



# LEGAL AID & AWARENESS COMMITTEE

National Law University, Jodhpur

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24





Committee members with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor



Unnati awardees being felicitated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

# Table of Contents

Sr. No.	Contents	Page No.
1.	<b>About the Committee</b>	4
2.	<b>Introduction of the Committee</b>	5
3.	<b>Structure of the Committee</b>	6
4.	<b>Smart Village Initiative</b>	8
	Community Library	9
	Computer Lab	11
	Project Unnati	12
	Shilpjeevika	14
5.	<b>Right to Education Initiatives</b>	15
	Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion	16
	Public Interest Litigation	18
	Mil kar Karein RTE ko Sarthak	20
	RTE Admissions	21
6.	<b>Legal Aid Initiatives</b>	22
	Aid to Migrant Workers during Covid-19	22
	First Edition of Inter-University PIL Competition	25
	Open Air Prison Project	26
	Jan Sunwai	30
	Legal Aid Camp	31
	Pro Bono Club	33
	Lok Adalat	36

# Table of Contents

Sr. No.	Contents	Page No.
.7	<b>Awareness</b>	37
	Lex Quest	37
	Darpan	39
	Adhikar ki Pehchaan	41
	Project Saahas	43
	Nukkad Natak	44
	Radio Podcast	47
	Village Halts	49
8.	<b>Awards and Presentations</b>	52
	Presentation at GAJE	52
	Presentation at CLEC	52
	Report on Labour Law Reforms in India	54
	Presentation on RTE	55
	Annual Legal Services Forum	56
	First Runners Up: V.S. Mallar Memorial Competition	58
	Bhamashaah Award	58
	Surpura Honours	59
	Utthaan Award	59
	Asian Journal of Legal Journey Feature	59
	Feature at Lund University's Conference	60
	First Runners Up: First UILS National Legal Aid Forum	60
9.	<b>Our Major Collaborators</b>	62

# About the Committee



## VISION

The Committee works towards imparting practical knowledge and information regarding the basic legal rights and remedies to the masses. Furthermore, with the objective to make legal aid accessible, the Committee also intends to act as an intermediary between advocates across the state of Rajasthan and those requiring legal assistance. The Committee has been working on various research projects to evaluate the standard of legal awareness and implementation of welfare legislations. Understanding the need for gender justice, the Committee under its various initiatives has been working to secure the rights of women. In addition to this, the culture of questioning the implementation of these laws by using the judicial machinery is being promoted by the Committee among the students of National Law University. Forwarding the smart village initiative of the Government of India, the Committee has adopted a village, Surpura, and is extensively working towards developing the basic infrastructure and public facilities in the village.

## HISTORY

Laying this as a foundation, the National Law University, Jodhpur since its inception established the legal aid center under the name of Centre for Legal Aid and Social Services [“CLASS”], which in the year, 2015 was renamed as Legal aid and Awareness Committee [“LAAC”]. The Committee has been discharging its role under the patronage of Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur and the able guidance of Prof. (Drs.) I. P. Massey (Dean, Faculty of Law) along with the other faculty members and the dedicated team of the students. The Committee has achieved remarkable progress over the years by undertaking a range of initiatives that have positively impacted various segments of society. One of the seminal initiatives of the Committee is the project for the implementation of the Right to Education which was initiated in 2017 where the members created a detailed report and then presented the deplorable situation before the Rajasthan High Court through a Public Interest Litigation.

# Introduction of the Committee

The Committee seeks to foster legal empowerment, raising awareness, and providing vital assistance to ensure access to justice for all. In pursuit of its aim, the Committee organizes lectures by eminent personalities such as Prof. Nalini Juneja to create awareness about the RTE and encourage its implementation. Forwarding the smart village initiative of the Government of India, the village in Jodhpur named Surpura which was adopted by the University under the government mandate, in the year 2016 the Committee have been working towards the upliftment of the village by undertaking various initiatives to improve the living standard of the people and to promote environmental sustainability, such as plastic ban drives, medical camps to promote healthcare awareness, plantation drives in the lines of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.

The Committee's efforts towards women empowerment in the lines of current government initiatives is also noteworthy, with initiatives such as the Mahila Sashaktikaran Mela and Women Entrepreneurship programs. For the work undertaken by the Committee in Surpura, the Committee was awarded the Bhamashah Award in 2019.

During COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee adopted new and innovative initiatives such as the Adhikaar Ki Pehchan series, aimed at educating people on topics such as domestic violence, filing e-complaints and FIRs, and laws protecting them during the lockdown. The Committee also initiated the Covid Sahyog program, which provided assistance to those in need during the pandemic. The Committee's collaborative efforts with Prayas Centre for Labour and Research, GNLU, and IIM-A resulted in the successful transportation of *1650 migrant workers from Gujarat to Jharkhand using Shramik trains* and other modes of transportation. Committee's work has been impactful, varied, and far-reaching, with a focus on promoting legal awareness and providing support to those in need.

# Structure of the Committee



**Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur**  
Vice Chancellor



**Prof. (Dr.) I.P. Massey**  
Dean, Faculty of Law



**Asst. Prof. Siddharth Balani**  
Faculty Advisor



**Dr. Anjali Thanvi, Asst. Prof.**  
Chairperson



**Asst. Prof. Preeti Badola**  
Faculty Advisor



**STUDENT MEMBERS**  
(2023-24)

# Projects Undertaken

01

SMART VILLAGE

02

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

03

LEGAL AID

04

AWARENESS INITIATIVES

# Smart Village Initiative

The Government of India introduced the idea of a "Smart Village" in 2014 with the intention of changing the rural environment of the country. This aims to create an environment that villages may thrive in, with respect to innovation, infrastructure, and people resources.

The University adopted village Surpura in the year 2016. The said village is located at a distance of nearly 10 kilometres and is a representative of the customs and traditions of the Jodhpur-Marwar region.



Committee members at Surpura

Through the years and after a plethora of projects, initiatives, and mutual contact, a bond has been developed between the villagers and members of the Committee, which has facilitated the creation of an ecosystem of constant support and an enriching exchange of values and ideas. In these 8 years, Surpura has seen enormous developmental growth, be it in the fields of education, employment, or technological capabilities, with the introduction of:

- 'Community Library' (2022)
- 'Community Computer Lab' (2023)
- 'Project Unnati': a learning program for the young minds of the village (2019)
- 'Project Shilpjeevika': Skill Development Centre for Women (2022)

## Community Library

The Committee has set up a Community Library in the village of Surpura on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day, with hopes to increase literacy and reading culture among the villagers especially the students and young adults, and provide them with access to quality reading material. This endeavour started with the Committee collaborating to collect fund for the library. This was followed by procurement of books and furniture to concretise the project of Community Library. The Committee took special care in procuring relevant books for the children, curating a referencing system for the books as well as appointing a local librarian.



Opening of the Community Library



Students studying in the library

On the day of the inauguration, an MoU was signed with the Sarpanch which gave a joint ownership for the library to the Surpura village and the Committee. The Committee has through sensitization and awareness programmes motivated the students in the community of Surpura to utilise the library. Through every visit to Surpura, the Committee has tried to resolve problems people are facing at the library.

The Committee has also made an attempt to fulfil requests that the students have pertaining to books or any other books. The catalogue of the library consists of rich material inclusive of bilingual, Hindi and English literature, poetry, vernacular literature and competitive books as well. This initiative was one of its kind, being the first ever community library to have been inaugurated in Rajasthan by a legal aid organisation. It has had significant impact on the people of the Surapura village and multifaceted impact on the community at large.

The project of the community library has benefitted many students, young adults as well as the women of the village in Surapura. The library provides children with a safe space to study, read and learn along with providing them free Wifi in the library. The library provides a wide variety of books, course material and other resources that can help students with their research and studies. One of the students preparing for a civil services examination was a frequent visitor of the library. He stated that “the safe working environment that the library provided gave him an opportunity to finally crack the examination”.

## सुरपुरा में सामुदायिक पुस्तकालय का उद्घाटन



जोधपुर. राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालय जोधपुर की विधिक सहायता एवं जागरूकता समिति और ग्राम पंचायत सुरपुरा की साझा पहल से स्थापित सामुदायिक पुस्तकालय का उद्घाटन विवि की कुलपति प्रो पूनम सक्सेना ने किया।

प्रो. सक्सेना ने ग्रामवासियों से पुस्तकों से ज्ञानार्जन करने और जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्टता के साथ आगे बढ़ने की बात कही।

समिति अध्यक्ष डॉ. अंजलि थानवी, सह संयोजक राजेश रंजन, आद्या गर्ग, सीनियर एडवाइजर नम्रता जे.फ़ और राघव शर्मा का पुस्तकालय निर्माण की अवधारणा में योगदान रहा। कार्यक्रम में

प्रो आईपी मेस्सी, अतिरिक्त जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश सुरेंद्र सिंह संधू, सरपंच जुगताराम विश्‍नोई, बीडीओ चतुर्भुज ढाका सहित कई गणमान्य व्यक्ति शामिल हुए।

Newspaper Coverage of the Inauguration of  
Community Library at Surapura

However, the impact of the community library is not only felt by students and children but also adults in Surpura. Several middle-aged women have started showing interest in going to the library.

Under the library's auspices, the Committee began holding adult reading circles and writing workshops and competitions for children. These initiatives have not only helped strengthen the village's feeling of community but also encouraged social ties.

The Community library hosts activities and programmes that honour the history and culture of the area while also encouraging more interaction with the local schools and communities. Recently, in honour of National Voter Day, the Committee held an essay writing contest at the Community Library on Republic Day with the theme "Spreading Awareness on Electoral Participation: A Step Towards Creating a Well-Informed Citizenry." The children from Surpura participated in the competition with great enthusiasm.

## Computer Lab

The Committee with the aim of bridging the digital divide and providing equal opportunities for everyone, established a community Computer Lab in Surpura. The Computer Lab was inaugurated by the former Vice Chancellor, Dr. Poonam Saxena, and the event witnessed the presence of Additional Advocate General Shri Pankaj Sharma, Additional CO Shri Mahesh Chaudhary, Sarpanch, Gram Sevika at the Panchayat Bhavan in Surpura village.



Computer Lab at Surpura

With the establishment of the Community Library, the committee realised that, apart from inculcating reading habits among the students, it was significant for the students to be addressed with technological know-how. Hence, the committee dedicated itself to the construction and development of the computer lab.

The project is ever-expanding and a continuous one as the Committee aims to begin a training programme for skill development regarding the basic knowledge of computer functioning. The Committee also plans to extend the beneficiaries of the lab to include the women of the village for their betterment in the field of technology.



Students can use computers to research topics, create presentations, and acquire new skills that will help them flourish in the contemporary world.

Inauguration of the Computer Lab at Surपुरa

The computer lab can be used for community development projects such as online communication, e-commerce, and online marketing. It can be a valuable resource for entrepreneurs, small business owners, and farmers to connect with their clients and customers. The funds for the Computer Lab were given by local industries of Jodhpur under their Corporate Social Responsibility initiative

## Project Unnati

The Committee began the Project with the aim of teaching the English language to the students of Surपुरa by the members of the Committee. This was done bi-weekly as per the curriculum, carefully prepared and selected for maximum engagement and knowledge. A positive response was received by the curious minds, which provided the impetus to further improve the programme by broadening the scope of the lessons. With the feedback collected from the students and the teachers, the syllabus was revisited in 2019 in order to make it more interactive and engaging for the students. The Committee also procured a projector and screen through a crowd funding which is being utilized in imparting online sessions and making the school a digital equipped one.

