships between these ideas, considers the issues raised by the proposed growth, and makes the case for more consumer control through the use of laws. This essay has offered a workable solution while highlighting how important this problem is.

This article, which examines previous examples and developing trends in detail, emphasizes the necessity of laws and regulations to defend and maintain consumer rights in the face of a policy that was intended to be out of date.

This paper is an important call to action for consumers, regulators, and industry stakeholders to work together to strengthen and more fairly promote the consumer market, address the harm caused by policies that were intended to be out-of-date, and force a paradigm shift towards more sustainable purchasing behavior and help both the present and next user generations in the process.

PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE AND DURABILITY

The concept of "durability" in consumer protection laws refers to the idea that products should be designed and manufactured to withstand typical wear and tear in order to guarantee that they will last and function for a reasonable length of time. In India, the Sale of Goods Act, 1930[1], governs transactions.The Act's Section 14(2), which stipulates that products must be used and maintained in their quality for a reasonable amount of time because of their intended use and quality, has consequences for this clause that highlight the significance of durability.[2]

The Consumer Protection Act of 2019[3] enhanced enforcement rights and sustainability even further, replacing the Consumer Protection Act of 1986[4]. Customers who purchase goods or services that also disclose details of eyesight can file complaints under the Act. According to Section 2(7)(i) of the Act, a product's non-durability is regarded as a fault. This section defines "defect" as any kind of defect, deficit, or flaw in the product's kind, quality, style, or manufacturing qualities.[5]

It's important to consider a product's maintenance needs, capacity to adapt to shifting customer demands and technological improvements, and physical strength when considering durability. As sustainability promotes resource efficiency and reduces waste, it is closely linked to more general concepts of consumer rights and sustainability.

Retrospective requirements have been expressly addressed in India. The phrase "planned obsolescence" refers to strategies that purposefully reduce a product's life to boost demand for upgraded or replacement variants.

For instance, if a product includes flaws or limits that lessen its deceptive behavior and drastically shorten its shelf life, a producer may be held to have behaved unjustly or fraudulently under the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[6]. It's possible that the usage of this concept is out of date and forces consumers to purchase new goods before their time.

Intentional violations of the Competition Act of 2002[7] are also permitted, as it forbids anti-competitive agreements and manipulations of dominating markets. Manufacturers who conspire to use antiquated tactics aimed at limiting customer choice or driving up demand for

automation may be subject to investigation by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Remedial action or sanctions may follow such activity.

The consequences of outdated trademarks extend beyond customer annoyance and encompass wider economic and environmental implications. To protect consumer rights, advance sustainable development, and support ethical business practices, the outdated design must be managed carefully since it promotes waste creation and environmental harm from the disposal of excessively consumptive lifestyles.

A variety of tactics, such as consumer education campaigns, enforcement mechanisms, and legislative reforms, are necessary to implement policy connected to its presence at the regulatory level. To address anti-competitive and unfair business practices linked to laws intended to be obsolete, policymakers in India can make use of the regulatory framework now in place, which was established by the Competition Act of 2002[8] and the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[9].

In addition, regulatory bodies such as the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) play a crucial role in upholding consumer protection and competition laws, respectively, to address market dysfunction and provide consumer protection of happiness.

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In the struggle against an antiquated system, it is necessary to support consumer ability and knowledge in addition to rules and regulations. By encouraging frequent users, teaching them about their legal rights, and providing goods that prolong the service life through maintenance and repair programs, they may lessen the detrimental consequences of an antiquated policy and give customers the power to make educated decisions.

In conclusion, the conceptual framework of policy created as out-of-date and sustainable has resulted in several constraints in the Indian consumer protection sector. In the framework of Indian legal frameworks, policymakers, regulators, and consumers should thoughtfully evaluate these factors and investigate cooperative policies and prevalence methods to advance sustainable markets, consumer rights, and environmentally friendly products.

RIGHT TO REPAIR

The principle behind the right to repair is that owners should have the freedom to keep, trade, and maintain their belongings without being constrained by overproduction. The right to repair in India has been significantly impacted by legal precedents and regulations that uphold and defend consumer rights, particularly variety protection.

