

**Report on  
National Seminar on Law  
School Based Legal  
Services Clinics  
Organized by  
National Legal Services  
Authority, New Delhi**



**Prepared by  
Gujarat National Law  
University  
Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

**July 30, 2017**

**Report on**  
**National Seminar on Law School Based Legal**  
**Services Clinics**  
Organized by  
**National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi**



on

**July 30, 2017**  
at

**Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra,**  
**New Delhi 110021**

**Prepared by**



**GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY**  
**GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT**

**July 30, 2017**

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## About National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a nodal organisation functioning with the purpose of providing legal aid to all marginalised and under privileged section of our community. One of the legislative mandates of NALSA under section 4 (k) of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is to establish and supervise the legal services clinics in all law colleges, universities and other institutions in India. Therefore, the purpose of the National Seminar of “Law School Based Legal Services Clinics” is to enhance the contribution of law schools in securing means of access to justice and collaborate the efforts made of legal services authorities and law schools towards legal aid services which in turn will assist in realising the goal of ‘access to justice for all’. National Legal Services Authority was constituted on 5th December, 1995.

A nationwide network has been envisaged under the Act for providing legal aid and assistance. National Legal Services Authority is the apex body constituted to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under the provisions of the Act and to frame most effective and economical schemes for legal services. It also disburses funds and grants to State Legal Services Authorities and NGOs for implementing legal aid schemes and programmes.

In every State, State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA and to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State. The State Legal Services Authority is headed by Hon’ble the Chief Justice of the respective High Court who is the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority. In every District, District Legal Services Authority has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District. The District Legal Services Authority is situated in the District Courts Complex in every District and chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.

NALSA has been providing and shall continue to provide funds to State Legal Services Authorities for the implementation of the Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes but the infrastructure has to be provided by the State Govts. Separate Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats in Govt. Departments are aimed at amicably settling pending cases as well as the matters at pre-litigative stage between Govt. Departments and general public so that the inflow of litigation to regular Courts is reduced.

## About the National Seminar on Law School Based Legal Aid Clinics - 2017

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organised National Seminar of "Law School Based Legal Services Clinics" on the theme - "Role of legal services clinics in law schools in promoting access to justice" at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, Rizal Marg, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi on Sunday 30th July 2017. On behalf of the former Chief Justice of India and the then patron-in-chief of NALSA, Justice J.S. Khekar, the Chief Justice of India, Justice Dipak Misra in the then capacity of Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) inaugurated the seminar by delivering his special address on the occasion.

The Vice-Chancellor of the National Law University Delhi, Professor Ranbir Singh addressed on the functionality of legal aid clinics. During the seminar, NALSA's song "*Akele nahi ho tum*" and *NALSA newsletter* were also released.

Welcome address was delivered by Mr. Alok Agarwal, Secretary, NALSA. While the vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Puneet Sehgal, Project Officer, NALSA. All the Chairman and Secretaries and members of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), District Level and Taluka-Level members attended a National Seminar of Law School Based Legal Services Clinics" held under the theme "Role of legal services clinics in law schools in promoting access to justice" organised by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra New Delhi on Sunday, July 30, 2017.

## Concept Note

National Legal Service Authority Act 1987 was groundbreaking step in the history of Indian legal system. It led to the inception of the idea of providing free legal aid to the ones who suffered from failed access to justice due to lack of resources to take the case to the Court. The Constitution of India, in Article 39A, talks about the obligation of the State to ensure secure means of access to justice for the underprivileged section of the society. The Act draws inspiration from this provision and a collective effort of the system has now given such shape to Legal Aid Clinic where they are able to contribute to society in numerous ways. NALSA is essentially the flag-bearer of this vision of access to justice to all.

In the previous decade, law schools from all over the nation has taken cognizance of the mandate of the Constitution and National Legal Service Authority Act 1987 and made significant contribution to this vision. The Legal Aid Clinics of these law schools exists with an aim of bridging the gap between what law promises to offer and the actual realities of law. The legal profession is expected to play a dynamic role in the administration of justice. Efforts have been made to provide socially relevant education to the law students so that they become professionally competent to secure the constitutional mandate of access to justice. The students are exposed to the reality of the society and provided able guidance to contribute towards betterment of the society.

The idea behind organizing the Seminar was to bring out and discuss the progress made by the law students in legal aid programs and providing legal aid clinic education. It intended to provide a common platform to the law schools from all parts of the nation to talk about their approach to develop the Legal Aid Clinics in their campus. As a result of this discussion, the experiences of different law schools would guide them to strengthen the system for a better future.



# **NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

cordially invites you to

## **NATIONAL SEMINAR OF “LAW SCHOOL BASED LEGAL SERVICES CLINICS”**

on

30<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at New Delhi.

at

Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Dr.Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021

Inauguration by

**Hon’ble Mr. Justice J.S.Khehar**  
Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA

In the august presence of

**Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra,**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA

**Prof. Ranbir Singh**  
Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi

**R.S.V.P**  
011-23385321

**Alok Agarwal**  
Member Secretary, NALSA

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

- 9.30 AM - 10.00 AM : Registration
- 10.00 AM : Arrival of Dignitaries & Presentation of Bouquets
- 10.05 AM : Lighting of Lamp
- 10.10 AM : NALSA Theme Song
- 10.15 AM : Welcome Address by:  
**Shri Alok Agarwal,**  
Member Secretary, NALSA
- 10.20 M : Launch of NALSA's Song – "*Akele Nahi Ho Tum*"  
Release of NALSA's Newsletter
- 10.25 AM : Functionality of Legal Aid Clinics  
Address by:  
**Prof. Ranbir Singh,**  
Vice-Chancellor  
National Law University, Delhi.
- 10.35 AM : Special Address by:  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra,**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India &  
Executive Chairman, NALSA
- 10.45 AM : Inaugural Address by:  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S.Khehar**  
Chief Justice of India &  
Patron-in-Chief, NALSA
- 11.00 AM : Vote of Thanks by:  
**Shri Puneet Sehgal,**  
Project Officer, NALSA

High-Tea





# NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

National Seminar of  
“Law School based Legal Services Clinics”  
On 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at New Delhi.

