ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY,
LAW CENTRE-1
FACULTY OF LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

2018-2019
INTRODUCTION

The Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987 is an attempt to address the lack of access to justice and courts of law of the historically marginalized and destitute. The Act forms the skeleton by which institutional mechanisms were created to give out free legal assistance and representation to those in need. In keeping with the tenets of the Legal Services Authorities Act, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) sought to start up legal aid clinics in each of the law colleges across Delhi. Thus, in 2012 the Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1 was inaugurated, with the intention of putting students at the forefront of spreading legal awareness and inculcating a desire to assist the needy and underprivileged. Involvement with the Legal Services Society and its main functions offers students both a practical insight in dealing with often frustrating realities of the Indian legal system, as well as pushing students themselves to be change makers that may positively impact society. The following activities are at the heart of what the LSS is about, and are submitted for your consideration:

1. Community Outreach Programmes
2. Legal Aid Clinic Sessions
3. Street Plays
4. Miscellaneous Project Work in coordination with the DSLSA.

A. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Our community outreach programmes are conducted in slums, jhuggi jhops, cluster settlements, and unauthorized colonies of Delhi. These areas are mainly populated with poor daily wage labourers, migrant workers, almost entirely working in unorganized sectors. During the outreach programmes, which occur on Sundays, volunteers walk through the area and interact with residents, enquiring about their problems, legal or welfare related. The programmes take between 2 and 3 hours on average for volunteers to cover the prescribed areas.

Timeline

For the July to December semester of 2018-19 academic session, the LSS has planned to conduct 4 community outreach programmes and 2 mega outreach programmes, of which LSS has conducted 2 community programmes and 1 Mega Outreach Programme so far.

- 30th September 2018— Indira Colony, Punjabi Bagh
- 7th October 2018— Sanjay Basti, Timarpur
- 14th October 2018— Zakhira, Inderlok
- 28th October 2018— Lalabag, Azadpur
- 11th November 2018— Kabir Basti, Malka Ganj
- 25th November 2018—D, G, H Block, Jahagirpuri

1. Planning & Coordination

Selection of locations for conducting Outreach programmes are done by the Outreach Coordinators on the basis of data from the Election Commission of India website, to get a rough idea of the population density of prospective areas. Subsequently, the Outreach Team conducts an on-site inspection in order to get an idea of safety, problem areas, potential logistical issues and other unforeseen circumstances. The Team also consults local RWA officials (where available), NGOs, residents, community elders and pradhans for their cooperation and involvement. Prior police
intimation of conducting the problem in the concerned area is mandatory, in order to ensure the safety and security of the volunteers during the programme.

2. On The Day

Before embarking on the outreach programme, volunteers are briefed by their respective Team leaders of the area, various security measures, how to approach residents, behaviour and conduct during the exercise, how to fill the ‘Outreach Form’ (see Annexure A), what information is to be relayed regarding the LSS Clinic and their functions, and of what assistance the DSLSA and volunteers can provide. Volunteers are most importantly told to communicate residents’ right to free legal aid, as well as of relevant social welfare schemes that could assist the residents based on their demographic details. During Mega Outreach programmes, teams also refer people to the campsite where DSLSA Panel sit, who provide on-the-spot legal assistance and consultation.

3. Following Up

After the outreach, volunteers scrutinize the Outreach Forms, containing the details and relevant information of the approached residents. Volunteers are then assigned to the respective residents on a 1:1 ratio, where they are tasked with taking the necessary action in order to provide relief to their case, be it writing complaint letters to the respective authorities, researching on relevant provisions of law, accompanying clients to the relevant DSLSA District Office in order to apply for free legal assistance.

