



**Project on  
Access to Justice for Marginalised People  
and Socially Relevant Legal Education:  
An Overview**

**2014-2017**

Sponsored by:  
DoJ-GoI-UNDP

**National Law University Odisha, Cuttack**

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Access to Justice for Marginalised People  
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**Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
NLUO and Patron of the Project

**Ms. Suman Dash Bhattamishra**  
Assistant Professor of Law and  
Principal Coordinator of the Project

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## Access to Justice for Marginalised People and Socially Relevant Legal Education: An Overview

Access to Justice is a major component of almost all international conventions and is linked with UNDP's mandates of poverty eradication and human development. The concept is also closely associated with reduction of poverty as marginalisation implies deprivation of the right to exercise choices, voice opinions, seek remedies for injustice and respond to biases prevalent in various state mechanisms. Although traditionally access to justice has been linked with an individual's formal right to litigate, the connotation of the term is much broader under the project. Here the term connotes the entire process of interacting with the legal system beginning with an individual's right to approach the legal mechanism and culminating in his/her actual achievement of the end-result, i.e., Justice. So far as the justice system is concerned, it involves all actors of the Criminal and Civil Justice system including the police, courts, lawyers, paralegals, social workers, prison officials, community leaders, local self government bodies, so on and so forth.

In all issues concerning access to justice, Legal Aid plays a very important role. Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides that "the State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disability." Article 14 also makes it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity to all. Further, the Supreme Court in numerous judgments has included free legal aid as a vital part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

As the consequence of a strong Legal Aid Movement in India, National Legal Services Authority was established on the 5th of December, 1995. NALSA is the apex body for framing policies, rules and regulations for effectively rendering legal services to people in need. It regulates the activities of State Legal Services Authorities established under its banner for the same purpose.



## About the Project

In March, 2014 National Law University Odisha, Cuttack (NLUO) signed an MoU with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP- India) for executing an Access to Justice initiative through a project titled “Access to Justice for Marginalised People and Socially Relevant Legal Education.” The project was for a period of three years and covered three districts of Odisha: Cuttack, Khurda and Puri. It was implemented in 6 phases and each phase was of 6 months’ duration. The primary objective of the project was to make justice accessible to underprivileged people and also make legal education socially relevant. To achieve this end, various activities were earmarked for each phase under the project. In May, 2014 the work-plan and time-line of the project was shared with the District Legal Services Authorities of the three districts and their support was sought for implementation of the project. In August, 2014 the baseline information of the three districts was shared with the A2J team of UNDP.



*Inauguration of Legal Aid Clinics at Khurda, Cuttack and Puri by Hon'ble Shri Justice Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India in the august presence of Hon'ble Shri Justice Amitava Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Shri Justice P.K. Mohanty, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Hon'ble Shri Justice Indrajit Mahanty, Judge High Court of Orissa and Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Odisha, Cuttack*

## Project Team and Structure of Legal Aid Clinics

In order to execute the project, three Legal Aid Clinics were established under the project in each of the three districts with the support of the High Court of Orissa and Orissa State Legal Services Authority. On November 1, 2 and 9, 2014, the Legal Aid Clinics were inaugurated at Khurda, Cuttack and Puri. Hon'ble Shri Justice Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India inaugurated the Clinics along with Hon'ble Shri



Justice Amitava Roy, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Shri Justice P.K. Mohanty, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Hon'ble Shri Justice Indrajit Mahanty, Judge High Court of Orissa and Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Odisha, Cuttack. The Member Secretary of Odisha State Legal Services Authority along with other representatives of the Odisha State and District Legal Services Authority also participated in the event. In September 2017, NLUO completed all the six phases of the project.

Each Legal Aid Clinic established under the project is supported by a Programme Associate who is in charge of recording and registering legal problems of the community in the respective districts. The Programme Associates furnish basic legal information to visitors and provide para-legal help by drafting applications or directing victims to appropriate authorities. Wherever necessary, they also send applications to the District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee. The Legal Aid Clinics remain open for five days in a week. Apart from that, a toll-free number has also been installed in the university to allow people to communicate their problems without having to pay for it. The lines for this toll free number are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Since raising general awareness of rights is also a primary objective of the project, Legal Literacy Programmes are being organised under the project.

The Programme Associates are backed by a dedicated team of students, a full-time Programme Co-ordinator and the Principal Co-ordinator of the Project. The project emphasises on legal problems in the following areas: Cuttack, Puri and Khurda. Legal Aid Clinics have been established at Brahmagiri in the district of Puri, Dompada in the district of Cuttack and Jankia in the district of Khurda.

## Project Team

### Patron:

Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao,  
*Vice-Chancellor, National Law University  
Odisha, Cuttack*

### Principal Co-ordinator:

Ms. Suman Dash Bhattamishra,  
*Assistant Professor of Law, National Law  
University Odisha, Cuttack*

### Programme Co-ordinator:

Ms. Ratnamanjari Behura

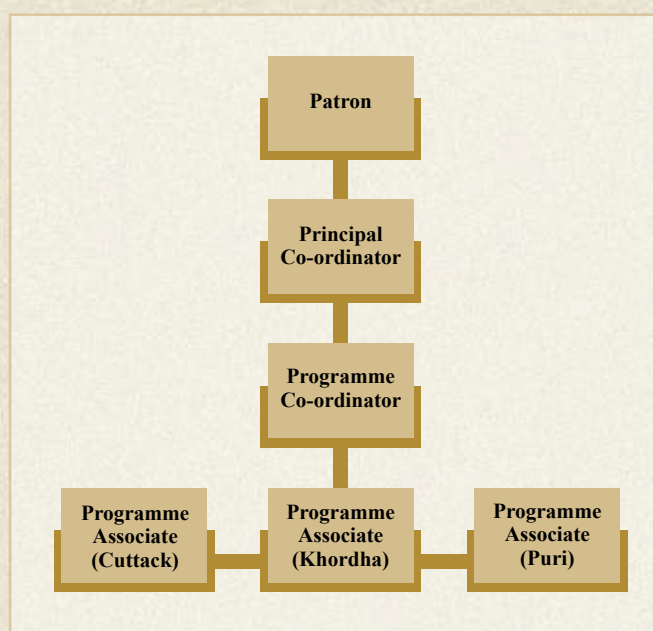
### Programme Associates:

Ms. Bijayshree Barik : Jankia, Khurda  
(Nov. 2014 - Dec. 2016)

Mr. Ramasish Daspattnayak  
(Jan. 2017 onward)

Mr. Durbadala Mantry: Dompada, Cuttack

Mr. Jitendra Khadiratna: Brahmagiri, Puri

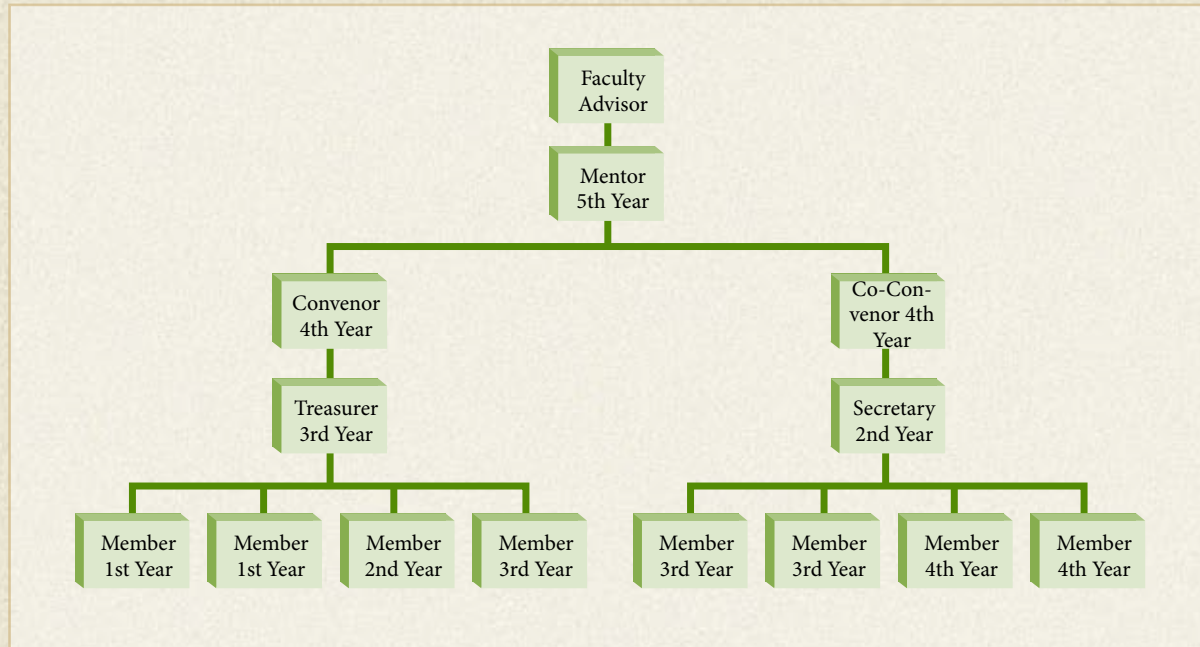


Structure of the Project Team



## Structure of the Legal Aid Society

The Project Team has been backed by a strong team of students constituting the Legal Aid Society all throughout the project. The structure of the Legal Aid Society is depicted below:



## Objectives

To explore methods by which legal education can be made socially relevant

To sensitise students, lawyers, academicians, members of local bodies and community on issues faced by socially and economically disadvantaged sections

To create a general awareness of rights among the people

To encourage alternative methods of dispute resolution

To address issues pertaining to access to justice and simplify modalities to approach justice

To explore and expand the scope of Clinical Legal Education so as to facilitate legal aid

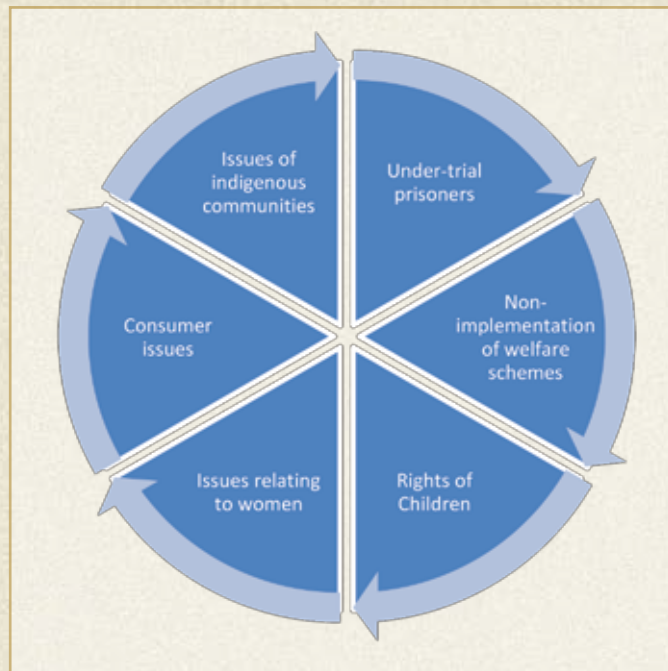
To induce self-sufficiency in the community of the three districts so as to strengthen the common people in asserting their rights and entitlements

To standardise facilities for legal aid and consolidate methods of easy access to justice

To integrate lessons learnt through the project in classroom teaching



## Thrust Areas



## Geographical Coverage

KHORDHA	CUTTACK	PURI
Khordha Sadar Begunia Bhubaneswar Jatni Jankia Banpur	Athagarh Banki Dompada Cuttack Sadar Niali Choudwar Tigiria Similpur Pathapur Banra Bilipada Godhisahi Mahanga Kushpangi	Puri Sadar Brahmagiri Gop Delang Chalisibatia

## Key Activities under the Project

<b>Legal Literacy</b>	Legal Literacy/Awareness Camps have been organised on various themes based on the needs of the target community.
<b>Training Programmes</b>	Lawyers, Law Teachers, members of CSOs, School Teachers, Students, Members of Panchayat and Local Bodies, etc have been sensitised on various issues in the area of access to justice
<b>Paralegal Services</b>	Students participating in the project have extended help to Legal Aid Clinics in providing research input and community outreach. They have also extended help to PLVs and co-operated with them in rendering legal aid.
<b>Creation of Knowledge Products</b>	Toolkits/Knowledge products in simple language have been created on legal aid and available remedies under the law for specific problems
<b>Facilitating Community Dispute Resolution</b>	Community dispute resolution and out of court settlements have been encouraged in the community
<b>Conference</b>	Conferences and Workshops have been organised to train members of the community, assess the outcome of the project and create awareness of best practices in other models

## Method of Implementation

The project was for a period of 3 years and was implemented in 6 phases, with results being measured quarterly, half-yearly and annually. It was implemented simultaneously at the University level through the Legal Aid Society as well as Community-based Legal Aid Clinics established under the project in the three districts. A brief description of the activities undertaken in the 6 phases during the project period is as follows:

### Phase I

In this phase, activities were directed towards the execution of a detailed groundwork in each of the selected districts. At this stage, focus was on identification of problems faced by the people in areas covered under the project. In the second part of the first phase, which was of three months in duration, all possible links for collaboration were explored during this phase and maximum possible linkage with available local resources was established. This was also the phase in which meetings were conducted with appropriate authorities of State and District Legal Services Authorities and the plan of action for the project was shared.

