LEGAL AID SOCIETY

CAMPUS LAW CENTRE
FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Annual Report
(2019- 20)

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INTRODUCTION

"THE ESSENCE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW IS EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW, THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND THE RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL. THIS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH ACCESS TO LEGAL AID FOR ALL"

'Legal Aid' encompasses a broad range of activities that aim at social advancement by creatively utilizing the instrument of Law. Legal profession, the way it is currently practiced and organized, is primarily concerned with the improvement of the quality of legal services rather than ensuring equitable and even distribution of legal services. That is where the concept of Legal Aid finds its relevance—it strives to make law relevant to the masses that are somehow left out and exist below the visibility line of law in action.

At the Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi (LAS) we want to provide legal aid to those who cannot afford professional legal services and we want to champion those public causes for which support is lacking. For this we have divided the functional areas of LAS into various groups like- Environmental protection, consumer protection, prison reforms, gender sensitization, victims of armed struggle, dramatics, slums, disabled/senior citizen, juvenile justice & child rights, mediation, right to information etc.

LAS has always been a pillar of support for those who require legal assistance. The progress we have achieved in this arena was the result of great work by the law students, the teachers and lawyers who were inspired by the legal aid ideals. Our cherished objectives include work on all the fronts of legal process, i.e. awareness, encouragement and enforcement of law.

VISION

As *Robert Ingersoll* has rightly said *"The hands that help are better far than lips that pray."* The LAS, with a vision to extend legal aid or support in all manners needed, is dedicated to promote an inclusive legal system by organizing various activities and programmes pertaining to general public. The far reaching goal of these activities is to extend legal help to the marginalized, disadvantaged and indigent sections of the society.

LAS focus to accelerate the process of providing a platform to spread consciousness about the requirement of legal aid by the indigent litigants. This process involves engaging the student volunteers in organizing of various legal awareness drives, legal aid camps, campaigns, seminars, etc. Also, through these activities the society intends to make the residents of Delhi aware about their legal rights and duties.

The society in order to achieve the goal of establishment of an inclusive legal system facilitates the working of the LSC which functions under the aegis of Delhi State Legal Services Authority ('DSLSA'). The function of LSC is to impart legal aid to the indigent litigants in the procedure of court proceedings and in any additional process for the same. The volunteers of LAS also assist the lawyer and the litigants during the meetings in the LSC.

One such community which is capable of bringing a change in the society is the student community. Therefore, the society is devoted in grooming the student members of the society to become responsible legal practitioners or officers that will be acquainted with the ground realities of the country and will work towards the upliftment of the disadvantaged sections of society by imparting all kind of legal services required by them.

We are open to ideas and we believe that we can learn from the experience of those who are engaged in similar activities. For that we are keen to enter into collaborations with NGOs and governmental organizations. Our key strength, in this regard, is a large body of students who are talented and equally committed.

We do have a dream, a dream to create a society where none is deprived of legal rights.

LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC

The Legal Services Clinic ('LSC') of Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi was inaugurated on the 27th of September, 2014 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri (an eminent jurist and former judge of the Supreme Court of India). The activities of the clinic are aimed at organising legal awareness programmes and to facilitate accessibility of legal relief to backward sections of the society in consonance with the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 (LSA Act). The sole objective of the clinic is to bridge the gap that exists between what the law promises to offer and the harsh realities of the legal world. It is medium for the students to avail the opportunity of not only applying their legal aptitude and judicial mind but also exposes them to the practicalities of the profession.

The LSC works in a close collaboration with DSLSA and is opened regularly on every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Legal Aid Counsel, appointed by the DSLSA, visits the clinic. There are always at least two PLVs available to assist the Counsel. This academic session, the clinic has addressed a wide variety of legal grievances like domestic violence, property related disputes, admissions in school in EWS category, monetary frauds, etc., while providing legal assistance in more than 42 cases.

AWAAZ-THE BLOG

Literature has the power to mould thought, influence people, and affect change. Recognising the importance of the written word, Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre in 2019 launched a blog called "Awaaz" to aid the society achieves its goals of making the law accessible to all persons. 'Awaaz' aims at providing the students with an opportunity to explore the legal arena and shape discussions relating to paramount and critical issues pertaining to legal aid. Awaaz intends to fulfil two purposes; it aims to provide a space to young writers to present novel insights to emerging fields of law and legal aid and simultaneously aims to create a learning platform for all the law students.

Law students are limited in their knowledge and experiences given the range of issues that concern those accessing legal aid. Awaaz seeks to be the platform that bridges the gap between the theoretical imagination of a legal issue and its practical implications on ground.

Awaaz exists as the knowledge centre of the Legal Aid Society where students can learn about various relevant and vital legal issues. As a result of this, the platform limits its selection process to accept only topics related to legal aid and other socio-political and legal concerns. The blog is dedicated to presenting itself as a primary source of information for all students, para-legal volunteers, and lawyers interested in learning about emerging and pertinent questions in the field of legal aid.

Awaaz was inaugurated by the Professor-in-Charge of Campus Law Centre, Dr. (Prof) Usha Tandon on 7th November 2019, which was the final day of Para-legal Volunteer training organised for selected students of Campus Law Centre by Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

The blog invited submissions in the beginning of the year and since then it has received more than 40 submissions from various law colleges around the country. The topics on which submissions were received ranged from diverse themes including gender, politics, economics, sports, cyber laws, labour laws, criminal law, corporate law and various socio-legal issues like same-sex marriage, marital rape as a form of crime, adultery, mental health care in India, and the interaction of COVID-19 lockdown with the courts, and politico-legal issues like abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, communalisation of COVID-19.

Month	**No. of Submissions**	**Thematic Distribution of**
28 Jan onwards-	3	Political and Economic affairs
February	11	Gender, Health and Criminal Law
March	3	Administration of Justice and Procedural laws
April	13	Legal Aid functioning, Internet, COVID-19 Pandemic and its Impact on India and Cyber laws
May	14	Gender, Sports and Labour
Total no. of submissions received till 1 June 2020: 44		

The members of legal aid society participate in various door-to-door campaigns and drives wherein they have to engage with people who are directly affected by the range of topics on which we have received submissions. The blog will equip students and PLVs to contribute holistically when interacting with the community members. Providing insights on such topics would help further the goals and objectives of the Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre.

TIMELINE OF LEGAL AID SOCIETY 2019-20

The following are the activities undertaken by the society in the **academic year September 2019- June 2020**:

S.No.	Date	Activities/ Programmes	Location
1.	9th September 2019	Orientation/ Induction Programme	Seminar Hall, CLC
2.	14th September 2019	National Lok Adalat	Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
3.	4th October 2019	Legal Awareness Drive	Timarpur (including Indira Basti and Sanjay Basti)
4. .	11th October 2019	March cum Legal Awareness Drive	SKV Malka Ganj
5.	18th October 2019	Clean and Green March	Daryaganj
6.	22nd October 2019	Legal Awareness Programme	Diwali Mela, Hindu College
7.	23rd October 2019	PLV Selection Examination 2019	Seminar Hall, CLC
8.	6-7th November 2019	Para-Legal Volunteers Training 2019	Seminar Hall, CLC
9.	11th November 2019	Screening of Documentary "The Price of Free"	Seminar Hall, CLC
10.	16th November 2019	Drug De-addiction Awareness Drive	Christian Colony, Patel Chest
11.	26th November 2019	Constitution Day Campaign	Tis Hazari Court
12.	9th January 2020	Legal Awareness Drive on Fundamental Duties	Majnu ka Tila
13.	15th January 2020	Traffic Awareness Programme	Malka Ganj Chowk to Ghanta Ghar, Shakti Nagar
14.	24th January 2020	Legal Awareness Drive on Fundamental Duties	Chandrawal
15.	24th January 2020	Legal Awareness and Economically Weaker Section(EWS) & Disadvantaged Group (DG) Admission Awareness Drive	Peer Bagichi and Andha Mughal
16.	25th January- 24th February 2020 (every Saturday)	EWS & DG Online Admission Help Desk	Legal Services Clinic, CLC

