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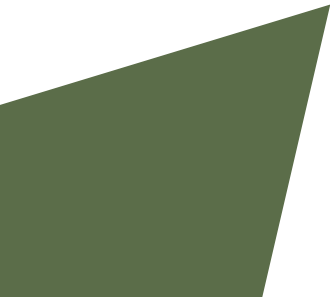
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**TESTIMONIAL COMPETENCE: A CHALLENGE IN THE  
INTERRELATIONS BETWEEN MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER  
AND LAW**

**SOUMYA SINGH**

## **ABSTRACT:**

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The interesting realm of Psychiatry and Criminal proceedings, medicine and law meet while discussing the route of law in decoding process of dealing with witnesses suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder. The paper attempts to look into the disorder, its clash with the legal system and issues of dealing with the same. A comparison is attempted between the United States of America and India and the approach they each have on the topic. The focus is on India, of it to be more accepting of mental health and regulations related to the same. The social issue of stigma around mental health can have dire consequence on the legal system of any nation. The conclusion narrows and compiles a possible approach to deal with this matter.

Key Words: Law, Psychiatry, Multiple Personality Disorder, Abuse, Legal system, Mental Health

Multiple Personality Disorder (DID) or the disorder of having multiple identities formed in the same body, also referred to as the Dissociative Identity Disorder is a very ambiguous section of the psychiatric disorders in existence.

The reasons behind its ambiguity includes reasons such as the determination of the factors leading to the formulation of such a disorder in a person, lack of ability to prove it most of the time, the uncertainty by people regarding its acceptance, all of it mainly due to the nature of the disorder not aligning with the societal understanding of 'normal' or anything fathomable according to their understanding.

These factors become important when involved in a legal sphere because the law, although is dynamic, it still is confined to a few norms and is heavily based on solid evidence. Hence when an area of conflict arises with a sector which is not bound by total certainty, *human psychology*, and further an area within it which is very difficult to prove and the methods adopted to do so are also dicey in nature and not fully credential; a lot of issues come up, for the law and the people involved.

This highlights the need to acknowledge such existing issues and their interrelations with law and how to come up with a method of decoding the same to make it simpler but obviously logically coherent, and also a set of rules so that there is some basic guidelines understood for the baseline and to ponder and interpret further upon.

Thus these interrelations are the focus of this paper and it further aims to bring about an understanding that can be achieved in the Indian judicial system regarding the same.



## INTRODUCTION:

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Multiple Personality Disorder is an identity disorder where multiple personalities exist in the same person. With the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual or DSM-IV, there has been a name change to Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)<sup>1</sup> but they are both the same. There exist a lot of dissociative disorders, however the Dissociative 'Identity' Disorder (DID) is a unique category and involves disintegration of conscience of a person leading them to create different identities within themselves, each disjunctive from each other. This is a result of a coping mechanism by the people who suffer from this disorder as a result of continuous physical, sexual, or emotional abuse faced by them especially in the early years of growing up.<sup>2</sup> Young minds are too scared, vulnerable and in weaker position than that of their offender. It is also very difficult for them to come out and openly talk about these issues at that age for one, they usually don't have an idea that what they are going through is grossly wrong and two, more than often it is the people close to them, mostly family members and even their own parents who subjugate them through these conditions. Thus coming up with an alternate personality which they tone to become a stronger version of themselves and mold it in such a way that they could be independent, not easily pushed around and will stand ground for the main personality and in a way, protect them. This is the way in which their 'coping mechanism' works for them, as a method of keeping their traumatic experiences or memories and recollections off and out of their main (host) personality's conscience. The complications increase when there exists more than one perpetrator with continuous abuse targeted towards the same person. It then becomes a tendency for that person to come up with more alternate personalities to dismiss each one the perpetrators with respect to the different mannerism of their abuse. This is a process which gives rise to multiple personalities and the complications that the person goes through as a result of this.

There exists a major lack of awareness regarding this disorder and also lack of research and understanding which leads to a lot of confusion and conflicts between the general public, the less read/researched, and the people totally involved in the study of the same. People who are not invested or related to the topic of 'Multi-Personality Disorder' usually tend to disregard the existence of such a disorder and many other tend to confuse it with plain insanity which is not totally unfair since the impulsive behavior, though of the alternate personality/personalities, do come under the ambit of

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<sup>1</sup> American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR), 1994

<sup>2</sup> Jacqueline R.K, Bob S.K., James P.B. Witnesses with Multiple Personality Disorder, Pepperdine Law Review Vol.23, 1996

insanity. However the background and the coverage of DID is different than that of insanity. Even while studying into the topic, it must be noted that there exists a lot of overlap between the concepts of amnesia, insanity, hallucinations amongst others which more than often end up diluting the intensity of DID.