### Phase II

In the second phase, the focus was on establishing legal aid clinics in the selected districts. Based on our consultations with the State and District Legal Services Authorities and with the help of the Orissa



High Court Legal Services Committee, three villages were selected for establishing the clinics. They were Brahmagiri, Dompada and Jankia at Puri, Cuttack and Khurda respectively. Clinics were inaugurated in November, 2014 after completing the recruitment process of Programme Associates. The groundwork for establishing linkage with selected CSOs and educational institutions was laid in this phase. During this phase, we also started organising legal literacy programmes after consulting the members of the Community.

### **Phase III**

In the third phase, activities were aimed at strengthening the position of legal aid clinics in the community. A plan of action was drawn out for community outreach and Programme Associates were involved in executing the same. Collaboration with CSOs, educational institutions, administrative offices and legal service providers was further strengthened and relevant portions of the Work-plan was shared with them based on the nature of cooperation required by the team from each of these institutions. Community dispute resolution initiatives were undertaken by the Legal Aid Clinics by bringing matters to the attention of the Panchayat. Alongside, legal literacy programmes continued to be organised.

### **Phase IV:**

A major activity undertaken in this phase was the launching of the Compulsory Course of Clinical Legal Education. The syllabus of the course was drafted in this phase and a team of Law Teachers implemented it in a batch of 120 students. The progress of cases registered at the clinic was tracked. Simultaneously, in the community, Legal aid clinics were monitored to deliver results expeditiously and paralegal volunteers were identified by Programme Associates to establish a better rapport with the community. Organising legal literacy programmes gained further momentum in this phase and our programmes catered to a wide range of beneficiaries.

### **Phase V**

In the fifth phase, various Training and Consultation Programmes as well as Workshops were conducted under the project with the sole objective of training members of the community in various areas concerning access to Justice. The Course of Clinical Legal Education (Legal Aid and PIL) continued in this phase and legal literacy programmes were conducted actively. Simultaneously, legal aid clinics continued their work in dispute resolution.

### **Phase VI**

In the last phase of the project, emphasis was on continuing and consolidating the activities under the project. The results of our activities were measured and documented. The output of clinics was reviewed and assessed for chalking out a future course of action. In this phase, Community Stakeholders were trained and the Law Teachers, School Teachers Training Programme was organised. To mark the conclusion of the project, the International Conference was organised from 16th to 17th September on the subject of “Rethinking Socially Relevant Legal Education: Best Practices and a Way Forward”



## Details of Execution

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Activities in the Identified Districts</i>	<i>Activities in the University</i>
<b>Phase I</b>	6 months	Identification of problems in the <i>three</i> selected districts, viz. Cuttack, Puri and Khurda.  Exploration of possibilities of potential linkage within the community	Sharing the Work-plan and Timeline of the Project with OSLSA and DLSAs
<b>Phase II</b>	6 months	Establishing Legal Aid Clinics  Organising Legal Literacy Programmes  Taking up matters on specific issues like non-implementation of welfare schemes, gender issues, matrimonial disputes, etc., for resolution at the clinics	Chalking out a strategy for setting up legal aid clinics  Selection of Programme Associates  Creating Information Brochures about the project in the local language for wide circulation in the community
<b>Phase III</b>	6 months	Continuing facilitation of Community Dispute Resolution	Developing Legal Literacy Brochures  Collaborating with State and District Legal Services Authorities for organising various events.
<b>Phase IV</b>	6 months	Continuing facilitation of Dispute resolution  Linking the community with Legal Services Authorities and administrative offices so as to make people self-sufficient  Organising Legal Literacy programmes	Launching of the Compulsory course of Clinical Legal Education  Orientation of teachers and students towards the course  Organising Training Programmes
<b>Phase V</b>	6 months	Continuing facilitation of Dispute Resolution through Legal Aid Clinics  Undertaking community visits by Programme Associates to collect grievances  Organising Community Stakeholders' Programmes	Organising Legal Aid Conclave  Creating Information Booklets and Brochures for use in legal literacy events  Guiding students of Clinical Legal Education to create a handbook for Legal Aid and PIL  Organising Training Programmes, Workshops and Consultation Programmes
<b>Phase VI</b>	6 months	Continuing facilitation of dispute resolution and making the community self sufficient  Organising Training Programmes in the Community  Consolidating Access to Justice Initiatives	Organising Training Programmes at the university  Organising International Conference



## Training Programmes, Events and Workshops

### Purpose of Training Programmes, Consultations and Workshops

The primary objective of organising Training Programmes, Consultations and Workshops under the project was to bring together various stakeholders on a common platform and sensitise them on their role in enhancing access to justice for marginalised people. Establishing a solid linkage of all community stakeholders with existing legal and academic institutions is vital to realise the ultimate goal of access to justice. Through consultation programmes and workshops, various beneficiaries were oriented on multiple aspects of access to justice. The following list provides a broad categorisation of beneficiaries of our training programmes and events:

Lawyers
School Teachers
Law Teachers
Members of Gram Panchayats and Block Development Offices
Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities
Para Legal Volunteers
Students of selected Law Colleges in Odisha with particular emphasis on those established in remote locations
Civil Society Organisations

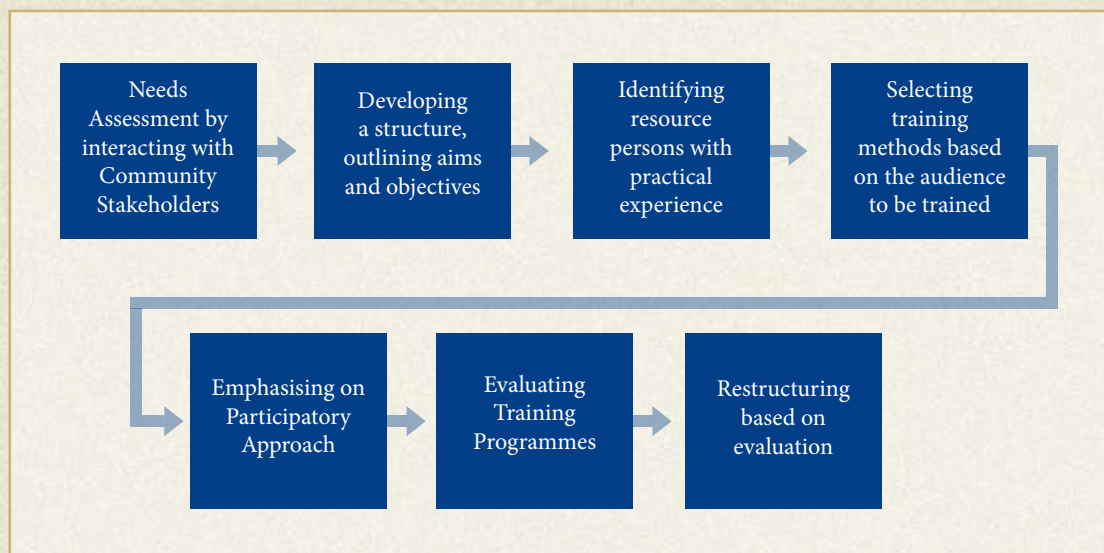
These events and workshops have been conducted in close coordination with Civil Society Organisations, State and District Legal Services Authorities and academic institutions.

### Impact of the Training Programmes:

Sensitisation of trainees towards major issues concerning Access to Justice
Enhancing interest for establishing legal aid clinics in schools and colleges
Capacity Building of students and teachers to facilitate organisation of legal awareness programmes
Raising awareness and generating interest for para-legal volunteering
Bringing together a wide range of beneficiaries and facilitating mutual interaction on common objectives in enhancing access to justice

### Methodology of Training Programmes

Training Programmes and workshops conducted under the project were based on a specific format that has been outlined below. The method of conducting training programmes has always been kept in mind to ensure that desired results follow from them. The structure and method of training programmes varied throughout the project period depending on the type of audience they were catering to. However, some common indicators that remained constant are as follows:



### Details of Events

#### Workshop on “Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Under-trial Prisoners in the state of Odisha” 23rd April, 2016

On 23rd of April, 2016, a One-Day Workshop was organised by NLUO in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Prof. Vijay Raghavan from TISS and Mr Sashikanta Mishra, Member Secretary of Odisha State Legal Services Authority chaired the sessions along with Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor of NLUO. Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities of 8 districts of Odisha were present in the event to deliberate on ways in which legal aid can reach under-trial prisoners.





*Workshop on Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Under-trial Prisoners*

*The objectives of the workshop were as follows:*

- To deliberate on issues pertaining to legal aid of under-trial prisoners in the state of Odisha.
- To share experiences by Secretaries from different districts of Odisha on various aspects of Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Under-trial Prisoners
- To discuss obstacles in extending legal aid to under-trial prisoners and
- To suggest ways and means to make justice accessible for under-trial prisoners

The first session was chaired by Mr. Sashikanta Mishra, Member Secretary SLISA, Odisha along with Prof. Raghavan, Dean, School of Criminology and Justice, TISS (Mumbai) and Mr. Trijeeb Nanda, Research Fellow, TISS CJ Fellowship. Prof. Raghavan spoke about the contribution of TISS in the Criminal Justice system. Mr. Trijeeb Nanda spoke about the status of Legal Aid to prisoners in KBK districts of Odisha. They also discussed about the intervention that the officers can make, the relationship with the prison authorities, the power of the officers and the role of Legal Services Authorities.

The second session was about the norms and standards in Indian Law for Prisoners Rights. The session was an open session for the Secretaries of District Legal Services Authority to share their experiences. The discussion was followed by a presentation by the Prison Rights group of students pursuing the Clinical Legal Education course at NLUO.

The third session was chaired by Mr. Mishra, Member Secretary, Odisha State Legal Services Authority who deliberated on the Right to representation of people in custody. While doing so, he discussed the relevant provisions of the Legal Services Authority Act, the Supreme Court Guidelines and the State government guidelines on the topic. The fourth session was about the Delivery of Legal Aid and improving legal representation on arrest, first hearing, bail and appeal to the High Court.

The fifth and concluding session was on Monitoring Legal Aid Mechanisms which was chaired by Prof. Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law University Odisha and Mr. Mishra, Member Secretary, SLISA. The discussion was about enhancing access to justice by putting in place innovative monitoring mechanisms for restricting abuse of authority by the police and prison officials.



### **Community Stakeholders’ Training Programmes on “Access to Justice for Women in the State of Odisha” 6th of December, 2016 and 12th of July, 2017**

The project team organized a one day training programme for women on 6th of December 2016 at Kantapada. Around 300 people consisting of government officers and community stakeholders participated in the event. The event was planned after consulting the Project Director, DRDA and the BDO on the major issues confronting people in the said community. The objective of the training programme was to sensitize women about their rights so that they know the remedies available under the law while dealing with domestic violence.

The Training Programme was attended by Prof. Dr.Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law University Odisha,Cuttack, Mr. TrilochanPradhan, Project Director, DRDA, Smt. BisnupriyaPradhan, Chairman, Kantapada Block, Mr Ambika Prasad Dash, BDO, Kantapada Block,Mr. Ranjan Kumar Jena, Tahasildar, Ms. RatnamanjariBehura, Programme Coordinator, Access to Justice Project, Mr. GourangaBehari Jena, Senior Advocate, Odisha High Court, Cuttack, Smt. Sujata Jena, Senior Advocate Odisha High Court, Cuttack,Smt. MinarvaMohanty, CDPO,Mr. AnadiCharanSethi, IIC, Olatpur PS.,Mr. Durbadalamantry, Programme Associate, Access to Justice Project,Cuttack and Mr.JitendraKhadiratna,Programme Associate, Access to Justice Project,Puri

The first session was conducted by Ms Ratnamanjari Behura, Programme Co-ordinator of the project. She extensively discussed the “Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act” and explained in a participatory manner, the role of protection officers, service providers and Judicial Magistrates in protecting rights of women who confront domestic violence.

