LegalTalks A Q&A Platform for Legal Queries

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ABSTRACT:What if you had a query regarding law but you aren't a lawyer or well-versed in laws?What if theInternet or Books you refer don't give you an appropriate and satisfying answer,despite wasting so much time insearching? What if someone can solve your legal query butrequires money in exchange? What if you, as a lawyer, have an ongoing case in which yourequire some help? In such situations, Legal Talksis always available to help you andprotect your rights, that too without any cost!Legal Talksis a Q&A platform where anyone having a legal query can get satisfyingand appropriate answers and suggestions from certified lawyers. Anyone who has a legalquery can ask the query in concerned domain (such as Property, Finance, Disputes, CriminalOffense, etc.) and certified lawyers can answer and provide guidance to the query, leaving thechoice to the querier to select the appropriate response for his query.

KEY WORDS: Web Development, Design, GUI, Database, Programming, Python, HTML, CSS, Django, Question and Answer, Law, Lawyer, Users

I.INTRODUCTION

Question and Answer is a platform in which if user have any query,he can post it and other users or an expert will try to help you by answering the question. Most of the Questions and Answers platform are free of cost and user driven in which one user asks/posts the question/query and other user answers it. Some platforms are paid in which you will get your answer from and expert and knowledgeable person in that field.

Within the past few years, Q&A websites such as StackOverflow, Quora, QsAns, etc. has become famous and widely used among the users who has any doubt or questions. Lots of Questions come to our mind daily and we get stuck many times finding the answer of these questions. Q&A websites are really helpful in answering these questions. For just a specific answer instead of searching in the books and wasting your time in that by consuming unwanted knowledge you can just post your question and someone that has knowledge about it will directly give you the specific answer.

Law is very important for maintaining the order among people. Every Indian should at least have basic knowledge about the law. But There are lots of people in India which are not well versed in Law and have many questions and doubts. Our solution to that's is developing an Indian Law Q&A website that will help users to get their answers. A user just has to post their question/query in the website and certified lawyers will help them by answering their questions and solving their doubts.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Even today many people have difficulties regarding law they might have ongoing case and they want answers of some questions regarding their case then they will have to look in the books of law that will be pretty tiresome and you may even end up without getting an answer. They might have to search on internet and there is no surety that they will get reassuring answer. So there are Q&A websites of Law which help users in getting their answer.

Currently there are few Law Q&A websites available on the internet such as Law StackExchange, Kanoon, LawGuru, etc. These websites are the most popular Law Q&A websites.

1) Law StackExchange (https://law.stackexchange.com/): StackExchange is a network of Q&A websites in which Law StackExchange is a website for questions related to law.It is an International Law Q&A website. StackExchange has a huge user base they get about 100 Million visitors every month. Till date over 21 Million questions have been asked. As it is an international website and law varies from country to country finding questions related to specific country is difficult. It is not an website specifically for Indian Law.

2) Kanoon (https://www.kaanoon.com/): Kanoon is an Indian online platform that makes high qualitylegal solutions accessible and affordable to all. They help individuals get their legalquestions answered, consult lawyers on the phone, and to find a competent lawyerwithout wasting thousands of rupees on the wrong lawyer. Kanoon is spefically for Indian Law. User can post their question/query and the certified lawyers will answer the question then user have an option to talk and discuss with any lawyer they want by paying them rs900 for 15min.

3) LawGuru (https://www.lawguru.com/): LawGuru is an International Law Q&A website started by two California Attorneys in 1996. At starting goal of LawGuru was to provide simple legal information and answer about frequently asked questions. Till date LawGuru has provided over a Million answers to the questions. It not specifically for Indian Law so finding questions related to Indian Law is difficult.

III. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

In our Law Q&A platform there will be three modules User, Lawyer and Moderators. A user can create an account and post queries/questions on the forum and certified lawyer will answer their queries. Moderators are responsible for moderating the content such as delete inappropriate questions/answers, block users, etc.

For developing this platform/website we are going to use various languages such as python, PostgreSQL, HTML, CSS, Javascript, etc. At the backend of thewebsite we are going to use Django framework of python which is best for rapid development and clean programmatic design. At the Frontend we are going to use CSS Framework Bootstrap which is widely used for web development purposes.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Our LegalTalks platform contains three modules:

1) User:
A user is a normal person who can ask questions on the forum and expect to get answer to their question. Users have to register before asking questions. After registration user can perform various activities listed below.

  i.   User can ask Queries.
  ii.   User can search for previously asked queries.
  iii. User can upvote/downvote the answers given by lawyers.
  iv.   User can edit/delete their asked queries.
  v.   User can report question and answers.
  vi.   User can add/update their profile picture and personal information from Profile section.

