



# LEGAL AID AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,  
JODHPUR

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



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Committee members with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor



Stakeholder Summit on Transgender Rights, 2024 to commemorate 10 years of *NALSA v. Union of India*

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# About the Committee



## VISION

The Committee works towards imparting practical knowledge and information regarding the legal rights and remedies to the masses. The Committee makes legal aid accessible by acting as an intermediary between advocates across the state of Rajasthan and those requiring legal assistance. Further, the Committee has been working on various research projects to evaluate the standard of legal awareness and implementation of various welfare legislations.

Understanding the need for gender justice, the Committee under its various initiatives has been working to secure women's rights. The Committee promotes a culture of critical inquiry among National Law University, Jodhpur students, encouraging them to scrutinize the implementation of *Welfare Legislations* through judicial machinery. In furtherance of the Government of India's Smart Village Initiative, the Committee has adopted Surpura village, undertaking extensive efforts to enhance its basic infrastructure and public amenities.

## HISTORY

The National Law University, Jodhpur since its inception had established the legal aid center under the name of Centre for Legal Aid and Social Services, which was renamed as Legal Aid and Awareness Committee ["LAAC"] in 2015. 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. (Dr.) Anjali Thanvi (*Chairperson, LAAC*) 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. The Committee has been working towards the implementation of the Right to Education. The Committee has been working on this project since 2017 when 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. The 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  
Patron-in-Chief



**Prof. (Dr.) M.K Singh**  
Dean  
Academic Affairs



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



**Dr. Anjali Thanvi**  
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 human resources.

The University adopted the village Surapura 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 Surapura

After conducting a plethora of projects and initiatives through the years, a strong 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 9 years, Surapura has seen enormous developmental growth, be it in the fields of education, employment, or technological capabilities, with the introduction of:

- Community Library *in 2022*
- Community Computer Lab *in 2023*
- Project Unnati: *A learning program for the young minds of the village in 2019*
- Project Shilpjeevika: *Skill Development Centre for Women in 2022*

## Book Donation Drive for Surpura Community Library

To mark the 78th Independence Day of our country, the Committee organised a Book Donation Drive from 6th to 10th August 2024, at the University for the Community Library in Surpura to promote literacy and support the community's independent development.

On 11th August 2024, the Committee concluded the drive with a visit to the library. In furtherance of Independence Day celebrations, the Committee had also organised an art competition for the children of Surpura.

The Book Donation Drive, organised by the Committee, called upon the students and faculty of National Law University, Jodhpur, to contribute books for the library. The donated books were intended to be added to the Community Library in Surpura, where they would become accessible to local children. A diverse range of books were contributed, including Hindi and English grammar books.

Through each donated book, the Committee acted as a facilitator, fostering a connection to knowledge at Surpura's Community Library. This initiative saw the united efforts of both students and faculty at the University, who came together to support this noble cause by contributing books.

The Book Donation Drive for the Surpura Community Library was a significant success, demonstrating the commitment of our university to promoting literacy and supporting

local development. Through the generous contributions of students and faculty, the children of Surpura gained valuable educational resources, fostering their academic growth. This initiative strengthened the bond between the University and the community, highlighting the positive impact of collective efforts in advancing education.



LAAC members sorting and referencing books

## Book Referencing at the Community Library

On 22nd September 2024, the members of the Library Committee conducted a detailed referencing of every book in the Community Library in Surpura. Each book was catalogued, with unique IDs assigned to ensure an effective tracking and management system. The data was uniformly compiled into a structured database, thereby improving the organisation of the resources at the library.

The book referencing initiative was organised to streamline the library's cataloguing system and create a comprehensive database of all available books. This was aimed to ensure that each book is easily identifiable, accessible, and uniformly recorded, contributing to an efficient and organised library environment for the local children.

The event marked the successful completion of a fully integrated and uniform cataloguing system. The library's collection is now digitised, and each book is tagged with a unique identifier, simplifying future referencing tasks and enhancing accessibility for all users.

The book referencing initiative has proven to be a significant step forward in modernising the Community Library's catalogue. Through collective efforts, we have enhanced the library's functionality, reinforcing our University's dedication to providing a well-maintained academic resource centre for our community.



LAAC members undertaking book referencing

# 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 Surapura 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 the women become more financially secure. Accordingly, the Committee will work with the Institute of Hotel Management in Jodhpur (IHM) to teach women in Surapura 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.

## Inauguration of Shilpjeevika Centre, 2024

On the occasion of International Women’s Day 2024, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee inaugurated the Shilpjeevika Kendra, a skill development center located in Surpura village. The event was graced by Prof. Dr. Harpreet Kaur, the Vice-Chancellor of NLU Jodhpur, who highlighted the significance of empowering women through education and skill development. The Shilpjeevika Kendra aims to provide women in rural areas with essential skills to enhance their livelihoods and fostering economic independence.

The inauguration ceremony was a momentous occasion attended by various stakeholders, including local community members, who expressed their gratitude for this transformative initiative. Dr. Kaur’s address underscored the importance of skill development in promoting gender equality and social justice. Following the formal inauguration, a hands-on soap-making workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). This workshop attracted a large number of enthusiastic women participants eager to learn new skills that could lead to income generation.

The establishment of the Shilpjeevika Kendra represents a significant milestone in empowering women in rural areas. Looking forward, there are plans for expanding skill development programs based on community needs, establishing market linkages for products created by participants, offering financial literacy training.



