



LEGAL AID SOCIETY, NLUO

Legal Aid Clinic Report

2020 -2021

Prepared By
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<https://www.las.nluo.ac.in/>

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Legal Aid....is fundamental to giving everybody in this country access to justice.

- Jeremy Corbyn



About Us

The Legal Aid Society of National Law University Odisha is a student-run committee and was constituted in 2012. The members and volunteers of the Society are a group of enthusiastic students who have constantly been involved in various activities to keep the spirit of legal aid alive.

Our Aim

The Society carries out its functions with an aim to provide access to justice to the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the population, primarily by spreading legal awareness and legal education in educational institutions and underprivileged communities. Since its inception, the Society has conducted numerous Legal Literacy Programs in remote areas of Odisha.

LEGAL AID CLINICS

The Legal Aid Clinics of National Law University Odisha were established in the year 2014 under the project "Access to Justice for Marginalized People and Socially Relevant Legal Education" in collaboration with the Orissa State Legal Services Authority and concerned District Legal Services Authorities. Under this project, three legal aid clinics have been set up in three districts, i.e., Cuttack (Dampada), Khordha (Jankia), and Puri (Bramhagiri). On November 1, 2, and 9, 2014, the Legal Aid Clinics were inaugurated at Khordha, Cuttack, and Puri respectively.

The Legal Aid Clinics are open to all, five days a week. These are managed by a Programme Associate who oversees the recording and registration of legal problems of the community in the respective districts. Each Legal Aid Clinic set up under the project has a Programme Associate, who reaches out to people in remote areas of the district, interacts with them, and identifies their legal predicaments. The programme associates are backed by a dedicated team of students, a full-time programme coordinator, and the Principal Coordinator of the Project. The Programme Associates furnish basic legal information to visitors and provide para-legal help by drafting applications or directing victims to appropriate authorities. Wherever and whenever necessary, they send applications to the District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee.

In September 2017, NLUO completed all six phases of the project.

As part of NLUO's academic outreach to extend legal services to the community, the university decided to continue the Legal Aid Clinics in Cuttack and Khordha districts. Accordingly, a full-time programme associate, Mr. Drubadala Mantri, was appointed to manage the village legal aid clinics at Khordha (Jankia) and Cuttack (Dampada).

ABOUT OUR LEGAL AID CLINICS

In June 2020, to further enhance access to justice, a student-run Legal Aid Clinic was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Justice Shri Mohammad Rafiq, Former Hon'ble Chancellor, National Law University Odisha and Former Hon'ble Chief Justice of Odisha High Court on the campus of National Law University Odisha.



01 LEGAL AID CLINIC, DAMPADA

The Legal Aid Clinic, Dampada is located inside the Gram Panchayat Office of Dampada GP in the Banki-Dampada block of Cuttack district. This is 45-kilometer away from the district headquarters and 15 kilometers away from the block headquarters.

