



Sharda Education Society's
Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law

Affiliated To University of Mumbai
Approved By Bar Council Of India

LL.B - 3 Years | LL.B - 5 Years | LL.M
Diploma in Labour Law and Labour Welfare | Post Graduation Diploma in Cyber Law
H. O. : Raghunath Nagar, Next to Mittal Park, Wagle Estate, Thane (W) - 400604.
Tel.: 022-25820481 / 25830481 Email : avgcollegeoflaw@gmail.com

Best Practice – 2

Title of the Practice:

Legal Aid Clinic (Approved by the District Legal Services Authority – DLSA)

Objectives of the Practice:

- (1) The objectives of having a Legal Aid Clinic in the college and their impact on the teaching and learning process are as follows:
- (2) The National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) is set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 with the aim to “To legally empower the marginalized and excluded groups of the society by providing effective legal representation, legal literacy and awareness and bridging the gap between the legally available benefits and the entitled beneficiaries”. In order to accomplish this goal, NALSA promotes establishment of legal aid clinics at the local level to facilitate maximum outreach and also encourages law colleges to become a part of the set-up.
- (3) The mission of Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law emphasizes upon establishing itself as a centre for legal education with student-centred goals that prioritise the development of superior legal knowledge and professional practise readiness. The aim of the institution is for our graduates to have the fundamental skills needed to start a legal career.
- (4) Having a dedicated Legal Aid Clinic in college allows the institution to contribute to the cause of ensuring legal services to all and provides an opportunity to the students to participate in a variety of activities as paralegal volunteers, which helps them bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical implementation
- (5) Engaging with a legal aid clinic enriches the teaching skills of the law teacher by providing them the platform to mentor the students and allows them to make a meaningful impact on students' learning and the communities they serve.

The Context:

Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides for “Equal justice and free legal aid- to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.”



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To achieve this goal, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is enacted to constitute legal services authority to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. The Legal Services Authorities are then classified as under to ensure maximum outreach of its services.

- (1) The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is set up at the national level with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India as its Patron-in-Chief.
- (2) The State Legal Service Authorities (SLSAs) are set up at the state level under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the respective High Courts.
- (3) The District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) are set up at the district level with the Hon'ble Principal Judge of the District Courts as its Chairperson.

The Legal Aid Clinics are established at local level under the supervision of District Legal Service Authority at law colleges and local body institutions like village panchayat, mandal / block panchayat, municipality and corporation etc.

The Practice:

In collaboration with and under the guidance of the District Legal Services Authority, Thane, the institution has carried out various legal aid services programmes, some of which are stated as under:

| Sr. No. | Activity/ Program | Date |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Bike Rally organized to promote legal awareness in the locality | 16 th Nov. 2019 |
| 2 | Constitution Day Celebration | 26 th Nov. 2019 |
| 3 | Legal Awareness Programme Conducted by WDC of the College in collaboration with DLSA for female domestic servants of the locality | 21 st Sept. 2020 |
| 4 | Celebration of National Legal Services Day | 09 th Nov. 2020 |
| 5 | A webinar "Water Conservation, Water Harvesting and right to pollution free environment" organized in collaboration with DLSA | 30 th Mar. 2021 |
| 6 | Webinar on "Health and NALSA (child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection)" organized in collaboration with DLSA | 30 th April 2021 |
| 7 | Online Paralegal Volunteer Training | 25 th May 2021 |



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|----|--|-------------------------------|
| 8 | Tree Plantation Programme conducted in association with DLSA | 05 th June 2021 |
| 9 | On 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' webinar was conducted in association with DLSA on: 1. Educational Rights of Children between 6-14 years 2. Drugs and its problem and awareness about effect of drugs | 28 th June 2021 |
| 10 | Awareness programme for adopting one or two Talukas for spreading awareness about the legal aid | 25 th Aug. 2021 |
| 11 | On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, a webinar was conducted jointly with DLSA and other colleges on 1. Mental Health issues and Remedies 2. NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme 2015 | 10 th Oct. 2021 |
| 12 | Online Webinar to commemorate Azaadi ka Amrut Mahotsav on the topic 'Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services and Central/State Government Schemes' | 15 th Oct. 2021 |

