

NEWSLETTER

NALSAR Pro-Bono Club Promoting Equal Access to Justice



In collaboration with
Nyaya-Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services)
An initiative of the Department of Justice
Ministry of Law and Justice



न्याय विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE

NEWSLETTER



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ABOUT

NALSAR University of Law HYDERABAD



NALSAR University of Law is a premier National Law School located in Hyderabad, India. It was established in 1998 by an Act of the State Legislature of Andhra Pradesh. The university offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs in law and legal studies, as well as a number of interdisciplinary programs.

NALSAR is known for its rigorous academic curriculum, highly qualified faculty, and state-of-the-art infrastructure. The university's curriculum emphasizes the development of critical thinking, research, and communication skills, and prepares students for careers in a variety of legal fields. The university has a vibrant and dynamic student community, and provides numerous opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities and develop their leadership skills.

NALSAR has established partnerships with a number of leading institutions and organizations, both in India and abroad, and is actively involved in the research and outreach programs aimed at promoting the rule of law and advancing legal education. The university is widely recognized for its commitment to social justice, and has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for its contributions to legal education and research.

Overall, NALSAR University of Law is an excellent institution for anyone interested in pursuing a career in law and legal studies. Its commitment to academic excellence, social justice, and professional development makes it one of the top law schools in India and a leader in legal education in the region.

Message from the desk of the Patron

Professor. Srikrishna Deva Rao

Vice Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad



Professor. Srikrishna Deva Rao

Vice Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

It is with great pride and a sense of accomplishment that I extend my warmest congratulations to the organizers, participants, and supporters of the recent Legal Awareness Programme. This programme, which was conducted by the university's Pro Bono Club, aimed to increase legal literacy and promote social justice among the members of our community. The success of the program is a testament to the commitment and handwork of everyone involved. The presentations, workshops, and discussions that took place during the programme provided a valuable platform for students and staff to engage with legal experts and gain a deeper understanding of some of the most pressing legal issues of our time.

In today's complex and rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever to be informed and educated about the law. Legal literacy is essential for protecting one's rights, advocating for justice, and participating in the democratic process. The Legal Awareness Programme has helped to foster a sense of civic engagement and responsibility among members of the university community, and I am confident that this will have a lasting impact. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Pro Bono Club for their tireless efforts in organizing and promoting this important event. The club has demonstrated a deep commitment to promoting legal literacy and social justice, and their efforts have inspired many others to become involved. I am confident that their work will continue to make a positive contribution to our university and beyond.

Faculty Co-ordinator

Ashwini Kumar Pendyala

Asst. Professor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad



Ashwini Kumar Pendyala

Asst. Professor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

"Learning by doing" is recognized as an excellent pedagogical method to study law. When students actually engage in the "real work" of law, they can learn doctrine, ethics, theory and "test" law's strengths and weaknesses as it applies in real-life situations.

Pro Bono club activities are structured to carry out multiple objectives.

1) To enable law students to acquire practical skills. Students have the opportunity to be involved in real issues, cases or projects.

2) Students will engage in the real work of law which will help the students to develop systematic methods of learning from experience, as well as gain insight into a lawyer's functioning as advocate and counsellor, investigator, negotiator, and planner.

3) Pro Bono club will function with the mission of promoting justice, or the public interest by organizing legal awareness programs, legal aid, law reforms etc. for the benefit of the powerless people, minorities, and vulnerable communities. It will work to promote public interest.

Pro Bono Club has conducted door to door legal awareness campaign on Right to Health, Rythu Bandhu scheme, Land Rights and Caste, Secondary Education, Right to Food and Sanitation.

Pro Bono club has also conducted two successful workshops in the Shamirpet and Pudur Villages.

I thank the Department of Justice for their interest in promoting Pro Bono club activities. Further, I thank Professor. Srikrishna Deva Rao, the Vice-Chancellor NALSAR University of Law for his continuous support and encouragement.