2) Lawyer:
Lawyer is a person that has done some kind education in Indian Law and is well versed with Law. A Lawyer have to first register as Lawyer and submit the proof of being lawyer then the information will be reviewed by moderators will decide whether to give access to that person as Lawyer. A Lawyer can Answer the queries of Users. Lawyers can perform activities listed below.

  i.   Lawyer can answer as well as ask queries.
  ii.   Lawyer can search for previously asked queries.
  iii. Lawyer has a point based grading system.
  iv.   Lawyer can upvote/downvote the answers given by lawyers.
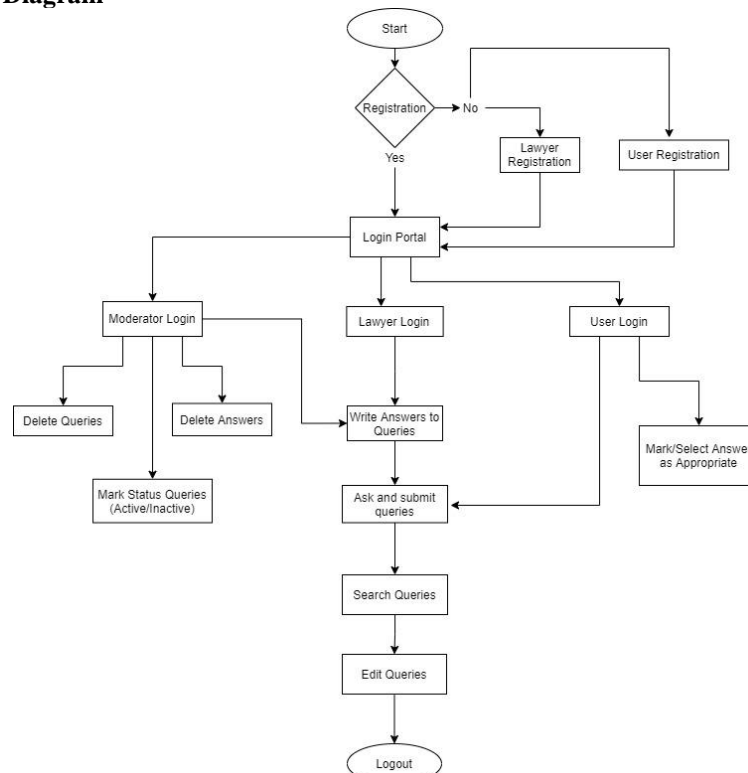 v.   Lawyer can edit/delete their asked queries.

vi.   Lawyer can report question and answers.
vii. Lawyer can Update their profile picture and personal information from Profile

3) Moderator:

Moderators are responsible for maintaining the content on the website. Moderator is a Parent module of User and Lawyer module. They can block users, delete inappropriate question/answer. Moderators can perform activities listed below.

i.   Moderator can perform every activity that can be performed by user and lawyer.
ii.   Moderator can edit/delete any queries/answers.
iii. Moderator can block inappropriate user.
iv.   Mark queries as active/inactive
v.   Moderator can sort the content as per need.

A) Architectural/Flow Diagram

B) Security and Authentication:

Django is a python web-development framework which is SEO optimized, have high scalability, versatile in nature, offers high security and provides rapid development. Django is one of the most secure web frameworks. Django provides lots of great default security features which are very useful for development. The security features provided by Django Framework are as Follows:

- SQL Injection
- CRLF Injection

- Timing Attack
- Clickjacking Attack
- Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
- Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
- Encrypted connection
- HTTP Strict Transport Security(SSL)

With all these security features using Django we can develop a secure website.

For authentication of users first user register to the platform and enter the required details. After registration user can login using their Username and password entered at the time of the registration. In case a user forgets their password they can reset the password using Forgot Password option at the login page.