Building upon our experiences, in the year 2024, Unnati is taking a step further by launching a formal 'Unnati Batch' of students enrolled in the fifth grade. The preliminary step was to conduct a survey with the teachers and parents to gauge the educational requirements of the children and identify the skill gap that exists in their schooling experience. The objective is to inculcate a sense of confidence while engaging with the outside world. In furtherance of this, a revised curriculum has been designed by the team to introduce the course 'Proficiency in Written and Spoken English', which includes aspects of public speaking, conversational vocabulary, common interactions, and professional communication.

After the completion of the academic year, the students will be tested based on the lessons imparted to them. The top achievers, a girl child and a boy child, shall be felicitated with a monetary award at the University itself in the presence of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Chair of the Committee. This award shall act as an incentive to the students for enthusiastically participating in this journey of learning and will inspire the upcoming batches to strive for excellence.



Members taking class on Polity using Projector

## Shilpjeevika

Women are considered the second wheel of the family chariot and the present government is also focusing more on women empowerment and participation. With the same aim, the Committee is also working towards financial security, legal awareness, and social upliftment. The Committee engages with the women of Surpura on the occasion of International Women's Day and educates them on various spheres of gender inequality, economic security, and cyber literacy. As the opportunities for women to gain employment are an uphill task in rural areas, sustained support is required to achieve this aim. 'Shilpjeevika', a project for training self-help groups of women to acquire vocational skills to create products of everyday use and to connect them to a market for their exhibition, is being pursued passionately. Furthermore, to ensure that the benefits of the Central schemes that are available for women reach their target, the Committee has organised workshops to make them aware and assist them in the process of availing of the same. Recognising the way inequalities evolve with society, a digital and Financial Literacy Survey was conducted to better understand the Committee's future steps in furthering the aim of gender justice.

The major aim of this project is to establish a comprehensive skill set as an effort to close the gap between the government-backed programmes for Self Help Groups (SHGs) and the marginalised areas.

The project intends to assist long-term product development, promote prospects for revenue generation, and emphasise the need for a dedicated, time-consuming approach to skill development, with a focus on empowering rural women and aspirational individuals.



Women showing handicrafts at the University

The Committee conducted workshops on soap-making which could help people become more financially secure. Accordingly, the Committee will work with the Institute of Hotel Management in Jodhpur (IHM) to teach women in Surpura how to make cakes, cookies or "naan katai" and other baked goods. In addition, the Committee is in discussions to arrange a soap-making workshop with the Arid Forest Research Institute in Jodhpur.

# Right to Education Act Initiatives

Education is the harbinger of change in society. In the last decade, the Indian Government has made great strides in the field of education, right from the implementation of Right to Education Act, 2009 [“RTE Act”] to the National Education Policy, 2020. The five pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability are the fundamental aims and objectives that we are striving towards.

The Committee has also streamlined its efforts to uphold the integrity of these pillars and the goal the Government is striving towards. In its efforts to map the status of the implementation of the RTE Act, the Committee has tried to analyse the status of implementation at different levels. The inception of this initiative was in July 2016 when the members of the Committee undertook an extensive survey to assess the implementation of the RTE Act in around 125 government schools in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Since then, the Committee has undertaken various projects under its flagship initiative to increase the accessibility of education.

Under its RTE initiatives, the Committee has undertaken 3 major projects—the Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion Series, the Public Interest Litigation [“PIL”] filed in the High Court of Rajasthan at Jodhpur and the ‘Milkar Karein RTE Ko Sarthak’ competition. A report named “Breaking Barriers to Education: An In-Depth Study of Implementation of Section 12(1) of the RTE Act across Indian States” has also been published. Through this report, the Committee aimed to gauge the state-wise status of implementation of the RTE Act, the challenges faced by different states, the historical evolution of RTE in India, plausible solutions and recommendations. Through the report, it was concluded that different state mechanisms exist in each state. Moreover, each civil society organization working in this field has differing approaches to solving the problem of implementation of the provision.

## The RTE Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion Series

The Committee organized the RTE Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion Series on the implementation of the RTE Act, 2009 across different regions in the country in the furtherance of the object of Section 4(k) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the provisions of the Right to Education Act, 2009. This series was organized across different regions in the country in collaboration with Pro Bono Legal Services, an initiative of Department of Justice, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and Indus Action. This event witnessed participation from 24 premier law universities across the nation which participated through a team of maximum 10 members.

The project aimed to collect data on the status of RTE in different regions of the country, analyze challenges and best practices, suggest potential solutions and recommendations, and produce a comprehensive report or policy that integrates the results and inputs from the Paper Presentation and Discussion Series. Furthermore, it aimed was to raise awareness of the deprivation of the right to education, as granted by the RTE Act, and to encourage discussion among various stakeholders regarding potential legal interventions for the implementation of RTE in India.



Dignitaries of Panel Discussion



Participants of Paper Presentation

To fulfil its aim, the Committee had released a questionnaire based on the parameters mandated for the physical infrastructure in schools in the RTE Act made under the guidance of Professor Nalini Juneja. The participating teams were required to physically survey a minimum of 5 primary government schools and prepare a comprehensive report on the state of physical infrastructure in those schools. 12 teams out of the total 24 teams were selected on the basis of their reports for the advance rounds which took place at the premises of National Law University, Jodhpur.

Post their selection, the teams participated in a Paper Presentation which was adjudged by esteemed panelists including Professor Nalini Juneja, Advocate Ashok Agarwal, Professor Sushant Chandra, Dr. Kriti Bharati, Advocate Khushboo Vyas, Ms. Pooja Pandey, Ms. Kadambari Agarwal, Ms. Sarbani Chakraborty and Advocate Rahul Chaudhary. The event also witnessed the participation from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights [“NCPCR”], Mr. Priyank Kanoongo, who gave the inaugural address. The panel along with the guests, Shri Himanshu Gupta, IAS and Dr. Kishore Singh, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, engaged in a lively discussion on the topic “Tracing the 30 years of Unnikrishnan Judgement: The role played by NGOs, law students, legal aid societies, pro bono clubs and bureaucracy”.

Through this Panel discussion and paper presentation, a wide academic and policy discussion on RTE and the RTE Act ensued. This not only made the event holistic, but also encouraged the students and the audience to think beyond the theoretical and look at the practical aspect of implementation of a policy. The Committee published a report named “Breaking Barriers to Education: An In-Depth study of implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act across Indian states”, which consisted of the reports submitted by the students from various law colleges pan-India and the report made for the state of Rajasthan by Committee-members themselves.

The report was launched in the presence of all the panelists and students. Through this report, the Committee aimed to gauge the state-wise status of implementation of the RTE Act, the challenges faced by different states, the historical evolution of RTE in India, plausible solutions and recommendations. The objectives of this project were to highlight the shortcomings of the Act, introduce its practical application to physical infrastructure in primary government schools and further, to provide an opportunity for academic engagement and discussion on RTE implementation among leading law institutes across India.

## The Public Interest Litigation filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan at Jodhpur

The Committee conducted a survey in July 2016 to assess the implementation of the RTE Act in the district of Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The survey covered 107 government schools over a period of 20 days and identified irregularities in school infrastructure and facilities that did not comply with the Act's mandate. The objective of this survey was to bring to the notice of the Rajasthan High Court the dilapidated condition of infrastructure in the government schools, the lack of basic amenities therein and the low level of learning outcomes from the school due to sub-standard education being imparted to the students.

**मूलभूत सुविधाओं का मामला • अक्टूबर में रिपोर्ट तलब स्कूलों में जो सुविधाएं तत्काल हो सकती हैं, उसमें सकारात्मक कदम उठाएं: कोर्ट**

लीगल रिपोर्टर | जोधपुर

राजस्थान हाईकोर्ट जोधपुर मुख्यपीठ में स्कूलों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं को लेकर दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई हुई। कोर्ट ने विद्यालय प्रबंध समिति द्वारा संचालित गतिविधियों की रिपोर्ट मांगी है जो सुविधाएं तत्काल दी जा सकती हैं, उसमें सकारात्मक कदम उठाने के निर्देश देते हुए अक्टूबर माह में रिपोर्ट तलब की है।

कार्यवाहक मुख्य न्यायाधीश एमएम श्रीवास्तव और न्यायाधीश विनोद कुमार भारवानी की खंडपीठ के समक्ष लीगल एंड एंड अवयरेनेस कमेटी एनएलयू जोधपुर की ओर से दायर जनहित याचिका पर सुनवाई हुई। कोर्ट द्वारा गत 14 जुलाई को पारित आदेश की पालना में अतिरिक्त शपथ पत्र एएजी पंकज शर्मा की ओर से पेश किया गया। इस पर न्यायमित्र राजवेंद्र सारस्वत ने पक्ष रखते हुए कहा कि जिन सुविधाओं के लिए वित्तीय अनुमति एवं देरी हो सकती है, उसको छोड़कर जो अतिआवश्यक और जल्द हो सकती है उनका समाधान करवाया जाए। उन्होंने कोर्ट को कहा कि जैसे शौचालय एवं पीने के पानी की सुविधा, चारदीवारी का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य एवं खेल उपकरणों को जल्द से जल्द सुनिश्चित किया जाए।

इस पर कोर्ट ने कहा कि अगली सुनवाई पर शिक्षा विभाग के मुख्य सचिव वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए पेश होकर सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता वाले कार्यों के लिए किए गए प्रयासों के बारे में जानकारी दें। स्कूलों में मिलने वाले मिड-डे मील में भोजन की गुणवत्ता घटिया होने को लेकर भी सवाल खड़े किए गए। इस पर कोर्ट ने भोजन की गुणवत्ता पर ध्यान देने के साथ तीन महीनों में कम से कम तीन स्कूलों का निरीक्षण कर उसकी रिपोर्ट पेश करने के लिए भी कहा है।

**आरटीई के तहत प्रवेश प्रक्रिया 25 से स्कूल कर रहे हैं प्रोफाइल अपडेट**

नवज्योति/जोधपुर। शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम के तहत नए सत्र में निजी स्कूलों में निःशुल्क सीटों पर प्रवेश प्रक्रिया 25 फरवरी से शुरू हो रही है। प्रवेश प्रक्रिया से पहले सभी निजी स्कूलों को उनकी प्रोफाइल अपडेट करनी होगी।

प्रोफाइल अपडेशन 11 फरवरी से शुरू हो गया है, जो भी 22 फरवरी तक चलेगा। प्रारंभिक शिक्षा निदेशालय से इस संबंध में निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। इनकी पालना में आरटीई के तहत प्रवेश आवेदन 25 फरवरी से शुरू हो जाएंगे।

**जिले की 50 स्कूलों में 2 माह में पेयजल मुहैया करवाने के आदेश**

लीगल रिपोर्टर, जोधपुर | राजस्थान हाईकोर्ट के न्यायाधीश गोपालकृष्ण व्यास व रामचंद्रसिंह झाला की खंडपीठ ने एक जनहित याचिका की सुनवाई करते हुए जोधपुर जिले की करीब 50 स्कूलों में दो महीने में पेयजल व टॉयलेट की सुविधा उपलब्ध करवाने के निर्देश दिए हैं। इस याचिका पर अगली सुनवाई एक अगस्त को होगी। लीगल एंड अवयरेनेस कमेटी, एनएलयू जोधपुर की ओर से दायर एक जनहित याचिका में बताया गया कि जोधपुर जिले की 48-50 स्कूलों का सर्वे किया तो चौकाने वाले तथ्य सामने आए। इन स्कूलों में आधारभूत सुविधाओं का भी अभाव है। स्कूलों में पेयजल सुविधा तक उपलब्ध नहीं है। टॉयलेट व मिड डे मील के लिए किचन तक नहीं है। टीचर्स की कमी भी सामने आई। सरकार की ओर से पेश किए गए जवाब में बताया गया कि ऐसा कुछ नहीं है, एक-दो स्कूलों को छोड़ दिया जाए तो बाकी जगह सभी व्यवस्थाएं सही हैं। कमेटी ने फोटोग्राफ सहित 48-50 स्कूलों के तथ्य कोर्ट के समक्ष पेश किए। इन स्कूलों में क्या-क्या कमियां हैं, इसकी भी जानकारी कोर्ट को दी। खंडपीठ ने इसे गंभीरता से लेते हुए सरकार को निर्देश दिए कि अगले दो महीने में इन स्कूलों में पेयजल, टॉयलेट व मिड डे मील के लिए किचन आदि की व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित की जाए। इस याचिका पर अगली सुनवाई एक अगस्त को सुकरंर की है।

Newspaper Reports on PIL

The findings were compiled in a letter petition addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur Bench, which was subsequently treated as a writ petition in the public interest by the High Court in the matter of Legal Aid and Awareness Committee v. NLU, Jodhpur v. State of Rajasthan & Ors. (D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 6815/2017).

