



Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence



**SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

**SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)**

(Established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade (3.58/4) | Awarded Category - I by UGC

**COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE AND LITERACY CELL**

**DOCUMENTATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS 2019-2022**

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# PART- I

**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE  
& LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

**LEGAL ASSISTANCE/ SUPPORT**

**2019-2020**

**ASSISTANCE TO THE PUNE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR ORGANISATION OF  
THE NATIONAL LOK ADALAT**

The Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority organized the Lok Adalat on 14th September, 2021 at the District and Sessions Court, Shivajinagar, Pune. The students and the faculty of Symbiosis Law School, Pune played an essential role in the conduct of the Lok Adalat. A number of faculty of SLS-P were appointed to the role of Assistant Panel Judges by the District Legal Services Authority. The orientation session was conducted on the 14th of September wherein the faculty members were apprised of their roles.

The faculty were instructed to be present in formal attire and were instructed to report by 9:30 am, near Ashoka Hall. The Assistant Panel Judges had to follow all forms of safety protocol by carrying their own sanitizers, masks, and umbrellas. Furthermore, the court was sanitized, and all members were expected to strictly follow social distancing measures. Symbiosis Law School provided food packets and water to all its representatives, who had to prepare a report based on their visit. While in the courtroom, the Assistant Panel Judges had to duly comply to certain requirements. This included listing down the case number along with the party name and facts of the case in a succinct manner. A record of the terms and conditions of the case based on the agreement and if such consensus has not been arrived upon, suggestions should be offered to the presiding officer. Recording of the discussions during the proceedings while resolving the case or any other assistance given to the presiding officer had to be made note of.

The solutions arrived at should be amicable and arrived at should be through applying the expertise of each of the Assistant Panel Judges and they must mandatorily be signed by the Panel prior to leaving the Court Room. There was a total of 35 panels which hosted the faculty members in the position of panelist. They attended to various matters with a sense of grit and the will to uphold justice. Some of the matters undertaken pertain to guilty plea, criminal and domestic violence, loan recovery, S.138 of Negotiable Instruments, mobile, electricity bill,

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Motor Vehicles Act, etc. to name a few.

The Assistant Panel Judges effectively employed all forms of alternative dispute resolution methods- Conciliation, Negotiation and Conciliation to attend to the matters. They worked diligently to ensure maximum resolution of disputes in the most amicable manner possible. Two panels were comprised of our LLM students, Advocate Preksha Jain and Advocate Anant Pawar. The objective was not just mere disposition of a large number of cases, it also extended to disposition without causing legal injury to any of the parties. The principles of natural justice were unwaveringly upheld, and the entire conduct of the Lok Adalat was a massive success.

Therefore, the combined and collaborative efforts of the Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell, Faculty members of Symbiosis Law School, Pune and the Student Volunteers has resulted in a resounding disposal of cases and a commendable effort by each and every one, adding to the list of success stories by CLCL. Thus, in light of the above, it can be unequivocally asserted that the panellists have done an excellent job in disposing off the cases in a proper manner which has led to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Lok Adalat.

**YERWADA PRISON CASE- PRISON ADVOCACY PROGRAM PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO  
YERWADA JAIL, PUNE**

The Community Legal Care Centre (CLCC), under the Prison Advocacy Programme (PAP), provides assistance to the inmates of the jail in various ways. Since 2009, the faculty members, researchers as well as the students of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune have aided the jail inmates through various means.

With the establishment of the Legal Aid Clinic inside the Yerawada Jail in 2014, the CLCC work focuses on aiding the inmates by providing legal awareness programmes, organizing health and medical camps to detect their illnesses and cure them, offering counseling sessions to emotionally disturbed inmates, specifically women and children inmates, recommending more recreational facilities to the inmates for creating an emotional and family bonding within the jail premises.

The Jail superintendent, Mr. UT Pawar has also numerous times praised SLS for their constant visits to the Jail every Saturday through the Legal Aid Clinic.

Rightly awarded as the Herbert Smith Free Hills (HSF) Award in 2016, the CLCC Cell continues to focus more on the aspect of human rights, gender sensitivity, concern for children of jail inmates and aiding the inmates legally as well as emotionally.

**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE & LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

Post release of Pallavi and Vishnu Rathod, Ms. Chaitraly Deshmukh and Ms. Aditi Mane Madam got us to Symbiosis Law School, counselled us with respect to how employment and education are good for a better livelihood. Dr. Rupal Raut Desai directed us to not cross boundaries of law and pursue our education forward. Prof. Yogesh assured to take care of us post our release and stated that if we were looking forward for an institution that would aid in employment and care of us both, then he could arrange for the same. Looking at our bare feet and torn clothes Prof. Shirish Kulkarni Sir provided us with warm sweaters and pair of slippers post our counseling session. Dr. S.S. Shireshi explained us the importance of law and convinced us that the Job of SLS doesn't just stop here but continues till the very end of reintegrating us both in the society.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QaPo-9kaF\\_yzYby56oU5V9WA0W\\_2aAYZ?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QaPo-9kaF_yzYby56oU5V9WA0W_2aAYZ?usp=sharing)

**ASSISTANCE TO PUNE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR ORGANISATION OF THE NATIONAL LOK ADALAT**

On 7th May 2022, the Lok Adalat was organized by the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority at the Shivajinagar Pune District Court. Symbiosis Law School Pune played a huge role in the organizing of this Lok Adalat and various law students of the institution were appointed as assistant panelists by the DSLA

The assistant panelists were informed to arrive at the court at 11:00 am and the volunteers arrived on time. A total of 10 volunteers were shortlisted to act as assistant panelist, namely the faculty members, Dr. Atmaram Shelke, Dr. Girish Abhyankar, Dr. Santosh Aghav, Dr. Ashish Deshpande, Prof. Shirish Kulkarni, Prof. Abhijeet Vasmatkar, Prof. Raj Varma, Prof. Aditi Mane, Prof. Ashutosh Panchbhai and Prof. Chaitraly Deshmukh aided the District Legal Services Authority as panelists in providing access to justice. Students of SLS, Pune manned the Symbiosis Help Desk for the National Lok Adalat

The assistant panelists went to their respective panels and discharged their functions with the best of their capabilities. They settled disputes which comprised of bank loan recovery matters, pre-filing matters, telephone and mobile bill matters and matters pending before Civil Judge Senior Division. They left no stone unturned to help resolve the issues and used various Alternative Dispute Resolution methods such as conciliation, negotiation and mediation.



**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE  
& LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

The assistant panelists had decided to not only dispose of large numbers of matters, but also ensure that the said disposal is done causing no legal injury to either party. They followed all principles of natural justice and in the morning session. Their effective performance was also lauded by the Hon'ble Principal District Judge and the Hon'ble Secretary. Thus, in light of the above, it can be unequivocally asserted that the assistant panelists have done an excellent job in disposing off the cases in a proper manner which has led to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Lok Adalat.

**PRISON ADVOCACY PROGRAM- LEGAL COUNSELLING OF INMATES CHARGED UNDER  
SECTION 370 OF IPC**

The Community Legal Care Centre (CLCC), under the Prison Advocacy Programme (PAP), provides assistance to the inmates of the jail in various ways. Since 2009, the faculty members, researchers as well as the students of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune have aided the jail inmates through various means.