NYAYA BANDHU

About Nyaya Bandhu

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) is the Government of India's primary initiative to establish a framework for dispensation of pro bono legal services across the country. Under the programme, practicing advocates, interested in undertaking legal pro bono work, are connected, via mobile technology, with eligible marginalised beneficiaries, after due scrutiny for delivery of pro bono (free of charge) legal services. In order to strengthen the Nyaya Bandhu network, Department of Justice proposed to set up and integrate pro bono panel of lawyers in each High Court (curated and moderated by the respective High Courts), within its Nyaya Bandhu programme. It envisages integrating the Nyaya Bandhu programme within the institutional framework of the justice system in India, so as to ensure its optimum utilization and impact.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Registrar General, High Court: Provide implementation support of Nyaya Bandhu Panel. Manage the registration, approval and review the performance of Lawyers. Designate an in-charge to manage and administer the activities of this panel from High Court level. To organize orientation and awareness session of the activities of Nyaya Bandhu Panel on regular basis.
2. Department of Justice: Provide support in coordination and facilitation for successful implementation of this initiative. Conduct quarterly review meeting in coordination with High Court & develop a consolidated six-monthly report for submission to all stakeholders.
3. CSC e-Gov : Provides support in design, development, operation and maintenance of web based application of Nyaya Bandhu Panel for monitoring and reporting purpose in coordination with DoJ. Support in writing procedure, functions and triggers, maintain database, provide training and develop user manual of this application.

Projects undertaken by Pro Bono Club

RIGHT TO HEALTH

The right to health is a fundamental human right that touches the core of our existence. It's not just about having access to healthcare and medicine, but it's about having the ability to live a fulfilling and healthy life without fear of illness, disease, or suffering. Right to Health is a part and parcel of Right to Life and therefore right to health is a fundamental right which is guaranteed to every citizen of India under Article 21 of the Constitution. The World Health Organization (WHO) introduced the Universal Health Coverage Program in order to reduce the financial burden on people with respect to medical and health expenses. The Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced the scheme Aarogyasri in the year 2007. Post the separation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the year 2014, the scheme is now administered by Aarogyasri Health Care Trust by the Government of Telangana chaired by the Chief Minister of the state. The main intent behind this scheme was to provide health coverage to persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) against certain critical illnesses. The beneficiaries under this scheme can obtain medical services at government and private hospitals free of cost for specific ailments.





Considering the important role of the Arogyashree Scheme, we decided to raise awareness about the said scheme in the villages of Shamirpet and Pudur. We also tried to gauge the situation of the scheme in these villages by interviewing 25 residents of the villages.

A main issue that was noted was that there was a lack of proper medical care and infrastructure within the area. Another issue was that many of the residents had a preference towards private hospitals, as opposed to the government hospitals or PHCs, in spite of the fact that government hospitals and PHCs offer free medical services.



Most importantly, regarding the Aarogyasri Scheme itself, we noted several important details about its implementation, reach and awareness. It was observed that most of the villagers in Shamirpet and Pudur were beneficiaries under the Aarogyasri scheme. Although not all the beneficiaries had availed medical treatment under the scheme, this was mostly because they didn't suffer from any necessary ailments that were covered under the scheme and the scheme which essentially covers serious health issues only.

LAND RIGHTS & CASTE



After conducting a survey in two villages near Hyderabad, it was confirmed that land ownership and allied rights, quality of life, and awareness are all linked to a person's social status and identity. Marginalization plays a major role in the quality of life, and historically, it began with the exclusion of people from land-related property rights. The study found that caste is a major factor in India for marginalization and poorer quality of life, and that in rural India, the absence of property rights in land has a direct relationship with a person's caste and household.

The survey found that land is mostly owned by people belonging to upper and other backward castes, and lower castes have significantly less ownership of land. Upper caste interviewees who owned land received it in inheritance, while lower caste interviewees who owned land received it through land distribution schemes, and their landholding was always less than 1 acre. SC community households were more likely to sell their land for financial purposes, and 50% of them were aware of, and have received benefits under state-run or union government-run schemes.

Additionally, most upper caste households had farming as their main occupation, while none of the lower caste households did. Caste has a direct bearing on the ownership of land, the size of the landholding, and the fertility of it, and this perpetuates inequality in wealth, poverty, and trends of financial inclusion. In conclusion, ideal land governance would improve access to land rights for marginalized groups.

