

Idea and Methods of Legal Research by Prof. (Dr.) P. Ishwara Bhat

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At the outset let me confess that it's very difficult to adequately comprehend and evaluate the breadth, width and depth of Prof Ishwara Bhat's magnum opus "Idea and Methods of Legal Research". One cannot miss Prof Ishwara Bhat's pioneering work if he has to work in any field that uses doctrinal or empirical methodology even remotely. His approach to research is more intuitive than conventional particularly in his approach to multi-disciplinary research as part of integrated method.

A striking coincidence is that in 7th century A D Kumaril Bhat authored a pioneering work on Research Methodology wherein he laid five fundamental principles (panchang) for discovering, creating and improving knowledge. After 1300 years the methodology was followed by an Italian Researcher Carlo Lastrucci who deployed the methodology propounded by Kumaril Bhat viz in writing Sastras the researcher ought to remember panchang shastradhikarana smritam. In the postmodern era Prof. P. Ishwara Bhat gifted a scholarly pioneering work to the legal fraternity particularly for researchers in drawing a road map for their intellectual sojourn and suggests that give and take of legal research with other social sciences is a point of great strength and this suggestion is the strength of his present work. Interestingly Prof. Ishwara Bhat in his typically aphoristic style also divides his book into five parts starting from general matters to critical report writing skills.

For purposive research we need not borrow tools from West instead we can safely bank on these TWO BHATS viz Kumaril and Ishwara Bhat, both gifted scholars, for getting Prama (valid knowledge) which will be

of immense use for teleological research and to find out the two characteristics of Prama i.e. Truth and Novelty.

Jayanta, an Indian thinker of Nyaya School, prophesied that Knowledge as a mode of BUDDHI transforms itself into the shape of the object it cognizes. Prof. Ishwara Bhat a rare amalgam of Ancient Indian wisdom and postmodernist occidental scholarship eminently deserves admiration for his scholarly pioneering work which is both intuitive and pragmatically rational. To borrow John Ruskin this book is author's life blood and should not merely be read but should be chewed and digested. The book is a welcome addition particularly for serious researchers.

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