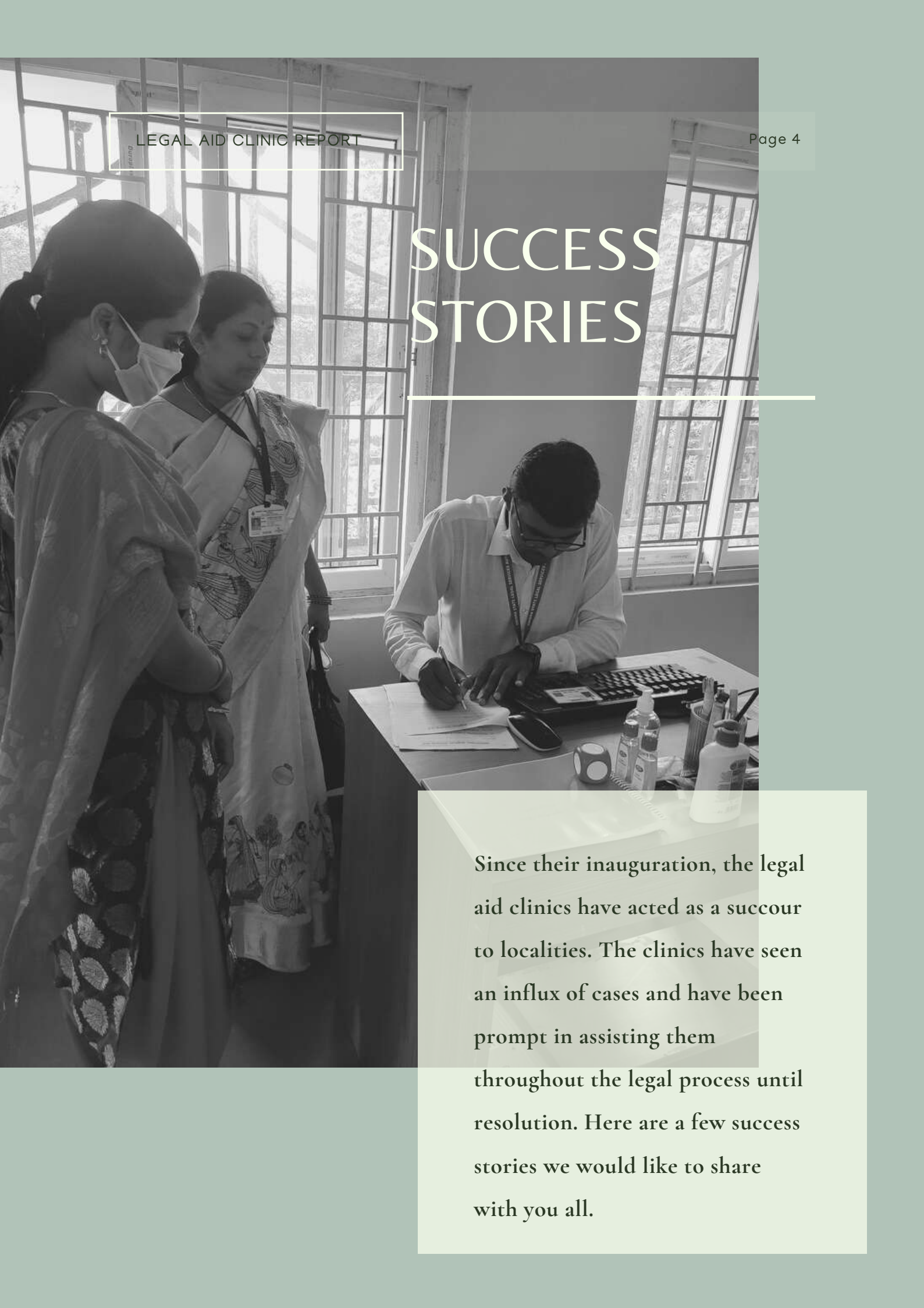
02 LEGAL AID CLINIC, JANKIA

The Legal Aid Clinic, Jankia is located at the Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra Building in the Jankia Gram Panchayat of Khordha district. The location is around 25 kilometers away from the district headquarters.

03 STUDENT LEGAL AID CLINIC, NLUO

The most recent addition, which is the student run legal aid clinic, is located in our campus, National Law University Odisha, Naraj Rd, Sector 13, Cuttack, Odisha 753015.

SUCCESS STORIES



Since their inauguration, the legal aid clinics have acted as a succour to localities. The clinics have seen an influx of cases and have been prompt in assisting them throughout the legal process until resolution. Here are a few success stories we would like to share with you all.

ADVOCACY

- In the matter of the impact of COVID and Access to Justice for a COVID orphan child in Cuttack district, the Legal Aid Clinic, NLU Odisha made a representation to the Child Welfare Committee, Cuttack to protect the life of a minor girl who had lost her parents in the COVID pandemic and who herself was affected by COVID. As the parentless child's father was an employee at Odisha Secretariat, the girl was entitled to get the service benefits of her deceased father (family pension, DCRG, PF contribution and other benefits) as well as the financial assistance for COVID orphan children. As per the news published in the newspaper, the girl has no guardian or relatives to help her in a difficult situation. The Legal Aid Clinic requested CWC, Cuttack filed a petition before District Court under the provision of Guardian and Wards Act, 1890 to appoint the District Collector as guardian of the child to her person and property and to explore the possibilities of consolidating the service benefits and the assets relating to deceased parents of the child. In the submission, it was also mentioned to direct Legal cum Probation officer of DCPU or to appoint a support person to facilitate the child in getting the death certificate and legal heir certificate or other legal documents, and ensure that the children shall be given all service benefits and

other financial benefits as declared by the Govt. of India and Odisha Government for the benefits of the children who lost their parents in COVID.

- In the matter of the impact of COVID and Access to Justice for two COVID orphan children (7-year old girl and her new born brother) in the Balasore district, the Legal Aid Clinic, NLU Odisha made a representation to the Child Welfare Committee, Balasore to take the issue into consideration, inquire into the matter and ensure care, protection, and development of the children who had lost their parents in the COVID pandemic. The parentless children's deceased father was an employee at East Coast Railway in Bhubaneswar, and their deceased mother was working as a staff nurse at Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Center, Cuttack. So, the children are entitled to get the service benefits of their deceased parents (family pension, DCRG, PF contribution, and other benefits) as well as the financial assistance for COVID orphan children. As per the news published in the newspaper, the children's uncle expressed his helplessness and appealed to the District administration to extend support for upbringing the two children and to provide them safe and secure future.

The Legal Aid Clinic requested CWC, Balasore to file a petition before District Court under the provisions of Guardian and Wards Act, 1890 to appoint the District Collector as guardian of the child to her person and property and to explore the possibilities of consolidating the service benefits and the assets relating to deceased parents of the child. In the submission, it was also mentioned to direct Legal cum Probation officer of DCPU or to appoint a support person to facilitate the child in getting the death certificate and legal heir certificate or other legal documents and to ensure that the children shall get all service benefits, compensatory benefits, and other financial benefits as declared by the Govt. of India and Odisha Government for the benefits of the children who lost their parents in COVID.