The Court directed the state government to improve school infrastructure and provide a report within a specified time frame. Subsequently, a division bench of the Rajasthan High Court acknowledged the shortcomings in primary schools in Rajasthan, based on the RTE survey and data presented by the Committee. The Court ordered the government to comply with the RTE Act's norms in 50 of the 107 schools surveyed. The Committee again conducted a survey along with the District Legal Services Authority to collect data on the level of quality education being imparted to students, as per the High Court's orders. The data was used to prepare a report, which was submitted to the Hon'ble High Court. The Committee's efforts have brought about a positive change in the primary education system in Rajasthan. The petition is still ongoing in the Rajasthan High Court, led by the Committee's pro bono lawyers from its legal aid cell.

**Rajasthan High Court - Jodhpur**

**Legal Aid And Awareness Commt, Nlu, Jodh vs State And Anr on 25 April, 2022**

**Bench: Sandeep Mehta, Vinod Kumar Bharwani**

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN  
JODHPUR

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 6815/2017

Legal Aid And Awareness Commt, Nlu, Jodh ----Petitioner

Versus

State And Anr. ----Respondent

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Rajvendra Saraswat  
For Respondent(s) : Mr. Pankaj Sharma, AAG  
Mr. Ajeej Khan, Secretary, Raj. High  
Court Legal Services Committee,  
Jodhpur

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MEHTA

Petition Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur

## Mil Kar Karein RTE Ko Sarthak

The Committee undertakes this event annually. Through this event, the Committee aims to make the benefits under the RTE Act accessible to the disadvantaged sections of society. It is a competition involving college students forming teams to facilitate the admission process for children from weaker and disadvantaged sections, ensuring compliance with technicalities like documentation requirements. The team that admits the most students receives a prize. Through this competition, the Committee tends to fulfil the basic aim of the RTE Act of providing admissions to children from disadvantaged sections of the society in the schools. The Committee has undertaken the admission process of more than 390 children across the span of 5 years.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the format of the competition was changed to an Online Certificate Volunteer Program under the Mil Kar Karein RTE Ko Sarthak initiative. This program was open to anyone who wanted to help, regardless of their field of study or background. Volunteers facilitated the admission process by collecting documents and filling out RTE application forms for children in their respective states.

This competition aimed to provide access to the benefits of the RTE Act to weaker and disadvantaged sections of society. Its primary objective was to strengthen the impact of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, which reserves 25% of seats in private schools, and to promote the idea of universal education. Given our goal of access to justice for all, the role of students, particularly those studying law, is crucial in achieving this objective, as important as the role played by judicial institutions. In furtherance of this goal, the Committee organized the first pan-Rajasthan “Mil Kar Karein RTE Ko Sarthak Competition” in 2019, which aimed to create legal awareness about the right to education among disadvantaged sections and promote social integration in society.

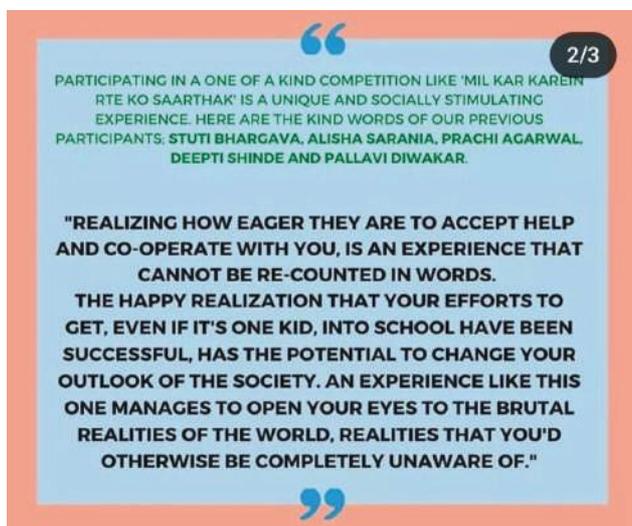


Online Posts of the Event

## Student Admissions

The impact of RTE events is far-reaching and varied. In the ‘Mil Kar Karein RTE ko Sarthak’ competition, students from different colleges in Jodhpur assisted parents with the admission process by providing technical support, such as documentation requirements for children from weaker and disadvantaged sections. The competition was a resounding success, resulting in 265 admissions under the Act in the first and second editions alone. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the competition continued despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

In these three ways, the Committee has tried to further its goal of education, not only leading to a brighter India but also to a sustainable India. The fervent and dedicated efforts of the Committee hope to lead to better education for each student irrespective of their background.



Online Posters of the Event

# Legal Aid Initiatives

## Aid to Migrant Workers During COVID-19

Under this project, the Committee assisted the migrant laborers in reaching their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thousands of migrant labourers who yearned to return to their home states but lacked financial means to do so were assisted by the Committee in terms of basic necessities of proper food, shelter, and medical care.

The Prayas Center for Labour Research and Action [“CLRA”] provided the Committee with a database containing contact information of approximately 19,000 migrant workers. These individuals were either in need of food supplies or stranded in Surat without transportation to Jharkhand. The Committee opted to reach out to these workers by personally contacting each of them. To facilitate this effort, a call for volunteers was issued to various law colleges and their respective Legal Aid Committees and Societies. The response was substantial, resulting in 600 volunteers representing diverse institutions such as the National Law University, Jodhpur, and its alumni, Amity Law School, Noida, Chanakya National Law University, Patna, Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law Patiala, Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, and National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. All the Legal Aid Committees and Centres collectively led a campaign to assist migrant labourers in reaching their homes and accessing basic requirements of food ration and medicines. The primary objective was to alleviate the challenges faced by these workers by facilitating travel and providing ration. Each volunteer was assigned 30-40 contacts from the database, and they were tasked with posing three essential questions:

1. Are they stuck in Gujarat?
2. If yes, do they want to go back to Jharkhand?
3. What is their current status? (location and if they need food supplies)

During the calls, volunteers also enquired about other workers in their vicinity who may not have registered in any existing database but wished to be registered. The Committee members also asked if anyone urgently required food or medical supplies. Instances of such urgency were not only documented in the data sheet but also compiled separately to facilitate swift action by contacting on-ground volunteers, police, and government authorities. The calls were conducted over 5-7 days, and simultaneous action on urgent cases was taken within the same time frame.



Migrant workers trying to reach the railway stations

In collaboration with the CLRA, the Committee facilitated the transportation of over 1600 stranded migrant workers to Jharkhand from Surat and Ahmedabad. The Committee successfully gathered Aadhaar card details and other necessary credentials from all labourers desiring to take a Shramik train back to their homes. Following the completion of this process, an application was submitted to the relevant administrative authorities, urging them to organize an urgent Shramik train to Jharkhand. The application was approved on June 9, 2020.

Before the journey, ground-level volunteers and CLRA members ensured thorough screening of passengers before boarding the train. They also ensured that the travelers had access to meals, biscuits, bread, and water during the journey. The train reached its destination, Ranchi on June 11, 2020.



Migrant workers walking to board the train

## 1st Edition of NLUJ Inter-University Human Rights Public Interest Litigation Competition

The 1st edition of the NLUJ Inter-University Human Rights Public Interest Litigation Competition organized by the Committee and the Centre for Litigation Studies [“CLiS”] in the year 2023. The competition aimed to familiarize law students with the process of drafting, filing, and arguing a Public Interest Litigation [“PIL”]. The Competition addressed the contemporary issue of Refugees’ Human Rights and was organised in collaboration with the Migration & Asylum Project [“M.A.P”] and Independent Thought. Justice Govind Krishna Mathur, Retd. Chief Justice Allahabad HC, graced the event’s inauguration on August 11th.

Teams were tasked with collecting real-life evidence, analyzing data, and formulating a comprehensive PIL on Refugees’ Human Rights. The competition concluded with teams presenting arguments before a distinguished panel, including advocates from the Rajasthan High Court and Senior Advocates of the Supreme Court. The final rounds were adjudicated by Honorable Dr. Justice Nupur Bhati, Judge Rajasthan High Court, Mr. Ravi Bhansali, Senior Advocate, Rajasthan High Court and Mr. Sanjeev Jauhari, Senior Advocate, Rajasthan High Court.

The success of the 1st Edition was evident in offering a platform for legal minds to delve into real-world issues and spreading awareness about human rights and the PIL process among law students. The engagement of 22 universities, a distinguished panel, and the comprehensive approach to addressing legal challenges made the event a resounding success. The organizers, participants, and judges collectively contributed to making this competition a significant and enriching experience, setting a strong precedent for future editions. The NLUJ Inter-University Human Rights Public Interest Litigation Competition stands as a testament to the Committee’s commitment to legal education and the promotion of human rights awareness within the academic community.

The Inter-PIL event successfully fulfilled its objective of generating awareness among law students about the intricacies of drafting, filing and arguing the PIL. The event created a platform where students having the zeal for advocacy for public concerns came together and deliberated about the issues which require adjudication by the court.