There is nothing concrete regarding the nature of DID and the involved factors keep changing from person to person, suffering from it. For example, it can be seen in a lot of cases as and when a person grows older they may be able to differentiate between the personalities and get rid of them when they become sure of safety from the original cause or the nature of the related abuse. In some other cases, the person is not even aware of the existence of their other personalities and rather than this being an improvement, the other personalities keep getting stronger and try to take over the main personality over the notion of helping the body being controlled by the 'stronger' and more developed personality to protect the body or the main personalities. Whereas there are also cases where the main personality is aware of the existence of the other personalities and wants to get rid of them, to attain a peaceful state, but is overpowered by the *alternates* because they tend to fight to come into power or become the main personality and the main reason for which is that the alters do not trust the host to be able to protect themselves as they have been witness to their exploitation over the years.

Now the main issue with these existing personalities is that they have seen the main personality go through a lot (the abuse) and they tend to be aggressive if ever placed in a similar situation, or related aspects of their traumatic memories trigger them to take action. Statistically, these actions are mostly violent and criminal in nature. Hence there now opens a gateway for this whole complex sector intermingling with the law, and a further lot of complex issues following behind it.

The people suffering from DID who get caught up in this complex web and obligations towards the law mainly lie in two categories; one, the category of the people who have violated the law, the offenders. Two, the people involved in as the victims or witnesses.

The legal sphere is as ambiguous on the take on this issue as the issue, the disorder, in itself is. However this sure does bring down the topic to the core legal issue which binds all the related complexities relating to DID, that is the issue of testimonial competency – whether to admit the testimony to help with the judgement or whether to rely on the testimony to convict or acquit the person (being a witness for themselves).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Court procedures generally witness that the people who are on trial and are using the defense of suffering from DID, are more than often put on stand to be a witness in their case.

Testimonial competency of the people is main reason which is obviously based on all the above discussed issues and the challenges related to the same are the ones which when solved or analyzed and come to a conclusion on terms with dealing with it will help solve a majority of the dilemma in the law in relation to DID.

## LEGAL ASPECTS:

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There are no solidified or fixed laws or even legal principles set to deal with the specific sector of people suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder. There only exists a few legal principles formulated upon judicial discretion and thus by the presence of precedents.

A comparative understanding of the legal principles, or related principles in place, in relation to Multiple Personality Disorder between the laws of the United States of America and India:

### USA

As mentioned before, the very nature of the disorder (DID/DID) is ambiguous and so the law in itself is also not concrete and is rather at a fluidic stage of formulating principles which will crystalize with the help of judicial developments.

The concept is regarded and accepted in the courts, although various approaches are being tried out to help assess the criminal responsibility of people suffering from DID. The most accepted form of assessment is the application of ‘insanity’ standard to the alter personality in control at the time of commission of the offence, if the main personality (*host*) had no control over the actions of the alter personality and its actions. However, the same person can be convicted or held criminally responsible for the same offence if the host had the idea or was aware of the ongoing of the action(s) that led to the offence or the consequences of it. This too, in the end, depends on case to case basis judged on the details of every case and the person suffering from DID.

There also exists this approach- ‘innocent alter’ approach, which was also very popularly in practice by the courts of the USA. This approach followed the logic that no alter (personality) should be made to face the consequences of the law for any wrongdoings which that particular alter had no part in.<sup>4</sup> Conviction or charging that person with the criminal liability of the actions they had done is only allowed if all of the personalities had a role to play in the commission of the act, under this approach.<sup>5</sup>

### INDIA

There exists no legal principle or any law related to the understanding of DID.

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<sup>4</sup> United States v. Denny-Schaffer, 2 F.3d 999, 1013 (10th Cir. 1993) (it was held that the defendant was not guilty of kidnapping because host personality was not in control at the time of the offense).