In total, the students reached 56 households. and created awareness about land rights among those people.

RYTHU BANDHU SCHEME

Agriculture-specific Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in India are crucial for promoting the welfare of farmers and rural communities. These schemes provide financial support to farmers, helping them to increase their agricultural productivity and income.

The agriculture-specific DBT schemes are designed to ensure that the benefits of the government's agricultural policies and programs reach the intended beneficiaries directly without any intermediaries. By linking Aadhaar numbers to bank accounts, the DBT scheme ensures transparency and accountability in the delivery of subsidies and financial assistance to farmers.

The agriculture-specific DBT schemes in India include the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, and Rythu Bandhu Scheme. These schemes aim to provide financial assistance, insurance coverage, irrigation facilities, and other support to farmers to promote sustainable agriculture practices and increase their agricultural productivity.

Because, agriculture-specific DBT schemes in India are crucial for promoting the welfare of farmers and rural communities, researchers decided to examine the awareness and implementation level of Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Shamirpet and Pudur villages. For the same, they reached 40 households.



Through their research, the researchers made various key observations and analysis. One of the key observations throughout the research and data collection is that in the areas of Pudur and Shameerpet, Rythu Bandhu has been implemented very effectively. In addition to being implemented effectively, the scheme is widely popular and almost every person knew about the scheme and if they belonged to agricultural background are reaping benefits of the schemes. Only a small chunk of the population is aware about centrally controlled DBTs wherein people are getting money in their account but are unaware about the policy. In comparison, everyone is aware about various provisions of Rythu Bandhu. The district coordinator explained to us that various awareness campaigns are conducted on a regular basis to inform the people about the scheme in detail. It also includes solving their issues and problems regarding DBT scheme.

Through this outreach programme, researchers observed that people became aware about the scheme because of the village panchayats. This was achieved through the effective participation of the panchayat and the educated youth in the villages. Proper awareness programmes were conducted at village level through educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, self-help groups. This generated awareness and eliminated misconceptions about the scheme in the villages to a large extent.

Along with the study, the students also created awareness about the importance of having bank accounts to the people. They further explained the financial benefits and security that arises because of possessing bank accounts.



SECONDARY EDUCATION

Education is a potent tool for changing the world, according to Nelson Mandela. Throughout the last century, society has recognized the importance of education and the role it can play in reducing social inequalities and promoting upward mobility. Education can provide individuals with the knowledge and abilities they need to achieve their goals, make informed choices, and contribute to the society. In India, various aspects of education have been extensively researched. The most significant ones are the the gender ratio in education, the access to education in rural areas, the drop-out rate while transitioning to higher education. The government is working to improve the admission rate of students in rural parts of India.

Considering the importance of secondary education in India, the research was focused on conducting a study in the villages of Shamirpet and Pudur to understand the ground realities of secondary education in these villages. An outreach campaign and survey was conducted that involved 60 students in order to gauge the situation of secondary education in these villages. The larger area of study for the project was the transition from primary to secondary education for students and the quality of secondary education in these villages. The research involved visiting these schools and conducting multiple interviews with the residents of these villages to gather as much information as possible regarding secondary education.

The survey conducted in the village of Shamirpet in Telangana revealed a mixed bag of results. The overall enrollment in the schools and the number of teachers was found to be adequate and in fact better than the national average.

When compared to many other regions of India, Shamirpet and Pudur villages revealed a better picture of education in India. In total, the research depicted that the schools in Shamirpet and Pudur are good and are imparting good knowledge with judicious use of resources provided by government. Such success should be attributed to urbanization along with effective governmental policies promoting secondary education across genders.



RIGHT TO FOOD



Access to food is not just about filling empty stomachs; it is about ensuring that the people have the opportunity to live healthy and productive lives. The lack of access to food can lead to a range of health problems, such as malnutrition, stunted growth, and weakened immune systems. These issues can have long-term consequences for individuals, families, and communities, including reduced economic productivity and increased healthcare costs.