- With reference to the news published in the newspaper "The Sambad" dated 09.01.2021. The Legal Aid Clinic approached the Odisha Human Rights Commission to intervene in the matter of school safety and education of children in Jagatsinghpur district. There are around 261 school buildings in Jagatsinghpur district which are in dilapidated condition and in which around 30 thousand school children are pursuing their studies. In 2014, the Hon'ble Odisha Human Rights Commission directed the demolition of the old school buildings,

which are in dangerous and dilapidated condition, as well as directed the district administration to repair the school buildings. Furthermore, a district level technical committee was formed under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate and Collector, Jagatsinghpur, but no action was taken till date. Parents and guardians are very much discouraged from sending their children to these schools in such dangerous conditions. The matter is under consideration.

- The Legal Aid Clinic approached the Odisha Human Rights Commission to intervene in the matter of police inaction to trace and rescue a missing woman who had been working as a house-keeping staff of a Nursing Home located in the Friends Colony area of Cuttack city for the last 3 years. She was missing from the Nursing Home and could not return to her residence, located at Cuttack. She made a phone call to the contact numbers of her husband and told him that she had been kidnapped and was being detained in a lonely place. After this communication, her mobile was switched off. When not able to find his wife, her husband made a written complaint at Mangalabag Police Station on 05.10.2021. The police are unable to trace the accused and rescue the missing woman even after one month of giving a complaint to the police. The matter is under process.

- The Legal Aid Clinic approached the Additional Director General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Crime Branch, Odisha, Cuttack to investigate the matter of a missing woman employee who had been working as a house-keeping staff at a Nursing Home located in the Friends Colony area of Cuttack city for the last 3 years. She was missing from the Nursing Home and could not return to her residence, located at Cuttack. She made a phone call to the contact number of her husband and told him that she had been kidnapped and was being detained in a lonely place. After this communication, her mobile was switched off. By not finding her husband, she made a written complaint at Mangalabag Police Station on 05.10.2021. The local police are unable to trace the accused and rescue the missing woman even after one month of giving a complaint to the police. The matter is under process.
- With reference to the news published in the Odia daily "The Prameya" on dated 30. 01.2021 highlighting the issue of a landless poor person deprived of getting land under the scheme i.e "Basundhara" implemented for landless poor people, the Legal Aid Clinic approached the Odisha Human Rights Commission to intervene in the matter. The applicant is a landless poor person deprived of getting land

under the scheme "Basundhara" implemented for landless poor people. He requested BDO, Banki Block to provide assistance. Accordingly, on dated 10.08.2020 the BDO, Banki Block, has sent a letter (Vide Letter No-1875) to the Tahasildar, Banki, to provide him assistance under the Basundhara scheme implemented by the government. Further, without getting any response from the Banki Tahasil office, the BDO Banki has repeatedly written to the Tahasildar, Banki (Vide Letter No – 2684 dated 07.12.2020) to consider his grievance, but no result has come out till now. In view of the above matter, the Legal Aid Clinic approached the OHRC to intervene in the matter and give instructions to the appropriate authority to enable the applicant to obtain homestead land and related assistance for the construction of a house for the family dwelling.

Project Prayas

NLU students launch Covid helpline

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Legal Aid Society (Student Committee) of the National Law University (NLU) in Cuttack have initiated a 24x7 multilingual Covid-19 Helpline (Odia, Hindi, English) called 'Project Prayas' for Odisha to provide various information.

People can reach out to the helpline to avail any information about bed availability in local hospitals, daily updated list of hospital beds in the State, oxygen cylinders, tele-medication, food delivery, vaccination procedures and mental health counsellors.

In just first week of this project, the students have received more than 50 requests and have been successful in providing our assistance in all. "Life in the midst of Covid-19 has sparked fear, frustration and anxiety all around. With the advent of the second wave now, more than ever, the Legal Aid Society has decided to focus all of our energy on

defeating this pandemic and the challenges associated with it. Nothing is more important than ensuring the health and safety of our community and our State," the student committee said.

"After careful analysis and thoughts we found that Odisha's situation differs from that of the other states as here, there is no lack of resources but rather lack of information.

Even with the Government trying its best to help the population in this virtual world, few beneficiaries are unable to access the same due to a digital divide.

"This is where we deciding to step in and do our part, bringing to bridge that gap" the mittee added.

For Odia, speaker: contact 7504892 +919337545733/ 904037 Hindi or English, speaker contact: 8319892485. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn users can reach us at @nluolas, info Adaysa Hota.

IN MEDIA

The media plays an important role in public education, policy discourse, and generating public opinion to influence law and policy reform. Among others, media advocacy includes the dissemination of information relating to law, the legal system, and human rights institutions and aims to make the public at large informed about their rights and duties. In this context, the Legal Aid Clinic has taken the initiative to disseminate the activities undertaken by the Legal Aid Clinic of NLUO through the media, especially through print media, to reach out in the public domain. During this reporting period, the Legal Aid Clinic facilitated disseminating the COVID related activities undertaken by the Legal Aid Society of NLU Odisha and in the matter regarding police inaction to trace and rescue a minor school girl kidnapped and trafficked from her school.