The second session was conducted by Mr Gouranga Jena, Advocate, High Court of Odisha. The theme of the session was the ‘Role of Community Stakeholders in protecting Rights of women in India’



*Community Stakeholders’ Training Programme at Gotara Gram Panchayat*



The third session was conducted by Ms Sujata Jena, Advocate, High Court of Odisha on the theme of Domestic Violence: Remedies available under Indian Law'. She discussed various civil concepts under personal laws such as right to maintenance, countering suits for restitution of conjugal rights in cases of domestic violence, rights after termination of marriage, etc.

A similar programme was organised at Gotara Gram Panchayat for Community Stakeholders on 12th July, 2017 by the Legal Aid Clinic of Cuttack, National Law University Odisha under the project. The event was inaugurated and presided by Sarat Kumar Nayak, Chairman, Mahanga Block in the presence of Ms. Rasida Begum, Vice Chairman, Mahanga Block, Ms. Suchitra Behura, Sarpanch, Gotara Panchayat, Ms. Suman Dash Bhatamishra, Faculty Advisor, Legal Aid Society National Law University Odisha, Ms. Kuntirani Padhan, Faculty-in-charge of Clinical Legal Education National Law University Odisha, and Ms. Sujata Jena, Advocate, High Court of Odisha. Drubadala Mantry, Programme Associate, Cuttack District, Jitendra Khadiratna, Programme Associate, Puri District, Ramasish Das Pattanayak, Consultant for Khordha District and other members of the community were also present. About 300 persons participated in the Training Programme. The audience consisted of Asha and Anganwadi Workers, Ward Members, Members of the Panchayat, retired school teachers and elderly persons in the community.

### **Odisha Students' Alliance for Enhancing Legal Aid and Access to Justice**

The Legal Aid Society of NLUO, under the project, had organized a Legal Aid Conclave of all Law Colleges in Odisha. The Conclave witnessed participation from 10 colleges from various districts of Odisha including KBK. 67 students and 6 faculty members from various colleges participated in this event. The schedule of the Conclave had 5 brainstorming sessions and 2 competitions to make it more interactive and effective. The chief highlight of the Conclave was deliberating on the idea of running legal aid clinics on shoe-string budgets and in some cases, even on zero budget.



*Shri Jagadananda, Ex-State Information Commissioner, Odisha, Mentor and Co-founder, CYSD conducting a session on RTI during the Conclave*



*Shri Maurya Chandra interacting with students at the Conclave*

The objectives of the Conclave were as follows:

- To encourage other Law Colleges to set up a Legal Aid Clinic in their Colleges.
- To carry out Legal Literacy Programmes in their respective areas.
- To sensitize them on their role in dealing with legal Issues faced by their respective communities.
- To spread awareness about the right to Legal Aid.



The first session was about ‘The importance of Clinical Legal Education in the Legal Curriculum’. The session was chaired by Prof. Rao, Vice- Chancellor, National Law University Odisha along with Ms. Suman Dash Bhattamisra, Faculty Advisor, Legal Aid Society and Ms. KuntiraniPadhan, Faculty-in-charge, Clinical Legal Education. Prof. Rao emphasized on why Clinical Legal Education is important and why it should be incorporated in the curriculum. Ms. KuntiraniPadhan shared her experience as Faculty-in-charge of the Clinical Legal Education and spoke about its relevance in today’s scenario.



*Students in a brainstorming session during the Conclave*

The second session was a round table interaction among the students from different colleges in which students would share their experience in Legal Aid and access to justice in their respective regions. This gave an insight into the different problems faced by different people in different regions of Odisha.

The third session was on orienting participants towards the concept of Nukkad Natak. Nukkad Natak being the best medium through which the students can convey their messages, a workshop was organized to train students. The session was conducted by Mr. Manoj Kumar Pattanayak who has been associated with the National School of Drama. In this workshop the students were taught about using acting skills to convey sensitive messages. The idea was to train them for legal literacy camps so that they would be able to communicate the message more effectively.

The fourth session was on Right to Information. It was conducted by Shri Jagadananda, Ex-Commissioner of the State Information Commission. The session dealt with the basics of Right to Information like formalities for filing an RTI, the time period within which a reply should be given, against whom one may file an RTI, to whom the RTI letter may be submitted ,etc.



The fifth session was on 'How to run a Legal Aid Clinic?'. The session was jointly conducted by Mr. Ajay Kumar Pandey, Executive Director, Clinical Education at the Jindal Global Law School and Mr. Maurya Chandra, Managing Partner, Adyopant Legal. The session basically dealt with establishing a legal aid clinic and running it. The session was important because most of the colleges present did not have a Legal Aid Clinic and this would help them set up and run a Legal Aid Clinic in their respective colleges. Mr. Chandra also conducted some activities during the session such as allotting a budget to each group and the students had to come up with a plan on how they would use this budget to set up and run a Legal Aid Clinic.

On the third day of the Conclave, the students were taken on a Legal Literacy Camp to Dompada to give them a ground level feeling of how the Legal Aid Society conducts its Legal Literacy Camps. The idea was to help expose students to the idea of Legal Aid Camps so that they could conduct them in their respective districts.

Apart from the sessions and the field trip, the Conclave also had two competitions on Client Counselling and Legal Aid Quiz. These competitions were organised to increase the participation of the students and introduce them to the idea of Client Counselling.

### **5 days' Workshop-cum-Training Programme on Role of Lawyers in Enhancing Access to Justice for Marginalised People: 8th-12th of November, 2016**

From 8th to 12th of November, 2016 a Training Programme was organised for Lawyers at NLUO under the project. 37 young lawyers selected from the community within the three districts of Odisha participated in the event. The purpose of the training programme was to orient lawyers towards issues relating to access to justice in the state of Odisha. Among the various resource persons who conducted sessions for the trainees were Justice A.S. Naidu, Retired Judge, High Court of Orissa, Dr. Amrita Patel, Chairperson, OSRCW, K.N. Panigrahi, Senior Resource Person, Odisha Judicial Academy, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, PECUC and Mr. Laxmi Narayan Nanda, Child Rights Specialist, UNICEF. Ms. Shikha Hundal, Project Officer, A2J Team of UNDP was also present during the event. The Training Programme followed an interactive approach and combined Group Activity sessions along with Lecture Sessions to ensure that there was sufficient scope for brainstorming among participants. Relevant reading material was circulated for reference during the training sessions. Feedback of participants was taken at the end of the programme.



*5 Days' Training Programme on "Role of Lawyers in Enhancing Access to Justice" in the state of Odisha*



A major impact of the Training Programme, as mentioned by almost all participants in their feedback was that during the activity sessions many of them, for the first time, developed an understanding of access to justice issues in their community. The sessions were thought provoking and participants were made to think and present legal solutions to disputes in their respective areas. At the end of each day, when we interacted with them to find out what they learnt from the sessions, we realised that it was for the first time that most of them gave a thought to their role in enhancing access to justice. Apart from that by engaging in discussions with a variety of resource persons ranging from faculty members to judges, grass-root workers to senior advocates and administrative office bearers, they gained a variety of perspectives to issues pertaining to vulnerable sections of the society.

### **Consultation Programme on Sustainable Development Goals 2016: 13th and 14th of April, 2016**

From 13th to 14th April, 2016, a two days' programme was organised in collaboration with the Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad. On 13th April, Mr. Gagan Sethi and Ms. Nupur Sinha interacted with the Project Team, reviewed the performance of the Programme Associates and trained them in ways by which performance of legal aid clinics can be enhanced. On 14th of April, a Consultation Programme with local NGOs and Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad was organised at NLUO to deliberate on Sustainable Development Goals 2016. Apart from others, reputed local NGOs like CLAP, Basundhara and SWATI had participated in the event. On that day, they also interacted with students of the Legal Aid and PIL Course for two hours and guided them on the methodology of conducting field activities and applied research.



*Mr. Gagan Sethi and Ms. Nupur Sinha of Centre for Social Justice interacting with representatives of local NGOs on SDG-16 of UNDP*

### **Review of Legal Aid Clinics: 22nd April, 2016**

On 22nd of April, 2016, Prof. Krishnadas from Keele University, United Kingdom visited the Legal Aid Clinic of Dompada and had a meeting with the paralegal volunteers, sarpanch, anganwadi workers, school teachers and other members of the community in the presence of the Programme Coordinator and Programme Associate. The objective was to study and suggest way and means of enhancing the efficiency of legal aid clinics established under the project.

Again, on the 17th and 18th of October, 2016, members of the A2J Team, Ms. Nusrat and Mr. Ravindra Pare visited NLUO. During this period, the team visited the Legal Aid Clinics of Brahmagiri (Puri) and



Dompada (Cuttack). Later, on 11th of November, Ms. Shikha Hundal also visited the Legal Aid Clinic of Dompada. During their visits, the team reviewed the functioning of the clinics, went through our documents, files and knowledge products and also assessed the performance of our clinics. Students of the Legal Aid Society and the NLUO Project Team were present during the visits.



*Prof. Krishnadas Sukumaran, Keele University, UK at the Legal Aid Clinic of Dompada*

### **Consultation Programme on “Web-based Access to Justice Initiatives in India” : 21st April, 2016**

On 21st of April, 2016, a Consultation Programme for promoting Access to Justice in India by launching a web portal was organised at National Law University Odisha. Prof. R. VenkataRao, Vice-Chancellor, NLSIU, Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR, Dr.Parivelan, TISS, Prof.KrishnadasSukumaran, Keele University, UK and Prof. Parasuraman, TISS participated in the event along with selected students and faculty members from NLUO. An important subject of discussion during the event was the possibility of replicating the CLOCK model in India for promoting access to justice.

Prof. (Dr.) Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law University Odisha, Cuttack delivered the welcome address to the guests from the various Law Universities, Prof. Rao stressed on the importance of legal aid and access to legal aid in India. He said that the launch of the web portal for access to justice was an important step in the direction of access to justice.

The session was also addressed by Prof. Parasuraman, Director, TISS. He detailed on the importance of legal aid in India and discussed the objective behind the association of NLUO and TISS for the CLOCK project.

In the second session, the functionality of the web portal was explained by Prof. KrishnadasSukumaran, He also acknowledged the collaborative effort law firms, institutes like NGOs and other legal companions for social justice. The session was followed with a short presentation by Dr.Parivelan, Faculty at the Access to Justice Fellowship at TISS, the presentation covered the works done under the TISS fellowship program in the field of legal services authority strengthening, communal violence and related social-legal issues, forest dweller rights, disappearance rights in Kashmir, gender issues, Dalit issues, custodial deaths, special legal issues faced by people in North Eastern states.



*Prof. Parasuraman, TISS addressing the panel during a Consultation Programme on Web Based Access to Justice Promotion across India*

Professor Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor, NALSAR, commented on the functioning of the justice system in India. He opined that one of the ways to cure out these discrepancies could be networking of law schools with the lawyers also including the regional law colleges.



Professor Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, NLSIU, explained the need for social sensitisation. When an individual is denied access he feels helpless, access is empowerment of common man.

Dr. Rangin Pallav Tripathy, Assistant Prof. of Law, NLUO, detailed on determining specific areas in the web portal. He said that there should be conceptual clarity in a web portal. We need to specifically focus on the target group. The purpose of the web portal is to be determined, i.e. whether it is to provide help or facilitating to help to build the capacity of an individual to approach the authorities.

Ms. Suman Dash Bhattamishra, Assistant Prof. of Law, NLUO, provided valuable suggestions on the functioning of the web portal. She said that a web portal cannot be an isolated programme by itself for providing legal aid. There should be a research backup with a good team of students and professionals. Initially the portal can be used to create a network for institutions; legal aid clinics identified groups, lawyers and law colleges.

### **Access to Justice Initiatives with Partners other than UNDP:**

In the last phase of the project, a major emphasis was on creating lasting partnership with CSOs, institutions and organisations other than UNDP so as to ensure sustainable access to justice initiatives. During the project period, some long lasting partnerships have been created with various CSOs. We have organised events based on such collaborations. One such initiative which deserves specific mention is the Training of Trainers for Paralegals Programme organised in collaboration with CSJ, Ahmedabad. The report is as follows:



*Training of Trainers for Paralegals Programme organised in collaboration with CSJ, Ahmedabad and Centre for Peace and Justice, Bangladesh*

### **Training of Trainers for Capacity Building of Paralegals in Odisha: 29th-31st March, 2017**

The South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies [SAILS], in association with BRAC University, Bangladesh and IDEAL Centre for Social Justice [CSJ] and the Legal Aid Society



organized a 'Training of Trainers for the Capacity Building of Paralegals in Odisha' from 29th March to 31st March, 2017 at National Law University, Cuttack, Odisha.