Considering the importance of the topic, we decided to research and generate awareness about the effective implementation of the scheme of public distribution of food grains in the villages of Shamirpet and Pudur of Telangana. As part of the legal awareness program of this course we made an attempt to advocate about the various food programme schemes of the Telangana government that can be of benefit for the people of Shameerpet and Pudur villages. We were able to reach 25 different households in both of the villages. During the outreach in Shamirpet, we observed that the general standard of the living condition of the people is better than most of the rural settlements of the country.



At present there are 20,378 Fair Price Shops are functioning in Telangana. However, the least number of ration shops are in Hyderabad district (1075) followed by Khammam district (1261). Population per shop ratio for Hyderabad is 3529 i.e. for each ration shop there are 3529 consumers. The need to increase the number of ration shops was recommended by the people of Shameerpet and Pudur villages. Villagers have informed the difficulty they face because of the long queues at the time of procuring their rations. There exists only one fair price shops (retail outlets) for both Shameerpet and Pudur villages. However, we received a lot of mixed responses from the people regarding the management of the ration shop. Access to Ration shop has been one of the most contentious and pestering issue with the families in Shameerpet. Further, researchers did not find any other kind of mismanagement such as under-weighting, manipulating the stock by adding inferior food grains and dirt and fraudulently showing ration being issued on unutilized cards, such manipulations are very prominent in some parts of India.

We found that the Biometric system placed in Telangana for preventing malpractice in PDS is meeting its objectives effectively. However, much effort is required to set up additional ration shops in the area and make other government policies more accessible to the residents. The image of Shameerpet and Pudur certainly breaks stereotypes of under developed villages and semi urban centers in themselves. The PDS system should be expanded to cover other necessary food items also.

SANITATION

Water, sanitation, and hygiene services are very important to address the poverty, livelihoods and health of the people. Water is a precious commodity. Provision of clean drinking water, sanitation and a clean environment are vital to improve the health and life span of people. Poor sanitation also hinders national development. Considering the importance of the sanitation in rural India, the research and awareness campaign was focused on the state of sanitation in Shamirpet and Pudur villages of Telangana.

For the same, researchers interacted and interviewed people from 54 households. Researchers embarked on an endeavour of engaging themselves with analysing the sanitation and sewerage facilities that are available to the villagers of Shamirpet and Pudur. Apart from a handful of stark sociological divides across both the villages, how big a role is played by certain trivial and miniscule factors also came to light. Just the mere fact of one's house not being on the main road but on the road adjacent to it exacerbates sewerage problems by about threefold. The interviewees, inter alia, complained about pigs loitering and monkeys causing nuisance. The drinking water situation was also quite appalling as leakage in the water pipeline makes causes wastage and also can create unhygienic situations. The supposed portable water that the Gram Panchayat provides via a long stretch of pipeline gives out contaminated water because of leakage in the pipes. Villagers reported that sometimes they have to resort to processes of sedimentation to obtain clean drinking water. However, the authorities have been informed and the correction of the same is underway. The sewerage connections are cleaned on request. Manual scavenging is still practiced but gloves, boots and other safety gears are provided. This practice has been resorted to since the small size of the nallas and manholes make it impossible for the usage of vacuum pipes. It was informed to the researchers that the Gram Panchayat did provide the villagers with masks and socially distanced awareness camps were held and leaflets were distributed.

