

MOTIVATION

“The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest men of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us, but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over” Jawaharlal Nehru



“The tasks of the Legal Services Society are to provide the law students an occasion to learn by doing, use social spaces as the class room, sensitize them to the nature of law that can empower or oppress, facilitate access to justice to the deprived and marginalized, and create socially responsible citizens, advocates, judges, police officers and other State officials.”

Legal Services Society, Law Centre-1

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PREFACE



The Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1 was formally inaugurated on 25th August 2012 by Hon'ble Justice S. Muralidhar, Judge, High Court of Delhi. Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Additional Solicitor General of India was also present on the occasion. The Clinic is being successfully run by enthusiastic students, supported by sincere teachers, and is duly supported by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority that has conducted two Training Programs for Para Legal Volunteers, deputed a panel lawyer, Mr. Bhawani Shankar Sharma who is equally committed and sincere in his work. The Clinic is open for attending to persons in need of legal assistance and service only on Saturdays between 10 am to 1 pm but students and teachers may be seen working in the clinic the whole week! Beyond the Clinic hours, they prepare reports, maintain data, do research, prepare posters and pamphlets, hold workshops and practice for their skits to be performed during the legal literacy Programs in various colleges and community.

The students and teachers are busy on Sundays too as that is the day kept aside for Community Outreach Program. Initially the Community Outreach Program was started by students on their own to generate awareness about the existence of the Legal Services Clinic in LC-1 and to motivate people in need of legal assistance to come to the Clinic. Later, students realized that they need to give information about various schemes of the Government for the benefit of deprived and marginalized persons so that they can avail of those benefits. That led to the knowledge that most people were not able to get the benefits as they did not have the necessary papers. Many were shy and did not come out to be part of the gatherings that were being addressed by our students.

Now, the LSS has initiated Community Adoption Program in seven areas for conducting door to door survey to find out the legal problems of every household and provide the necessary assistance and service to those who are entitled to fee legal services as per the Legal Service Authority Act, 1987.

The enthusiasm of the students and teachers is infectious and more and more teachers and students are joining the Legal Services Society in LC-1. While the Legal Services Society was functioning in LC-1 for few years and was holding Legal Literacy Programs in Women's Colleges in collaboration with the Women Studies and Development Centre of the University of Delhi, it did not have a live-client clinic.

The impetus for establishing such a Clinic was provided by the letter from NALSA sent to all law schools asking the Law School to send information regarding the legal aid clinic run by it. The responsibility for initiating one was given to Dr. Suman by Prof. Ashwani Bansal, then PIC of LC-1, while Dr. P.B. Pankaja was the Convener of the Legal Services Society at the time. That led to a lot of confusion but became a blessing in disguise as it gradually facilitated division of responsibilities of running the Clinic and Outreach Programs between two teachers. While Dr. Suman was made the Director of the Clinic responsible for the smooth running of the Clinic that will handle live-clients, Dr. P.B. Pankaja continued to remain the Convener of the Legal Services Society, focusing primarily on conducting and supervising the Outreach Programs. The Clinic and the Outreach Programs supplement each other and function in close coordination and both are developing with each day of experience. It is very satisfying to see so many teachers and students working enthusiastically in the Clinic and in the Outreach Program.

It is hoped that the LSS will continue to work with the same vigour and enthusiasm with the couple of measures taken to ensure sustainability of the LSS learning from past experiences and lessons from across the world. The first is that the work of the Director in the Clinic and that of the Convener of the Society in conceiving, organizing, and supervising Outreach Programs is counted equal to one Course load. The second is to dedicate one room exclusively to the Clinic with the required infrastructural support. The LSS and the Clinic are still at the nascent stage but it is hoped that these small measures will help sustain the LSS and the Clinic in the long run. It is time to learn lessons from the long history of legal aid work in the Faculty of Law that has provided the

backdrop to the LSS and the Clinic in LC-1.

The Faculty of Law of University of Delhi has been the pioneer in providing legal services to the poor. The first initiative to provide legal services was taken in 1970 at the initiative of three teachers, namely, Lotika Sarkar, N.R.M. Menon, and N. Mysore. Within two years the Students Legal Services Clinic was established in 1972. For long years, it continued due to the labour of love of many teachers like Prof. N.R.M. Menon, Upendra Baxi, B.B. Pande and others. Prof. B.B. Pande's Prison Project in the Tihar Prison was a big favourite of students and it provided lot of interest in the students of LC-1 who wanted similar Program in LC-1 too. Some of them ran a legal aid Program at their own initiative. Their enthusiasm can be gauged from the fact that they decided to pen down their experiences and printed those in the form of a small booklet entitled "Winds of Change" in 2002.

However, that Program lost its steam with the retirement of Prof. B.B. Pande as legal aid Programs were running with his labour of love! This has been the fate of most legal aid Programs in most institutions as the work done for legal aid is not counted in the workload and it remains as mere voluntary work.

The Legal Services Society of LC-1 got full support from Prof. Usha Razdan who was the Professor-in-Charge of LC-1 during 2006-2009. During that period, the LSS conducted legal awareness Program in some women colleges on the theme of domestic violence. They prepared a skit on the theme which was supplemented by excerpts from a documentary and Power Point Presentation. That Program was well acclaimed and appreciated by all. With those Programs, LC-1 had taken long strides in legal aid from the days when it was established as a unit of Faculty of Law that started functioning in the evening from the premises of DAV College. At that time it has only 380 students and ten teachers. Within two years it was shifted to the Government School building on Mandir Marg which remained its home for the next twenty years. While it was the optimum usage of the building, it limited the class and activity timings for LC-1 to 6 pm – 9 pm. Only minimal co-curricular or extra-curricular activities could be held within that time frame. Majority of its students too were working during the day and had little inclination and time to do more than attend their classes.

The shifting of LC-1 to main campus in 1994 opened new avenues. The building was available for longer duration and there was no reason to confine the classes to only 6 – 9 pm. It was decided to start two shifts – one between 3 pm – 6 pm and another from 6.15 pm – 9.15 pm. That changed the students' profile. With the change in its location and time, it started attracting many more, younger students. Campus Law Centre functioning from the same premises provided the backdrop for healthy Competition. CLC had moot courts, legal aid, seminars and lot more. Our students demanded at least the same opportunities if not more and better!

Today, LC-1 has more than 2100 students and 50 full time teachers. It has made its mark in University of Delhi by winning the Commendation Award among 37 Departments that participated in the Best Practices Competition during Antardhwani 2013 – the Cultural Festival of University of Delhi. We look back with satisfaction as more and more teachers and students of LC-1 are getting involved in providing efficient and quality legal services to the needy and poor. Within three months of its opening, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority certified the Legal Services Clinic of LC-1 to be the Best Clinic in the University of Delhi.

At present, the LSS is in that happy space where its good work attracts praises and support and that in turn leads to more enthusiasm and the zeal to continue to work better. New doors of cooperation and collaboration are opening giving opportunities to students to become active partners in ensuring justice to the poor. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India has offered association of our students in cases before the Supreme Court. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge-in-Charge of DSLSA has given full backing to the Clinic by granting telephone, all-in-one printer, fax, and photocopying machine, pocket expenses to the PLVs and a lot more.

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- 1 L. Sarkar, N.R.M. Menon, N. Mysore, "Legal Aid Work in the Delhi Law School" in Arthur M. Murphy, et al (ed) LAW AND POVERTY CASES AND MATERIALS, 356 (1973).
 - 2 Dr. N.R.M. Menon, "Students Legal Services Clinic The Delhi Experience" in N.R.M. Menon (ed), LEGAL AID AND LEGAL EDUCATION A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY, 109 (1974).



It is not possible to capture the full length and breadth of what all has been achieved by the LSS in the last one year. This book contains only some glimpses in the functioning of the Clinic. It also includes experiences of students and teachers working in the Clinic and Outreach Programs, as well as the annual report. It also contains the draft Constitution of the Legal Services Society asking for comments and suggestions for incorporation before it is finalized and put up for adoption during the Annual Function of the Legal Services Society to be held on 25th August 2013.

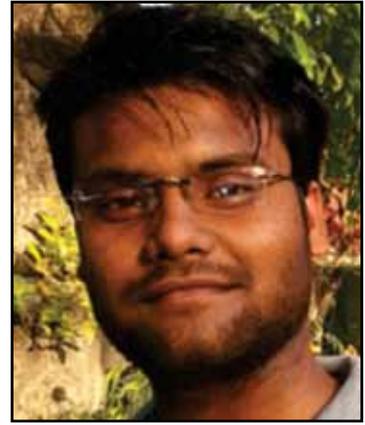
I am sure that you will enjoy reading this compilation that captures the euphoria generated by the smiles on the faces of person visiting the Clinic, satisfaction and happiness at receiving the required certificate enabling access to various beneficial schemes and many more small and big achievements of the Legal Services Society. It honours the work and memories of earlier students who brought the first WINDS OF CHANGE booklet while it also marks the new beginning with the establishment of live-client clinic and more structured and sustainable Legal Services Program. Every small success motivates us to strive harder to wipe out one more tear, to extend our hand for support. We are confident in our belief that every student who goes through the Clinic will not remain unmoved by the real life exposure of hardships faced by people and the power of law to oppress as well as empower. We are sure that all of them will continue to work for the empowerment of the underprivileged and marginalized in their future lives as lawyers, judges, police officers, government servants and as human beings. The Clinic and the Outreach Programs are instruments of teaching and learning for students, empowerment of the poor, generator of legal awareness among the masses. The students acquire knowledge, practice skills, become aware and sensitive to social issues, and imbibe values of professional ethics when classroom teaching is combined with learning from outside the classroom!

I take this opportunity to put on record my deep appreciation of the leadership role taken by Dr. P.B. Pankaja, as Convener of the Legal Services Society and Dr. Suman as the Director of the Clinic. Dr. Poonam Das has provided continuous support and the Society has benefitted immensely from her experience in conducting legal literacy Programs in colleges in the past. I also gratefully acknowledge the active involvement of my young colleagues - Mr. Sunjeet Bhadana, Mr. Ajay Kumar, Ms. Nirati Gupta, Ms. Mona Jonwal, Ms. Kusum Bawlia, Mr. Ashwani Siwal, Mr. Ashutosh Mishra, Ms. Seema Singh and Mr. Narender Kumar in the Clinic as well as the Outreach Programs.

Naina, student Convener, Sana and Pavni, student co-conveners, and Kamlesh, Research Coordinator, have proved to be leaders who lead by example – working hard, facilitating everything, and never losing their smiles

and zeal to extend a helping hand to all. Priyanshu has spent days nagging everyone to send in their Reports and Experiences and burnt midnight oil editing all submissions including scribbles on papers. Rahul and Aditya have been the backbone of the Outreach Program motivating others to join them by their sheer enthusiasm. Pawan has done extensive recording of all that happens in LSS and created short films on the Outreach Programs. Kapil has endeared himself by his perseverance in pursuing applications of persons for various certificates in different government offices. Satyamev, Rekha, Madhukar, Jatinder, Krishan, and Manini have done commendable work in the Clinic. It is not possible for me to list all teachers and students who have contributed to the success of the LSS in LC-1 but I recognize the support of all my colleagues and students of the Legal Services Society of LC-1 that encourages us to do better each day and I thank them for it. We extend our hands to all those who are ready to work for the betterment of society and promoting justice in law schools and legal education. It is hoped that this small book will motivate others to join us in our endeavor to bring social justice in society.

Prof. Ved Kumari
Professor-in-Charge
Law Centre-1
8th April 2013



EDITOR'S NOTE

When we were asked by Prof Ved Kumari to compile a book on the workings of the Legal Services Society we were all thrown into disarray. Most people would wonder that we did not have enough material to fill up 20 pages, such was our state of nervousness. But with LSS it is actually just the opposite – our students are so dynamic, they never stop to amaze us. The breadth of universe covered by them in 8 months was beyond belief.

Each committee, each team had scores of reports that they had submitted to the editorial board. Our desk is still heaving under the pressure of all the paperwork. Be that as it may, we started the mammoth task of sifting through reports and compiling the data collected. The reports range from the successful dealing of cases that came to the Legal Service Clinic of LSS, to Outreach visits, skits and plays, gainful learning from interactive sessions, etc. It was touching to see the enthusiasm shown by students when they were asked to write their experiences. Till the very last minute students shared with us their experience and we hope that their sweat, smiles and snarls are all communicated through the medium of this book.

One wonders sometimes, whether a policy is really fruitful or not? Is it really showing results? If not, then it is useless. If law is not being able to make human existence sustainable and progressive one, then what is it for? If each individual does not have access to justice, then a question mark comes before the judicial system. As we belong to this system, is it not that duty of all to play an active role in making this system worthy? Legal Services Society (LSS) of Law Centre-1 is doing its bit very enthusiastically and here we are with the compilation of its work and experiences. Our attempt has been to bring out a compilation which will mirror the whole range of LSS work.

It is the motivation of our Professor in- Charge, Ved Kumari ma'am, and valuable supervision of Convener, LSS, Dr P.B.Pankaja, that we have been able to present this book. We would also like to thank Vishakha, Nidhi, Jayanti, Aakriti and Anubhuti, our editorial team, who contributed to this project with their time and energy.

In the end we sincerely hope that LSS' work should remain worthy as it is result-oriented and it will keep contributing to the community at large.

With best wishes,

Ms. Nirati Gupta
Editor- in-chief

Mr. Priyanshu Awasthi
Student-Editor



FROM THE DESKS OF CONVENER, LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY & DIRECTOR, LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC

With the academic session coming to an end, it is time to turn back to see how our tiny foot prints made a mark and colourful wings started a 'take off'. The outcome is the 'Winds of Change'.

It is the proudest moment for the Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1 for getting our first 'Song of Robin' released in the hands of our Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Justice Altamas Kabir.

We are proud to have a justice system wherein 'Right to Free Legal Aid' for the poor and needy is acknowledged under the Constitution of India in Article 39A and embedded as a statutory right in the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987, coming into force from 1995, which is not so in many countries of the world. It provides greater space for young students of law in contributing their might in facilitating the poor, the marginalized and the needy people to realize their constitutionally acknowledged and statutorily recognized right.

Academically speaking, the involvement of law students in Legal Aid programs have greater implications on legal profession of the future and in this endeavor we have added a drop into the ocean, though invisible yet significant.

The inauguration of Legal Services Clinic in collaboration of Delhi Legal Services Authority is an important milestone in the annals of Law Centre-1 which earmarked the involvement of educational institutions in spreading the message that 'Education sans Social Relevancy is not a holistic education'. The 'Adoption of communities' program partnered with 'Clinical Services' are the two eyes of the Legal Services Society working with the same motto "Propagation and Facilitation of 'Equal Justice to All'" through converting community space as the class room and sensitizing the students to social realities. The fact-sheets of this Souvenir is nothing but a glimpse of the entire legal aid landscape of Law Centre-1. It is the testimony to the fact that Legal Services Society rests on the shoulders of the student members of the Society.

We wish the Legal Services Society with its vibrant Clinic rests as a golden feather in the cap of University of Delhi with more and more accreditations, institutional support and patronage from Delhi Legal Services Authority.

Dr. P.B.Pankaja
Convener

Dr.Suman
Director

REFLECTIONS OF STUDENT CONVENER



Hope. It's a dangerous gift. The responsibility that you shoulder when you give hope to someone is enormous.

Hope is what I had given to my teachers, the students, and above all those people who were in dire need of the services we offer. The undertakings of the Legal Services Society are not charitable activity; we only help people in realizing their right, which is access to justice through free legal services. The Society's goal is a duty that we as members of the legal fraternity owe to the common man. And throughout this year my only objective was to ensure that we all performed that duty with utmost sincerity, that we all work like a well-oiled machine and consequently, to ensure that the hope is not quashed.

To achieve success we built a society from scratch, mobilized more than 150 student volunteers; established and oversaw the running of the best Legal Services Clinic in the University of Delhi, assisted in organizing community outreach program and coordinated visits to LokAdalats.

Now, 185 clinic visitors later and after successfully spreading legal awareness in colleges, slums and prisons I believe we achieved more than we had imagined. I can safely and proudly say that we have performed the duty that we owed to the common man exceedingly well.

Many would ask what motivates us. I remember in April 2012, in the first meeting of the Legal Services Society, Prof. Ved Kumari, our Professor in-Charge, had promised us a feeling of satisfaction we would experience when we helped in solving someone's problem. This had us working hard day after day.

I am extremely grateful to all my friends and student members for working so hard and participating with great enthusiasm and zeal in every event. On behalf of the student members, I am thankful to all the faculty members, who were a constant source of encouragement, support and guidance. We are deeply indebted to Prof. Ved Kumari, for sowing the seeds of this Society and giving us the opportunity to fulfill our moral and social responsibility.

I am certain that this publication will stand testimony to our achievements. It will reflect the devotion and perseverance with which all our members have worked, to save hope and to see it turn into joy.

Hope, I finally learnt is also a wonderful gift. The sheer happiness that you feel when you give someone a hope is indescribable.

Naina Dubey

GLIMPSES

THE LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY OF LAW CENTRE-1 2012-13

Keeping in tune with the spirit of 'Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid' imbibed in Article 39 A of the Constitution of India and the statutory obligation reposed under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 and recognizing the importance of involving our law students in facilitating access to justice to the deprived and marginalized sections of the community, the Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1, has evolved a number of co-curricular activities under the guidance and supervision of Prof. Ved Kumari, Patron in chief, Dr.P.B.Pankaja, the Convener, Dr. Suman, the Director of the Legal Services Clinic, Dr. Poonam Das, senior Faculty advisor, and other teacher members Ms. Nirati Gupta, Mr. Ajay Kumar, Mr. Ashwini Siwal, Mr. Sunjeet Bhadana, Ms. Mona Jonwal, Ms. Seema Singh, Mr. Narender Kumar, Ms. Kusum Lata Bawlia, and Mr. Ashutosh Mishra. The students involved in the Society's programs are organized into various sub-committees headed by Naina as Convener and Sana, Pavni, Kamlesh, Kapil, Priyanshu, Apoorv, Krishan, Satyamev, Rahul, Rekha, Parameshwar, Madhukar and others as active members.

To provide free access to justice to the needy, the underprivileged and the marginalized people of the society, Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1 was inaugurated in collaboration with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority on 25th August, 2012 by Hon'ble Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar in the presence of Addl. Solicitor General Mr. Sidharth Luthra, the Guest of Honour of the day.

The Society facilitated the training and certification of its first batch of 24 Para Legal Volunteers by the DSLSA from August 3rd to August 9th, 2012. The PLVs also attended two days Client Interview Training, conducted by Prof. Ved Kumari, Professor-in-Charge, Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law on 28th and 29th August 2012. Prof. Ved Kumari discussed about the listening skills, how to recognize and respond to inhibitions, the kind of questions to be asked and at what stage. After that PLVs were asked to do couple of team-building exercises.



Hon'ble Justice Muralidhar, Judge, Delhi High Court, and Mr Sidharth Luthra, Addl. Solicitor General inaugurate the Legal Services Clinic

Ms. Asha Menon, then Member Secretary, DSLSA, Mr. Sanjay Sharma, Project Manager, Mr. Rajesh Goel, Secretary, Tis Hazari, DSLA and Mr. Rakesh Pandit, Secretary, Patiala Court DSLA have been actively involved in the activities of the Society along with the other student members. Another PLV Training was organized by the Society in collaboration with the DSLSA under the leadership of Mr. Brijesh Sethi, Member Secretary, DSLSA from February 11th to February 18th, 2013. The training was attended by 41 students, out of which 31 appeared for the written test and have been selected by the DSLSA to become the next batch of PLVs.

The clinic started functioning from 1st September 2012. The Clinic works on every Saturday from 10 AM to 1 PM and renders legal assistance to the needy in the form of legal advice and counseling, documentation and referral services to the DSLSA. Mr. Bhawani Shankar Sharma is deputed by the DSLSA to be the Panel Advocate for the Clinic. He works at the Clinic most diligently and is a good guide for all the PLVs. Since its inauguration the Clinic has attended to 174 persons, including roughly 50 % visited the clinic more than once. Out of the total persons, 41 cases were referred to DSLSA by the legal counsel, Mr Bhawani Shankar Sharma. Of the total visitors, 88 were females and 81 males.



Para Legal Volunteer Training, 2013

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

As a part of the Society's mission, reaching out to the community beyond class rooms, is carried out through Community Outreach Programs by the student volunteers by rotation under the supervision of faculty. It includes Community Adoption Program, legal literacy campaigns in colleges through Skits and Plays, visits to Lok Adalats, visits to Tihar and Rohini Jails, Juvenile Justice Boards, and so on.

Community Adoption Programs:

Initially the program started with visits to random areas but later on the feedback received from the student volunteers, a structured program has been evolved called 'Community Adoption Program'. Seven teams are constituted, each adopting exclusively a particular area so that a continuous and effective rapport is built between the volunteers and the community which is very much essential for carrying out our programs effectively. The areas adopted are slums of Shakti Nagar, Gopalpur, Sangam Park, Gudmandi, Majnu ka teela, Kabir Nagar and Dhirpur.

The program of action has three purposes – identifying the socio-legal problems, facilitating access through our Clinic and spreading legal literacy on themes very much relevant for their day to day living. It is initiated as a mini project and with the work experience of just seven months, we realized that sky is the limit if we really wanted to do anything.