The Training of Trainers Workshop was attended by 30 participants from Odisha. Over the three days of the workshop, training sessions for paralegals were designed by incorporating principles of adult learning and alternative legal education.

In the Inaugural session, Ms. Nupur, Executive Director, Centre for Social Justice. Ms. Nupur highlighted the objectives and benefits of the training program and thereafter Mr. Shahsriar, Academic Coordinator, Centre for Peace and Just Society, BRAC University, Bangladesh spoke about the broader perspective of the event. He also discussed various steps taken by them in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. Then after Ms. Nilufa Sheta explained that, they are concentrating on South Asian countries, especially on neighbouring countries for now. The process is based on country specific needs. The session was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Sri Krishna Dev Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law University Odisha. He spoke about the challenges faced by the civil society in India and how paralegals could help in transforming the conditions of society.

The second session of the day was based on the theme of 'Metaphorizing Access to Justice Framework'. In the third session, CSJ's work and engagement with the paralegal movement in India was discussed, the session focused on the scope and role of paralegals, categories of paralegals, levels of paralegal and strategies used by CSJ were also discussed. The trainer also explained how easily knowledge can be shared within the community in local events like weekly haats or local market etc. at the end of the session success stories of CSJ's paralegals were discussed by the trainer. The last exercise of the session was 'Simulation on conducting Village Awareness.

\*(This narration is borrowed from a part of the Report submitted by Centre for Peace and Justice, which was compiled by the CPJ Reporting team led by Ms. Nilufa Sheta)

### **Exposure Visits:**

#### ***National Conference on Law School Based Legal Aid Clinics organized by VM Salgaocar College, GOA: 21st-22nd August, 2015***

In August 2015, a two and half day exposure visit made by the project team and selected students of the Legal Aid Society to VM Salgaocar College, Goa to study the functioning of student run legal aid clinics set up by the college and replicate the best practices under the project.

The purpose of the visit was to expose students and the project team to the idea of making legal aid clinics self-sustainable. Anand Narayan, ex-Convener and Student Mentor of the Legal Aid Society and



*Exposure visit to VM Salgaocar College, Goa*



Mandar Bhatodkar, ex-Convener of the Legal Aid Society had participated in the event along with Ms. Suman Dash Bhattamishra, Faculty Advisor of the Legal Aid Society and the Programme Associates, Mr. Jitendra Khadiratna, Mr. Durbadala Mantry and Ms. Bijayshree Barik. The visit was preceded by a workshop to evolve ways for maximising output of student run legal aid clinics in the community.

### ***Training Programme on “Role of School Teachers in Enhancing Access to Justice for Marginalised People”***

On 11.9.2017 a Training Programme was organised on “Role of School Teachers in Enhancing Access to Justice for Marginalised People”. The objective of the training programme was to orient school teachers towards various aspects of access to justice and encourage them to establish legal aid clinics in their premises. Participants were familiarised with various concepts like Right to Information, Child Rights, legal issues and problems of marginalised people. Thereafter, the legal aid mechanism in India was discussed and the structure of legal aid clinics was explained to them. Ms. Mrinalinee Padhee, Advocate, High Court deliberated on the issue of Engineered Inequality and highlighted its repercussions on children. Mr. Jagadananda Sarangi discussed the various ways in which RTI can be used as a tool to enhance access to justice. The sessions were presided by Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao.



### ***Training Programme on “Role of Law Teachers Promoting access to justice through Legal Aid Clinics”***

This Training Programme was organised on 12.9.2017. Law Teachers from various parts of Odisha participated in the deliberations. There were discussions on the nature of legal aid clinics in their



respective colleges and the manner in which they operated. Participants from the KBK districts of Odisha deliberated on the difficulties faced by them in organising legal aid activities. Apart from that, there were also deliberations on ways in which linkage can be established among various stakeholders for running a legal aid clinic efficiently.



***National Seminar on the role of Law Schools' based Legal Aid Clinics in facilitating Access to Justice: 30th July, 2017***

The Legal Aid Society had represented NLUO at the 'National Seminar on the Role of Law Schools' based Legal Aid Clinics in facilitating Access to Justice' held on the 30th of July 2017 at New Delhi. The Conference was organized by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). The Conference witnessed the presence of number of Supreme Court Judges . The Seminar mainly focused on the role of Legal Aid Clinics in enhancing Access to Justice to the marginalized community. The Seminar consisted of 3 sessions in which the Legal Aid Clinics of each participating College were to briefly present their activities and the way they work. It was a platform for Legal Aid Clinics of different colleges to share their best practices in running their Legal Aid Clinics.



*Students and Faculty Advisers of Legal Aid Society representing NLUO at the NALSA Conference organised at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in July, 2017*



### ***Legal Literacy Programmes: [2014-2017]***

The Legal Aid Society has successfully organized 26 structured Legal Literacy Programmes in 3 districts of Odisha namely Cuttack, Khorda and Puri. The themes of the Legal Literacy programmes have been determined after a needs assessment of the community. The areas covered in these camps are Free Legal Aid, Rights of Under-Trial Prisoners, Rights of Women, Child Rights, Labour Rights, Consumer Rights, Land Rights of Tribal People, Right to Information, Right to Education and Social Security Schemes.

The Legal Aid Camps generally follow a set scheme which has been tried and tested over the years. The students first perform a short skit relating to the issue(s) followed by a short speech by the students which lays out the remedies available to the victims and the procedure to be followed in order to avail the remedy. Then there is an interactive session with the community in which the problems faced by the community are discussed. Apart from the skit and interaction, the Legal Aid Society also distributes knowledge products which contains information regarding the issues addressed in the Camp, so that the people can refer to them as per their convenience. At the end of each programme, participants are encouraged to ask questions to performers.

Legal Literacy Camps are organised in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society and in the Monsoon semesters, students of the Legal Aid and PIL course also conduct camps as part of their coursework.



*Legal Literacy Programme at Biraharekrushnapur, Puri*



*Legal Literacy Programme at Mundasahi, Cuttack*



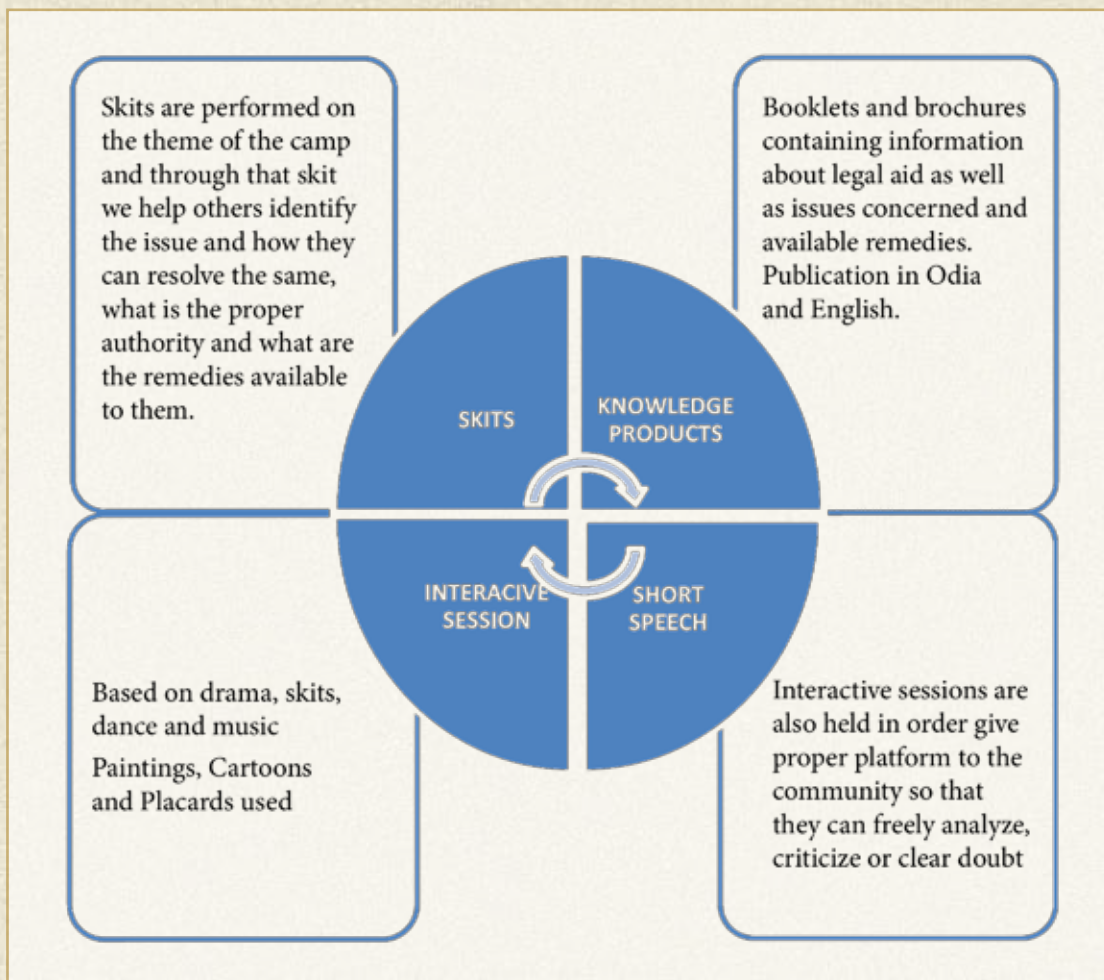
*Legal Literacy Programme in progress at Chalisbatia, Puri*



*Legal Literacy Programme in progress at Godisahi, Cuttack*

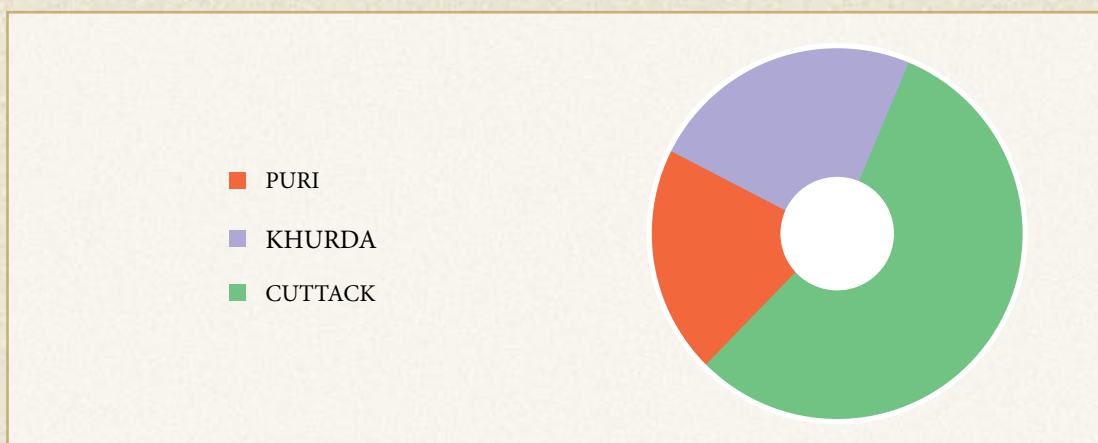


## Structure of Legal Literacy Programmes



## Area-Wise distribution of Legal Literacy Programmes

DISTRICT WISE LEGAL AID CAMPS

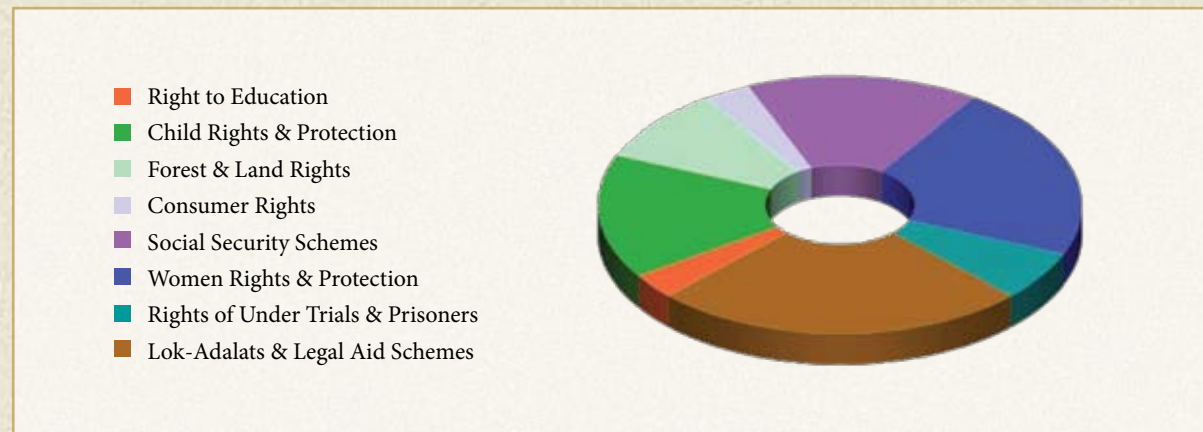




The highest number of legal literacy programmes have been conducted in the district of Cuttack. They account for more than 50% of our programmes. The next highest number of programmes have been conducted at Khurda followed by Puri.