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On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020, under the supervision of Prof. Pallavi Pathare and Prof. Chaitraly Deshmukh our two students Manasai Desai and Asha Singh took legal counselling Madhavi Sandeep Kumar Kamble who was charged under IPC Section 370 and Section 3, 4 and 5 Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. During counselling it was suggested that the counsellors even suggested that they were willing to provide assistance with securing a job and her subsequent rehabilitation with an NGO. However, the client was adamant about sheltering in NGO and staying alone but we counsel her that she can stay with her son and live a good life. She felt that having agreed to rehabilitation with an NGO would negatively impact the reputation of her son, who after growing up would get that social tag.

**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE  
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**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE  
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Aditi Mane visited Yerwada Women Prison under Prison Advocacy Program where they interviewed the some of the prison members namely – Yasmun Latif Sayyad, Manisha Ankush Kale, Nikita Sanjay Kamble, Ujwala Sawnkhe, Asha Tarvare, Lata Shede, Sanitra Jadhav, Usha Hanument, Kamla Jadhav, Aba Adad Pondar, and Sai Vanjjape.

**PRISON ADVOCACY PROGRAMME- ESTABLISHMEMNT OF LEGAL AID CLININC IN  
YERWADA**

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**2020-2021**

**DONATION OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS MIGRANT WORKERS IN COLLABORATION WITH DLSA  
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

The pandemic had left multiple migrant workers stranded, and without jobs. In such a situation, they were in dire need of food supplies, as well as other essential items. These workers

**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE & LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

belonged to Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Beed and Nepal. They were employed to work in Dhayri, Pune. The CLCL Cell of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, collaborated with DLSA to donate the essential items to six migrant workers in need. This was in furtherance of SDG 17, that is the Partnership for goals. This was done through Collaboration with NGOs.

**DRY RATION DRIVE**

*Synapse Labs Company Pvt. Ltd., Pune (Registration Number 129504)*, is a leading, independent Contract Research Organization (CRO) founded in 2007. Synapse Lab Private Limited sponsored the expenditure to the tune of ₹2 Lakhs, which was incurred in distributing dry ration. Considering the plight of the housekeeping and security staff of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, the Cell organized this drive on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October under which the staff received essentials like ration items, masks, sanitizers etc. which was sponsored by Synapse Labs Private Ltd. The Cell also collaborated with *Synapse Lab Private Limited* for enchasing its Corporate Social Responsibility, which aims to contribute to societal goals of a philanthropic, activist, or charitable nature by engaging in or supporting volunteering or ethically-oriented practices.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

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**BANDHUTVA GROUP COLLABORATION FOR GRAIN DISTRIBUTION TO MIGRANT WORKERS**

The CLCL Cell of Symbiosis Law School, Pune collaborated with the Bandhutva Group and facilitated the distribution of grains, as well as medical equipment such as sanitizer, masks etc, to the migrant workers. In addition, cash was also donated to the group. This was done to fulfil the SDG 17, in collaboration with NGOs.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

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**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE  
& LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

**PROVIDING AID IN FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS OF CHIPLUN AND KONKAN WITH BHOI  
FOUNDATION**

The *Bhoi Foundation*, being a philanthropic organization, has been actively working in aiding those affected by the recent floods in *Chiplun and Konkan Regions*. We have been involved in providing medical aid, dry ration and other such essentials to the affected people.

On 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, it was found that a lot of the children residing in the flood affected areas had become orphans. These children had lost not only their parents and dear ones, but also their identity documents to the floods. In addition to that, it was found that their right to education was also being hampered as the educational facilities were not functional.

In order to overcome this novice crisis, Symbiosis Law School, Pune referred *Adv. Chaitraly Deshmukh*, who aided in compiling a list of 65 genuine people who are in need of above-mentioned basic amenities, and also aided in distribution of sanitary products for women and providing educational facilities to the children.

This Collaboration with *Bhoi Foundation* helped us tackle the **SDG 17 “Partnership for the Goals”** through, **research programs, and development of educational resources**. Having direct involvement with regional non-government organizations supported **SDG policy development by identifying the problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, modelling likely futures, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management and solutions**.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

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**FUNDRAISING PROGRAMME**

*Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation (KSCF DL/2017/0166692)* founded by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi is a leader in child protection and child development. KSFC

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envisions a world free of violence against children and works on an array of issues that affect vulnerable children and their families.

Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell used their partnership with other NGOs to raise funds where the NGOs were requested to donate. The Cell had assisted the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation in raising a fundraiser for accumulating additional funds (₹1,14,001 /-), to be used for the benefit of the children (*Bachpan Bachao Andolan*).

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

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Note:

- Donation to be made in favour of Association for Voluntary Action (AVA)
- All the donations to BBA are exempted under the 80 G of the Income Tax Act
- Cannot accept donations above Rs. 2,000/- in cash

*Donation Declaration Form (Bachpan Bachao Andolan)*

**HELPED IN DRAFTING JOB APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF DAUGHTER OF THE MAINTENANCE WORKER OF THE CHALLENGE**

The faculty members of Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell came across with a maintenance staff of Symbiosis Law School, Pune who lost her husband due to certain circumstances few months back.

She told us that her daughter has done B.Sc. in Computers and is looking for a job to financially support their family. Keeping in mind the fact that ongoing Covid-19 crisis has forced educational institutes and other organizations to make a shift to computers and use online platforms, we suggested her to apply for the position of coordinator in Symbiosis Law School, Pune. We also helped her in drafting her job application letter and forwarding it to concerned authorities.

**AIDED ANNAPURNA CATERERS UNDER LOK ADALAT**

## **REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE & LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

Disha Dahare had a Catering service (**Annapurna Caterers**) before her marriage, but after the marital tie, she could not focus on her Business due to conjugal obligations. She went into a financial crisis as her husband deserted her, leaving Disha and their 6-year-old daughter alone.

Symbiosis Law School Pune through CLCL Cell helped Disha contact *Adv. Chaitraly Deshmukh*, who helped her re-establish her catering business and also designed her logo for the same. During the Lok Adalat, 38 Food packets were order from **Annapurna Caterers**, to uplift Disha Dahare's Catering Services financially and morally.

This Collaboration with *Lok Adalat* helped us tackle the **SDG 17 "Partnership for the Goals"** through, **research programs, and development of financial resources**. Having direct involvement with *Adv. Chaitraly Deshmukh* supported **SDG policy development by identifying the problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, modelling likely futures, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management and solutions**

### **MANODHARIYA SCHEME**

The Manodhairya Scheme was introduced in Maharashtra by the Department of Women and Child Development to assist in rehabilitation and financial assistance for victims of child sexual assault, rape and acid attacks. Rehabilitation encompasses aspects of housing, financial assistance, medical and legal assistance, and counselling services.

The work on the aforementioned scheme started on the 27th January 2022 with work hours from 11am- 5pm. The nature of the work includes Record keeping, data collection, interacting with the victims and Disbursement of Compensation amount.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

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### **BOOK DISTRIBUTION DRIVE**

**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE & LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

The Cell had organized a book distribution drive that involved donations of law books and material for law colleges such as **VN Patil Law College, Aurangabad**, to ensure that there was availability of books in underequipped libraries.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

**[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mRK1\\_pmMErXVOMF3xpOrg\\_ubwLKJ95X\\_u?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mRK1_pmMErXVOMF3xpOrg_ubwLKJ95X_u?usp=sharing)**

**2021-2022**

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO A CITIZEN'S FAMILY(MR. DEEPAK KALURAM PAWAR)**

In the last week of July 2021, *Sakal* reporter **Mr. Vithhal** informed Prof. Shirish Kulkarni of the medical requirement for an elderly person residing in Pune. The name of the concerned person is **Mr. Deepak Kaluram Pawar**, who is residing at Block No 13, Wadar Housing Society, Shivajinagar, Pune 410016. The person is suffering from High Blood Pressure, Diabetes and Diabetic Glaucoma since the past 10 years and adverse financial conditions had made it difficult for him to arrange for his medicine. He urgently needed doses of **Recline 80, Galvas 50 and Telma M50**, as prescribed by his physician, Dr Atul Joshi, Sahyadri Hospital, Deccan.