ନାବାଳିକା ଅପହରଣ ପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗରେ କ୍ରାଇମ୍‌ଟ୍ରାଷ୍ଟିକୁ ସ୍ଥାନକପତ୍ର

କଟକ, ୨୨.୧୦(ବୁଧବେଳା): ନେମାଳ ନାବାଳିକା ଅପହରଣ ମାମଲାରେ କ୍ରାଇମ୍‌ଟ୍ରାଷ୍ଟର ଅପରାଧକୁ ଚପଟ ଶାଖାର ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ଡି.ଡି.ଙ୍କୁ ଜାତୀୟ ଆଇନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ଲିଗାଲ୍ ଏଣ୍ଡ୍ ସୋସାଇଟି ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଏକ ସ୍ଥାନକପତ୍ର ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଏଥିରେ ଦର୍ଶାଯାଇଛି ଯେ ନେମାଳ ଆନରେ ଏହି ପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗରେ ରୁଲ୍ ହୋଇଥିବା ଏପ୍‌ଆଇଆର୍ ଆଧାରରେ ଉକ୍ତ ନାବାଳିକାକୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରାଯାଇ ଏକ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଟିମ୍ କରାଯାଇ ଅପହରଣକାରୀକୁ ଗିରଫ ଏଥିରେ ଏପ୍‌ପୁଲ୍ ଅଭିଯୁକ୍ତମାନଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ ଦୃଢ଼

କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାକୁ ଏହି ପତ୍ରରେ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରାଯାଇଛି। ସେହିପରି ନେମାଳ ପୁଲିସ୍ ଉକ୍ତ ଘଟଣାରେ ଏପ୍‌ପୁଲ୍ ନାବାଳିକାକୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବାକୁ ବି ବି ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେଇଛନ୍ତି; ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଆବେଦନକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଅବଗତ କରିବାକୁ ଲିଗାଲ୍ ଏଣ୍ଡ୍ ସୋସାଇଟିର ପ୍ରୋଗ୍ରାମ୍ ଆସୋସିଏଟ୍ ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦିନକ ମହା ଏହି ସ୍ଥାନକପତ୍ରରେ ଦର୍ଶାଇଛନ୍ତି। ପୁରୀଆଇନ ବି ନେମାଳ ଆନରେ ଅଧିକରେ ଥିବା ଏକ ଆଶ୍ରମ ସ୍ୱଳ୍ପରେ ଏପ୍‌ପୁଲ୍ ନାବାଳିକା ପାଠ ପଢ଼ୁଥିବାବେଳେ ଗତ ଜାନୁୟାରୀ ୩୧ ତାରିଖରେ ନିଖୋଜ

ହୋଇଯାଇଥିଲା। ତେବେ ଉକ୍ତ ନାବାଳିକାକୁ ଅପହରଣ କରାଯାଇଥିବା ନେମାଳ ଆନରେ ଏତଲା ରୁଲ୍ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା। ଏହି ଘଟଣାରେ ପୁଲିସ୍ ଏପ୍‌ପୁଲ୍ ନାବାଳିକାକୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବା ସହ ଅପହରଣକାରୀକୁ ଗିରଫ କରିବାରେ ବିଫଳ ହୋଇଛି। ଏପରି ସଙ୍ଗୀନ୍ ଅପରାଧ ଘଟଣାରେ ପୁଲିସ୍‌ର ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତୀକୁ ବିରୋଧ କରି ଆବେଦନକାରୀ ପ୍ରକାଶ ନାୟକ ଜାତୀୟ ଆଇନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ପ୍ରକାଶ ନାୟକ ଜାତୀୟ ଆଇନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ଲିଗାଲ୍ ଏଣ୍ଡ୍ ସୋସାଇଟି ନିକଟରେ ଆଇନଗତ ସହାୟତା ପାଇବାକୁ ଆବେଦନ କରିଛନ୍ତି।

ଅପହରଣକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଗିରଫ କରୁନି ପୋଲିସ୍

କଟକ ଅପ୍‌ଡି, ୨୨.୧୦

କଟକ ଜିଲା ନେମାଳ ଆନ ଅଧୀନ ଏକ ଆଶ୍ରମ ସ୍ୱଳ୍ପରେ ଜଣେ ନାବାଳିକାକୁ କେହି ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦିନ ଅପହରଣ କରି ନେଇଥିବା ଗତ ଫେବୃଆରୀ ୧ ତାରିଖରେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ହୋଇଥିଲା। ନାବାଳିକାଙ୍କ ପରିବାର ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯୋଗକ୍ରମେ ନେମାଳ ପୋଲିସ୍ ଏକ ମାମଲା(ନଂ.୧୩/୨୧) ରୁଲ୍ କରିଥିଲା। ଇତିମଧ୍ୟରେ ଘଟଣାକୁ ୮ ମାସରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ସମୟ ବିତିଯାଇଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ପୋଲିସ୍ ଅପହରଣକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିପାରି ନ ଥିବାବେଳେ ଅପହରଣକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଗିରଫ କରିପାରିନାହିଁ। ଏହାକୁ ନେଇ ପୋଲିସ୍‌ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟଦକ୍ଷତା ଉପରେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନବାଚୀ ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଛି। ଏ ନେଇ ନାବାଳିକାଙ୍କ ପରିବାର ଲୋକଙ୍କ ବିଚ୍ଛାରେ ରହୁଥିବା ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମୀ ପ୍ରକାଶ ନାୟକଙ୍କୁ ଅବଗତ କରିଥିଲେ। ପରେ ପ୍ରକାଶ ଏ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଆଇନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ଲିଗାଲ୍ ଏଣ୍ଡ୍