Evidence of Success:

The establishment of the Legal Aid Clinic has been an important milestone for Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law. The Legal Aid Clinic has paved a new road for our students' overall growth, as evidenced by the following aspects:

- (1) Our students have gained excellent practical legal experience because of the Legal Aid Clinic. Participating in training programmes, seminars, awareness programs and rallies and interacting luminaries of the legal field has provided our students with invaluable experience that will serve them well throughout their legal careers.
- (2) Our students have had the opportunity to directly contact with the community and understand their legal challenges through the Legal Aid Clinic. This experience has enabled them to acquire strong interpersonal and counselling abilities, allowing them to deliver compassionate and effective legal guidance to clients in need.
- (3) The Legal Aid Clinic has given a forum for our students to polish their advocacy abilities through field trips, training courses, and seminars. Our students gained hands-on experience in various aspects of litigation and mediation by learning the basics of legal drafting from experts in the field, understanding the importance of alternative dispute resolution methods, and volunteering in Lok Adalats. This has improved their confidence and ability to effectively advocate for their clients.



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- (4) Our students have benefited from the Legal Aid Clinic's encouragement of collaboration and teamwork. Working with volunteers from various colleges and legal aid organisations promoted a co-operative attitude, allowing them to learn from one another, share knowledge and resources, and build excellent collaboration skills, which are crucial in the legal profession.
- (5) The Legal Aid Clinic has fostered in our students a feeling of ethical duty and professionalism. Working with vulnerable populations and resolving social justice concerns has provided our students with a thorough awareness of their responsibility as legal professionals, as well as the need of respecting ethical standards.
- (6) The Legal Aid Clinic has benefited the community by offering free or low-cost legal assistance to people who cannot afford legal counsel. Our students' efforts have aided in closing the justice gap and improving access to justice for underprivileged individuals, meeting our college's commitment to social responsibility.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

In a traditional educational setup, prominence is given to the classroom teaching methods and practical training which is conducted in the class or supervised field visits where the beneficiaries are often mere audiences who seldom participate in the actual work. The mindset often discourages students who believe that practical application should come only after thorough education i.e., after the completion of course.

The major problem encountered in establishing and functioning of the legal aid clinic is the hesitation to volunteer. It has been observed that students do not volunteer because it would affect academics and that they would not be able to devote enough time and miss out on studies.

Other factor which holds back students is under-confidence. Community engagement requires public speaking and communicating with people from different parts of the society students have never come across. As such, students either shy away from interacting due to their introvert nature or have reservations of 'not knowing enough' to help the stakeholders and beneficiaries.

These issues are however are a matter of experience, majority of times it has been observed that the students most reserved personalities who hesitate to participate eventually develop a deep interest in the programmes and participate in further events with a renewed enthusiasm.



Inauguration of Legal Aid Clinic 19.12.2019



On the occasion of National Legal Services Day, District Legal Services Authority Thane, along with VPM's TMC College of Law, Thane, Sharda Education Society's Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law, Thane and Jai Bhagwan College of Law, Thane had organized an awareness Program in VPM's Polytechnic College, Thane



Prabhath Feri was organized in Thane where Para Legal Volunteers and Volunteers of NSS Unit of Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law and Senior Night College V P M Thana Law College, Satish Pradhan Dnyanasadhana College, Thane, Jai Bhagwan College of Law, respectively Participated in the Prabhath Feri.



Thereafter our students also got an opportunity to witness the inauguration of PAN India Awareness Program to be conducted from 2nd October 2021 to 14th November, 2021 at National Level



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Bike Rally Organized by Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law, Thane Legal Aid Clinic, under the guidance and directions of DLSA, Thane, to create awareness about Legal Aid.



Inauguration of Legal Aid Awareness Week at Thane District and Sessions Court. PLV's carried out awareness for a week about various citizens and identified the beneficiaries who can get legal aid and directed them to DLSA, Thane