One of the most important laws in this area is the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[10], which gives consumers the right to seek remedies for subpar or defective goods or services. Citizens have the right to request the repair or replacement of defective goods, and the Act implicitly recognizes Sec. 2(7)(i), which defines "defect" as any flaw, defect, or deficiency in the nature or manner of use of the goods.[11]

Furthermore, as per Section 14(2) of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, which regulates the sale of products, it is implicitly acknowledged by the Act's users that they have a right to goods that are suitable for use; that is, goods that make it the "best marketable," implying that customer expectations will be upheld and modified as needed.[12]

Indian court rulings have also stressed and expanded consumers' rights to repairs over time. Consumer freedom and choice have been acknowledged by courts that have ruled that producers cannot place unjust or onerous limitations on the capacity to fix or alter their products.

A growing number of nations have passed laws and implemented best practices to support and advance the right to repair, which is widely acknowledged as a crucial component of consumer rights.

Key initiatives of the EU to encourage the right to repair include the Ecodesign Directive and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, for instance. These guidelines push manufacturers to provide items that are robust, recyclable, and repairable in addition to forcing customers to file repair and repair claims.

State-level "right to repair" legislation is, nonetheless, common in the United States. With the intention of providing consumers with access to tools, service manuals, and

replacement supplies, operators are attempting to thwart the trend by enacting digital gates and proprietary software to stop customers from fixing their own equipment.

With consideration for the unique opportunities and limitations presented by its diversified regulatory environment and consumer markets, India may reap the benefits of investigating and customizing these international best practices for its own local context. By putting in place mechanisms that facilitate price purchasing, accessibility, and transparency in the repair market, India can empower its customers to exercise their right to repair and make informed decisions.

Consumers find it more challenging to exercise their right to repair in the digital era, particularly when it comes to software and industrial devices with Technical barriers, such as encrypted firmware, proprietary software, and digital locks, which are frequently used by manufacturers to limit the distribution of their goods, allowing users to repair or alter them.

The Information Technology Act of 2000[13] and the Copyright Act of 1957[14] provide the legal foundation for digital material and intellectual property rights in India. These regulations promote competition, innovation, and the balance between consumer satisfaction and intellectual property protection. Regulators and law enforcement organizations must choose how to explain the preservation of consumer rights to repair and intellectual property rights in the protection, which is made more difficult by the increasing use of proprietary software and digital gateways. A possible solution may be to mandate that manufacturers furnish consumers with diagnostic instruments, instructions for mending, and substitutes for digital items. Additionally, manufacturers should be penalized for engaging in tactics that result in competitive disparities impacting inventories.

Furthermore, consumer education and understanding play a major role in removing technical hurdles to repair. By informing customers about their rights and easy fixes, India can encourage a sustainable and self-reliant culture in the digital era.

In conclusion, one of the most significant aspects of consumer rights pertaining to physical and digital goods in India is the right of repair. India should improve the quality of its laws by considering the evolution of the right to repair, keeping an eye on international best

practices, resolving technical issues, and empowering consumers to exercise their right to repair in an increasingly digital world.

LEGISLATIVE APPROACH

Comparative studies of how various legal systems have responded to the growing power that customers are afforded through laws and regulations have shown the processes and policies designed to protect consumers' rights to pursue remedies. Even though India does not currently have any laws specifically pertaining to the right to repair, there are still methods to empower and protect consumers by utilizing different elements of current laws.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019[15] is a fundamental component of consumer rights in India, offering consumers recourse in a range of circumstances such as unfair, insufficient, or faulty corporate practices. If customers get substandard counterfeit goods or services, they have the option to register complaints under the Act. The legislation does not address the right to repair directly, but it may be utilized to make manufacturers responsible for offering replacement parts and corrective actions in response to product quality problems and by putting consumer solutions into practice.

Around the world, governments have passed unique "right to repair" laws, such as those in the United States and several European nations, with the intention of giving consumers access to repair manuals, devices, and replacement parts for electronic and digital devices or compelling them to forgo using maintenance-resistant equipment like digital gateways.