In the field we realized that socio-economic problems are interwoven with legal entitlements and the margin between the two is very minimal and even nil. Deprivation of basic entitlements like ration, sanitation, safe drinking water and basic education and issues relating to voter identity card, caste certificate, high electricity bills, ration card, delayed social security pensions, etc., remain as perennial problems without solution as people are afraid of going to Bureaucrats or Courts mainly on account of paucity of funds, lack of knowledge and adequate information. Literacy about free legal aid through our Clinic has inculcated ray of hope in their minds.

Our Student Volunteers Kapil, Rahul, Krishan, Aaditya, Pawan, Rekha, Surpreet really deserve all praise in their endeavor.

Legal Literacy Camps in Colleges:

Skits and plays have been taken up as an effective tool of communicating the themes on Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment to the college students and in this regard the teams visited Miranda House, Guru Teg Bahadur Medical College and Kalindi College during this academic session and won the appreciation of the Institutions.

Significant Visits by Students:

By co-ordinating with the DSLSA our student teams visited Tihar and Rohini jails and observed the legal aid programs conducted by DSLSA on issues of ‘Plea Bargaining’. Interaction with the inmates of jail offered varied colours of experience which are penned down by them in black and white. Visit to Observation Home in Kingsway Camp and Lok Adalat enhanced the confidence of our students by realizing potency of legal knowledge to facilitate mitigating certain socio-legal maladies existing in the society.

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

The students have been exposed to several interactive sessions to expand their analytical thinking in various social-legal issues.



Prof. Rama Krishna Prasad Shares His Wealth of Experience

Prof. Rama Krishna Prasad of Indian Law Institute visited Law Centre-1 on 12th February 2013. Due to his efforts clinical education movement in Goa is accelerating. He has established 40 community law clinics in Goa. He educated students about management of such clinics and conducting outreach programs. He also did his best in answering all the questions of students raised by them.

Law Officer Sunil Gupta Opens New Doors for LSS

Law officer of Tihar Jail, Mr. Sunil Gupta visited Law Center-1 on 11th of October 2012. He told the students that in various capacity students can find possibilities of assisting prisoners who are in need of such legal assistance. He invited students to visit Tihar prison. Students found it very valuable that they can help the inmates in plea bargaining matters and can draft bail applications for them. He also told that prison administration is keen to utilize prisoner's skills and talent.



Hon'ble Justice Madan Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India, in deep discussion with members of LSS, LC-1

Mr. Navneet and Deniel Holeman Become Our Channel to IRRAD

Mr. Navneet, an officer of Institute of Rural Research and Development and former student of Law Center-1, along with Mr. Daniel Holeman, a student of Harvard Law School, visited Legal Service Clinic on 23rd February, 2013. Mr. Daniel was visiting India at the time as apprentice for Institute of Rural Research and Development, Gurgaon. He informed students that at Harvard School too, they run similar clinic as Harvard Legal Aid Bureau (HLAB). He offered our clinic HLAB's assistance in every possible way. So LSS is now in touch with the member of HLAB, Ms. Fatima Hassan to construct a strong and everlasting framework.

VISITS BY HIGH DIGNITARIES

Bangladeshi Delegation Impressed by Working of our Society

The delegation consisting of Judicial Officers from Bangladesh responsible for evolving Legal Aid Program in Bangladesh, visited our Clinic on 1st March 2013. They were shown all the records of the cases. They were also shown video prepared by Pawan Madhukar, Member, Legal Services Society on Outreach Program. They were highly impressed with the work done by the Society. They invited students to visit Bangladesh regarding the same projects.



Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, High Court Judge-in-Charge of DSLSA

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, nominated member of the Faculty of Law, was invited to visit the Clinic on 2nd March 2013 when he came for the Faculty meeting. His visit to the Clinic brought on board the full support of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority as he heard and noticed the range of problems faced by the Clinic due to lack of funds including that its phone had been disconnected due to non-payment of its Bill. His assurances about providing full assistance and quick conversation with the Member Secretary, DSLSA, gave us new energy to carry our work forward.

Visitors during the NHRC & LC-1 National Moot Court Competition on Human Rights

During the NHRC & LC-2 Moot Court Competition on Human Rights at Law Center-1 organized on 8-10 March 2013, the Clinic was brimming with visitors. As many as 41 judicial officers, including Ms. Sunita Gupta, District and Sessions Judge, Delhi who came to judge the Competition visited the Clinic and interacted with the Volunteers and teachers working in the Clinic. Among the high dignitaries who visited the Clinic during that period included Hon'ble Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC and former Chief Justice of India; Hon'ble Justice Swantra Kumar, Chairperson, National Green Tribunal and former judge, Supreme Court of



(From left) Hon'ble Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC, Hon'ble Justice J. R. Midha, Judge, High Court of Delhi, Mr. Kochher, Jt. Secretary, NHRC, Hon'ble Justice Gita Mittal, Judge, High Court of Delhi, Prof. Ved Kumari, PIC, LC-1

India; Hon'ble Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Justice D. Murugesan, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi; Hon'ble Justice Gita Mittal, Hon'ble Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw, Hon'ble Justice J.R. Midha, Hon'ble Justice Rajiv Shakhder, Hon'ble Justice Mukta Gupta. After seeing the Clinic and talking with Volunteers and teachers they recorded their appreciation in the Visitors' Book which are of great moral boost for our team to move further in our mission.

CLINIC REPORT

Prepared by Naina Pankaj Dubey

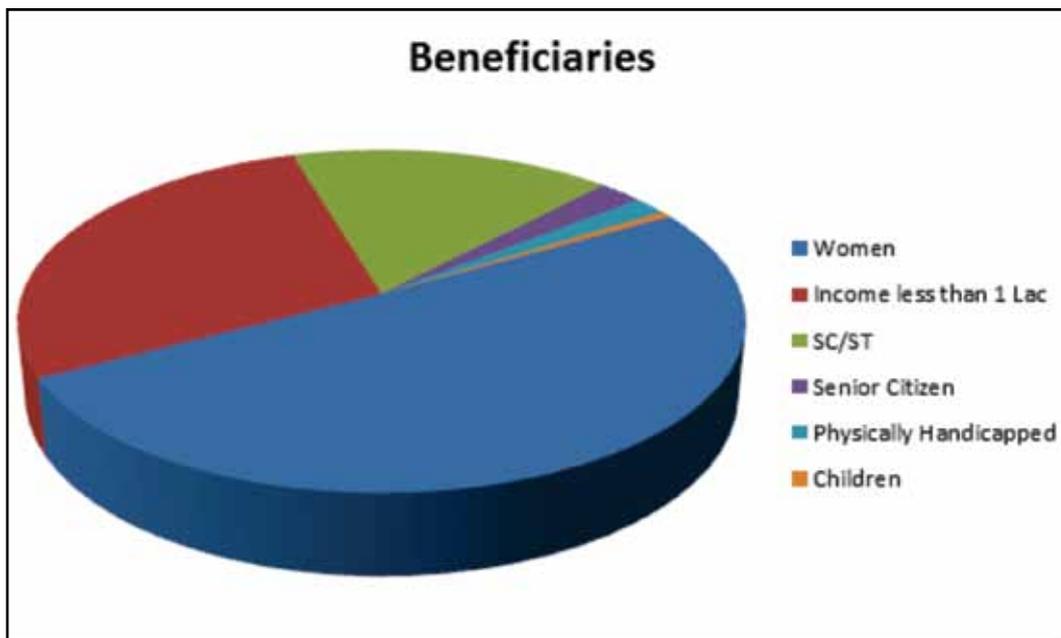
The Clinic started functioning on Saturday, 1st September, 2012. It operates in collaboration with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority, every Saturday between 10 am to 1 pm.

The structure of the Clinic is as follows:

1. It is headed by Dr. Suman, Director of the Legal Services Clinic.
2. The Clinic is managed by 21 students of Law Centre-1 who are trained by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority as Para Legal Volunteers.
3. Mr. Bhawani Shankar Sharma, DSLSA Advocate supervises the PLVs and provides legal advice to persons visiting the Clinic.

The duties of the Para Legal Volunteers are as follows:

- i. Interviewing the Clients and completing the information required in the Client Information Form;
- ii. Maintaining a record of all the documents brought by the Client in support of his case;
- iii. To be present with the Client at the time of deliberations with the advocate;
- iv. Carrying out any additional activities regarding the client's case if required by the advocate;
- v. Following up on the Client weekly, either by telephonic communications or accompanying them to Court;
- vi. Making a note of the follow up done in the record maintained;
- vii. To ensure that appropriate entries are made in the Client Register and the information contained therein is upto



date;

- viii. No PLV is allowed to transfer a case that he has taken up to another PLV;
- ix. One PLV will send an end-of-the-day report regarding the functioning of the clinic on Saturday to all the Faculty Members within 3 days;
- x. End of the day report shall have the following details: Date; Name of the Advocate present; Names of the PLVs; Name(s) of the Faculty Supervisor present; Names of those students who did not report for duty; Number of new cases; and number of revisits; Areas of law to which the cases pertained to; Problems, if any, faced when operating the Clinic.

In its first year (2012-13) working on 31 Saturdays, the Clinic has served 174 people who are eligible for free legal services under the Legal Services Act, 1987.

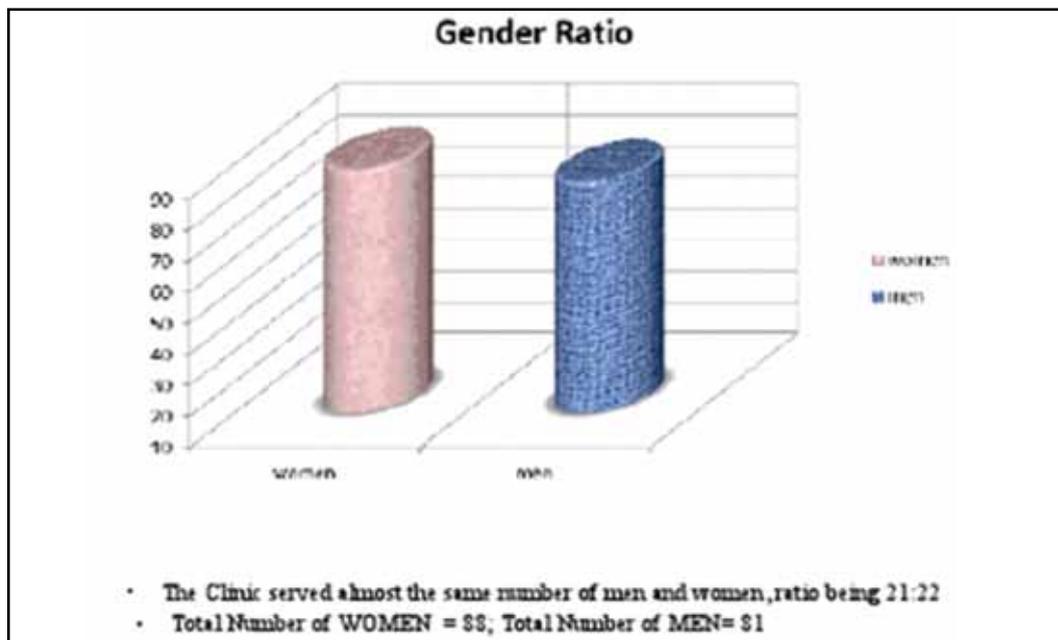
Women made up for the majority of the beneficiaries eligible for free legal services, constituting 51% (88 of 173) of the total number of visitors.

Beneficiaries under the heads of 'Income less than one lakh' constituted 28% (49 of 173) and Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes constitute 17% (29 of 173) of the total number of visitors.

Beneficiaries under the heads of Senior Citizens (income less than 2 lakhs), Physically Handicapped and Children constituted only 2% (4), 2% (4) and 1% (1) respectively, of the total visitors.

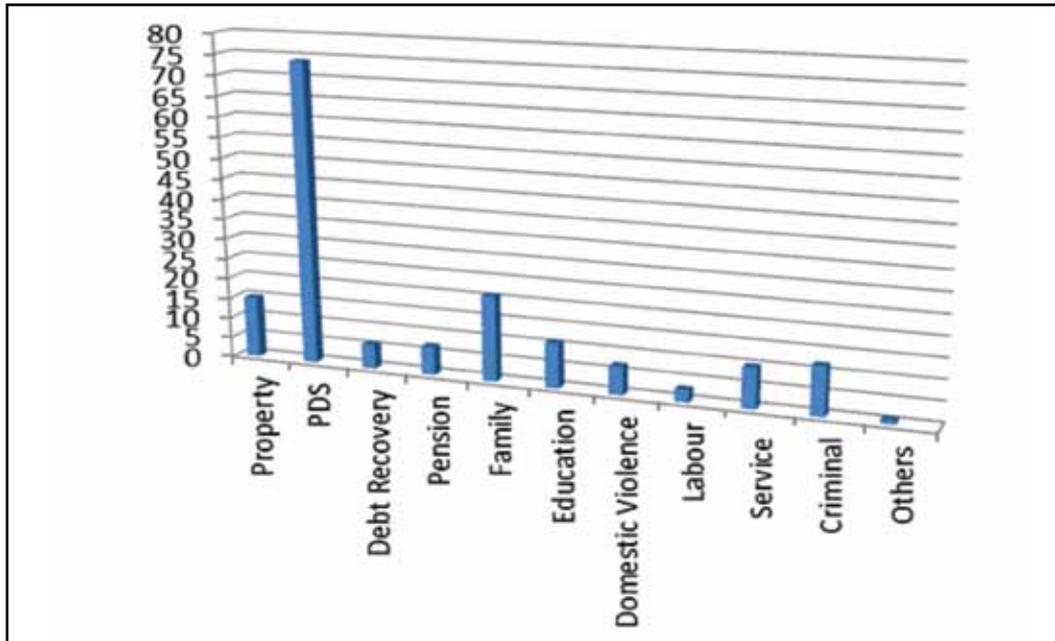
The Clinic did not see visitors from any other category of beneficiaries listed under Section 12 of the Legal Services Act.

The Clinic served almost the same number of men and women, ratio being 21:22. Total Number of WOMEN=88; Total Number of MEN=81



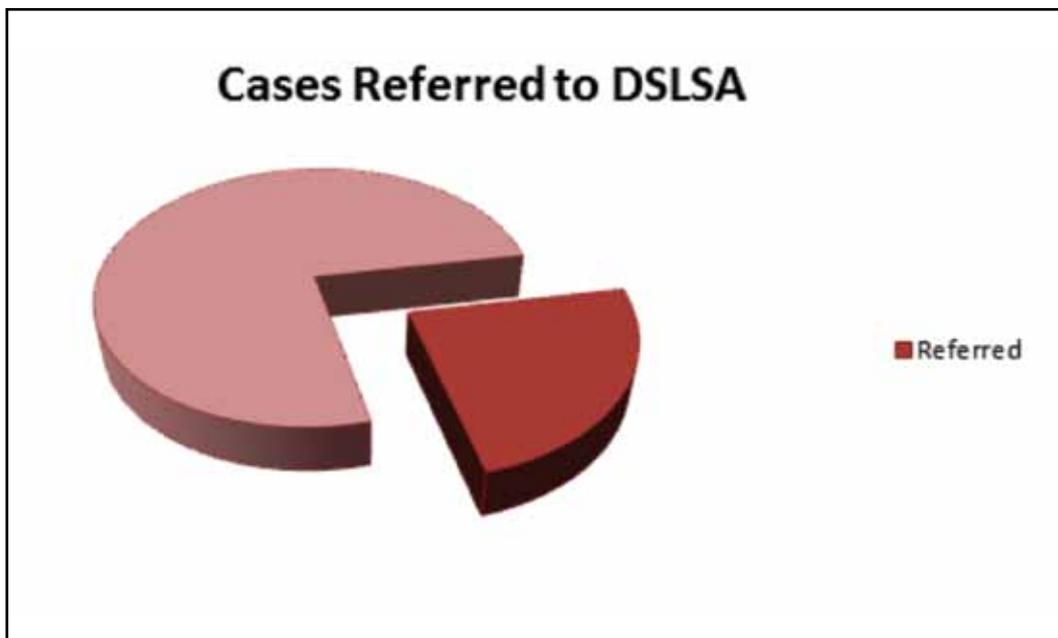
The Clinic provided assistance and handled cases which were varied in nature.

Nature of Disputes



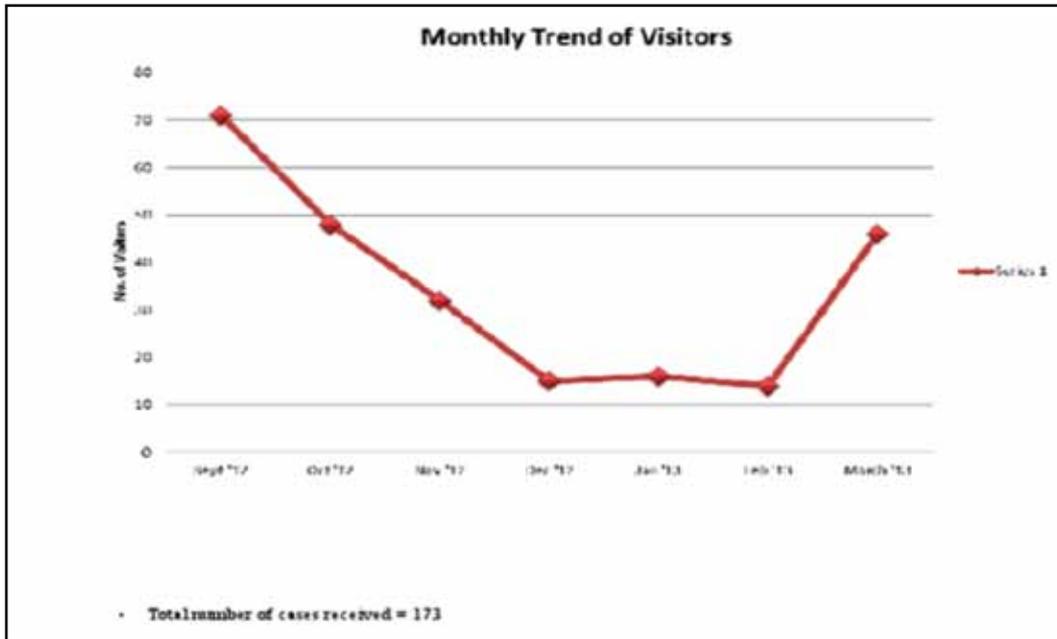
The cases which require pre-litigation counseling or litigation services are forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction of DSLSA, with a duly drafted letter by the Para Legal Volunteer containing a detailed brief about the person's dispute and a request for appropriate action to be taken. The Para Legal Volunteer then continues to make a record of the progress of the issue of the person referred hereinabove so that he/she may provide further assistance if required.

The visitors who are not referred by DSLSA are suitably advised by the advocate and timely follow up is done by the concerned Para Legal Volunteer.



Out of the Total Number of cases, which amounted to 173, cases eligible to be forwarded to the Delhi State Legal Services Authority amounted to 24% (41 of 173), the rest were suitably advised.

Para Legal Volunteers shoulder major responsibility of running the clinic and spreading awareness about the same. Their visits to the Community during the examination, study leave and the examination month become a bit limited and that adversely impacts on the number of visitors to the Clinic. Therefore, the number of visitors varies from month to month. The monthly trend of visitors during September 2013 – March 2014 has been as follows:



VISIT BY HON'BLE JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR

Justice Madan B. Lokur first visited the Legal Services Clinic on 8.03.2013 when he was invited as Chief Guest for the NHRC Mooting Competition, that day due to time constraint he could only see a glimpse of the functioning of the Clinic. But he promised that he would return. Staying true to his promise On Saturday, 23rd March, 2013 at 12:30 pm Hon'ble Justice Lokur, Supreme Court of India, visited Law Centre-I to interact with the students and faculty members of the Legal Services Society.

He was received by Prof. Ved Kumari, Professor in Charge of Law Centre-1; Dr. P.B. Pankaja, Convener of the Legal Services Society; Dr Poonam Dass; Dr. Suman, Director of Legal Services Clinic; Paralegal Volunteers of Law Centre-1; other student volunteers; Mr. Rajesh Goel, Ld. Secretary of Delhi State Legal Services Authority; Mr. Bhawani Shankar Sharma, panel advocate, DSLSA deputed to work in the Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1.

The Legal Services Clinic operates on every Saturday between 10 am to 1 pm. Therefore, it was a perfect opportunity to showcase the Clinic's functioning to Justice Lokur, and receive constructive feedback from him. The students apprised him about the detailed functioning of the Clinic. The methods for maintenance of records of the people who visit the Clinic for legal assistance were shown to him. He was also acquainted with the methods of creating awareness about the Clinic and the ways in which we work towards spreading legal literacy. Survey forms, pamphlets and booklets designed by the students for the purpose of spreading awareness were presented to him. Justice Lokur interacted with the people who had approached the Clinic for legal assistance. He also advised one distraught and troubled woman on this occasion. A short movie on community outreach programs conducted by the students in various downtrodden areas in the North District of Delhi was screened for him.

Thereafter we had an interactive discussion with him on how the Clinic and the Society could be more effective and make a greater impact on the lives of people. He also suggested how the large number of student volunteers available to us could be optimally utilized.



Hon'ble Justice Madan Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India, with LSS Team

SUGGESTIONS

He suggested incorporating the following:

1. Establishing a proper computer system to maintain the records of the people who approach the clinic for legal assistance.
2. Create separate cells for different legal issues.
3. Publish a newsletter which can be circulated in other law schools and NALSA to publicize the work being done in Law Centre and also to encourage other law schools to do the same.
4. Take assistance of the Deputy Commissioners of various areas to conduct legal awareness program. It would also help in solving the PDS problems faster.