17.	30st January 2020	National Seminar, "Gandhi on Duties"	Seminar Hall, CLC
18.	31st January 2020	Seminar on "UN Human Rights Council and Human Rights Lawyering in India"	Seminar Hall, CLC
19.	1st February 2020	EWS/DG Online Admission Drive 2020	Shakti Nagar
20.	5th February 2020	Rescue Drive	New Delhi Railway Station and Connaught Place
21.	7th February 2020	EWS/DG Online Admission Drive 2020	Timarpur
22.	13th February 2020	Visit to Tihar Jail	Tihar Jail Complex
23.	14th February 2020	EWS/DG Online Admission Drive 2020	Peer Bagichi and Andha Mugha, Gulabi Bagh
24.	18th February 2020	EWS/DG Online Admission Drive 2020	Kabir Basti
25.	20th February 2020	Visit to Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS)	IHBAS Institute, Dilshad Garden
26.	25th February 2020	Visit to Juvenile Justice Board and Observation Homes	Sewa Kutir Complex, Kingsway Camp
27.	7th- 13th March 2020	Legal Aid Camp for Riot Victims	Karawal Nagar
28.	9th – 13th March 2020	Legal Aid and Awareness for Riot Victims	Shiv Vihar
29.	19th April and 2nd May 2020	Legal Aid Help Desk for Assistance for E-Coupon for Ration Scheme	Pahadganj and Roop Nagar
30.	19th April -July 2020	Assistance for E-Coupon for Ration Scheme	Online
31.	May 2020 (ongoing)	Handbook on Domestic Violence	-
32.	28th May 2020	Webinar: 'Analysing the Practicality of Domestic Violence Laws During Exigencies'	Online
33.	5th June 2020	"Care & Share" Campaign on occasion of Environment Day	Digital Campaign

ACTIVITIES

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Beginning with the 2019-20 academic session, the LAS organized an Orientation Programme for the first-year students on 9 September 2019, witnessing a turnout of approximately 120 students. The purpose of the programme was to enlighten the first-year students about various activities of the society and the opportunities it endeavours to provide to the students. The Society also conducted PLV Selection Examination on 23 October 2019. More than 450 students appeared for the examination, out of which only 130 students were inducted as PLVs. The syllabus for the examination included relevant provisions of the LSA Act, Juvenile Justice Act 2012, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 etc.

Subsequently, the LAS in association with the DSLSA organised training session for PLV on 6 and 7 November 2019 wherein Sh. Kanwal Jeet Arora, Ld. Additional Districts and Sessions Judge and Member Secretary of the DSLSA, introduced PLVs to the Legal Services Authority, its activities, composition, structure and work domain.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES AND AWARENESS DRIVES

Introduction: The LAS in association with DLSA organizes various kinds of Community Outreach programmes which are also called Legal Awareness Drives. These are majorly conducted in the slums, *jhuggi jhopris* and various unorganized settlements of Delhi. The volunteers contribute minimum of 2 hours in every drive which extends to 3.5 hours depending upon the prescribed area to be covered.

Objective: The major objective of a drive is to spread legal literacy and awareness about free legal services. The awareness drives come across as a fresh insight into relevant legal issues and problems faced by the public. Through these drives the students are made to look into ground realities of various social problems of the people.

Approach: Prior to the on-site visits, the volunteers are briefed about the purpose of the drive and are acquainted with the basic information and all the precautionary measures to be taken. Prior police intimation of conducting the drive in the concerned area is mandatory to ensure safety and security of the volunteers during the programme.

On the day, the volunteers go from door-to-door creating awareness about the legal aid services provided by DSLSA for the various sections of the society. The people in the neighborhoods' are informed when and where they can avail these services and are explained the procedure in the simplest way as possible. The volunteers make sure that they interact with the people in vernacular in the friendliest way so as to not intimidate them in any manner. The information regarding the LSC of Campus Law Centre which operates on every Saturday is also brought to their knowledge. The volunteers are required to fill-in a response sheet (attached as **Annexure-I**) wherein they write the details of the persons in the need of free legal services and ask them to come to the Legal Services Clinic or to approach the concerned DLSA. The volunteers distribute the address of the Legal Service Clinic and as well as of the concerned DLSA office.

1. LEGAL AWARENES DRIVE (4th October 2019)

LAS in association with the Central DLSA successfully organised a Legal Awareness Drive on October 4, 2019 at Sanjay Basti & Indira Basti, Timarpur to spread awareness among the people about free legal services provided by the NALSA, DSLSA and DLSA.

Objective: The main purpose of this drive was to make people of the locality aware of the benefits available to them under the legal aid. This drive was conducted to promote legal literacy and to increase legal awareness amongst the masses.

Procedure and Observation: A team, compromising of 40 members of the society (including PLVs) participated in the awareness programme, and enlightened the indigent and needy sections of the society about their legal rights and provisions of the free legal aid services available to them. Additionally, various schemes of the NALSA were brought to their knowledge along with information on existing legal issues. The same was recorded and those in need were advised to visit the LSC or Central DLSA.

The problems identified ranged from rent issues, fights with landlords, senior citizens being neglected, matrimonial disputes and marital problems to harassment by the police. A pertinent observation was made through the drive was that while some people were forthcoming in their interactions, others were hesitant to interact and reluctant to share their issues. The interactions with the residents gave the volunteers a picture of the ground reality and the existing demand for legal services in the society. The enthusiasm of the first-year students of CLC towards this programme is highly appreciable as it was their first community outreach programme.

Impact: The volunteers engaged in the process understood the problems faced by the poor and marginalised, and the said drive also helped them to have a better understanding of how legal accessibility can go a long way in making justice not a far-fetched dream for so many underprivileged people.

2. MARCH CUM LEGAL AWARENESS (11th October, 2019)

LAS in collaboration with Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation and Central-DLSA organized a Girls March to School which was followed by a Legal Awareness

Drive in the nearby areas of Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Malka Ganj on 11.10.2019. Around 30 members of the society participated with immense enthusiasm.

Objective: The objective was to create awareness on the importance of education for girls and how free and compulsory education can reduce the school drop-out rates of girls between the age group of 14 to 18 years. Also, the program aimed to create awareness regarding the provisions of free legal services provided under the LSA Act as well as the Right to Education Act, 2009.

Observation and Procedure: The drive was led by student co- conveners along with the PLVs who actively engaged with families and talked about how an educated family can contribute so much to society economically, socially and politically, and for that it's imperative that girl child education is stressed upon. The rising dropout rate was a major loophole which was a common thread amidst most of the families, where in the volunteers realized that creating awareness about education, proximity to State run education systems and gender sensitive spaces can go a long way in ensuring more girls are educated and carve a niche for themselves eventually.

Impact: The drive was a success as the volunteers could engage and have active conversations with almost 200 people, and make them aware about the importance of education and the far-reaching impact it can have.

3. **CLEAN AND GREAM MARCH (18th October, 2019)**

LAS in association with the Central DLSA organized a Clean and Green March on 18th October 2019 from Darya Ganj Police Station to Happy Public School Darya Ganj, Delhi.

Objective: The objective of the march was to generate awareness among people about various environmental and health related factors which are a result of excessive use of firecrackers and to inform the residents about the launch of green crackers by the Central Government.

Procedure and Observation: For the drive, slogans were created by the Volunteers with the aim to spread awareness about green crackers and to celebrate the festival of 'Deepawali' without the use of crackers. The march witnessed a huge audience from the area, some of whom interacted with the volunteers to know about the cause and its implications. The students of Happy Public School took active participation in the march, the volunteers interacted with the children and their parents, some of them took a pledge to never burst crackers again.

Impact: With drives like these, not only the masses are made aware, but it also instills a sense of civic sense and responsibility among the residents of the concerned area.

4. LEGAL AWARENESS DRIVE (18th October 2019)

LAS organized a 'Legal Aid Awareness Drive' at Chandrawal Village, Kamla Nagar on 18.10.2019, which constituted 15 members of the society. Through this drive students were made to approach residents, localities, construction workers, shopkeepers, maids, etc. door to door to look into ground realities of various social problems of the people and their implementation issues.

Objective: The major objective of the drive was to spread legal literacy, provide effective solutions to the problems of the masses and take follow ups from the aggrieved persons thereafter. The students also aimed to acquaint the residents with the services offered on every Saturday from 10 AM- 1PM at the LSC of CLC for further queries in the future.

Procedure and Observations: The students were accompanied by the student co-conveners of LAS and a police constable from Roop Nagar Police Station, who played a very effective role in not only providing support and protection to the students but also actively participating in the awareness drive themselves. Students were divided into seven teams, consisting of a boy and a girl in each group. They were responsible for providing door to door services which included distribution of pamphlets on free legal services, listening to their problems and filling in the details in case they encounter any atrocity which was germane to the purpose of the said drive. Moreover, a toll free number (1516) was also provided to the residents in case they encounter a legal emergency and fail to reach the aforementioned LSC at CLC. After the completion of a successful Drive, the student members were asked to share their individual experiences and submit their respective Performa.