Prof. Kulkarni contacted **Mr. Dinesh Choudhary**, Proprietor of **Pawan Medical Store, Dhayari** and immediately organized a supply of the necessary medicines for a period of three months starting from August 2021. The medicines for the month of August – September 2021 were provided to Mr. Tushar Pawar on 6 th August 2021 and the medicines for the month of September – October were provided to Mr. Tushar Pawar on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. Free ration was also arranged for the family of **Mr. Deepak Kaluram Pawar**. This helped us tackle **SDG 17 SDG policy development by identifying the problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management.**

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**



**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE  
& LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tarqIKFPhCn34GblFMpL2NYcuipYuKJb?usp=sharing>

**SHIVAJINAGAR DISTRICT COURT SANITIZATION**

In these distressing times of the pandemic, several citizens are apprehensive of attending any public gatherings, conferences, and events. However, the *Sanitization Drive* which was the brainchild of **Professor Shirish Kulkarni** and along with the help of *Divine Jain Trust (TRUST-001602)*, a full-fledged sanitization drive was conducted in the premises of the *Shivajinagar District Court* campus. As a part of the program, the courtrooms, the corridors, and the cars of the judges were fully sanitized. Once properly sanitized, the reservations which the participants had in mind were reduced and it also ensured maximum level hygiene.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HzaKUAHK5abBgWHsAm2cMiaZwChAZzcD?usp=sharing>

**COLLABORATION WITH SAI SERVICES FOR MAINTENANCE OF HYGIENE AND CLEANLINESS  
DURING LOK ADALAT.**

CLCL Cell, Symbiosis Law School, Pune tied up with Sai Services provider, who provided 4 maintenance women workers to facilitate the cleaning of the toilets and maintenance of hygiene during Lok Adalat.

**AIDED IN RECEIVING DEATH CERTIFICATE OF FORMER PROFESSOR VIVEK KASHINATH  
KULKARNI**

The faculty members of the Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell was approached by daughter of Late Professor Vivek Kashinath, Ms Yogita Kulkarni for obtaining her father's death certificate. The Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell assisted in getting death certificate.

**REPORT OF THE ISR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE & LITERACY CELL, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE**

**PRO BONO CASE: ASSISTANCE TO MS. GEETANJALI CHAUHAN**

On the 13th of April, 2022, Mrs. Geetanjali Chauhan, aged about 64 years, residing at 14/b-4a Adimaa, boat club road, next to German institution, Pune, Pune city, Maharashtra, 411001, approached the pro bono club and the pro bono club of symbiosis law school, pune seeking help in finding a suitable old age home and assistance in other legal matters. The CLCL cell and the pro bono club working under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, ex-officio chairperson, CLCL cell & pro bono club and Dr. Shirish d. Kulkarni, faculty in-charge of CLCL cell & pro bono club of SLS Pune, undertook the case on a pro bono basis and the CLCL team identified a suitable place named Bhormalnath mandir, Chaufula, located in Khedgaon on the Solapur highway which is being maintained under the care of Shri Abba Saheb Shelar for the purpose of shifting Mrs. Geetanjali Chauhan.

After seeking Mrs. Chauhan's approval, on 15th may, 2022, a few members of the clcl cell accompanied Mrs. Chauhan to the identified location so as to help her settle herself in the room and also to facilitate the process of shifting her luggage. Subsequently, Mrs. Geetanjali madam expressed her gratitude to Dr. Shashikala Gurpur and Dr. Shirish d. Kulkarni for taking up her case and availing her of the remedy she desired.

**SLS PUNE ASSISTED PUNE DLSA IN ORGANISING NATIONAL LOK ADALAT**

On 7th May 2022, the Lok Adalat was organized by the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority at the Shivajinagar Pune District Court. Symbiosis Law School Pune played a huge role in the organizing of this Lok Adalat and various law students of the institution were appointed as assistant panellists by the DSLA

The assistant panellists were informed to arrive at the court at 11:00 am and the volunteers arrived on time. A total of 10 volunteers were shortlisted to act as assistant panellist, namely Rohit Kulkarni, Asha Singh, Rashi Priya, Harsh Khanchandani, Nikunj Agarwal, Sagarika Lahiri, DR Shashank, Tara Kurein, Gaurangi Pande and Arya Ajit Mare. A decision that was consented by the Hon'ble Secretary Mr. Pratap Sawant himself. Furthermore, ten paralegal volunteers were from the institution itself.

The assistant panellists went to their respective panels and discharged their functions with the best of their capabilities. They settled disputes which comprised of bank loan recovery matters,

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pre-filing matters, telephone and mobile bill matters and matters pending before Civil Judge Senior Division. They left no stone unturned to help resolve the issues and used various Alternative Dispute Resolution methods such as conciliation, negotiation and mediation.

The assistant panellists had decided to not only dispose of large numbers of matters, but also ensure that the said disposal is done causing no legal injury to either party. They followed all principles of natural justice and in the morning session. Their effective performance was also lauded by the Hon'ble Principal District Judge and the Hon'ble Secretary. Thus, in light of the above, it can be unequivocally asserted that the assistant panellists have done an excellent job in disposing off the cases in a proper manner which has led to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Lok Adalat.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13iN12ZYwiH4pjW\\_Y\\_JY3XU9QfJWmt001?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13iN12ZYwiH4pjW_Y_JY3XU9QfJWmt001?usp=sharing)

# **PART- II**

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

**2019-2020**

**BAREFOOT LAWYER PROGRAM**

Community Legal Care Literacy Cell, Symbiosis Law School, Pune got an opportunity to conduct a capacity building programme in villages of Taluka Shirur District Pune.

In the light of above, Symbiosis Law School, Pune in collaboration with Ashta No Kai is inaugurating the Barefoot Lawyering Programme for Rural Women on 8th March, 2020 in village Nimgaon Bhogi. Community Legal Care Literacy Cell has been working in the various activities with the objective to promote social justice, raise the confidence of the unprivileged and build network of the legal care leaders. Barefoot Lawyering Programme is a unique opportunity to work for community people in rural areas. After the completion of training these para-legal volunteers will start their work for the benefit of the community and as a police mitra. The program at Sone Sangvi was organised at primary school in collaboration with Astha No Kai an NGO and Pune Rural Police. The program was organised on 8 March to celebrate International Women Day. Total 100 participants were present for launch of Bare foot lawyer program and subsequently in the first training session 25 participants were there.

Dr Gurpur, Adv Latika Salgonkar, guided the participants at training session. Prof Rupal, Prof Aditi, Prof Sunishtha and Prof Yogesh were present at the event to support.