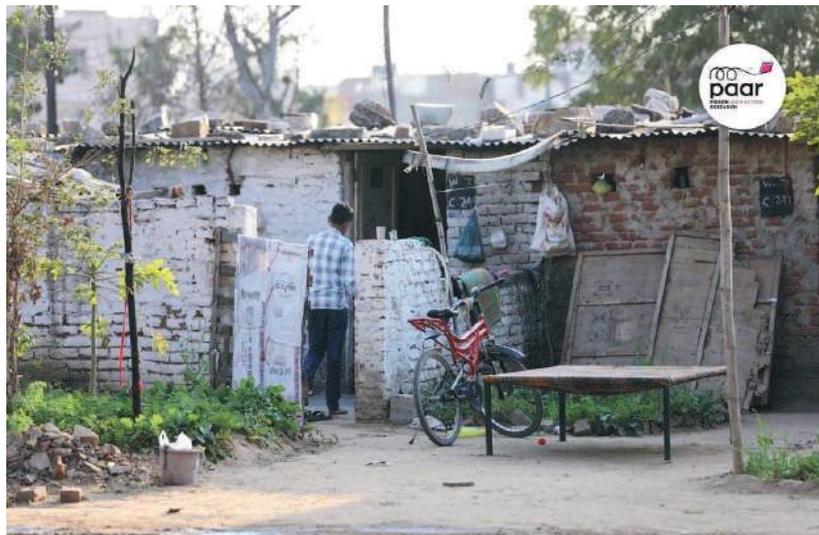
Students, delegates and members at Inter-University PIL Competition

## Open Air Prison Project

The Committee has initiated Open Air Prisoners Project to work towards a rehabilitative model of incarceration. The Open Air Prison systems is a pioneering concept in Rajasthan that aims to facilitate the social readjustment of eligible convicted prisoners. These prisoners are sent to open-air camps where they can learn self-dependence through lawful means of livelihood and social interaction. In these camps, prisoners are allowed to live in self-sustaining units with their families, providing them with an opportunity to reconnect with their loved ones and engage in agricultural and manufacturing activities to generate a source of income. While these camps are a commendable step towards social readjustment, it is important to ensure that it is being implemented in a manner that truly benefits the prisoners and empowers them to lead a reformed life which is the motivation behind this initiative proposed by the Committee. The Committee will undertake the program in the Prisoner's Open Camp located in Mandore, Jodhpur.

This project is designed to tackle social problems which act as a hindrance in adequate rehabilitation and reformation. One is the lack of constitutional literacy among both adults and children in prison. The Constitution of India guarantees several fundamental rights which ensure the dignity of the people.

Undergoing the process of incarceration greatly impacts the sense of dignity and self of individuals and it is pertinent that the prisoners in these systems along with their family as apprised about the constitutional values and rights protecting their dignity. An empowerment program in an open-air prison is required to inform the inmates about their rights and how to access them, thereby empowering them to become better advocates for themselves and their families.



Prison Inmate

Moreover, legal aid services are also essential for prisoners to receive access to justice. Though presently only convicted prisoners stay in open prisons, they require legal services related to parole rejection, higher bond amount, transfer to another state or another district and similar issues.

Legal aid camps would be set up in the Prisoner's Open-Air Camp to identify the key legal issues and then undertake the measures necessary for helping the prisoners with their legal issues. This camp would follow the same methodology as the legal aid camps which are set up by the Committee every semester.

First, the Committee would conduct research to identify the legal issues prevalent among the prisoners and their families. Then, the Committee with the help of the board of pro-bono lawyers and legal-experts will provide legal advice, consultation and representation. In addition, the Committee will coordinate with the prison authorities to ensure that the camp is conducted safely and securely. The Committee would also prepare information booklets and handouts on legal rights, procedures and remedies.

To promote constitutional literacy to ensure adequate assertion of rights by the inmates and their family members, the Committee will conduct constitutional literacy workshops. These will be conducted monthly at two levels. At one level the workshop will be conducted for the children of the inmates where innovative tools will be used by the Committee members such as group activities, plays on Constituent Assembly debates and so on to explain the constitutional provisions. The approach undertaken will be a value-based approach where the values of justice, equality, dignity and freedom which are imbibed in the Constitution will be conducted.

At the second level, workshops will be conducted for the adults residing in the camps following a rights-based approach apprising them about the fundamental rights protecting their dignity along with a discussion on political system of the country to create constitutionally literate citizens. These workshops will be conducted in collaboration with the team of Constitution Connect who are Samta Fellows working on ground in Rajasthan towards creating constitutionally literate schools.



Open Air Prison, Mandore

The Committee is engaging into a collaboration with Prison Aid and Action Research [“PAAR”]. PAAR is a non-profit organisation working towards reforming the current system of incarceration and their work greatly involves awareness and engagement with Open Air Prisons. This will help understand the functioning of Open-Air Prison and how to improve their conditions.

Recently, the Committee-members visited the prison to evaluate the literacy level and knowledge of the inmates. After speaking to them, it was realized that their work environment was such that it would be difficult for them to take up vocational courses due to the paucity of time. Therefore, the Committee will take up small upliftment and upscaling activities for the 27 inmates. These inmates have specific needs of their own due to the diverse gender, class and economic index. The Committee will conduct an individual survey and find out the individual needs of the inmates. Thereafter, they will provide resources that will be subjective to each individual. There will be three activities that will take place for the entire group i.e. first, education on the Constitution of India and the principles of liberty and equality; second, rehabilitation programs to raise awareness; and third, providing them with legal aid.

It is our sincere hope to expand this project to not just the open-air prison system in Jodhpur but also to other open-air prisons across India. Additionally, considering that only a few states have employed this concept, we fervently hope to also encourage other states to gain inspiration from this concept as a means of restitution and rehabilitation.

## Jan Sunwai

Jan Sunwai is a public hearing that aims to provide an opportunity for the citizens to interact with government officials, voice their grievances and seek redressal from government officials or authorities. It helps to promote good governance, accountability, and transparency in the administration by making officials more accessible to the public and by providing a forum for citizens to raise their concerns. Intending to improve public service delivery, enhance citizen participation in governance, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability in the government, the Committee regularly conducts Jan Sunwais in different areas of Jodhpur.



Public Authorities from Jodhpur for Jan Sunwai

One such public hearing was conducted in October in Ward 74 in Jodhpur (North) after consultations with the Mayor and Parshad (Councilor) of the ward. Based on the discussion with the residents, the Committee realized that the issues faced by the residents pertained to different areas and departments and thus, we tried to ensure the representation of authorities from different areas and jurisdictions. Given the vast range of issues including legal matters that came up, the Committee made sure that apart from the presence of government officials, advocates also participated so that the issues could be better understood and dealt with. After selecting the designated area where the Jan Sunwai would be conducted, the Committee conducted a survey in the the designated area to find out the pertinent social, legal and infrastructural-related issues from the residents themselves.

Based on the Committee's discussion with the people of the area, the most widespread and pertinent problems that came across were:

1. Entitlement of land in the catchment area
2. Frequent power cuts
3. Access to safe and adequate drinking water
4. Awareness and access to welfare and employment schemes of the government.

The direct beneficiaries of this event were the residents of Ward 74 who voiced their grievances in front of the concerned authorities and sought redressal. The Jan Sunwai had a positive impact on the resolution of the various problems faced by the residents. Not only did the concerned officers listen and understand the grievances but also acted and assured the people of the speedy disposal of their issues.

## **Legal Aid Camp In Basni Colony (A Collaborative Effort With Aajeevika: Bridge of Hope for Migrants)**

A Legal Aid Camp was organized in the Basni colony, inhabited by migrants majorly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The campaign started with the outreach and groundwork wherein loudspeakers were used to disseminate information. This was followed by a door-to-door survey where the members of the Committee distributed pamphlets and briefed people about the legal aid camp that was to be organized. Contact information of the Committee's legal aid panel as well as the contact of the Aajeevika Bureau was provided to widen the reach. In furtherance of this collaboration, the Committee along with Aajeevika conducted a legal help desk in which, all the legal problems of the migrants were listed down and basic advice was provided by senior members of the Committee.

Outreach for the Legal Aid Camp



The Committee endeavored to generate awareness among the labourers about their basic rights like the provident fund and employers' liability to pay for their medical expenses if they are injured in an accident while in the course of employment. Herein, the migrants were encouraged to speak about any issues that they faced and were requested to come to the legal help desk to get their grievances registered. The legal help desk had the possibility that, if need be, the lawyers were there in the panel, who could raise the migrant's plea in court on a pro-bono basis. The legal help desk spanned 4 hours and saw participation by over 50 migrant labourers. The labourers were encouraged to record their grievances formally, with relevant information about their dispute, all of which was duly recorded in the legal aid forms curated by the Committee and Aajeevika.



Legal Aid Camp for Migrant Labourers at Basni Colony

## Pro-Bono Club: Equal Access to Justice for All

In furtherance of its initiative to bridge the gap between quality legal services to the marginalized, the Committee inaugurated the Pro Bono Club under the Nyaybandhu initiative of the Ministry of Law and Justice. Different workshops have been undertaken under the Pro-Bono club on subjects such as human rights, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences [“POCSO”] and governmental schemes.

The first workshop conducted was for the students of Shri Jain Public School, Bikaner. The Committee has consistently strived to enhance the accessibility of legal education. Aiming to empower prospective law school aspirants with valuable insights and guidance, the Committee organized a workshop on Law Entrance Examinations on February 16, 2023, specifically for senior secondary students of the school. The workshop commenced by highlighting the critical role the legal fraternity plays in upholding societal well-being. This was followed by a discourse emphasizing the significance of legal education for young minds. A comprehensive presentation was delivered to shed light on various law entrance examinations, the requisite preparation strategies, and the dynamic environment of law schools. Additionally, the students were apprised of the diverse career opportunities available to law graduates. To conclude, an open interactive session was facilitated, enabling the students to engage with law students and seek clarification on any questions.



Workshop on Legal Education for Students from Bikaner

The second workshop theme was Human Rights. Two workshops were conducted on the occasion of International Human Rights Day under the Pro-Bono club initiative of the Department of Justice in Ramjas School, Delhi and Composite School, Allenganj, Prayagraj. The Committee members addressed the high school students and sensitized them about the on-ground human rights situation in India. The students were apprised of the significance of UDHR and the relevant provisions in the Indian context through short videos and documentaries. The Committee also highlighted how the students can access their rights through the Nyaya Bandhu scheme of the Department of Justice.



Workshop in Government School in Prayagraj on Human Rights Day 2022

Lastly, a quiz was conducted to gauge the levels of understanding after the workshop. The top three quiz performers were awarded books in appreciation.



A student showcasing her reading skills

The POCSO Workshop was conducted with the help of 6 Para Legal Volunteers from the District Legal Services Authority and was also addressed by the Scheme Coordinator and Senior Consultant, Access to Justice and the Department of Justice. The workshop began with an explanation of the issues covered under the POCSO Act. Thereafter, the children were explained what constitutes child abuse, how to deal with the situation without panicking, and from whom they can seek help in such situations. Students were provided and taught about the basic provisions of POCSO and Child helpline number.

Lastly, the Committee took the initiative to conduct the Government Scheme Worksop and informed the prospective beneficiaries of these schemes about how to make use of such schemes and avail of benefits. The workshop was conducted in the village of Surpura on 19th February 2023 and majorly focused on the schemes run by the State government of Rajasthan and the Government of India for Women, Senior Citizens, Students, etc. The workshop was conducted in the Panchayat Bhavan. The workshop began by explaining how several governmental schemes started with the specific aim of helping the marginalized section of society. Thereafter, the Committee members explained the schemes, their benefits, eligibility, and documents required to avail of their benefits through the help of PPTs and comedic acts. The schemes covered were:

- Mukhyamantri Vridhjan Samman Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana
- Mukhyamantri Ekal Nari Samman Yojana
- Bal Kalyan Yojana
- Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.



Workshop on POCSO with Department of Justice

## Lok Adalat

Lok Adalat is an innovative approach to dispute resolution in India. Unlike conventional judicial forums, Lok Adalats aim to provide a swift and cost-effective mechanism for resolving disputes, particularly those of a civil or compoundable nature. One of the primary functions of Lok Adalats is to enhance access to justice for all strata of society. By providing a platform for expeditious resolution of disputes, they contribute significantly to reducing the backlog of cases in traditional courts. They act as a catalyst for justice, particularly for marginalized and economically disadvantaged sections of society. Since Lok Adalat is a voluntary and consensual nature of dispute resolution, the principles of conciliation and mediation are employed to achieve expeditious and amicable resolutions.