Impact: The participating students have resolved to take follow ups in case any resident mentioned to seek any legal aid. They also showed keen interest in participating in more such drives in the near future.

5. LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME (22nd October 2019)

LAS in association with Central DLSA successfully organized a legal awareness programme on October 22, 2019 at Diwali Mela organized by National Service Scheme at Hindu college to spread awareness among the people about free legal services provided by the NALSA, DSLSLA and DLSA.

Objective: The main purpose of this drive was to make people of the locality aware of the benefits available to them under the Legal Aid. This awareness programme was conducted to promote legal literacy and to increase legal awareness amongst the masses.

Procedure and Observation: For the same, a team, compromising of 10 members of the society including PLVs participated in the awareness programme and enlightened the people about their legal rights and provisions of the free legal aid services available to them. Additionally, various schemes of NALSA were brought to their knowledge. The same was recorded & those in need were advised to visit the LSC or Central DLSA.

Impact: The volunteers were effectively able to communicate with almost 100 people and make them understand the nuances of legal aid and how it can help people of the lowest strata to have access to justice.

6. DRUG DE-ADDICTION DRIVE (16th November, 2019)

LAS in collaboration with the Campus Law Centre Alumni Association organized a legal aid drive in Christian Colony, Patel Chest on November 16, 2019. Through this drive, students were made to approach residents, localities, construction workers, shopkeepers, maids, etc. door to door to look into ground realities of various social problems that emanate from drug and its abuse and its repercussions.

Objective: The objective of the visit was to sensitize people against the harmful effects of drugs and how it can be a menace to the society in general and families in particular

Procedure and Observations: The students were accompanied by the student co-conveners of LAS and a Police Constable from Maurice Nagar Police Station, who played a very effective role in not only providing support and protection to the students but also actively participating in the awareness drive themselves. The problems identified in the drive ranged from low awareness amongst the addicts, easy accessibility of drugs, poverty and general lack of sensitivity towards the initial symptoms of the addiction by the family members.

Impact: Students were able to engage in an active conversation with more than 100 people. Participants were also successful in making the families of the addicts aware of the symptoms of addiction and the medication available to overcome drug addiction.

7. LEGAL AWARENESS DRIVE ON FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES (9th January, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre in association with Central-District Legal Services Authority organized a Legal Awareness Drive on January 09, 2020 at Majnu Ka Tila, Civil Lines, Delhi.

Objective: The objective of the drive was to generate awareness among people about the Fundamental Duties enshrined in Article 51A of the Constitution of India. These duties are considered as moral obligations of every citizen of India whose duty is to promote harmony and spirit of brotherhood.

Procedure and Observation: For the drive, 20 members of the society surveyed the area with a questionnaire related to Fundamental Duties laid down by the Constitution of India. The questionnaire was prepared by the Central-DLSA. The volunteers interacted with around 80 residents of the area. After surveying more than 45 households, the volunteers found that while most of the residents were aware of their moral obligations, they were completely oblivious of the Constitution, which prescribes these duties. In addition to the survey, the volunteers identified issues pertaining to rent disputes, senior citizens' pension, instances of domestic violence, etc. The residents were informed about various free legal aid services and schemes under NALSA and DSLSA, and about the Legal Services Clinic situated at Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi.

Impact: Majnu Ka Tila is a home to a large refugee population living under deplorable conditions. Spreading awareness about their Fundamental Duties and the existence of free legal services under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987, the volunteers extended a hand of empathy and made 'access to justice' look like a less tedious task.

8. ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMME (15th January, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre marked the occasion of 31st National Road Safety Week, observed from January 11 -17, 2020, by organizing a Road Safety Awareness Programme in association with Central-District Legal Services Authority.

Objective: In keeping with the theme of the week, which was 'Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha', the volunteers endeavored to emphasize the importance of road safety rules for both the pedestrian and motor vehicle drivers.

Observation and Procedure: The students spread awareness about traffic rules and etiquettes such as the importance of always wearing seat belts and helmets, following road signs, adhering to speed limits, giving way to emergency vehicles, etc. The passers-by were also cautioned against driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and jumping red lights. The volunteers were guided in their efforts by two traffic policemen from the Delhi Traffic Police.

Impact: The awareness programme was a huge success because of the enthusiastic participation of the student volunteers and warm response from the citizens, who were eager to listen and learn about the nitty-gritties of road safety.

9. LEGAL AWARENESS DRIVE ON FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES (24th January, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre in association with Central-DLSA, organized a Legal Awareness Drive wherein volunteers spiritedly interacted with the public with a twofold purpose.

Objective: The aim of the drive was to impart awareness about Fundamental Duties as well as promoting legal literacy by making people cognizant of their right to free legal services under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.

Procedure and Observation: The volunteers distributed a brief questionnaire to the residents on the topic of Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Constitution of India, intended to evaluate the level of awareness among the general populace regarding the subject. The results demonstrated that most citizens were satisfactorily aware of their duties. The volunteers had engaging conversations with the residents of the area about the importance of Fundamental Duties such as the duty to abide by the Constitution, to promote brotherhood and harmony, to protect the environment, to develop scientific temper, etc. They explained how Gandhi ji believed that rights originate from duties and citizens should keep their duties at the forefront.

The students also enlightened people about free legal services provided by the NALSA, DSLSA, DLSAs, and the persons who could avail benefits under the Legal Services Authority Act, and informed them about the Legal Services Clinic situated at Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi.

Impact: It was an insightful experience for the volunteers to witness the ground reality and the programme was successful in increasing the outreach of legal aid services to people deprived of their legal rights.

10. LEGAL AID AWARENESS DRIVE ON EWS/ DG CATEGORY ADMISSIONS (24th January, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre in association with the CDLSA organized a Legal Awareness Drive to promote greater implementation of Right to Education Act, 2009 &, to do justice to its underlying principle-'No child left behind'.

Objective: The purpose of the drive was to spread awareness regarding the provision of 25% reservation in admissions for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Category & Disadvantaged Group (DG) Category in private unaided recognized schools in their area (i.e., up to 6 km) at entry-level classes in the upcoming school year.

Procedure and Observation: The volunteers told the residents in the vicinity about the scheme, eligibility criteria, and the necessary documents required for application process. The response was positive, with most people being aware of the said reservations and lottery system for admissions. However, they complained that they were unable to avail these benefits as their name was never picked. It is also pertinent to note that there were only 4 or 5 private schools in the area, leading to a shortage of seats. Another often encountered problem was the absence of documents, especially for families that had migrated to Delhi from other states. The zealous efforts of the volunteers and the keen response of the guardians helped fulfil the purpose of the drive.

Impact: The drive was successful in making people aware about their rights and helping them exercise them in times when distributive justice has become a far-fetched dream. The volunteers also learnt about how access to education to the indigent communities can go a long way in ensuring their overall well-being.

11. ONLINE ADMISSION DRIVE FOR EWS-DG CATEGORY CHILDREN (25th January- 24th February, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre, under the aegis of Central DLSA, organized a number of Online Admission Drives to facilitate admissions of Economic Weaker Section (EWS) Disadvantaged Group (DG) Category in Private Unaided Recognized Schools under the RTE Act, 2009 and Delhi School Education Act & Rules, 1973. The drives were conducted for entry level classes (Pre-School/Nursery, Pre-Primary/KG and Class-I) for academic session 2020-21 through Computerized Online Admission System.

Objective: The purpose of the drives was to make the online admission process inclusive for children belonging to the underprivileged section of society to further the goal of right to education for all as envisioned by the Indian Constitution.

Procedure and Observation: In furtherance of the above-mentioned directive, a help desk was set up at the Legal Services Clinic, Campus Law Centre, on every Saturday from January 25, 2020 to February 24, 2020. Four Door-to-Door Legal Awareness Drives were conducted by the society members from February 1, 2020 to February 18, 2020 in the areas of Shakti Nagar, Timarpur, Gulabi Bagh and Kabir Basti in New Delhi. Each drive was headed by two Co-Conveners of the Legal Aid Society and comprised of 10 PLVs and 10 non-PLVs, who were divided into multiple groups and sent to various colonies near these areas.

The members, on reaching the respective localities, divided themselves into two groups; one was responsible for imparting door-to-door awareness of the online admission drive and, the other had the task of filling the online admission forms using their laptops. To expedite the process, some of the volunteers even filled the online forms using their mobile phones.

Impact: The drives saw an overwhelming response, around 70 admission forms were filled in total, and about 50 parents were asked to collect requisite documents and visit the Legal Services Clinic of Campus Law Centre to complete the process. We are

pleased to inform everyone that 13 children belonging to the abovementioned categories have secured admission.