## WORKING SESSIONS

### SESSION-I – 11.30 AM TO 1.00 PM

**Theme:** Role of Legal Services Clinics in Law Schools in promoting Access to Justice.

#### Sub themes

- 1) *Constitutional mandate and legislative framework*
- 2) *Role of legal education in shaping socially responsible lawyers*
- 3) *Role of Law School based legal aid clinics in providing legal services to the needy*

### Lunch Break 1.00 PM to 2.00 PM

### SESSION-II – 2.00 PM TO 3.30 PM

**Theme:** Working of Legal Services Clinics: Sharing Best Practices and Challenges.

*Faculty members of Law Schools Clinics shall be invited to share best practices and challenges faced by them in providing legal aid services.*

### High Tea 3.30 PM to 4.00 PM

### SESSION-III – 4.00 PM TO 5.00 PM

**Theme:** Institutionalising legal services through Law School based Legal Services Clinics: Way Forward.

## Sessionwise details of the National Seminar

### SESSION I

The National Seminar on Legal Aid Clinics of Law Schools was organized by National Legal Service Authority ('NALSA') on 30 July 2017. The Seminar was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra as the Chief Guest. The Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar, could not attend the Seminar on medical grounds. The first session of the Seminar was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra. The session was also graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Roy, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. M. Khanwilkar, Judges of the Supreme Court of India, and Prof (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi.

The Session began with the inaugural speech by **Mr. Anup Agarwal**, the Member Secretary of NALSA. In his speech, **Mr. Anup Agarwal** laid stress on the legal aid service taken by the law schools of the country. He also appreciated the innovative measures taken by some of the law schools for propagate and promoting legal aid. The Member Secretary said that NALSA itself has undertaken steps to ensure that the people across the country get access to legal aid without encountering any roadblocks. The Legal Aid setup of the country consist of NALSA at the national level, State Legal Services Authority at the States, District Legal Services Authority at the District level, and even at the Taluka level. It was mentioned that the Seminar was a result of the idea propagated of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, who is the Executive Chairman of NALSA, to have such a Seminar, where the activities undertaken by the law schools across the country could be known and a coordination among them could be established and the issues faced by them can be identified and the possible solutions to such problems could be found out.

The Member Secretary, in his speech, gave reference to the example given by GB Shaw that if there are two apples, one each with two people, if they are exchanged, both can return with only one apple with them. But if there are two ideas with two people and they exchange them, each can return with two ideas. He also thanked Ms. Supriya Sahu, Director General, Doordarshan, for coming up with the new NALSA song. After the speech of Member Secretary, NALSA, there was the launch of the new NALSA Song titled '*Akele Nahī ho Tum*'. It was followed by the release of the NALSA Newsletter.

The next speaker of the Session was Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi. He laid emphasis on the Law Schools and the lawyers they produce. He said

that a lawyer should be socially relevant, technically sound, and professional competent. A lawyer should be the best of human being. He mentioned that justice should be ensured at the doorstep. He gave examples of instances where many Judges have gone to the grass root level to ensure justice to them. He also shared his experience of working with some of the prominent judges when he was at Rohtak. He said that the mandate of NALSA cannot be achieved without the collaboration of the Law Schools. He also referred to the Preamble, Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy. He also cited a Judge of the US Supreme Court who said that common man looks at justice and not at the law. Law is what law does. A judge should be biased to be a good judge; biased towards the poor.

Prof. Singh gave a brief description of the history of Legal Service in India by referring to the Justice Bhagawati Commission, Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes and subsequent establishment of NALSA. It was also mentioned that the concept of social service, which is usually entrusted upon the academicians, has undergone a change with the evolution of poverty, dalit, environmental and other jurisprudence.

But the most important fact mentioned by Prof. Singh was that out of around 1600 law schools across the country, there is a shortage of law faculties who devote their time and energy towards their Legal Service Committees. He mentioned the Report of the study conducted under the UNDP in 6 states which stated that 80% of the law schools do not have any activities concerning legal service. He suggested appointing a clinical teacher for legal aid scheme in every law schools and emphasized the need have clinical legal education as well as training programs on it. He appreciated the efforts taken by the law schools in spreading awareness through prison visits, *nukkad nataks* and puppet shows as these are very good modes of sensitization. He concluded his speech by mentioning that everyone is responsible towards everyone for everything.

The next speaker of the Session was Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud. He said that Judges now-a-days have the luxury of and benefit of having young law interns and clerks. What strikes him about these young law interns and clerks is their sense of energy, willingness to learn, share and not monopolize knowledge, take part in social activities and not accepting the social status quo. But he expressed his concerns on the loss of these qualities in the transformation stage towards the professional life. He also mentioned said the major causes of injustice are gender, sexual orientation, age, religion and criminal matters. He, therefore, laid stress on understanding the pluralism of the society and the causes of injustice. It also urged the young people to retain the spark that they have even after their liberalization from the institutionalized structure. He, in addition, mentioned the need to incorporate and adopt the new technologies and the expertise

they bring in. He mentioned using video conferencing as a tool for criminal matters where the accused is in the prison.

Aristotle once said that man is the noblest of all creatures, but separated from law, he is the worst. Hon'ble Mr. Justice AM Khanwilkar mentioned that the Seminar as a win-win situation. He said that the Seminar shall act as a medium of channelizing thoughts. Every college has its own model of operating its Legal Services Committed and the Legal Service Authorities would be benefitted by having the number of students available.