## Themes Covered in Legal Aid Camps

### THEMES COVERED IN THE LEGAL AID CAMPS



## Legal Literacy Programmes

Sl. No.	Date	Place	Theme	Gp/Municipality
1.	04.11.2013	Bajrakabati School	Child Rights and Protection	Cuttack
2.	12.11.2013	SaraswatiSishuMandir	Child Rights and governance	Cuttack
3.	14.11.2013	Asha Aswashana	Child Rights	Cuttack
4.	21.0.1.2015	Dahanigadia	Forest Right Act & social security schemes.	Dompada
5.	24.02.2015	Brahmagiri, Matalapur	Legal Aid Service & LokAdalat	Puri
6.	25.02.2015	Pathapur	Social security System	Pathapur
7.	09.03.2015	Dharanikudi, Brahmagiri	Legal Aid Service & LokAdalat	Puri
8.	10.03.2015	Sukhuakhala	Legal Aid Service & LokAdalat & social security Schemes	Similipur



<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Gp/Municipality</i>
9.	23.03.2015	Bilimantrisahi	Legal Aid Service & LokAdalat.	Bilipada
10.	26.03.2015	Bijipur, Brahmagiri	Legal Aid Service & LokAdalat	Puri
11.	13.10.2015	Banra community	Domestic Violence, Social Security	Banra
12.	15.10.2015	Baghua	Land rights	Dompada
13.	16.10.2015	Khordha Sub Jail	Rights of Under-Trial Prisoners and Convicted Prisoners	Khordha
14.	09.02.2016	Choudwar OTM Bazar	Domestic violence	Mundasahi
15.	06.04.2016	Choudwar Circle Jail	Rights of prisoners/women prisoners	Choudwar
16.	16.04.2016	Ura village of Baliguali	Social security system	Baliguali, Puri
17.	06.08.2016	Mundali High School, Cuttack	Right to Education and Child Rights	Cuttack
18.	21.10.2016	Banra High School	Consumers' Right	Banra
19.	28.01.2017	Women's College	Women's Right- Domestic Violence, Eve-Teasing	Khordha
20.	23.03.2017	Baghua (Tribal community)	Child marriage, and Land Rights	Dompada
21.	07.03.2017	Biraharekrushnapur G.P, Mission Shakti federation	LokAdalat & women empowerment	Puri
22.	18.03.2017	Janata Bidyapitha, Podadiha	Legal awareness amongst the localities and availability of legal aid for marginalised people	Begunia, Khordha
23.	20.04.2017	District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Khordha	Right to Education	Khordha
24.	20.05.2017	Chalisibatia, Maa Tareni Mahasangha	LokAdalat & women empowerment	Chalisibatia, Puri
25.	12.07.2017	Gotara Grama Panchayat Office, Mahanga	Domestic Violence	Cuttack





The images above depict the interaction of students and officials of the Legal Aid Clinic with members of the Community. The last image from the top is of participants of the Legal Literacy Programme at Puri interacting with the Programme Coordinator, Ms. Ratnamanjari Behura after the event. The fourth image from the top is of women using knowledge products created by students in simple language for the purpose of spreading legal awareness.



## Community Dispute Resolution

A major output of the project was the facilitation of dispute resolution in the community through Legal Aid Clinics established in the community. Programme Associates appointed under the project facilitated dispute resolution in a number of ways. They acted as a bridge between the community and existing legal and administrative institutions. Programme Associates referred disputes to appropriate authorities. They also counselled clients and on several instances, encouraged out of court settlements. Matters were referred to State and District Legal Services Authorities and were also put up at Lok Adalats. In quite a number of cases, aggrieved persons were referred to a lawyer from within the community for appropriate guidance. Since many cases were based on grant of social security benefits, cases were also forwarded to appropriate administrative agencies. Programme Associates served as a link between the community and existing legal mechanisms.

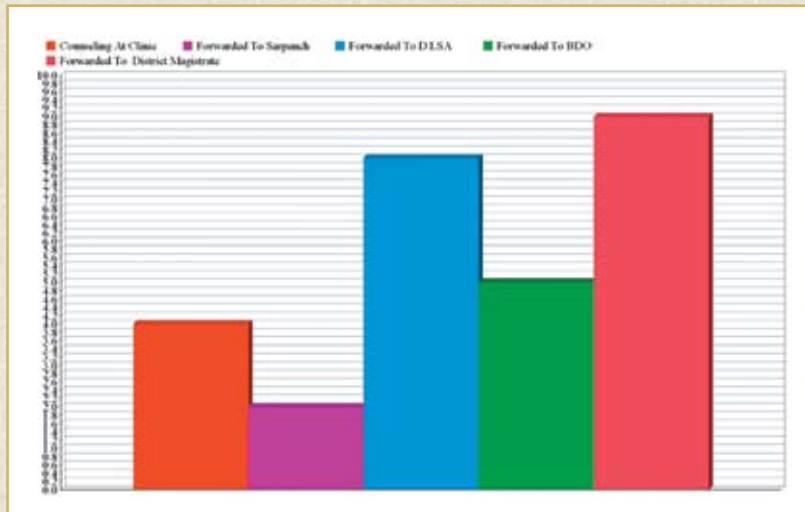


*Counselling sessions in progress at the Legal Aid Clinic of National Law University Odisha*



Given below is a graphical representation of the cases forwarded to various administrative and legal institutions:

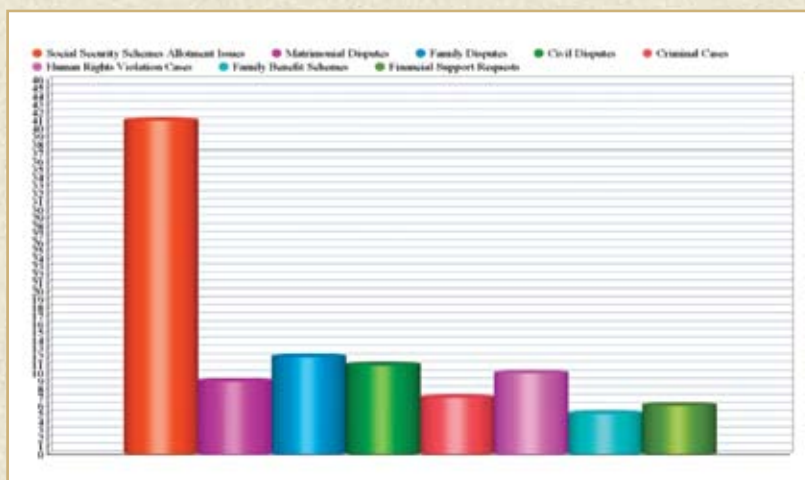
**ACTION TAKEN BY LEGAL AID CLINICS**



As is evident, maximum number of cases in the legal aid clinics was forwarded to the respective District Magistrates or Block Development Officers in the three districts. That is because most of the cases received by our Legal Aid Clinics were based on social entitlements. Few applications for social entitlement were also forwarded to the Sarpanch. The second highest number of cases was in the area of Free Legal Aid. Such cases were forwarded to State/District Legal Services Authorities or to Taluk Legal Services Committees. Around 38% of our beneficiaries are those who have availed the Legal Aid Clinics’ counseling services exclusively.

**The following graph represents the nature of cases received by our clinics:**

**NATURE OF DISPUTES**

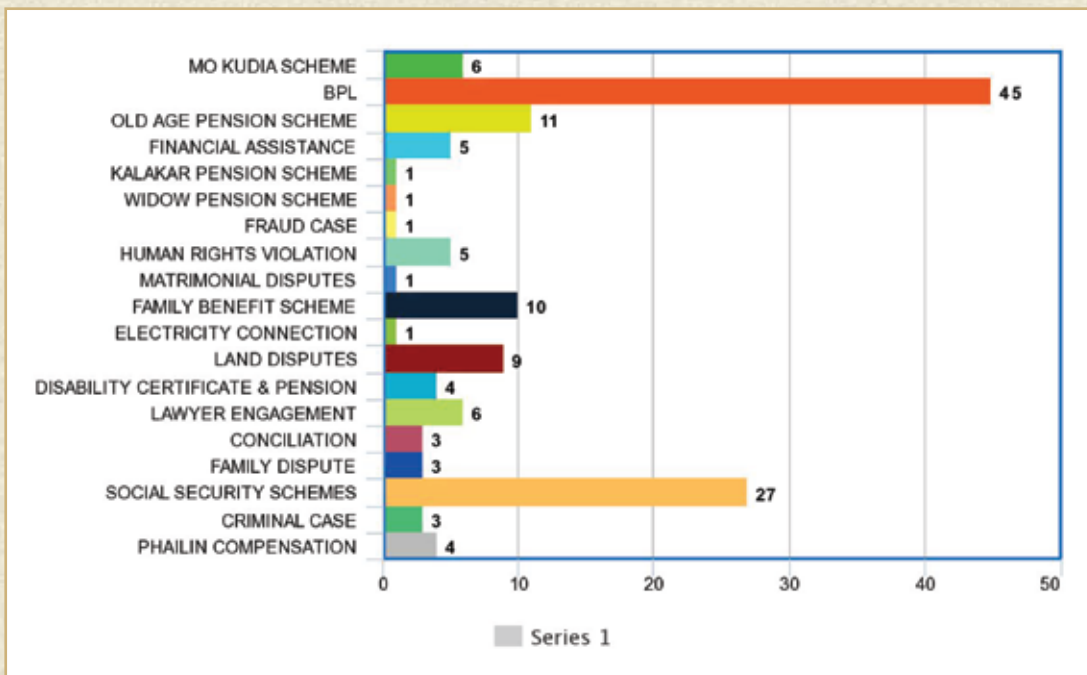


As is evident from the graphical representation, maximum number of cases in our clinics have been in the area of Social Security followed by cases involving matrimonial or domestic disputes.

