

Relevancy

The term "relevancy," as used in the Indian Evidence Act, refers to the relationship between two or more facts, where one fact is connected with another in any of the ways specified in sections 5 to 55 of the Act. A fact is relevant to another when it has the potential to influence the outcome of a case by helping to prove or disprove an element of the dispute. Relevancy is foundational in legal proceedings as it determines what evidence may be presented in court.

Legal Framework of Relevancy

The Indian Evidence Act does not explicitly define "relevancy" but outlines various scenarios under which one fact can be considered relevant to another. These include, but are not limited to:

- Logical Connections: Facts that are logically connected to the facts in issue, such as motive, opportunity, or preparation (sections 5-16).
- Admissions and Confessions: Statements that directly admit liability or guilt (sections 17-31).

declarations and statements made in the course of business (sections 32-37).

- Judgments in Other Cases: Previous judgments that establish a pattern or precedent relevant to the current case (sections 40-44).
- Opinions of Experts: Expert testimony on matters like handwriting, mental health, or forensic evidence (sections 45-51).
- Character Evidence: Information about a person's character as it pertains to their behaviour in the case (sections 52-55).

Distinction Between Relevancy and Admissibility

While all relevant evidence is generally admissible in court, not all admissible evidence is relevant. The Act recognizes exceptions where relevant facts may not be admissible due to overriding concerns such as privacy, privilege, or prejudicial impact. For example, communications between spouses or between an attorney and client, while

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- Statements Under Special relevant, are typically not admissible to
Circumstances: Includes dying protect confidential relationships.

Practical Application and Judicial Interpretation

Judicial decisions often hinge on the interpretation of what makes a fact relevant. Courts look beyond mere logical connections, considering the practical implications of admitting certain pieces of evidence. The relevance of a fact is determined through a combination of legal standards and practical reasoning, often influenced by precedents and the specific circumstances of each case.

Relevance in Legal Strategy

In legal strategy, determining the relevance of facts involves critical thinking and foresight. Lawyers must assess not only the legal relevance but also the strategic value of presenting certain facts. This includes evaluating potential responses from the opposing side and predicting how the judge or jury might perceive the evidence.



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