PROPOSALS

He also proposed the following:

1. Transport and lunch arrangements in the form of a monetary allowance or actual provision of the same.
2. Mr. Rajesh Goel, Secretary, North DLSA, was asked to provide the Legal Services Clinic with appropriate funds to help carry on the work and also issue ID cards to the trained Paralegal Volunteers who work in the clinic and other student volunteers who conduct community outreach programs.
3. It was also suggested by him that students could assist the Supreme Court Legal Services Authority in matters which would soon be coming up for hearing in the Supreme Court. He suggested that the students could study those cases, prepare for them and then brief the appointed amicus curiae and also send the case notes to the SC Legal Services Authority. He also suggested that for getting a clear understanding of the case and viewpoint of the accused, videoconferencing could be done wherever possible. A stipend for these students would be considered too. He also agreed that students who would graduate soon could still associate themselves with this program, though he strongly discouraged the representation of a person by such a graduate student in the court, the reason given by him was that usually these are delicate matters and need to be handled by experienced advocates, but nevertheless that shouldn't stop them from assisting the amicus. Payment to such students would also be considered.

RESOLUTIONS

1. It was resolved to present a list of willing and sincere students for the proposed collaboration with the Supreme Court Legal Services Authority after due deliberation.
2. It was also resolved to incorporate all the valuable suggestions into the workings of the society and clinic.

The visit by Justice Lokur was a fruitful and learning experience and we are exceedingly grateful to him for giving us his valuable suggestions and extending a helping hand.

STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES

The Smile

The beads of sweat on his forehead were shining under the sun, his thin frail hands trying to soothe his unkempt hair while trying to balance a red polythene bag that he was carrying. He supported his feeble frame by resting his hand on the door. I was standing there observing him, hoping that he is the first one. Right then he showed me a familiar pamphlet and asked “Beta kya ye yahin ka pata hai? Meri kuch duvidha hai” There he was, Dayashankar Tiwari, the first person ever to visit the Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-I.



“Ji Haan! Aap please andar aaiye” I replied unable to hide the uncontrollable excitement in my voice. I ushered him towards a chair, grabbed the client form and sat across him behind a desk. But as soon as I faced him, that excitement turned into overwhelming nervousness. At that moment I forgot everything that we were taught in the Client Interviewing sessions. What was I to say to this person? He obviously thought I knew enough to help him. He just kept staring at me, waiting for me to say something to him. Those ten seconds felt like ten hours. There were two other students in the room, but they chose to observe from a distance. Finally I pulled myself together and asked the man some personal details, after which I asked him what his problem was. That’s it; I was in control of the situation only till then. Dayanshankar started narrating his story.

I thought I had good command over Hindi, but I was soon made to realize otherwise! He used legal Hindi terms which I did not understand, said words of which I did not know the meaning and not before long, I was preoccupied with the thought of how am I going to help this person. I think my nervousness of attending to the first client of the clinic had taken over my ability to comprehend. I glanced at the clock; it was yet 9:45, another fifteen minutes before the lawyer from DSLSA would arrive. And no one else was coming to my rescue, rather to this man’s rescue. Anyway, I kept nodding my head while listening to Dayashankar. Finally a saviour, a friend and fellow paralegal entered the clinic and sat next to me, but he looked as clueless as me! I think that shared cluelessness gave me a confidence boost. I tried to overcome the pit that had formed in my stomach; I gave myself a little pep talk in my head: you worked very hard to establish this clinic and you have undertaken the responsibility to help these people, so you shall not sit here and do nothing! At the risk of sounding like an ignorant fool I started asking Dayashankar questions which would help me understand his case better, he was happy to oblige. My partner and I kept making notes, while the room was filling up with more students and teachers; I kept hoping that I was setting a good example. Finally the lawyer arrived; I must confess I had never been more relieved to see a lawyer. He sat between us and asked me to brief him, and to my astonishment, I was able to explain Dayashankar’s problem. He asked Dayashankar some more questions and finally advised him appropriately. I saw Dayashankar to the door and assured him that he could contact us anytime he wanted. He smiled his crooked smile and thanked me.

That smile, has kept me going throughout this year. To see more of those smiles, to feel that sense of contentment of having helped someone in the smallest way possible has been my incentive and motivation even on days when I was too sleepy to wake up early morning to come to college.

Being a part of the Legal Services Society has taught me many things. Most importantly I have learnt how to care. It has humbled me and made me realize that it is our duty to put this privilege and power of knowledge that we have, to the use of those who are not fortunate enough to receive the same. It has taught me how to lead and how to work as a member of the team.

Today when I talk to a person who has come to us for legal assistance I don't feel perhaps the same nervousness that I did when I spoke to Dayanshankar Tiwari. But yes, I just cannot get enough of that euphoric sense of contentment I first experienced, whenever someone like him gives me that satisfied smile.

Naina Pankaj Dubey

3rd Year

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Nagma's case ³

This is the story of the notorious neighbors. Nagma Begum, residing in was being harassed continually by her drunkard neighbors. These were young boys and drunkards and small time goondas of the area who would drink every evening near Nagma's house, throw used bottles inside her home, misbehave with her and her daughters and trouble her in other ways. She complained those boys wanted to harass her daughters. She had made a complaint in this regard to the local police station and she had a copy of the same with her, but police had taken no action she said. She suspected that the constable who had visited the locality with reference to her complaint had been bribed by her neighbors.



Nagma first came to know about our Clinic through the Outreach Team of LSS that visited her area to spread legal literacy and urge people to visit the Clinic with their problems. Her first day at the Clinic, she met the lawyer and my name was put as the PLV (Para Legal Volunteer) in charge of her case. I saw her file, which also had the copy of the complaint which had an elaborate explanation of her problems and her plight. Apart from this her sad and worried face was enough to tell the whole story. She was worried, she was afraid and angry, but would not cry.

I thought that there were two ways forward, one in which her case was referred to DLSA where she would explain her problem to the staff, then the lawyer and then may be to the judge. The other thought which was there in my mind was to get the police act on this matter which was the quickest solution of the matter.

I thus wrote one mail to the area ACP and the DCP and also to the commissioner of Delhi Police and then made phone calls to these offices and told them about my email. Within two days I got a call from an unknown number and the voice on the other end told me that she was a police inspector and is working on the complaint I had made, and she is currently looking for the house of Nagma which she was unable to find. I assisted her in locating the address and prayed that Nagma gets help now.

After a few days while I was about to leave the clinic I saw a smiling face entering the Clinic and it was Nagma. Happiness was glowing on her face, she remembered my name and said "Arre Kamlesh bhaaibahutbahutshukriya". We sat and she told me how the police teams visited her place and got hold of all those boys who then said sorry to her and promised to never repeat that kind of conduct again.

I felt happy, I felt as if, in the life of me becoming a lawyer I had successfully resolved my first case. I was satisfied. I also overcame the fear which a lot of people talked of in this regard and I felt that "one should never fear to advocate the rights of their clients."

Thus I have a message for my friends who would lead this clinic and the society in the coming times.

"One should never fear to advocate the rights of persons"

Fear is illusory; it cannot live. Courage is eternal, it will not die. Perils, calamities, dangers are the certain

³ DLSA/LS/LC-1/84 (case file no. in Legal Services Clinic of Law Center 1)

lot of every man who is a denizen of this world. Therefore, O my friends! Fortify your mind with courage and patience. Fortitude, courage, presence of mind will sustain you through all situations. Just as a rock on the sea-shore stands firm and the dashing of the waves does not affect it even a bit, even so a man who is endowed with courage is not affected by the dark perilous waves of this world. He stands adamant in all trying conditions and circumstances and comes out victorious.

Kamlesh Kumar Mishra
3rd Year

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It was worth serving...



“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Legal Services Society started with an aim of providing legal services to various sections of the society and the motto of ‘Justice for All’ and by my experience I believe we did justice to the motto and the aim with which we started. Legal Services Society made me learn the practical aspects of lawyering, which no text book no individual could ever teach “the real joy of lawyering”- Client Counselling.

The Legal Services Clinic was inaugurated on the 25th of August, 2012 by Hon’ble Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, Judge High Court of Delhi and Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Additional Solicitor General of India. I remember that when it started we had no idea that the Legal Services Clinic will be able to achieve this much of recognition in such a short span of time. Even before the clinic started the ground level work of informing people of their right to free legal aid started and also that in case they need any assistance they can come and visit us in the Clinic on its working days. On the first day of our Clinic, 1st September, 2012, when it all began, I was anxious in the beginning, but I remember I ended up feeling overwhelmed by what these people (in need of legal services) had to tell, what they expected from us and by the end of the day I was emotionally exhausted. And after the first day after learning from our experiences we tried to make the person coming to us comfortable, so that they do not hesitate to tell us about the minor details of the issue which was considered to be useless by them but was crucial to the issue. As the time passed the aim with which the Legal Services Society started ‘justice for all’ became the aim of our lives. Slowly and gradually we picked up pace, the outreach programs of the Society started taking place on every weekend and from then the clients came with a belief in their heart that we will do our level best to help them and it is since then that the clinic hasn’t looked backwards. Being a part of the Community Outreach program also I realized that the life we live is much hassle free and simple compared to the people living in those areas and circumstances. There the people don’t know about their rights and in case they do know about their rights they either sleep over their rights or take a wrong channel to justice.

All in all I believe it was an amazing experience which ended up with me learning more than I could have ever learned through the text books. I saw life through the eyes of the people who visited us on every Saturday and from their perspectives allowing me to broaden my horizon and just see how lucky I am to have the privileges and choices I do; something many people need. Since my association with the Legal Services Society and the Legal Services Clinic is coming to an end I wish the members of the Society and the new batch of Para Legal Volunteers who will be working in the clinic best of luck.

Pavni Poddar
3rd Year

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Accessing Justice

The mission of the Law Centre-1 Legal Services Society (LSS) is to fashion, through hands-on experience, a socially aware network of students and faculty, each of whom are imbued with a commitment to fulfill their professional and social obligations.



My work with the LSS has made me realize that more public education is required and not just education about laws or regulations. We have to start at a much more basic level and teach people how to recognize that a problem might have a legal remedy. Legal advice and representation are the backbone of any legal aid program and will always be but the need for the same must be recognized by individuals. Most people do not realize that many of the problems they face have a legal solution. The best way to teach people about the law, and to help them recognize legal problems, is not by sending them to just lawyers but trusted social service providers. However, in the absence of such providers we must strive to fill this lacuna as well.

The legal aid program is not charity or reward but it is a social right of the people and those in need of legal assistance cannot be considered mere beneficiaries of the legal aid program but they should be regarded as participants in it. It has been an immense learning experience for me working for the LSS. It has been both gratifying and humbling to serve the community from the basic level of providing legal literacy to serving more complex litigation needs. It creates a sense of empowerment, in the clients as well as the students and faculty members serving them, to achieve these socio-legal goals.

Working at the LC-1 Legal Services Clinic, participating in Outreach/Area Adoption Programs, participating in Jail Visit Programs, participating in Lok Adalat visits besides fulfilling my managerial role in LSS has been by far the greatest hands-on learning experience and honed many of the skills I require as a lawyer. It has been a colossal lesson in client counseling, building administrative skills, developing strong legal ethics and basic litigation skills.

It is important for us as law students not only to know the law but also to understand the social, economical and religious divides that persist in our country to be able to truly aid justice. The various activities of LSS have given me a firsthand experience of dealing with clients in various situations. In a natural environment there are a lot of factors which play a role. Human nature is varied and un-predictable it is important to understand various social situations and how people react in these situations. As students of law and future lawyers it is important for us to understand the root and remedy of a crime, the impacts the lives of people, how different people react and human nature.

When a person has privileges above others, they need to use the same to improve the life of someone who has less. In the case of lawyers, our insight into law has made us privileged and though this is the bounty of our labour it is still less a badge than a charge. We must still feel an obligation to serve and I am grateful that LSS has given me the occasion to appreciate the same.

Sana Javed
3rd Year

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Serving Right

“Serve bhavantu sukhinh” and “vasudhev kutumbkm”. These are the lines about which I always used to wonder about. However, “How can I contribute to it” that was the question, which always revolved around in



my mind.

On 25th August, 2012, because of constant effort of Prof. Ved Kumari, our Professor-in-Charge, Justice S. Muralidhar inaugurated the Legal Services Clinic under the directorship of Dr. Suman. Truly speaking, my way of life got changed after it. On Saturdays it has become a routine to go to our Legal Services Clinic, talk to the aggrieved, assist them in getting justice, etc. It's like going to 'mandir' on every Saturday. I always like to help needy people and to share their problem. My appetite for helping needy, took me to the remote and neglected areas like Chandrawal, Rana Pratap Bagh, Dhirpur, etc., where really problem lies. There we made them aware of their rights and various beneficial schemes. We also advised them to visit to our Legal Services Clinic. It was the time when I felt the joy of contributing...contributing to our society from where I got all...

No doubt, I was receiving more than I was investing, as I took part in a play on the topic of domestic violence. I learnt that I am going to perform in our Legal Services valedictory program. It has also revived my hobby of drawing and I have made some charts and posters which, luckily, got selected for Conference Hall of LC-1. While doing all this with my group, a team spirit developed in me and with this spirit we took part in "Antardhawani" Competition and won commendation prize of one lakh. If you lend your ear to me I must say it is also a personality development program because after completing LL.B., a Legal Services Society member may behave lawyerly rather than a fresh law graduate.

Ohh! How can I forget about jail visits. 8-12 students were selected for jail visit including me. We first went to Tihar Jail, Delhi, where we met with the female inmates and came to know that during their custody, an NGO takes care of their children. We also got time to talk to inmates. We observed that most of the cases were of dowry death (304-B of I.P.C.). We had some tasty snacks made by inmates. Next day we went to Rohini jail, Delhi, there we met with male inmates. I am very grateful to Mr. Satish, DSLSA Officer who gave me opportunity to tell them about Plea-bargaining. Thereafter we had lunch (humne jail ki roti todi).

We also visited the Lok Adalat twice and learned more about 'pleading guilty' and significance of 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' in quick disposal of matters.

In my childhood I always wanted to be in the army to serve my country and I am glad that I am serving my country in a better way by serving its native at grass root level with an idea that the journey of thousands miles starts with a single step.

Rekha
3rd year

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My experience with Legal Services Society

I was about to perform a husband's role who used to get drunk and beat his wife: that was first time in my life I was going to perform a skit in front of many dignitaries including Justice S. Muralidhar. As I performed, I got to know what I am capable of. And this learning process is still continuing.

It was needed that we must reach out to communities, so that they can get to know about our Clinic. We started advertising about the same in such areas which was inhabited by most of persons entitled to free legal aid. In our first visit I was accompanied by my friend Aditya and Krishan and I am happy that now we are around 80 student who are involved in such visits.



The first problem we had to face was how to convince those marginalized sections of people who have little faith on judicial system. We used handmade pamphlets and posters to advertise. We found that they were living in such bad and inhuman conditions, that it would be a shame for government authorities if they were not apprised with their problem. The major problems with them included sanitation, PDS system and other public utility services. Majority of them were daily wage workers, rickshaw pullers and MCD workers. For example, when we visited Majnu Ka Tila, we found that here also the grievances of people were same, i.e., negligent behavior of all government authorities and people belonging to upper section of society.

In the subsequent visits more and more volunteers accompanied us and in a same manner more and more clients also started visiting our Clinic. After that we visited Kabir Nagar, Gopalpur and Dheerpur. In all places the condition and problems of people were the same. Here, I would like to thank Prof. Ved ma'am, Dr. P.B. Pankaja ma'am and specially Dr. Suman ma'am who recognised our efforts and encouraged us a lot.

Besides slum visits, under our outreach program, we also organized skit/play based on Domestic Violence in Miranda House. Despite being first timers we all performed very well under the guidance of Poonam ma'am, Seema ma'am. At present we are ready with another play based on sexual assault on woman under the guidance of Seema ma'am.

Pankaja ma'am has come up with new "adoption program" which is to adopt 7 areas so that the problems of the communities can be tackled in a more effective way. We were provided with questionnaire so that the research work could also be done effectively.

At the end, I only want to say that Legal Services Society is giving us a large platform to serve the needy persons in a better way and more importantly to expand our horizons of thinking. I am really thankful for that.

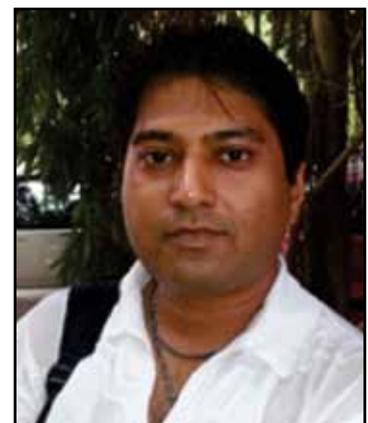
Rahul Maurya,
3rd Year

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This journey is continuous process on learning

My journey in legal aid started at 9 AM on 25th August 2012. This journey brought me such beautiful learning experiences. On 25th August my friend Aditya asked me to accompany him to bring some flower to decorate our faculty on the occasion of inauguration of our LC-1 Legal Services Clinic – my first involvement with LSS.

1st September 2012 Legal Services Clinic starts functioning but I was totally clueless on how to make it a success. On 3th September Aditya called me and told me about Community Outreach Program and convinced me to join the group and we started out with our friends Krishan and Rahul and visited the nearby slums. I was worried who will bear the expenses for these visits and Rahul's reply was simple, "Bhai naukari nahi kar rahen hai samaj seva kar rahen hai thoda sa anejane ka paisa hai manage kar lenge" and we all agreed with his words. Slowly we gained trust of the inhabitants of this slum and managed to convince clients to visit our Clinic. Soon we could see our efforts bearing fruits as more and more people visited the Clinic and we also referred a few cases to DSLSA.



One day Aditya and Krishan came up with the idea of making a small documentary on the work being done by us in slums and I enthusiastically started working on the same. The result was a small beautiful film on our 'Reaching Out to the Community Program – Legal Service at Doorstep'. After this small success we started a radio show for spreading legal awareness. In this

brief period I have personally gained a lot in terms of knowledge and experience. LSS has been a great learning platform especially in teaching me the real value of PEOPLE, the value of team work, dedication, true friendship, devotion and, very important, the value of our elders' guidance. I'm grateful to Prof. Ved Kumari ma'am, our PIC, Dr P. B. Pankaja, Dr. Suman and other faculty members for their devotion to us.

I now feel I'm not giving free service to the society, rather I am making profit for myself in terms of the enriching experience I have gained at the LSS. This Society is just not a bunch of individuals, rather it is an inductive and deductive method of learning. From 25th August till date the journey continues.....

Pawan Madhukar

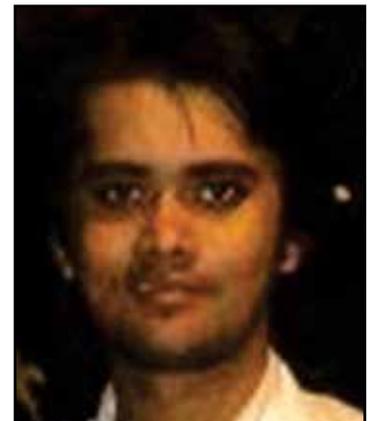
2nd Year

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“Its never enough”

This is what comes to one's mind when asked about the rich experience each one of us has had working under the inspiring guidance of DSLSA and parental supervision of our Hon'ble PIC, Prof. Ved Kumari ma'am working as para-legal volunteers.

Personally, I feel I was fortunate to acquire due training from DSLSA and had first-hand experience of interacting with the clients mostly aggrieved persons at our Legal Aid Clinic who, to start with, seemed scared and surprised, at the same time at least on their first visit. They must be worried with their problems and surprised to see an institution like ours which was whole-heartedly dedicated towards finding a solution of their problems on a strict pro bono basis.



Whatever the case may be, I had some taste of satisfaction when very recently I visited one of the slum areas around the University: Kabir Nagar, which happens to be the adopted area of our team “KARUNA”. One lady in her mid-40s, came up with a bamboo stool and offered me to sit. Musing, when I finally sat down and asked her about the problem she had been facing with the government officials to procure a caste certificate for her grand-daughter's school purposes, she happily complained that “ek ka to aa gya hai, doosre ka post-office wale uda le gaye”. I suggested her to check for the posts one more time, when came her contenting reply – “bhैया, unka office aapke office jaisa thode hi hai, wahan to sabke peeche daudna padta hai, lekin aapke yahan jaate hain to 4-4 ladka-ladki gher ke baat sunta hai”.

This was not all, she also informed us about a case of a matrimonial dispute, pending for 5 years, which was settled outside the court by the families with the help of matrimonial-counseling given by DSLSA, referred via our very Clinic.

Though a lot was to be done as many others were waiting and not all of them were satisfied, yet they treated us with respect and looked up at us with hope. That struck us with the kind of responsibility we had had on our shoulders which was equally worrying and strengthening at the same time.

Apart from experiences of community outreach, the Tihar-Jail visit, made possible only by the efforts of this LAW FACULTY-DSLSA alignment was one-of-its-kind learning experience.

On a personal front, activities like seminars, talks by guest-dignitaries and participation in Skits and plays related to legal aspects of everyday life gave us practical and applicative outlook of many a laws which we had only known by the yellow covers of our Bare Acts.