Even though India does not currently have laws pertaining to digital items or electronic gadgets, it is becoming more and more clear that consumer repair rights must be addressed. Therefore, policymakers and regulators in India might seek to learn from international experiences and include remedial rights in current consumer protection frameworks.

In order to preserve consumer interests and a competitive market, competition rules are essential. The Competition Act, 2002[16] forbids unfair labor practices, misuse of dominant market positions, and anti-competitive covenants in India. These regulations may impact how easily consumers may access storage facilities and how often supplies are changed.

Producers that create goods that prohibit customers from repairing them may be in violation of competition laws. Co-producers will be held accountable for their actions under competition law if they implement anti-corruption measures like digital locks or restricted corruption techniques.

Investigating allegations of anti-competitive activity and taking necessary action to protect consumer interests are powers vested in the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and other bodies entrusted with enforcing competition laws.

The following policy proposals, which seek to provide customers more flexibility with regard to their right of repair, must be considered by Indian authorities in order to improve consumer protection. Applying the "right to repair" rule is the first step. In this part, we explore the possibilities of new legislation or changes to existing laws to clearly recognize and defend consumers' rights to repair. By forcing manufacturers to offer maintenance instructions, tools, and replacement parts for their devices, this kind of law would routinely encourage customer choice and sustainability in the marketplace.

Aiding customers in identifying and educating themselves is a crucial second step. Decisions concerning customers' rights to repair, available repair options, and advantages of selecting repairs that can serve their interests can be made by policymakers with knowledge. In order to increase awareness and spread information on the right to repair, professionals, organizations, and government bodies working together may be highly beneficial.

Third, it is important to motivate business stakeholders to work with legislators. Collaboration between suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers is necessary to develop best practices and standards for maintenance that apply to the whole industry. By encouraging accountability and transparency in the marketplace, this kind of conversation may guarantee that customers have access to resources that are thought to be remedial and motivate producers to create goods that are thought to be remedial.

And lastly, enforcement needs to be reinforced. Enhancing the enforcement capacities of regulatory agencies such as the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the Central

Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is likely to prevent anti-competitive activity and guarantee consumer protection under the law. By supporting enforcement activities, accelerating the complaints process, and holding offenders accountable, law enforcement groups can protect consumer rights. By creating an atmosphere that encourages their efforts, policymakers may empower consumers to assertively assert and defend their right to repair in the Indian market.

To sum up, the advancement of the right to repair and the establishment of an equitable and long-lasting Indian market hinge on the formulation of legal statutes and regulations that enable consumers. With competition legislation, comparative analysis, and policy considerations, policymakers may strengthen consumer protection and enable consumers to confidently exercise their right to redress.

DIGITAL RESILIENCE

Because digital preservation uses a range of techniques to achieve continuous retention, increasing accessibility and accessibility of digital technologies, data, and information, it is imperative to prevent obsolete technology and extend the lifespan of electronic devices in the digital age.

Policies and legislative frameworks that acknowledge the advantages of safeguarding digital business records, intellectual property, and cultural heritage serve as recommendations for the conservation of digital heritage in India. For instance, under the National Archives of India Act, of 1990[17], the National Archives of India is mandated to conserve and manage public records, including digital data. The Information Technology Act of 2000[18] provides a legal framework for the preservation and validation of electronic documents and data, along with further modifications.

A few techniques for preserving digital content are migration, emulation, refreshing, and digital reformatting. Digital material has to be moved from conventional to contemporary, environmentally friendly items in order to continue being accessible and useable. Simulations are the rebuilding of outdated hardware or software environments that provide users access to historical digital items. updating to avoid data loss from corrupted files or out-of-date gear To maintain consistency and lifespan, digital material should be regularly moved to

fresh storage. Reformatting digitally digital material conversion across files.

Initiatives like the National Digital Library of India and the Digital India Program show how committed India is to digitizing and preserving its educational materials and cultural history. India plans to use digital preservation approaches, invest in infrastructure and capacity on the Internet, and protect its digital heritage to foster digital sustainability for future generations.

Open solutions offer a viable means of mitigating the effects of antiquated technology by giving consumers adaptable repair alternatives. Open-source software and hardware are characterized by development procedures, which allow users to repair and alter their products without encountering restrictions or hurdles.