It was followed by the speech of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Roy. He termed the Legal Aid Clinics as the incubation centres and the seeds sown for a better future. These seeds shall blossom into a spark that retains with the students once they are outside their college. He referred to the NALSA song launched at the seminar to give the message of togetherness, awareness and absence of tears is invaluable. The first promise of Preamble is justice. The mission is to ensure social justice. He said the priority of the Legal Service Committees must be to reach those who weep in silence and tolerate the injustice because they have no access to justice. He also shared his experience while he was at the Gauhati High Court, how he used to go to the villages, visit house to house. The question that came before him was that so far it was good but what should be the next step. He emphasized that the Legal Aid scheme should emphasize upon quality, responsibility, expeditious resolution and cheapness of the process. He said that access to justice is a constitutional promise but how much of it has been achieved. He said that Legal Aid Clinics should groom the young minds. He also urged the young budding lawyers to fulfill their social obligation to serve the poor, oppressed and the marginalized section than going towards the corporate sector.

The next speaker was Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra. He agreed with what was previously said about the need to retain the spark and describing students of law as the soldiers of law. He gave three instances: first, of Socrates and his teachings. The society thought him to be misguiding the youths; second, was of 1921 when Mahatma Gandhi called the youths to participate in the independence movement; and lastly, to Heraclitus and his nephew. He tried to emphasize the role that the youth can play towards the betterment of the society. He said that students are not soldiers; rather they are CZARS of social justice. He also gave the example of the Play titled Doll House and its role in gender sensitization. He also mentioned about the condescending manner in which Churchill granted franchise rights to women. He said NALSA shall have a team of 90,000 paralegals by August 2017. He also stated that statutory command cannot be disobeyed. He urged the Legal Aid Clinics to be the connecting link. Wisdom is lost in knowledge and knowledge is lost in information is not a biblical truth. Every member of Legal Aid Clinics is a generator of power.

The concept of coordination and providing a helping hand should exist; a sense of belongingness of necessary. He said that access to justice is a basic fundamental, human right. In olden days it was always better to have good relationship with one's neighbours as it was the neighbours who helped them in times of necessity, today that neighbour is NALSA.

The first Session came to an end with the Vote of Thanks given by the Project director, NLASA Mr. Punit Sahegal.

## **SESSION II**

ASG Narsimham took over the second session. He first started off by explaining the importance of law school based legal clinic education. Describing it, he emphasized on the fact that it provided an institution for character building and progress. But the present legal practice scenario is however different because an advocate doesn't devote time to legal aid. He further explained the main reason which led to this situation.

Lack of institutionalization. It has not been made mandatory for the lawyers to inculcate the pro bono services in their practice. The lawyers don't even feel the need to carry out providing free legal services for the needy. Moreover, the institutional mechanism shouldn't interfere with their profession but should instil a sense to provide legal aid to the society.

The lawyers need to interact outside their campus. They should experience the reality and realize the real relevance of law and increase their observation for the same. It also helps in character development and also review the choices presented by life. It can be interpreted in the way as people act or behave. Social observance helps improves law and increases chances of access of justice.

Institutional mechanism should be upgraded.

It also benefits the student community as it poses an opportunity to know the latter and spirit of law.

The thought of improvement in schemes stay as a huge challenge before the pioneers.

## **PRESENTATION BY LAW SCHOOLS**

### NLSIU- National Law School of India University

- They focused to initiate from the grass root levels. They have a Legal Aid Clinic which caters to areas like Centre for Child & Law, Right to Education, Right to Information, Juvenile matters etc.
- The students file Public Interest Litigations and other cases. They also assist the advocates who present cases before the court.
- They took part in Mac Jannet Legal Services International Competition and NLSIU stood second.
- In academics, they have a compulsory paper names Professional Ethics which carries twenty marks weightage in legal services.

### NALSAR- National Academy of Legal Studies And Research

- In 2011, they set up Shameerpet Clinic in the Gram Panchayat Office .
- In 2009, they had a campus cell.
- In 2013, Land Law Clinic was setup which was very successful. They received 741 complaints in 4 years. It helped them in the process of sensitization of the whole process. It's subject specific and within distinct court premises.
- All in all, they have a Land Law Clinic, Family Clinic and a Labour Clinic. Every clinic receives six lakhs per year as funding.

### RGNU- Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law

- Among the best practices so far, one has been the adoption of two villages. Along with that, they have arranged law books in vernacular languages which improves compassion, empathy and a clear and thorough understanding of law.
- They focus a lot on Alternate Dispute Resolution, Lok Adalat and State Legal Services Authority.
- They cater to Aanganwadi and on various events and competitions, award the students for the same.
- They conduct various workshops on specific areas like professional mediation, awareness programmes, special students help, Aadhar camps etc.

- Collaborating with Dainik Bhaskar, message for anti drugs was spread.
- They have mobile vans for the purpose of spreading awareness.

#### NUJS- National University of Juridical Sciences

- They have specialized people engaged in solving the cases of the villages that they've adopted.
- They conduct Client Counselling, collaborating with Digital India Technology.
- Also, India Mediation Week was observed by the Legal Aid Cell.
- A scheme called Shaadhinota was introduced which was appreciated by UNDP.
- Conference was also held pertaining to different issues such as the RTI.
- They have a newspaper blog called "Let's Get Talking". It includes training module, ethical guidelines, confidentiality, modules for both teachers and students, etc.

#### CNLU- Chanakya National Law University

- They have a Consumer's Rights Centre, and one catering to Child Rights.
- Legal awareness centres and camps are set up twice in one month.
- They have collaborated with TISS, Mumbai.
- They conduct study of Gram Kachehris. Students participate in the proceedings in a Lok Adalat. On Fridays and Wednesdays, client counselling is held which deal with basic issues.