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**PARTICIPATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON LEGAL AND FINANCIAL LITERACY**

On 30th April 2019, SLS P - CLCC have conducted training sessions at Kasturba Hall, Agakhan Palace on Women Empowerment in association with *Astha No Kai* (ANK). Dr. Shashikala Guppur, Director, SLS Pune has conducted interactive session on Gender Justice, Prof. Abhijit Kelkar conducted session on financial literacy, Prof. Ashish Deshpande on Criminal Law and Adv. Latika Salgaonkar on various women related legislation. Ten students participated in this activity to facilitate trainers.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yyp0RGgqetNEmknxfV96uHscxokbB1vv?usp=sharing>

**2020-2021**

**“ACCESS TO JUSTICE” LOK ADALAT: REPRESENTATION OF THE THIRD GENDER AND PARTNERSHIP WITH DLSA**

Through collaborative perspective, CLCL Cell partnered with DLSA to achieve constitutional objective of ‘*access to justice*’. Lok Adalat focused on the inclusion of the third gender and the representation of transgenders in the Judiciary of the nation and appointment of transgenders as judges.

**Prerna Waghela**, is a proud transwoman and a transgender activist working for the betterment of my community activist who will be assisting a litigation case. **Swati Bidhan Baruah**, who hails from Guwahati and is Assam’s first transgender judge. She will mediate cases in a national Lok Adalat in the city Guhawati. **Joyita Mondal** of West Bengal is India’s first transgender judge. The next transgender to be appointed as a judge was Vidya Kamble of Maharashtra. She was appointed as a member judge in a Lok Adalat in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Swati’s appointment was made by the Kamrup (metro) district legal service authority. She will be among 20 judges who will mediate the cases in the Lok Adalat.

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**BAREFOOT LAWYERING PROGRAM**

**Symbiosis Law School Pune in collaboration with Ashta No Kai is organising a three-day Barefoot Lawyers paralegal training program for 25+ women volunteers from Taluka Shirur, Pune.**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, in collaboration with Ashta No Kai, India, a public charitable trust working in villages in Taluka Shirur, Pune, organized a three day (27th, 28th & 29th May) Barefoot Lawyer paralegal training programmed for 25+ women volunteers from the outskirts of Pune District.

*Figure 1Ms. Armene Modi with Dr.  
Aparjita Mohanty*

Prof. Aditi Mane provided a brief outline of Women's Right in the Indian Constitution through a video presentation. A strong emphasis was laid on the significance of education in improving the position of women and light was shed on the Protection from Sexual Harassment at the Workplace. Prof. Chaitraly Deshmukh covered the legal framework covering the rights of women, including the Domestic Violence Act, the Child Marriage Act, and Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques in cases of female feticide.

The student volunteers of SLS Pune performed simulation exercises to better illustrate the POSH Act and Equal Pay for Equal Work. After conduction of these activities the women shared their experiences of eve teasing and where some of them are paid just 200 Rs and the male workers are paid 500 Rs for the same work.

Laws dealings with sexual violence in the Indian Penal Code, and Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) were covered. The deliberation included taking cognizance of the occurrence of victim blaming in cases of sexual assault. Furthermore, awareness around child pornography or non-consensual pornography was created. This interactive session was accompanied by videos and presentations. Due to its relevance, the topic of child marriage was revisited wherein measures to overcome the same and the duties of the authorities working under prohibition of Child Marriage Act were covered.

Alcoholism amongst the men and its ramifications for women were discussed through the form of real-life anecdotes and legal remedies for women and their children who faced violence due to the same. Ms. Armene Modi spoke to the women about equality in their households and their villages. The women were assured of the availability of the PRO BONO CLUB of SLS Pune

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for grievance redressal. Thereafter, Dr. Shirish Kulkarni elaborated upon the various ways of mediation and its fora.

Subsequently, a short skit was performed by the students on 'female feticide' and a domestic violence lecture was conducted. The women presented various skits on the issues in their village from child marriage to sexual assault. Property law

was covered to inform the women of their rights and to equip them against being defrauded out of rightful belongings. Dr. Shirish Kulkarni provided an explanation of the Paralegal volunteer scheme under the National Legal Services Authority in order to improve access to justice for all.

Thus, after three days of insightful presentations, skits, deliberations and lectures, the event drew to close where legal facilitators worked with the objective to promote social justice, raise the confidence of the underprivileged and to assist women in search of their own voices to make the transition from passive acceptance of their fate to becoming vocal and active partners in their own development.

Gurpur ma'am quote: "Programmes like these organized by SLS Pune, in collaboration with activists like Ms. Armene Modi motivate and build these participants as first responders to women in need of protection and justice against atrocities. It is an empowering train-the-trainers initiative and a movement on a large scale."

### **BAREFOOT LAWYERING**

In collaboration with Pune-based NGO *Ashtanukay*, the Cell had assisted in educating 25 women about their legal and social rights in various regional languages for a wider reach; making the programme a resounding success.

### **PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13bPU2WVkw-HTaqbhjsZ6ffcvRSKhMkk8?usp=sharing>



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**LECTURE BY MR. SUNIL CHAUHAN, NALSA DIRECTOR**

A total of three webinar lectures were presided over by **Mr Sunil Chauhan, Director of the National Legal Services Authority of India**. The Two of such webinars were for the 5<sup>th</sup> Year BA and BBA LLB Students, aimed at teaching the Legal Services Act, the Legal Clinic Programmes carried out and the importance of the Lok Adalat. The third webinar was conducted on 25/9/2020, exclusively for the members of the Cell along with the assistance of **Mr. Alok Aggarwal, Advisor of the National Legal Services Authority of India**. The subject matter covered the importance of evidence-based policies, collaboration between Legal Aid Authorities and Law Colleges etc. The webinar ensures a synergy between the authorities and students, providing for assistance with legal aid clinic and a holistic learning experience for the students.

**ORIENTATION CUM INTERACTIVE SESSION**

After the recruitment process for the Cell for the Academic Year 2020-2021 was declared complete, the Cell conducted a formal orientation for the Cell Members in which the Cell Members were briefed with the objective and the activities of the Cell.

Assistant Professor Rupal Rautdesai presided over the orientation.

The second half was an Interactive Session which was presided over by Advocate Sangramjeet Chavan under which an introduction to the nuances and general idea of Client Counselling was given to the new members.

**GUEST LECTURE BY DR.(PROF) M R K PRASAD ON PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS ON**

**INSTITUTIONAL LEGAL AID IN INDIA**

Dr. (Prof) M R K Prasad is Vanderbilt-Fulbright Scholar, and the Principal of VM Salgaocar College of Law, Goa. On 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, Dr. Prasad conducted a webinar for the students of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, as a part of the legal practice course to educate the members of the Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell (CLCL), about the prospects of legal aid in the country.

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He placed emphasis on the aim of professional education, and the importance of socially relevant legal education. Further he answered the **importance and need of legal aid in the country.**

Sir also emphasized on the problems associated with legal aid. The webinar was concluded by emphasis on the way forward which included training programs, identification of potential law schools for setting up clinics, developing networks and sharing practices, and creating websites to share concerns and experiences. If these solutions are inculcated, they would a long way in promoting legal aid in the country.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iD852TH1BFzP6wUItSRhGp0Z2Ap5YL8Q?usp=sharing>

**2021-2022**

**INAUGURATION OF PRO BONO CLUB, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE, AND CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING SESSION FOR 160 PARA-LEGAL VOLUNTEERS (PLVs).**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) organized the inaugural ceremony of **the Pro Bono Club of SLS-P** as part of the Nyaya Bandhu Scheme, Department of Justice, Government of India on **4<sup>th</sup> May, 2022** from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at the **PDCLE Hall**. Subsequent to the Inauguration, a training session and capacity building for **Para-legal volunteers (PLVs)**, DLSA, Pune was held. The Club aims to create **legal awareness literacy** among the **marginalised members of the society** in collaborations with NGOs, conducting legal aid camps/clinics, providing legal consultancy and legal aid services to beneficiaries, and assisting Pro Bono Advocates registered under the Nyaya Bandhu platform among several other activities.