Summing up, anything or everything which I have been able to do is nowhere near enough and a lot is to be done owing to the conditions of the under privileged in our country. However, the experience with the Legal Services Society, Law Centre-1 was once in a life time learning experience which will have a life-long effect on not only my future law-career but also in shaping-up the values in me as a human being. A humble gratitude and good-luck wish for the Society.

Amen!

Satymev Sabarn

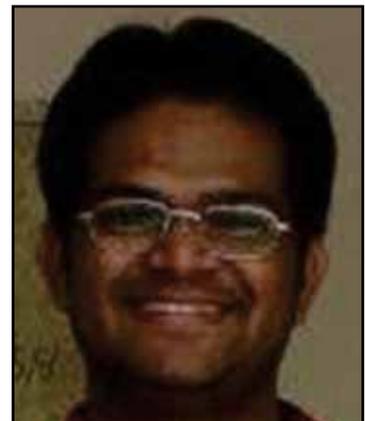
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Experience with Legal Services Society

I was associated with Public Distribution System and certificates issued by S.D.M (Sub Divisional Magistrate). The certificates comprised of caste certificate, domicile certificate, etc. Certificates issued by M.C.D (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) were voting cards, death certificates, Aadhar Cards, etc. I cannot be thankful enough and express my sincere gratitude towards Legal Service Society, Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law, and University of Delhi for exposing me to such areas which require a dynamic makeover.

The area which interested me the most was public distribution system. The plight of public who are caught in the vicious circle of corruption, red-tapeism, uncooperative behavior and many other in disciplinary behavior motivated me to work towards in this area. Certificates which are issued by S.D.M offices are important towards the development of the Indian society. Due to obsolete working culture prevalent in these areas, the true motive of these certificates cannot be accomplished. Regarding my work load, I gave 46 hours for outreach programs; 102 hours for clinical duties; 40 hours for office visits. All this I did happily with a motto that ‘Learning through doing’ which I strongly believe will go a long way in helping my Profession at a future date.



KAPIL RAO

3rd Year

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Realization

It’s a realization which actually tells you what your responsibility is, no matter how much it has been told by elders or you have gathered from lectures.

It was eve of Sunday. As usual I was on the tea shop near my PG. There a rikshapuller called me “Sahab Namaste”. I turned my questioning face towards him, understanding my inability to recognize him. He again said “kal sahab,office me aapse mile the, Ganesh Mahato, main yahi pass me rehtahoon”. Then I had short conversation with him, and I assured him of every possible help. All other persons around (mostly rikshawpullers), were curious to know about the clinic. No doubt they have misunderstood me for an officer but the belief and respect they were showing towards me, made me realize what responsibilities I have taken for myself now.

Working as PLV, under the guidance of our teachers as well as advocate sir, has been very learning experience. I have learnt to deal with different category of needy persons. Management of legal service clinic has surely improved my management skills. I have no problem in accepting that I had less patience level, but now there is

an improvement.

I seriously feel proud that we have been successful in making this Legal Service Clinic as the most efficient Legal Service Clinic in Delhi. We are the first batch of PLVs. We have tried many things, some have worked but some did not. I hope next batch of PLVs would continue our efforts. It was a beginning so there is a lot of scope for improvement.

I believe that the new “Adoption Program” that we have started is very productive if rightly implemented. I hope other student will continue their hard work as well as our teachers will continue guiding us.

Concluding I must not forget to thank Ved Ma’am who made our final year valuable.



Priyanshu Awasthi
3rd Year

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My experience with the Legal Service Society

When I joined Legal Services Society in my 3rd year, I was not aware of the working of this Society much but when I participated in its meeting I came to know the main purpose and objective of the Legal Service Society and how the Society plans to achieve it. Spreading legal awareness and providing legal services and assistance to those who come under the criteria provided by Section 12 of the Legal Service Authority Act of 1987, are the main objectives of the Society. Society helps the children, women, senior citizens to get their legal rights. Thus to achieve our aim, we started our outreach program. The outreach program has helped us a lot to understand the plight of weaker sections of the society.



As an active member of the Society and leader of the team “Yakeen” I feel that it has developed my leadership skill. It has increased my capacity to work within a team and it has given me the opportunity to meet renowned social activist and judges of various courts. More than these words I would like to say that this society has given me the real exposure, which I need to become a good human being and a good advocate. More than that, it has given me the opportunity to help those who are in need. I would also like to give my appreciation to all those volunteers who are working for the Legal Service Society without any donation and perks. I am happy to be a part of this legal services movement initiated by Law Centre-1 in collaboration with the DLSA.

Aaditya Kumar
3rd Year

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My Experience in Legal Services Clinic

I have worked in outreach program as well as in the Legal Services Clinic. In the outreach programs we first visited the slums to meet people living there. It’s a different socio-economic culture. Men are mostly daily wagers, and women totally ignorant of their rights. All of them needed legal literacy. But I can’t figure out one thing, how we can teach them to protect themselves where on the other side even highly educated people can’t protect

their rights. We know that employees are being exploited in their jobs, we know of harassment and molestation and other crimes against women are committed everyday and there are more of such examples. I want to support a better system, where people can directly go to one window and get all the support and help they need for protection of their legal right, and in Legal Services Clinic in Law Center-1 we try to provide it. Here we help them in preparation of Aadhar Card and provide them lawyer for legal relief.



We have all kinds of clients in our Clinic. But I assure you that most of them are only needy. Many of them are frustrated by our obsolete welfare system. In one of the cases a father came to us and said that his daughter had been kidnapped. When he approached police they persuaded him to write complaint of missing and verbally promised to help him. In his innocence and ignorance he wrote a missing complaint. Thus, there was no FIR and no investigation. After one year of effort he has succeeded to have a FIR. Now let see in how many days he can find his daughter with the help of police.

This tenure of my service has put many questions in front of me and I am trying to find the answers and I always will.

Parameshwar Choudhary
PLV, 3rd year

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A Ray of Hope



I clearly remember last year April, when the proposal to establish this new Clinic was introduced. I remember back then I was much excited like the rest of the students as we thought this would give us the practical aspect of law and will help us understand the law in much better way. I still remember how much I requested Dr. Suman to make me a part of this Clinic, as I was keen to be a part of this Clinic. I'm very thankful to Ma'am for making me a part of this Clinic.

And then on 1st September, 2012, our Clinic finally started functioning. It was a moment of joy for all of us. We all were enthusiastic and excited but on the other hand we were equally nervous.

I dealt with many clients; all of them had something or the other to teach me. Some taught me patience and some taught me to have faith.

One of my clients was a woman, who lost her husband in 'the Dropsy case of 1998', I was so disheartened to see her still struggling for the compensation, having such a huge family to care of and she being the only earning family member. I found myself so helpless and handicapped.

On 20th March, 2013, we were provided with an opportunity to visit Tihar jail. It was such a wonderful, and, at the same time, a very enlightening experience, where we got to interact with the inmates there. I was glad to see, that convicts who had good record, helped as 'Sahaayaks' in the jail.

My experience as a member of the Legal Services Clinic was delightful and most enjoyable. I had so much to

learn from each member of the Society. I have made some very good friends, whose friendship, I'll cherish for a lifetime. I would like to thank all the faculty members, for always being there as our support system throughout the year and for filling us with zeal and enthusiasm.

Manini Saraswat

3rd Year

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Experience of working with LSS

Legal Services Society has been much more than merely a College Society. I joined LSS as a volunteer and have been lucky enough to be a part of some of the great initiatives of the Society. Legal Services Clinic of Law Center-1, since its opening, has provided a platform to the students to assist and work under the guidance of learned advocates of DSLSA. In fact, no law internship can provide you a better experience of client counseling.

I have also been part of the legal awareness programs of the Society, in which we prepared skits on various issues relating to rights of individuals, to be performed in various colleges. One of our performances in Miranda House on Domestic Violence on Women moved the girls and some of them afterwards came up with their queries related to the skit. As a part of outreach and legal awareness we have also been recording shows with Delhi University Community Radio, on various topics of general importance including rights of women, rights of arrested persons, Public Interest Litigation and also Copyright and related matters.



LSS has helped me learn skills to be a good lawyer and has taught me the duties that a law professional has towards the society and LSS is a great platform to discharge some part of those duties.

I thank LSS for all that it has given me.

Nidhi Bansal

2nd Year

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My Experiences.....

My life in the Law Faculty is correlated with something which is very special to me because it gives me a new life, a new place where knowledge will never be the last thing that a student can achieve rather it is the way we talk, communicate and express with other person that matters in every day of Law Center-1.

I have got lots of experiences as part of Legal Service Society as I was involved in various team programs. Most interesting were the outreach program, client counseling, and social literary program by the skit and drama team. Our team works together: a great example of co-ordination. I really admire Suman ma'am and my co-coordinators in this regard who are very enthusiastic and who encourage us to achieve our goals with efficient time management.



Outreach program is the tremendous job for all volunteers because this is the place where every member has to perform with their full capacity and capability they have. Sometime some people are very afraid of their personal problems like domestic violence and the problems caused by the government official in matters relating to ration card, voter identity card, public distribution system, health and civic problems, etc. All these problems make them violent and when our team visited, we had to face their collectively annoyance but our team handled it patiently. In slum areas, the girl volunteers face some problems. I suggest that regarding this issue the faculty should approach the police station for providing at least a constable to every team. It would be a more efficient step by the authority if they take it in future.

Paralegal volunteer training program is a corner stone for the Legal Service Society; we need to train more and more volunteers so that we would use them in mass for the benefit of the society.

I did a small skit last year on domestic violence as part of the Skit and Drama Team. At that time the condition was not proper as it is now, but still it has to improve more. There should be more opportunities to perform before the faculty and others places. We need to improve literacy program by demonstrating Nukkad Natak on various social issues and make the society aware about the law involved in it. We should do it also by showing play/skit videos in slums and economically backward area.

I appreciate our prison visit to Tihar Jail, where I met with some convict prisoners, with the help of Mr. Rakesh Pandit sir, Mr. Sharma (both Judicial Officers, and DLSA officer), I provided two or three prisoners legal aid like “plea bargaining” that may be helpful to them. I think whenever we will get the opportunity to provide legal aid in the jail we should be prepared for it.

I want to thank the Legal Services Society for giving me a wonderful opportunity to be the part of this journey which shall go on and on.

Gyanendra Kumar
3rd Year

My Experience with Legal Services Society

I had a great experience with Legal Services Society in my second year of LL.B. I was a part of the outreach programs conducted by the Legal Services Society. Through these programs I have improved my communication skills with the people and for a lawyer; it is a very prominent need to be good in communication skills.

We got our Constitution in 1950 but until now around 60% of the Indian population doesn't even know their fundamental rights and duties. It was a great pleasure for me to go from place to place, mainly in slum areas and tell people about their rights and duties. If they had any legal dispute or any other legal problem, we advised them from the legal point of view and asked them to come to our Legal Services Clinic. We used to inform them that our Legal Services Clinic was open every Saturday from 10am to 1pm in Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. I noticed that many of them came to our office.



Along with the outreach programs I was also part of a play, directed by the members of Legal Services Society. The play was based on domestic violence and through this play we spread our message of free legal services and also spread awareness about the law related to Domestic Violence. We performed this play in Law Centre-1 and Miranda House College.

We, as members of Legal Services Society also participated in Antardhwani, a fest which took place in DU. In our stall we showcased the achievements of LC-1 and the functions of our Societies (Mooters' Society, Legal Services Society, Gender Sensitization Committee, Staff Utsav, Teacher Training Programs, N.S.S, etc.). After seeing all these things I learnt that Law Centre-1 is very active. We also presented our needs to the University and with the fulfillment of those demands we will be able to do our activities more effectively.

I gained a lot of knowledge and had great experiences by being a part of Legal Services Society and I want to continue my participation in legal aid in my final year too.

Tanvi Yadav
2nd Year

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Life @ Legal Aid Services....

“There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.”

Woodrow T Wilson

With this vision in mind, Law Center-1 had its Legal Aid Services Clinic established last year and now that it completes its first year, I can't help but feel ecstatic and fortunate to be a part of this organization, but at the same time also feel obliged to share life @ Legal Aid Services from my eyes.

Although I joined the Legal Aid because of my love for theatre, it wasn't long before I became involved in all the activities of the Society as a whole and saw life @ Faculty with a new perspective.

Legal Services as a Society is a multidisciplinary organization with a holistic approach towards its various objectives. It works and tries to rally round in all the fields that can be possible in the area of Legal Services. From the Outreach Programs where students go out in different slums and try to reach out to the poor and needy, to preparing Skits and Plays to educate the masses about various laws, to paying a visit to Tihar Jail to meet inmates personally and develop a greater understanding of law and society, Legal Services Society does it all. It does everything to make a student comprehend and appreciate the law and its relation with the society in its real terms. It's more than just a Society; it's a Vision to go beyond the scheduled norm of education, which is limited to books and spread that education in building a better society. A vision that was seen by one person (our PIC - Prof. Ved Kumari) and is being realized everyday with the able guidance and supervision of its Teacher members and by the hard work and dedication of all the students that are a part of it.



But I will be bluffing if I say that my only attachment to this Society is because of the work that it does. I mean what is a Society without its members!!! And you will not find more intriguing and vivid crowd of people anywhere in the faculty than here in this Society. Yes, we are all very hardworking and sincere towards our work for the Society, but we are also very loud, very lively and real good friends of each other. We work together, we fight over work together, we laugh about each other's work together and at the end of the day we all leave together, basically to hang out at some other place...together!!!

If you are a member of LSS, chances are that you will be in the faculty from 10 am sharp and will leave faculty 10 pm. Yes, work is involved but it also includes sitting out at Nescafe with all your buddies, discussing strategy of the next outreach program and of the life altogether, all sorts of debates on moral issues and legal issues and issues involving both the issues and before you know it, its faculty's closing time!!! We believe in practicing the law and also that there cannot be a better way to do that than to help the underprivileged and the

exploited ones who need these laws the most.

In all if I have to sum up, then I'll say that Legal Aid is not just any Society, it's a place where you challenge what's conventional and go for what's right, it's a place where new friendships are made and are preserved for life and it's a place where you learn to hope and dream and work for a just society that law creates!!!

Surpreet Kaur
2nd Year

My Experience with LSS

I am very proud of being the part of the Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1 which gives us the opportunity to work in the field of providing service to the underprivileged. We are 'able' and that is the only and the most important reason to serve those who are 'unable'. Being the part of the Legal Services Society, I have myself seen the positive response of those people towards us who see us as a ray of hope when they have lost all the battles and surrendered themselves to the unjust society. While serving them, we feel ourselves very lucky to experience the feeling of service and witness the problems of our society in which we exist.



In some way, the experience with the Society helps us in being a good lawyer and a fair Judge, a legal professional who can actually see problems through the lens of justice and who knows the real problems of the grass-root levels. Most of all, it makes us become better persons who can serve the society and contribute to making it a better place to live.

Our interaction with Judges gave us an insight in the Legal System and technicalities of law which we can never find in our course books and no one but experience can teach us. Their experience proves to be a milestone in the careers of upcoming lawyers and new Judges.

In the end, I would like to say that it is commendable on the part of the Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1 to make the Society a huge success in such a small span of time. If the society works with the same enthusiasm and more and more people join in, then we can at least make the area of Delhi a "crime free zone". The day will not be far when all the people of Delhi will have easy access to Justice and our Society would be a better place to live.

Ankita Sehgal
2ndYear

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Legal Services Clinic: Joy of Justice

25thAugust 2012: it was the date when the Law Centre-1 took a great initiative and inaugurated the Legal Services Clinic' in the Faculty of Law, Delhi University. Legal Services Clinic, working in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Service Authority, ensures that justice is made available to the needy free of cost. It is run by a team of some motivated teachers and a group of some enthusiastic students who were given a 6 days training experience to be called as Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs).

As one of those PLVs, I also contributed my genuine efforts in the best possible way I could. Every Saturday, a group of PLVs used to deal with the needy clients in the Clinic and help their cases with the best possible

guidance. A register was made to enter all the entries to have a record of all the cases dealt with and I used to maintain a soft copy of the same. Lots of outreach programs were also conducted wherein we used to go to different areas in Delhi and help people in making them aware of these free legal aid services. A few members of the clinic also played a Drama in order to spread awareness among people about the legal services available free of cost. The efforts of the students were highly appreciated by all.

Recently, a Prison Visit was also arranged by the Society for the PLVs to make them better understand the suffering of the people so that they can do better justice with them now and in the future.

In the Clinic, all the teachers and students used to celebrate festivals also like Diwali, Basant Panchmi, etc., enchanting various mantras and singing prayers. It is a place where all were one and used to work as a family.

Being a member of the Clinic and working for the Society really gives me the feeling that I am still alive. It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of such a big noble cause. Last but not the least, I would like to thank one personality without whom it would just not have been possible for us to reach where we, the members of the clinic, are and she is none other than our very inspiring Professor-in-Charge Prof. Ved Kumari.

I would also like to wish all the very best to the new PLVs who, I believe, will do better than what we did and will take this so very genuine cause to its zenith.

Parul Singhal
3rd Year

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Experience of Legal Services Society

I have been continuously associated with the Legal Services Clinic since its inception. A group of talented and dedicated students under the mentorship of very supporting faculty members strived hard to setup the 'Legal Services Clinic' with the motto 'Free Legal Services for All'. I feel proud and fortunate to have shouldered some of the responsibilities for the inauguration of the prestigious Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1 run in collaboration with DLSA which works with a clear mandate to provide free legal assistance to the underprivileged.

The Clinic has been continuously educating people of their rights and aiding them tackle their issues by providing legal assistance every Saturday 10:00am to 1:00pm through its PLVs. We have resolved the issues ranging from domestic violence to divorce and admission in schools. Majority of the issues resolved are regarding Ration Cards and Voter's ID.

I have also participated in various Lok Adalats organized by the Legal Services Clinic. As a member of logistic committee; I have been actively participating in the data compilation work of the Clinic activities. The Clinic has also been training batches of PLVs with the help of DSLSA. This gives us ample opportunity for exposure and interaction with judges enabling us to share their experiences and witnessing their devotion towards the functioning of legal aid; inspiring us to do our bit.

The Clinic has been expanding its ambit since its inauguration on Aug 25, 2012. The "Adoption Program"



initiated by the Legal Services Clinic with the motive of reaching out to the underprivileged is one such example. This has been of immense benefit as we are now able to visit the needy personally and cater to any of their legal issues. I myself have been benefitting immensely working as the ‘team secretary’ of outreach team “Yakeen” actively working in “Majnu Ka Tila” area. I got the opportunity to interact with our target population at their doorsteps, hearing their problems and educating them of our presence and that justice, however grim they might feel, could be achieved through us as a medium.

In this brief span, Legal Services Clinic has become one of the most successful Clinics DSLSA has been running across Delhi. This has all been possible with the hard work of my fellow mates and our dedicated mentors. The Clinic has been the shining beacon of hope for the underprivileged and has exemplified as how we as a student can devote sincere efforts and thus, contribute towards the betterment of the society to which we owe tremendously. Being a part of this prestigious Clinic instills in us a sense of pride and fulfillment.

Priyankar Tiwary
2nd Year

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The Joy of Pro Bono Service of Legal Aid

“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS THE THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE”.

Being a member of family where Pro Bono Services of providing legal aid to the depressed section of society is almost a customary practice, I was blessed with opportunities of having keenly observed and experienced it from very childhood.

While working in the Clinic I got the opportunity of clients meeting, knowing their problem, preparing briefs, make them interact with the lawyers and visiting judges in the Clinic, and finally assuring them that they are at the right place. Clients meeting are not an easy task as some times clients do not share the true facts of the cases sometimes they feel embarrassed. Sometimes the women clients hesitate to share their problem and many other practical aspects, and you have to handle them all. I got the opportunity to apply my legal skill in solving practical problems, developing my own independent analogy and lastly but not the least preparing the brief systematically.



While assisting the visiting lawyers and judges in meeting clients I got to know how to brief cases to legal experts, how legal experts strike to the roots of problems and most importantly what solution they suggest to the clients. In this whole process legal experts most often discussed the legal issues with PLVs. We were asked to do research whenever some ticklish issue arose. Our task did not end there; we had to convince clients that he was at the right forum, and his problem would be addressed soon.

While working in the Society I got the opportunity of visiting Lok Adalat, where I got exposed to working of Lok Adalat, especially Plea Bargaining courts. I found that there is very little awareness of the Plea Bargaining system in less educated people. In nearly one year of my association with the Legal Services Society I’ve learnt a lot. Now I realize that illiteracy and poverty, apart from corruption, are the biggest hurdles in achieving the constitutional mandates mentioned in Arts. 14, 21, 39A, etc., of the Indian Constitution.

I am thankful for the kind supports and inspiration that I received from faculty members, the DLSA members, and other fellow members of the Society.

Rahul Shukla
3rdYear

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The Legal Services Clinic operated by the students of Law Centre-1, Delhi



University with the help of Delhi Legal Service Authority stands out to be the best way of helping those downtrodden people where the question of accessibility to the court or the Indian Legal System in wider sense does not seem to arise.

The Clinic was inaugurated in 2012 in the month of August. Various programs has been organised since then where members of the Society gets an opportunity to expose themselves into the stark reality of Today's world apart from the formal education we get inside our classrooms. The experience and the exposure on the whole, together adds up to our personality into becoming a more sensitive and aware individuals.

Outreach programs, Clinic services, Research works, Skits and plays are some of the categories where the student members are required to divide among ourselves so that those responsibilities we have taken on our shoulders could be carried out in a systematic manner. It is mandatory for every individual in the society to choose any of the categories provided.