#### GNLU- Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar

- Dr. Kalpeshkumar L Gupta, Assistant Professor explained compulsory Pro Bono Legal Aid Work initiative by GNLU which is supported and appreciated by law students.

#### NUSRL- National University of Study and Research in Law

- The basic challenge faced by the University is, lack of interest from the student's side.
- Rights of women against witchcraft, violence, trans etc. are handled by the centre for legal aid purpose.

#### NLUO- National Law University, Odisha

- It's a socially relevant legal aid clinic.
- The clinic has collaborated with the administrative authority, state authority and district authority.
- It has adopted three colleges.
- It's a student run clinic.
- They also conduct paralegal volunteers training.
- They have a compulsory legal aids paper.

#### SALGAONKAR LAW COLLEGE- GOA

- They have established 25 legal aid cells.
- They conduct community sponsored programmes.
- With flexibility and continuity, students instruct and design suitable programmes.

#### DSNLU- Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University

- They conduct programs on radio.
- They also float information in vernacular language newspapers.

#### RMLNLU- Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University

- The most significant initiative by this college is they conduct awareness programs through "*Nukkad Nataks*".
- Legal Education Campaign is also carried that way.

#### TNNLS- Tamilnadu National Law School

- They made a short film on legal awareness. The students themselves were directors, writers etc. This was one way how they could outreach the programs.
- Legal Aid Fest – Crime Scene Investigation, uniform model of Legal Aid Cell are some of the events that take place during the fest.



### **SESSION III**

The 3rd session started off with a speech made by Justice Ranjan Gogoi. He emphasised on 'Access to Justice' and how it should be made to be comprehended in a simple manner. He referred to Section 4(E) of the NALSA Act which reads "(e) Organise legal aid camps, especially in rural areas, slums or labour colonies with the dual purpose of educating the weaker sections of the society as to their rights as well as encouraging the settlement of disputes through Lok Adalats."

Thus it directs the Central Authority to organise legal aid camps, especially in rural areas, slums or labour colonies so that it can educate the weaker sections of the society as to their legal rights and remedies, as well as encourage them to settle disputes through Lok Adalats. This would serve the purpose of Positive Justice by way of Social Justice. He also spoke about the need for a Just Social Order and emphasised the importance and need of meaningful legislations and welfare instruments, for Justices.

Moving on, Justice Gogoi commended NALSA's initiatives on the 3rd Gender, Destitutes, widows, sanitation and hygiene, etc. While mentioning that, he moves on to highlight the responsibility of Legal Services' Legal Aid Clinics to take on such activities and to target poverty issues in India. Even though the GDP is high in India, poverty is a glaring issue that needs to be taken care of.

He then spoke about the regulations mentioned in the NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (LEGAL SERVICES CLINICS) REGULATIONS, 2011 NOTIFICATION, and spoke about how the Act provides guidelines of activities that a legal aid clinic should undertake. He encouraged the audience to tap the guideline exhaustively and comprehensively so as to utilise it optimally while catering the needs of the weaker section of the society by having accurate knowledge of the ground reality.

He further encourages the policy makers to tap this area. Justice Gogoi concluded his speech by calling upon students to perpetuate. He extends an invitation to innovative but oriented thinkers, asking them to become messengers of goodwill.

Justice Dipak Misra then addressed the gathering, and the needs and requirements of all the Legal Services Committees. Some universities requested for financial assistance for which he said that the legal services committees should approach the state legislature for the same. He called out to

Chief Justices and Chancellors of National Law Universities to make state budgetary provisions. For universities other than National Law Universities, he asked them to approach the member Secretary of SLSA, concerned bar councils and other authorities. He disapproved of different set ups of legal services committees but encouraged different wings of the same under one umbrella. He asked for legal aid clinics to be set up inside ones own university and to function within the university as, "When one walks on his own land, he's the protagonist." He also disapproved of attendances being given as incentives and said that legal services should be provided voluntarily and should not be incentivised.

A lack of a model for training of faculty members and students is blamed for the gap or the reason why a lot of people is not being attracted despite doing things like advertising via radios and camps. He suggested that strategies could be made with the cooperation of DSLA and SLSA to make it easier to attract masses. He suggested that a committee be constituted with Justice Gogoi, Deepak Misra, PK Jaiswal, Ranbir Singh, Rao and Manoj Singh as members, to form a clinical subject curriculum. He concluded by saying that each and every one of us present there should be socially aware and must be "legends of embodiment of social justice."

## About Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar



Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) is the statutory university established by the Govt. of Gujarat under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. The University is recognized by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) (2f & 12B). The University is also a member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and member of United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) and International Association of Law Schools (IALS) and Asian Law Institute (ASLI) and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

The curriculum of the GNLU is based on the Research Based Teaching University (RbTU). The curriculum is decided by the professor concerned itself and not by the board of studies, which gives the professor a lot of flexibility. The curriculum is set by international standards. The courses include project work, report writing, research, and analysis. Under the RbTU, each faculty of GNLU prepared the course outline, devised syllabus based on their first in-house research and consultation with subject experts across the country and the world. The teaching of each subject now includes leading judgments, legislations, and pending bills at national and state level in their syllabus for reference purposes. The University gives a lot of importance to research based projects.

## Contribution of Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar in legal aid and awareness initiatives

### **GNLU Legal Services Committee**

The GNLU Legal Services Committee has been set up in the year 2007 by way of Section 4(k) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and has achieved great laurels ever since. The Committee rides on the principles of empowering the society with legal awareness and legal aid. Thus, originates the committee's motto - "Awareness, Assertion, Action".