The session began with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the faculty and esteemed dignitaries. **Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director, SLS-P, Dean Faculty of Law, SI(DU), Fulbright Scholar and Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC-LAMP co-funded by EU)** applauded the efforts of **Adv. Sangramjeet Chavan, Mr. Pratap Sawant and Adv. Deshmukh** helped bring this event to fruition. Mentioning that *“Injustice would leave a*

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*bleeding wound to humanity,*” Dr. Gurpur elucidated that Symbiosis Law School, Pune will be the first private law school from the State of Maharashtra and the only one in Pune to have been nominated among 29 law schools to house the Pro Bono Club under the *Nyaya Bandhu Scheme of Department of Justice*, Govt. of India.

After felicitation of the dignitaries, **Ms. Mahima Khara**, Program Consultant, Representative of Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India provided an ‘*Overview of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Approach to Access to Justice (DISHA)*’ as well as their work in the past few years. She extensively discussed the DISHA scheme and particularly focussed on the four primary verticals i.e., **Tele- Law, NYAYA BANDHU, NYAYA MITRA, Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programmes**. **Dr. Shirish Kulkarni**, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, elaborated the objectives of the Community and Legal Care Centre, a constituent of Symbiosis Law School, Pune. **Ms. Asha Singh**, Convenor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune further highlighted the achievements of the Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell in the past academic years. Various aspects from the establishment of a legal aid clinic at Sus Gaon and Yerawada Central Prison, Pune to the E-SHRAM card and the Barefoot Lawyering Programme in association with Ashta No Kai- For a better tomorrow were discussed.

A short award ceremony was conducted, where **Mr. Rajesh Oswal**, Director, Pushpak Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd. and **Mr. Sanket Shah**, Founder President, Divine Jain Group Trust, Pune awarded the Divine Ratna Awards 2022– by Divine Jain Group Trust, Pune to **Dr. Shashikala Gurpur**, Director, SLS-P, Dean Faculty of Law, SI(DU), Fulbright Scholar and Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC-LAMP co- funded by EU), **Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh**, Principal District Judge, Pune Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Pune and **Mr. Pratap Sawant**, Secretary, Pune District Legal Services Authority for their philanthropic deeds and exceptional contribution to the society.

**Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh**, Chief Guest, Principal District Judge, Pune Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Pune in his inaugural address shared his insights about the world of jurisprudence, and the need to be informed, knowledgeable and confident in the present world. He further guided the students about mastering and tackling issues in their early years itself, and motivated them to remember the importance of a lawyer.

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After the Inaugural Ceremony successfully ended, the Capacity Building Training Session for 160 Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) commenced. At the outset, **Mr. Pratap Sawant**, Secretary, Pune District Legal Services Authority provided a brief overview of the purpose of PLVs. A video was presented on the Nyaya Bandhu App on behalf of the Department of Justice. In the first session, **Advocate Rhishikesh Ganu**, Senior Advocate with District and Session Court, Pune deliberated on the PLV Scheme of NALSA. He also shared the objectives of the scheme and expectations from a PLV.

**Advocate Yashpal Purohit**, Empaneled Advocate with District Legal Service Authority, Pune conducted second session on Overall Structure of Para Legal Work where he opined on importance of PLV assistance to lawyers, jail inmates, police, and other authorities and a brief insight into the kind of work that will be delegated to PLVs. He further elucidated on the role played by volunteers in looking into the plight of the ailing parents of inmates and the education of their children. He urged students to work towards charity and the welfare of the children and their education. Session 1 and 2 concluded with the Question & Answer sessions with an enthusiastic participation from the student fraternity.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g5PHT0ar66pk4\\_8RjddN\\_csr0sBLoYMe?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g5PHT0ar66pk4_8RjddN_csr0sBLoYMe?usp=sharing)

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# **PART- III**

**LEGAL AWARENESS**

**2019-2020**

**LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAM PERTAINING TO LOK ADALAT.**

The Pune District Legal Services Authority had organized a Legal Awareness Campaign in association with the Divine Jain Trust Group and Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The said campaign was aimed at promoting the awareness on the upcoming National Lok Adalat to be conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 amongst the residents of Wadgoan Maval. Community Legal Care Centre and Cell of Symbiosis Law School, Pune have been working in collaboration with PDLA in various projects for the underprivileged class of the society for many years. To take ahead this association we have proposed the school awareness program in 15 different school in Wadgoan Maval as suggested by you. Our students and faculty members along with one resource person given by PDLA will be trained by Dr. Gurpur and Adv. Salgoankar to conduct legal awareness on the topics including: -

- Gender sensitization,
- POSCO,
- PDWA,
- Consumer Protection Act
- Domestic Violence
- Rights of persons with disabilities

The training of the students of SLS, Pune and faculty members is tentatively scheduled on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Further, we are proposing to conduct the legal awareness program on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 after consulting with the centre in charge of these 15 schools.

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fAaJ2u702vb8-vpGw7hVTiMA4TfCS74r?usp=sharing>

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**2020-2021**

**YOUTH LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT SHIVAJI POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE, SANGHOLA**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune through its Pro Bono Club had organized a Youth Legal Awareness Programme at Shivaji Polytechnic College, Sangola, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, Solapur and the Shivaji Polytechnic College, Sangola on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Shashikant Mokashi, Secretary, DLSA Solapur, Shri Umesh Patil, Judge, Solapur Sessions and District Court and Ms. Deshmukh, Judge, Solapur Sessions and District Court. The resource persons for this event were as follows: -

1. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director, SLS Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU: Constitutional Law
2. Shri Shashikant Mokashi, Secretary, DLSA Solapur: POCSO Law
3. Dr. Shirish Kulkarni, Faculty In-Charge, CLCL Cell: ADRS and Labour Law
4. Dr. Ashish Deshpande, Co-Faculty In-Charge, CLCL Cell: General Laws
5. Prof. Yogesh Dharangutti, Faculty Member, CLCL Cell: Family Laws
6. Mr. Rohit Kulkarni, Core Committee Member, CLCL Cell: Constitutional Law and Environmental Laws
7. Mr. Yash Salunkhe, Student, SLS Pune: Constitutional Law
8. Adv. Dinesh Iyer, LLM Student, SLS Pune: Food Safety Laws

The programme was arranged for providing general legal awareness to the Third-Year students on the following areas of law: -

1. Constitutional Law: A general overview was given on the Preamble, Part III and Part IV of the Constitution of India. The attendees were also explained the diversification of functions between the three various organs of the Government. Under Part III, an overview of the Fundamental Rights with special emphasis on Article 21 was given to the attendees. Under Part IV, a general overview on the Fundamental Duties was given to the attendees.
2. Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Law: Under this topic, a general overview on the law of POCSO was given on the provisions and applicability of

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the said law.