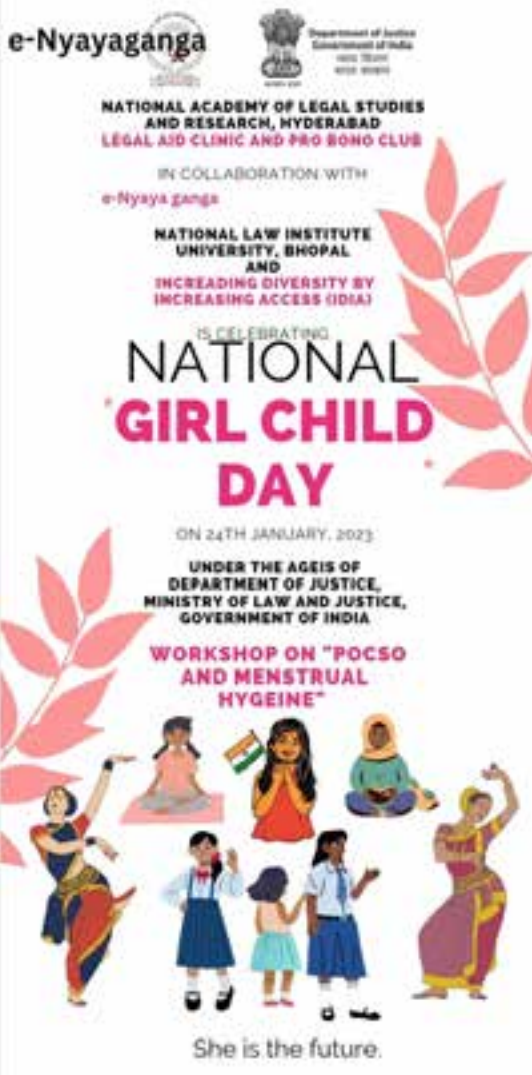


Pudur was substantially less developed than Shamirpet. The primary reason of such was the distance of Pudur village from the main highway. The villagers mostly complained about lack of public washrooms in and around the village. When enquired about the open defecation situation, it was observed that almost all of the villagers have built their own enclosed washrooms and open defecation is a rare happening. Only a handful of village elders engage in it out of habit and also out of necessity. The villagers had no complaints regarding animals littering the locality.

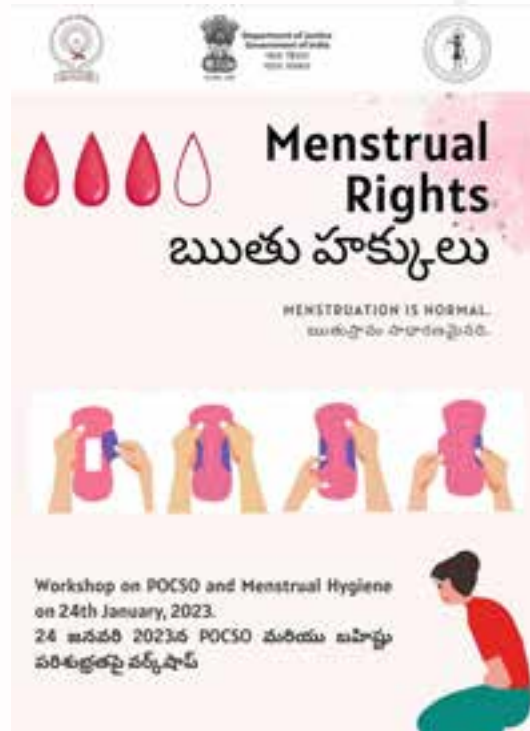
At the end of the outreach and survey programme, researchers observed that the sanitation situation in both of these villages depicted a decent and satisfactory picture where the villagers were also aware about the same.

Activities by Pro Bono Club of NALSAR, Hyderabad

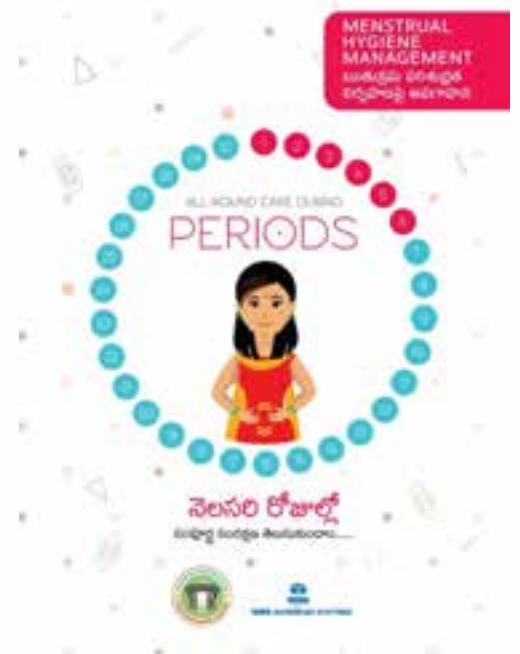
Workshop on POCSO



e-Nyayaganga Department of Justice Government of India
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF LEGAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH, HYDERABAD
LEGAL AID CLINIC AND PRO BONO CLUB
IN COLLABORATION WITH
e-Nyaya ganga
NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL AND INCREASING DIVERSITY BY INCREASING ACCESS (IDIA)
IS CELEBRATING
NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY
ON 24TH JANUARY, 2023
UNDER THE AGES OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WORKSHOP ON "POCSO AND MENSTRUAL HYGEINE"
She is the future.