Over the years, the GNLU LSC has strived to recognize the potential of law as an instrument of social change. The Legal Services Committee acts as a 'community legal clinic' and focuses on, inter alia, the deprivation of government benefits, eviction and issues of domestic violence.

The LSC has always been motivated to work for the betterment of the society and more so for the enhancement of living standards of the underprivileged. In this regard, activities such street plays, drama performances and community legal service programs which promote legal awareness in areas akin to environment, consumer rights, human rights, right to information and labour laws are often organized by the LSC.

In its very initial years, the committee adopted Chharanagar, a village near Ahmedabad. The members used to frequently visit this village, providing legal assistance to the villagers and also conducting street plays on different issues like police atrocities, domestic violence et al. to raise awareness amongst the people.

The LSC team has always strived to contribute to the academia. In furtherance of this objective, the LSC team successfully organized a National Conference on Contemporary Corporate Legal Issues in September, 2008. This was the LSC's First National Event and it proved to be a milestone as it witnessed the launch of "The GNLU Law Review" by Honorable Justice Radhakrishnan, the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat. Many dignitaries and experts of the subject shared their views with an audience consisting of law students from across the country.

In the same year, the LSC organized and conducted "Vimarsh-2008"- An Inter College Panel Discussion on Contemporary Women Issues in the university. People from different walks of life such as lawyers, journalists, academicians and social activists participated in the discussion.

The LSC members were involved in drafting the Amendment for The SC & The ST Atrocities Prevention Act which was not only an enriching experience for the students but also benefited the Gujarat Legislature.

In July 2009, based on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to all Universities, an Anti-Ragging Committee was set up at the University for preventing and handling ragging related complaints. This body was established on a short notice and the Legal Services Committee members became de-facto members of the Anti-Ragging Committee. The members of the committee ensured that no instances of ragging took place in the hostel and worked to provide a friendly environment to the first years. LSC worked for a month approximately till a permanent Anti-Ragging Committee was established at the University.

GNLU, being a multicultural university, has students coming from various parts of the country. Every year new students have to go through a tedious process of shifting into the hostel, transferring their luggage and arranging amenities. To assist the students in this aspect, the Legal Services Committee organized a "Fresher's Convenience Camp" within the hostel premises to help the new entrants. The camp involved setting up of stalls which provided products and services to the students, ranging from mattresses and laptops to ATM cards and local SIM cards. This venture was found to be very useful by the first year students and the LSC received words of appreciation from the many parents who had accompanied their respective wards for the orientation. The LSC continued organizing this camp till 2010.

The LSC had carried out surveys in four nearby villages- Shahpur, Koba, Raisan and Kudasana- to assess the basic levels of socio-economic status and legal literacy. Free Legal Aid Clinics had been set-up in all four villages where student members, thrice every week, addressed the grievances of people. There was an overwhelming response from the villagers who turned up seeking legal remedies on contractual, land and domestic disputes.

The LSC has continued its trend of spreading free legal awareness. The members of the LSC participated in the National Service Scheme Camp in Koba organized by R.C Technical College, Sola.

The LSC addressed the inhuman practice of manual scavenging through a workshop, following which the committee drafted certain provisions of the Manual Scavenging Bill for the state of Gujarat in 2013.

The LSC addressed the inhuman practice of manual scavenging through a workshop, following which the committee drafted certain provisions of the Manual Scavenging Bill for the state of Gujarat in 2013. The LSC, based on the information provided to it by letters from villagers, filed RTIs regarding the practice of witchcraft in Koba village.

The LSC was involved with the Blind Peoples Association, Ahmedabad in making the official report of the Accessible India Campaign, a campaign launched by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to work towards improving infrastructure for a pro-disability environment. The report is now the official report of the Accessible India Campaign.

The LSC started a KALAM Library in the village of Koba for underprivileged children. The library was supported by the KALAM Library initiative and the Gram Panchayat, Koba Village. The library and donations will be taken care of by the LSC. The library has already seen a donation of over 200 books. This initiative has also been covered by the newspaper Ahmedabad Mirror in its daily edition of 18th April, 2016.

The University mandated 20 hours of compulsory pro bono activities each year by each student from 2015-20 Batch onwards. So far, two batches, i.e. 360 students, have successfully provided their pro bono services. (20 hours minimum/student/year) Their activities include:

- Providing free and competent legal services to the eligible persons and institutions;
- Organizing legal awareness camps and services in the rural areas;
- Providing assistance through diverse methods, including traditional casework, self-help and community legal education.
- Conducting legal literacy, educational activities and awareness programmes.

Thus, GNLU was touched upon various facets of legal services and continuously contributed in that area.

For more details please visit <https://www.gnlu.ac.in/legalservicecommittee.php>

## Concluding Remarks

Justice is the word that usually comes to our mind whenever we come across Indian Judicial Process. Irrespective of his/her social and economic status everyone has the right to get justice through judiciary. Very often, it becomes difficult for a people to get through judicial process due to certain economic reasons or certain procedures which he/she is unaware of. Usually a person does not want to indulge in the litigation process because of the mindset that once they get into this, it would become very difficult to get rid of it. Another reason is delay in justice.

Various Legal aid committees have been established by both central and state Government in order to ensure that every person who is economically weak can get justice by providing free legal aid support. Nevertheless, law schools to have some obligation to contribute to solution of crisis in access to justice. The law students can be great help to the society and being students they will gain some experiences. By setting up seminars, visiting jails and assisting low- income individuals and communities that are unaware or having difficulties in hiring lawyers. In 1997, the Bar Council of India made the study of legal aid an important and compulsory topic of law schools. However, even after 20 years of introduction of the rule, the measure has not been implemented properly resulting to failure.