<sup>5</sup> Even though the purpose determined behind this approach is in coherence with the sense of justice and fairness, it seems logically flawed. This is because of the medical nature of the disorder. Different personalities are formed as a result of different instances of abuse and it is not mandatory for all of the personalities to be inherently violent. However some of them could be, or even just one could be but under this approach, they won’t be judged properly or fairly.

The concept of both mental illness as well as mental disorders are not very well established in legal sphere of India, and a complex issue as that of Multiple Personality Disorder is not even recognized<sup>6</sup>. There is a compelling need to understand that growth in each and every sector is dynamic and the laws of any country are bound to grow accordingly. The field of medicine, medico-legal field is on the rise. It should be a motivating factor to drive legislations towards creative approach and make them create and incorporate necessary legislations.

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<sup>6</sup>Very few instances have been reported, medical cases only though. No legal cases have been specifically brought in the picture.

## JUDICIAL ASPECTS:

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A comparative understanding of the judicial aspects, comprehension and standing, revolving around the interrelations of DID and law in both USA and India:

### USA

The United States of America has certain evolved legal principles which at least regard the issue of Multiple Personality Disorder and certain stances to stand by in certain cases. Essentially, a baseline or a foundational principle is available and further judicial discretion exists which help deal with different cases on their individual basis and help develop these principles, preferably into concrete laws.

A few cases have been milestones and will help understand a bit on the judicial journey and also the judicial stance in the US legal system.

#### State v. Milligan, 1978<sup>7</sup>

The concept delineation of categorizing all people who commit crimes under one umbrella and subjecting them to the same category of punishments, had, through judicial understanding started to show light upon through the decision of this case.

Here, Billy Milligan, the person who was charged was accused of committing rape on multiple occasions. It was argued that it was the person's alter ego that had committed the acts and that his person that was entailing the body and the soul both was going to be held responsible even though the same body contained the responsible and the non-responsible body within itself. This led on to the very first time in the United States Courts that Dissociative Identity Disorder was accepted and officially recognized as a valid defense, making it possible to *not hold a person liable* for any criminal responsibility who is suffering from DID.

Being such a huge phenomenon and so different from the normal understanding of psychological issues, this judgement shook the public conscience, thus it became a little difficult for the other judgements to really adopt it easily, as the societal pressure weighed against this. Thus in the cases- *State v. Darnall, State v. Kirkland, State v. Grimsley*; the defense strategy failed miserably as they were followed by the case of State v. Milligan.

The emergence of such cases, the failure of their strategy, all due to the decision held in State v. Milligan, important, relevant questions started doing rounds and came up in discussions in regard to

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<sup>7</sup> Farrell, 2011, pp. 402-406

criminal liabilities to be associated with the people who suffer from (psychological) disorders like that of DID.

*Orndorff v. Commonwealth*<sup>8</sup>

In this case, the Supreme Court of Virginia upheld the decision of *Court of Appeals* of Virginia.

Basically, a motion for a new trial by the defendant was denied on the grounds that the person who was convicted for the murder of her husband wanted a new trial since they wanted to present new evidence regarding diagnosis of dissociative identity disorder which the defendant was allegedly going through. However the Courts looked into it and concluded that the diagnosis took place after there was a consensus on the guilt phase of the original trial.

## **INDIA**

There is alleged existence/ presence of cases, only medical cases related to people suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder, and no legal cases involved in the Indian judiciary regarding the same. Lack of such cases being brought on the upfront<sup>9</sup> in relation to DID is one factor why there exists no judicial stance on it. There is always scope for development of law based on new and emerging cases however due to the lack of awareness and acceptance on issues related to mental illness, mental disorders, or even mental health, the whole concept of DID and that being associated with a criminal or any witness in question has not surfaced.

There is a very high probability of such cases not reaching the court and just staying confined to the limits of being a medical case, or cases being dismissed on the grounds of insanity. Since insanity is the closest explanation and reasoning the Courts can come up with in alignment to their already established legal principles and law, and also to the alignment of the societal attitudes.

## **NEED TO RESEARCH:**

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Based on all the discussion, it is clear that there is an ardent need to research and discover and learn more on the topic and the whole issue of Multiple Personality Disorder (or the Dissociative Identity Disorder). The medical reasons and the need to treat them is an obvious priority but the need to understand the issues that are to be dealt with when these people are involved in a legal sphere is also important.