Department of Justice Government of India
Menstrual Rights
ముతు హక్కులు
MENSTRUATION IS NORMAL.
ముతుహారము సాధారణమైనది.
Workshop on POCSO and Menstrual Hygiene on 24th January, 2023.
24 జనవరి 2023న POCSO మరియు మహిళా పరిశుభ్రతపై వర్క్‌షాప్



MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT
మహిళా పరిశుభ్రత నిర్వహణ
ALL ROUND CARE USING PERIODS
వెలసరి రోజుల్లో
అన్నిటినీ ఉపయోగించండి



The first workshop on Menstrual Hygiene and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) was conducted at Shamirpet ZP High School in Shamirpet. This workshop was an important step in promoting menstrual health and creating awareness about the protection of children from sexual offences. The aim of the workshop was to educate students about the importance of menstrual hygiene and the need for protection from sexual offences, and provide them with the necessary resources and information to support their health and well-being.

The chief guest for the workshop was Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law. Dr Deepa Malik, who is a seasoned dignitary in the field of health activism, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on menstrual hygiene, emphasizing the importance of maintaining personal hygiene during menstruation and the need for proper education and resources to support menstrual health. She spoke about the social stigmas associated with menstruation and the need to break the taboo surrounding this natural biological process. She also discussed the need for proper sanitation facilities and the availability of affordable menstrual products to ensure menstrual hygiene for all women and girls.



Ashwini Kumar Pendyala, Assistant Professor at NALSAR, spoke at length on POCSO, highlighting its main concerns, the aim of the law, and the shortcomings in the enforcement of the law. He also spoke about the efforts of the University to increase awareness in the community about the law and the need for protection from sexual offences. He emphasized the importance of educating children about their rights and the need to report any form of abuse to the authorities.



The headmaster and teachers of the school also spoke about menstrual health and its relevance to the students. They discussed the importance of menstrual hygiene and the need for proper education and resources to support menstrual health. They also spoke about the importance of creating a safe and supportive environment for girls during their periods.





The workshop was attended by approximately 250 students. Anganwadi workers attended the meeting and interacted with the students about the subject and their work in the community. The Anganwadi workers explained the services they provide to the community, including health education and the provision of health services and supplies. They also spoke about their role in creating awareness about menstrual health and the need for proper education and resources to support menstrual health.




In conclusion, the workshop on Menstrual Hygiene and POCSO was a great success, providing students with valuable information on menstrual health and protection from sexual offences. The efforts of NALSAR University of Law, the headmaster and teachers of the school, and the Anganwadi workers are commendable, as they are working towards creating a better and safer future for the students. The workshop provided a platform for students to learn about menstrual health and the importance of protecting themselves from sexual offences and encouraged them to take an active role in promoting menstrual health and the protection of children from sexual offences. It is hoped that this workshop will be the first of many initiatives aimed at promoting menstrual health and creating a safer and more inclusive society for all.

Workshop on ADR



 Department of Justice
 Government of India
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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF LEGAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH (NALSAR), HYDERABAD
LEGAL AID CLINIC AND PRO BONO CLUB

WORKSHOP & LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON
"ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION"


ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

ON 28th JANUARY, 2023
 at Pudur Village


 Department of Justice
 Government of India


NALSAR Hyderabad

న్యాయ బంధు

(జ్ఞాత వారసుల వారసులు)
 అభ్యుదయం అని పాఠశాల వంటి న్యాయ సేవలు
 కేసులలో జ్ఞాత వారసుల పాత్రను
 తెలుసుకోవడా, అవకాశాలను అన్వేషించడా
 న్యాయ బంధు ముఖ్యత యాద



న్యాయ బంధు ముఖ్యత యాద న్యాయ జ్ఞాత వారసుల వారసులు
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దరఖాస్తుచేయడానికి ఏమి చేయాలి?