Date	Area	Number of Forms Filled	No. of Children who Secured Admission
1 February 2020	Shakti Nagar	9	1
7 February 2020	Timarpur	28	2
14 February 2020	Gulabi Bagh	17	2
18 February 2020	Kabir Basti	13	8
Total		**67**	**13**

12. SEMINAR ON GANDHI ON DUTIES (30th January, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi in collaboration with the Central-District Legal Services Authority organized a **National Seminar on Gandhi on Duties on National Martyrs' Day, 2020.**

Begin with a charter of the duties of man, and I promise the rights will follow as spring follows winter. With this Gandhian view as its template, a National Seminar 'Gandhi on Duties' was organized by the Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre in collaboration with Central

District Legal Services Authority (CDLSA) at Campus Law Centre on Martyrs Day- the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, i.e. 30 January 2020.

The inaugural session of the seminar was graced by the presence of Prof. Sanjay Paswan (Ex MoS, Ministry of HRD), Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra (Secretary, Central DLSA), Prof. (Dr.) Raman Mittal (Prof.-in-Charge, Campus Law Centre); Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh (Convener, Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre) and other faculty members, research scholars and students. The session began by the felicitation of guests by members of the faculty and a welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Raman Mittal, Professor-in-Charge, Campus Law Centre. Introducing the theme of the event, Prof. Mittal said that the present age is full of struggle and conflicts, one in which man can achieve redemption only if he assigns equal importance to both rights and duties. He narrated the mythological tale of King Parikshit from the Mahabharata to illustrate his argument.

Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra, Secretary, CDLSA, addressed the audience thereafter. She began by paying her tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and other martyrs who fought for the country. She highlighted the importance assigned to individual liberty by Gandhi and remarked that he gave equal weightage to both rights and duties. She drew a comparison between Gandhi's concept of Satyagraha with Salmond's conception of rights. She said that citizens were aware of their rights but not their duties and hence there should be greater focus on Article 51A of the Indian Constitution.

Thereafter, Prof. Sanjay Paswan was invited to share his thoughts. He began his address by highlighting that the day of the seminar also coincided with the Hindu festival of learning -Vasant Panchami. He pointed out that we must understand ourselves, our society, and realize our duties in relation to them. Talking about the culture of India he said that traditions and customs which are being followed should be respected. He made a distinction between rights and duties by saying that rights are 'demanding' but duties are 'commanding' and both should be balanced. He opined that a rights-only society is problematic, and a duty-centric society is a better alternative. Emphasizing the need to move from Western thought to Indian thought, he said we should look to Gandhi, Lohia, Ambedkar and Deendayal to solve our problems. He stated that Gandhi stood for assertion and not aggression and that G-A-N-D-H-I stands for Great, Assertion,

Nuance, Distribution, Harmony and Inspiration. He reiterated that the world must follow Gandhian ideals.

THE FIRST PANEL DISCUSSION: DUTY AS PRECURSOR OF RIGHTS

Panelist-1: Dr. Anjay K. Sharma, Assistant Professor at Law Centre-II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, was the first panelist of the session. He said that though collectively people are sovereign, individually we all should follow our duties. He presented a correlation between fundamental duties and fundamental rights. He argued that Article 51A of the Indian Constitution is a codification of *Dharma*.

Panelist-2: Dr. Harleen Kaur, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, presented her paper titled 'Adoption of Gandhian correctional & reformatory approach in the criminal justice system of India'. She quoted Gandhiji's famous dictum *'Hate the sin, not the sinner'*. Talking about the reformatory theory of criminal justice, she pointed out various provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) that are reformatory and not punitive. She also discussed the concept of 'open prisons' and argued that we need a balance between the reformatory as well as deterrent approach.

Panelist-3: Ms. Sneh Yadav, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, talked about the relevance of duties in the present age and said that with great power comes great responsibility She stated that duty is an ancient concept and traced its relevance in Indian philosophy through mythological tales and quotations from the Gita and the Mahabharata. She opined that if one is performing their duty, rights are bound to follow.

Panelist-4: Mr. Mritunjay Kumar spoke about the idealism Gandhian philosophy. He recounted examples from Gandhi's real life to showcase his exemplary personality. He talked about deontology in various aspects of legal and social systems and drew a comparison between Gandhi and Immanuel Kant (the German philosopher).

Panelist-5: Dr. Anju Sinha, Assistant Professor at Law Centre-II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, discussed various social and moral duties of citizens. Speaking on the reformatory approach she too discussed the concept of open prisons and said that we should 'hate the crime, not the criminal'. She said that the right of citizens to have a crime-free society must be balanced with State's duty to reform a criminal.

THE SECOND PANEL DISCUSSION: RELEVANCE OF GANDHIAN DUTIES IN INDIAN JURISPRUDENCE

Panelist-1: Dr. Neelam Tyagi, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, was the first panelist in this session. She discussed the Fundamental Duties as enumerated under Article 51A of the Indian Constitution. She spoke about each fundamental duty and analyzed legal provisions related to them.

Panelist-2: Dr. Pankaj Chaudhary, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, spoke about Gandhian ideology in the context of international law. He discussed the principles of co-operation and interdependence amongst nations, and their relation to Gandhian values.

Panelist-3: Dr. Cholaraja Mudimannan, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, spoke about Gandhian ideology, in the context of untouchability and social discrimination. He argued that social evils like untouchability can be eradicated by following Gandhian principle of non-violence.

Panelist-4: Dr. Narender Bishnoi, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, discussed the relationship between various Fundamentals Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. He also highlighted the co-relation of duties with the existing laws of the country. He discussed Gandhi's emphasis on education along with the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act which introduced the right to education as a fundamental right. Dr. Bishnoi also stated that Gandhi's views on the preservation of the

environment were close to his heart as he came from a community which had a tradition of making extreme sacrifices for the preservation of the environment.

Panelist-5: Mr. Deepak, an advocate practicing in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, discussed the views of Gandhi on rights and duties and argued that duties are more natural than rights. He opined that if everyone started performing their duties then no one would need to assert their rights. He said that while an external force is needed to enforce rights, duties come from within.

Panelist-6: Dr. Seema Singh, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, discussed some 'experiments' that Gandhi did with duties.. She highlighted ten important duties stated by Gandhi in his moral philosophy. She remarked that Gandhi did not only preach these duties but also practiced them sincerely. She contended that having more written laws is indicative of a society that is not 'fully' civilized.

Panelist-7: Dr. Vijoy Panicker, Assistant Professor at Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, made a co-relation between Gandhian duties and the 'duty of care' as enunciated in the landmark common law case of *Donoghue vs. Stevenson*. He stated that a legitimate claim for rights can only be made when we perform our duties diligently.

THE FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION: A DIALOGUE WITH GANDHIJI ON DUTIES

In this panel discussion students and research scholars presented their papers on the theme of the seminar.

Presenter-1: Mr. Rajesh Parthasarthi, an alumnus of CLC was the first speaker of this session. He began his presentation by interacting with the audience about Gandhi's life. He remarked that: "a man who weighed just 46 kg continues to have great intellectual weight and influence even seven decades after his death." His presentation focused on Ram Rajya and Gandhian principles of Truth, Non-Violence, and Duty. He stated that Gandhi always preferred a charter of duties over charter of rights. He also spoke about Gandhi's religious beliefs and how they had a significant influence on his conception of duties.

Presenter-2: Abhishek Tripathi, a 1st year LL.B. student of Campus Law Centre, traced the conception of duties within the Indian culture. He used instances from the Ramayana amongst various ancient Indian texts to substantiate his arguments.

Presenter-3: Ms. Rupali Parashar, a 1st year LL.B. student of Campus Law Centre, spoke on the virtues of a Satyagrahi. She explained how despite being under the colonial rule, Gandhi followed all just colonial laws and disobeyed only unjust laws. She cited Gandhi's service during the Boer War as an example of this practice. She also discussed Gandhijs 'theory of Trusteeship'.

Presenter-4: Mr. Sagar Soni, a 1st year LL.B. student of Campus Law Centre, elaborated upon the Fundamental Duties within the Indian Constitution and argued that people have failed to perform these duties in various aspects of their daily lives. He illustrated his argument by emphasizing on the communal discords and caste and class-based discriminations which continue to exist in the Indian society.

Presenter-5: Mr. Shubam Kumar Jain, a 3rd year LL.B. student of Campus Law Centre presented his views in a unique format designed as a conversation between a common citizen and Gandhi. . Each question posed to Gandhi was related to a duty which was implicitly correlated to a contemporary socio-political issue. This was followed by a reply that the presenter thought Gandhi would have given.