A great positive change can be seen if the institutions decide to make "LEGAL AID" a mandatory subject for at least first two years in the integrated course of law. In first two years the fresh law students have enough interest and time to work for such organizations and after being a subject with credits it will make mandatory for all to participate. However, the ratio of participation by the first two year should be more than the next three years. Within these two years, those students who find interest in this field will be the ones working for it willingly for the upcoming years.

Inclusion of the subject in academic may help a lot as the participation of students will increase to a great extent. Motivating and letting them know the essence of their participation towards the nation will automatically enhance the participation of students. Also rewarding the students when needed, giving them proper facilities like transportation and attendance on visits regarding the legal aids cells will facilitate the process. There should be particular panel of faculty as well who should be approachable by students very easily. The faculty should empower them by delegating authority to the students and also accompany them at times. Once they get authority, they will create sense

of responsibility also. This will increase their dedication in their work. The universities should fund the society well as this is for a great cause and will bring life to the legal aid cells.

Another new idea which may assist in better functioning of the legal aid cells is, if all national law schools work together in a single legal aid clinic where participation of the institutes will be mandatory by the CLAT committee. This will facilitate the participation of the institutions as the cell will be under the CLAT committee and a sense of competition will emerge against the students of other law schools resulting to active working of cell thus benefiting the nation. This will help in attaining the goals of the legal aid cells efficiently and effectively.



## Annexures

### List of Participants from GNLU, Gandhinagar

#### Faculty

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1	Dr. Kalpeshkumar L Gupta	Assistant Professor	kgupta@gnlu.ac.in	9924897691

#### Official

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	E-mail	Mobile
1	Mr. Rahul Pandya	Jr. Section Officer	rbpandya@gnlu.ac.in	8511188720

#### Students

Sr. No.	Name	Batch	Regi. No.	E-mail	Mobile
1	Abhishek Vyas	B.Sc., LL.B. 2015	15B167	abhishekvyas366@gmail.com	8469681997
2	Anushka Mandal	BA, LL.B. 2015	15A024	anushka4996@gmail.com	9831222786
3	Payal Baske	BBA, LL.B. 2015	15B097	payal.baske13@gmail.com	8155021823
4	Prateek Srivastava	BA, LL.B. 2015	15B100	prateeks751@gmail.com	7228835043
5	Pratik Parashar Sarmah	B. Com, LL.B. 2015	15B101	sarmah.pratik3@gmail.com	7578071709
6	Priya Kumari	BSW, LL.B. 2015	15B105	priyakumari4648@gmail.com	8141209476
7	Saumya Raval	BSW, LL.B. 2015	15B126	smyraval@yahoo.co.in	9712975707

Photos







## Contact

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# Pro Bono Legal Aid Work at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar



**Dr. Kalpeshkumar L Gupta**

Assistant Professor

Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar

kgupta@gnlu.ac.in

**National Seminar on Law School  
Based Legal Services Clinics**

**Organized by  
NALSA, New Delhi**

**Sunday, July 30, 2017**

# Outline

1. About Gujarat National Law University
2. Contribution of GNLU in Legal & Awareness Initiatives
3. Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU
4. Way Forward



# Outline

1. About Gujarat National Law University
2. Contribution of GNLU in Legal & Awareness Initiatives
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4. Way Forward



## About Gujarat National Law University

- ❖ GNLU established under Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003
- ❖ Member of Association of Indian Universities, United Nations Academic Impact, International Association of Law Schools, Asian Law Institute, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.
- ❖ Listed in top 10 law schools in India
- ❖ Courses BA/B.Com./BBA/B.Sc./BSW/LL.B., LL.M., MBA, Ph.D.
- ❖ 50+ faculty members
- ❖ 1000+ students
- ❖ Dean – Academics, Research, Extension, Training & Student Welfare
- ❖ Research Based Teaching University (RBTU)





# Outline

1. About Gujarat National Law University
2. **Contribution of GNLU in Legal & Awareness Initiatives**
3. Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU
4. Way Forward



## Contribution of GNLU in Legal Aid & Awareness Initiatives

- ❖ GNLU Centre for Law & Society oversee the all legal aid and awareness initiatives
- ❖ Pro Bono Legal Aid Programme is executed by Legal Services Committee (LSC) & Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- ❖ **20 hours mandatory** pro bono work in a academic year. Total 100 hours in five years course
- ❖ With effect from Batch 2015
- ❖ Submission of Activity Report
- ❖ LSC/ADR Cell will issue a completion certificate
- ❖ Launched Pro Bono Legal Award in year 2016 (Criteria – Number of Hours, Nature of Work)
- ❖ Till date 360+ students have successfully provided their pro bono services.



# Contribution of GNLU in Legal Aid & Awareness Initiatives

## GNLU Centre For Law & Society

Law &  
Society  
Wing

**Socio-Legal  
Research**

Legal  
Services  
Committee

**Legal Aid  
Clinic**

Sensitization  
Team

**Sensitization  
on various laws**

Pro Bono  
Team

**Monitor &  
Facilitate Pro Bono  
Legal Aid Work**



# Contribution of GNLU in Legal Aid & Awareness Initiatives

## Pro Bono Activities Involved

- ❖ Providing free and competent legal services to the eligible persons and institutions;
- ❖ Organizing legal awareness camps and services in the rural areas;
- ❖ Providing assistance through diverse methods, including traditional casework, self-help and community legal education.
- ❖ Conducting legal literacy, educational activities and awareness programmes.
- ❖ To make litigation free villages and institutions
- ❖ To organise lok adalats for amicable settlement of disputes etc.



# Contribution of GNLU in Legal Aid & Awareness Initiatives

## Pro Bono Legal Aid Work Award

- ❖ To acknowledge pro bono work carried out by the students, GNLU introduces the Annual Pro Bono Legal Aid Award in year 2016, so as to enhance and motivate the students for contributing to the society at large.