4. Report on Outreach Programmes so far

- **30th September 2018— Indira Colony, Punjabi Bagh**

With Dr.Basukinath Dubey, 62 student volunteers and 9 Skit and Play student performers, the first Outreach Programme of the academic session witnessed sanitation and water problem, as a whole. Besides the general problem, some households have sought legal help with on-going legal matters pertaining to non-receipt of benefits from insurance schemes, lack of maintenance by the MCD and petty theft issues, among others. The volunteers further spread awareness of the welfare schemes, like Ladli and PM Ujjwala Yojana.

- **7th October 2018— Sanjay Basti, Timarpur**
The second outreach was headed by Mr. Krishan Murari and attended by 45 volunteers. The area had higher rate of crime than other slum areas and the inhabitants complaint of inaction on part of the police, there has been cases of fight between people and a case of missing person pending for last 10 years. MCD cleaning truck is infrequent in this area leading to major cleanliness problem. Lack of Aadhar registration, domestic violence and pension problem are some other major issues in this area. Volunteers assisted them in filling the form and persuaded them to come to the clinic.

- 14th October 2018— Zakhira, Inderlok

This was a Mega-outreach with Dr. Ravinder and Dr Gurpreet Singh Randhawa as teacher coordinator and attended by 160 volunteers along with 10-12 skit and play performers. The clients were given legal advice on the spot by Adv. Faraz Khan and Anita Sikdar. Almost every student member of the governing council was present and assisted the lawyers and volunteers in the outreach program. The key legal issues were bigamy and other matrimonial issues, property issues, non-receipt of the benefits from the welfare schemes they are entitled, eg Ladli, pension etc. Zakhira is situated near busy railway tracks and children from the slum were found playing around, lack of proper barricade made the area very unsafe, not to mention that albeit a common toilet was available, open defecation was being practiced. A case of fraud by an NGO has come to light which the members of the LSS are following. The skit and play team did an amazing work of spreading legal awareness by street play on Sanitization, human trafficking and prostitution. The volunteers further spread awareness about the various government schemes like ladli, pension schemes etc.
B. THE LEGAL AID CLINIC

The Legal Services Clinic of Law Centre-1 was inaugurated in collaboration with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority on the 25th of August, 2012, and has been functioning from the 1st of September onwards. Within three months of its opening, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority certified the Legal Services Clinic of LC-1 to be the Best Clinic in the University of Delhi. Open every Saturday, from 10 am – 1 pm, clients approach the Clinic either seeking assistance with a legal issue or grievance they have, requesting legal representation in a case against them, requesting a change of an existing legal aid lawyer, or even for legal advice on various issues. The sessions are conducted with a Panel Advocate provided by the DSLSA, assisted by student volunteers, and supervised by faculty members. Currently, the attending Panel Advocate is Mr. Vinay Rathi, who has been with us for the last 9 months.
1. Referrals from Outreach Programmes

The Legal Aid Clinic is heavily reliant on the work conducted in the community outreach programmes in so far as they help spread awareness about the existence of a free legal aid clinic along with details like the address, office landline number and timings. In many instances, clients that turn up have found out about the Clinic from their own friends and relatives who were present during the outreach programmes. Other times, volunteers directly refer residents to the Legal Aid Clinic for consultation and assistance. With a great support from the volunteers, who follow-up twice a week by calling the past clients and the people from the recent Outreach programmes, the Clinic sees an average 8 client footfall, which can go up to 15-20 on certain occasions.

2. Documentation & Case Preparation

The Legal Services Clinic goes through a meticulous and methodical process of documentation, tracking, and case preparation. A client visiting the Clinic is first interviewed by a volunteer, noting their name and contact details, following which a detailed ‘Client Information Form’ (see Annexure B) is filled, containing all the relevant details related to the client’s legal issue, nature of the case, relief sought, and advice given. After gathering the basic facts of the case, the volunteer then briefs the Advocate, who in turn advises the client. In cases where there is non-performance of duties on part of government officials or public authorities, students write an application to the respective authorities seeking immediate redressal. Otherwise, general applications to the DSLSA for free legal assistance or a change of lawyer are also filed. Relevant documents of the client, along with the detailed ‘Client Information Form’ are compiled and attached along with the application for greater ease of understanding of the Frontal Officer at the DSLSA.