VOTE OF THANKS

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh who expressed his concern at the growing clamour for rights at the cost of duties. He stressed that Gandhian methods and ideals are more relevant today when the society is witnessing conflicts. He placed on record his gratitude for the Professor-in-Charge and CDLSA for their encouragement and assistance in conducting the seminar. He also thanked all the panelists and the presenters for their participation and for making the seminar a success. He expressed his hope towards further discussions and dialogues on Gandhian ideals. He concluded by saying that if we, as Indians, forget Gandhi then we will lose our identity as Indians.

The concluding remarks were followed by a distribution of certificates to the participants by Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh.

13. SEMINAR ON UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERING IN INDIA (31st January, 2020)

Awaaz- The Blog, Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre organized a **seminar on United Nations Human Rights Council and Human Rights Lawyering In India on 31 January 2020.**

Awaaz- the Blog, a venture of the Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre, held its inaugural event- a panel discussion on **UN Human Rights Council and Human Rights Lawyering in India** on January 31, 2020 at Campus Law Centre. The guests present included eminent panellists, Professor Lawrence Moss (Distinguished Lecturer and Rita E. Hauser Director of the Human Rights Program at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, New York), Ms. Sneha Mukherjee (Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Human Rights Activist), Ms. Sunny Tayeng (Advocate, and Human Rights Activist), Mr. Siddharth Seem (Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Human Rights Activist) accompanied by Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh (Convener, Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre), Ms. Sneh Yadav (Teacher Member, Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre), and other faculty members, research scholars and students.

The session began with the felicitation of the speakers by members of the faculty. Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh delivered the welcome address and illustrated how human rights law and legal aid are inexplicably intertwined. He further highlighted the need for the students and especially legal aid volunteers to be aware of the international human rights regime as well as its domestication in India.

FIRST PANELLIST: PROFESSOR LAWRENCE MOSS

The first speaker was the eminent Professor Lawrence Moss. In an illuminating discussion, he shared his experiences of struggles with the audience and spelt out his concerns regarding international law. He traced the gradual evolution of international human rights law, from the creation of *the Commission on Human Rights (CHR)* in 1946- a body plagued with accusations of having countries that were human rights offenders as its members, to the establishment of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in 2006 after a prolonged effort. The UNHRC is far more representative in character than bodies such as the UN Security Council, in terms of representation from African and Asian countries. However, in international law, political realities cannot be ignored, and it is true that it is a systemic flaw that countries with economic and political clout, like China, are able to influence others' decisions to vote in their or their allies' favour.

Illustrating the difference between traditional courtroom lawyering and human rights lawyering, he underlined the important role that soft power advocacy and international politics play at the stage of the UN. Pointing to the absence of a binding tribunal at the international level for violation of conventions, he then talked about how the crisis pervading international law of States not holding each other accountable for their acts could be remedied by civil society and public-spirited individuals and NGOs pressuring their countries' governments to be more accountable for their actions at home as well as while voting in the UNHRC. He chalked out a few ways of doing so. The United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies are committees of independent experts which monitor governments' implementation of ten core human rights treaties, including Convention against Torture (CAT) and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Since the experts also get information from sources besides the government, 'shadow reports' play a crucial role in redressing situations where a government has hidden an issue or misled the committee on it. NGOs are able to bring such issues to the limelight through these reports.

Another regulatory mechanism in which shadow reports are valuable is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) conducted by the Human Rights Council. The review includes three documents: a State prepared report; a compilation of the State's recent treaty body reviews; and a compilation of information from NGOs, and other "relevant stakeholders". Each country must submit a report, and an organization doesn't have to be accredited to present information. Thus, it provides a forum for even local NGOs to voice their concerns on the government's performance in upholding human rights to the council. We might bear in mind that the UPR is a less intense scrutiny than treaty reviews, which are comparatively more professional and legal. However, it has a broader scope of review than treaty monitoring bodies. He concluded by exhorting the students to explore the nuances of international human rights advocacy.

SECOND PANELLIST: MS. SUNNY TAYENG

Next to speak was Ms. Sunny Tayeng. She recounted her personal battles with racism, and the cumulative trauma caused by supposedly innocuous instances of casual racism passed off as jokes made by people around her, including her friends. She spoke against the normalization of racist slurs, stereotypes, and various micro aggressions not recognized by the society at large that leave a deep psychological impact on the affected person. People from the north-east are discriminated against in matters of rent, they are denied housing, and are forced to produce identification documents as they are perceived as a foreigner.

Women have to face both racist and sexist stereotypes. Ms. Tayeng shared how she was compelled to take up the cause of racial discrimination and atrocities against north-eastern Indians when she heard about Nido Taniam, a student from Arunachal Pradesh, who was beaten to death in a racist incident in Delhi in 2014. She discussed the case of *Karma Dorjee v. Union of India* (2016). In this case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed that in order to enhance a sense of security and inclusion, the Ministry of Home Affairs should take proactive steps to monitor the redressal of issues pertaining to racial discrimination faced by citizens of the nation drawn from the north-east. For that purpose, a regular exercise of monitoring and redressal should be carried out by a Committee formed by the Ministry, which would report on crime and violence faced by people from the north-east.

However, progress was slow following this, in 2018, in *Alana Golmei vs Union of India*, the Hon'ble Supreme Court regretfully remarked the first meeting of the committee had been convened more than a year after the decision, and instead of meeting preferably every month it had only met thrice since 2016. She concluded by stressing that the struggle against racism is a daily one for some. It is a concern that can be dealt with not only through legal recourses, but also through introspection and sensitization.

THIRD PANELLIST: MS. SNEHA MUKHERJEE

The subsequent panellist was Ms. Sneha Mukherjee. She has been the project coordinator for the Rape Crisis Cell in New Delhi. For the last four years, her work has been focused on reproductive and sexual health rights, and she has been at the forefront of the Right to Abortion Campaign in India. She began by redefining the term violence against women to include denial of essential rights as a form of violence. Introducing the topic of abortion, she questioned the constitutionality of the law regulating abortion as it restricts the right of a woman to exercise her choice in matters of her body, which falls in the domain of Article 21 (Right to Life). She argued that abortion as well as access to contraceptive services should be covered under right to reproductive and sexual health.

She outlined the struggle behind the Amendment proposed by the Cabinet to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act extending the time limit of abortion from 20 to 24 weeks. Her team filed around 200 cases over a period of 3 years, with 30 cases being filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, 80 cases in the Hon'ble Bombay High Court,

and a large number in Hon'ble High Courts of Rajasthan, Bihar, and Gujarat followed by other states. Extraordinarily, not one judge ruled on the constitutional validity of the provisions of the Act. The courts referred the cases to medical boards, which had discretion over decisions about a vast array of issues such as pregnancies caused by rape, questions about the viability of the foetus, and the danger to the life of the woman posed by childbirth. It was seen that there was no uniformity of opinion across medical boards on similar cases or even identical cases.

Human nature dictates that the moral or religious biases of a person tend to inform their decisions. The decision-making power rests in the hands of the courts and the doctors, not the woman who loses her bodily autonomy. In fact, the debate should not be framed as a policy issue merely discussing the time limit, but should necessarily be about an individual's right to choose. Rather than putting the decision in the hands of society, which offers no support to a woman after she bears the child or suffers the trauma of a miscarriage or stillbirth, the decision should rest with the child-bearer. She also discussed why blood transfusion should be a fundamental right. She talked about a recent PIL filed by her team highlighting the huge number of deaths of women every year due to postpartum blood loss, as blood is not readily available for transfusion. After the criminalization of direct blood transfusions, the only recourse for patients is to purchase blood bags available at blood banks. In addition to these being expensive (between Rs. 1,100 and Rs.1500 per bag in AIIMS, Delhi), India has the world's largest shortage of blood, especially in remote areas where it is not easily available.

FOURTH PANELLIST: MR. SIDDHARTH SEEM

Mr. Siddharth Seem, the last speaker, explained the distinction between human rights litigation and conventional litigation. He stated that the human rights litigation involves fighting cases in which clients may not have legal rights under an existing statute, thereby, creating new norms and acts as a judicial recourse against a legislative vacuum. He explained that the various ways of doing this including, approaching courts with individual cases on a particular issue, challenging State arbitrariness, and pressuring the government to enact legislative provisions to remedy a situation.