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<sup>8</sup> *Orndorff v. Commonwealth* 691 S.E.2d 177, 2010

<sup>9</sup> The stance of the Indian society regarding mental health and mental disorders is that of a taboo which is why it has almost been next to impossible to publically present details of such cases (if they exist even).

The importance is highlighted in many reasons; for example- if not properly assessed, innocent people can be charged of offences they did not commit or did not have any hand in, and criminals could be acquitted, not to mention people getting caught up without any fault on their behalf in this complex web. Who should be held responsible for the act committed? Whether or not to believe the witness, to convict or acquit the offender either suffering from DID or based on the testimony of a person who is suffering from DID are some real questions that need answering if the legal grey area needs to be regularized regarding the same.

There is this other issue of lack of awareness or knowledge on the disorder of dissociative identities which often shrinks the prevalent narrow gap between the medical- psychological issues like amnesia, memory loss, conditions like hallucinations, schizophrenia, and insanity, amongst others.

Amnesia is a state of mind which can be called as a 'deficit in memory' where it tends to forget certain aspects which have occurred, either due to brain damage or psychological trauma. DID has certain instances in itself which may involve amnesia, and there exists a difference between the two of them. The reasoning is that when a person suffers from amnesia they do not have any recollections of the acts done in that period;<sup>10</sup> if a person is suffering from DID there is a possibility that the alternative personalities are not aware of the actions done by a specific personality but the personality which commits the act is aware of the action. There are also instances where the 'alters' are aware of the actions done by any specific alter. This created the difference between the two concepts. It is similar in the case of memory loss and DID.

Hallucination in plain terms is perception of visuals, sound, or other related effects in near surroundings which in reality, do not exist<sup>11</sup>. There is an easy difference in this case since the acts done or the surroundings perceived are reality, just faced by one (or more) personalities.

Insanity is essentially the lack of mental capacity or the mental inefficiency of a person<sup>12</sup>. Whereas *schizophrenia* is a mental disorder which is a condition which seems like a loss of contact from reality for the person suffering from it due to delusions<sup>13</sup>, on the other hand, DID is just dissociation of one identity from the other which is created in the same body.

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<sup>10</sup> MSD Manual Consumer Version. Amnesia, <https://www.msmanuals.com/home/brain,-spinal-cord,-and-nerve-disorders/brain-dysfunction/amnesia> (2019, accessed 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019)

<sup>11</sup> Flavie W., Charles F., Hallucinations: A Systematic Review of Points of Similarity and Difference across Diagnostic Classes. *The Journal of Psychoses and Related Disorders* 2016; p. 32-43

<sup>12</sup> Insanity Defense Work Group, American Psychiatric Association on the insanity defense. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*.



It could appear easy to link DID to mental inefficiency but psychologically it is rather looked as advanced functioning of the brain. *It is undeniable to wonder upon the extent that human brain is willing to go to, evolve to, just to protect the human body, the human conscience.*

Undeniably, all the issues discussed before eventually stream down to the challenge of testimonial competency of the people suffering from DID, and the challenges thus related to it.

Careful understanding and analysis of the cases and most prevalent methods in existence to deal with the people suffering from DID and further analyzing when they intersect with the law, the following issues linked to the ‘testimonial challenges’ can be brought about:

1. Criteria of personality identification (to assess responsibility)

The most pertinent challenge which exists in this sphere of focus is the question of whom to hold liable in such cases. There are personalities which are not aware of the proceedings when an act is committed, there are others who are accomplice, there is also the existence of innocent alters, and the submissive ones who just comply with the *dominant*.

In law, whenever there is an evaluation of whether a person has committed a crime or not, it is imperative to establish the *mens rea* attached to the person committing the act and thus in cases of DID, it becomes a challenge to identify the personality who is to be held liable. It becomes extremely important for law shall not convict an innocent which means the personalities who haven’t had the intention of committing any criminal actions should not be held liable.

2. The issue of fabrication of testimony

There exists a possibility, a very strong possibility, that many a people can use this as defense strategy and falsely confess or present themselves as a victim of DID.

There are psychological tests involved and also experts checking on in so this isn’t as major an issue as it could possibly be.

There is also a challenge of cunning personalities falsely testifying as being the innocent one and try to get away with the whole act of crime committed.

These have been very well illustrated in medical and psychological literature pieces and shows how such a possibility does exist.