ନାବାଳିକା ଅପହରଣ ଘଟଣାକୁ ୮ ମାସ ବିତିଲା କ୍ରାଇମ୍‌ଟ୍ରାଷ୍ଟ ଏଜିଡିକୁ ସ୍ଥାନକପତ୍ର

ସୋସାଇଟିକୁ ଉପାୟରେ। ଏହାପରେ ସୋସାଇଟିର ପ୍ରୋଗ୍ରାମ୍ ଆସୋସିଏଟ୍ ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦିନକ ମହା ଏ ନେଇ କ୍ରାଇମ୍‌ଟ୍ରାଷ୍ଟ ଏଜିଡି ସଙ୍ଗୀନ ପଠାକୁ ଶୁକ୍ରବାର ଏକ ସ୍ଥାନକପତ୍ର ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଦୁଇଟି ନାବାଳିକାକୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବା, ଏକ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଟିମ୍ ଗଠନ କରି ଅପହରଣକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଗିରଫ କରିବା ଓ ନାବାଳିକାକୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ନେମାଳ ପୋଲିସ୍ ବି ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେଇଛି ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ପ୍ରକାଶଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇବାକୁ ସ୍ଥାନକପତ୍ରରେ ଦର୍ଶାଯାଇଛି। ଏ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ନେମାଳ ଆନାଧିକାରୀ ଉପରେ ସାଧୁ କହିଛନ୍ତି, ଘଟଣାର ତଦନ୍ତ ଗାରି ରହିଛି।



ଏନ୍‌ଏଲ୍‌ୟୁର ୨୪ ଘଣ୍ଟିଆ କୋଭିଡ୍ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରୟାସ

କଟକ (ଆ.ପ୍ର): ମହାଶ୍ୱେତା ଜାତୀୟ ଆଇନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ କୋଭିଡ୍‌ରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ସହାୟତା ନିମନ୍ତେ ୨୪ ଘଣ୍ଟିଆ ପ୍ରୟାସ କାମଳ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି। ଏହି ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ କୋଭିଡ୍‌ରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ଅନୁଜାନ ବିନିଷ୍ଠର ସହାୟତା, କୋଭିଡ୍ -୧୯ ବେଳି ମେଡିସିନ୍, ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଯୋଗାଇବା, ବିବା ପଞ୍ଜିରଣ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କରିବା ଏବଂ ମାନସିକ ସହାୟତା ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଉପଦେଶ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି। ଏଥିପାଇଁ କଟକର ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ୨୫୦୪୮୯୯୨୨, ୨୦୦୮୧୫୫୫୨୯, ୮୩୧୯୮୨୯୮୫, ୨୫୦୪୮୯୯୨୨, ୮୩୧୯୮୯୨୫୫ ନମ୍ବରରେ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରିବାକୁ କରାଯାଇଛି।

Case Records

The applications received from the beneficiary /client for legal services are examined to determine whether the applicant is entitled to free legal aid. Discussions are held with applicants, supporting documents are collected, and the files for the individual cases are opened up and maintained. During this reporting period, legal aid has been provided. in a few of the cases as follows:

Subject	Case Matter	Action Taken
Social Security-Disability Pension	Complainant is a sixty-year-old person with disability who has been visually impaired and has been certified with seventy five percent disabilities by the medical officer of competent authority. In spite of the fact that the person is an eligible beneficiary for the State Govt's disability pension. The complainant was unaware of the particulars of the scheme and had sought our help for registering for the same.	In the attempt of our legal intervention in this matter we have facilitated the person by requesting the District Magistrate & Collector to consider their inclusion under Madhubabu Pension Yojana i.e State Pension Scheme of Government of Odisha. The matter has been followed up therefore an enquiry report has been called for by the Social Security Officer.
Family and Matrimonial dispute	A victim of domestic violence approached the SDJM Court for protection and monetary compensation from her husband under the provision of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act for which the court directed the respondent husband to pay Rs.3000/- per month as interim compensation towards maintenance of the aggrieved woman and her minor son. The respondent husband moved court under Section-9 of Hindu Marriage Act for restitution of conjugal rights without giving the maintenance amount to her as directed by the court.	On receipt of the application from the victim woman we referred the matter to District Legal Services Authority for appropriate assistance. As a result of which the woman has been provided with a pro-bono lawyer to take her proceeding in the court of law.

Allotment of Rural Housing

A poor family of seven members has been rendered homeless due to the complete demolition of their kacha house during the cyclone "Fani", when this matter came to the knowledge of our programme associate during the course of his community visit; he made a stop at their house to check the facts and found that the family as has been staying under open sky.

