

From Offer to Obligation: A Journey through Contract Law

Mrs M Remyapradosh

Assistant Professor

Bharath Institute of Law, Biher, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Abstract: *This essay discusses the dynamic development of contract law in India, tracing the legal path from the offer stage to the last stage of enforceable obligation. Based on the Indian Contract Act, 1872, the research critically analyses how an elementary proposal ripens into a binding contract, noting major principles such as offer, acceptance, consideration, and intent to create legal relations. The article explores the judicial constructions that have evolved contract law over the decades, reconciling old doctrines with contemporary commercial reality. Particular focus is on how courts understand the formation and enforcement of contracts in personal and commercial settings. The role of consent, capacity, and free will in the formation of contracts is examined to highlight the legal safeguards against coercion, fraud, and undue influence. Moreover, the paper also discusses the increasing power of electronic agreements and e-contracts in redefining traditional legal structures. Through a comparative analysis of statutory provisions, case law, and comparative observations from other common law jurisdictions, the paper seeks to present an in-depth overview of the legal evolution from a bare offer to a legally enforceable obligation in India. It concludes with observations on emerging trends and the imperative for adaptational reforms in Indian contract law*

Keywords: Indian Contract Act, 1872; Offer; Acceptance; Contract Formation; Legal Obligation; Proposal; Promise; Contract Law; Enforceability; Case Law