In outreach program, students are asked to adopt a specific slum area which is nearby their places they stay so that no inconvenience is caused. We have been supplied with a set of questionnaires prepared by our Faculty member who is in charge of the work so that we could get all the information which is related to services we are going to provide them free of cost i.e., free legal services. Some were reluctant to divulge personal information and initially they were also slow in trusting us. As far as possible, we try to convince them of our genuine concern.

I also want to commend the Clinical Services provided by LSS every Saturday. Through good fortune and immense effort of our Faculty members we have been given an opportunity to work with some good lawyers and judges of Delhi Legal Services Authority. Those problems we accumulate from the Outreach Program are referred to the lawyer or the judge present on that specific day so that the necessary procedure is done as soon as possible.

Apart from the above mentioned programs, we have been given opportunities to work with various NGOs on issues like witch hunting, Prisoners Rights, and Juvenile Rights. Periodical jail visits is also organised by the Legal Services Society. The visit to Tihar Jail gave us an overall idea on how the law we study in our books differs from the actual practice in reality. We encountered several inmates who disclosed that they had been unable to get a lawyer of their choice due to bad economic condition of their families, lack of awareness of their rights as prisoners, etc.

Delhi Legal Services Authority is kind enough to provide a week long Para Legal Volunteers Training Program for the student members so that we at least become aware of those basic Acts and laws necessary for providing free legal services to helpless people.

The exposure we get from being a member of the Legal Services Society is priceless. Apart from the laws we study inside the classrooms, we also develop an introspective personality which helps us in becoming a responsible and sensitive citizens of India.

Sofiarani Ningombam

2nd Year

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My Experience as A Paralegal Volunteer

On 15/9/2012, my first day as a paralegal volunteer at the Clinic, all the hard work and training I had acquired was put to a test. I was nervous and excited. At the same time didn't know who was going to come, what kind of case we have to deal with. The only thing in mind was to help them. Day started slow, few people came who had heard of us from radio or from some other sources. People were not aware of us as we wanted them to be so we decided that we had to reach out to the people if they are not coming to us we have to go to them, we had to make people know about us and what we are doing here and so with those thoughts and commitment in mind we started our outreach programs where we go out in the community to the people rather than they come to us



It was an eye opener for me by going to this outreach program; it was an emotional experience that I cannot explain. Rather than making people make aware of us we came to know and experience their problems. We came to know about the kind of life they were living and the kind of problems they were facing. On all the outreach visits we met people who were facing domestic and financial problems which we were aware of, but sometimes there are such matters which are not known in the society, which we don't even know about and even if we knew about it there was little we could do. We came to know about such situations when we visited the prisons at Tihar and Rohini. There we came face to face with convicts who were there for various criminal offences but what we don't know we don't say and that was there part of the story. I came across several persons who were not aware what their rights were.

On that day I realized who we are and what our responsibilities are. I realized that being a Para Legal Volunteer was not just to know the problems of the people and find ways to help them. But being a PLV is an opportunity to change the lives of others and yourself. Becoming a PLV was not just to meet other people and help them but to help me realize who I was and where I stand in my life.

I can go on and on about my experience as a Para Legal Volunteer but summarizing it in just one word as "experience" would not be truthful and wise. With the whole ordeal the real words that should be used to correctly express my feelings are, "AN HONOUR and A PRIVILEGE to be a PARALEGAL VOLUNTEER."

Madhukar Bansiwala

3rd Year

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Life with Legal Service

Working with the Legal Services Society has been a fantastic experience for me. I didn't know about this society; one of my friend forced me to be a part of it and I am happy to be a member of this Society and thankful to my friend. After becoming member of it I got lots of valuable knowledge.

Firstly I made some posters on "domestic violence". Through this I met to some reputed person like Honorable Judges of the High Court.

I also went for outreach program in some slum areas and came to know about the problems of people living there and told them some solution and asked them to visit our clinic. To visit slum area for the very first time was very different experience. In that area main problem was related to alcoholism and domestic violence. Some problems were about ration cards, identity card and some property related problems were also there.



Because of the Society I got the chance to visit TIHAR- the jail and to interact with accused. To visit jail was nice and knowledgeable.

I also participated in “TWO FACES”- the play and it was amazing. We performed in GTB Medical Institute. Everyone appreciated us a lot. And through the Society I met my seniors. Now they all are my friends and everyone is great and helpful. I am very happy to be with all of them.

At the end I want to say that I love to work with LSS.

Ekta
1stYear

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Legal Services Society, LC-1: Empowering People through Knowledge Dissemination and Legal Aid

A few months after I took admission in Law Centre-1 I got to know about few societies that were actively working in the faculty, one of which was the Legal Services Society. The best thing I liked about this Society is how we as lawyers can deal with public and also help the poor and needy who need legal aid. About 70% people in slums are illiterate and even more than that are not aware of their legal rights. I followed the procedure and signed up for training as a Para Legal Volunteer. It was a big turning point in my life and I became more passionate about law. It is a feeling which keeps me going on.



As volunteers of the Society we have to visit slums to make people aware of their rights, to give them legal aid, also to tell them about our clinical services in which honorable Judges and other authorities and intelligentsia in law domain help us to assist the needy. We perform skits and plays to spread our message to the public, the message that we at LC-1, Faculty of Law, Delhi University provide quality legal service for free to help empower people.

During all this I came face to face with the miserable conditions in slums and how awareness of law is a must, and how it can change people’s lives. We assist all those who come to our Clinic to seek help in the best possible way and with a genuine intention that we are there and with them to provide sound legal advice. All these fore-mentioned activities really get me going and create a feeling that we are contributing something to society. Apart from this being part of this Society creates an ideal opportunity for gaining legal experience in our student life.

Working under the direct supervision of Honorable Judges, respected teachers, and seniors is such a great experience. Being a part of legal society, one gets that real world exposure which one needs to become a good lawyer. Seminars and Trainings conducted by Legal Aid Society with honorable Judges and Honorable visiting dignitaries as invitees, listening to their experiences is such a great learning. Opportunities like visiting Tihar jail visit, interaction with the under trials and to have a glimpse of their lives has provided so much learning and exposure in such a short time.

I have just completed few months in Legal Aid Society and learned so much and still looking forward towards more new experiences. I would like to thank Law Centre-1 for this initiative and thank all student members and faculty who are pillars of this great initiative through which we are able to contribute to the society by knowledge sharing and dissemination in this novel way by helping poor and downtrodden by providing them sound legal advice. We are Para Legal Volunteers, “mediators” and “interlocutor” between a common man and Legal authorities. It is a great feeling!!!!

Urvashi Jayant
1st Year

TEACHERS' REFLECTIONS

Speaking for myself.....

I still remember the day when I was assigned the Convener-ship of Legal Services Society, in the first Staff Meeting of the academic session 2012-13. That day I was wondering how best I could discharge my commitment to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Society with very little practical knowledge about the Community Outreach programs. In the same meeting my young colleagues, who are now the present members of the Society, enthusiastically volunteered to work with me and till date, I could do my job with their support and cooperation. The full team has been formed with the registration of student volunteers and a stage has been set to start our work.



Inauguration of our Legal Services Clinic has marked the beginning of my academic acquaintance with the dignitaries of Delhi Legal Services Authority and it facilitated more opportunities to meet them frequently during training programs of Para-Legal volunteers and other academic events. It enhanced my hope to conduct legal literacy programs with their institutional support who have an edge over any other person in the Legal Aid landscape. During my clinical duty as faculty-in-charge, I was very much impressed with the way Shri Bhawani Shankar, the panel advocate, was dealing with the clients, the skill in which a law academician is at a back seat.

The chances I got to interact with the members of higher judiciary like Justice Madan Lokur, Justice Muralidhar, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice Gita Mittal are the proudest moments of my association with the LSS.

In the course of my work, I am proud to say that, I could unearth the mines of energies hidden in our student volunteers, whether it is interaction with community or imparting legal literacy through skits and plays or preparing posters and pamphlets on socio-legal themes or receiving dignitaries and extending hospitality to them or doing clientele service or researching on the inter-linkage of socio-economic-legal issues of the community or starting a new and small library or bringing our Society's endeavour to the outside world or leaving no stone untouched to put all the activities of the LSS in black and white and in audio-video form.

Inside my heart of hearts I feel that the Society could not do justice to its student volunteers in providing at least basic conveyance charges and nourishment for the day's community outreach work, due to budget constraint, though not entitled as a matter of right but as incentive for their most committed involvement and deterrence from withdrawal from the work. As the para-legal service and community outreach are only an optional co-curricular activity not meant for academic grading but having a lot of potential to make the constitutionally guaranteed and statutorily recognized 'right to free legal aid' a reality, there is a need to consider some workable solution in this regard. Though this proposal is under favourable consideration of the DSLSA and is also in the verge of being sanctioned, I personally realize that the first batch is always an experimental batch but receives lots of appreciation which cannot be measured in terms of money value.

Our Professor-in-Charge, Prof. Ved Kumari's valuable suggestions, feedback and innovative ideas throughout the session helped me to improvise upon my working modalities.

All through the work I could see the burning desire in the hearts of young volunteers to change the lives of suffering people whom they interact in their work place. I could see their energies, trying to put the administrative machinery into action, to secure the basic entitlements to those who are found to be deprived of in the course of their work. I could see artists and poets in them designing the programs, titling them and conveying the right message. I could see leaders in them, leading their teams, unmindful of constraints and trying to fulfill their

commitment. I could also see the innocent truthfulness in young volunteers in sharing their experiences of varied colours without pretensions.

Working with them is really an unforgettable experience.

Dr P. B. Pankaja (Convener, Legal Services Society)

Associate Professor

Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law, DU

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My Experience at the Clinic

The issue of legal representation or legal aid to the indigent person has persisted and frequently engaged the attention of the government and legal institutions in our country. The framers of the Indian constitution also declared in Article 14 that all persons are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of law. Equal protection of the laws implies equality of access to courts i.e. to receive assistance of the courts for protection of their rights. However, it was 42nd Amendment Act 1976 which recognized legal aid “as a constitutional imperative arising from Articles 14, 21, 22, 32 and Article 39-A. Mention may be made here that Article 39A was inserted in the Directive Principle of State Policy guaranteeing the provision of legal aid to indigent persons. Subsequently, the Legal Service Authorities Act was enacted in 1987 but was brought into effect as late as 1995. All this has helped the marginal and poverty ridden people of our country in a significant manner. Apart from this, the needy people have also benefited from the Legal Aid Clinics that have been opened in different universities and colleges. These clinics are aided and assisted by the Legal Service Authorities set up at different levels. For example, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) coordinates and provides assistance to the legal aid clinics in the Universities and colleges in Delhi.



Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law, was set up in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA). The Legal Services Clinic was formally inaugurated on 25th August 2012 by Hon’ble Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, Judge, High Court of Delhi. Its endeavour is to provide free and competent legal service to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

With regard to operational activities, the clinic has Para Legal volunteers duly selected by DSLISA from amongst the students of the Centre. Our clinic started functioning only on 1st September 2012. Since then it has attended 173 clients. Out of the total cases, 41 were referred to DSLISA by the legal counsel in the Clinic. The payment of the legal counsel is made by the DSLISA itself. Of the total cases, 81 consisted of males and 88 females. They were facing problems like, delay in release of pension, non-issuance of ration cards, caste certificate, voter identity card, property dispute, domestic violence, matrimonial disputes and other gender related issues. Handling of such a large number of cases would not have been possible without the active participation of faculty members, legal counsel, Mr. Bhawani Shankar Sharma and regular presence mainly of Naina, Parni, Sana, Student Convener and Co-Convener of Legal Services Society and Priyanshu and Kapil, Student Secretary of Legal Services Society and also of assistance of Satyamev, Kamlesh, Rekha, Madhukar, Aditya, Apporv, Rahul, Krishan and Aditya.

In order to run our Clinic successfully, we tried hard to win the confidence of the clients and related people. The Para Legal Volunteers who have done a tremendous amount of work in the clinic were able to achieve it. One of our clients named Nagma Begum who got the relief through our Clinic, has also brought several clients to us. Sometimes the Clinic has been overcrowded by clients facing numerous types of cases seeking

legal justice. Though the Clinic remains open on every Saturday the PLVs often work as late as 8.00 P.M. on working days. Kapil Kant Rao, Student Secretary of Legal Services Clinic, who assisted and advised 62 clients has approximately devoted 188 hours in the Clinic.

The inference that I can draw from my experience in the clinic is that the task of equal access to justice remains far from accomplished. To attain these goals in a successful manner, various stakeholders are required to address tasks such as creating legal awareness among the poor, ignorant, Dalits, juvenile, women, aged, mentally and physically challenged, under trials, etc. The basic problem is poverty and most of the other problems are rooted into it. The poor in slums, villages, at work place, etc., would not know about the availability and benefits of the legal aid service without being properly cognized or made aware about it.

It may be mentioned here that the Para Legal Volunteers at the Legal Service Clinic of Law Center-1, in their outreach programs to various slums of Delhi found that the people in slums had no adequate information about free legal aid. This makes it imperative for the legal service authorities, legal clinics, bars, NGOs, human rights activists, etc., to launch an awareness campaign and impart legal literacy to the needy and underprivileged who have always been at the receiving end. Regarding this, the Para Legal Volunteers can do a lot. They need to be encouraged by providing some honorarium and involving them in projects relating to legal aid. Further, if the Clinic is provided with adequate infrastructure and funds and some incentive to PLV which can be in the form of 1% or 2% of marks as provided to NSS and sports students, then we would be looking at a revolution in the quality of life of poor people.

I express my deep gratitude to Prof. Ved Kumari, Professor-In-Charge, Law Centre-1, and Patron-in-Chief of Legal Services Society for her kind encouragement, inspiration, and valuable guidance. The work at the Clinic would not have been possible without the untiring efforts of Prof. Ved who attended to every detail and insisted on excellence. DSLSA deserve a special mention for providing crucial support to our Clinic

Dr. Suman (Director, Legal Services Clinic)
Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law
University of Delhi

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Service and Not Charity

When I joined the Legal Services Society I had no idea was I was getting myself into. On my first day I was informed that we are inaugurating our Legal Services Clinic on 25th August and I was clueless as to what all that would entail. The Society was abuzz with activities: posters, banner, invitations, the clinic, and the function itself. Attending the week-long training of PLVs made me realize that the Society was serious about its future. By chance I started working on the flyer and the task of distributing them with my students. Did I know what we were doing? Apparently not. We roamed North Campus colleges, spoke with students and rickshaw pullers and thought we had a good start. Our next haunt was Bara Hindu Rao College. It was touching when the Auto-rickshaw drivers at the hospital provided us with sello-tape and asked us to paste our flyers on their vehicles.

Amidst non-stop activity the Clinic was inaugurated and it became functional on 1st September, 2012. My first day on duty, I was again dumb-struck as to how to lead the PLVs. But, surprise! I didn't have to train them – they started picking on their instincts and conversed with the oncoming visitors with a natural charm born out of genuine feeling of service. And that is how it has been since that day. At every corner the students have taken lead on their own. The successful outreach programs, visits to government offices, filing RTIs, getting justice to Nagma, community adoption programs, preparing the questionnaire.... I could



go on and the list would be endless. The real strength behind the Society is its student members. They are full of passion, compassion, zeal, humility, and the emotion of servitude. Justice Muralidhar, in his inaugural address, had guided them that they must at no stage consider their act to be that of charity but that of service as the beneficiaries do not claim it as charity. I have seen that spirit embedded in all these students.

It would be an injustice if I did not acknowledge the efforts my colleagues. Firstly, Prof. Ved Kumari, for her energy and passion enthralls the students with the will to be better (believe me, I have seen those students glow under her praise); Dr Pankaja, the Convener, who is like a mother to all volunteer members; Dr Suman, who would fight for the rights of our active students even with the highest authorities, Dr Poonam Das, guiding us all gently from the background, and my other colleagues: Sunjeet, Ajay, Ashwini, Narender, Kusum, Seema, Mona and Ashutosh, who have diligently mentored the volunteer members in actually being better.

Nirati Gupta

Asst. Professor

Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law, DU

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A New World

I had been newly inducted into Law Centre- I in July 2012, when I was introduced to the Legal Services Society by Dr. Suman. She encouraged me to be a part of this Society. I believe, at that time what influenced me to join this Society, which was at a very nascent stage, was the sheer contagious excitement I noticed in some faculty members to take the Society to great heights.



Dr. Suman who incidentally taught me during my college days, was always brimming with enthusiasm, which till today hasn't faded away. The first person I got to know was Ms. Nirati Gupta, my colleague; she has worked exceptionally hard throughout the year and has hugely contributed in the success of the Society.

I didn't know the student members. But I clearly remember- first I met Pavni, Kamlesh and Rekha. I was then introduced to Naina, Sana and the rest of the team. I noticed students Rahul, Aditya and others are very dedicated to the outreach program and because of them great amount of awareness about the Clinic and its undertakings was created amongst the masses. I thought to myself, we seem to be a good team but today I can say legal services society has the best team.

On 1st September, the first day of the Clinic, I met Mr. Rajesh Goyal, Secretary from Delhi State Legal Services Authority and subsequently I had the honor of taking the team for their very first community outreach trip to Srijan Foundation in Chandrawal area.

I attended many Saturday Clinics and each day was a new day. We started working like a well-oiled machine. Soon things became more beautiful and meaningful when the team started working together. The present team of Legal Services Society is not only dedicated but disciplined and works with passion. I also had fun but it was more of a learning experience and helped me to know better the people I was surrounded with.

Legal Services Society is evolving for better, we learn things, we improve from experience and the journey of the Society can be summed up in three phases:-

“Coming together was a beginning; Staying together was progress; Working together is success.”

Student members have worked well together. Any success of the legal services society is to be attributed to students. Special mention also needs to be given to Kapil who gave his heart and soul to the society. Then it is

Naina, Sana, Priyanshu, Kamlesh, Rahul, Aditya and Pavni who are true leaders, who have the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. They don't set out to be leaders, but become one by the quality of their actions and the integrity of their intent. In the end, they are much like eagles... they do not flock; you find them one at a time.

I saw these people working extra hours for the success of the Society along other young members. One charming thing in the Society which I noticed that the 1st year students who were given duties at the Clinic were being treated as the youngest members of the 'legal aid family' and they also performed their duties really well. They were guided and tactfully handled by senior students in the most proper manner.

Dr P.B. Pankaja, Dr. Poonam Dass and Dr. Suman really guided and motivated us. It would not have been a success for the Society without the support and vision of the senior faculty members. I am glad that Prof. Ved Kumari encouraged us to establish this Society; to see stark realities and legal problems faced by the masses. In today's fast paced and self-centered world it gave everyone the opportunity to help others and feel that rare sense of satisfaction.

Today I see a more confident and a more determined Society and to describe our first year of the society, WE HAVE STARTED WITH A BANG!!!

Sunjeet Singh Bhadana,
Asst. Professor,
Law Centre-I, Faculty of Law,
University of Delhi

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Working with the Legal Services Society: An Experience

It gives me immense pleasure to share my experience while working with the Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1 during the academic year 2012-13. Being a part of the Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1 was a great experience. During the initial days of the working of the Society, especially the Legal Services Clinic in the premises of Law Centre-1 was very interesting as it involved the work of publicizing and advertising of the legal services which are being provided at the Clinic. For creating awareness among the masses we, the faculty members and the student volunteers of LSS visited the community. We visited many colleges of University of Delhi and the government hospitals to make people aware of the legal services which are being provided by the Legal Services Clinic and stuck posters at conspicuous places.

I really appreciate the zeal of the students who worked enthusiastically for the promotion of the Legal Services Clinic as that was the need of the hour. The best part is that we were welcomed by the community and our efforts were met with overwhelming appreciation. The result being that people having legal grievances visited the Clinic to avail free legal services. The students visited the community from time to time to create awareness using various methods like street plays on various issues of socio-legal nature and by distributing printed material.



I, along with Para Legal Volunteers, visited Lok Adalats which are being held in the premises of the District Court, Tis Hazari. We were helped by the officials of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority in accessing the lok adalats. There, the Para Legal Volunteers became familiar with the proceeding of the lok adalat which, in turn, helped them during their community outreach program. This participation in ADR mechanism was beneficial for all.

During 2012-13, many illuminating lectures on various legal issues were organized by the Legal Services Society. The list of included judges, academicians and law officers, giving us pointers on how to make our services better and far-reaching. During the working hours of the Legal Services Clinic, the paralegal volunteers provided needed help to the people visiting the clinic with their legal grievances. The Para Legal Volunteers, Naina and Priyanshu did commendable work in the Clinic.

The Community Outreach Program was one of the most important tasks which were successfully enjoyed by the Legal Services Society. Our student members, enthusiastically, reached to the community for creating legal awareness and knowing the problems which are being faced by the masses at the ground root level. The team Nyayapahal, one of the Community Outreach Program team, worked really hard to create legal awareness and tried their best to help people out to solve their problems. I would make a special mention of Rahul here, leader of Team Nyaya Pahal, who ably guided volunteers in their visits.