Workshop being conducted at the Shilpjeevika Centre

## Shilpjeevika NH-65 Fest Stall

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee (LAAC), successfully organized a vibrant stall at the NLU Jodhpur's Academic and Cultural Fest "NH-65" held from September 27th to 29th, 2024. This initiative, a part of the ongoing Shilpjeevika project, aimed to showcase the creativity and craftsmanship of rural women from Surpura village. The stall presented an assortment of handmade products, underscoring the entrepreneurial spirit of the participants and highlighting the socio-economic empowerment fostered by this initiative.

The primary objective of the NH-65 fest stall was to provide a marketplace for rural artisans, specifically the women trained under the Shilpjeevika project. The stall featured a wide range of handmade items, carefully curated to reflect traditional craftsmanship while appealing to a modern audience. The products sold included:

1. **Artisanal Soaps:** Available in unique varieties such as neem, multani mitti, coffee, and rose. They learned the soap-making skills during a workshop conducted in previous semester by the Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI).
2. **Diyas:** Specially crafted for the upcoming Diwali season, these diyas were designed to add a traditional charm to the festival.
3. **Artifacts and Accessories:** In collaboration with Humara Sahas NGO, an organization supporting domestic violence survivors, the stall also showcased a variety of artisanal products including earrings, bracelets, stuffed toys, and MDF arts, each uniquely crafted by the talented women of Humara Sahas Impact and Outcome.



Shilpjeevika NH-65 Stall

The NH-65 stall drew significant attention from visitors, resulting in high engagement and a rapid turnover of products. By the end of the fest, the stall had completely sold out, underscoring both the demand for these unique handmade items and the appeal of supporting a socially impactful initiative. The stall's success not only provided financial benefits to the artisans but also increased their visibility and recognition within the larger community.

## Career Counseling Session at Surpura

On 14th September, 2024, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee hosted a Career Counselling Session at Surpura, featuring Mr. Mukul Krishna, an alumni of the University, as the guest speaker. This session was attended by approximately 35 to 40 students, aimed at helping them explore their aspirations and understand the various academic streams available to them.

Mukul Sir shared his vast experience on transforming skills and passions into successful careers. He provided insights into aligning personal interests with career goals, while also discussing various courses and professional paths available to students. His engaging storytelling and practical advice left a lasting impact on the attendees.

The Career Counselling Session was organized to guide students in exploring their academic interests and future career options. Mr. Mukul Krishna emphasized the importance of discovering one's skills and passions early in life. He introduced students to a broad spectrum of academic streams and career paths, encouraging them to align their personal interests with their career objectives.

Through interesting stories and real-life examples, Mr. Mukul shared actionable advice aimed at helping students make informed decisions about their future. The session was highly interactive, with students actively participating and seeking personalized guidance.

The Career Counselling Session at Surpura was a major success, thanks to the expert guidance of Mr. Mukul Krishna and the enthusiastic participation of the students.



LAAC members undertaking Career counseling session at Surpura

The session not only provided valuable insights into various academic and career options but also inspired the students to think critically about their future paths. This initiative strengthened the connection between the Committee and the community, underscoring the importance of career guidance in shaping young minds.

# 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.

## 2nd NLUJ Right to Education Paper Presentation and Discussion Series

The Committee successfully hosted the 2nd edition of the RTE Paper Presentation & Discussion Series on February 8-9, 2025, in collaboration with Indus Action, a policy implementation organisation dedicated to securing welfare rights for underprivileged families. Indus Action has been working for over 11 years to ensure the enforcement of welfare rights for disadvantaged families, with a special focus on Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act. The organisation has facilitated the admission of over 7 lakh children into schools and continues to drive impactful policy interventions.

The event aimed to foster critical discussions on the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, focusing on both policy and ground-level realities. Through paper presentations, panel discussions, and a specialised RTE workshop, law students from across India engaged in evaluating RTE's enforcement, challenges, and pathways for improvement.

### Inauguration Ceremony

The event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur, Vice-Chancellor, NLU Jodhpur, who reaffirmed the university's commitment to legal awareness and social responsibility. Dr. Anjali Thanvi, Chairperson, LAAC, emphasised the pivotal role of legal aid initiatives in ensuring educational equity and urged continued vigilance in RTE implementation.

The Chief Guest, Retired Additional Sessions Judge Mr. Sukhdev Singh, provided valuable insights into the legal dimensions of RTE, commending the initiative for creating a platform where academia and policy intersect to drive meaningful change.



## **Day One: Paper Presentations & Break Out Session with Indus Action**

The first day saw law students from 36 universities across India present their research on RTE implementation, highlighting policy gaps, systemic challenges, and the socio-legal impact of the Act. Their findings underscored the transformative power of education while also calling for stronger enforcement mechanisms and policy reforms.

A key highlight of the day was the *breakout workshop led by Ms. Mansi Middha, National RTE Lead at Indus Action. Focused on student retention under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act*, the session provided data-driven insights from Indus Action's Retention Study 2023-24, detailing trends in school admissions, integration, and long-term student success. Participants engaged in discussions on policy solutions, real-world challenges in data collection, and strategies for ensuring lasting educational impact.

## **Day Two: Final Presentations & Expert Panel Discussion**

The second day featured the final rounds of student presentations, followed by a highly anticipated panel discussion. The panellists commended the students' research while offering critical insights on policy execution, legal roadblocks, and innovative solutions to enhance RTE implementation. The discussion reinforced that education is not just a right but a shared responsibility, with panellists urging collective action to strengthen legal advocacy and policy interventions.