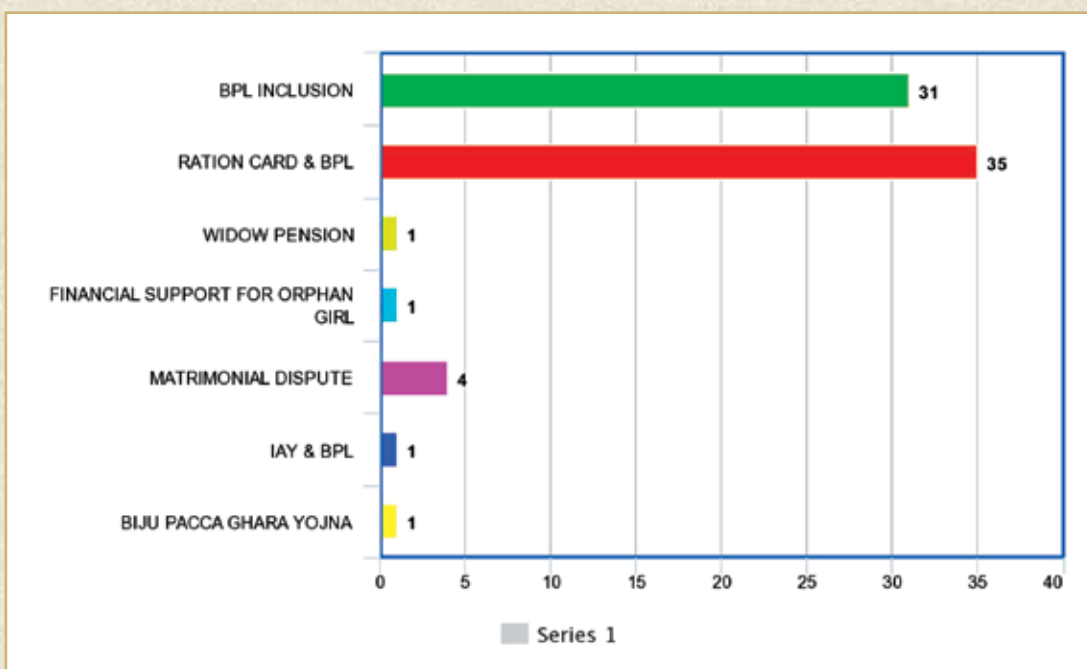


## Clinic Wise Details of Nature of Cases in Legal Aid Clinics

### JANKIA LEGAL AID CLINIC

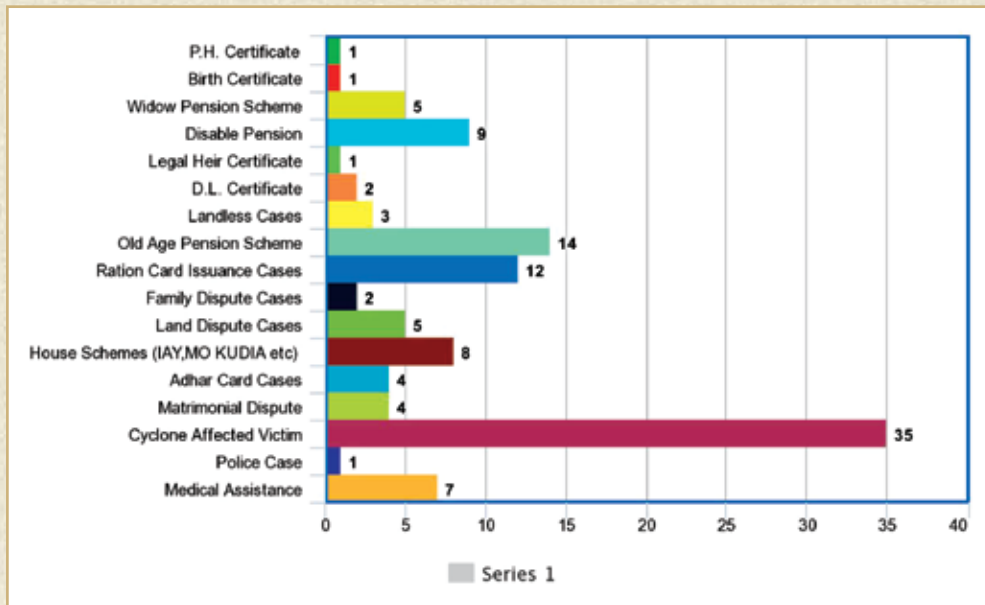


### DOMPADA LEGAL AID CLINIC





### BRAHMAGIRI LEGAL AID CLINIC



### Beneficiaries of our Legal Aid Clinics

#### BENEFICIARIES

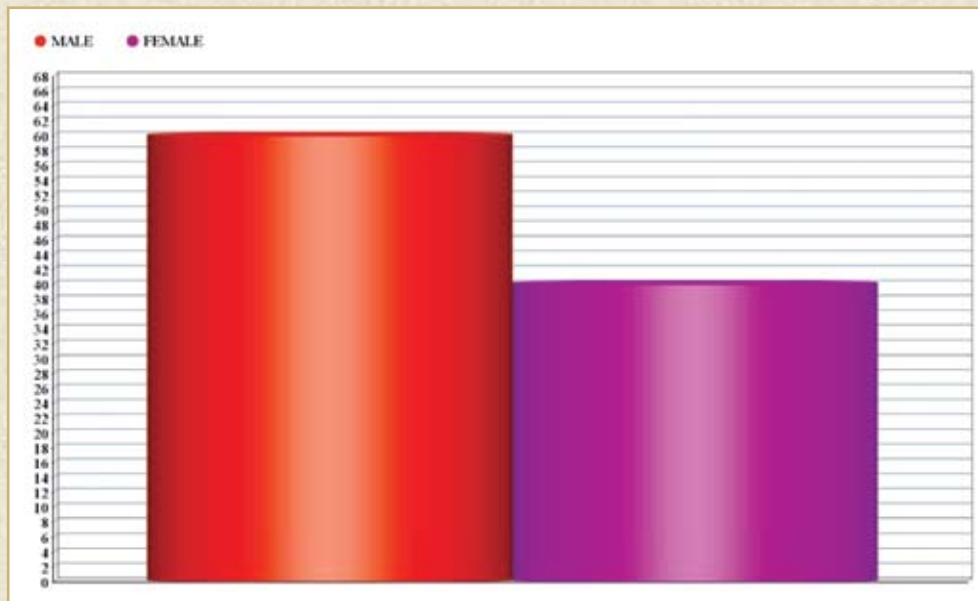


Apart from facilitating dispute resolution, Legal Aid Clinics have benefitted the community by organizing various activities involving Community Stakeholders. Communities have been most responsive to the Legal Literacy Programmes organized by the university. Clinics have received requests for repeat performances by the community and have also complied with such requests. Legal Literacy Programmes have been helpful in bridging the barriers between people and legal, administrative and academic institutions. Second in row, are our beneficiaries from Training Programmes and Workshops followed by students. Finally, we have beneficiaries who have directly benefitted from dispute resolution. In terms of sheer number, their ratio is lower as the number of people who approach clinics for legal counseling/aid is fewer than the number of people who participate in Community Training Programmes, Workshops and Legal Literacy Programmes.



## Male and Female Beneficiaries:

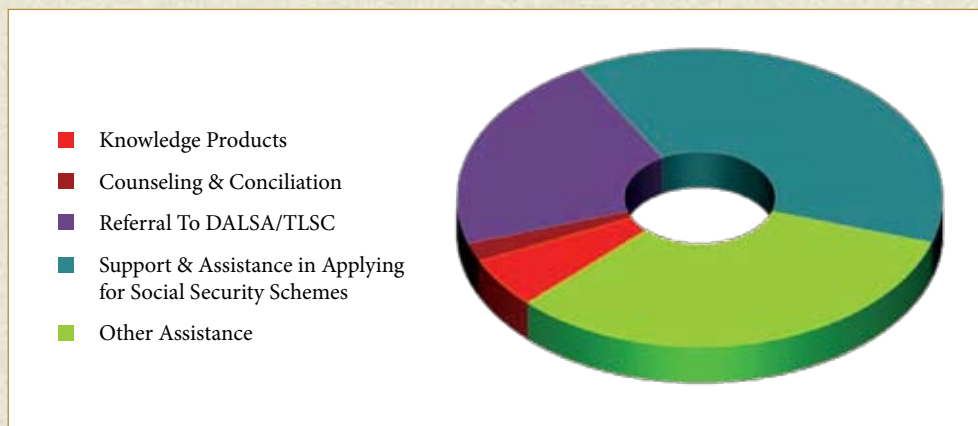
**MALE-FEMALE APPLICANTS RATIO**



While it is quite evident that the number of male beneficiaries is higher than the number of female beneficiaries it is also quite encouraging to notice that a large number of women have reached out to the legal aid clinics for support and advice. A large number of gender sensitization programmes organized in our legal literacy camps may have had an impact on encouraging women to approach our legal aid clinics.

## Methods adopted in facilitating legal aid and access to justice through Legal Aid Clinics at NLUO:

**METHODS ADOPTED FOR LEGAL AID & AWARENESS**



Legal Aid Clinics have delivered maximum results in extending paralegal assistance, particularly with respect to social security schemes. Referral services have also been extended by legal aid clinics and the community has benefitted to a great extent from these services.



## Selected Success Stories of Legal Aid Clinics

### Success Stories of Our Legal Aid Clinics

1. The Legal Aid Clinic of Dompada had received applications from the community for issue of ration cards. The Programme Associate, Mr Durbadala Mantry compiled their documents and followed up their cases regularly. As of now, around 35 persons have received their Ration Cards.
2. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Barik, a resident of Banki had visited our Legal Aid Clinic situated in Domapada, seeking assistance in false cases lodged against him by his wife. With the assistance of the Legal Aid Clinic, Dompada the case was taken up by Taluk Legal Service Committee, Banki. The committee appointed a lawyer who was directed to initiate divorce proceedings in a suitable forum and also try for speedy disposal of the case.
3. Ms. Namita Naik, a resident of Banki had approached our Dompada Legal Aid Clinic for legal aid in a matrimonial dispute. She needed a lawyer for representation since she could not afford one. Our programme associate drafted her application, compiled her documents and placed her case before the District Legal Services Authority as well as Taluk Legal Services Committee. In addition, counseling session was initiated by Dompada Legal Aid Clinic in her case.
4. Mr. Dilip Nayak sought assistance from the Dompada Legal Aid Clinic in a matter concerning matrimonial dispute. Her wife, Ms. Pravati Nayak who had just delivered a girl child refused to stay with his husband. Counselling session was initiated by our legal aid clinic and husband was ready to stay with wife and minor daughter but the wife rigidly refused the suggestion. Accordingly the case was forwarded to Taluk Legal Services Committee for further action.
5. Ms. Annapurna Nayak sought assistance from Legal Aid Clinic of Brahmagiri for aiding her in getting disability certificate. Our Programme Associate along with the paralegal volunteer of the area verified her case and got a disability certificate issued from the Chief District Medical Officer after making the necessary documentation on her behalf.
6. Mr. Krushna Chandra Nayak approached the Legal Aid Clinic of Brahmagiri for aiding him in availing new electricity connection. Our Programme Associate submitted all the requisite documents on his behalf to the concerned office. On 19.11.2015, he was provided new electricity connection by the concerned office.
7. Mr. Brundaban Sahu had approached Legal aid clinic, Jankia on 13.03.2015 seeking assistance in getting back his original documents submitted to Odisha Gramya bank (Jankia branch) in lieu of a loan taken by him. The loan amount was cleared in the month of January, 2015. Accordingly, a letter was sent by our team to the Branch Manager, Odisha Gramya bank (Jankia branch). Soon thereafter, Mr. Brundaban Sahu received all his original documents from the bank.
8. Ms. Indramani Sethi on 6.02.2015 approached Legal aid clinic, Jankia seeking appointment of a lawyer. She needed a lawyer for representation since she could not afford one. Accordingly a letter on 3.3.2015 was sent to the Chairman Taluk Legal Services Committee for appointment of a lawyer. The Programme Associate of Jankia assisted Ms. Indramani Sethi to avail her income certificate from revenue authorities. Thereafter, an advocate was appointed to represent Ms. Indramani Sethi in her civil case following compilation of all documents



9. Ms. Malati Dei belonging to Dhaniaguda village had approached the Dompada Legal Aid Clinic for processing her entitlements under the Widows' pension scheme on the 28th of January, 2015. Our Programme Associate compiled all necessary documents and submitted them to the appropriate authorities. Pursuant to this, her name has been included in the Widows' Pension Scheme and she is entitled to avail benefits under it.
10. Ms. Namita Naik, a resident of Banki had approached the Dompada Legal Aid Clinic for legal aid in a matrimonial dispute. She needed a lawyer for representation since she could not afford one. Our Programme Associate drafted her application, compiled her documents and placed her case before the District Legal Services Authority as well as Taluk Legal Services Committee. Pursuant to this, a lawyer has been appointed by the DLSA, Cuttack to file a case for maintenance in a suitable forum.
11. Sushant Kumar Baliarsingh had approached the Legal Aid Clinic of Jankia on 3.11.2014 for aiding him in getting disability benefits. Our Programme Associate along with the paralegal volunteer of the area verified his case and got a disability certificate issued from the Chief District Medical Officer after making the necessary documentation on his behalf.
12. Ghana Shyam Pradhan required some assistance to get the Ration Card Acknowledgment receipt. Ghana Shyam visited the Clinic in 2014, where his grievances were recorded in the Case Index Register of the Legal Aid Clinic of Puri. The Programme Associate collected relevant documents including address and contact details of the applicant and followed up for quick relief. The government officials took up the matter and after verifying all the documents included Ghana Shyam's name in the ration card beneficiary list. The name was also uploaded in the official website for ration card survey and the receipt was provided to him in hardcopy.
13. Legal Aid Clinic, Brahmagiri, Puri received an application from Radhamani Dei on 1.05.2015. The application was concerning widow pension. She struggled for years to avail the benefit of pension for widows, however, failed due to procedural impropriety. Eventually, she learnt about the Legal Aid Clinic, Puri and applied for the same. With the help of our Programme Associate, the application was filed, accepted and finally she received her pension.
14. On 20.11.2015, Legal Aid Clinic, Brahmagiri received an application from villagers of Biraharekrushna seeking repair of a tube-well. As soon as the application was registered the LAC personnel went to Sarpanch to know the current status of repair work. It was informed that they are out of funds and hence, the repair work cannot be resumed. Immediately, they went to Sadar Block and approached to A.B.D.O., who instructed the concerned Junior Engineer and village executive officer to repair the tube well as soon as possible. Within two days the pump operator came to the said location and repaired the danida tube well (RWSS).
15. On 17.03.2015, Mr. Krishna Chandra Nayak, visited the Legal Aid Clinic seeking new electricity connection. The relevant documents including his application form, voter ID card, Aadhar Card affidavit and residential proof were collected from the applicant. Within a week's time, the Programme Associate went to fedco office, Puri and submitted the fedco application form along with Rs. 2000/-. Finally, on 19.11.2015, the fedco staff visited the applicant's house and gave new electricity connection.