I wish that the zeal and enthusiasm to work for the upliftment of the needy people will always be there present in each and every member of the Legal Services Society because it is only this zeal and enthusiasm that is the source which will let the Legal Services Society to achieve its noblest objective i.e. providing legal services to the community and to make justice accessible to all. I would like to thank all the members of the Legal Services Society especially the student volunteers for joining this noble task of providing free legal services to the needy and downtrodden. The student force is the flesh and bone of this Legal Services Society and indeed the students of Law Centre-1 are doing a commendable job. I want to specially thank Prof. Ved Kumari, Professor-in-Charge, Law Centre-1 and Patron of the Legal Services Society for her commendable guidance to the society members which helped us all to achieve the desired goal in this short span of time. As this is just the beginning, the Legal Services Society has to keep working hard in the time to come to achieve its noble goal, i.e., providing legal services to the community and making justice accessible to all.

Ajay

Assistant Professor

Law Centre 1, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

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Processional Justice to Poor

Legal aid is the mode of providing of legal assistance to people who are otherwise unable to afford legal representation and access to the court system. The poor and illiterate should be able to approach the courts and their ignorance and poverty should not be an impediment in their access to justice.

As a part of the Legal Services Society, Law Centre-1, I would say that this has been a very wonderful and enriching experience for me where I have got the opportunity of having a direct face to face interaction with people having various complex needs of life which they are unable to address either because of economic deprivation or want of education.



I have felt that legal profession can play a dynamic role in the administration of justice. We should recognise the potential of using legal education, law students and legal institutions to reach the benefits of law to the poor and thereby aiding social justice and progress. I hope that this initiative taken to train young persons as “paralegals” will prove to be successful and also serve as a model which can be replicated all over the country. The student power, if used in a proper way, by providing them skill and training, can result in mass mobilization of individuals. Working as a team, our strategy for preventing disputes is to improve awareness about legal rights and remedies so that individuals can safeguard their interests in the course of their routine lives.

As a member of this society I have also got the chance to train and supervise the students for a skit which was staged in different colleges in the campus. The play was staged at Miranda House which highlighted the issues of Domestic Violence and women rights in a very interesting way and also fetched good response from the audience.

The student volunteers working under team “Mulaaqat” have conducted outreach visits at Dhirpur. These visits were lead by Kapil and Vibhuti. They successfully collected information regarding the legal problems faced by community people through questionnaires. Forms relating to Aadhar card / ration card /caste certificate /death certificate/ birth certificate have been filed on behalf of the needy people.

In the end I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to our PIC, Ved Ma’am and Legal Services Society Convener, Pankaja Ma’am of their immense support and whole hearted devotion and also giving me the opportunity of contributing my services to such a noble cause.

Mona Jonwal

Assistant Professor

Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law, DU

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My Expeirince

The Legal Services Clinic has been a trailblazing initiative by Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. It turned out to be a prodigious facilitator of the layman in linking him to the legal world.

It has been a privilege for me to be a part of such an ingenious initiative. There were unmediated meetings with the beneficiaries in order to provide them assistance. The first hand experience that I got during the client meetings has been enthralling and illuminating at the same time.

We intended to spread awareness on the legal front. This included community outreach programs through posters and pamphlets. I headed the pamphlet designing committee and distributed them. The people from the slum areas were contacted. My personal visit with my team “Karuna” to Kabir Nagar, a slum near the Delhi University, gave me a deep insight into the kind of life lead by the underprivileged and I was able to ascertain to some extent the areas where they require assistance from us. The Community Outreach Programs found meticulous and voracious participation from our students. It gave us, the faculty members, a chance to interact with the students and inspire and infuse new energy and essence of dedication and commitment in them.



My interactions with the Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts and people from Delhi State Legal Services Authority were didactic and inspiring. Our legal services unit looks forward to get continuous support of the stalwarts in the field of free legal aid. I must say that our Legal Services Clinic, Law Centre-1 is a memory to cherish, a trophy to ennoble and a reward to propel.

Ashwini Siwal

Assistant Professor of Intellectual Property Laws

Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law

University Of Delhi

Onward We Go.....

This write-up has offered me an opportunity to share my experience of working with the Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1. My association with the Society started with my inclination to learn and add to its efforts in providing legal assistance to all those who are in need of the same and also those who aren't even aware of their rights to begin with.

The Legal Aid Society of Law Centre-1 does its best to educate people about their rights by means of skits, plays, verbal communication, college visits and community outreach programs. Our efforts received a great impetus through collaboration with of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA). With the sincere efforts of our Professor-In-Charge (PIC) Dr. Ved Kumari and other senior faculty members like Dr. Suman, Dr. Pankaja and Dr. Poonam Das, we are now able to work systematically towards achieving the object of providing legal knowledge, assistance and awareness to people of the lower rungs of society, women and others who are unable to procure justice owing to their particular circumstances, be it ignorance, illiteracy or financial instability.



The logo of Law Centre-1 reads "Educate, Evolve and Excel". It is this very spirit that the Society embodies. However, the object is still to be achieved as there are many people out there who are not even aware of their rights. It is thus that the Legal Services Society took upon itself the task of providing access to free legal aid to the needy at the Legal Services Clinic, Law Centre-1, every Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr Rajesh Goel, Judicial Officer, DSLISA, who spends his time at the Clinic, ensuring all our problems are streamlined.

I also got a few opportunities to work the Clinic where I was able to appreciate the needs of people and the importance of having such a Clinic, to assess where law really stands in relation to the masses.

The work of the student volunteers is indeed praiseworthy. I am the faculty in charge of Outreach Team 'Yakeen' and I am happy that the team is performing really well. However, they are in need of more hands. It is my humble suggestion that the team members be issued identity cards which will provide security to the students going for the outreach program and assurance to the people of the community. The card should contain all relevant information about the student, the Legal Services Clinic, the timings thereof and contact number. Also, on behalf of the students, I request that reasonable conveyance charges be given to the students to maintain their enthusiasm.

I would specially like to acknowledge the efforts and support provided by our PIC Ma'am.

It is indeed a great experience to be a part of the Legal Services Society.

Kusumlata Bawlia

Asst. Prof.

Law Centre-1, Faculty of Law, DU

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REPORTS OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAMS

Team Umang

Team Jwaar Bhata

Team Nyaya Pehal

Team Unnati

Team Yakeen

Team Karuna

Team Mulaaqat

REPORT – TEAM UMANG

Prepared by Madhukar Bansiwal

Area: Shaktinagar

Faculty Consultant: Mr. Narender

Time	Date	Team Incharge	No. of PLV's	No. of forms filled
10:00 am	06/03/2013	Sana Javed	4	27
10:00 am	12/03/2013	Sana Javed	4	0
10:30 am	17/03/2013	Madhukar Bansiwal	1	8
10:30 am	24/03/2013	Madhukar Bansiwal	1	14
10:30 am	07/04/2013	Madhukar Bansiwal	1	23
			total	72

Problems faced by the client:

On visiting the area we found out that the main problem of the people living in those jhuggis is that they are illegally constructed and have constant threat of being demolished by the M.C.D.

Secondly, no proper water supply and sanitation facilities are available in the area and people have to travel a long distance for their daily water requirements.

People are also claiming that there are some illegal activities being conducted in the area, such as illegal sale of alcohol and drugs, which is causing addiction in the young generation, the chief concern of parents.

Some people also claim to have property disputes and domestic problems which may need special attention.

On visiting another nearby jhuggi known as Roshanara Colony, in the vicinity of Roshanara Club, we came to know of about the existence of more than 400 jhuggis. Its inhabitants were till then unaware of the Clinic and the services provided by us. Non-supply of water by Delhi Jal Board and non-availability of proper sanitation facility for the people was another huge concern with the populace as this was leading to spread of harmful viruses amongst children.

Last, but not the least, a major problem for the inhabitants of the area is non-availability of ration / BPL card. Also, electricity connections are not available to the people, hence, they have to resort to illegal means to fulfill daily necessities.

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REPORT – TEAM JWAAR BHATA

Prepared by Kamlesh Kumar Mishra

Area: Gopalpur Village

Faculty Consultant: Mr. Sunjeet Singh Bhadana

Gopalpur village, situated in the vicinity of River Yamuna, falls on the banks of Wazirabad Drain. It also falls in the flood-zone of Yamuna River. A lot of land in the neighbourhood of this village is owned by Flood and

Irrigation Department of Delhi government.

In terms of Electoral Constituency this area falls in Timarpur constituency and as per electoral roll of 2013 there are total of 953 voters out of which 322 are women. Timarpur Police station is the concerned police station of the area. There is a Delhi Jal Board office in Gopalpur which caters to the need of water of the people. In terms of municipality jurisdiction this area falls in North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

The electricity in the area is provided by NDPL and issues in this regard are resolved by NDPL offices in North Delhi.

In terms of specific issues being faced by the people of the area is that of sanitation and un-constructed roads. Identity Card is also one of the major problems as many of the residents here do not have ration cards or driving license and, hence, do not have voter ID and Bank accounts.

The team JWAAR BHATA has not visited the area to do specific surveys till yet. The teams strategy is to acquaint itself with the basic knowledge of the area and then visit so that basic problems of identity could directly be addressed by the teams members there and then and thus we do not only become data collecting agents but are able to provide some value to the residents too. In pursuance of this purpose the team has collected data on all the concerned government department offices of the area and other data.

The area has the awareness of the Legal Services Clinic of Law Center-1 on account of visits done by the volunteers of the Legal Services society.

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REPORT – TEAM NYAYA PAHAL

Prepared by Rahul Maurya

Area: Sangam Park, R.P. Bagh

Total No. of visits: 7

Faculty Consultant: Mr. Ajay

Visit No. 1

Date: 2/09/2012

Observation: It was a legal awareness program. The main purpose was to make people aware about their right to get free legal aid and to inform them about our Legal Services Clinic.

Visit No. 2

Date: 3/02/2013

Observation: We were now prepared to deal with the working class in the slums and had a fair idea about their problems, thus we were able to communicate with them better.

Visit No. 3 (Area Adoption Program)

Date: 17/02/2013

No. of houses surveyed: 23

No. of legal disputes found: 5

Observation: The purpose was spreading awareness amongst people about their rights and survey of each households of the village to make a record of the kind of problems faced by them.

Methodology: Questionnaire prepared by LSS, LC-1

Observation: We were few in numbers and did not have any female volunteer that day. Thus, we could not reach out to all inhabitants.

Visit No.: 4

Date: 24/2/2013

No. of houses surveyed: 35

No. of legal disputes found: 8

Observation: We were still few in numbers and had only one girl volunteer, but it was a start.

Visit No. 5

Date: 3/3/2013

No. of houses surveyed: 50

No. of legal disputes found: 11

Observation: We had our full team with us now, thanks to the efforts of our faculty in-charge, Mr. Ajay, and with the help of female members we were able to communicate with the women in our adopted area. A better survey, a satisfactory day.

Visit No. 6

Date: 10/3/2013

No. of houses surveyed: 54

No. of legal disputes found: 12

Observation: We were able to reach out to more people and record their problems.

Visit No. 7

Date: 24/3/2013

No. of houses surveyed: 56

No. of legal disputes found: 13

Observation: We have gained the trust of the members of the community and they readily approach us with their worries and they expressed their hope to see happy conclusions to their troubles in near future.

Problems faced during Outreach Program

Problem No.1: Most of the volunteers were not regular.

Reasons: (a) Some of them were very busy in internship.

(b) Some of them lost interest after visiting the slum.

(c) Some of them were coming from a long distance.

(d) Expenses from one's own pocket.

Solutions: (a) All the seven teams should be merged into one and should focus on one area at a time. The whole area can be covered in a single day only.

(b) Time to time the volunteers should be encouraged by conducting seminars and teachers should also very seriously involve in proper guidance and the team management.

(c) Monetary relief to cover the day's expenses

(d) More encouragement for voluntary participation.

(e) Job opportunities and placement.



Problem No. 2: People have lack of faith in government authorities and schemes because of corrupt and inefficient system.

Solution: Quick and quality remedial measures should be taken by DSLSA and faculty members should also take concrete steps and volunteers should be helped in filing writs.

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REPORT – TEAM UNNATI

Prepared by Pavni Poddar

Area: Rajpura Gudmandi

Faculty-in-charge: Ms Seema Singh

Team Unnati has made regular visits in the area during the months of February and March 2013 and 8 members have been visiting the locality on regular basis. The major problem faced by the team was making them understand why we were there. According to them we were similar to any other person who would come there once and ask their problem and vanish but to their amazement when they found us again on the next weekend amidst them they were happy and from then onwards we gained their confidence and they shared their problems with us. Most of them are now aware about the functioning of the clinic and few have also visited the clinic after the outreach was conducted.

From the survey done of around 100 families we have analyzed that the persons living in that area are facing the following major problems:

- The people living there are, mostly, unaware of their legal rights, especially right to free legal aid. Even if they are aware, they either sleep over their rights or take a wrong channel to justice.
- The person who distributes ration through the Public Distribution System does not give the right quantity which should be given. This problem is being faced by majority of people living in Plot No. 206 of Rajpura Gudmandi.
- Some people are facing problems in getting their incorrect name changed in their ID cards, mainly, the Aadhar and Ration Card.

We guided and helped them as per our capacity and invited them to come to our Legal Services Clinic on Saturday so that we can provide them all required and possible assistance with the help of our Panel Advocate.

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REPORT – TEAM YAKEEN

Prepared by Priyankar Tiwary

Area: Majnu Ka Tilla

Faculty Incharge: Ms Kusum-Lata & Ms Nirati

Team 'Yakeen' actively works in 'Majnu Ka Tila' area and consists of 13 members. The team leader is Aditya Kumar and I am the team secretary. Niti Luthra and Avinash Chandra are the members of the reporting committee and Sangeeth Mohan handles the team's research work. So far the team has conducted 3 outreach visits to Majnu Ka Tila and has filled about 40 survey forms, collecting information about the general socio-economic status of the people residing in this area.

Our 1st outreach visit was conducted on 3rd February, 2013 which was more of an introductory program wherein Aditya, Avinash, Priyanshu, Niti, Rahul, Sangeeth and I basically introduced “Legal Aid Clinic” to the populous of the area and also did a brief tour of the area. We educated the people as to how we can cater to their legal necessities and how they could reach us. We emphasized primarily on free legal assistance for all. We explained them our scope and ambit and how we function and also initiated small public discussions. We even stuck pamphlets in various parts of the area educating them about free access to justice. People complained primarily regarding the issue of ration cards, voter ID and also complained of the gambling and narcotics issue and free flow of intoxicants in the area and how it was affecting them.

Our second visit was conducted on 3rd March, 2013. This visit was focused on the socio-economic survey of the area which was facilitated by filling of the forms provided to the team by the Legal Aid Clinic. Aditya, Niti, Sangeeth, Tanvi, Avinash, and me filled the survey forms provided to us by the Legal Services Clinic. We were also assisted by Dr. Prashant, a student of LC-1 who volunteered to help us, although he is not a registered member. We filled about 17 forms and people primarily complained of ‘health issues’ demanding medical facilities for the area.

The third visit was conducted on 23rd March, 2013 by Aditya, Sangeeth, Rahul, Stoth and me. We filled about 23 survey forms. People adamantly complained of the constant gambling in the community park of the area and how the police had been acting deaf to their complaints. Our team leader Aditya interacted with Mr. Narendra Thakur, a local resident who works in the Examination Dept., D.U and discussed the feasibility of organizing a general awareness meeting in the area hosted by the lawyers and judges of DLSA to educate people of our pursuits. So far the team has been performing successfully in spite of lack of manpower. Some members who have not been active have volunteered to join us.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

- i. I suggest that we are given ‘identity cards’ with the contact information of the Legal Services Clinic and the time and days on which the clinic provides the service.
- ii. Also, I request for reasonable conveyance and refreshment charges for the team.

Our team works tirelessly and compassionately and its reward is trusting smiles on the faces of the people it approaches.

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REPORT – TEAM KARUNA

Prepared by Aditya

Area: Kabir Nagar

Faculty Incharge: Mr. Ashwini Siwal

The team has made 3 visits to Kabir Nagar and, as decided in a meeting with our Faculty in-Charge prior to these visits, we visited every possible household. In total 3 visits we were able to take record of 52 household. The details are here under:

1. Date of Visit : 10th March 2013
 No. of Members Participated : 02
 a) Aditya
 b) Ahmed Parvez
 Sample Surveyed : 06
2. Date of Visit : 17th March 2013
 No. of Members Participated : 02
 a) Aditya
 b) Ahmed Parvez
 Sample Surveyed : 13
3. Date of Visit : 24th March 2013
 No. of Members Participated : 02
 a) Aditya
 b) Ahmed Parvez
 c) Deobrat Kumar
 d) Satyamev
 Sample Surveyed : 33

Team has provided the records to the Research Committee for further processing. Hope it will help in providing insight to situation of the area. We confess that the data collected so far is not adequate to reach a conclusion. Team is also willing to meet any organization working in that area to work in collaboration in making essential services available to residents.

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REPORT – TEAM MULAAQAT

Prepared by Naina Dubey

Area: Dheerpur

Faculty Consultant: Ms. Mona Jonwal

Public Services Available in the Area:

Health Centre: Manav Das

School: Chumbhi School (Primary School); Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalay (Co-ed, XII std.)

Police Station: Mukherjee Nagar

Visit 1

Date: 17/02/2013

Members : Kapil Kant Rao

Problems : 1. Alcohol Addiction.
2. Required assistance in acquiring Voting Cards.

Advice: 1. Gave information regarding de-addiction.
2. Asked to visit Clinic for assistance regarding Voting Cards.

Visit 2

Date: 24/02/2013

Visiting Members: Kapil Kant Rao
Vibhuti Nath Jha

Problems: 1. Ration Card
2. Voting Card
3. Pension not received

Advice: 1. Informed them about various documents required to apply for the abovementioned documents and asked to visit the Clinic with the same.

Visit 3

Date: 3/03/2013

Visiting Members: Kapil Kant Rao
Vibhuti Nath Jha

Problems: 1. Ration Card
2. Voting Card
3. Property Dispute
4. Economic Assistance
5. Gas connection

Advice: 1. Informed them about various documents required to apply for the Ration Card and Voting Card and asked to visit the Clinic with the same.

2. Collected details about the property disputes and asked them to visit the clinic to get assistance from our Panel Advocate.

3. Informed about various welfare schemes available to get economic assistance.

Visit 4

Date: 10/03/2013

Visiting Members: Kapil Kant Rao

Problems: 1. Ration Card
2. Health Problems

Advice: 1. Informed about the documents required to apply for Ration Card and asked to visit Clinic for further assistance.

2. Informed about the Health Centres in the area and health schemes available.

Visit 5

Date: 23/03/2013

Visiting Members: Kapil Kant Rao

Problems: 1. Ration Card
2. Childrens' school admission issue

Advice: 1. Informed about the documents required to apply for Ration Card and asked to visit Clinic for further assistance.

2. Informed about education schemes for children and specially for girls.

Visit 6

Date: 7/04/2013

Visiting Members: Kapil Kant Rao

Gyanendra

Problems: 1. Ration Card

Advice: 1. Informed about the documents required to apply for Ration Card and asked to visit the Clinic for further assistance.



INFERENCE

It has been inferred that this area faces problems mostly regarding the Public Distribution System. Secondly, the health standards are very low. People are mostly suffering from tuberculosis of various kinds and other fatal diseases. It has also been observed that people are apprehensive about divulging their legal issues and require a lot of persuasion on behalf of the student volunteers.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Outreach Committee

Research Committee

Editorial Committee

Play and Skits Committee

Logistics Committee

Library Committee

Posters and Charts Committee

Outreach Committee Report

Prepared by Priyanshu Awasthi

With a vision to take legal services to the doorsteps of the under-represented of the society, the Legal Services Society came into being. Under the guidance of extremely motivated faculty members, the student volunteers started living the dream and mission of the society. Even before the Legal Services Clinic was inaugurated on September 1st, 2012, the faculty and students of LC-1 Legal Services Society realized the need to reach out to the people on a one-on-one basis. Volunteers and teachers started out with the objective of advertising the opening of the clinic and soon became privy to the predicaments of the people they came across in the process. In the first phase of the outreach volunteers approached the colleges of north campus, flyers in hand, telling them the clinic is opening on the 1st September. Students were the target and then the actual beneficiaries were discovered - the rickshaw pullers. The pullers outside Miranda College became one of our first clients. They shared their story with the volunteers and owing to their fresh training they were able to give them some legal advice, enough to gain their confidence and ask them to approach our Clinic on the coming Saturday.

Next we covered the metro stations of Vishwavidyalaya and Civil Lines, near North Campus, Delhi University. The work was still quite un-organized but volunteers could feel the public respond to them with hope. Several people discussed their problems with them and volunteers urged them to come to the Clinic. A big leap was the visit to nearby government hospitals - Bara Hindu Rao and St. Stephens where the gentry comprised of the penurious. Pamphlets and flyers were also distributed in Tis Hazari District Courts premises.

Volunteers began a structured 'reaching out to the community' project from 2nd September onwards. We started out in small groups and kept growing in numbers. We realized the importance of having female volunteers with us to win the confidence of the women we approached. We also realized that the best day to approach the labour class is Sunday as they are usually taking a breather that day. Several such tricks were learned by volunteers during the 6 month long process. These visits are documented hereunder.

Kamla Nagar (Chandrawal):

An NGO Srijan foundation showed interest in collaborating with the volunteers of the LSS and gave many helpful tips in making our first contact with the community and its problems. The then secretary, North District Mr. Rajesh Goyal and Faculty in Charge Mr. Sunjeet Bhadana accompanied the students on this visit.