On immediate step we drafted and made an application to the District Magistrate & Collector on their behalf seeking a grant or Government assistance for construction of their house under rural housing scheme. Following our intervention, a spot enquiry was made by the Tahsildar of local jurisdiction. The compliance report of Tahsildar recommended the Block Development Officer to include the name of the applicant in the AGLP to provide them a house under Biju Paucca Ghar Yojana. As per the informal sources the matter is under consideration and is likely to be taken up this year i.e. 2022-23.

Allotment of ration card and inclusion under food security

LAC provided Legal assistance to a family to represent them before appropriate authority to obtain ration card and include their name under the beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System of Government under National Food Security Act. The applicant is not getting ration as her name is not included in the ration card even though she had requested the concerned authority. While her husband's name is included in the ration card, he is not getting ration. Despite being repeatedly approached by the complainant for inclusion of their name the local authority of Public Distribution System did not take the case into account. To be precise the eligible family was being deprived from the benefits under the Food Security Scheme.

After receiving the application, the Legal Aid Clinic requested the concerned BDO to issue ration to the cardholder and include the applicant's name in the PDS & Ration Card. After there was no reply from the BDO, we made an effort to put the matter in the Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) as the subject matter comes under the preview of PLA. The applicant was advised to go with related documents to put the case before the PLA office, Cuttack.

Supply of disability friendly appliance

The case matter is that a disability person aged about 62 years was in need of medical treatment and a hearing aid for his hearing impairment.

On the basis of our application to District Magistrate & Collector, the complainant has been called on by the District Social Security Officer to the Disability health Camp and has been advised to undergo an audiometric test, after which the hearing aid will be provided to him. The matter is awaiting further action.

Correction of wrongful omission of titleholder on record of right

The factual position of this matter is that one disable person has been in genuine apprehension of losing his inheritance right over 27 acres 020 decimals area of land as the name of his father was wrongfully omitted from the record of right. The applicant moved to the court of Joint Commissioner Settlement & Consolidation for correction of record of right which is still pending in the court. Prima facie it was revealed from the perusal of land records of pre-settlement and consolidation that the applicant's father was equal shareholder of the property in question but his name has been omitted which jeopardized the applicant's right over the scheduled land as successor.

After being approached by the complainant we advised him to restore the case in the Court of Joint Commissioner, settlement and on the other hand we facilitated him to make application to Tahasildar of competent jurisdiction to peruse the Sabak record to consider the matter with authority of law.

Allotment of free land to a homeless person.

The fact of the case is that one landless and homeless family moved from pillar to post to obtain free of cost land and financial assistance from the Government under the rural housing scheme. The family was found to be eligible for inclusion in "Basundhara" yojana ,i.e the scheme of Odisha Government to give 4 decimals of land to the landless family as homestead land.

As on approach of the family to our Legal Aid Clinic we brought this matter to the notice of OHRC considering that the matter was the deprivation of Human Rights and to the Legal Services Authority of the district & Taluk level to take up this issue at the level of local administration as the matter was already pending in the Block level. Our intervention resulted in the Tahsildar being called to submit compliance report to Taluk Legal Service wherein it was stated that a land of 2 decimals stands recorded in the name of the applicant's father. Therefore the family was not eligible for the scheme. Subsequently it was found that the land was sold out by his father when the applicant was a child therefore he was ignorant of the same As of present situation the applicant has no land of own or to inherit therefore the applicant shall be treated as landless. So the matter is under fresh consideration of Tahasildar enquiry as to why and under which circumstances the required changes have not been made and the ROR as it still stands in favour of the deceased father of the applicant.

Financial assistance for treatment of a seriously ill girl of a poor family.

One girl about 22 years old has been suffering from brain infection and diseases like disseminated TB. Since last 2 years she has been undergoing treatment at private and Government hospitals. In the process of treatment and as per advice of doctors the applicant has been spending a lot of money frequently for scan and tests of different segments of body of the patient. (MRI, Bonemarrow, PET-CTscan, Radio diagnosis-CECT of abdomen, X-ray of Brain and other tests etc.) The condition of the patient did not improve while undergoing treatment at AIIMS, BBSR so the concerned doctors referred the patient to higher centre for evaluation of the condition of the patient. The applicant is now not being able to make ends meet and is unable to get the required treatment for his daughter due to his poor economic condition.

The Legal Aid Clinic forwarded the application & related documents to the Director, Department of Health, Govt. of Odisha requesting to provide free of cost medical treatment or financial support to the applicant for proper treatment of his daughter.

Housing assistance

The fact of the case is that one tribal family was allotted the financial assistance to construct house in the Indira Awas Yojana. Allotment was made in 2013 to construct house with an estimated cost of Rs25,000/-(Twenty five thousand) but work order was given in 2017 and by that time financial assistance of state Government was escalated to Rs1,00000/- (One lakh) under the state housing scheme i.e Biju Paucca Ghar Yojana. As it was improbable to construct concrete house with a cost of Rs.25,000/-(Twenty five thousand). Hence the beneficiary brought this matter to the knowledge of District Collector- Grievance hearing camp wherein beneficiary was advised to surrender the work order so that the family would be listed under the beneficiaries of Biju Paucca Ghar Yojana. The beneficiary appealed our Legal Aid Clinic as no allotment has been made after the lapse of three years in the enquiry made by the local authority therefore the beneficiary approached our Legal Aid Clinic.