3. **General Laws:** In this topic, a general overview was given on the Contract Act, Juvenile Justice Act, Right to Information Act, Rights of Common Man vis-à-vis the police. Sections 46, 49 and 50 of the CrPC were taught to the attendees in this regard. Furthermore, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 too was taught to the attendees.
4. **Family Laws:** In this session, the attendees were taught the various Family Laws in India and their need for the same. They were taught the regulation of marriage by laws and the basic age criteria for marriage. They were also taught about the concept of Divorce and Maintenance and special emphasis was also laid on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
5. **Alternative Dispute Resolution System and Labour Laws:** In this session, the attendees were taught the importance, need and the methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution System. Special emphasis was also laid on the National Lok Adalat and the Permanent Lok Adalat. Furthermore, the attendees were also given a general overview over the labour laws in India and special emphasis was laid on the same as it was important for the attendees considering the fact that they will be employed in the future.
6. **Environment and Food Safety Laws:** In this session, the attendees were given a brief overview on the Environmental Laws and were also taught their Fundamental Rights with respect to a Clean and Healthy Environment. Furthermore, a general overview on the Food Security Laws including the various schemes of the Government and a general overview on the practice of Public Interest Litigation was also given to the attendees.

The event had commenced from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022. All the resource persons mentioned above had delivered a lecture on their respective topics. The lectures were delivered in Marathi and Hindi and were filled with various interactions with the students. Furthermore, the resource persons had also taught certain landmark case laws to the attendees in a story format for easy and quick retention. Post the delivery of the lectures, the attendees were asked to prepare a brief summary of their learning outcomes in groups of ten students and present the same in front of other students. This ensured that the attendees had retained and grasped the concepts which were taught to them in the entire event.



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**ORGANISATION OF LEGAL AWARENESS STALL IN COLLABORATION WITH MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, PUNE**

Community Legal Care and Literacy (CLCL) Cell and Pro Bono Club of Symbiosis Law School, Pune in collaboration with Pune District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) and Nyay Bandhu Department of Justice organized a stall at Symbhav 2022 on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of April, 2022. The purpose of the Stall was to spread awareness about Legal Aid Services and the right to access justice guaranteed under Articles 14, 21, and 39A of the Indian Constitution as per which the State shall secure the operation of the legal system by promoting justice, on a basis of equal opportunity to provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes. Focusing on the underprivileged sections of the society, the Pro Bono Club volunteers made sure to disseminate information in vernacular languages as well. At the Stall, we had descriptive Banners and Live Screens to visually disseminate the information pertaining to legal aid and legal services as a matter of right as enshrined under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAMME- ASSISTANCE TO PUNE DLSA TO CONDUCT A LECTURE ON “LEGAL RIGHTS OF THE MENTALLY ILL AND MENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE”**

The Pro Bono Club of Symbiosis Law School Pune conducted a lecture on “Legal rights to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled People, Program”, on 10th October 2021. The lecture was conducted in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, Pune. It was conducted under the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ initiative by NALSA. It was held in the Regional Mental Hospital at Yerawada, Pune. The event was attended by the hospital staff which included the psychiatric doctors, nurses, and other staff of the hospital. The speakers were Mr. Pratap Sawant (Secretary, DLSA Pune), Dr. Girija Mahale (Head, SCEW), Dr. Yogita Gosavi (Psychiatrist at the Mental Hospital, Yerawada), professors from SLS Pune- Prof. Shirish Kulkarni, Prof. Ashish Deshpande and Nikita Bokil (Advisor, CLCL Cell and 5th Year Student of SLS, Pune). The comparing of the program was done by Prof. Chaitraly Deshmukh (SLS Pune).

Prof Shirish Kulkarni emphasized that SLS Pune has contributed largely to this objective, by conducting Lok Adalat’s as well as setting up prison programs and legal aid clinics. He also spoke about setting up a legal aid clinic within the premise of the

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Mental Hospital, Yerawada, to assist the patients with their legal issues and also help in compliance with the court/legal procedures which the hospitals have to do.

Dr. Girija Mahale conducted an interactive session with the audience. She also spoke about the triangle aspect in one's mental health, which are thoughts, actions, and reactions. Dr. Girija also focused on the pressures faced by the staff of the mental hospital and ways to deal with the pressures by engaging in hobbies and taking time out for ourselves.

The Superintendent of the Mental Hospital, Dr. Abhijeet Phadnis raised the legal issues faced by the hospital regularly. The event was then addressed by Mr. Pratap Sawant. He emphasized the schemes and laws created by the legislature to help mentally ill patients legally. Post this, Dr. Gosavi highlighted that the hospital was highly affected by the second wave of COVID and many patients were infected. Later, Prof. Ashish Deshpande explained the provisions of Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Disabled Persons Act, 2017 to the audience in very simple language. Lastly, Ms. Nikita Bokil, a 5th-year student of SLS Pune explained in simple language the NALSA scheme on the mentally ill and disabled persons and the benefits given to such persons along with the hospitals while functioning and treating the patients.

**PARTICIPATED IN 5<sup>TH</sup> DR. A.P.J ABDUL KALAM INTERNATIONAL SOCIO- LEGAL FILM MAKING COMPETITION, 2021**

There are various socio-legal issues in the society which needs to be addressed through various ways including articles, policy papers, documentaries, films etc. Keeping this view in mind, Symbiosis Law School, Pune through its Community Legal Care and Literacy Cell has been participating in Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Socio-Legal Film Making Competition from past many years.

In the year 2017 and 2020, we have also secured first position in this competition. In order to keep up this legacy of our cell, we have participated in this competition this year as well and **secured 3<sup>rd</sup> position.**

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZbKVS1sGs4GexyZFn1bhgk0eXvLfjwoh?usp=sharing>

**2021-2022**

**INAUGURATION OF PRO-BONO CLUB AND PARALEGAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION- ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

The Community Legal Care and Literacy (CLCL) Cell inaugurated the Pro Bono Club of Symbiosis Law School, Pune on the 4th of May 2022. The Pro Bono Club was inaugurated by Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Principal District Judge, Pune, and Ms. Mahima Khera, a representative of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, who then addressed the audience with their renowned experience in the field.

Ms. Mahima Khera spoke about the holistic involvement of lawyers in the process of community legal care, through programmes like ‘Tele-Law’ which connects beneficiaries to Panel Lawyers through video or voice calls. The speaker also spoke about the Nyaya Bandhu application and its potential to increase access to justice. This was followed by the address Dr. Shirish Kulkarni and Ms. Asha Singh, Faculty in-charge and Convenor of the CLCL Cell respectively, wherein they briefed the audience about the objectives and activities of the Cell and the Pro Bono Club. This was followed by the Award Distribution Ceremony wherein Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director, SLS Pune, Shri. Sanjay Deshmukh, Principal District Judge, Pune and Mr. Pratap Sawant, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Pune was honoured by Mr. Sanket Shah, Founder President, Divine Jain Trust, and Mr. Rajesh Oswal, Director, Pushpak Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd., with the ‘Divine Ratna Awards 2022’ for their exemplary contribution to community service. This was followed by the address of the chief guest of the event, Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Principal District Judge, Pune, who spoke about the importance of Para Legal Volunteers the Pro Bono Club in facilitating access to legal aid, highlighting the need for their collaboration in the process. The first segment of the event was concluded by a vote of thanks given by Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Deputy Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

The second leg of the event consisted of the Capacity Building Training Session for Para- legal volunteers by District Legal Services Authority, Pune (“PDLISA”), in collaboration with Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The Training Session commenced with the address of Mr. Pratap Sawant, Secretary, PDLISA wherein he provided a brief overview of the purpose of para-legal volunteers. This was followed by an introduction of the guests, Advocate Rhishikesh Ganu and Advocate Yashpal Purohit, by Advocate Sangramjeet Chavan, faculty, CLCL Cell. The guests,

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Adv. Ganu and Adv. Purohit, highlighted the scope of the role of a para-legal volunteers and stressed on the importance of their duties. The hurdles faced by para-legal volunteers in facilitating access to justice was also discussed. The address of both guests was followed by a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Ashish Deshpande and Prof. Aditi Mane, faculty members, CLCL Cell. Upon conclusion of the event, the guests and participants visited the CLCL Cell's room on the ground floor of the college, wherein the activities and achievements of the Cell were explained by members and volunteers of the Cell.