Gudmandi and Sangam Park:

Gudmandi is situated between GT Road and Vijay Nagar. Majority of people here belong to the underprivileged community. Sangam Park is adjacent to the North campus. Our first visit was made on 2nd September 2012, followed by our second visit to this area on 9th September, 2012 and the third visit on 13th January, 2013.

The identified Problems of the area were:

- 1) Problems with Eligibility Criteria
- 2) Delay in Pension Payment
- 3) Lack of health facility
- 4) Lack of drinking water
- 5) Cases of road rage
- 6) Problems related to sanitation

Shakti Nagar:

Shakti Nagar is in North Delhi. Students made three visits to Apsai Godan, under-bridge area to this locality. Both these colonies are slums and located near the railway line. First visit to this area was made on 16th of September, 2012 followed by next visit of 30th September. Students found that in these areas, people were denied Ration Cards, LPG Cards, though they had all required documents. On second visit, students helped the people in filling their forms for such certificates.

Rana Pratap Bagh:

Rana Pratap Bagh is adjacent to Shakti Nagar. Students visited this area on 23rd September, 2012 and found that people were compelled to pay higher electricity bills than the actual usage. Like other areas, there were problems of Ration Cards and ID Cards. There were other heart-rending stories of domestic violence. Students tried to educate them about their rights and the clinical services provided by us.

Gopalpur:

It is a slum area adjacent to Mukherji Nagar, famous for its fish market. Students visited this area on 7th October, 2012, with the object of promoting clinic and conducting research. Legal problems observed in this area related to domestic violence, maintenance of law and order, non-release of pension and deficiency of medical care. The hospitals in the area do not have enough capacity for patients.

Dhirpur:

The area adjoins Mukherji Nagar, opposite to Parmanand Colony. The residents of this area mostly belong to Scheduled castes and Valmiki Samaj. Students visited this area on 14th October, 2012. Problems of the people in area were mostly related to dowry, non-issuance of ration cards, non-release of pension, public nuisance and domestic violence.

Personal visits were made by three student volunteers to various government offices, urging the cases of our "clients". They started with the task of collecting information regarding forms of Ration cards, caste certificates as well as information regarding various schemes started by Central government and State government in order to enable the people to have access to basic entitlements.

Date	Officer	Visiting Students
September, 2012	SDM Office and MLA Office	Kapil, Kisheen, Hemant
October, 2012	Food and Supply Department	Kapil, Kishen
January, 2013	SDM Office	Kapil
January, 2013	SDM Office	Kapil
January, 2013	Hindu Rao Hospital	Kapil (visit related to a case)

Birth of Community Adoption Programs:

After getting reports of these visits and doing research work on such reports, it was felt necessary to adopt a structured plan so that we can help the people on ground level. As a result, we came out with a program "Community Adoption Program", proposed by our LSS Convener Pankaja Ma'am. We have created 7 teams and 7 faculty in-charge. We are provided with a questionnaire, developed after deep fore-thought, earmarking space for all relevant information about a family. Members go from house to house, ask people for their valuable time, and fill up these questionnaires with their help. On their return these questionnaires are given to the research committee for evaluation. The following teams were formed under the Area Adoption Program.

S. No.	TEAM	AREA
1	UMANG	Shakti Nagar
2	JWAAR BHATA	Gopalpur
3	NYAY PAHAL	Sangam Park
4	UNNATI	Gudmandi
5	YAKEEN	Majnu Ka Tilla
6	KARUNA	Kabir Nagar
7	MULAKAT	Dhirpur

With the advent of the Area Adoption Program visits of the volunteers have become more organized. Since the same team visits the area at regular intervals it becomes easier to gain trust of the populace. Armed with LSS Questionnaire, zeal and a trustworthy smile, our volunteers started approaching their adopted areas and they have become popular faces in their respective universe. Female students regularly visit their adopted area to gain access to women-folk. The training received by volunteers comes in handy here. They were taught to be patient with the clients and allow them to narrate their stories at their own pace. The volunteers gained their smiles and praise.

The Questionnaire helps us to focus and streamline the conversation. It is also a permanent record of the populace and makes it easier for us to connect with our clients on each visit. Each Team submits individual reports of each visit along with the data collected. With the help of this structured data our Research Team has been able to compile an analysis report. We hope it will be beneficial to our Society in future to take care of needs of the under-privileged.

Data Analysis

Prepared by: Kamlesh, Sangeeth Mohan, Priyankar & Alvin

The localities surveyed by the Legal Services Society of Law Center-1 are seven areas of North Delhi which are nearby and around Delhi University. The survey was done with an objective to profile socio-economic status of the area and to narrow down on areas which the Society would start working with as part of its Adoption Program. The data has been classified into basic amenities and entitlements, legal issues and employment.

The data with regard to social amenities and social entitlements shows that a comparatively large number of people hold Aadhar Card, although a recent development, as opposed to Ration Card holders, which is an age-old phenomenon. The reason for limited reach of ration card is the fact that most of these localities are slums and jhuggijhopris and the option for getting a ration card for the resident of these localities is open only when the government runs special scheme for these areas. The Society either will have to work out a plan by working with the government agencies in this regard and there is also a scope for taking up a PIL.

Out of the total interviewed persons about 58% people have bank accounts. It has been observed that persons holding bank accounts is also low and with schemes like Direct Cash Transfers coming in, it would be an area to work upon for the Society.

About 78% people in these localities are living in owned accommodations. However, we have to keep in mind that a lot of these areas are slums and jhuggisjhopris with their legal status in question. Our analysis reveals that only 45.9% people have personal toilets and sanitation facilities while others use community toilets. The Society will have to analyze the state and status of the community toilets. Most of the areas being jhuggijhopris do face problem of portable water.

Looking ahead, the Society would have to concentrate on the specific areas of ration card, sanitation and water and other social welfare schemes of the government for the people.

Legal Issues

In terms of legal issues about 77% persons are involved in legal problems but people are not clear as to whether or not they need legal assistance in this regard. At the same time, about 66.6% people are ready to visit the Free Legal Services Clinic which means they are ready and willing to trust and take assistance in their legal issues. However, considering their socio economic status and common perception of cost and complexities involved in Legal Proceedings people do not volunteer to get their legal issues resolved until they become chronic. In this regard the Society needs to run extensive awareness programs in these areas and also popularize Legal Services Clinic of Law Center 1 where people can get free legal assistance on any matter.

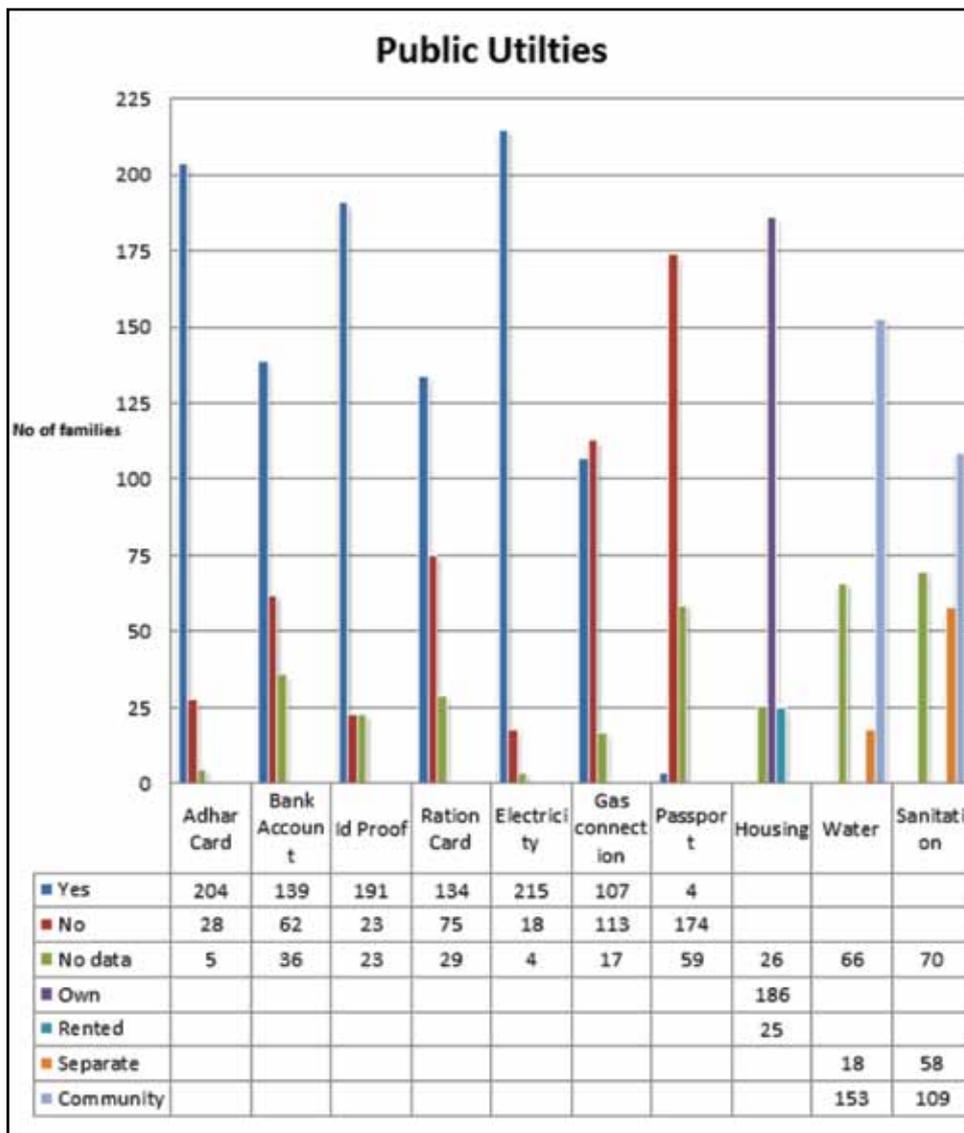
Income Status

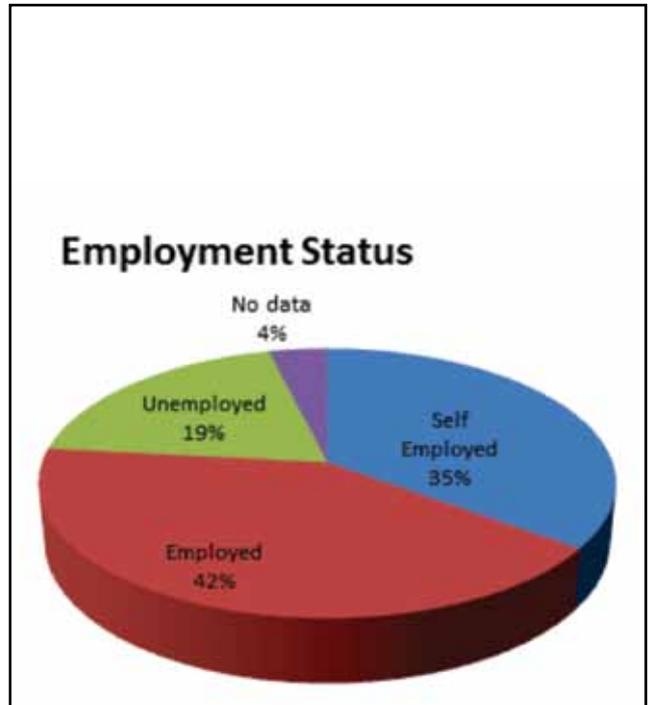
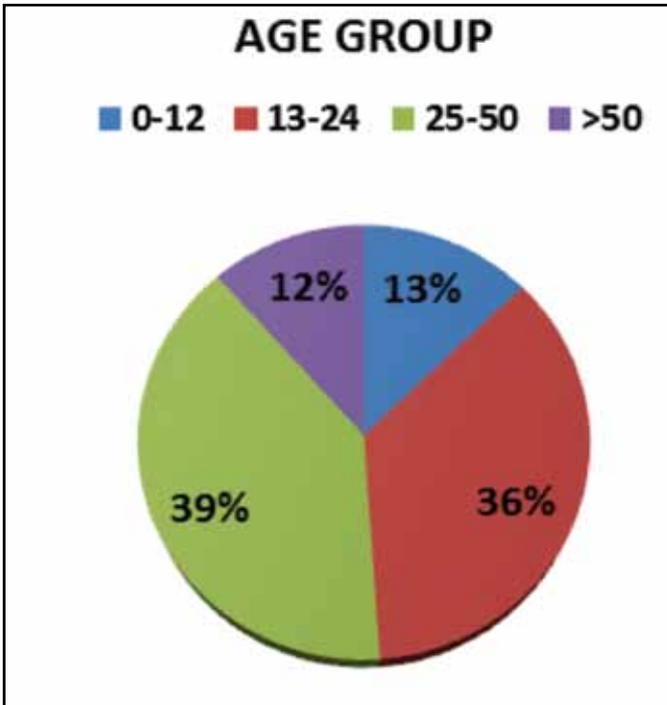
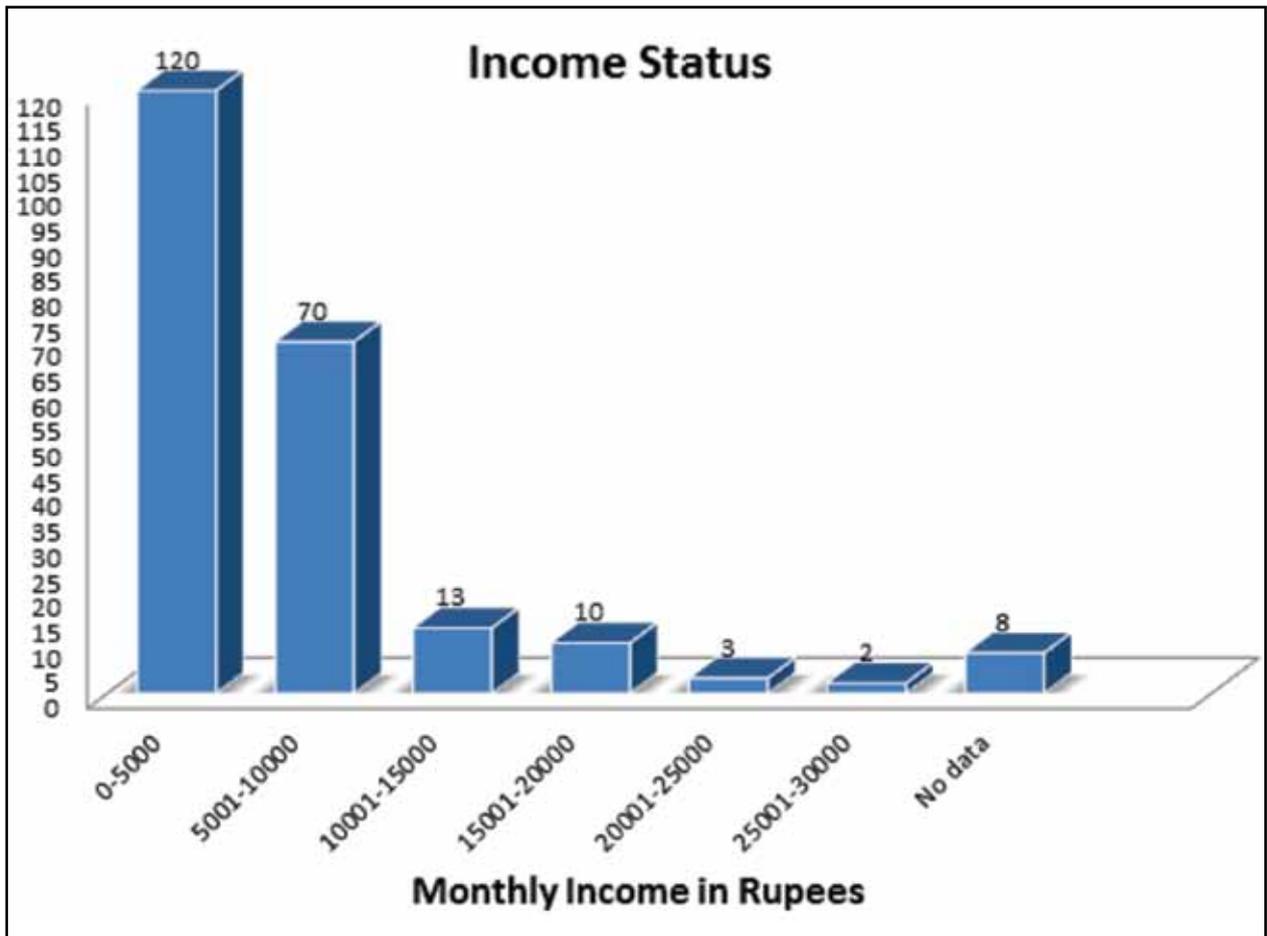
Income of the family is crucial in making its socio legal status. Out of the total number of families interviewed, 80% people fall in the income group of below Rs. 10,000 and among them 50% are in the income group of below Rs. 5000. These are the people in need of social welfare schemes, ration cards and free legal aid.

For better understanding of the data they have been put in graphical form below.

Thus, now effectively the Outreach Committee is assisting the Society in three areas:

1. Spreading awareness about the Legal Services Clinic





2. Legal literacy in the form of basic legal advice about their rights and entitlement to free legal aid from the government

3. Collecting data for research project of the LSS

The experience has been enriching. With every visit we came closer to the realities of life. We strategized

and planned our visits. Our volunteers are dedicated and zealous in their approach. We hope to assist the Legal Services Society in truly taking Justice to the doorsteps of people.

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Report of Editorial Committee

Prepared by Vishakha

For smooth functioning of Legal Services Society, Law Centre-1 the work was delegated to 7 committees whose prime focus was to act complementarily, so that “justice for underprivileged” (the purpose and objective of the Legal Service Authority Act, 1987) could be achieved in swift fashion.

Editorial Committee is entrusted with one of the most important tasks, that of documenting of functioning of Legal Services Society. It is headed by a student editor who is under the enriching guidance of a Faculty in-Charge. The basic function of the committee is to compile and sift through and edit the material recorded by our volunteer members in their quest to find out the needs of the society. This ranged from keeping the day to day record of the activities performed by the different committees of the society to the humungous task of compilation of the Annual Report, encompassing each and every milestone crossed by the Society all through the year.

First and foremost, under public sensitizing programs when our community outreach teams have field-visits in place such as slums, colleges, schools, jails, juvenile homes, etc., the members return with such interesting thought-provoking experiences that such narrations cannot be left undocumented. These narratives and field-reports are the real source of inspiration for the progress and betterment of the society. The Editorial Board takes extreme pains in jotting down each such story, editing it and publishing it at the year-end reports or journals, wherever possible.

The Editorial Board has also to keep a track of all the field-visits, progress of Adoption programs and track of any such activity undertaken by any committee or team in an ‘Activity Register’ to keep a proper track of the real progress that the Society makes.

Further, to aid and facilitate members as well as people at large in understanding the intricacies of law and legal Acts, The Editorial Board has taken the task of simplifying and compiling the statutes in more of an easy-to-understand booklets which have proved to be of great help esp. in field-work and client-handling.

Finally, as the functioning of The Editorial Committee is quite vital to the Society as an institution, so it is suggested that the inclusion of at least one member of The Editorial Committee in other respective Committees will highly facilitate its functioning and enhance its performance.

In the end the Editorial Board is thankful to all its fellow members who have worked hard collecting reports, compiling them, editing them and also meeting the deadline which in itself is a testimony of their dedication and commitment. We would also like to especially thank our Faculty in Charge Nirati ma’am for her invaluable guidance and support. Last but never the least we extend our sincere gratitude to the patron-in-chief of our society Prof. Ved Kumari as without her inspirational encouragement none of this would have been possible. She has always been our light in the darkness of apprehensions, doubt and fear.

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Report of Research Committee

Prepared by Anjali Sharma and Kamlesh Kumar Mishra

Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1 broadly functions in three main areas namely, Legal Services Clinic, Outreach Program and Legal Research Program. Research Program team facilitates and reinforces the work of other two teams by providing information related to the governing laws, public welfare schemes of the govt., and also by research on specific issues, etc.

An orientation-cum-introduction program of Legal Research Team headed by Kamlesh (PLV) with Parmeshwar was organized by the Legal Services Society in which basic information was given to all the members of the Legal Research Team regarding how to conduct legal research, how to gather information from various sources (like internet, personnel visit to the concerned offices, official notifications and govt. reports, etc.) and more over how to analyze, generalize and interpret the data collected. At the end of the orientation-cum-introduction program specific problems were given, as addressed by the outreach team in their community visits to all the members for conducting research.

The team also conducted research on the existing welfare schemes of the Delhi government specifically with regard to women, children, physically handicapped persons, etc. This data was then presented to the other teams e.g. Outreach and Clinic for the benefit of the clients.

This team has also digitized the client register of the clinic. The team has created an excel format in which the client visit of every Saturday, their issues, etc., are entered which is very useful in tracking the status of the clients issue and clients revisit to the clinic.

Members of the Legal Research Team also go into the community visits along with outreach teams so as to collect the required data correctly and address the immediate problems of the community people. With the new Adoption Program of the Legal Services Society in which seven teams were formed and seven localities have been adopted by the society. Each team in this program has some members from the Legal Research Team. These members assist the team in filling the 'questionnaire' correctly.

Further the Legal Research Team also compiles the data of all the teams which would allow the teams to make future strategies concentrating on the specific issues of their adopted locality. Till now the team has compiled the data of about 350-400 forms submitted by different teams.

The way forward for the team is to hone the skills of its members by getting training from the experts in this area, for this the team is in talk with different organizations, e.g., Human Rights Law Network and The Leprosy Mission India, etc.