Through this initiative, the Committee reinforced their commitment to bridging legal education with social impact, ensuring that law students not only understand the RTE Act but actively contribute to its effective implementation.

## Panel Discussion on Capacity Building for Law Students in the Right to Education

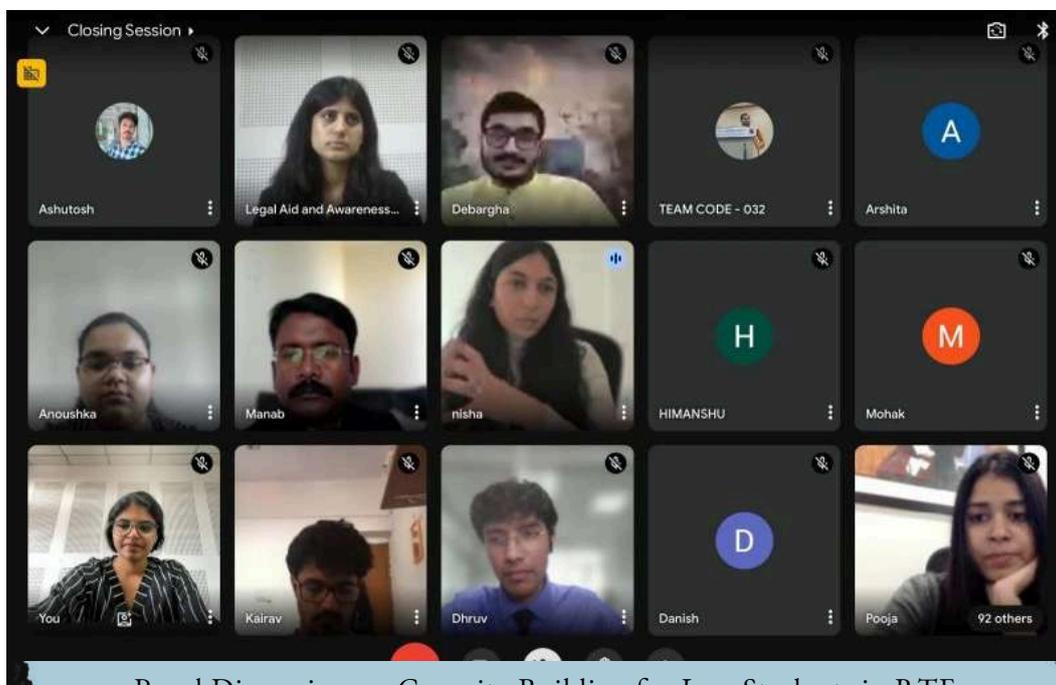
As part of the 2nd Edition of the RTE Paper Presentation & Discussion Series, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee had the privilege of hosting an engaging panel discussion on “Capacity-Building for Law Students in the Right to Education” on February 9, 2025. The discussion aimed to bridge the gap between legal education and practical advocacy in ensuring the enforcement of the Right to Education (RTE) in India.

The session featured a distinguished panel of experts who provided insights into various aspects of legal advocacy and implementation challenges under the RTE Act. Ms. Pooja Pandey opened the discussion by highlighting the role of law students in promoting awareness about the Right to Education, emphasizing the importance of grassroots engagement and public legal education at several levels.

Following this, Mr. Manab Singha shed light on the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, discussing common state practices and challenges in ensuring the mandated 25% reservation for disadvantaged children in private schools. Ms. Nisha Vernekar then addressed the critical issue of access to education for marginalized groups, examining systemic barriers that hinder equitable educational opportunities.

Ms. Rajakumari Michael took the conversation forward by evaluating RTE implementation through a human rights lens, underscoring the need for a rights-based approach to educational policy and legal advocacy. The session concluded with Mr. Debargha Roy, who discussed the role of legal aid clinics and litigation in enforcing the Right to Education, stressing the importance of legal interventions in addressing non-compliance with RTE mandates.

The discussion was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where participants explored the intersection of legal frameworks and practical enforcement, seeking ways to strengthen legal advocacy for education rights. The panel discussion was a crucial step toward equipping law students with the necessary tools to contribute meaningfully to education law and policy.



Panel Discussion on Capacity Building for Law Students in RTE

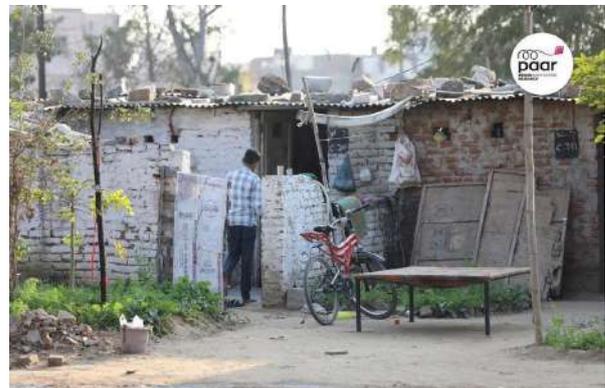
# Legal Aid Initiatives

## 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.



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.



Open Air Prison, Mandore

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.

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.

## Open Air Prison Visit

On September 22, 2024, a visit to the Open-Air Prison in Mandore was conducted as part of an initiative to address the legal and social needs of inmates. The visit aimed to ensure that the inmates had access to all necessary legal documents and to better understand their overall experience within the prison system. The visiting team interacted with inmates to assess their documentation status and gathered insights through detailed interviews.