The Committee provided a platform to the people of Surapura village for amicably resolving their disputes. Firstly, the Committee members contacted pro-bono clinics, local panchayats, and advocates in the pursuit of cases that could have been resolved through mediation. One of the disputes involved water from the property of one of the villagers hindering the enjoyment of another person's property. The Committee employed the services of two advocates, each representing one party of the dispute. A solution was brought about by the mediators which led to a resolution of the dispute between the parties. The Committee assisted the conciliation process and facilitated dialogue between parties so that they could reach a mutually agreeable solution.



Devising Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Surapura

# Awareness Initiatives

## Lex Quest: Igniting the Inquisitive Minds

To enhance legal knowledge among students and to foster a deeper understanding of the impact of law on society and people's social lives, the Committee initiated a competition named 'Lex Quest'. The 'Lex Quest' combines the elements of knowledge, competition and engagement to create a platform where students shall learn about their legal rights and socio-political issues concerning the individual's rights at large, and where students can discuss the aforementioned with fellow participants. The objective is to empower school-going children with knowledge, bolstering future generations which helps in nation building by increased vigour for protecting their rights and of a downtrodden section of the society.

The design of 'Lex Quest' as a competition with monetary prizes for winners ensures students are incentivised to participate in the competition. The topic of the essay is curated in such a way that enables the students to research and delve into contemporary issues and the legal and constitutional rights involved with the same, ensuring they contemplate the solutions to prevent the violation of their rights.

The Committee has conducted two editions of the 'Lex Quest'. The First edition conducted in 2020, involved an essay writing competition. The participants were included in two categories:



- Students from 9th and 10th Grade on the topic ‘Virtual Education and its Sustainability.’
- Students from 11th and 12th Grade on the topic ‘Developments in the New Education Policy.’

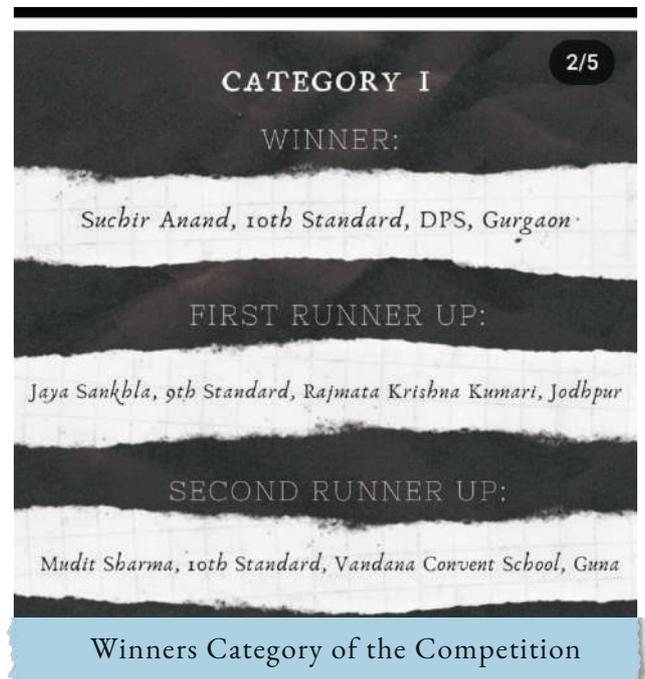
Students from all across India participated in this, delving into the education rights guaranteed to them as their basic rights.

The second edition of the ‘Lex Quest’ broadened its scope and the essay writing competition also included college students. The papers were invited from students all across India, exploring the

theme of gender stereotypes in households and workplaces and the resultant disparity. These competitions aimed to enable students to engage with socio-legal issues and increase their legal awareness.

The next ‘Lex Quest’ carried forward the essence of competition to greater heights. The state of Rajasthan was divided into nine zones with fifty to sixty schools selected from each school. The competition was conducted in the form of a quiz competition, wherein participants encountered a series of questions spanning various socio-legal domains. The questions are carefully curated to cover a spectrum of topics such as human rights, constitutional law, environmental law, criminal justice, and other pertinent legal issues affecting contemporary society. The booklets covering the rights and duties governed under the same relevant subjects were first distributed in each school.

The quiz engaged students in multiple rounds with each checking their depth of knowledge, understanding and analytical skills to protect their and community rights in a given hypothetical situation. The first round of the quiz was conducted in each school. The winners of each school then competed in the zonal level and the winners of the zonal level finally competed at the state level.



## Darpan: A Mirror to the Society

The Committee launched a blog, 'Darpan' to ensure that the socio-legal issues affecting the daily lives of people which infringe on their rights are raised in the form of a story. This acts as a socio-legal blog and is intended to be a mirror to society to all the social issues which have clenched society and aims to create social awareness. The idea is to give voice to the issues and people who are at the margin of society.

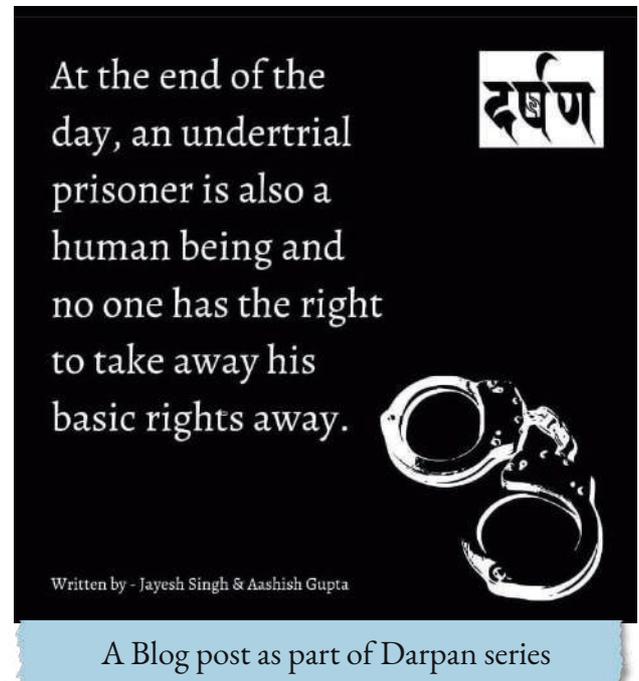
The Darpan through its stories ensures that awareness is generated about rights among the ones relegated to the margins of society. It is meticulously designed to transcend the traditional story-telling and

give a short commentary on the basic rights of the people in a short story along with examples which are relatable to the people. It provides a platform to the overlooked and seeks to ignite conversations, provoke thought, and stimulate change. It emerges as a beacon of awareness, fostering a collective understanding of societal challenges and championing inclusivity. Through this innovative storytelling medium, 'Darpan' contributes to the Committee's broader mission of creating a socially conscious and empathetic community.

The recent Blog Posts in Unnati are:

- **“Street Vendor: Reduced to margins and battered by legislative framework” by “Nivedita Sharma and Ayush Mangal.”**

The Authors are third-year and second -year students of the Committee. This blog post highlights how the street vendor, the essential service provider is often neglected. The blog highlights how authorities are neglectful or discriminatory towards street vendors. The authors raise how authorities who must protect their interests is the one which is violating maximum of their rights.

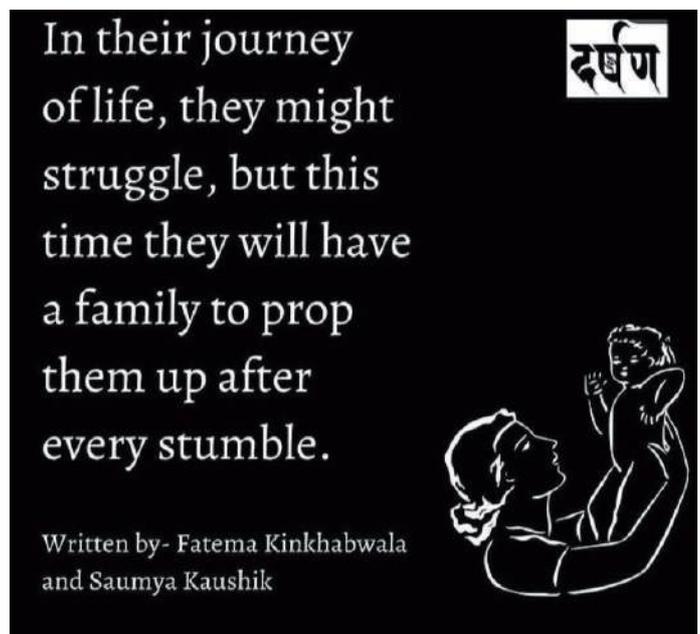


- “The Spirit Within: The Valor of Women Warriors” by “Bhanu Jindal”

The author is a third-year student of the Committee. This Blog-post was published on 8th March, 2022, celebrating the occasion of International Women’s Day. The Blogpost revolved around highlighting the valour and courage that lies within a woman. The author has taken a numerous example of women warriors across the globe, to inspire the women across India.



The Darpan continues to generate awareness among the downtrodden section of the society through its continued story-telling.



## Adhikar Ki Pehchaan

The committee initiated the ‘Adhikar Ki Pehchaan’ video series in 2020, to simplify the complex law procedure for common people. The law at present is called a lawyer’s paradise as it is very difficult for a common person to understand the complexities involved and the ones who are illiterate and are at the bottom of society, thus most vulnerable to the abuse of law.

The series is meticulously designed to empower and educate, ensuring that everyone can navigate legal complexities with confidence and ease. Each episode is made with minute attention to detail covering the entire procedure, utilises simple vernacular languages, and PowerPoint slides, and real-world examples to enhance understanding. The series is readily accessible on various platforms, promoting inclusivity and reaching a broad audience.

The series spans an extensive range of legal procedures regarding different subjects of law, from filing of complaint at the police station regarding theft to filing a complaint to the Securities Exchange Board of India for securities fraud.

The Committee ensures inclusivity by easily making the videos accessible on public platforms like YouTube and is supported by captions ensuring the accessibility and inclusivity of the videos.

Some of the recent videos of this series include -

- **“How to file a complaint to Securities Exchange Board of India.”**

The session explained the procedure of filing an online complaint to the Securities Exchange Board of India [“SEBI”] comprehensively and simply. The session also includes a host of issues that are covered by the provisions of SEBI rules and regulations and the remedies provided under the law.

- **“How to file an online consumer complaint”**

The session explained the procedure for filing online complaint to the consumer affairs via its online portal. The session included the consumer issues which are covered by the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and the remedies for the same.

### Adhikar Ki Pukar

The other major event that the Committee undertook to assist people in realizing their legal rights was ‘Adhikar ki Pukar,’ wherein members of the Committee, along with the assistance of District Court Lawyers, aided in resolving the legal problems of people. The Committee, under this initiative, organizes a camp where legal queries of common people were resolved on a pro- bono basis.

The camp, now in its sixth edition, focuses on a special type of dispute, and advocates with experience in that particular area are invited to the camp. The theme of this edition was Consumer Complaints and Tenancy disputes, and thus the Jalori Gate area was chosen for the camp as the greatest number of tenancy disputes are witnessed in the Jalori Gate area of Jodhpur.