The legal constraints in India, particularly those about intellectual property rights and competition rules, are crucial for promoting accessibility and creativity among repairers in the marketing of open solutions. Furthermore, to promote a competitive atmosphere that encourages open solutions, the Competition Act of 2002[19] forbids the misuse of dominant market positions and the spread of anti-competitive agreements.

Many of the advantages of an open solution, though only for one client, include having access to maintenance schedules, diagnostic tools, and manuals—all necessary for do-it-yourself repairs and lowering dependency on manufacturers for maintenance work. Additionally, because open software and hardware design allow users to personalize and adapt their gadgets to their requirements and interests, they become more durable and sustainable.

To prevent outdated technology and promote more environmentally friendly buying methods, technical solutions, and grassroots infrastructure are crucial. In order to enlighten the public about the drawbacks of planned environments and provide them with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions, anti-retroactivity programs take the shape of a variety of community-based projects, advocacy campaigns, and technology advancements.

With the help of community-based projects like Repair Café and Restart Project, among others, recycling, recycling, and repair are encouraged as alternatives to India's trash culture.

These groups set up educational programs, community gatherings, and repair workshops so that people may learn how to fix and maintain their technological gadgets.

Modular systems, renewable resources, and repairable products are examples of technical advancements that provide Indian businesses and producers of repairable goods and services with practical ways to counteract the durability of throwaway gadgets and outdated technology.

Legal criteria, such as those pertaining to consumer protection and the environment, serve as the foundation for resolving planned infractions and promoting sustainable procurement methods. ecologically friendly design and construction approaches, such as those driven by the 2016 E-Waste Management Rules and the ecologically driven Environment (Protection) Act 1986[20], are encouraged. Consumers may file complaints with administrative appeals over unfair practices and damages according to the Consumer Protection Act 2019[21].

In conclusion, a multifaceted approach involving open solutions, data preservation, and anti-obsolescence systems is necessary to sustain digital momentum in the face of outdated technology. India can efficiently manage outdated technology and sustainable infrastructure in the digital era with the right regulatory framework, innovation, and consumer capacities.

INNOVATION AND LAW

It is critical to evaluate and fix legal gaps in consumer protection legislation in order to preserve consumer rights in a world where technology is growing. Although the Consumer Protection Act, 2019[22] offers a framework for handling complaints from consumers in India, it might not address every issue, particularly in light of advancements in technology and the right to redress.

One major risk is that the right to repair is not expressly covered by Indian consumer protection legislation. Without clear regulations governing repairability, consumers are left to rely on manufacturers' repair policies and practices. While they have the right to demand that business practices or defects be fixed, this makes it difficult for customers to locate repair shops, access storage facilities, or get their electronics fixed.

Digital rights management (DRM), software lock-in, and embedded obsolescence are among the additional consumer security issues brought on by the growth of smart digital goods and gadgets. Since the intricacy of these concerns may not be sufficiently addressed by current regulations, manufacturers may choose to impose voluntary constraints on maintenance and repairs on their consumers.

Consumer rights to repair must be amended and made expressly acknowledged in order to close this legal loophole. Consumer protection laws also need to be carefully studied. Regulators can provide customers the flexibility to fix things themselves and create a level playing field by forcing producers to supply replacement parts, tools, and repair instructions for their goods.

There's a growing agreement in India that, in the era of innovation, comprehensive right to repair regulations ought to be passed in order to meet the growing demand for regulatory protection. The goal of the right to repair law is to ensure that customers may obtain replacement parts, tools, and repair instructions for various things, including electronic devices.

By implementing international best practices and global practices, Indian policymakers may lead the charge in creating comprehensive conservation rights laws. Regulations of this kind could mandate that manufacturers supply repair instructions, sell alternatives, steer clear of or establish guidelines that forbid or restrict the possibility of repair, or employ other anti-repair techniques that are inoperable for digital gateways.

Additionally, copyright regulations can promote innovation and competition in the repair sector by supporting independent repair professionals and small enterprises. By lowering repair barriers and encouraging a culture of items that can be repaired, policymakers may decrease the amount of electronic waste produced, prolong the life of products, and empower consumers to make sustainable decisions.