The primary goals of the visit were to confirm whether inmates possessed essential documents such as Aadhar Cards and PAN Cards and to identify challenges faced by inmates, including updates or corrections needed in their documents.

The visit highlighted several challenges faced by inmates. Firstly, the daily remuneration of ₹259/- was found insufficient for some inmates to sustain themselves and support their families. One inmate reported difficulty in covering the financial needs of his two dependent brothers and funding his son's education in Pali. Secondly, many inmates lacked awareness about the facilities and opportunities available to them within the prison system.

The visit concluded with a meeting with the Sarpanch of the prison, Ramesh Khanna Ji. He provided valuable insights into the prison's functioning and extended his support and blessings to the team.

This visit served as a vital step in identifying issues and planning interventions to enhance inmates' welfare and reintegration into society.



Open Air Prison Visit

## Jan Sunwai

On October 20, 2024, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee hosted a 'Jan Sunwai' at Luni Gram Panchayat, providing a platform for local residents to voice their concerns about essential services such as electricity, water, roads, sewage, and private disputes.

In preparation for the Jan Sunwai, the Committee conducted a comprehensive outreach initiative in Luni village to encourage community participation and identify pressing concerns. Divided into three teams, LAAC members engaged in extensive interactions with residents, building trust and understanding the challenges they faced in their daily lives. A detailed survey revealed key issues, including irregular water and electricity supply, poor road conditions, inadequate waste management, lack of pension provisions, and the absence of BPL ration distribution surveys, leaving many families without essential aid.

On October 20, 2024, LAAC hosted the 'Jan Sunwai' at Luni Gram Panchayat, providing a platform for residents to raise grievances related to essential services like electricity, water, roads, and waste management, as well as private disputes. Residents actively participated, sharing concerns about irregular service delivery and infrastructure issues, including poor road conditions and lack of a proper sewage system. Key officials, including ACP Anand Singh, Tehsildar Imran Khan, and AEN Yogesh Mathur, attended the event to provide guidance and commit to addressing these issues. Additionally, advocates VD Vaishnav, Sharad Kothari, Kunal Bishnoi, Nidhi Singhvi, Krishna Choudhary, and Rahul Choudhary offered legal advice on personal disputes. Written complaints were collected and submitted to the respective authorities for redressal.

The main objective of the initiative was to provide a platform for residents to express grievances and engage directly with officials and legal experts and to bridge the gap between the community and authorities by identifying issues and submitting formal complaints to responsible departments.

We aimed to offer legal guidance and solutions for private disputes and unresolved grievances as well as to motivate active participation from the community to ensure their concerns are recognized and addressed.

The Jan Sunwai was a significant step in addressing community grievances and promoting accountability. Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Vice-Chancellor of NLU Jodhpur, expressed gratitude to all participants and reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to empowering communities and ensuring their voices are heard. LAAC looks forward to continuing its efforts to drive impactful change and strengthen community engagement in the future.



Jan Sunwai in Luni Gram Panchayat, Rajasthan (2024)

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.



Public Authorities from Jodhpur for Jan Sunwai

# Legal Awareness Initiatives

## Aajeevika Collaboration

LAAC collaborated with Aajeevika Bureau for their research, awareness, legal aid and skill development initiatives. The collaboration focused on the welfare of migrant labourers and other marginalised communities in Jodhpur and surrounding areas. In the summer semester (July to November 2024) we were able to take up work under three of the initiatives, viz, legal awareness, legal aid and skill development.

### 1. Legal awareness

The migrant labourers travelling from various parts of India lack knowledge of their legal and constitutional rights. The collaboration aimed at spreading awareness about these rights within various sections of migrant labourers. More particularly, LAAC curated posters and infographics containing provisions of various labour laws like the Factories Act, as well as other welfare statutes like the Employees Compensation Act.

The initiative was targeted towards women labourers working in the hazardous steel industry. Aajeevika Bureau would distributed awareness materials designed by the student members of LACC during their labour camps in different areas of Rajasthan. These posters raised awareness amongst women labourers regarding their statutory rights under various legislations like the *Maternity Benefit Act*, *Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act*, etc. The materials also provide information regarding the redressal mechanisms available to the aggrieved under these statutes.

The awareness initiative picked up well in its initial stage. The future plan is to make various other kinds of awareness material like short videos which shall explain legal rights even more simply and also have greater reach amongst the labourer community by virtue of online circulation.

## 2. Legal Aid Initiative

Under the legal aid initiative of the collaboration substantial progress has not been made. After the legal aid camp held at Basni colony in February 2024, our aim was to be involved in the cases taken by Aajeevika through LAAC's empanelled lawyers.

One significant event under the initiative was LAAC's visit to the office of Aajeevika for their legal day. On 22nd October 2024, Aajeevika had invited members of LAAC to observe the proceedings of their monthly legal day.

Several labourers visited the office to register complaints of non-payment of wages, compensation for injuries, for mediating their claims with the employers etc.

The members perused case files to understand the nature of legal disputes arising under various labour legislations and the practical difficulties in settling disputes between labourers and contractors.