The event included an outreach drive wherein members went a day prior to the Camp and distributed pamphlets to people and conducted a door-to-door outreach, informing people about the Camp and how their legal queries can be resolved. The next day, the camp was organized, attended by the District Court Advocates who resolved the legal queries related to Consumer Complaints and tenancy disputes. A total of 21 legal queries were raised by people, out of which 16 were resolved, and regarding 4 queries, the advocates explained why adjudication by the court is indispensable for the enforcement of rights. One query remained unresolved.

The event was a step forward in the Committee's vision to ensure that no one is deprived of their legal rights merely for not being able to afford quality legal advice.

## अपने अधिकारों को जानें बुजुर्ग

एक्सपोज़ रिपोर्टर  
xpose.jodhpur@epatrika.com

कुछ दिनों पहले अंजली के ससुरे का खेत हुआ था। उसकी सास, हमलावा बान्सी अकेले पढ़ गई थी। उसका बेटा आसुतोप एक प्राइवेट कंपनी में नौकरी करता था, लेकिन वह अपने जूब से खुश नहीं था। उसने बैंक में लोन लेकर व्यापार करने की इच्छा ज़रूर की। मां ने आसुतोप के कहने पर घर उसके नाम कर दिया, ताकि वह कर्ज से संका भंथा चल पड़ा। जब बेटे और बहू का व्यवहार हमलता के प्रति बदलने लगा, तब उसने अपने बच्चों से कहा कि मैंने वह घर तुम्हारे नाम इस शर्त पर किया था कि तुम मेरे खाने-पीने और खर्च को जरूरतों का अच्छी तरह से ध्यान रखोगे। शायद तुमने घर के कारजान लेक से पढ़े नहीं। वह घर फिर से मेरे नाम हो



कानून हमारी ताकत

### संपत्ति वापस ले सकते हैं माता-पिता

मेट्रोलेक एंड वेलफेयर ओपन फ़ैट्स एंड सीनियर सिटीजन एक्ट-2007 की धारा 23 के तहत हर मां-बाप के पास यह अधिकार है कि यदि उनके बच्चे उनका ठीक प्रकार से ध्यान-पोषण नहीं कर रहे हैं, तो वे अपने बच्चों के नाम की गई संपत्ति फिर से अपने जमान कर सकते हैं। इसके लिए जरूरी है कि आप इस शर्त का संघी के कारजान में उल्लेख करें। उस शर्त को पूरा व करने पर, बिना कोर्ट के इंटरवें में पड़े, वह संपत्ति आपके नाम हो जाएगी। मां-बाप के अल्प-पोषण की डिप्लोमैटरी व डिफ़िक क्लेमक बेटों की भी है। इस्तेमाल गलत-गलत को अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक रहना चाहिए और बच्चों का अपने कर्तव्य कार्यों का निष्ठा से पालन करना चाहिए।

-सौनाली खत्री (सदस्य, लीगल ऐड एंड अवेयरनेस कमेटी)

## महिलाएं जानें अपने अधिकार

जोधपुर, तकरीबन हर महिला को दैनिक जीवन में छेड़छाड़ व अभद्र व्यवहार का सामना करना पड़ता है। हर आयु वर्ग की महिला, स्कूल, कॉलेजों में पढ़ रही छात्राएं, कामकाजी महिलाएं, मनचलों के आपत्तिजनक व्यवहार से व्यथित रहती हैं। जागरूकता ही समाधान की पहली सीढ़ी है। अगर आप भी छेड़छाड़ से पीड़ित हैं, तो अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक हों।

भारतीय कानून में महिलाओं की रक्षा के लिए कई प्रावधान मौजूद हैं। छेड़छाड़- जैसे अश्लील टिप्पणियां करना, हाथ लगाना या अन्य प्रकार की बदतमीजी भारतीय दंड संहिता की धारा 354 व 354ए के तहत दंडनीय अपराध है। ऐसा करने पर 1 से 3 वर्ष की सजा और जुर्माने का प्रावधान है। अपराध को गंभीरता के अनुसार अन्य प्रावधान- धारा 294 (सार्वजनिक अश्लीलता), 509 (इन्साल्टिंग द मॉडेस्टी ऑफ अ वुमन) आदि भी ऐसा करने वालों को दंड का भागी बनाते हैं। इनमें अश्लील इशारे करना, अश्लील प्रयोजनों के लिए

कोई चित्र, वस्तु या शरीर का कोई भाग दिखाना इत्यादि शामिल हैं।

### यहां दर्ज करा सकते हैं रिपोर्ट

पॉलिस महिलारं इन अपराधों की जांचकाठी अपने कज़दीकी पुलिस थाने में देकर, रिपोर्ट दर्ज करा सकती हैं। जोधपुर शहर में महिलाओं से जुड़े अपराधों के लिए दो महिला थाने महिला थाना पूर्व (फोन नम्बर- 0291-2650772) तथा महिला थाना पश्चिम (फोन नम्बर- 0291-2050771) हैं। यहां अपनी रिवेडना दर्ज कराई जा सकती है।

### ऑनलाइन जानकारी

दर्ज रिपोर्ट पर की गई कार्रवाई की जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की वेबसाइट [police.rajasthan.gov.in](http://police.rajasthan.gov.in) पर आसानी से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अगर आप अपने अधिकारों के लिए आवाज उठाएंगी, तो समाज ही नहीं कानून भी आपका साथ देगा।

मिताली अग्रवाल, सदस्य, लीगल ऐड एंड अवेयरनेस कमेटी, राष्ट्रीय विधि विधि, जोधपुर

पत्रिका  
Thu, 03 September 2015  
[epaper.patrika.com/c/7008876](http://epaper.patrika.com/c/7008876)

LEGAL AID AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE  
• अधिकार की पहचान •  
How to file an e - FIR?  
EPISODE - 2  
Adhikar Ki Pahchan EP2: How to file an e-FIR  
jaac\_nluj

Youtube Series and Newspaper Clipping from Adhikar ki Pahchan

## Project Saahas: Legally Empowering Transgender Persons

The Committee conducted a workshop on transgender rights in collaboration with Sambhali Trust. The aim of this session, conducted on 20th January 2024, was to disseminate awareness about the legal rights and entitlements of transgender citizens as well as the Central and State-level Schemes and also understand the issues faced by them. The session was attended by transwomen and LGBTQIA+ persons in Jodhpur. The members discussed the rights of transgender persons under Part III of the Constitution of India, the Transgender Persons Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and the rules made under the Act in 2020. The members were able to understand and empathize with multifarious problems that make up the quotidian lived realities of queer individuals.



Committee Members conducting the workshop on transgender rights

The target audience for the session included transgender persons in Jodhpur, LGBTQIA+ persons associated with the Sambhali Trust, individuals who have been advocates for the community and LAAC members.

The event led to the beginning of a conversation on transgender rights and issues and allowed us to understand the issues being faced by the community: ranging from the adoption rights of transgender persons to the lack of redressal mechanisms in cases of breach of their rights. Most recently, even after getting a voter ID card, transgender persons in Jodhpur could not cast their votes because of technical barriers. We want to understand these issues, provide the requisite legal support to them, and take up these issues with the relevant authorities.



Committee Members with members of the transgender community in Jodhpur

## Nukkad Natak

The Committee, steadfast in its commitment to advancing legal awareness, remains unwavering in its dedication. It pledges to persevere in organizing similar awareness campaigns, recognizing the profound impact they wield in empowering individuals with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities.



Nukkad Naatak on Child Marriage at Clocktower, Jodhpur

Through these ongoing efforts, the Committee aspires to contribute meaningfully to the development of a society where every citizen is not only aware of their rights but also actively engages in shaping a just and equitable democratic landscape.

The Committee conducted Nukkad Nataks (Street Plays) on significant social issues of Domestic Violence and Child Marriage, in September 2022 at Clocktower, Jodhpur. These performances aimed to engage the youth creatively in addressing societal concerns through artistic expressions, drawing the attention of passers-by and fostering awareness. The primary objective was to raise awareness on pressing social issues and empower individuals to speak up against them. By tapping into the creativity of the youth, the Committee aimed to create a one-to-one dialogue, eliminate the need for intermediaries, and build a trusting atmosphere for victims. The campaign also focused on reaching out to the unreached, instilling confidence in victims, voicing the voiceless, and connecting victims to NGOs.

The Committee organized another Nukkad Natak (street play) on October 15, 2023, in the rural area of Mathania, located approximately 30 kilometres away from the University campus. The primary objective of this initiative was to promote awareness and educate the local community about their voting rights, emphasizing the importance of free and fair elections in Rajasthan without external influence and the distribution of freebies.

The Nukkad Natak staged in Mathania resonated profoundly with the local community, drawing an enthusiastic audience of approximately 70 to 80 individuals from the village and its neighbouring areas. This notable turnout underscored the efficacy of the initiative, affirming its ability to effectively connect with the intended audience. The heartfelt reception from the audience reflected a genuine appreciation for the meticulous efforts undertaken by the committee. Attendees conveyed their satisfaction with the performance, emphasizing the significance of employing innovative mediums for community outreach. The dynamic and interactive format of the Nukkad Natak fostered direct communication and facilitated a meaningful exchange of feedback with the audience.

Beyond mere entertainment, the Nukkad Natak has emerged as a powerful vehicle for conveying a crucial message about the essence of voting rights. Through compelling storytelling and engaging performances, the Nukkad Natak succeeded in raising awareness among the audience about the pivotal role of their votes.



Team Behind Nukkad Natak

The Committee employed direct and effective communication strategies to present social issues with sensitivity, exploiting the potential of drama to make serious issues more interesting and engaging. The campaign emphasized the importance of tapping into creativity to create an impactful and memorable message.

The first performance depicted a household scenario, portraying the routine abuse of a wife by her husband, touching upon the societal pressures and dilemmas faced by the characters. The storyline revealed the complexities of domestic violence and highlighted the need for victims to speak up. The play concluded with an interactive session, gauging the audience's understanding and commitment to taking action against abuse.

The second play portrayed the detrimental effects of child marriage on both the girl and the boy involved. The narrative explored the societal repercussions, including abuse, dowry demands, and the loss of childhood. The Committee recognized the deep impact of dramatizing ordinary lives, providing a mirror for society to witness its injustices. This approach aimed to instil the belief that individuals are not alone in their struggles, fostering the courage to stand up against injustice.

The Committee's Street plays successfully raised awareness, engaged the community, and encouraged dialogue on social issues. Through creative expressions and impactful narratives, the campaign aimed to inspire societal change, empower victims, and contribute to the collective effort against prevalent social evils.



Preparation for Nukkad Natak at Mathania

## Radio-Podcast Series with Akashvani Jodhpur

The Committee in collaboration with Prasar Bharati's Akashvani - All India Radio, Jodhpur, embarked on a commendable initiative to empower the transgender community in India. Their radio segment, broadcasted on October 20th, 2023, through All India Radio's Channel: Surya Nagri Akashvani Jodhpur [531 AM Rajasthan], marked the commencement of Project Saahas: Empowering Transgender Persons through Legal Literacy & Services.