C) Working and Design of Website

A User/Lawyer compulsory have to register to use our platform to start using it. Without registration user/lawyer can only view the questions and answers but for asking or answering the questions user must have completed their registration and logged into the system using their username and password

User Registration:
For registration user have to enter their First Name, Last Name, Username, Email and Phone number user can also add their profile picture if they wish but adding profile picture is not compulsory.
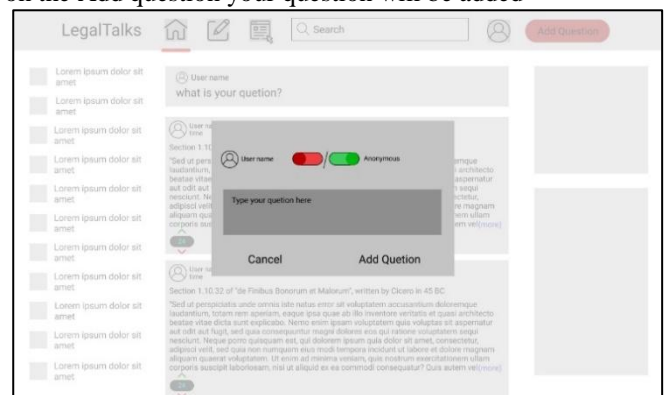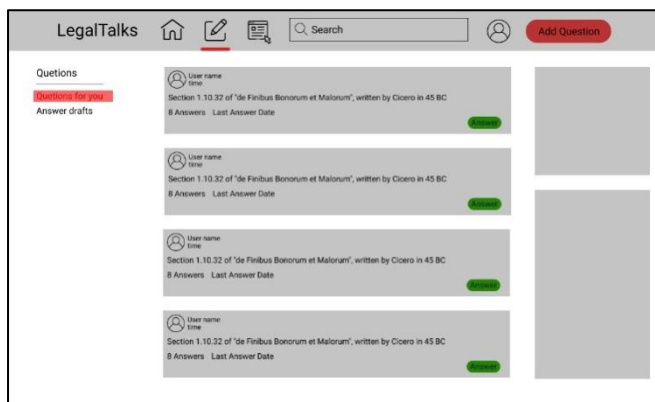
Lawyer Registration and information verification:
Each lawyer must have cleared the bar if they have then the lawyers are given a "Bar Enrolment Number" which can be used to discover that the lawyer is authenticate or not. For registration lawyer has to enter their First Name, Last Name, Username, Email, Phone Number, Bar Enrolment No., Address and Profile picture. We will verify the lawyer's bar enrolment number at the time of verification so only authenticate lawyers should be granted the access the platform
.
User/Lawyer should already be registered and logged in for performing these activities:

1) Asking Question/Query:
The user can register and log into the system and can ask the question by clicking the add question button in the top right corner of the screen. Then another window will pop for adding the question type your question and if you want to hide your identity you can turn on anonymous mode then click on the Add question your question will be added
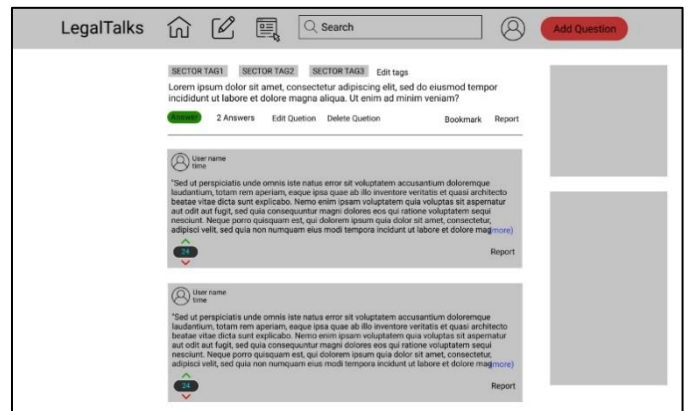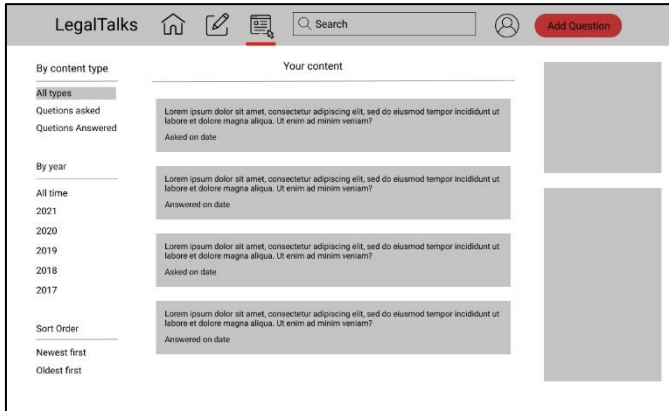

2) Editing/deleting question/answer:
For deleting the question/answer you have to go to your content page there you will see all the questions you have asked or if you are a lawyer you will also see the answers that you have given. You can click on the question/answer you want to edit/delete. Then you will get the option to edit and delete the question.