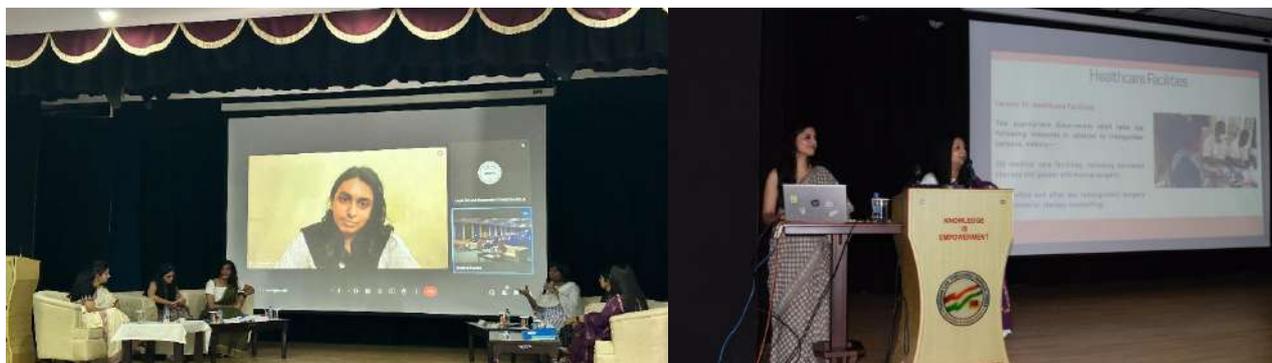
Interactive session

## 3. Skill Development Initiative

Under this initiative, LAAC and Aajeevika organised an awareness event in Surpura on 14th October 2024. The program aimed to educate residents about various vocational training opportunities offered by Step Academy, a wing of Aajeevika Bureau dedicated to enhancing employment prospects for youth. The session covered key details regarding the training programs, their duration, available facilities, and potential job placements. Courses include training in self-employment and entrepreneurial skills, as well as upskilling for specific jobs in the organized sector.

The outreach for this event was conducted on 13th October 2024 by LAAC members, who visited Surpura to inform the community about the upcoming session. The initiative saw positive engagement from the audience, with active participation that is expected to translate into significant enrolment for the skill development courses.

## Project Saahas: *Legally Empowering Transgender Persons* Stakeholder Summit on Transgender Rights



On 5th October, 2024, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee hosted the Stakeholder Summit on Transgender Rights with the aim to increase the understanding of the significance of promoting and safeguarding transgender rights. The event was graced by **Ms. Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli, Prof. Dipika Jain, Ms. Disha Chaudhari, Dr. Garima Tiwari, Farhan Zia, and Adv. Kanmani Ray** as the esteemed panellists. The event featured two sessions, the first being the workshop for paralegal volunteers, police personnel, and other attendees and the second being a panel discussion for assessing challenges to the road for queer rights in India, in the context of a decade of the landmark judgement of *NALSA v. Union of India*.

The sessions highlighted the critical gaps between legal frameworks and the lived experiences of transgender individuals, particularly the limitations of self-determination due to societal and bureaucratic barriers. They stressed the need for intersectional policies, community-driven solutions, and systemic reforms to ensure meaningful access to rights like education, employment, and healthcare. Reflecting on these challenges fosters deeper understanding and advocacy for genuine equality.

### **Session 1: Workshop on Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**

The workshop addressed the practical challenges in enforcing transgender rights and highlighted the gaps in administrative accountability across different regions. It discussed the obstacles faced by transgender individuals in accessing legal schemes and explored ways to improve mechanisms for justice. By engaging officials and stakeholders, the session shared best practices and strategies for safeguarding transgender rights at both local and national levels.

## Session 2: Panel Discussion

The panel discussion raised awareness about the importance of promoting and protecting transgender rights by facilitating meaningful discussions on socio-legal challenges. It aimed to educate and inspire stakeholders to take concrete actions while fostering collaboration between activists, policymakers, and legal experts. The session emphasized the creation of actionable solutions for advancing transgender rights in alignment with the *NALSA* judgment.

the implementation of reservations, emphasizing that lumping transgender people into one category overlooks their intersectional identities. Ms. Disha Chaudhari stressed the lack of trans-inclusive policies in educational institutions, pointing out that even well-intentioned policies are often not executed properly. Moreover, Ms. Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli also emphasized that the law alone cannot resolve the issues transgender people face. Adv. Kanmani Ray highlighted the difficulties of translating the progress on paper to the reality.

The event was a major success, because of the comprehensive insights given by our panelists and the enthusiastic participation of the attendees. The summit highlighted critical gaps between legal provisions and the lived realities of transgender individuals, even a decade after the landmark *NALSA* judgment. The sessions emphasized that while legal frameworks like the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 offer a foundation, societal barriers, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and insufficient implementation continue to hinder real progress.



Prof. (Dr) Harpreet Kaur with Committee Members and Panelists of the Stakeholder Summit on Transgender Rights

## Radio-Podcast Series with Akashvani Jodhpur: Radio-Podcast on Cybercrimes

Building on its commitment to addressing pressing societal challenges, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee (LAAC) of National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ), conducted a podcast on 14th November, 2024 titled “Cyber Suraksha: Staying Safe Online”. This initiative was conducted in collaboration with Akashvani Jodhpur to shed light on the alarming rise in cybercrimes and equip listeners with the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate the digital world safely.

The primary aim of this podcast was to educate the public about the various forms of cybercrimes, such as phishing, online scams, and data breaches. It also provided practical advice for individuals to adopt preventive measures for online safety while discussing the legal frameworks and remedies available to victims. The podcast emphasized the importance of creating an informed and vigilant society that prioritizes digital security.

