**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**ON**

**LAND PROBLEMS OF POOR AND TRIBAL: NEED FOR SUPPORT MECHANISMS**

**Venue**: NALSAR University of Law, Justice City, Shameerpet, Hyderabad

March 28-29, 2015

*Land is life. In India, there are thousands of poor and tribal who are suffering with land problems, and for them, deprivation of land is deprivation of life.*

Access over and rights to land are of critical significance for the vast majority of Indians. The national and state government of India have taken up several land reform measures and passed several progressive and pro-poor land laws since independence to secure land to all the landless poor in the country. In spite of these efforts, a significant percentage of the poor are still either landless or have insecure rights to land. Landlessness or having insecure land right is devastating for the rural families, especially for the poor and tribals who are doubly vulnerable. The poor are unable to get their land problem resolved due to lack of legal awareness, absence of legal assistance and inaccessible adjudicating systems.

The experiences in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odhisa proved that facilitating support to the poor, coupled with building capacity of adjudicating officers, can help the poor gain secure rights to land with minimum cost. These experiences offer valuable learning for designing legal assistance models that resolves land problems of the poor across the country.

Based on these experiences, the followings are the essential ingredients of an ideal legal assistance model - Land legal literacy for the poor and tribals; Youth from the poor families trained on land laws and land survey methods to help the poor and tribals; Law graduates and retired revenue officials to guide these youth and a panel of lawyers to take up cases of the poor in courts; Paralegal Centers at the block level for the poor to access the services of legal assistance program; Land Rights Centers in law schools to train paralegals and other stakeholders and to conduct research; Regular and periodic training for land administration officials and judges; Accessible land records; Print and electronic materials on land laws in local languages and in simple and easy-to-understand forms; and a transparent and accountable land administration

**Proposed Conference**

NALSAR University of Law in collaboration with Landesa (Rural Development Institute) is organizing Two-day National Conference on “Land Problems of Poor and Tribal: Need for Support Mechanisms” from March 28-29, 2015 at NALSAR University of Law, Justice City, Shameerpet, R.R.District, Hyderabad.

This conference primarily aims at drawing a platform to discuss and develop an effective community-based legal assistance models to address land problems in rural India. Senior officials from departments of land administration, rural development, tribal welfare, members of legal services authorities, representatives from civil society, academicians and others involved in poverty eradication / land administration / legal aid (assistance) programmes are participating in the conference.

**Objectives of the conference**

* To discuss the existing support mechanisms including Paralegal and Community Resource Persons programmes in various states.
* To develop the design of an effective community-based support mechanisms to resolve land problems of poor and tribal.

**Conference themes:**

* Unresolved land problems and insecure land rights of the poor and tribal: current status and needed actions.
* Need for support mechanisms for the poor and tribal on land matters: Experiences of Community-based Paralegal and Community Resource Person programmes
* **Changing dynamics of land rights in the context of recent changes in the new Land Acquisition Act- pros and cons**
* Land Rights of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women: Need for Support Mechanisms
* Land Legal Literacy – enabling the poor gain secure rights to land
* Role of Government, Legal Services Authorities, Law Schools / Law Colleges and NGOs in providing free and competent legal services to the poor and tribal in getting their land problems/disputes resolved

**Expected outcomes**

* Design of a community-based support mechanisms model is developed
* A blueprint for the implementation of community-based support mechanisms models across the country is prepared.
* Government of India, State Governments, Legal Services Authorities and other organisations/institutions have the necessary information and tools to implement the community-based support mechanisms.

**Contact**:

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