**ORGANISATION OF LEGAL AWARENESS STALL IN COLLABORATION WITH MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PDLISA & PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE SAME IN ORDER TO SPREAD AWARENESS PERTAINING TO NYAYA BANDHU SCHEME & LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT,**

Community Legal Care and Literacy (CLCL) Cell and Pro Bono Club of Symbiosis Law School, Pune in collaboration with Pune District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) and Nyay Bandhu Department of Justice organized a stall at Symbhav 2022 on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of April, 2022. The purpose of the Stall was to spread awareness about Legal Aid Services and the right to access justice guaranteed under Articles 14, 21, and 39A of the Indian Constitution as per which the State shall secure the operation of the legal system by promoting justice, on a basis of equal opportunity to provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes.

Focusing on the underprivileged sections of the society, the Pro Bono Club volunteers made sure to disseminate information in vernacular languages as well. At the Stall, we had descriptive Banners and Live Screens to visually disseminate the information pertaining to legal aid and legal services as a matter of right as enshrined under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.

**E-SHRAM INITIATIVE AWARENESS ASSISTANCE TO MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

The E-shram Initiative taken up by the Pro Bono Club of Symbiosis Law School, Pune has taken up certain relevant activities in order to forward the tagline of the initiative "Shramev Jayate". The first and the foremost initiative taken up regarding the E-shram initiative by the CLCL Cell of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune was to accumulate all the relevant information

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regarding the E-shram initiative formulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment. This includes the information regarding the formulation of this initiative and the creation of the Portal named the National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) and the details required for the registration of the Unorganized labourers for the portal. The information also includes the objectives of the initiative such as, to improve implementation and of the social security services for the unorganized workers, integration of the Social Security Schemes meant for the Unorganized Workers.

The second initiative taken up by the E-shram initiative by the CLCL Cell of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune was the accumulation and inculcation of all the relevant information into a power point presentation. The information includes the Scope of the E-shram initiative, the introduction of the E-shram initiative, the objectives of the initiative, the eligibility required to register for the initiative, the documents required for the registration to the initiative etc. This information would be relevant and important, in order to spread awareness about the initiative in the public domain, and with its vast variety of benefits for the Unorganized Sector, spreading awareness about this initiative would result in huge registrations in the public domain.

**PAMPHLET DISTRIBUTION DRIVE- ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES**

**AUTHORITY(NALSA)**

The Pune District Legal Services Authority had organized a Legal Awareness Campaign in association with the Divine Jain Trust Group and Symbiosis Law School, Pune with the assistance of Pro Bono Club. The said campaign was aimed at promoting the awareness on the upcoming National Lok Adalat to be conducted on 25th September 2021 amongst the residents of Pune District.

For the successful conduction of this campaign, a total of 8 auto rickshaws were instructed to roam not only in Pune city but also in its suburbs along with various talukas which fell under Pune District. Each and every auto rickshaw was equipped with a loudspeaker which played the following: -

- a) The NALSA anthem: Ek Mutthi Aasman
- b) The announcement of the upcoming National Lok Adalat

Along with the auto driver, two other persons were present in the vehicle who were making the announcement of the National Lok Adalat through the loudspeakers in the two vernacular languages of Hindi and Marathi for effective awareness. In addition to this, flex banners were attached on the backside of the vehicles in Marathi which offered details of the National Lok Adalat. Through the usage

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of the loudspeakers, the people were encouraged to attend the National Lok Adalat and avail the usage of the Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms. Furthermore, a total of at least one hundred pamphlets were distributed which provided the information and details on the upcoming National Lok Adalat.

The 8 auto rickshaws were directed to distinct parts of the city and covered the following areas in Pune:

1. Pune City: The auto rickshaws roamed in all famous and heavily populated areas of Pune City for effective legal awareness which include the following: -
  - a) Sinhgad Road
  - b) Sadashiv Peth
  - c) Chandni Chowk
  - d) Lakshmi Road
2. Manache Ganpati: The most famous Ganpati Pandals in Pune which are referred to as 'Manache Ganpati' too were visited by the auto rickshaws. They are as follows: -
  - a) Kasaba Ganpati – Kasaba Peth
  - b) Tambdi Jogeshwari – Appa Balwant Chowk
  - c) Guruji Talim – Lakshmi Road
  - d) Tulshibaug Ganpati – Tulshibaug
  - e) Kesarwadi Ganpati – Narayan Peth

### **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

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clinics. He also spoke about setting up a legal aid clinic within the premise of the Mental Hospital, Yerawada, to assist the patients with their legal issues and also help in compliance with the court/legal procedures which the hospitals have to do. Dr. Girija Mahale conducted an interactive session with the audience. She also spoke about the triangle aspect in one's mental health, which are thoughts, actions, and reactions. Dr. Girija also focused on the pressures faced by the staff of the mental hospital and ways to deal with the pressures by engaging in hobbies and taking time out for ourselves.

The Superintendent of the Mental Hospital, Dr. Abhijeet Phadnis raised the legal issues faced by the hospital regularly. The event was then addressed by Mr. Pratap Sawant. He emphasized the schemes and laws created by the legislature to help mentally ill patients legally. Post this, Dr. Gosavi highlighted that the hospital was highly affected by the second wave of COVID and many patients were infected. Later, Prof. Ashish Deshpande explained the provisions of Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Disabled Persons Act, 2017 to the audience in very simple language.

**WORKSHOP CONDUCTED ON- "VICTIM COMPENSATION SCHEME" AND COLLABORATED WITH VASI DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY.**

On 25th of October, 2021, a workshop was organized on the "Victim Compensation Scheme" by the Vashi District Legal Services Authority (VDLSA), in furtherance of the "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav". The program was started by VDLSA in order to spread awareness on the offences under the Indian Penal Code and the need for introducing necessary changes. In furtherance of the same, the concept of victim compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme and the judgments of various High Courts and the Indian Supreme Court was also discussed. In addition to the above, the importance of the judgment passed on the Victim Compensation Scheme in 2018 and the importance of the dissemination of the same to the public along with the calculations under the Victim Compensation Scheme was also discussed. This workshop was successfully presided over by the President of VDLSA and Prof. Ashish Deshpande, the Faculty In-Charge of Pro Bono Club, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