It explored critical aspects of cybercrime, including its causes, consequences, and preventive strategies. It highlighted the rapid increase in cybercrime cases, noting that India witnesses one such crime every 37 seconds. The discussion provided insights into common tactics used by cybercriminals, such as phishing emails, fake job offers, fraudulent calls and messages, and cryptocurrency scams. Emphasis was placed on practical preventive measures like using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, verifying suspicious communications, and limiting personal information shared online. The speakers also delved into the legal frameworks available to combat cybercrimes, focusing on the provisions of the IT Act, 2000, and platforms such as the Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. By discussing these mechanisms, the podcast empowered listeners to seek justice and protection against online threats.



## Radio-Podcast on Sexual Violence Against Women

On September 21, 2024, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee (LAAC) of NLUJ conducted a podcast titled “Sexual violence against women”. Ms. Charmi Khamesra and Ms. Tanisha, LAAC member cum NLUJ students were the key speakers of the podcast. The podcast was conducted in collaboration with Akashvani Jodhpur (All India Radio), this initiative sought to address the multifaceted issue of sexual violence against women. The podcast aimed to educate the public on the psychological and societal impact of such crimes while fostering awareness and empathy within the community.

The podcast provided an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by victims of sexual violence and the mindset of accused individuals. It shed light on the emotional and psychological trauma endured by survivors, emphasizing the need for empathetic support from society. The discussion also explored the underlying factors that contribute to such crimes, including cultural, psychological, and systemic issues. The podcast featured insights from **police officials and Rakshak foundation**, Jodhpur representatives. The speakers discussed legal provisions, such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, and provided guidance on navigating legal systems to seek justice. Additionally, the podcast addressed societal barriers faced by survivors, such as stigma and lack of support, and proposed strategies to overcome these challenges.



Podcast on Sexual Violence Against Women

## Career-Counselling Workshop for Students from Bikaner



Members interacting with community

On August 28, 2024, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee (LAAC) of National Law University, Jodhpur, organized a career counseling session for 12th-grade students from Shri Jain Public School, Bikaner. This initiative, part of LAAC's pro bono efforts, aimed to introduce students who had chosen legal studies as an optional subject to the diverse opportunities in the field of law and its career prospects.

The event featured several engaging activities, beginning with an educational tour of the Rajasthan High Court, where students observed live courtroom proceedings and gained insights into the judicial process. This was followed by a campus visit to National Law University, Jodhpur, where they explored academic and extracurricular opportunities for law students. A workshop on legal careers provided an overview of legal education, specializations, and essential skills, emphasizing the importance of internships, moot court participation, and legal aid work.

The event aimed to provide students with practical exposure to the judicial system through observations and interactive sessions, guiding their career aspirations by offering insights into legal education, specializations, and the skills essential for success in the legal profession. Additionally, it sought to inspire students to view law not only as a promising career path but also as a powerful tool for driving social change. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anjali Thanvi, Chairperson of the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee, who lauded the students for their enthusiasm and encouraged them to consider law as a path for social justice. Dr. Thanvi also acknowledged the accompanying teachers for their contributions to the students' development and honored them for their dedication.

## Darpan: A Mirror to the Society

Darpan, meaning "mirror," is a transformative initiative, relaunched as a platform to explore the interplay between law, society, and human experiences. This initiative seeks to reflect the realities of our communities while fostering awareness about pressing social and legal issues. At its core, Darpan is driven by the dedication to bring impactful stories to the forefront.

Central to Darpan are "Darpan Blog" - a platform for awareness on the Committee's website (nlujlaac.in) & "Darpan Samvad" - an interview series that features changemakers such as social workers, activists, lawyers, and legal aid practitioners. Through these dialogues, Darpan sheds light on the efforts of those working tirelessly to bridge the gap between law and society.

The primary objective of Darpan is to reflect the intersection of law and society by shedding light on critical social and legal issues. Through meaningful content, it aims to promote awareness about ground realities and celebrate the efforts of changemakers dedicated to social justice and legal aid. By providing a platform for dialogue, analysis, and storytelling, Darpan seeks to inspire law students to use their skills for societal impact and to bridge the gap between legal theory and practice.

### Darpan Blog

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 sociolegal 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 interviews conducted under the umbrella of Darpan are:

**Dr. Arghya Sengupta, Founder and Research Director of Vidhi Centre for Legal:** Known for his expertise in constitutional law and the regulation of the digital economy, Dr. Sengupta shares his journey in establishing Vidhi, explores the gaps between policy and implementation, and reflects on the interplay between societal norms and laws.

**Mr. Govind Singh Rathore, Sambhali Trust:** The episode features Mr. Govind Singh Rathore, founder of Sambhali Trust. He explained the profound challenges hindering women's and children's empowerment, as well as the transformative power of trust and confrontation in overcoming cultural barriers.

**Ms. Roshini Shanker, Migration and Asylum Project [MAP]:** The episode features Ms. Roshni Shanker, Founder of MAP, India's first law center for forced migration and displacement. She shared insights on empowering refugees through legal aid, MAP's initiatives for migrant workers, socio-legal challenges faced, and guidance for students pursuing social advocacy and policy research.

**Mr. Santosh Poonia, Pro. MG. Legal Education and Aid Cell, Aajeevika Bureau:** With a focus on migrant worker empowerment, he discusses the motivations behind Aajeevika, challenges faced by migrant labourers, and the importance of community engagement. The conversation also covers key issues such as social security linkages, food security, and shifts in migrant labour rights before and after COVID-19, offering valuable insights into their lived realities.