He remarked that one of the principles of his work was that if one witness's injustice, they become party to it unless they oppose it. He explained that a career in human rights

law is sustainable, especially with the emergence of class action litigation. Taking the example of farmers' rights conflicting with corporate interests on Genetically Modified crops, he demonstrated the intersectionality of human rights law with intellectual property rights law. He concluded by saying that the goal of human rights litigation is to empower the groups and communities that are in need of justice, to a point where they no longer require such legal assistance.

QUESTION-ANSWER SESSION

Doubts were raised about sex selective abortions which are a result of family pressure. Ms. Mukherjee replied that a sonography to determine the sex can be done even at 8 weeks, hence it does not factor into liberalizing abortion laws. Another question centred upon the right to life of the foetus and if it has an independent identity. Ms. Mukherjee and Mr. Seem answered by drawing attention to the technical meaning of the term "life" and looking at international law, which states that "all people are born equal"- thus implying that to have equal rights one must be born.

In conclusion, Ms. Sneh Yadav delivered the vote of thanks and expressed her appreciation to all the speakers for enlightening the audience with their vast and varied experience in their respective fields and making the seminar a success. She expressed her hope that this seminar would lead to further discussions and dialogue on international and domestic human rights law.

14. RESCUE DRIVE (5th February, 2020)

On 5 February 2020, under the directions and guidance of Ms. Neeti Suri, Secretary of the Central- District Legal Services Authority, a team of 8 dedicated members- headed by Ms. Rachna Khanna, conducted a Recue drive at New Delhi Railway station (NDRS) to search a 32- year-old Mauritian girl who came to India on 15 January 2020.

After 6 long hours of continuous and arduous search, around 4 pm, she was finally located near Super Market, Connaught Place from where she was successfully rescued and brought to Connaught Place Police Station in the presence of a lady Police Officer. Adv. Deepak Kumar played a critical role in dealing with all the legal

procedures and proceedings. With the strenuous efforts of CDLSA team, the success of the Rescue drive significantly added to the mission of providing aid and justice to all.

Note: The identity of the person cannot be disclosed as per the directions of the court. Also, the Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre is not allowed to share more details of the drive to protect the larger interests of the victim.

15. VISIT TO TIHAR JAIL COMPLEX (13th February, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre organized a visit to Central Jail of Tihar on February 13, 2020. In this visit, 80 registered members of the Legal Aid Society visited the premises of Jail no. 3 and was a part of the introductory session revolving around the jail and inmates.

Objective: To be acquainted with the living conditions of the inmates and to spread awareness on free legal services available to the inmates.

Procedure and observations: Tihar Prison is one of the largest prison complexes in South Asia, housing around 260 convicted and 2100 + under trial prison inmates. It is styled as a correctional institution, and its primary objective is to rehabilitate its inmates by providing them with useful skills. The volunteers were made acquainted with the inmates' daily routine and stringent provisions made by the jail authorities for the same. Many inmates were found to be enrolled in educational courses such as 10th, 12th, B.A. Programme, etc. In 2019, around 200 prisoners successfully completed the computer course and got certified through Vedanta Foundation. The jail complex has a functional library with a large book collection. Additionally, the inmates are also taught the art of sewing, stitching, and even painting. The prisoners in the facility have been categorized as non-skilled, semi-skilled, and skilled and are paid accordingly. The jail also has a functional Outpatient Department Treatment (OPD) facility to cater to routine checkups or any other primary health emergency. Free legal aid facility from 3 PM - 7 PM is provided to the inmates who cannot afford private legal services of lawyers.

Also, rosters are maintained in advance to facilitate proper follow-ups. However, it has been observed that the advocates to prisoners' ratio is quite low, underlying the growing importance of legal aid in contemporary times.

Impact: The volunteers gained a profound understanding of life within a jail. In the process, they also realized how legal aid can fill the systemic and structural gaps that exist in the system.

16. INSTITUTE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR AND ALLIED SCIENCES (20th February, 2020)

A visit to the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, (IHBAS) Delhi was organized by the Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre on February 20, 2020. IHBAS, formerly known as Hospital for Mental Diseases, Shahdara, is a mental health and neurosciences research institute. It was established in compliance with the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in response to a Public Interest Litigation in 1993.

Objective: The objective of the visit was to gain insight into the functioning of a mental healthcare institution, and the living conditions of inmates. The visit focused on understanding the need for legal services vis-à-vis the Mental Health Care Act, 2017.

Procedure and Observation: The hospital is spread over 4,51,898 sq. m.; it caters to around 1,900 patients visiting the hospital per day. IHBAS has launched several programs and services such as Mobile Mental Care, which provides pre and post mental care through a mobile van to reach patients who are homeless or are below the poverty line. Another such initiative is the Community Outreach Services, which includes clinical services, training programs, and providing treatment on streets. IHBAS also has a bio-medical waste management system, solar panels, and waste water treatment, thus dispensing a functional, utilitarian, and environmentally friendly atmosphere to its patients.

The volunteers were briefed about the historical background of various laws relating to mental healthcare and how the prevailing attitude towards mental patients changed with time. The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, was discussed at great length, and the volunteers were enlightened about the rights of people with mental illnesses under this Act. The persons have a right to give advanced directive, a right to get mental health treatment, and a right to seek legal advice or assistance, for which a legal aid office is situated within the institute.

The volunteers were acquainted with the applicability of Section 74 of the Act, which provides for the constitution of a Mental Health Review Board, consisting of a district judge, a psychiatrist, a medical practitioner, and two other members, either people

with mental illness or care givers. Subsequently, the volunteers were given a tour of the hospital premises.

Thenceforth, the students interacted with the Director of IHBAS; he answered various questions posed by the volunteers about mental illness and the institute. He cited that the reasons of stress are mainly biological, psychological, and social factors. The volunteers were also informed about the One Stop Centre for domestic violence victims, with the facility of temporary residence.

Impact: The visit gave the volunteers an opportunity to know about the rights of people with mental illnesses and gain practical knowledge and experience about the working of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

17. JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARD (25th February, 2020)

The Legal Aid society of Campus Law Centre, in collaboration with Central-DLSA, organized a visit to Juvenile Justice Board- I (JJB) in Sewa Kutir complex, near the Kingsway Camp on February 25, 2020. It gave an opportunity to students to get an insight into the functioning of observation homes for juveniles who are either in need of care and protection or are in conflict with the law.

Objective: To make the volunteers aware of the execution of the recent child friendly amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015 (JJ Act) and to analyze the lacunae between the enactment and implementation on the ground of the same by observing a Juvenile Justice Home.

Procedure and Observation: One of the legal counsels of the JJB provided the volunteers with an overview of the proceedings and common practical shortcomings while implementing the law. The volunteers were briefed about the organizational set up involved in child protection and rehabilitation, and introduced to the two functional bodies within the JJB complex, namely: Drug De-Addiction Center and Observation Home.

The de-addiction Centre is a separate complex within this institution, which is managed by NGO SPYM. It presently has a strength of 60 children (in the age bracket of 10 to 16 years), having a history of drug addiction. The Officer-in-Charge briefed the volunteers about its working and led them to observe its set-up and schedules. The volunteers were made aware of the '3R agenda'- Reformation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration and how a '90-day strategy' is adopted to deal with addiction issues amongst the adolescents to avoid relapses.

The observation home, another pivotal part of the JJB complex, houses 136 children in conflict with the law (CCL). Here, in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act, all feasible services are provided for their rehabilitation. It also houses a playing area, a meeting hall, and an activity hall where computer lessons, cooking classes, art & craft and, drama classes are conducted, which intend to aid the holistic development of the inmates. Additionally, a mental health clinic is also functional in the premises where CCL are provided with regular psychological counseling in order to cater to their mental health needs. However, the highlight of the visit was the sprout café that not only served a variety of different cuisines but was run by children who were once in the de-addiction Centre and were now successfully rehabilitated.

Impact: The volunteers, having gained knowledge of the ground realities, could empathize with the juveniles and the visit helped develop in them a better understanding of the process of passing a legislation, and its execution. The volunteers could understand how drug abuse can have devastating effects on both the mental and social development of children.

18. LEGAL AID CAMP FOR THE RIOT AFFECTED AREAS IN NORTH EAST DELHI (7th -14th March, 2020)

Towards the end of February, North East Delhi witnessed large scale violence rendering many dead, injured, and homeless. The government of Delhi responded with several compensation schemes, but the process of seeking the same was inaccessible to the victims. This was accompanied by the lack of knowledge on filing FIRs and other procedural formalities for rehabilitation and relief. In order to assist the efforts of lawyers and officials working for the victims, the Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre organized two Legal Aid Camps from March 7-14, 2020.