To guarantee the efficacy of maintenance laws, academic, professional, and community engagement is crucial during the policy-making process. Regulators may develop laws that balance innovation, consumer protection, and environmental sustainability by gathering data from various sources and considering the interests of producers and consumers.

To guarantee that manufacturers are abiding by the law and acting responsibly, enacting legislation with wide enforcement powers is an essential first step, but robust enforcement mechanisms must also be in place. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) are the regulatory agencies responsible for enforcing consumer protection legislation in India.

Effective regulatory systems include strict supervision, keeping an eye on those guidelines, and enforcing all applicable laws pertaining to consumer rights and fair competition. To ensure adherence to maintenance schedules and penalize manufacturers who do not comply, regulatory authorities are authorized to conduct customer assessments, audits, and inspections.

If manufacturers violate repair regulations and consumer protection laws, they may face fines, injunctions, or other remedial action. Campaigns for public awareness and consumer education can also provide customers the chance to report infractions and make businesses responsible for their conduct.

Furthermore, to strengthen enforcement and advance a compliance culture in manufacturing, industry associations, standards bodies, and consumer advocacy groups can collaborate. By encouraging transparency, accountability, and moral business conduct, the enforcement mechanisms can boost market and customer confidence.

In summary, bolstering regulatory protection in the age of innovation necessitates all-encompassing policies that resolve regulatory gaps, suggest preventative actions, and bolster the use of rules that support just and sustainable marketplaces.

REPAIR REVOLUTION

Local planning is vital when it comes to bolstering consumers' voices and promoting policy change regarding repair prospects. Consumer advocacy networks and enthusiasts for repair should be established to mobilize people, increase awareness, and impact legislation in India.

Grassroots organizations spark community planning projects, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and community groupings. These groups interact with customers, maintenance specialists, and other stakeholders to foster involvement, share information, and plan advocacy campaigns. Through community legislation, individuals can create the right to collective action and accountability from architects, as well as the authority to demand repairs.

The Indian Constitution permits citizens to engage in nonviolent protest and advocacy for causes, and this freedom of organization in organizations, associations, and advocacy groups relates to the right to assembly and association. These legal provisions provide the foundation for community organizing activities in India.

Additionally, community organizing initiatives frequently involve training sessions, meetings, and educational initiatives aimed at raising public awareness of the right to redress and empowering consumers to voice their concerns, and provide grassroots infrastructure in support of repair. Additionally, substantial change in the marketplace can be effected by organizing a sizable number of interested persons.

Thanks to internet activity, consumer voices are becoming increasingly heard and helping to promote initiatives that support the right to repair. Social media and online platforms may assist Indian advocacy groups spread their message, raise public awareness, and speed up the process of enacting new laws.

Users may electronically organize, network, and trade information on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These platforms are used by consumer associations, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups to communicate with legislators and manufacturers, gather support, and share information.

Indian legal law, which includes the right to freedom of speech and information under the Indian Constitution, protects people's ability to express themselves online and through digital media. Within certain bounds imposed by legislation, citizens are entitled to communicate their ideas, narratives, and opinions online.

Campaigners earn money and support their efforts to promote the right to repair through online petitions, crowdsourcing initiatives, and outreach programs. Activists may use digital technology to make firms answerable, magnify consumer voices, and promote beneficial changes in the sector.

Corporate audits play a critical role in protecting the right to repair and guaranteeing that manufacturers adhere to consumer protection regulations. Using consumer behavior and public pressure to hold manufacturers responsible is one of the most effective strategies to encourage corporate responsibility and bring about systemic change in India.

They may do so by means of public campaigns, waivers, and customer pressure to embrace open, eco-friendly, and consumer-friendly policies. By raising public knowledge of issues like planned obsolescence and restricted techniques that can be fixed, advocacy groups and grassroots industry consumer support help to make manufacturers responsible for their actions.

Liability for unfair commercial practices and anti-competitive behavior is imposed by means of mechanisms established by Indian legislative laws on consumer protection, competition law, and corporate social responsibility. Protection in accordance with the Act, customers are entitled to compensation for losses and unfair business practices.