Committee Members recording a radio show on transgender rights

Before recording, Committee members meticulously researched the legal rights, entitlements, and socio-legal status of the transgender community across India's historical landscape. This research was translated into colloquial Hindi to ensure accessibility and effective communication with the general public, the Committee members recorded the episode at Prasar Bharti's Jodhpur studio on October 18th, 2023, meticulously covering the deep-rooted historical and mythological importance of the transgender community in India. The program emphasized their enduring presence in ancient legends and stories, challenging contemporary prejudices and fostering historical understanding. It also delved into the legal framework surrounding the community, emphasizing their enshrined rights and protections, and exploring their status in education, employment, and political representation while acknowledging both progress and ongoing challenges. Concluding with a heartfelt appeal, the program encouraged listeners to embrace the transgender community without prejudice, aiming to foster a more inclusive and understanding society where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity.

The radio program garnered resounding success, marking a significant step towards realizing the goals of NALSA v. Union of India. It serves as a potent tool for raising awareness, sensitizing the citizenry, and fostering acceptance of the transgender

community. By dispelling misinformation and challenging preconceived notions, the program has the potential to contribute significantly to the formation of a more inclusive society for all. The Committee remains unwavering in its commitment to raising awareness, challenging prejudices, and promoting inclusivity through ongoing efforts and future broadcasts, ensuring that the voices of the transgender community are heard and their rights are upheld.

## Chunav Jagrukta (Voting Awareness) Podcast

On the 14th of November, Committee members recorded a podcast with Akashvani, Jodhpur, scheduled to be broadcast on the 17th of November. The podcast aligns with the Chunnnav Jagrukta initiative, wherein committee members actively raise awareness within the local community about the significance of participating in elections.



Committee members recording podcast on voting rights

The Podcast was styled as a conversation between a mother and daughter, and was titled as 'Mera Pehla vote'. The script was written in a way as to include all the influences that affect the voting rights and providing a pathway to choose ideal vote.

The objective of the podcast was to generate awareness among the local community about the necessity of voting in elections and why and how it should be kept independent and why the voters should not be swayed away with monetary benefits or even caste biases. The podcast specifically targeted first-time voters. The recording was very well-received by the Akashvani and aired on 17/11/23. Akashvani has ensured that it will also play in other geographical locations other than Jodhpur as the topic is of vital importance given the elections are just around the corner in Rajasthan.

The podcast will play an important role in creating a well-informed and responsible citizenry which can choose its true representative, who in turn will raise their issues in legislative assemblies and will work for the best protection of their interests.

## Village Halts



Members interacting with community

The Committee has always envisioned Surpura to be the ideal role model of an empowered village free from all social evils and administrative and legal hurdles acting as an education hub for the nearby villages. Therefore, to gauge the issues requiring immediate redressal, the committee along with the Village Panchayat conducted an extensive door- to -door survey covering every household in the village. A comprehensive questionnaire divided into two parts was prepared by the members of the committee. The two parts included

- The Healthcare and Medical Facility
- The Panchayat System

The reasons for including these two themes were: first, in the aftermath of the pandemic, we wished to assess the firsthand account of villagers as to the functioning of the public healthcare system in their village. Second, The Panchayat system forms the bedrock of local governance, it is the first instance of people getting to know of their rights and how to exercise the same, third, The present literature and survey on the same fails to focus on the niche areas and usually focuses on the macro picture about healthcare and panchayat system. Thus, to get a microscopic viewpoint and observe these two institutions in working these themes were chosen.

### With regards to the Panchayat System

The lack of availability of the basic infrastructure and development in the village. The major concerns highlighted were the construction of “pakka” roads, electricity supply, sewage problem, water supply and ration distribution. The other major concern was the understating of the villagers regarding the role of the Panchayat. Mere 11.4% of the respondents surveyed had some idea as to the duties and powers of the Village Panchayat. Further, Sections 33 and 41 of the Rajasthan Act of 1994 indicate a list of services and programs that gram panchayats are required to provide in each village.

However, the majority of the respondents emphasised the need for the Panchayat to have more power to take up initiatives that directly benefit the village and its residents. Further, there were also concerns raised regarding the construction of washroom facilities, sanitary napkin vending machines, absence of educational opportunities for women.

The issues highlighted during the survey range from the most fundamental concerns of the villagers to more complex lacunae, specific to the people of Surpura. To remedy the same the committee envisages a blend of short-term solutions as well as long-term structural reforms.

**Protection of the Panchayat's assets:** A solution for encouraging a truly functional Panchayat system is through the protection of assets of the panchayat and ensuring that the limited powers granted to them are protected. In a significant judgment Secretary, Sarvodaya Educational Society v. Ginja Panasaiah and Ors, the Indian judiciary took the responsibility of protecting the land belonging to the Panchayat Raj in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

**Setting up Legal Assistance Cells:** Taking a cue from the Odisha government's scheme "Madhubabu Aain Sahyata Sibir" which aimed at setting up free legal assistance cells in gram panchayats to provide free legal consultations to the grassroots levels of society, the legal aid committees can set up such camps specifically for the gram sabhas. This shall ensure that the information gap which hampers the functionality of the panchayat can be addressed at a nascent stage.

**With regards to the Healthcare and Medical Facility:** The common issue identified after engagement with the villagers is that while there exists a health centre in the village, it only helps the villagers with minor health issues. For major issues, the villagers are forced to end up travelling for a minimum of 20 km. There have been instances of death on the way as treatment is often delayed.

There is no regularity when it comes to getting health check-ups. Most villagers don't resort to healthcare until it is required. We believe that if more healthcare centres were to be established in the village in actual proximity to the residences of the villagers. The respondent villagers voiced a common concern that there are no specialists available in government hospitals. This, however, was not the case with private hospitals. Therein, the difficulty lies in the distance and lack of financial capability.

Therefore, there was major concern with regard to the healthcare and medical facility and to remedy the same the committee envisages a blend of short-term solutions as well as long- term structural reforms.

**Governmental and Non-Governmental Healthcare Awareness Drives:** For effective treatment, prevention, early identification, and tailored therapy, awareness is crucial. People are more inclined to take preventative action and go for screenings, testing, and checkups if they are aware of a disease and its symptoms. A significant obstacle to optimal health is a lack of knowledge about disorders or choices for screening and treatment. Further, awareness drives should also spread awareness regarding the health schemes provided by the government. At the central level, the most prominent one is the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, while at the state level, the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme aims towards providing holistic healthcare support.

**Training of Rural Healthcare Professionals:** A rural health workforce that consists of professionals who live and work in rural areas as well as distant clinicians who offer services or assistance through telehealth and referral services is essential. This entails making sure that doctors, nurses, dentists, and other healthcare professionals receive the education, training, and experiences necessary to expose them to and prepare them for practising in rural areas and providing healthcare services in rural settings.



Committee Members conducting the survey

# Awards & Presentations

## **Presentation at the 9th Global Alliance for Justice Education Conference, Mexico (2017)**

The Global Alliance for Justice Education [“GAJE”] held its 9th Worldwide Conference on the campuses of Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Puebla and Universidad Autónoma of Tlaxcala in Tlaxcala in 2017. The theme of the conference was “Breaking Down Walls: The Transformative Power of Justice Education” and consisted of both a General Conference and a Training-of-Trainers Workshop.

The former Convenor of the Committee, Ms. Sonali Khatri, was invited to speak about the causes and initiatives taken up by the Committee in front of around 150 delegates from across the world. The presentation received a phenomenal response as the Committee’s initiatives won laurels all across.

## **Presentation at 2nd Asia Clinical Legal Education Conference, Thailand (2023)**

Taking inspiration from the 1st Asia Clinical Legal Education [“CLE”] Conference held in Cambodia in 2005, the 2nd Asia CLE Conference was held from May 26-28, 2023 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Conference was organised in partnership between BABSEACLE and the Faculty of Law of Chiang Mai University.

The theme for the year 2023 was “A Generation of Clinical Evolution: Achieving Greater Access to Justice”. The Conference explored and highlighted the successful evolution of CLE experiences throughout the Asia region, as well as globally.

The Committee was invited to the Conference to conduct an interactive session on the topic “Enhancing Access to Justice: Leveraging Clinical Legal Education & Pro Bono Initiatives for Social Change”. The members talked about the various initiatives taken by the Committee, including the Smart Village Initiative, Project Unnati, and Pro Bono Activities, and delved into the challenges faced. The session was highly appreciated by all the attendees.

It was a very fruitful experience because a lot of stakeholders from different nationalities and backgrounds graced the occasion, including delegates from different countries, pro-bono associates from international law firms, and members of Babseacle. The Committee-members were able to discuss the avenues for future collaboration with them.



Dr. Anjali Thanvi felicitating Ms. Wendy Morrish, Director, Babseacle



Dr. Anjali Thanvi and Committee members with Michael Gill, Pro-Bono Lawyer at DLA Piper



Committee delegation at 2nd Asia CLE Conference, Thailand (2023)

## Report on Labour Law Reforms in India

The Committee collaborated with the Migration & Asylum Project [“MAP”] to provide research assistance in the drafting of MAP’s flagship report analysing the proposed Labour Law Reforms by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, which aim to provide decent working conditions and improved quality of life for workers, employment generation and simplification of Labour Laws for ease of doing business.

MAP is India’s first dedicated law centre for forced migration and displacement. Started in 2013, it seeks to end the marginalisation of one of the most vulnerable communities in the world - migrants and refugees – by making the Rule of Law central to addressing human rights challenges and ensuring grassroots justice. 12 members were selected from the Committee to assist MAP.

The research assistants were tasked with initiating research on the following 4 Labour Codes: The Code of Wages, the Industrial Relations Code, the Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code, and the Social Security Code.

They were tasked with finding out the redressal mechanism under the relevant Code and enquiring whether appropriate authorities exist for adjudication of disputes and implementation of the Code. They were further tasked with finding out the powers and responsibilities of these authorities, and the procedure of filing a complaint under them. Lastly, they were also to analyse the penalties imposed under the Code for its violation of the touchstone of necessity and proportionality.

### Analysis from a Gender Lens

The research assistants were tasked with analysing the Code from a gender lens, and expanding on what rights women workers have been granted by the Code and the relevant rules created by the Central & State Governments. This included research into the specific rules of various Indian states and a comparative analysis of how they fared in ensuring the following issues are addressed: the provision of creche facilities, provisions for night shift, mechanisms and safeguards for the prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace, childcare, maternity benefits, separate washrooms etc. Lastly, the research assistants were tasked with compiling recent and landmark judgements on gender-related aspects of labour reforms and the judicial analysis of labour laws. The members of the Committee provided a systematic research report with an analysis of Central and State rules and contemporary Labour Law reforms.

## Presentation on the Right to Education

The Committee was invited by the Gandhinagar National Law University [“GNLU”] to the Right to Education Conclave, jointly organised by the Centre for Women & Child Rights, GNLU in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of India and Indus Action. The Chief Guests of the event included Smt. Smriti Irani (Minister, Ministry of Women & Child Development) and Sh. Priyank Kanoongo (Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of India). One of the aims of the event was to promote bringing academia and advocacy together. The Conclave sought to provide a platform to young lawyers and law students who have advocated for effectively implementing the RTE Act across India.

The Committee conducted a Presentation on the Committee’s work in facilitating the implementation of the Right to Education Act of 2009. Three members from the Committee successfully conducted the presentation and highlighted the inconsistencies in the implementation of the Act. The presentation was highly lauded by the participants and the dignitaries present there.

The Committee members also engaged in meetings with the guests and panellists of the event to discuss the future course of action that can be taken by lawyers and law students for effective implementation of the RTE Act across the country.