Objective: To bridge the gap between the victims and the systems set up for their benefit so that legal aid and relief could reach the affected.

Procedure: The members of the Legal Aid Society collaborated with two independent camps set up to provide legal relief to the victims of violence in North East Delhi. The first was a string of camps set up by a collaborative effort by various law chambers of Delhi (Legal Aid Camp-1), and the second was with the Chief Minister's Office (Legal Aid Camp-2).

Legal Aid Camp-1: Legal Aid Camp Team 1 underwent rigorous training at the Indian Social Institute, post which they were asked to go to the camps set up in various localities of North East Delhi. The members of the Legal Aid Society visited the camps regularly to file FIRs and compensation documents to ensure that the victims could avail the remedies available.

Legal Aid Camp-2: Legal Aid Camp Team 2 worked under the Chief Minister's fellows and were briefed by them at the beginning of each day. They worked alongside various NGOs in collaboration with the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Office in Nand Nagri, North East Delhi. The volunteers were directly involved in talking to the victims of violence. They were responsible for filling compensation forms, writing FIR complaints for those who could not, and providing any other legal advice that was required. The students also went door to door in areas such as Shiv Vihar, Ambika Vihar, and Johripuri to ensure that all affected persons were aware of the benefits they could avail.

Impact: Assessing the need to provide immediate relief, the volunteers played a key role on the ground in ensuring access to justice to those rendered powerless and helpless overnight.

19. LEGAL AID HELP DESK FOR ASSISTANCE FOR E-COUPON FOR RATION SCHEME (19th April and 15th June, 2020)

With corona virus becoming a global pandemic affecting 26 million lives and causing death of over 3,00,000 people, the developing countries who are harbouring the marginalized communities have found it exceptionally difficult to mitigate the crisis and provide health services to the affected. In its attempt to provide food to the needy, the Legal Aid society of Campus Law Centre, with Central-District Legal Services Authority had set up a help desk for registration of e-coupons for ration on April 19, 2020 and May 02, 2020.

Objective: The Delhi government had launched a scheme to provide free ration for the needy amid the national lockdown because of Covid-19 pandemic. In furtherance of the same, the volunteers from the society pitched in by registering for the e-coupons for the persons in need, thereby aiding the distribution process.

Procedure and Observations: Sharvan had set up help desks in a slum area near Ram Bagh on April 19, 2020 and Roop Nagar on May 02, 2020 wherein, he helped people in registering and filling of e-coupons for the distribution of ration. He also distributed sanitary napkins and safety kits to women who were not able to access basic utilities because of lack of resources and due to the closure of their basic source of livelihoods. Similarly, Shubham had also set up help desk in Maurice Nagar to assist needy people in availing the e-coupons.

Impact: The people got speedy access to ration by way of registration and understood the relevance of social distancing so as to avert the possible life threat that Covid-19 can pose.

20. ASSISTANCE FOR E-COUPON FOR RATION SCHEME (19th April, 2020 onwards)

The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the economic hardship caused to the downtrodden sections of society by the nationwide lockdown, took the initiative in the month of April to assist those in need of ration by helping them avail the E-coupons under the scheme instituted by the Government of Delhi for their benefit and subsequently connected them to the nearest food distribution centres.

Objective: The Society aimed to be the link between the Delhi Government and the needy, in addition to aiding ongoing relief efforts, by helping people avail the government provided ration for free during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Procedure: A team of dedicated Para Legal Volunteers was formed and their phone numbers were circulated among those in distress through various channels on the ground. The team members received calls from migrant laborers, daily wage workers, etc. living in Delhi and after ascertaining their details, filled their online forms for E-coupons (which would act as a temporary ration card) and enable them to collect free ration from the designated food distribution centres. The volunteers also gave the callers the information regarding requirements for the scheme and fielded any other queries they had. Consequently, they followed up with the beneficiaries once their E-coupons were processed and informed them about the process of collecting the ration. In cases of an emergency requirement of ration, the volunteers connected them with the Hunger Helplines run by the Delhi Government for the needy and coordinated with the concerned authorities to take care of food requirements of the underprivileged.

Impact: The initiative bridged the gap between the government action and those who were most in need of food by directly connecting with people and addressing their concerns. We were able to reach out to 1900+ families (as on 4th June 2020). The volunteers gained first hand awareness about the situation on the ground and learned how one could be of assistance during such testing times.

Litigation: E-Coupon applications of around 310 families for whom our volunteers had assisted were not approved ever after 30 days from the date of filing. So, representations and reminders were sent to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Food Supplies, Lt. Governor, Commissioner (Food Supplies) among others. Grievances were also registered on the portals of the govt. designated for the purpose. However, the grievances were not addressed.

Hence, Legal Aid Society approached Tushar Sannu (Advocate, Delhi High Court) for legal assistance. Through one of the applicants, namely, Mrs. Aysha whose e-coupon had been pending since 23rd April, a Writ Petition was filed in the Delhi High Court.

(**Read the Petition**: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-c9YbAB8ef9-UIClia7LPOjszE3T_NV4/view) The society assisted the Petitioner throughout from the filing of e-coupon till approaching the Hon'ble High Court.

A day before the petition was taken up in the court, Govt. not only approved the E-Coupon of the Petitioner but also supplied ration at the doorstep. On the date of hearing of the matter, titled 'Aysha vs. Govt. of NCT & Ors.' (W.P. (C) 3360 /2020), on 05.06.2020, it was submitted by the counsel for the Petitioner that there are 310 more families who need assistance in a similar manner. The Hon'ble High Court was pleased to issue a Notice and to direct the respondents to file a status report within one week on the said cases.

It was reported at: https://www.livelaw.in/news-updates/delhi-hc-issues-notice-in-plea-seeking-issuance-of-e-coupons-for-ration-to-the-destitute-families-of-delhis-northeast-district-158003.

21. WEBINAR ON ANALYSING THE PRACTICALITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS DURING EXIGENCIES (28th May, 2020)

The Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi in collaboration with Central District Legal Services Authority organized a **webinar on Analysing the Practicality of Domestic Violence Laws During Exigencies on 28 May 2020**.

Ms. Susheel Bala Dagar

DISCUSSION:

The Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre in association with Central District Legal Services Authority, Delhi organized a Webinar on the topic, "Analysing the Practicality of Domestic Violence laws during Exigencies" on 28 May 2020.

Our distinguished speakers for the day were Ms. Susheel Bala Dagar and Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra. Ms. Susheel Bala Dagar is an alumna of Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. She Joined Delhi Judicial Services in July 2009. She held Mahila Court in North-West District, Rohini from June 2014 to August 2017 and is presently posted as JSCC cum ASCJ cum GJ (North-West) in Rohini Court.

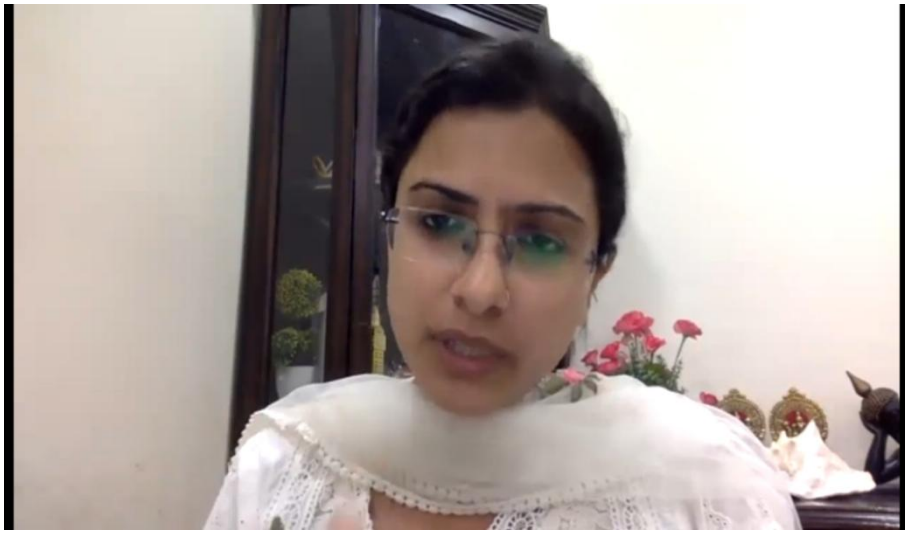
Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra, the Secretary of District Legal Services Authority (Central District) joined Delhi Judicial Service in the year 2013. Prior to this, she worked with Luthra and Luthra Law Offices, Barakhamba Road as an Associate for approximately two and a half years. She has worked as Metropolitan Magistrate, (NI Act) and as Civil Judge in Dwarka District Court, before being posted as Metropolitan Magistrate-02 in Tis Hazari Court.