Moreover, corporate accounting systems frequently employ talks, agreements, and stakeholders as a means of direct manufacturer communication. Through accountability, transparency, and the promotion of ethical business practices, consumer and advocacy organizations may persuade firms to adopt low-maintenance best practices that benefit both customers and the environment.

Rehab reformers, in short, are critical to amplifying the voice of consumers and promoting systemic change in rehabilitation options. Advocates can gather support, create awareness, and hold manufacturers responsible for promoting consumer empowerment, improvement, and maintenance in India through community activities, internet initiatives, and corporate accountability mechanisms.

SUSTAINABILITY

Supply chains that are morally and ecologically conscious must be supported by manufacturing transparency. Encouraging ethical tracing practices and traceability increases customer awareness about the provenance, manufacturing processes, and environmental effects of items they buy. The Companies Act of 2013[23] and the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[24] are two legal frameworks that impose responsibility and control that are characteristic of corporate activity in India.

Certain companies are required by the Companies Act of 2013[25] to report on their environmental and social initiatives as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations. It includes information on environmental evaluation, sustainable sourcing techniques, and professional standards with ethical improvement initiatives. In light of the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[26], manufacturers are now more cognizant of issues pertaining to their products, including content, sourcing, and environmental concerns.

Supply chains should be transparent, and methods such as vendor codes of conduct, independent audits, and certification programs that respect human rights, sustainability, and appropriate environmental standards all help to make products more visible,

Circular finance methods offer strong incentives to encourage environmentally conscious procurement and lessen the product's lifetime environmental effect. One of the strategies to minimize waste and increase efficiency in a circular economy is to recycle, reuse, and recycle some more. Indian legislation, such as the E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, offer the legal foundation for advancing the idea of a circular economy and lowering trash output.

The E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 impose substantial professional processing (EPR) duties on manufacturers, requiring them to collect and recycle end-of-life electronics. The Plastic garbage Management Rules, 2016 give EPR costs for processing plastic garbage and provide guidelines for the usage of electronic waste. They also encourage producers to adopt environmentally friendly packaging materials and to assist with plastic recycling initiatives.

Together, government agencies, corporate partners, and civil society organizations frequently collaborate on circular investment projects that support sustainable manufacturing and circular economic models, as well as provide innovative solutions for waste reduction and conservation. The Swachh Bharat Mission in India and the Made in India Campaign are two instances of these programs.

Businesses may reduce extraction, their environmental effect, and generate new economic development by thinking about how resources might be recycled, reused, and repurposed. Circular economic models not only support sustainable sources but also promote global economic development, innovation, and resistance to environmental issues.

Consumer preferences are a major factor in the need for sustainable sourcing practices and the incentives that push businesses to give environmental responsibility first priority. Customers may exercise influence, impose market conduct, encourage moral corporate conduct, and foster an environmental stewardship culture through businesses that are dedicated to safeguarding the environment. Indian customers are better able to make informed judgments and register complaints against unethical company activities because of statutory safeguards like the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[27].

Thanks to the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[28], customers now have more options, access to information, and defense against dishonest company practices. Manufacturers are required to provide accurate and reasonable disclosures of all relevant information about their products, such as sustainability certifications, ethical sourcing practices, and environmental characteristics. Customers express their preferences and influence positive change in the marketplace when they purchase goods from companies that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

In order to empower consumers to make knowledgeable decisions about the products they buy, proponents of consumer choice frequently want tougher laws and more label openness. Through the use of certification programs, ecological indicators, and sustainability certifications, consumers may be certain that the items they purchase satisfy specified environmental criteria and regulations.

Furthermore, consumer action and advocacy campaigns possess the capacity to disseminate information regarding sustainable sourcing standards, drawing businesses to embrace ethical business practices and codes that foster sustainability, accountability, and transparency in the supply chain as buyers engage with producers, distributors, regulators, and support networks.

To summarize, sustainable sourcing is the foundation for both ecologically conscious and ethical supply chains, as well as environmental reduction. Customers who support businesses dedicated to sustainability in India and elsewhere, demand transparency in production, and investigate the potential of a circular economic model may significantly aid in the seamless transition and encourage environmental responsibility.