# Contribution of GNLU in Legal Aid & Awareness Initiatives

## Pro Bono Legal Aid Work Award



Pro Bono Legal Aid Award 2017  
Aniket Parmar (Batch 2015-20)



# Contribution of GNLU in Legal Aid & Awareness Initiatives

## Pro Bono Legal Aid Work Award



Anmol



Neep

# ‘અભિવ્યક્તિ’ માં રજૂ થઈ રેગિંગની વાસ્તવિકતા



ગુજરાત નેશનલ લો યુનિવર્સિટી (જીએનએલયુ)ના લિગલ સર્વિસ કમિટી દ્વારા ગાંધીનગર નિક્ટ કેમ્પસમાં એન્ટી રેગિંગ પર ‘અભિવ્યક્તિ’ સ્ટ્રીટ પ્લે રજૂ કરાયું હતું. નિક્ટના ઓરિએન્ટેશન પ્રોગ્રામ દરમિયાન જીએનએલયુના ૯ સ્ટુડન્ટે આ સ્ટ્રીટ પ્લેમાં લાં અને રેગિંગની વાતને ખૂબ ઉમદા રીતે રજૂ કરી હતી. ઉપરાંત ૧૨મા ફાઉન્ડેશન ડે વખતે બ્લડ ડોનેશન કેમ્પનું આયોજન કરાયું હતું. જેમાં ૧૭૦ વ્યક્તિઓએ બ્લડ ડોનેટ કર્યું હતું.







प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

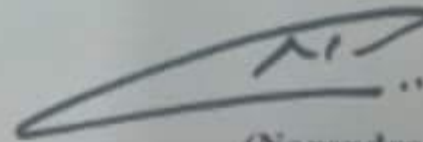
Congratulations to the Legal Services Committee, GNLU for completing 10 years in providing legal services to various sections of society, particularly the poor and the needy.

I also convey my best wishes to the Committee for its second edition of the Annual LSC Interlinking Forum on 'Access to Legal Services.'

Legal aid plays a vital role in empowering the disadvantaged sections of our society. Every citizen of India must have the right to a fair trial and in this context, legal aid assumes great importance.

Legal aid makes the judiciary a lot more approachable to the poor. In this light, what the youngsters in the Legal Services Committee, GNLU are doing is commendable.

In addition, I would like to congratulate the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar for establishing itself as one of India's foremost National Law Universities and raising the bar of legal education in India.



(Narendra Modi)



# Outline

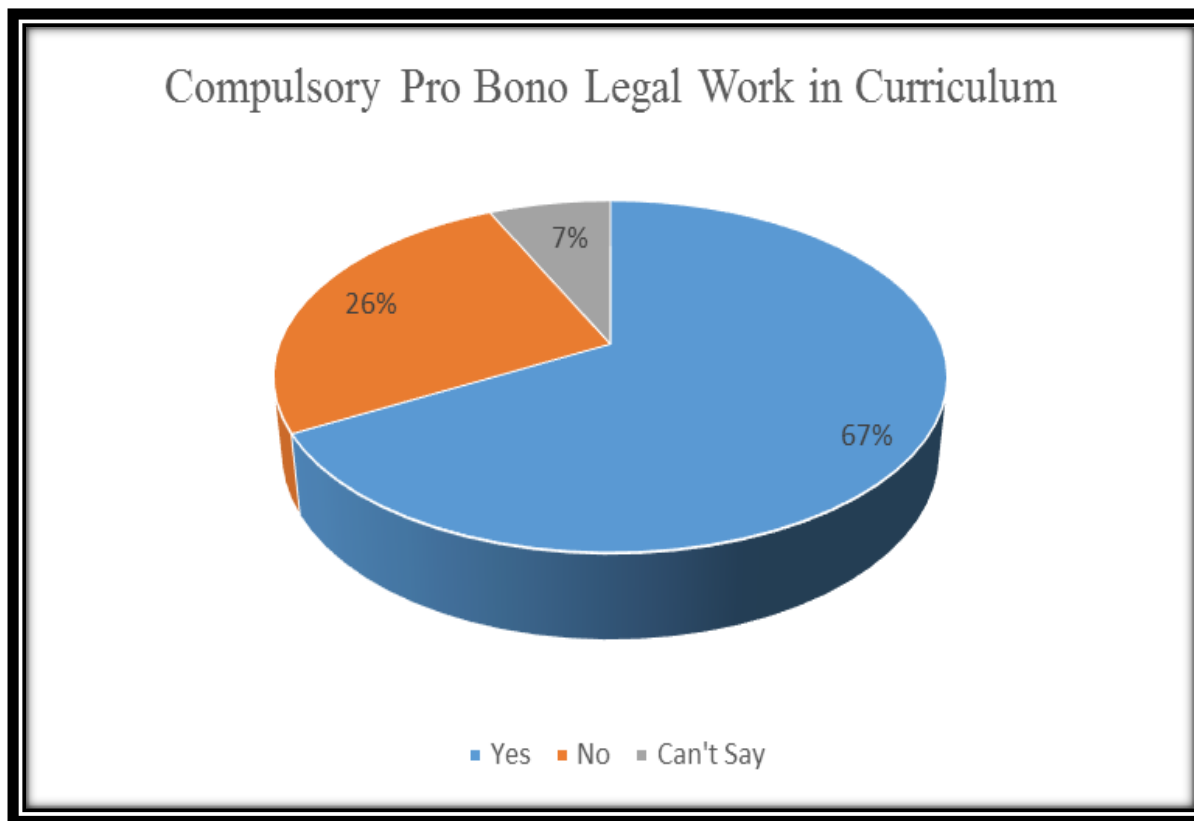
1. About Gujarat National Law University
2. Contribution of GNLU in Legal & Awareness Initiatives
- 3. Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU**
4. Way Forward