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 Department of Justice
 Government of India


NALSAR Hyderabad

న్యాయవారి అంటే ఏమిటి?

న్యాయవారి అంటే ఏమిటి? న్యాయవారి అంటే ఏమిటి? న్యాయవారి అంటే ఏమిటి?



న్యాయ బంధు ముఖ్యత యాద ఏలా ఉంచుకోవాలి?

జ్ఞాత వారసుల వారసులు అభ్యుదయం అని పాఠశాల వంటి న్యాయ సేవలు
 కేసులలో జ్ఞాత వారసుల పాత్రను తెలుసుకోవడా, అవకాశాలను అన్వేషించడా
 న్యాయ బంధు ముఖ్యత యాద

తయారైనా తయారు చేయండి

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The second workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution was held on 28th January, in Pudur village, with the aim of educating and empowering rural communities with legal knowledge and providing them with the necessary tools to resolve disputes without resorting to litigation. The event was attended by 50 villagers, along with the Sarpanch Babu Yadav, village vice Sarpanch, and ward members. The event was graced by the presence of the Registrar, who served as the chief guest.



The event started with an introduction by Ashwini Kumar Pendyala, on the importance of the NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) act, 1987 and translated the speech of Dr. Bharti Yadav from NLU D, who was the keynote speaker. Dr. Yadav discussed the topic of Alternative Dispute Resolution and its significance in resolving disputes quickly, cost-effectively, and amicably, without the need for lengthy litigation. Professor Vidyullatha Reddy, Registrar explained the significance of alternate dispute resolution. The attendees were then introduced to the Nyaya Bandhu App, which is a mobile application developed by the government to provide legal aid and assistance to citizens. The importance of the app was highlighted, and the villagers were assisted in installing it on their phones.



After the presentation, Ashwini Kumar Pendyala had an interactive session with the villagers. He has discussed various legal issues raised by the villagers and advised them on how to resolve the disputes. Participants also showed enthusiasm and asked various doubts regarding land and family issues. The session was highly informative, and the villagers were able to gain a deeper understanding of their legal rights and the different avenues available to them for resolving disputes.



In conclusion, the second workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution was a resounding success, with the attendees being educated and empowered with legal knowledge and tools to resolve disputes amicably. The event helped to bridge the gap between the legal system and rural communities, making justice more accessible and equitable to all.



Pro-bono club building

The foundation stone for the Pro-bono club of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad was founded on 1st February 2023. The ceremony was attended by Prof. Vidyullatha Reddy, Registrar of the University, and Prof. Ashwini Kumar Pendyala. The Centre is aimed at streamlining the NALSAR Pro Bono Club.

The establishment of NALSAR Pro-bono club at NALSAR University of Law is a commendable step towards providing legal aid to the underprivileged and marginalized sections of the society. The Centre's objectives and functions reflect its commitment towards providing support and assistance to those in need. The Centre plans to collaborate with NGOs and other organizations and help in creating a network of legal aid providers, which will in turn help in the efficient delivery of legal aid services.

The club is scheduled to be inaugurated officially on 25th February, 2023 by the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on the occasion of Convocation.



Experience Notes



Isha Tandon

From PHC doctors and ASHA Workers to ordinary villagers, we spoke to a myriad of locals on healthcare issues, especially relevant in light of the pandemic. Personally, working on the Right To Health project has been one of my most fulfilling experiences at law school. Learning about policies in class is one thing, but to actually get to talk to people in the community and see how they're effected by said policies, is the real learning.



**Medha
Sushmita**

The field visits proved to be an extremely enriching opportunity for us as learners of law primarily for the reason that it highlighted to us the huge gap that lies between theoretical knowledge and practical application of law. Our group was concerned with spreading awareness on Right to Health and studying the implementation of the Aarogyashri Healthcare Scheme in the villages of Shamirpet and Pudur. It was extremely heart wrenching for us to see how majority of the villagers ranging from elderly persons to children as young as 5 years of age were struggling to receive adequate and basic healthcare and medical attention. We were fortunate enough to have been able to speak to these individuals and their families who were extremely welcoming. They were kind enough to share and discuss with us the problems that they have/had faced with respect to healthcare facilities in their area. The villagers were very patient and involved with us, which just went on to showcase to us as to how much of a pressing issue it was to them. Although we took up this initiative with the aim to spread awareness on Right to Health among the villagers, we feel that not just them but, this initiative also helped us become more aware and sensitive individuals ourselves.