Committee Members with Delegates at RTE Forum

## **Annual Legal Services Forum**

The Committee participated in the Annual Legal Services Forum, organised by Gandhinagar National Law University's Legal Services Committee from 13th to 14th April 2023. The event aimed to abridge the gap between academics and grassroots-level fieldwork undertaken by legal aid centres and provide a unique platform to engage in discourse for systemic issues posed to legal aid initiatives. It facilitated deliberation, collaboration and contribution by Legal Aid Clinics to provide free and competent legal services to the underprivileged. The broad theme of the 4th Annual Legal Services Forum was "Revolutionizing Legal Aid."

### **Discussion on the Role of Legal Aid Clinics**

Along with round table discussions and presentations of annual reports and proposals of the various Legal Services Committee (LSC)/Legal Aid Clinic (LAC) across the country, this edition of the forum featured lectures by various experts, lawyers, and professionals on effective community engagement to bring about positive societal changes. There was a round-table conference held, the agenda for which included increasing the role of legal aid clinics/committees in facilitating easier and free access to legal aid for marginalised communities in rural areas, the role of legal aid clinics in policy advocacy and law reforms by engaging with policymakers and other stakeholders to advance access to justice and legal aid in India, exploring viable and creative technological solutions for the legal aid clinic to expand access to quality legal assistance across all segments of the community and facilitating better synergy, collaboration and resource sharing amongst legal service committees/legal aid clinics across India.

The broad goal was to create a consortium of legal aid clinics and legal services committees from universities across the nation to further the fundamental goal of the provision of legal aid to our society. The challenges faced by legal aid clinics for issues such as funding, sustainability and collaboration with other stakeholders were also discussed at the forefront.

## Legal Services Funding Grant

The Committee was represented by Ms. Tasneem Fatema and Mr Nigam Vrat Attri from the Batch of 2026 and Dr Anjali Thanvi, Chairperson of the Committee. The members conducted a presentation explaining the multifarious activities conducted by the Committee including among other things, RTE Paper Presentation & Discussion Series, Legal Aid Camps, Jan Sunwai and Nukkad Nataks. They also proposed the future activities that LAAC aims to realise and elaborated on the mission plan and resources needed for the same, including Roshan Zameer (Empowering the Voices of the Displaced Refugees), Open Air Prisons, Saahas (Empowering Transgender Voices), Shilpjeevika (Skill-Developments for the women of Surpura), Lex Quest & NLUJ-Inter PIL Competition.

Based on this, the Committee was declared as the Winner of the GNLU Legal Services Funding Grant to honour and support the socio-legal initiatives of the Committee. The grant includes a reward of Rs. 25,000/-, a trophy and a certificate of merit. LAAC envisages utilising this grant to reach newer heights in the field of legal services.



Committee members & Dr. Anjali Thanvi being felicitated at the Legal Services Forum

## First Runners Up Legal Aid Clinic, Prof. V. S. Mallar Memorial Legal Aid Competition 2022

The Committee achieved the position of first runners-up in the Professor V. S. Mallar Memorial Legal Aid Competition 2022, hosted by the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Law, Education, Research, and Advocacy (CEERA), under the aegis of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. The competition garnered participation from approximately 60 legal aid clinics across India.

Over the period from July to October 2022, the Committee diligently organised a series of events, including Nukkad Nataks, Jan Sunwai, Speed Mentoring, Village Adalat, and Village Halts, as part of its active engagement and contribution to the competition. This multifaceted approach showcased the Committee's commitment to advancing legal awareness and aid, contributing significantly to its commendable performance in the aforementioned legal aid competition.

### Bhamashah Award

The Committee's commitment to women empowerment has been exemplary, evident through initiatives such as the Mahila Sashaktikaran Mela and Women Entrepreneurship programs. Through the implementation of legal aid camps, Surpura achieved the noteworthy status of a litigation-free village. In recognition of the impactful work in Surpura, the Committee received the prestigious Bhamashah Award in 2017. This accolade underscores the Committee's significant contributions to community development and societal improvement.



Newspaper Report regarding the recognition

## **Surpura Honours**

The collective endeavours of the Committee and Mr Dinesh Vishnoi, the Sarpanch of Surpura, aimed at the village's improvement, have consistently garnered recognition across various platforms. Notably, Surpura has achieved top honours in five out of the nine Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) themes as part of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, an initiative spearheaded by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Furthermore, the village has been bestowed with an accolade for being an Atma Nirbhar Panchayat at the state level. These acknowledgements underscore the commendable efforts and success of the Committee and Mr Dinesh Vishnoi in advancing the welfare and development of Surpura.

## **Utthaan Award**

The Committee received the Utthaan Award for the year 2015, an esteemed accolade presented by the Utthaan Legal Aid and Awareness Society. These awards are conferred upon exemplary individuals or institutions that demonstrate exceptional commitment to advancing legal awareness for the societal upliftment within Jodhpur. In the specified year, the Committee was honoured as one of the nine recipients of this prestigious recognition.

## **Asian Journal of Legal Education Feature**

The Committee has been prominently featured as a noteworthy case study in a journal article authored by Professor Ajay Pandey. This article, titled 'Clinical Legal Education and Access to Justice During and Beyond COVID-19: Some Reflections of Indian Experience,' has been published in the 'Asian Journal of Legal Education.' The publication underscores the Committee's significant contributions to legal aid, showcasing its impactful work through innovative approaches. This recognition in academic discourse further emphasises the Committee's commendable role in advancing legal education and access to justice, particularly in the context of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Feature at Lund University’s Empowering Children and Youth through Law and Participation Research Conference**

In the year 2023, spanning from the 30th of August to the 1st of September, the Child Rights Institute at the Department of Sociology of Law, situated within the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University, organised a three-day research conference centred around the theme of “Empowering Children and Youth through Law and Participation.” During the proceedings of this conference, a paper authored by Pooja Pandey and Nalini Juneja acknowledged the unwavering efforts of the Committee in the realm of the Right to Education. Ms. Juneja, a longstanding advisor to the Committee, contributed to this recognition, highlighting the Committee’s dedicated endeavours in promoting child rights through legal and participatory means.

## **1st Runners Up Legal Aid Clinic, 1st UILS National Legal Aid Forum, 2019**

The Committee participated in the National Legal Aid Forum 2019, organised by the University Institute of Legal Studies at Panjab University, Chandigarh, on the 5th of April 2019. This event drew the participation of 15 legal aid societies nationwide. The forum centred around a conference featuring panel discussions on the theme, “Role and Functioning of Legal Aid Clinics,” coupled with a competition to assess the efforts of the participating teams.

Each team presented their initiatives during the conference, highlighted practical challenges, and discussed prospects. The event included a preliminary round, from which six teams emerged as finalists. The Committee earned the distinction of being the first runners-up in the competition. The evaluation criteria encompassed factors such as innovation, social impact, sustainability, and outreach, with the selection based on the reports submitted alongside the team presentations.

The Committee received valuable feedback from the judges, reflecting their wealth of experience and knowledge, which contributed to the overall constructive engagement of the event.



Committee Members being presented with 'Uthaa' Award



Committee Members post felicitation at UILS, Chandigarh



Speed Mentoring session as a part of the V. S. Mallar Legal Aid Competition, 2022

# Our Major Collaborators

## Department of Justice



न्याय विभाग  
DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE

The Department of Justice works under the purview of the Ministry of Justice and is responsible for regulating the administrative functions of the Supreme Court and High Court Judges. It also brings about numerous schemes and initiatives for judicial reforms within the country while actively pursuing the objective of legal aid and making the justice system efficient.



National  
Human  
Rights  
Commission  
(NHRC)

## National Human Rights Commission

This esteemed organisation is the UN recognised wing of India's attempts at preserving the human rights of all its people as per international guidelines. It has undertaken various national and global projects in order to spread awareness about humanitarian law and enforce the same.



## National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

The Commission is involved in policy formulation and execution for the protection and upliftment of children all across the country. It devotes a special attention to providing assistance to children from vulnerable and backward sections of the society. It deals with a wide range of issues pertaining to trafficking, exploitation, violence and legal rights of children with the sole purpose of improving their future.



## District Legal Services Authority, Jodhpur

The District Legal Services Authority of Jodhpur is an arm of the Rajasthan Legal Services Authority that has been instrumental in enforcing the principle of "Access to Justice for All". The DLSA regularly works in undertaking key legal aid initiatives such as conducting mediations, lok adalats and take up pro bono cases that serves the people of Jodhpur.



## Migration and Asylum Project

It is India's first law centre dedicated towards forced migration and displacement of refugees. It has received the esteemed Ockenden Prize in 2021 and has expanded its scope of work by participating in migrant policy recommendations, awareness drives, raising litigation disputes, and providing legal assistance to migrants and refugees.



## Sambhali Trust

This trust is based in Rajasthan and aims to transform the lives of women by empowering them in legal and economic domains. It has worked extensively in making women financially independent by providing them resources to create their Self Help Groups, provide health counselling and spread awareness regarding their legal rights. Their work has also been acknowledged by the ECOSOC, reflecting their success and passion in pursuing their goal.



## Indus Action

A Policy implementation organization that aims to bridge the gap between law and action. It works at the grassroots level to identify the areas where the policy lacks and takes requisite action. Their work has gotten recognition in various prestigious newspapers like The Hindu, The Times of India etc.



## Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

Vidhi is an independent think tank, which provides quality peer-reviewed research in the furtherance of better governance and public good. It has assisted in 88 governmental projects till date and made depositions in 4 Parliamentary Committees. Through their dedication, they have brought substantial impact by advising government offices and offering valuable insights.



### **Indeed Foundation**

Indeed is a Jodhpur based foundation dedicated to imparting quality education to children in rural areas. It has signed various MOUs with the Government of Rajasthan for the fruition of its goal. Recently, Mr. Vikram Rajola, Chairperson has received the prestigious Marichi Educators Award given by Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal, Former Minister HRD, Government India.



### **Independent Thought**

Independent Thought is a Non-Profit Human Rights Organisation that works toward legal reform, especially in the field of child rights. In 2013, they filed a writ petition challenging the legal position of Marital Rape in India. In its widely acclaimed decision, the Supreme Court of India ruled in favor of the petitioners marking a moment of triumph in the journey against child abuse in India.



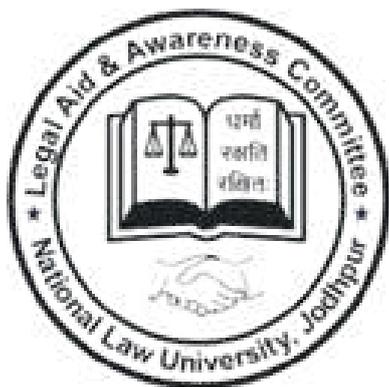
### **Aajeevika Bureau**

Aajeevika Bureau is one of the few public service organizations recognizing the reality of migration in the lives of the rural poor. Headquartered in Udaipur, Rajasthan, it works primarily in the South Rajasthan-Gujarat migration corridor. It offers an array of services to the migrant labourers including legal aid, placement, skill training etc. The goal is to transform migration into a more positive opportunity for those compelled to undertake it.

### **Babseacle**



Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative (BABSEACLE) is a leading global collaborator in the field of justice education. It has undertaken various initiatives throughout South Asia with the help of universities, law students and justice related partners to develop pro-bono related programs. They are not only pioneers today but are fostering the next generation of pro-bono minded champions.



**Legal Aid & Awareness Committee**  
National Law University, Jodhpur  
NH -65, Nagour Road, Mandore, Jodhpur,  
Rajasthan