RECENT TREND

In electronics, the idea of purposeful obsolescence has grown in popularity, posing problems for both authorities and customers. One prominent field of study is the smartphone business, where manufacturers frequently release new models that are not much better than previous models, encouraging consumers to purchase them despite the fact that doing so often results in short battery life and increased production of electronic trash.

A few Indian customers and advocacy groups have taken legal action against manufacturers who enforce anti-repair practices in order to solve these concerns. One example of increased activity and awareness of repair opportunities in electronics is a complaint that a consumer advocacy organization filed with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) accusing a major smartphone maker of charging exorbitant fees on replacement products and limiting repair options to 2020.

Furthermore, significant efforts have been made by the electronics sector to support sustainability and upkeep. The E-Waste Management Rule, 2016 was the impetus for sustainable practices adopted by the industry aiming to increase the responsibility of manufacturers towards electronic waste management, even though some manufacturers have begun to offer maintenance services and parts of their machines in an attempt to meet customers' needs for more affordable and environmentally friendly solutions.

In the automotive industry, vehicle lifetime and maintenance have greatly increased. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988[29], and its implementing rules control the acquisition, registration, and maintenance of motor vehicles in India. The Act includes parts on consumer protection, pollution tracking, and vehicle safety even if it makes no mention of repair rights expressly.

There has been a recent tendency in the automobile industry to increase the availability and repairability of replacement components. By providing extended warranties and service packages to aid in the upkeep and repair of their automobiles, manufacturers are fostering more consumer confidence. Additionally, the expansion of independent repair shops and other service providers has given clients more alternatives for repairs outside of dealerships that are approved.

Aiming to reconcile customer desires with environmental concerns, as well as sustainable development and innovation in the automobile industry, are proposals such as the National Automobile Policy, 2021, and others. In order to maintain control over the car industry and encourage more consumer-friendly sustainability, Indian regulators may encourage manufacturers to design their vehicles with repairability and reusability in mind.

In recent years, several significant court rulings and historical events in India have influenced the framework for consumer rights and remedies. The case of Tata Motors Ltd. vs Antonio Paulo Vazs[30] by the Supreme Court of India is a noteworthy illustration.

Car manufacturers and other businesses that impede customer access and can be fixed by anti-competitive actions have also been found guilty by the Competition Commission of India. These rulings demonstrate the significance of manufacturers adhering to competition law and customer rights to maintenance and repair.

Additionally, in order to support repair rights, and hold producers accountable for anti-repair actions, consumer advocacy groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have been crucial.

The link between consumer rights, technological advancements, and legislative frameworks on redressability is generally demonstrated by case studies and current occurrences in India. To address the issue of giving consumers greater power, policymakers should look for the material examined in this article and take notice of other court rulings. This is especially true in India. One can also establish workable plans to develop long-term markets.

WAY AHEAD

India's future sustainable consumption depends on innovation in its industrial processes. Industry participants, producers, and legislators can collaborate to create innovative solutions that give priority to maintenance, delay, and energy efficiency. To provide tailored materials, eco-friendly materials, and modular designs that facilitate maintenance and increase product life, this calls for a reevaluation of conventional production techniques.

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) provisions of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986[31] are two legislative measures in India that promote sustainable manufacturing. Manufacturers may boost recycling, streamline their operations, and produce less trash thanks to the facilities these regulations give.

In addition, companies may be encouraged to adopt sustainable manufacturing and processes by offering incentives for innovation through government initiatives like tax breaks and subsidies, as well as research assistance in India. By advancing creative sustainable culture and moral production and consumption practices, it positions itself as a global leader.

Consumer education and awareness campaigns play a critical role in shaping consumer behavior and promoting a sustainable society. In concert, businesses, government departments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can develop educational programs that promote eco-friendly decisions and raise public awareness of how consumer decisions affect the environment.

Customers are empowered by the Consumer Protection Act of 2019[32] and other Indian laws to denounce unfair business practices and make educated selections. Policymakers may provide consumers with the knowledge and tools they need to protect their rights and make

sustainable buying decisions by introducing consumer education into outreach, public awareness campaigns, and school curricula.