3. Memory compartmentalization<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Jacqueline R.K., Bob S.K., James P.B. Witnesses with Multiple Personality Disorder, Pepperdine Law Review Vol.23, 1996; p.415-421.

The personalities or the ‘alters’ are all developed individually and separately and thus they have a mindset and a mentality of their own. Each thinks in an individual capacity and stores that thought, or the memories encountered while in control of the host body or also in subconscious. This creates a challenge in trying to get each ‘individual’ testimony as there can be a shift in taking over the control of the host body while being involved in a task. Thus, one alter tends to forget what happened before, or after the completion of their part. These are the reasons whereas early signs, people can mistake the person suffering from amnesia or memory loss. However when involved in a testimonial procedure, personalities shifting can cause major inconsistencies and further lead to massive confusion. Sometimes, personalities try to save the host and thus deviate the testimony, or sometimes a personality may want to take over<sup>15</sup> and use this as an opportunity to keep information disclosed as separate memory units.

#### 4. Hypnosis<sup>16</sup>

- a. As a method to obtain testimony (whether in alignment with the ‘*Evidentiary Standards for Scientific Evidence*’)

Hypnosis as a means to obtain any testimony is considered inadmissible and is most definitely not in alignment with the *Evidentiary Standards for Scientific Evidence*. It is important for evidence to be in adherence to the rules which the Courts mean to follow, and hypnosis is disregarded as solid science and thus something that may not remove doubt beyond reasonable limits.

However cases like DID are themselves undefined and there can be no hard and fast rule to stick to them because their analysis is in process. If hypnosis is one of the only ways to obtain the testimony of other subsided personalities which do not come out and openly confess either due to their inert nature, incomplete development, or submissiveness from a more powerful identity, then hypnosis should be allowed to be practiced and then it can be up to the Courts to decide the fate of that testimony. Issue

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<sup>15</sup> Personalities fighting to take over the control of the host body is a very common observance. Various reasons have been cited, however the most prevalent and the accepted one is that the personality which is the dominant one amongst the others and apart from the host personality feels this need to take over for the sole purpose of protecting the host. They have been through so much of trauma that they think that the host cannot help or protect itself, or the other residing personalities.

<sup>16</sup> Jacqueline R.K., Bob S.K., James P.B. Witnesses with Multiple Personality Disorder, *Pepperdine Law Review* Vol.23, 1996; p.439-445

is, making separate rules for different problems or making exemptions in law makes way for exploitation and creation of loopholes which may be misused.

There have been cases, where hypnotic testimonies, or testimony obtained by the witness (suffering from DID) under the influence of hypnosis have been regarded, however there is no permanent standing taken by the board of *Evidentiary Standards for Scientific Evidence* for the same.

b. Impact on testimonial competence

One of the major arguments which is used to classify hypnosis as an unfair means is that it can cause self-incrimination of the victims. People, under the hypnotic influence, may not be able to understand the consequences or the context of their own testimony and to what are they agreeing to (or disagreeing to, for that matter).

Arguments in contrary to this can also be given some credit- as a person may feel safer to confide in and give their testimony when not being under the impression of being judged, intimidated by the presence of an authority, or if may have been threatened or coerced into giving a false testimony.

These are the very basic level of issues that come up while dealing with people who are absolutely fit, mentally. If there exist so much of disparity and confusion in such cases, the chaos that will be caused once this is legalized or adopted in a sector which is so uncertain and undefined (DID) and cannot be quantified.

The reasons to further give importance to such matters is only aggravated upon detailed and separate understanding of each such issues at hand.

These facts and analysis only strengthen the argument for finding a solid ground to place this issue on and what better way than to come up with a solution strategy based on the study of the challenges which the whole topic is essentially based on.

There is also a separate need to research on psychological and mental disorders, with respect to India in focus, because legal principles have to be defined. If the legal principles won't be defined, there won't be a mention of such issues in the Indian legal system like in the current scenario.

USA and other countries which at least have a comparatively open ambit regarding mental disorders, just need to face up to the challenges unlike the situation in a country like India, where the issue has to be dealt with from the roots.

## CONCLUSION:

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On an analysis of international comparison, between the USA and India, there is an evident gap between the 'in-focus' concepts and the principles.