16. On 26.02.2015, Gopal Moharana filed an application at Legal Aid Clinic seeking assistance in regarding old age pension. Thus, Legal Service Clinic wrote a letter to VLW and Sarapanch and was informed that if Gram Sabha approves the said application he would be considered for old age pension. The application was furnished to VLW and B.D.O Brahmagiri, Puri. On 02.10. 2015 his application was duly approved by Gram Sabha.
17. On 28.09.2015, Mr. Prakash Sahoo approached the Legal Aid Clinic, Brahmagiri, Puri seeking assistance regarding his application for driving licence. His name was registered in the case index register. He stated that he was unaware of application procedure of obtaining licence. The Programme Associate asked him to furnish photocopy of school certificate, blood group, Voter ID or Aadhar card. After few days they went to a cyber café and filled up the application form and received a date for test. After qualifying the test he received his driving licence certificate.
18. On 25.06.2015, Sajani Moharana filed an application at the Legal Aid Clinic seeking relief for widow's pension. The LAC personnel sent an application to the concerned authority of the Block, which was duly registered. At first, the application was rejected following which the LAC coordinator himself visited the office. He was asked to file application again with correct documents. After doing the same her application was approved. After a follow up procedure, she started receiving pension.
19. Debasish Ray with other siblings failed to get their legal heir certificate for their expired father's bank account. On 05.05.2015, he filed an application before Legal Aid Clinic, Puri seeking relief for the same. After several failed attempts a legal heir certificate was provided to applicant on 21.09.2015 with the support of the Legal Aid Clinic.
20. On 09.03.2016, an application concerning non issuance of birth certificate was received from Subash Chandra Nayak. The parents namely Subash Chandra Nayak and Lili Baral were struggling to get birth certificate made as they had no knowledge of the procedure. The Programme Associate counselled and helped them in filing the application. In a week's time birth certificate was issued and was provided to the applicant. However, there appeared to be some mistake in the name of child on the certificate, which was rectified. Within two days a fresh certificate was issued with the required correction.
21. On 20.07.2016, Legal Aid Clinic, Brahmagiri received an application from Mitanjali Khadiratna, seeking assistance in availing a physically handicapped certificate for her daughter. Her daughter fails to sit or stand. The Programme Associate followed up the procedure and filed an application along with the child's birth certificate. But they did not receive any intimation from hospital authorities. On inquiring it was found that there was some kind of mistake in pass photo due to which the application was filed again. Finally on 02.08.2016 they received the certificate.
22. On 23.07.2016, A. Chenama Sarab approached Legal Aid Clinic, Brahmagiri seeking relief against domestic violence. Recorded statement revealed that she underwent physical and mental torture by her husband and other family members. As a result of which she was thrown out of her matrimonial



house. She being a distress woman had no place to go as her own family members did not accept. The Programme Assistant visited the District Legal Service Authority, Puri and discussed her grievance with office staffs. LAC filed legal aid eligible application on behalf of her. Immediately within three days i.e. 25.07.2016 an advocate The matter is pending before the Family Court, Puri.

23. A woman named Tulasi Bhoi married Madan Bhoi following all Hindu rituals and customs. For several years they were living a happy and peaceful life. However, immediately after the birth of a son (now 4 years), she was harassed by her in-laws. For months she was physically and mentally tortured. Consequently, she suffered severe injuries and was admitted in hospital. She was driven out of her matrimonial house and her in-laws started searching for another girl for their son's marriage. Tulasi filed an FIR at the local police station against her husband and other family members. During one of the LAC's Legal Literacy Programme, Tulasi approached the coordinator seeking help. She was asked to visit LAC where her application was registered with the relevant documents. Within a day's time an application on behalf of Tulasi was filed at District Legal Service Authority, Puri. Following this, DLSA, Puri appointed an advocate to represent her case before the appropriate court.
24. A woman named Uttama Dei was married to Late Laxmidhar Behera for several years. She lost her husband few years ago and has no child. Immediately after the death of her husband she was thrown out of her matrimonial house and was not even given any share from her husband's property. She learnt about Legal Aid Clinic, Puri from a legal literacy programme. She contacted the coordinators seeking relief from matrimonial dispute. She informed the LAC officials about her grievances. Consequently, an application was filed at DLSA, Puri for an advocate. Ultimately, DLSA, Puri extended legal aid to her.
25. Sradhanjali Tripathy filed an application before Legal Aid Clinic, Brahmagiri, Puri seeking assistance in obtaining the death certificate of her husband. LAC officials consulted the beneficiary and filed an application for certificate with Puri Municipality authorities. The staff asked for a post mortem report of deceased, which was not available at that time. After getting the report from hospital it was duly furnished to Municipality. After few months the applicant received death certificate without any further inconvenience.
26. In 2016, the Legal Aid Clinic, Brahmagiri received an application from Durga Charan Nayak regarding construction of toilets under the scheme Swachha Bharat Mission by Government of India. Immediate action was taken by LAC. The Programme Associate, along with others, visited RWSS, Puri and inquired about the procedure for registering under the said scheme. The application was filed and his name was enlisted on the record of RWSS, Puri office. The assurance of reimbursement (to the extent of Rs. 12,000/-) was given to Durga Nayak after the completion of construction work.





*A Student of Prison Rights group presenting his findings*



*Students in the Weaving and Manufacturing Unit of Choudwar Circle Jail during the Clinical Course of Legal Aid and PIL*



*Students interacting with the community during one of the field visits for the Clinical Course on Legal Aid and PIL*



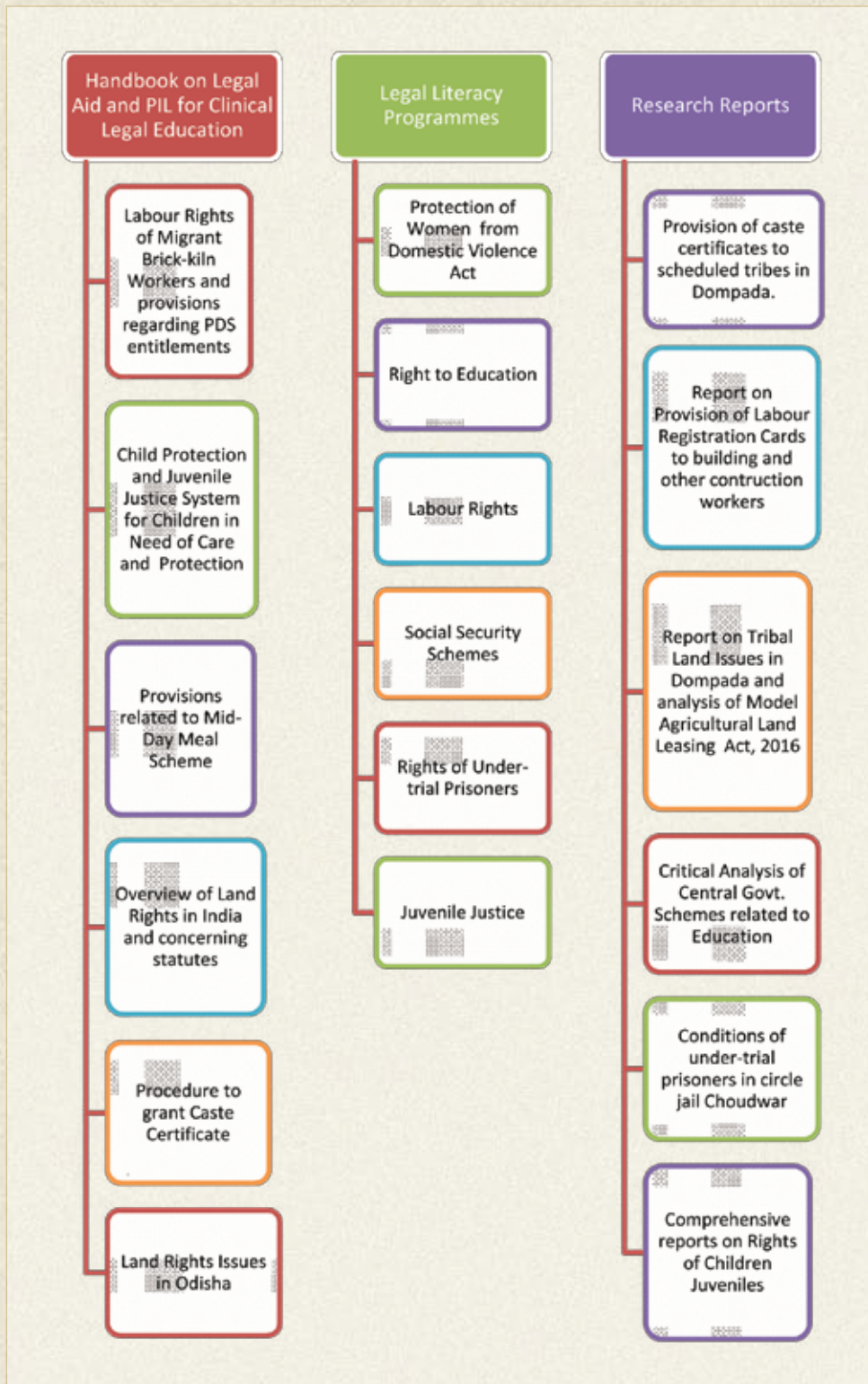
## Clinical Legal Education

The ultimate and most lasting impact of the project was visualised to be the integration of practical experiences with classroom education. To this end, in 2015, a compulsory paper titled Legal Aid and PIL was launched with the sole objective of making legal education socially relevant. The primary objective of this paper is to sensitise students to the problems of marginalised people and encourage them to apply their knowledge in resolving practical problems. Under the course, students have been divided into 5 groups namely, Community Advocacy, Prison Legal Services, Labour Rights, Land Rights and Juvenile Justice. In 2017 a new group called the Right to Education group was created. Under this course, students are required to make compulsory field visits for a minimum of 5 times during the entire semester and each such is of approximately 8 hours duration. Students are evaluated throughout this course based on a series of parameters like developing legal literacy materials, organising legal literacy programmes, drafting applications and rendering paralegal assistance in dispute resolution, etc. The ultimate objective of this course is to maximise students' participation in the field of access to justice and legal aid. The Course has been conceptualised by Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO and developed by Ms. Suman Dash Bhattamishra and Mr. R.P. Tripathy, Assistant Professors of Law, NLUO. A dedicated team of teachers have been associated with this course over a period of time. Faculty members and other academic staff who have been associated with this course in the last two years are Ms.Kuntirani Padhan, Dr. A. Aruna Srilaxmi, Dr. R.P. Tripathy , Ms. Suman Dash Bhattamishra, Mr. Kannayiram, Mr. Pramod Acharya , Ms. Hiranmayee Mishra, Mr. Kapil Sharma, Mr. Trijeeb Nanda, Ms. Divya Tripathi, Mr. Bishwa Kallyan Dash and Mr. RK Das. While the Community Advocacy group receives support for conducting field visits from the Centre for Access to Justice, the Juvenile Justice group of students under the course have been actively supported by the Child Rights Centre of NLUO coordinated by Mr. Kannayiram and Mr. Pramod Acharya. For the last two semesters, Ms. Kuntirani Padhan has been in charge of multiple groups of students in this course.



## Broad Output of the Clinical Legal Education Course

Given below is a diagrammatic representation of materials developed by students as part of the course under guidance and supervision of faculty members.





## Groups under the Clinical Legal Education (Legal Aid and PIL) Course



Students are required to make a minimum of 5 compulsory field visits during the semester and the duration of each such trip will have to be a minimum of 8 hours. The students will be evaluated throughout this course based on a series of parameters like developing legal literacy materials, organizing legal literacy programmes, drafting applications and rendering paralegal assistance in dispute resolution, etc. The ultimate objective of this course is to maximize students' participation in the field of access to justice and legal aid.

The Legal Aid & PIL course relies on the assumption that law can never be studied in isolation because it is one of those domains of knowledge that requires in-depth understanding of social problems, issues and dynamics. The said course was designed keeping in mind that legal education is incomplete without corresponding social relevance.

The course of Legal Aid and PIL has been instrumental in sensitizing the students about the issues that are faced by the society. At the end of the semester the students are required to submit their report as well a handbook on Legal aid and PIL. "Students Report" includes the empirical research and the handbook includes the recommendation in their respective fields.