**Ms. Adrija Sengupta, Indus Action:** The episode features Ms. Adrija Lakshmi, Head of Public Partnerships at Indus Action, to explore the organization's mission to empower 100 million citizens through PoWER benefits. She explained how their principles—Listen, Act, and Change—drive impactful initiatives. The discussion also centred on how law students can approach legal aid initiatives and a critical lens on the working of the Right to Education Act, 2009.

## **Interactive Session with Prof. David W. Tushaus**

On October 4, 2024, Professor David W. Tushaus, Assistant Dean of Graduate and Experiential Education at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Bhutan, visited National Law University, Jodhpur, and conducted a session on “Gross National Happiness, Climate Justice, and Challenges Ahead: Perspectives from the Kingdom of Bhutan” By addressing the challenges of balancing environmental conservation with socio-economic progress, Professor Tushaus inspired discussions on fostering inclusive, community-driven approaches to development.

During his visit, he interacted with members of the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee, sharing valuable perspectives on community-centric legal education and applied learning methodologies. Additionally, he discussed key initiatives undertaken by the Committee in Surpura, the University’s adopted village, including the Community Library, Computer Lab, and Shilpjeevika Women Skill Development Center. This engagement highlighted the importance of grassroots involvement in legal and developmental frameworks, encouraging students and faculty to innovate solutions addressing contemporary global challenges.

### **Introduction**

Professor David W. Tushaus, Assistant Dean of Graduate and Experiential Education at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Bhutan, is a distinguished legal academic and human rights advocate. He has worked extensively on innovative legal education, including human rights and applied learning methods. Previously, he served as a professor and chair at Missouri Western State University and was honoured with the Missouri Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education (2011) and the Distinguished Professor Award (2009).

### **Main Objective and Purpose**

Through this session, Professor David sought to gain insights into the working of the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee and inspire the members to continue their impactful work, encouraging them to integrate principles of human rights, sustainability, and community engagement into their ongoing and future projects.

Additionally, the visit to Surpura, the University’s adopted village, was intended to showcase the practical applications of the committee’s initiatives, such as the Community Library, Computer Lab, and Shilpjeevika Skill Development Center, in fostering education, digital literacy, and economic empowerment at the grassroots level. The purpose was to highlight the importance of aligning legal education with social development efforts, reinforcing the role of academia in promoting positive societal change.

The session was attended by our Faculty Chairperson, Dr. Anjali Thanvi, Faculty Advisor, Assistant Prof. Siddharth Balani, Convenors Pooja Rajawat, Aashish Gupta Saumya Kaushik, Deputy Convenors, Mishi Bohra, Tasneem Fatma and Harshita Gupta along with other senior committee members from the third year. The session began with a thought-provoking interaction between Professor Tushaus and members of the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee, where they discussed the committee's achievements, ongoing projects, and its vision for the future. The heads of the projects gave an overview of their respective projects, their ongoing efforts and future vision. Professor Tushaus shared his expertise in community-centred legal education and emphasized the importance of aligning grassroots initiatives with broader developmental goals. Following the session, Professor Tushaus, accompanied by Mr. Aashish Gupta and Professor Balani, visited Surpura, the University's adopted village. During the visit, he explored several initiatives undertaken by the committee, including the Community Library, which provides access to books and learning resources, and the Computer Lab, which aims to enhance digital literacy among students and villagers. He also visited the Shilpjeevika Skill Development Center, where women are empowered through vocational training programs, fostering self-sustainability and entrepreneurship.

Professor Tushaus expressed deep admiration for these grassroots efforts, commending their alignment with the principles of Gross National Happiness by promoting education, sustainability, and community empowerment. He emphasized the critical role that the younger generation can play in bridging societal gaps and driving development through innovative and inclusive approaches.



Dr. Anjali Thanvi and Committee members with Prof. David W. Tushaus

The visit and interaction not only inspired the committee members to continue their impactful work but also reinforced the university's commitment to creating meaningful social change. Professor Tushaus's insights and encouragement left a lasting impression, strengthening the collaborative spirit between legal education and community engagement.

## Legal Awareness Stall at Taabar Mela

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee, National Law University, participated in the second edition of "Taabar Mela" held at Mahatma Gandhi Government School, Chainpura on February 11th. The event was organized in collaboration with the Indeed Foundation and was conducted by Mr. Vikram Rajola. The aim of this program was to raise awareness among children about social issues.

It began with two impactful plays presented by the committee members - one on the importance of voting for the right candidate and the other based on awareness of the POCSO Act. Following this, a drama competition was organized, in which students in a total of 11 groups of 3-6 members each created and presented plays based on various social issues. The committee encouraged the hard work and creativity of the winners by awarding them prizes. The Indeed Foundation appreciated the event and honored the committee with a memento. Taabar Mela proved to be an important platform for making children aware and empowered on social issues in a creative and responsible manner.



Committee members at Taabar Mela

## Awareness Program on Juvenile Justice, Cyber Security, and Careers in Law

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee (LAAC) of National Law University, Jodhpur, conducted a series of classes for students of classes ninth through twelfth from the Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Sarada, Udaipur, Rajasthan (Phase 1). These sessions were held on January 10, 2025, during the students' educational visit to the university.

The primary objective of these classes was to raise awareness among the students about several key areas. Regarding the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015, committee members explained the Act, its provisions, and the various categories of children it encompasses, along with an overview of how the law functions. A session on cyber security covered topics such as hacking and strategies for mitigating online risks. Students learned about the importance of strong passwords, the dangers of sharing personal information indiscriminately, and the need to be cautious about the intended use of any shared data. Finally, the LAAC members explored law as a career option. They discussed the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) and other law entrance exams, providing guidance on how students can prepare for these exams and pursue a career in law. They also outlined the various job prospects available after graduating with a law degree.