We have facilitated the applicant to file the case before Permanent Lok Adalat. Compliance report has been sought from the BDO concern. Hence this matter is under active consideration of Permanent Lok Adalat.

Police inaction to rescue a minor girl on kidnapping.

The fact of this case is that a minor girl aged about 15 years was found missing from a private residential school where she was studying. School authority reported to local police station accordingly F.I.R has been registered u/s- 363 of IPC. The girl was brought to the residential school when she was 10 years old considering her as child without parental care as both of her parents left separately and their whereabouts were unknown. The issue was highlighted in the local media. The police did not take any action to trace and rescue the girl even though prima facie suggest that it was a kidnapping case.

This matter was brought to the knowledge of Legal Aid Clinic by one media activist. As an immediate step we approached the CID, Crime Branch, Odisha by making representation to DG Police requesting to instruct the police to investigate this case from trafficking point of view and to trace and rescue the girl. The girl has been rescued now.

Malafide Lawsuits against an elderly person with disability

The applicant is a person with disability and aged about 70 years old. With malafide intention some of the persons of his village are creating problems in the peaceful possession on his homestead land. Some persons of his village with wilful intention to harass, disgrace and to put in hardship by taking advantage of his disability situation have filed series of cases from 2018 onwards starting from the petition to the Revenue Secretary to disentitle the applicant from the Record of Right (ROR). Being a bonafide possessor of the land he has been giving the revenue and cess regularly from 1995. Some persons of his village with ulterior motive are harassing the applicant and filed petition before the Consolidation Officer, Kendrapara to disentitle him from the possession of the land. Again without any locus standi and lawful claim they preferred an appeal in the court of Deputy Director (DD), Land & Consolidation, Kendrapara. Another case has been filed before the Court of Civil Judge -cum- Munsif, Kendrapara along with a Mis case praying for injunction order.

In this case the Legal Aid Clinic drafted an application to the Honourable Justice and Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee, Odisha High Court to allow this petition and to pass order for quashing of the petitions pending against the applicant.

Case matter of regularisation of service of a blind lady teacher

A blind lady teacher has been serving at BhimaBhoi Blind High School since 2011. But her post is not regularised till now and she approached the DEO and DEO forwarded the letter to the Director Secondary Education ,Odisha but she has not to get any positive results till date. She has joined as a contractual teacher in music post on 2011 in Bhima Bhoi blind school unit 3, Bhubaneswar. She has served the school since 9 years but was unable to get regularisation of her post.

In this case the Legal Aid Clinic contacted DLSA, Cuttack & Permanent Lok Adalat office, Cuttack. As the promotion and regularisation of service of contractual teacher engaged in Govt. High School does not come under the Public Utility Service (PUS) of Permanent Lok Adalat Office so advice given to the applicant to file writ in this matter

Rural Housing

The applicant gave an application requesting to get benefit out of State Housing Scheme i.e Biju Pucca Ghar. He is a daily labourer and belongs to tribal community. He has applied to get a house under "Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana" but till date he has not got any benefit out of it.

In this matter the applicant was advised to file PLA Case at Permanent Lok Adalat, Cuttack.

Rural Housing

The applicant is the beneficiary of Rural Housing Scheme i.e "Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana" and applied to get a house under the scheme. As the applicant did not get any benefit he approached Legal Aid Clinic for inclusion of his name in the Housing Scheme and to get benefit out of it.

In this matter the Legal Aid Clinic asked the applicant to come with related document and to file PLA case at Permanent Lok Adalat, Cuttack

Matrimonial Dispute

The matter is relating to matrimonial dispute. The applicant requested the Legal Aid Clinic to solve the family dispute between his son and daughter in law. He brought the allegation that the daughter in law is neither taking care of her husband and minor son nor listening to the advice of the in-laws. In last two years, most of the time she has been staying with her paternal family.

In this matter both parties were contacted by the Legal Aid Clinic and after listening from them a date was fixed for counselling.

Addition of name in Food Security Scheme

The applicant gave an application to the Legal Aid Clinic requesting to include her name in Food Security Scheme of Government and issue ration card. The applicant has applied for ration card under Food Security Provisions of Government in the year 2018 at Cuttack Municipality office. She has received the acknowledgement receipt but till date she has not got any benefit out of it.

After receiving the application and related documents the Legal Aid Clinic approached and requested the District Magistrate & Collector, Cuttack to include her name in the Food Security Scheme and to provide ration card to avail subsidised rice/wheat etc to the beneficiary. In this matter the Additional Civil Supply officer gave the compliance report to the Legal Aid Clinic by giving reason for ineligible of the applicant.(i.e The applicant has 3 or more rooms with RCC roof not constructed under IAY or PMAY or BPGY). When the LAC, NLUO informed the applicant about the status of her application she expressed dissatisfaction because she had no such rooms and without having any recent enquiry the ACSO,Cuttack has served the compliance report. Further the Programme Associate facilitated the matter by visiting Civil Supply Office & discussed with CSO .The CSO admitted that they have served the compliance letter on the basis of previous data available with municipality& no recent enquiry was made on the matter. Further the Civil Supply Officer suggested applying again through the web site by taking help of Jan Seva Kendra. Then the status was intimated to the applicant.

pension

The applicant belongs to a poor schedule caste family having no cultivated land. His family is not getting any Government help under social security scheme implemented by the Govt and he sought for financial help.