## Suggestions and Recommendations

The need for bringing about practical reforms in the curriculum of legal education was emphasised in India by the 14th Law Commission Report. The 184th Law Commission Report emphasised on the need for imparting “vocational training” to Law students. Efforts to make legal education socially relevant have been made globally over a period of time and in India, the BCI Circular of 1997 played a crucial role in introducing a minimum threshold of clinical component in legal education. In 1997, following the BCI circular, 4 mandatory courses were introduced into the curriculum of Law, viz. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Drafting, Pleading and Conveyancing (DPC), Professional Ethics and Legal Aid and PIL.

While the BCI made four clinical courses compulsory, it did not make it obligatory on the part of Law Colleges and Universities to follow a clinical methodology of teaching in these papers, as a result of which, most of these papers are taught like regular papers of law. Clinical courses of law are different from other courses because they are based on practical experiences of the students. The idea is to integrate the theory of law with social realities and apply legal provisions to solve existing issues. After careful deliberations on the manner in which Clinical Courses are taught in universities across India, a need to restructure the existing curriculum has been felt. The issues that need to be addressed are as follows:

### ***Restructuring the Course Outline and Teaching Methodology of the Four Mandatory Clinical Papers:***

In order to make the clinical courses more productive, it is essential to take a fresh look at the existing syllabi of the four mandatory courses stipulated by the BCI. To begin with, Professional Ethics is generally taught as a regular paper in most of the academic institutions. Likewise, ADR is taught with simulated exercises in few universities but it is worthy of deliberating whether or not this approach is sufficient for a clinical paper which can be best taught by exposing students to live cases fit for out of court settlements. Likewise, the relevance of papers like DPC and the manner in which they are taught is a significant question. So, the question is to evolve the best method for restructuring the course curriculum of these mandatory clinical papers.



### ***Law School based Legal Aid Clinics and Socially Relevant Legal Education:***

Apart from mandatory courses, few law universities/colleges in India also have Legal Aid Clinics which are run by students. While many of these clinics are based in the campus of universities/colleges, few of them are also established in the community, outside the academic institutions.

The objective of legal aid clinics is to strengthen community outreach and render services voluntarily to those who cannot afford or are in requirement of legal aid/counselling. Students can be part of legal aid clinics voluntarily and render a variety of services to the community like paralegal services, pre-litigation counselling, conducting legal awareness programmes, informing the community of their rights and entitlements, creating knowledge products which can be widely circulated among people and sometimes, even representing people in various forums.

Another important contribution of legal aid clinics is that they can be the bridge between the community and existing legal institutions like courts, ADR Centres and Legal Services Authorities. It has been felt on many occasions that people have a problem in recognising existing remedies, even if they are not very far away from them. Student-run legal aid clinics can play a very vital role in this regard. Therefore, encouraging students to participate in these clinics is necessary to promote the objectives of experiential learning.

### ***Institutionalising Mandatory Field Internships:***

Another major plank in taking Clinical Legal Education a step further is to establish practices and methods by which field internships can be made mandatory. The idea is to attach students to various institutions like SLSA, DLSAs, TLSCs, Panchayats or even Courts. A certain way of accomplishing it is to have a credit based system to assess the work done by students during such internships. Compulsory credit-based internship strategies may go a long way in consolidating the learning outcome of students in clinical papers.

## **Model Curriculum: A Way Forward**

Taking the above factors into consideration, a model curriculum needs to be created for addressing the current problems in clinical papers of Law. However, such curriculum must be contextualised by taking into consideration the Indian scenario. Simultaneously, it must answer the following questions:

- a) Is the current method of teaching clinical courses as isolated units a relevant method? If not, is there a need to re-structure the Clinical Curriculum by clubbing various papers?
- b) Is there a way to teach certain prescribed papers like Professional Ethics clinically?
- c) Can a single curriculum fit into all university structures? If not, which are the areas in which flexibility may be provided?
- d) What would be the basic institutional requirements for implementing a clinical course successfully?

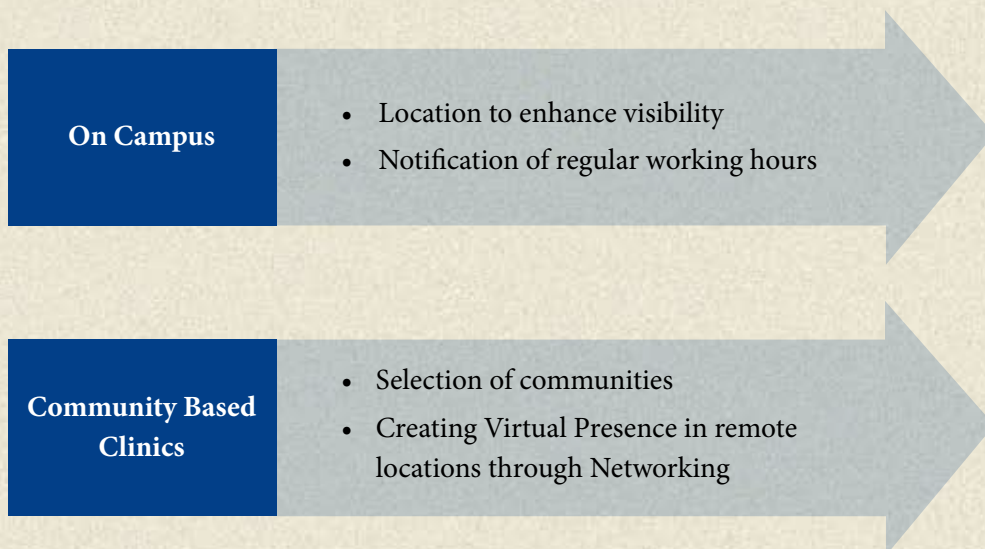


## Model Strategies for Legal Aid Clinics in University structures

### 1. Establishing Legal Aid Clinics

The key point in establishing legal aid clinics is to ensure its visibility. Whether the legal aid clinics are within the campus of the university or are based in the community, their visibility is instrumental in their success. The following factors play an important role in enhancing the visibility of legal aid clinics:

- a) Responsiveness: Legal aid clinics must be prompt in responding to the needs of the community. Immediate responses, major or minor, would play an important role in enhancing visibility.
- b) Location: The clinics must be located in densely populated areas and in such quarters that are frequently accessed by the public. Regular working hours of the clinic must be notified and advertised in the community. Working hours must be identified keeping in mind the daily routine of members of the community.



- c) Digital Platform: A web portal must be established to connect to the community.
- d) Linkages: Legal Aid Clinics cannot work in isolation. So, they must be well connected to Civil Society Organisations, Legal Services Authorities at the state, district and Taluk levels, academic institutions, administrative authorities and most importantly, community stakeholders like Asha Karmis, Ward Members, members of the Panchayat, etc.
- e) Public Interaction: Frequent public interaction through training programmes, legal literacy programmes as well as community meetings is also necessary to enhance visibility of legal aid clinics.
- f) Community Based Legal Aid Clinics: Clinics must be established in the community as well, as in case of NALSAR. The Sameerpet Legal Aid Clinic is a good experience in this regard.

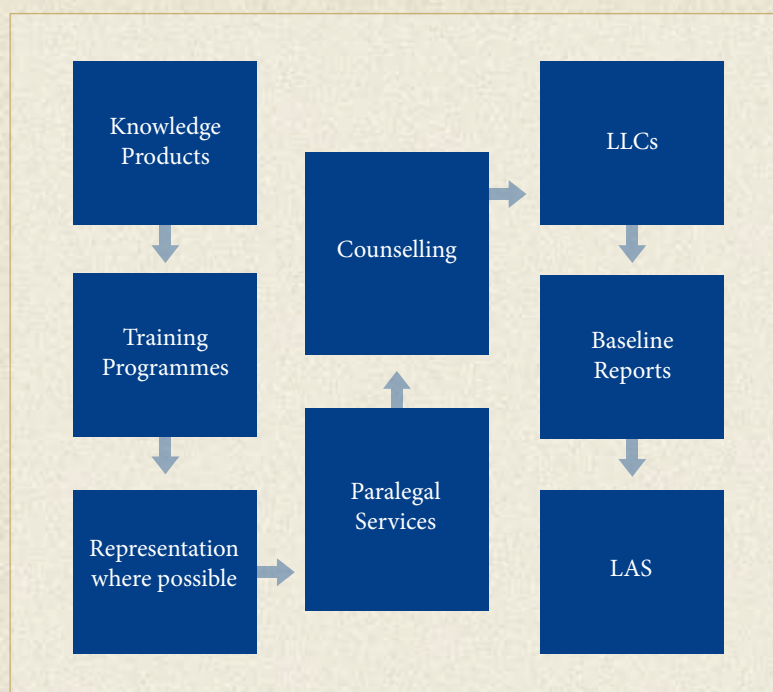


## 2. Functioning of Legal Aid Clinics

Legal Aid Clinics established in the community must perform the following functions:

a) Collecting Baseline Information	Baseline information from the community must be collected on the basis of which activities of legal aid clinics can be structured. Such information would include the nature of problems that are typically found in the community and legal problems that need to be redressed for the welfare of the community.
b) Structured LLPs	The value of legal literacy programmes cannot be underestimated. However, in order to promote legal awareness effectively, legal aid clinics must conduct structured legal literacy programmes based on the baseline information as well as community and institutional interaction.
c) Mobile Legal Aid Clinic	Legal Aid Clinics may be made mobile for greater output. That would aim at making justice accessible by the members of the clinic going into the community instead of waiting for the community to reach the clinic.
e) Integrated Approach	Community sensitisation, rendering paralegal services and other activities must go on simultaneously by involving maximum number of community stakeholders to make university based legal aid clinics successful.
f) Making the Community Self Sufficient	The ultimate objective of legal aid clinics is to make the community independent and self sufficient by making them aware of alternative methods of dispute resolution as well as making use of institutional mechanisms to redress grievances.

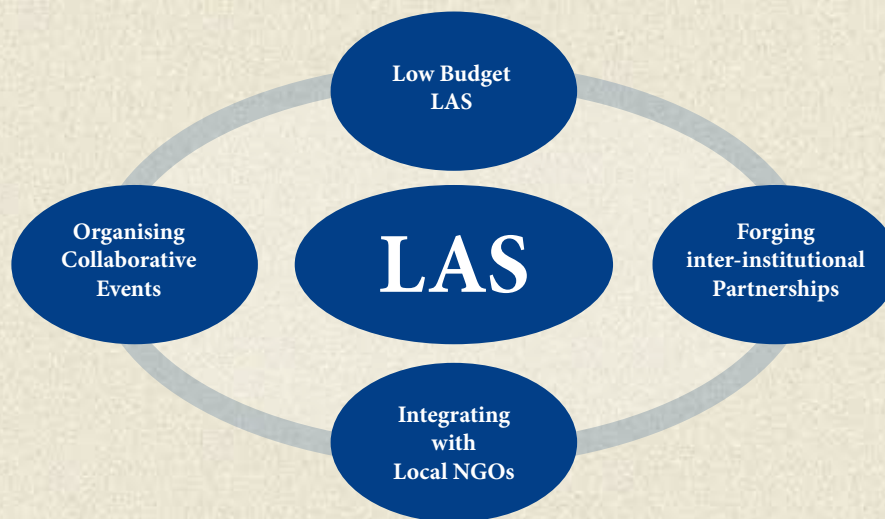
## 3. Output of Legal Aid Clinics





#### 4. Emphasis on Local Networking to promote Effective Functioning of Legal Aid Clinics at state levels

Creating a local network of legal aid clinics is the first step towards establishing successful legal aid clinics. Legal Aid Clinics in states which have established infrastructure and experience in the area of legal aid must create common platforms for encouraging interaction of existing institutions with/without legal aid clinics. The idea would be to encourage institutions without legal aid clinics to establish one inside or outside their premises.



#### 5. Specialised Units in Legal Aid Clinics

Legal Aid Clinics established in universities may have special wings in specific areas. For instance, the Legal Aid Clinic at NLSIU has a special unit dedicated to Consumer Rights. Likewise, there may be units that specialise in Women's Rights, Child Rights or Labour Rights.

#### 6. Making Legal Aid Clinics Permanent

The major challenge in establishing legal aid clinics is to make student-run clinics permanent. The Salgaocar experience is relevant in this field. The secret of making legal aid clinics permanent is to increase student participation in legal aid clinics. Apart from that looking for inexpensive ways of making a difference to the legal rights of the community, organising legal literacy programmes, etc. will also enable legal aid clinics to be independent.

#### 7. Sharing of Best Practices by National and Global Linkage

Apart from these factors, a significant effort must be made to create national and global linkage of university and community based legal aid clinics. This will facilitate identification of common problems based on similar demographic composition or geographical areas. Apart from that, best practices may be learnt, shared and replicated to enhance the greater cause of access to justice in India.