It is seen how the acknowledgement of the issue is of a higher gravity than that in India or any other developing nations for that fact. It is safe to contemplate that these nations have way too many issues at hand and especially diseases which are physical and visible in nature which need immediate action to be dealt with. This subtly implies how this may be one of the reasons not a lot of importance is attached to the psychological and mental health issues and especially the complex ones like DID. However wanting to accept or not, or to deal with such issues or not unfortunately lies in the hand of the government and the concerned authorities. When such cases get involved in the legal sphere, there is no choice but to come to stage where there is consensus on how to deal with it. Well, dealing with DID in the legal sphere thus deserves proper recognition and acknowledgment and mechanism for understanding and interpreting it.

This is however the summation of the current scenario.

All the challenges discussed previously are no doubt difficult to deal with and will require a lot of detailed understanding and intensive and comprehensive efforts to deal with it.

The gist is not even a scratch on the surface of how deep the issue lies and all the related factors that must be assessed to reach a fair level of understanding. The preferred approach will be to assess the challenges that once confronted and analyzed may help to a better and in depth understanding of the issue and help come up with suggestions that will in turn help devise procedures or mechanism to structuralize the legal principles, laws or even legal proceeding regarding the complications involved in dealing with people suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder.

For the future, if we aim to look for an easy approach, the mechanism which is currently being followed in India can be continued. Basically not allowing any involvement of the people suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder in the legal sphere in totality.

To legitimize this mechanism, a few steps can be taken such as; accepting and categorizing Multiple Personality Disorder as a sub section under 'insanity'. This is desirably going to lead to the disregard of people suffering from DID as witnesses or essentially leading towards disregard of any kind of testimony, all on the basis of incapacity due to insanity.

Thus, for an easy approach or rather an easy way out from dealing the matter is to adopt this idea is fair as disbaring the whole concept altogether eliminates the issue of building up of complications from its roots.

However an easy method or a simple way out is not the reason research was required to deal with this issue. First and the foremost concern is the lack of concern regarding the issues of mental illnesses and disorders and ignorance towards them which is encouraging many a people to get away with what they have done and unfortunately, also includes many who have been unfairly caught up in this due to the absence of a set boundary to confine people according to.

The point is, a criminal may commit an offence and get away with it due to the knowledge of the other person suffering from DID and knowing the person or his words have no value in the eyes of law, or a person may wrongly get convicted due to perhaps self-incrimination which may be a result of DID taking its toll on the person.

This essentially brings the need to point to the principle that *even if a hundred guilty people go unpunished, not a single innocent person should be punished for any offence which they have not committed*. And thus there is a need to work on a solution or such a model that may help provide a guideline which will further on, even though at a slow pace, lead to crystallization of a legal background and a firm stance.

This, no doubt, will be difficult. Especially for countries which, for years, have had difficulty in accepting science which cannot be proved beyond reasonable doubt. The challenges discussed above, as testimonial challenges, are in a way the reasons for which all prudent institutions are not a hundred percent ready to back it up.

One such compelling argument can be made to tilt or influence the status of the issue sideward where it gathers more attention rather than dismissing or holding DID testimonies as totally inadmissible could be to classify DID as a section under 'evolving science'. Official procedure to make it a legitimate principle would open a lot of doors to learn, discover, and finally interpret the issue in such a way that a stern position can be finalized. This can be a confused with the present scenario. One could argue that this is what is currently happening the US Courts and a few of the other developed countries anyway. However there exists difference- one, this is proposed to be followed all over the world since a psychological disorder has no boundaries and medico-legal complications can arise anywhere. This is also in special reference to India, which places a lot of importance to societal acceptance and norms, and the law and society is heavily integrated. So even if India will take time to get accustomed to the mental disorder of dissociative identities, there is an open gate to welcome such cases, and then analyze them and them come to legal conclusion, in a fair manner.

The other main advantage which does not already exist, even though there is a similarity in the nature of the already existing principles, is that the official backing up of a principle as this will not allow the cases to be dismissed or not brought up to the Courts. Dismissal of cases on an 'invalid; reasoning will be a closed door, and such cases will mandatorily would have to be entertained as very valid and integrated elements of legal consideration. Hence now, such cases will also be given equal importance alongside all the cases and the on par with accepted mental illnesses and disorders.

Challenges to any new or developing fields are inevitable. However, it is an implied obligation to run the wheels of creativity and logic to come up with ways to deal with these challenges.