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**BAREFOOT LAWYERS PROGRAM**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, in collaboration with Ashta No Kai, India, a public charitable trust working in villages in Taluka Shirur, Pune, organised a three day (27th, 28th & 29th May) Barefoot Lawyer paralegal training programme for 25+ women volunteers from the outskirts of Pune District. Prof. Aditi Mane provided a brief outline of Women's Right in the Indian Constitution through a video presentation. A strong emphasis was laid on the significance of education in improving the position of women and light was shed on the Protection from Sexual Harassment at the Workplace. Prof. Chaitraly Deshmukh covered the legal framework covering the rights of women, including the Domestic Violence Act, the Child Marriage Act, and Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques in cases of female feticide. The student volunteers of SLS Pune performed simulation exercises to better illustrate the POSH Act and Equal Pay for Equal Work. After conduction of these activities the women shared their experiences of eve teasing and where some of them are paid just 200 Rs and the male workers are paid 500 Rs for the same work. Laws dealing with sexual violence in the Indian Penal Code, and Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) were covered. The deliberation included taking cognizance of the occurrence of victim blaming in cases of sexual assault. Furthermore, awareness around child pornography or non-consensual pornography was created. This interactive session was accompanied by videos and presentations. Due to its relevance, the topic of child marriage was revisited wherein measures to overcome the same and the duties of the authorities working under prohibition of Child Marriage Act were covered. Alcoholism amongst the men and its ramifications for women were discussed through the form of real-life anecdotes and legal remedies for women and their children who faced violence due to the same. Ms. Armene Modi spoke to the women about equality in their households and their villages. The women were assured of the availability of the PRO BONO CLUB of SLS Pune for grievance redressal. Thereafter, Dr. Shirish Kulkarni elaborated upon the various ways of mediation and its fora. Subsequently, a short skit was performed by the students on 'female feticide' and a domestic violence lecture was conducted. The women presented various skits on the issues in their village from child marriage to sexual assault. Property law was covered to inform the women of their rights and to equip them against being defrauded out of rightful belongings. Dr. Shirish Kulkarni provided an explanation of the Paralegal volunteer scheme under the National Legal Services Authority in order to improve access to justice for all.



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Thus, after three days of insightful presentations, skits, deliberations and lectures, the event drew to close where legal facilitators worked with the objective to promote social justice, raise the confidence of the underprivileged and to assist women in search of their own voices to make the transition from passive acceptance of their fate to becoming vocal and active partners in their own development. Gurpur ma'am quote: "Programmes like these organized by SLS Pune, in collaboration with activists like Ms. Armene Modi motivate and build these participants as first responders to women in need of protection and justice against atrocities. It is an empowering train-the-trainers initiative and a movement on a large scale."

**PFA the pictures attached in the link for the event-**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fAaJ2u702vb8-vpGw7hVTiMA4TfCS74r?usp=sharing>

**LECTURE ON "UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987" AT SHANKARRAO CHAVHAN LAW COLLEGE.**

Dr Sudhir Tarote, Maratha Mitra Mandal's Programme Officer, gave a brief introduction and addressed the welcoming note for the guest speakers, Dr. Shirish Kulkarni and Ms Asha Singh. Dr Shirish Kulkarni began his presentation by outlining the National Legal Services Act. Later, he expressed gratitude to all the students of Shankarrao Chavan Law college and the members of Maratha Mitra Mandal for enabling the CLCL cell to host the lecture. The main purpose of this event was to understand the importance of National legal service authority act, 1987.

The programme began with playing NASA's theme song, "Ek Mutthi Aasman," whose main objective was that NALSA is meant for the weaker section and how the state will provide these weaker sections with legal services. The event moved forward with addressing the introductory question, "What is Legal Aid?" and its International and National perspectives, as well as the relevant sections in international and national legislation that make legal assistance possible. He explained that Legal Aid is not only practised and regulated in India, but also in Nepal, the United Kingdom, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, and our neighbour Pakistan. And no one can deny the legal services for the reason of societal or economic disabilities.

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Ms Asha Singh, the convenor of the CLCL Cell, subsequently continued the lecture. She facilitated the discussion by asking questions concerning legal services and legal assistance and the Act's Agenda. She explained the sections and chapters of The Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. During the explanation of the Act, the students learned about the requirements that persons must meet to get legal aid and the court declarations that served as a stepping stone to legal services. The cases namely are- MH Hoskot V State of Maharashtra (1978 3 SCC 544), Hussain Aira Khatoon v Home Secretary, State of Bihar (1980, 1 SCC 98), Suk Das v Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh (1986 2 SCC 401), Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab & Ors v State of Maharashtra (2012 9 SCC 1). She discussed one of the essential aspects of Legal Aid, the Lok Adalat. She encouraged students to participate in the proceedings of the Lok Adalat, which are organised by the National Legal Services Authority of India. As the end of the event was approaching it moved to an interactive Quiz Session, in which the audience (students) attempted to answer questions from the lecture via a quiz and eagerly engaged. Dr Sudhir gave a vote of gratitude to the speakers and cell members and appreciated all those who attended the session and making it a huge success.

**LECTURE ON THE “RIGHTS OF UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS” CONDUCTED AND PROVIDED  
ASSISTANCE UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE PAN INDIA OUTREACH AND AWARENESS  
PROGRAMME OF NALSA**

The pro Bono Club of Symbiosis Law School Pune conducted a lecture on the ‘Rights of under-trial prisoners’, on 8th October 2021. The lecture was conducted in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, Pune. In furtherance of the ‘Azadika Amrit Mahotsav’ initiative by NALSA wherein some chosen law colleges have to conduct various activities for legal awareness.

The constant and long association of Symbiosis Law School, Pune with District Legal Services Authority, Pune and National Legal Services Authority has been immense through many years. The Community Legal Care Centre and Literacy Cell (CLCL) of SLS Pune has provided assistance to the inmates of the Yerawada Central Prison in multiple ways since 2009, under the under the Prison Advocacy Programme (PAP). The CLCL Cell, SLS Pune organises hand medical camps in the prison, offers counselling sessions to the mentally disturbed jail inmates, conducts dramas and plays on legal awareness for recreational activities of the

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inmates, and has been rightly praised by the Jail Superintendent and the DLSA Secretary for all collaborative activities.

Rightly awarded with the Herbert Smith Free Hills (HSF) Award in 2016, the CLCC Cell continues to focus on the aspect of human rights, gender sensitivity, concern for jail inmates through various legal awareness programmes. In furtherance of the objective of CLCC and ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ initiative by NALSA, SLS P held lectures in the Daulatrao Jadhav Jail Officer Training College, Yerawada, Pune on Rights of Undertrial Prisoners. The event was attended by the jail authorities as well as police officers. The speakers were Mr. Pratap Sawant (Secretary, DLSA Pune), Mr. Sunil Damal (Additional superintendent of Police), Mr. Sharad Katawakar (Principal of Jail officers training college), and professors from SLS Pune- Prof. Shirish Kulkarni, Prof. Ashish Deshpande, Prof. Yogesh Dharangutti, Prof. Ashutosh Panchbhai, Prof. Sangramjeet Chavan, Prof. Atmaram Shelke, Prof. Aditi Mane, Prof. Chaitraly Deshmukh. The program began at 11 am. Prof. Chaitraly Deshmukh from SLS Pune provided the welcome address to the authorities present at the event. She introduced all the faculty members of SLS Pune, as well as the dignitaries present at the lecture. A short felicitation ceremony was conducted, where Mr. Sharad Katawakar felicitated the dignitaries. After this, Prof Shirish Kulkarni briefly talked about the importance of providing legal aid in colleges. He mentioned that it was Mr. Pratap Sawant’s idea, that colleges collaborate with the DLSA in order to fulfil the aim of access to justice for all. He emphasized that SLS Pune has contributed largely to this objective, by conducting Lok Adalats as well as setting up prison programs and legal aid clinics. The aim of providing such aid by colleges should not just be to provide assistance in prisons, but also assist in spreading legal awareness in the rural areas.

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