The team has always been guided by the teachers, specifically Dr. P.B. Pankaja and Ms. Nirati Gupta and other faculty members. Support given by all the student members specifically Bhavna, Anjali, Deveshi, Alvin and Priyankar has been remarkable and the team sees future leaders for the society in them.

The objective of the team would always be to become strong bones for the body of the Legal Services Society of Law Center-1.

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Play and Skit Committee Report

Prepared by Satyamev Sabarn

What started as an experiment or rather as an extra co-curricular activity which was to give a entertaining tinge to the ceremonial environment of an inauguration function in a postgraduate law college which is generally infamous for being rather a dull and intellectual affair, turned out to be a revelation and went ahead to become one of the indispensable and most vibrant committees of all. We all knew that Skits and Play Committee had a bright future when Rekha wailed in pain as a victim who was being physically assaulted by her own alcoholic abusive husband (Rahul) and Justice Muralidhar, out of all other respected dignitaries, was smiling at the scenic contemporariness. That encouragement was like a lifeline and the applications for the membership of the committee poured in.

The prime task of the committee was to promote and spread legal awareness which happens to be wanting in not only the poor and backward classes but also even in the most educated sections. It is well known that the theatrical medium has always been one of the most effective methods of imparting knowledge, invoking thought processes and inspiring people at large for different causes and ends. Plays and dramas were used by thoughtful playwrights, progressive intellectuals and even by usurping rebels to motivate and transform the junta. The same spirit is imbibed in using small skits, plays, nukkad-nataks and sometimes a series of stage-plays, to bind the consciousness and attention of an already-very-busy common man who in all probability might not have liberty to spend his time on conventional educative methods, any of which does not have a direct bearing to his earning bread and butter for family chores. Our committee too, with help of Nidhi Vashistha and Rahul, was able to prepare an extensive play (which, as a matter of fact, had to be improvised in form of a street play) on Domestic Violence Act, which was showcased in Miranda House College, University of Delhi, on 19th Oct 2012. Having overcome our nervousness, the performance went great and it was a spectacle how our narrator (Nidhi) had to struggle hard with the undergraduate girls convincing them to take courage and come out in open to complain against any such acts happening in and around their society. It was our maiden show, exhilarating and highly a learning experience for one and all.

With the recent developments in mind, we set on a new production named “Two Faces”, which focussed mainly on the topic of Sexual harassment against women with the backdrop of orthodox male-dominating patriarchal mind set-up very prevalent in our society. Aditya and Rupam with his troupe performed this play with panache at Guru Teg Bahadur Medical College, Jhilmil on 19th March, 2013 and high accolades followed their path. Keeping in mind the huge success of “Two Faces”, the same play was performed again at Kalindi College, University of Delhi, East Patel Nagar, on 12th April, 2013. The response was overwhelming.

The successful operation of the committee owes its humble gratitude to the perennial encouragement and unending support and of Dr. Poonam Dass ma’am, Seema Singh ma’am, Kusum ma’am and Mona Jonwal ma’am. If it were not for their guidance our committee would never have achieved what it has. We also can never forget the omnipresent inspiring and guiding hand of our PIC Prof. Ved Kumari Ma’am who has not only been quintessential for our committee but also for the overall huge success of our Legal Services Society. We hope that the coming batches would also enjoy the same good fortune.

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Skit Team at Miranda House

Library Committee Report

Prepared by Ms. Mona Jonwal

The Committee considers it very important to maintain a good library to have access to law books easily while dealing with client issues, be it latest judgments on the relevant issues or other authorities and commentaries which may be required to clear a law point. For this we have established a separate library. Although it is at a nascent stage at present, a few books and bare acts have been purchased for use by the student and faculty members of the Society. In the days to come we aim at having a more suitably equipped library which will be a step forward in extending the framework and infrastructure of the Society.

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Posters and Charts Committee Report

Prepared by Rekha

On 25th August, 2012 Legal Services Clinic was inaugurated by Hon'ble Justice S. Muralidhar. For the inaugural function, we made some charts and posters on the topics of eve teasing, contract labour, domestic violence and on other topics. I made three posters and I was fortunate enough that two of them were selected for display in the Conference Hall. Dr. P.B.Pankaja, In-charge of Posters and Charts Committee, then gave me the responsibility of the Charts Committee.

The volunteers involved in the committee smartly and efficiently finished the work in time. Ideas were taken from the internet and using their own brand of creativity the students came up with beautiful and informative posters and charts on the following topics:

- Provisions of Delhi Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.

- Beneficiaries under Delhi Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.
- Eve teasing
- Domestic Violence and kind of Domestic Violence
- Harassment at Work Place
- Contract Labour
- Right to Education
- Right to Information
- Rights of Arrested Persons.
- Kinds of Legal Aid

Fortunately some of these were exhibited in ‘Antardhwani’ Festival in which LC-1 won Commendation Prize of Rs.1 lakh.

The Committee promises to provide innovative and educational posters for the benefit of the outreach team as well as for the visitors at the Legal Services Clinic. The Committee seeks to describe the black letter of the law in flagrant colors to make the understanding a little better for all.

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Logistics Committee Report

Prepared by Ms Nirati Gupta

The Committee is responsible for making the Legal Services Society function like a well-oiled machine. We are that engine oil. The committee arranges for the stationery required by the Clinic. We have got repaired our fans and chairs at the clinic. We are the soldiers working in the background and making functioning of the Society easier and we hope to continue doing so effectively in future.



Mr. Rajesh Goel, Secretary, Delhi Legal Services Authority (North) with Prof. Ved Kumari looking at the Exhibition showcasing achievements of LC-1

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DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY LAW CENTRE-1

Prepared by Dr.P.B. Pankaja & Ms. Naina Pankaj Dubey

This Constitution of the Legal Services Society of Law Centre-1so as to enable smooth and efficient functioning of the Society to fulfill the following objectives:

1. provide the law students an occasion to learn by doing;
2. run Legal Services Clinics in LC-1;
3. establish and collaborate with other Legal Services Clinics in the Community;
4. to assist and coordinate with the other Legal Services Clinics established for promoting access to justice to the marginalized and deprived;
5. use social spaces as the class room;
6. sensitize them to the nature of law that can empower or oppress;
7. facilitate access to justice to the deprived and marginalized;
8. work towards creating socially responsible citizens, advocates, judges, police officers and other State officials;
9. conduct legal literacy camps and prepare legal literacy literature including using the multi-media;
10. work with NGOs involved in legal awareness, legal literacy and legal assistance programs;
11. conduct and publish research, organize seminars, discussion and Conferences, and carry on other activities to promote the above purposes;
12. coalition with research institutions, universities and other bodies within India or outside India for the purpose of advancing cause of administration of Justice;
13. undertake publication of papers, books, monographs, journal, etc., on legal aspects and allied subjects with special reference to Legal Services, Legal Aid, Access to Justice, and Administration of Justice;
14. award certificates and other distinctions to students, teachers and others involved in provision of free legal services to the marginalized and deprived;
15. do all such other lawful acts and things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the objectives of the Society.

Part I

1. Faculty Members

1.1 The Legal Services Society (Faculty members) consisting of Convener, Coordinator of Community Out Reach Program, Director of the Clinic and other members is constituted in the first faculty meeting of every Academic Year.

1.2 Tenure: The faculty members will continue in their capacity as members of the society for a period of one academic year, with an option to continue for succeeding academic years also.

1.3 Withdrawal of membership: Voluntary withdrawal by any member from the society is to be approved by the Patron in Chief, the Professor-in-Charge of LC1 on reasonable grounds.

1.4 Meetings: The General body meeting of the faculty at the beginning of the academic year and semester – end meeting at the end of each semester and annual meeting at the end of the academic year are to be compulsorily convened and special meetings are to be held to analyze the progress of the society, as and when deemed necessary. The quorum of the meeting is half of the total membership and resolution shall be taken by simple majority present in the meeting.

2. Student Members:

2.1 Registration:

2.1.1 In order to be a part of the Society, students must register themselves at the beginning of the academic year after receiving Notice of Registration from the Society. Registration is open to all students of LC1.

2.1.2 Notice of Registration is to be communicated within fifteen days of commencing of the new academic year with a cutoff date, which may be extended at the discretion of the Executive Council.

2.1.3 Existing members are required to renew their membership, not doing so would lead to automatic cancellation of membership.

2.2 Election of Office Bearers and Core Committee Leaders:

2.2.1 In the first General Body Meeting of the Society nominations for the following posts shall be submitted by the interested students:

- a. Student Convener (3rd year)
- b. Student Co-Convener (2nd year)
- c. 2 student Secretaries (1st year)
- d. Treasurer (any year)

2.2.2 The post of the Student Co-Convener will succeed to the post of Student Convener. In the event of the student co-convener is not willing to do so, an election as specified above will be held.

2.2.3 The office bearers will be elected by the student members through secret ballot or through nomination in the General Body Meeting as per the decision of the Executive Council.

2.2.4 The core committee leaders will be appointed by the Faculty members in consultation with the student office bearers, as per the option given by the students in their registration form.

2.3 Withdrawal of membership :

2.3.1 A registered member of the Society, who wants to withdraw, may withdraw his membership by submitting a letter to the Convener of the LSS.

2.3.2 An office bearer, who wants to withdraw, is required to send a letter of withdrawal to the LSS Executive Council. If simple majority of the Council agrees, the same will be accepted.

2.4 Removal:

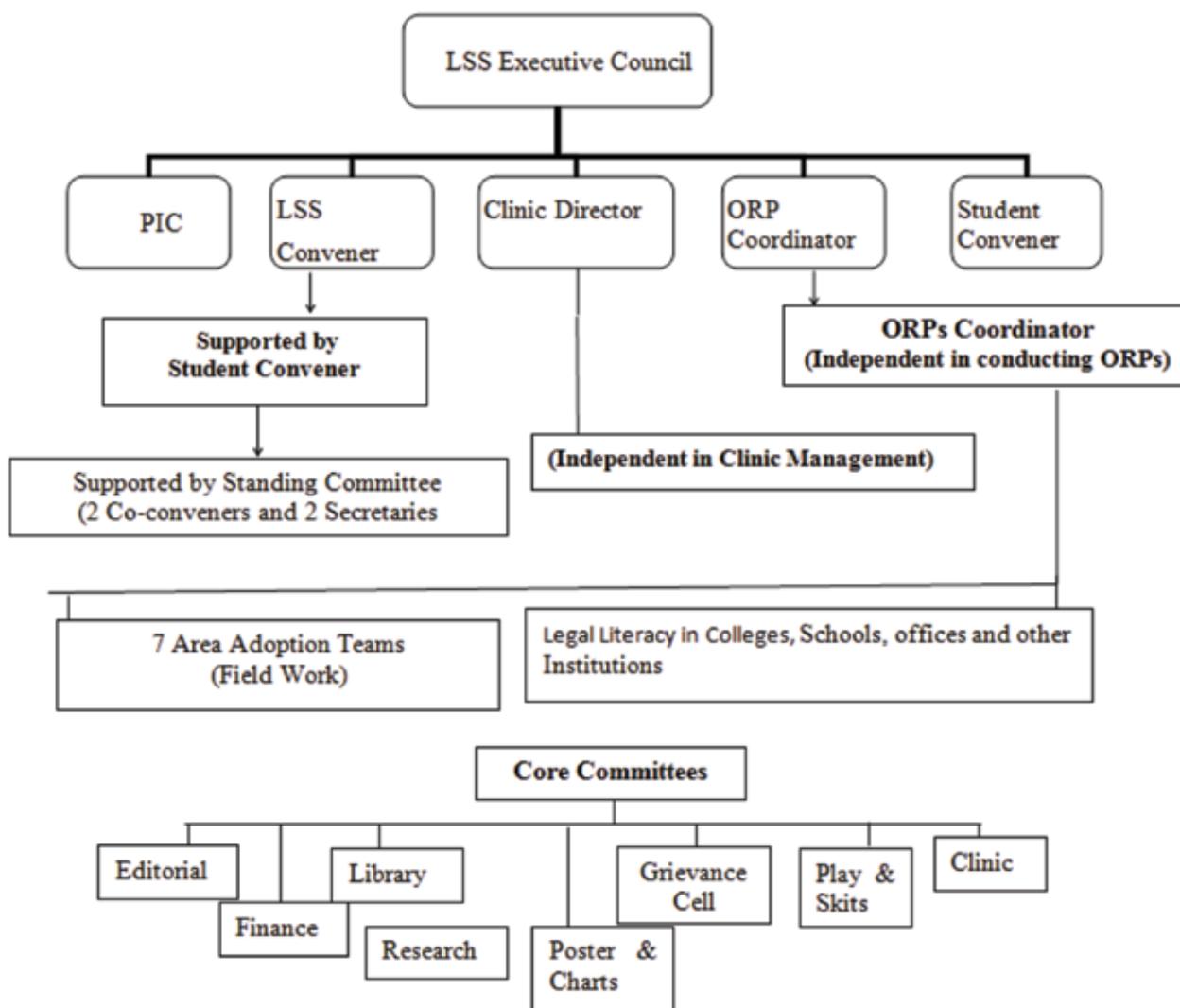
2.4.1 On exceptional circumstances, for reasons which the LSS Executive Council deems fit, it may order removal of any registered member of the society or office bearer on grounds of proved misbehavior after giving reasonable opportunity for the member.

2.5 Meetings: The General body meeting of the students at the beginning of the academic year and semester – end meeting at the end of each semester and Annual meeting at the end of the academic year are to be compulsorily convened and special meetings are to be held to analyze the progress of the society, as and when deemed necessary. The quorum of the meeting is half of the total membership and resolution shall be taken by simple majority present in the meeting.

3. Para Legal Volunteers:

3.1 Basing on the performance in a test, conducted by the LSS, students are to be selected from among the registered student volunteers to undergo training for Para Legal Volunteer-ship, organized in collaboration with DSLSA in the beginning of every semester, who will be certified as PLVs after undergoing a written test conducted by DSLSA.

3.2 Para Legal Volunteers will be involved in all the activities of the LSS so as to enable them to acquire all skills.



3.3 A student volunteer once becomes a PLV will continue to be a PLV till s/he continues to be a regular student in LC-1.

3.4 A certified PLV may withdraw from LSS by submitting a letter of withdrawal to the Director of the Clinic, copy marked to the DSLSA, PIC and the Convener of the LSS by surrendering his or her PLV certificate.

Part II. Structure of Legal Services Society

Notes:

1. Quorum of the LSS Executive Council will be 3 members.
2. Each Core Committee will be headed by a Student Leader in consultation with a faculty member.
3. Each Area Adoption team will have a Faculty Consultant.

Part III. Working Manual of the Committees

Clinic Committee

1. The Clinic is to be headed by a Student In-charge in consultation with a Faculty Member.
2. The members of the Clinic Committee shall include:
 - a. Trained and Certified Paralegal Volunteers
 - b. Other student volunteers who opt to serve in the Clinic at the time of induction into the society.
3. The Clinic shall remain open on every Saturday (except on Public holidays) between 10am to 1pm under the supervision of a faculty member.
4. The Clinic will have a Panel Advocate deputed by Delhi Legal Services Authority in handling the cases that come to the Clinic.
5. The duties of the PLVs are as follows:
 - a. Interviewing the clients and completing the information required in the Client Information Form.
 - b. Maintaining a record of all the documents brought by the Client in support of his case.
 - c. To be present with the client at the time of deliberations with the Panel Advocate.
 - d. Carrying out any additional activities regarding the client's case if required by the Advocate.
 - e. Following up on the client weekly, either by telephonic communications or accompanying them to Court.
 - f. Making a note of the follow up done in the record maintained.
 - g. No PLV shall be allowed to transfer a case that he has taken up to another PLV.
 - h. One PLV will send an end-of-of-the-day report regarding the functioning of the clinic to all the Faculty Members within 3 days.
 - i. Any other duty that may be deemed necessary.

6. The duties of the Other Student Volunteers are as follows:
 - a. To assist the PLVs in the cases.
 - b. To man the reception and complete the entries in the Client Register
 - c. To complete the Attendance Register of the PLVs and student Volunteers.
7. The Duties of the Student Incharge are as follows:
 - a. To create a monthly roster of duties of PLVs and Other Student Volunteers
 - b. To make sure that the records of the clients are maintained properly and follow up is being done.
 - c. To make sure that all the Registers are maintained in an orderly manner.
 - d. To bring to the notice of the Director of the Clinic any discrepancies in the records and irregular PLVs or Other Student Volunteers.
8. The end of the day report shall have the following details:
 - a. Date
 - b. Name of the Advocate present
 - c. Names of the PLVs and Other Student Volunteers present
 - d. Name(s) of the Faculty Supervisor present
 - e. Names of those students who did not report for duty
 - f. Number of new cases and number of revisits
 - g. Areas of law to which the cases pertain
 - h. Any problems faced when operating the Clinic

Research Committee

Headed by a Student In-charge under the supervision of the Teacher in-charge.

The Research Committee will be a body looking into the research needs of the Legal Services Society, which may range from—

- 1) Preparation of questionnaire for field visits, collection of data, interpreting data and arriving at the required conclusions
- 2) Finding out the various schemes, made available to the public by the Government, qualifications for the fulfillment of the schemes and the Departments in-charge of particular schemes, and keeping them in hand
- 3) Preparation of brief summaries of various legislations that are relevant for the people and keeping a hard copy as well as power point presentations of the same at hand
- 4) Doing any other research work required to carry out the agenda of the Legal Services Society

- 5) Preparation of statistical information relating to clients visiting the Legal Services Clinic in consultation with the Director of the Clinic

Editorial Board Committee

Headed by a Student Chief Editor under the supervision of the Teacher-in-charge,

The Editorial Board Committee will be a body looking into the editing and compilation needs of the Legal Services Society, which may range from—

- 1) Compilation of Bare Enactments,
- 2) Editing the reports submitted by the field work teams and keeping track of the work of said teams,
- 3) Keeping track of the work done by all the sub-committees through the monthly reports prepared by the sub-committees,
- 4) Maintaining an activity register.

Library Committee

Headed by a Student Librarian, who must be a para-legal volunteer, under the supervision of the Teacher-in-charge,

The Library Committee will be a body looking after the Library work of the Legal Services Society, which may range from—

- 1) Having full control and responsibility of the Library Seal.
- 2) Maintaining the entry register for the Legal Services Society Library.
- 3) Collecting a fine from persons who violate the library rules.
- 4) Maintenance of the library notice board.

Chart and Poster Preparation Committee

Headed by a Student under the supervision of the Teacher-in-charge,

The Chart and Poster Preparation Committee will be a body looking into the needs of the Legal Services Society, which may range from—

- 1) Making of charts and/or posters to promote any agenda of the Legal Services Society
- 2) Making of charts and/or posters to promote any event hosted by the Legal Services Society or in which the Society has an interest

Play and Skits Committee

Headed by a Student under the supervision of the Teacher-in-charge,

The Play and Skit Committee will be a body looking into the needs of the Legal Services Society, which may range from—

- 1) Preparation of plays and/or skits to promote any agenda of the Legal Services Society
- 2) Preparation of plays and/or skits to promote any event hosted by the Legal Services Society or in which the Society has an interest

Grievance Cell:

1. The grievance cell will be headed by the Student Convener in consultation with the Faculty Convener.
2. Any registered member may forward a complaint letter regarding any grievances that he/she might have to the Grievance cell.
3. The Student Convener only after consulting with the Faculty Convener, shall appropriately manage the problems faced by the member.
4. A response should be given by the Grievance cell within seven days of receiving the complaint.

Part IV

Amendment of the Constitution

Any amendment to the Constitution shall be initiated by any member of the Executive Council, deliberated by the joint sitting of the Executive Council, Faculty Members and other Student Office Bearers of the LSS and a resolution passed by a simple majority of members present and voting. The quorum of the joint sitting shall be two third members of the Joint Sitting.

To be adopted by: Patron in Chief

Convener of the LSS

Director of the Clinic

Faculty Members of LSS

Student Convener, Co-Convener, Secretary, Treasurer

Comments and Suggestions are invited from all students and teachers and others associated with the LSS of LC-1 on this Draft till 30 June 2013. The same may be sent by email to legalaidsociety.lc1@gmail.com. The Final Draft of the Constitution of Legal Services Society will be notified on the Webpage of Law Centre-1 at www.law.du.ac.in by 15th July 2013 and it will be put up for adoption during the Annual Day on 25th August 2013.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

9th March, 2013

VISITORS

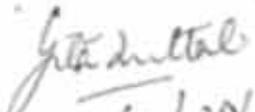
I am indeed glad to know the
'Legal Services Clinic' of Delhi University
(Law Centre I) doing lot of work
My Congrats


10.3.13
Justice K. G. Balakrishnan
Chairman, NITAE.

Awareness is the basic & important
aspect of legal aid. The legal aid
clinic is doing fine job. I wish the
clinic success


10/3/20
Chirag Doshi
Delhi High Court.

A highly laudable initiative which
deserves to be encouraged to spread its
out reach to every corner of the city.
Congratulations for your hard work,
compassion & sincerity to the rights of the
people whose lives you have already
touched - & ~~are~~ impacted


10/3/2013

VISITORS

JUSTICE J.R. MIDHA

All the best.
Very good work
being done by
the clinic.

Deep

9/3/13

A very good endeavour
Keep it up

Mukta Gupta
9/3/13

Seems like a good start. Wish you
every luck.

Rgnul
9/3/13

Great to learn of the clinic. Have suggested
training also re charging fees.

K-S. Endlaw
March 9th 2013.