Social media and digital platform use may also have a significant impact on consumer awareness campaigns by stimulating conversations about sustainability and attracting a wide range of viewers. Educational initiatives can collaborate with celebrities, influencers, and local leaders to significantly alter consumer behavior across a range of groups.

Achieving the goals of resource sustainability and advancing policy change requires collaborative efforts involving different stakeholders. Addressing the intricate issues of sustainable production and consumption requires cooperation between businesses, governments, civil society groups, and consumers.

Indian rules, such as the Companies Act of 2013[33], require corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts. This makes it possible for businesses to work with stakeholders and participate in sustainability projects. Businesses can benefit from cooperative NGOs, academic institutions, and governmental organizations' resources and experiences. This enables them to incorporate sustainable activities into their core beliefs.

Another crucial duty for consumer organizations and advocacy groups is to hold legislators and businesses responsible for their sustainability pledges. These organizations may amplify consumer voices and advance legislative and regulatory reforms that support sustainable procurement by engaging in active lobbying campaigns, enacting policies, and organizing at the grassroots level.

In conclusion, entrepreneurship, innovation, and education must all be combined in a comprehensive strategy to attain sustainable consumption in India. India possesses the capacity to spearhead the promotion of resilient, egalitarian, and ecologically sustainable growth by instituting regulatory frameworks, enhancing consumer awareness, and stimulating stakeholder engagement.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the topic of consumer durability and the right to repair is crucial and intricate in today's discussions about consumer protection. It tackles not just legal issues but also ethical, environmental, and social ones. The quick development of technology in today's world exacerbates the effects of outdated design and lost customers.

In order to safeguard the interests of consumers, legislators, decision-makers, and interested parties must determine how urgently these concerns need to be resolved. To change producers' and consumers' sharing behavior, this calls for an all-encompassing framework that goes beyond words.

Undoubtedly, one of the most crucial steps in this process is to tighten the regulatory framework. It needs to be combined, nevertheless, with a broad comprehension of the intricacies of the consumer marketplaces of today. For rules to balance innovation and consumer protection, policymakers must engage in comprehensive discussions with industry participants, consumer advocacy groups, and regulatory experts.

Developing storage markets is also necessary to empower customers and encourage sustainable shopping practices. It can incentivize producers to provide easily repairable items and guarantee the availability and affordability of replacement components. In order to improve consumer welfare and advance long-term development towards a circular economy—where things are easy to maintain and repair—citizens may lessen the detrimental effects of consumerism on the environment.

However, achieving these objectives requires a more profound cultural change that promotes the application of cognitive resources. Campaigns for education and awareness are crucial in this regard because they give customers the knowledge and tools they need to hold manufacturers accountable and make wise purchases.

A future in which individuals possess genuine agency, sustainable practices are implemented, and the goals of the unwavering right to repair are ultimately realized advocating for and upholding consumer rights It takes a team effort to promote sustainable business

practices. This is the philosophy we adopt.

[1] Sale Of Goods Act (SOGA 1930) 1930
[2] SOGA 1930, s 14(2)
[3] The Consumer Protection Act (CPA 2019) 2019
[4] The Consumer Protection Act 1986
[5] CPA 2019, s 2(7)(i)
[6] CPA 2019
[7] Competition Act (CA 2000) 2000
[8] CA 2000
[9] CPA 2019
[10] CPA 2019
[11] CPA 2019, s 2(7)(i)
[12] SOGA 1930, s 14(2)
[13] Information Technology Act 2000
[14] Copyright Act 1957
[15] CPA 2019
[16] CA 2002
[17] National Archives of India Act 1990
[18] ITA 2000
[19] CA 2002
[20] EA 1986
[21] CPA 2019
[22] CPA 2019
[23] Companies Act (CA 2013) 2013
[24] CPA 2019
[25] CA 2013
[26] CPA 2019
[27] CPA 2019
[28] CPA 2019
[29] Motor Vehicles Act 1988
[30] Tata Motors Ltd. vs Antonio Paulo Vaz [2021] 2021 SC 75
[31] Environment Protection Act 1986
[32] CPA 2019
[33] CA 2013

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