The session was moderated by Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor and Convener Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre and the introductory remarks were delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Raman Mittal, Professor-In-Charge, Campus Law Centre.

The webinar started with Dr. Kshitij highlighting that the lockdown resulted in a sudden rise of domestic violence cases as reported by the National Commission of Women. He went on to explain the various factors contributing to the rise and its effect on women confined in their homes. Prof. (Dr.) Raman Mittal drew a comparison between confinement due to movement control and rise in abuse. His introductory remark revolved around the need to safeguard the victim in a lockdown, the redressal methods in place and need of new methods of outreach.

The first panelist, Ms. Susheel Bala Dagar began by explaining the various intricacies involved in solving the victim's plight in domestic violence cases. She highlighted the importance of voicing grievances and that victims must speak up to escape the plight. She emphasized on the need to spread awareness about the existing remedies available to the victims of domestic violence. She explained the existing laws on domestic violence in

depth, which included, the kinds of victims they safeguard, forms of abuses they recognize and the various facilities that are provided to the victims in times of distress. She also mentioned various laws that deal with curbing the menace of domestic violence. With respect to senior citizens she explained the different forms of abuses and remedies available by citing the case of *Sunny Paul vs. NCT of Delhi* as an example. She also discussed situations where domestic violence could lead to psychological, physical, or sexual child abuse. She also talked about cases adjudicated by her as a family court judge and the need for awareness of "emergency relief" in case of exigencies. She concluded by pointing out that one of the biggest hurdles to resolving the menace of domestic violence is the stigma attached with victims raising their voice due to societal norms.



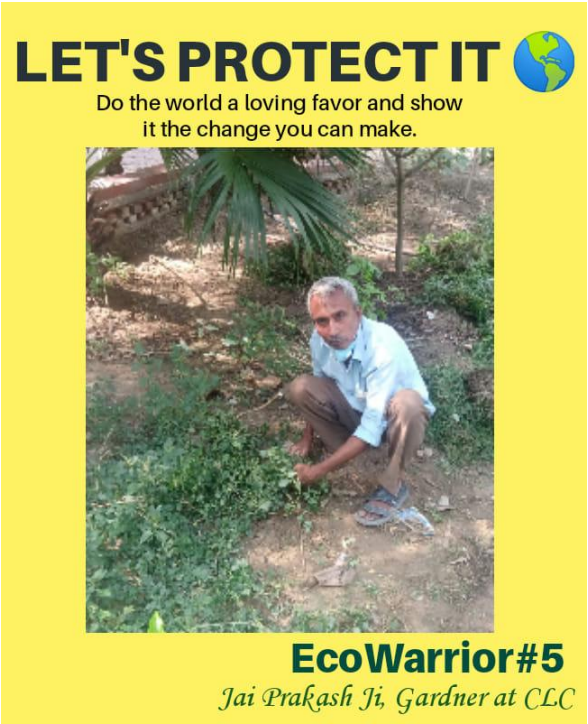
Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra

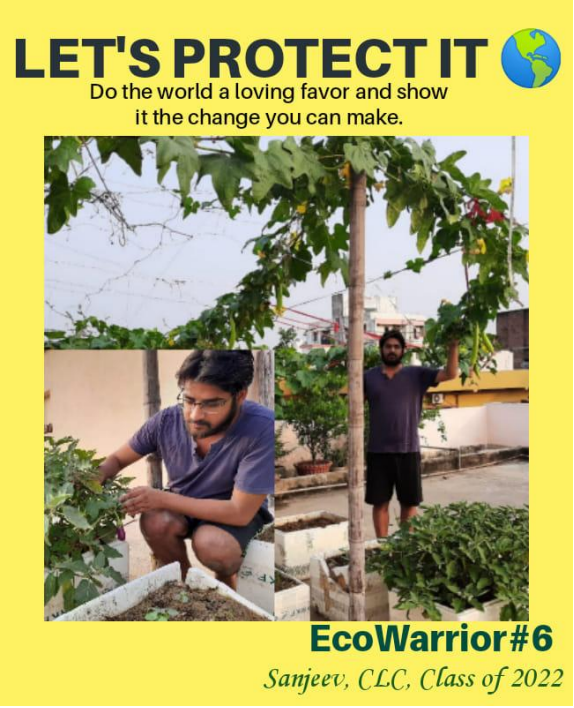
The second panelist, Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra began the discussion by telling the audience how to deal with domestic violence during lockdown. She explained the effective steps taken by Delhi State Legal Services Authority in combating the extra-ordinary circumstances created due to lockdown such as the helpline number (1516) which can be reached with a missed call or even a text message would suffice. She then went on to explain the working of the on-call legal counseling that is available for assisting the victims. She also explained how cases that are reported are handled and accordingly resolved, in cases where matters escalate, protection orders are immediately issued by the courts. Moreover, e-filing of cases before district courts is being initiated to further expedite all procedural formalities to ensure that the relief is provided as soon as possible.

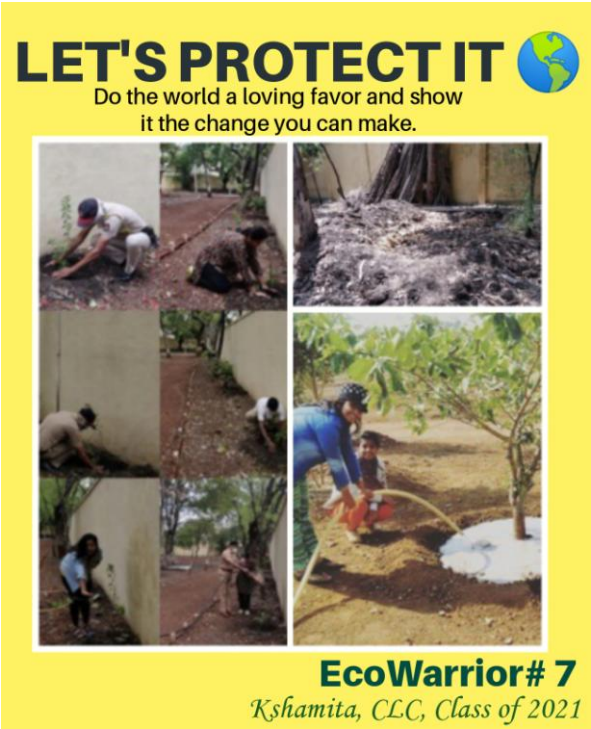
The discussion was concluded by Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh, who delivered the vote of thanks.

"CARE & SHARE CAMPAIGN"

(On the occasion of Environment Day)


LET'S PROTECT IT
Do the world a loving favor and show
it the change you can make.
EcoWarrior#5
Jai Prakash Ji, Gardner at CLC


LET'S PROTECT IT
Do the world a loving favor and show
it the change you can make.
EcoWarrior#6
Sanjeev, CLC, Class of 2022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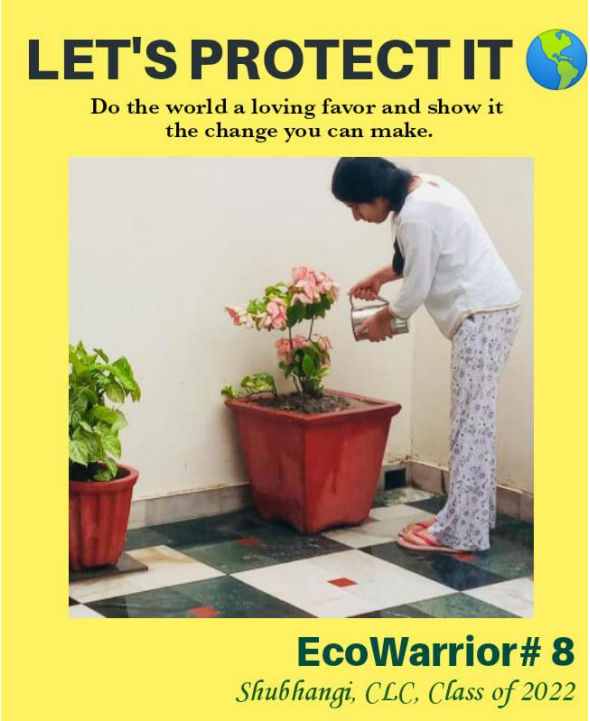
EcoWarrior# 7
Kshamita, CLC, Class of 2021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the change you can make.
EcoWarrior# 8
Shubhangi, CLC, Class of 2022