

Some appointments in judiciary political: CJ

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AHMEDABAD: Justice KS Radhakrishnan, Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court on Sunday said many appointments in the judiciary end up being political. Radhakrishnan was speaking at a seminar on "Governance in India: Entry Barriers to the Profession of Litigation" organised by Ahmedabad-based Research Foundation for Governance in India (RFGI) on Sunday.

Radhakrishnan said, "Judiciary requires support from the executive - Central and state governments. But, whenever there is reshuffling at these levels, invariably, most of the appointments are political." He referred to appointments of posts like solicitor general, additional solicitor general and government pleaders. He urged government to bring in more young talent and give them opportunity on the basis of merit.

The level of education in law schools also drew flak from the chief justice who said, "Many of our law schools in the country are not properly equipped to groom a lawyer." Advocating a rule to be introduced in the Bar Council to support junior lawyers and to establish a lawyer training centre, Radhakrishnan said, "Senior designated lawyers should appear in Supreme Court and High Court alone. Then there are avenues for young lawyers in labour court, industrial tribunal, family courts, consumer redressal court and state tribunals."

On less number of students going for litigation, founder director of National Law School, Bangalore & National Judicial Academy, Madhavan Menon, said, "Reasonable salary, good working environment and better opportunities in corporate sector are major attraction for young law students in comparison to litigation field." He added, "Bonded labour still exists in legal profession."

"The country needs around 15 to 20 times more lawyers than what we have today in a nation with 1.2 billion population." added Menon. He added in states like Gujarat, there is a need for three to four law schools. Founder director of RFGI, Kanan Dhru said, "Our aim is to spread awareness and encourage young legal minds to join the profession of litigation. Recommend changes in the existing system and what amendments can be done to ensure that the profession become desired profession and not the last choice for the young lawyers."