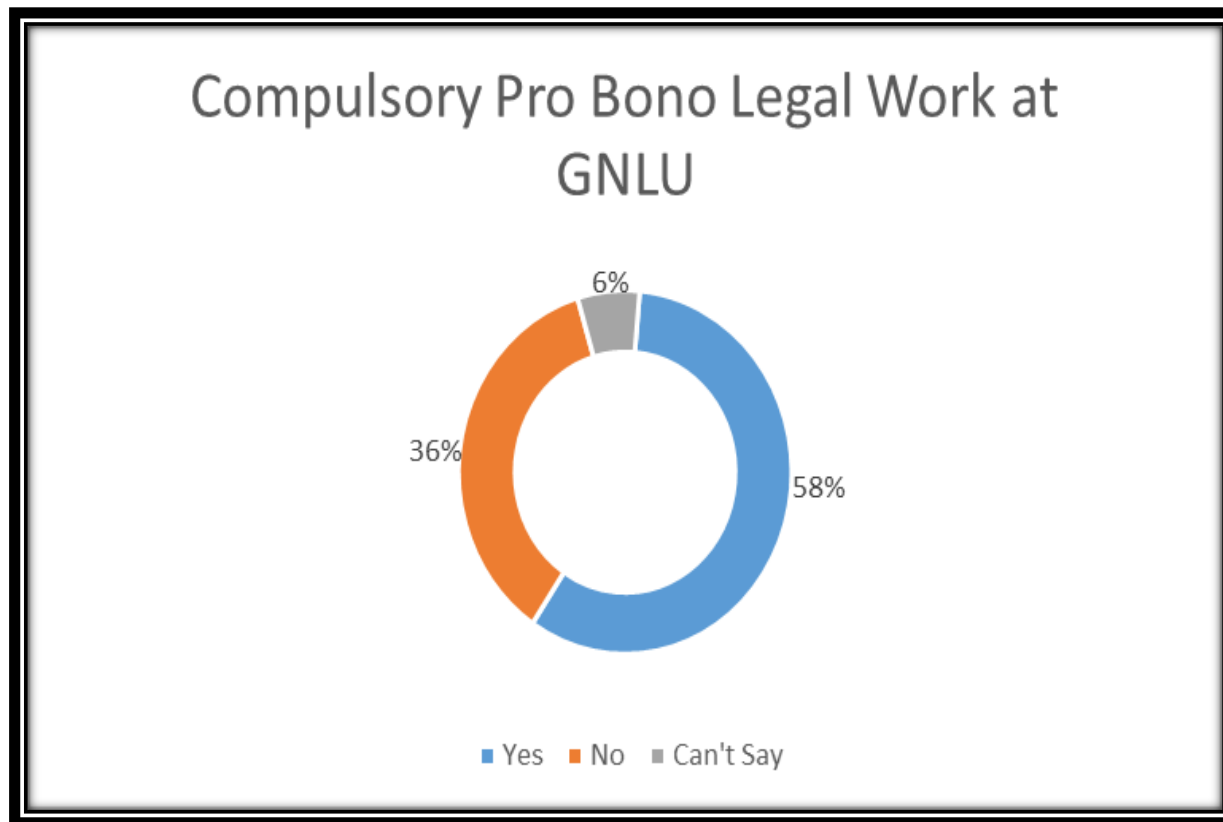
## Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU

Respondent Profile	Total	%
Law Teachers	29 (Includes 3 from GNLU)	21
Law Student	105 (Includes 87 from GNLU)	77
Others	3	2
Total	137 (Includes 90 from GNLU)	100%

# Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU



# Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU



## Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU

Average Hrs.	Total
Minimum	17
Maximum	24



# Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU

## Remarks – In Favour of Compulsory Pro Bono Legal Aid

- ❖ Should be made compulsory for law colleges and legal professionals
- ❖ It gives students practical experience of law and its applicability
- ❖ Greater tie ups of law colleges with NGOs should be there
- ❖ Bar Council of India should make Pro Bono work mandatory for students in law schools
- ❖ Should be like medical college
- ❖ Pro Bono expose our minds to the various social issues and calls for our attention on it.
- ❖ Pro Bono work provides a sense of satisfaction
- ❖ It gives a new perspective to the student to think towards the upliftment of all,

*Sarvodaya*





# Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU

## Remarks – Not in favour of Compulsory Pro Bono Legal Aid

- ❖ It's unnecessary
- ❖ Initiate legal aid for final year project of law students
- ❖ Pro Bono work should have different specialized cells according to work (Research related, advising & consultancy) and also according to subject (environment law, civil, criminal etc.)
- ❖ It should be a matter of choice and not compulsory
- ❖ If a college makes pro bono compulsory, it should have less stringent rules about it
- ❖ Fake pro bono certificates should be curbed.
- ❖ Students resort to unethical means
- ❖ Linked with academic credit
- ❖ Structured probono work planning



# Outline

1. About Gujarat National Law University
2. Contribution of GNLU in Legal & Awareness Initiatives
3. Survey of Pro Bono Legal Aid in GNLU
4. **Way Forward**



## Way forward

- ❖ Make compulsory pro bono legal aid as a part of curriculum
- ❖ Bar Council of India should come up with policy in this regard in consultation with law schools around the India.
- ❖ Law teachers should include pro bono legal aid activities in their respective subjects.
- ❖ Collaborative effort for legal aid and awareness initiatives (e.g. GNLU LSC Interlinking Conference)



# STAY CONNECTED



**Mr. Saurabh Anand,**  
Director, GNLU Centre for Law & Society



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