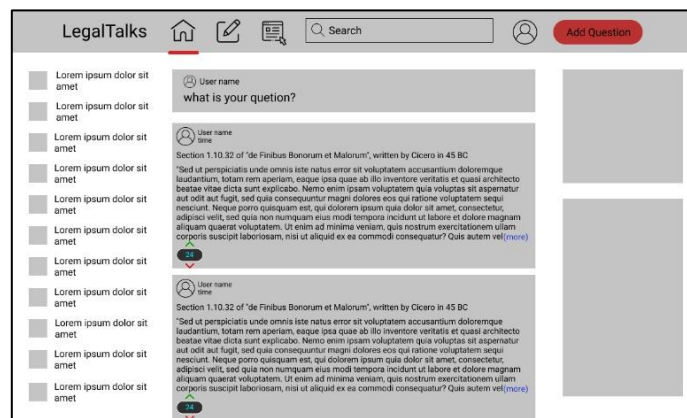3) Searching for previously asked Questions:

There is a search text field which has a placeholder text as search on the navigation bar at the top of the homepage. Where you can search for questions that are asked by other users.
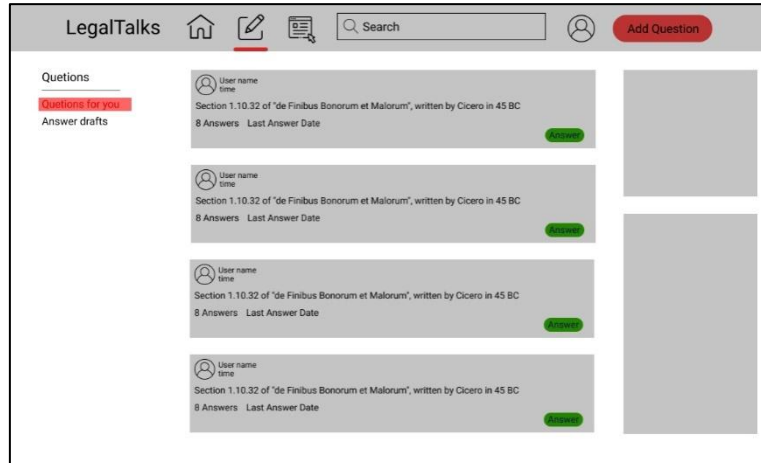

4) Upvote/Downvote the answers given by lawyers:

There is a Counter at every answer which indicates the upvotes and downvotes. That counter has up arrow and a down arrow if user wants to upvote the answer user can press up arrow or if user wants to downvote the answer user can click on down arrow as per his choice. If the answer has more upvotes as compared to downvotes then counter will display positive number or else counter will display zero or negative which indicates the downvotes

5) Answering Questions:

For answering questions lawyer can go to the answer section from homepage then lawyer can see different questions that has been asked by users. He can even sort the question for particular domain. For answering these questions there is button "Answer" at the end of every question. Lawyer can click on that button and start his answer for that question.

6) Updating profile picture and personal information:

There is a Profile icon on the navigation bar at the top of the website. User can click on that icon and then user can add profile picture if he has not added yet. He can also update his personal information such as phone number, address etc.

7) Asking question Anonymously:

You can ask question by clicking the "Add Question" button but what if you want to post a question by hiding your identity for that while posting a question user can turn on anonymous option. By turning on anonymous option user is displayed as anonymous for that particular question.

V. RESULTS

We have successfully developed a Questions and Answers platform called LegalTalks specifically for Indian Law. Which will help people by solving their doubts/questions regarding Indian Law and make them aware. Only the certified lawyer will answer users' questions so that the answer user will be satisfied by answers.

Our platform is feature rich and has responsive and clean graphical user interface which helps user in navigating through the website. There are no charges for using LegalTalks platform it is free of cost.

VI.CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

We expect lots of people to use this platform for posting their questions and interacting with lawyers that will help them get their appropriate answer for their questions. As Q&A platforms are really popular on the Internetwe expect that lots of people will use our LegalTalks platform for getting their answer regarding Indian Law. Our platform can be a great help to the students that are pursuing education in Indian Law.

In future we aim to improve our User Interface (UI) further more by adding animations that look appealing and attract more users to our platform. We can also add regional language support to make it more accessible and comfortable while using it. We can also add more features to our website.

VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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