Harsh Jain

From my personal experience, I can say that conducting a field study as part of the Pro Bono Club was a complex but rewarding task. One of the things that I appreciated about the research was the opportunity to engage with government officials and citizens and gather their views on the PDS. It was interesting to see the different perspectives and experiences of each stakeholder and how they influenced the functioning of the system. One of the challenges we faced during the research was the lack of need for more transparency in the distribution process, making it difficult to assess the actual situation. This was compounded by the shortage of essential items, which made it harder to get a complete picture of the situation.

However, despite these challenges, I felt that our research was valuable and meaningful. By identifying the lapses in the system and making recommendations on how to address them, we were able to contribute to our understanding in improving the PDS for the benefit of the citizens. Overall, this field study was a valuable learning experience and gave me a deeper understanding of the functioning of the Public Distribution System. I believe that by addressing the shortcomings in the PDS, we can ensure that the citizens of Shameerpet and the adjoining districts receive the support they need to lead a better life



Shekhar Kanwar

The field visits conducted during the Pro Bono club activities gave me an opportunity to understand realities in a better manner. As law students we keep reading about how laws and policies provide various type of safeguards/benefits to people but the field visit made me realise that even the well intended laws and policies for everyone might favour certain section of the society and not everyone.



Raavi Mishra

I was a part of the first initiative of the Pro-bono club. Being part of the course made us understand how no amount of reading and scholarship can give us an accurate idea of the social reality law and policies are made for. It tells that all the law-making is based on assumptions whose accuracy needs to be revised at more frequent intervals. Other thing is that application of laws, perhaps needs more contextualisation and localisation because laws which appear perfectly effective on paper look unrecognisable in how they materialise on ground. This happens because so many factors which are taken as constants while policy considerations are being deliberated are variable, and have variety to the extent of determining the effectiveness of a law or a scheme on ground.



Aviral Agrawal

After interning at NALSA in my first year, I was always inclined towards legal aid and hence this was the best opportunity for me to work for my passion. Under the guidance of my Professor and with avid help of my teammate, Pranjali, I had a enriching and learning experience. To interact with people around us and understanding the social status of our surroundings was helpful to keep my efforts focused on legal aid.



Harshita Gupta

As part of legal aid and awareness project, I visited Shamirpet and Pudur villages to evaluate the impact of the LPG subsidy scheme. Many households had switched to LPG as a cleaner cooking fuel, resulting in improved health outcomes and increased economic opportunities. The visit highlighted the importance of such initiatives in creating positive change at the grassroots level. Interacting with the people for my research work made me aware about the kind of problems these villagers face on a day to day basis. My experience in the field reminded me of the importance of working closely with communities to identify their needs and co-create solutions that are tailored to their unique circumstances. It also highlighted the importance of continued engagement and follow-up to ensure sustained impact and benefits for the community.



Utkarsh Tripathi

After interning at several policy institutions that worked on constitutional law and human rights issues, being part of the Pro Bono Club was a welcome change of pace, as it allowed me to study the percolation of these laws on the ground level. It also helped sharpen my critique of the laws and provisions from a more empirical perspective, giving me a critical perspective towards the laws which I had understood on more doctrinal lines.



Pranjali Mishra

I participated in a series of activities that were undertaken by the Nalsar Pro bono club. I was working on the project where we had to spread the awareness about the Rythu Bandhu Scheme, and PM-KISAN scheme for the farmers. All the activities made me realise the intricate interaction of law, policy, and the society. These activities has helped me gain a new perspective and connect to the people in a deeper way.

NALSAR Pro-Bono Club

(Promoting Equal Access to Justice)

NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW

**Justice City, Shamirpet, Medchal-Malkajgiri District,
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