The EMRS students actively engaged with the program, asking numerous insightful questions that were answered clearly and comprehensively by the LAAC members. The program was organized and conducted by the LAAC members under the chairmanship of Dr. Anjali Thanvi.

## Workshop on “Good Touch & Bad Touch”

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee conducted a two day workshop on 'Good touch and bad touch' for students from classes 1-3 on 20th-21st December. The workshop was conducted at Sindhu Vidya Mandir, Prayagraj. More than 300 kids were taught about 'good touch and bad touch'. Additionally, we also conducted a special session for teachers on this issue given that they're the first point of contact in case such incident happens in school.



## Workshop held at Career-Mela, Surpura

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee had an enriching experience at the Career Mela held at Government Senior Secondary School, Surpura. It was truly rewarding to engage with students from grades 10 to 12 at the event organized by the school authorities, providing them with insights into law as a career option. Our committee members discussed the merits of pursuing law, career prospects, and the process of cracking law entrance exams, especially CLAT. We also gave them insights into life at law school and the endless opportunities in the legal field.



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## Awareness Workshop on POCSO Act, 2012

The National Law University Jodhpur Legal Aid and Awareness Committee, in collaboration with Vishwas Lok Seva Sanstha, organized an awareness program on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on January 25, 2025, in three schools in Jodhpur. During the program, the children were explained the purpose of the POCSO Act, its key definitions, and provisions in simple language. They were told that this Act was created to protect children under the age of 18 from sexual exploitation. The children were also informed about the remedies available under the Act, the reporting mechanisms, and their rights. Attempts were made to explain to the children through real-life examples how these provisions can be applied in their lives. Children were encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions. The program was conducted by the members of the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee, headed by Dr. Anjali Thanvi, and the founder of Vishwas Lok Seva Sanstha played an important role in it.

The enthusiastic response of the children and their understanding underlined the success of this program. This initiative was an example of an important collaboration between the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee and Vishwas Lok Seva Sanstha, which played a vital role in spreading legal awareness and creating a safer and more aware society.



# Awards & Presentations

## Receipt of 4th National Legal Award, 2024

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee is pleased to share that it has received the 4th National Legal Award 2024 for Legal Aid and Social Justice Activities. The award was presented at the 13th International Conference on Human Rights and Gender Justice, held by **Knowledge Steez, in collaboration with Nelson Mandela University, South Africa, ProBono India, and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia.** This esteemed award recognizes the vital contributions of legal aid clinics and committees in promoting access to justice and addressing pressing social issues.

The event was graced by the presence of distinguished dignitaries, including Ms. Jyotika Kalra, former member of the National Human Rights Commission, and Prof (Dr) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, both of whom addressed the gathering.

Representing the Committee at the award ceremony, our Faculty Chairperson, Dr Anjali Thanvi, along with our Co-Convenors for the academic year 2023-24, Ms Pooja Rajawat and Mr Aashish Gupta received the award.

The Committee is grateful to Prof (Dr) Harpreet Kaur, the Vice Chancellor of National Law University, Jodhpur for supporting its endeavours, and it remains committed to advancing legal aid and social justice within the community and looks forward to furthering these seminal efforts.



Committee members & Dr. Anjali Thanvi being felicitated the 4th National Legal Award 2024

## Participation in Asia Pro-bono Conference

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee (LAAC) is proud to announce that its Faculty Chairperson, Dr. Anjali Thanvi, participated in the prestigious Access to Justice Exchange (A2JX) and PILnet Global Forum, held from November 11-14, 2024, at Holiday Inn Bangkok Silom, Thailand, and virtually. This event, organized by PILnet, a member of the Asia Pro Bono Consortium, gathered legal professionals, academics, and civil society leaders to discuss innovative approaches to improving access to justice, particularly for marginalized communities.

As part of this event, Dr. Thanvi attended the Clinical Legal Education (CLE) Supervision Workshop, a flagship component of A2JX. This workshop brought together a diverse group of clinical supervisors, legal educators, practitioners, and law school representatives from across the Asia region. It aimed to explore and strengthen clinical supervision practices in experiential legal education, a vital element of empowering law students to contribute meaningfully to access-to-justice initiatives

Our active participation in the A2JX and PILnet Global Forum has provided invaluable insights into enhancing clinical supervision in legal education. These learnings are expected to strengthen the LAAC's ongoing efforts to improve legal aid services and expand experiential learning opportunities for law students at National Law University, Jodhpur. The event reinforced the importance of collective action and innovation in promoting equitable access to justice, inspiring further initiatives to empower disadvantaged.



Dr. Anjali Thanvi at the Asia-Pro-Bono Conference



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)

# 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.



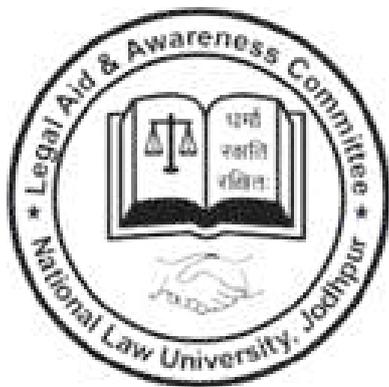
### **Aajeevika Bureau**

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**  
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Rajasthan