As the applicant is an old man, aged about 61 years old the Legal Aid Clinic approached the Block Development Officer to provide him old age pension under Madhubabu Pension Yojana and to include his family in the Rural Housing Scheme. The matter is under process.

Social Security for Artisan.

The applicant is a beneficiary of Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana. He has applied for kalakar allowance in the year 2017-18 however he could not get any benefit out of the social security scheme meant for the artist launched by the State Government. Further he has applied for the Kalakar allowance in the year-2021.

The Legal Aid Clinic after receiving the application and related documents from the applicant approached the District magistrate & Collector, Cuttack requesting to provide benefit of “Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana” to the applicant. The related documents forwarded to the Collector Cuttack for needful action. The matter is under process.

The applicant is a woman aged about 55 years old. She is an artist and possessed talent in the field of Sankirtan & Srimad Bhagabat. She is appreciated and certificated by various cultural organisations for her talent in the field of art- “Sankirtan& Srimad Bhagabat”. As a beneficiary of Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana she has applied for Kalakar allowance in the year -2019. However she is unable to get any benefit till date. Once again the applicant applied to get benefit under the scheme in the year -2021.

The Legal Aid Clinic forwarded the application & related documents to the Collector Cuttack for needful action. The matter is under process.

The Legal Aid Clinic received application from a beneficiary of Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana. The applicant is awarded & certificated by participating in the district level Sankirtan competition. As an artist he has applied for Kalakar allowance in the year -2019 but however he could not get any benefit under the scheme. The applicant once again applied for the same in the year-2021.

The Legal Aid Clinic forwarded the application & related documents to the Collector Cuttack for needful action. The matter is under process.

The applicant is an artist and known for her talent in the field of art (Sankirtan & Srimad Bhagabat). The applicant is the recipient of many awards and certificates from various cultural organisations for her talent in the field of art. As a beneficiary of Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana she has applied for Kalakar allowance in the year -2018. However she is unable to get any benefit till date. Once again the applicant applied to get benefit under the scheme in the year -2021.

The Legal Aid Clinic forwarded the application & related documents to the Collector Cuttack for needful action. The matter is under process.

In the issue of matrimonial dispute the applicant sought legal advice on whether he should go to any other forum seeking compensation for loss of social respect. The matter was solved at Bari Police Station by executing mutual agreement & consent of both parties in the presence of parents, guardians and gentlemen of both parties. After several attempt for counselling both parties expressed their consent to be separated, they agreed to cooperate each other to file divorce petition in the court of law. They executed a Notary agreement in this regard and no further claim for maintenance will be made by the wife of the applicant in the future.

As the matter was solved mutually the Legal Aid clinic advised the applicant against approaching any other forum seeking compensation or to make any defamation suit in the court of law.

The Way Forward

The Legal Aid Clinics receive maximum applications with respect to deprivation to get benefit out of social security schemes. In such cases the Legal Aid Clinics refer the cases to appropriate authorities; follow up action is being taken by the Legal Aid Clinic but it takes a very long time to provide relief to the victims or applicant. There may be particular reasons with the appropriate justice delivery authorities or institutions /administrative institutions or personnel to redress the grievances of the applicants. We hope to organise talks and sessions to understand and mitigate the delay factors to redress the grievances of the victims by taking guidance from the concerned institutions themselves.

In number of cases the Legal Aid Clinic facilitates dispute resolution in the community in the matters of matrimonial disputes, other family disputes or dispute between husband and wife and their in-laws etc. In few cases the Legal Aid Clinic try to settle the dispute at clinic level and in some cases refer the cases to appropriate authorities. With respect to counselling the Legal Aid Clinics have no qualified counsellor so to encourage alternative dispute resolution for out of court settlement of family disputes it requires a set of qualified counsellors. We hope that in the year 2022 we get the help of professional counsellors to aid our applicants.

We are really glad to have run the clinic for a year since its inauguration. The objective of establishing the clinic has been fulfilled with some of the cases getting resolved successfully. However, the student members of the society apart from managing the affairs of the clinic are yet to connect with the on-field work of the cases due to the online mode. Resuming to offline mode will bring opportunities to carry out the operations of the clinic more effectively and efficiently. We are hoping that we will be able to provide legal aid in all aspects to make a better future.



Acknowledgements



The clinics are the pride of Legal Aid Society as well as that of the university. So, we find it imperative to convey our heartfelt gratitude to those people without whom we would never have reached this far. First among them being our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ved Kumari, whose continuous encouragement keeps us motivated. A big thankyou to our faculty advisors, Dr. Kuntirani Padhan and Ms. Nikita Pattajoshi, for being our guiding lights. Mr. Durbadala Mantry, the program associate of Legal Aid Clinic has been the backbone and biggest support system to the clinic as well as the society, we would like to convey our gratitude to him. Finally we would like to thank the faculties and students of the university for their immense support.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts.

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