After the Clinic ends, Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs) are assigned to a case in order to provide any assistance necessary, be it reminding clients of next dates of hearing, accompanying them to the DSLSA Offices or Courts, or finding out information they may ask about. The PLV is the conduit by which the client can get access to free legal assistance. Additionally, the PLV is to constantly
report back to the Clinic Head, as well as maintain a ‘PLV Case Diary’ (see Annexure C), which is a record of all the interactions between the PLV and Client, with updates on next hearings and requirements. The central database is kept and maintained by the Clinic Head, who tracks the current status of all the clients that consulted the Clinic, and updates the register after contacting the assigned PLVs.

3. Current Status

Since its inception the Clinic has received more than 500 clients over the last 7 academic sessions, with more than 230 cases involving legal issues. Between the 2012/13 – 2016/17 academic sessions, a total of 234 clients with legal issues have consulted the LSS Clinic. Cases pertaining to Family matters are the most common, followed by cases related to Property disputes, worker compensation/unpaid wages, fraud, and theft. Out of all these cases, 3 cases have conclusively been resolved, 68 cases have been closed, 22 cases are yet to be admitted in Court after being referred to the DSLSA, while 84 are ongoing trial/mediation. 17 are untraceable. Taking into account the current academic session of 2018/19, a total of 25 different clients have consulted the clinic, till date, 15 cases of the 2017/18 session have referred to the DSLSA, 5 have been resolved out of court, 13 are closed, and 15 are ongoing.

C. STREET PLAYS
The Skit and Play Society of the LSS has been performing in different parts of Delhi with the aim of raising awareness on various themes ranging from Legal Aid, Prisoner’s Rights, Transgender Rights, among others. The society began performing from July 2017 and has performed at 11 plays in the 2017/18 session. Some of the plays have been organised in coordination with the DSLSA for which an honorarium of Rs. 600-1000 has been provided to each performer. The list of plays is as follows:

- Karkardooma Court – Right to Free Legal Aid
- Rohini Jail – Prisoner’s Rights
- Tihar Jail – Prisoner’s Rights
- Malkaganj – Right to Free Legal Aid
- Azadpur – Right to Free Legal Aid
- St. Xavier’s School, Rohini Sector 18 – Senior Citizens’ Rights
- Kendriya Vidyalaya, Vigyan Vihar – Transgender Rights
- St. Michael School, Rajendra Nagar – Child Rights & Drug Abuse
- Faculty of Law, Delhi University – Right to Free Legal Aid
- Zakir Hussain College – Women Empowerment
- Satyawati College – Sexual Abuse, Child Abuse, & Domestic Violence

For the academic session of 2018-19, the society has performed to raise awareness of free legal aid along with social issues like sanitation, human trafficking and prostitution in the following Outreach programmes:

- Indira Colony, Punjabi Bagh
- Timarpur
- Zakhira, Inderlok

Public Response
The plays generally receive positive feedback from the public. Many viewers on watching these plays realize that many of them are entitled for free legal aid, especially women and children. A special moment arose during the play on Transgender Rights when a transgender member of the community came forward and shared how he was able to connect with the every scene and act of the play, feeling as if it was taken from his own life.

The performers too take away many benefits, heartened by the obvious change and value they have added to the audience members, who have learnt something new and helpful. They have not only been made aware of various issues plaguing society but have also learnt about ways to tackle them. The knowledge of various rights and entitlements derived from these plays instil a belief in them that they can use this information and improve their lives.

D. PROJECT WORK IN COORDINATION WITH THE DSLSA

Under the direction of the DSLSA, the Legal Services Society and its volunteers also participate in project work over and above free legal assistance. The following are some of the activities conducted by the DSLSA in which LSS volunteers participated:

Bank Help Desks

Volunteers were tasked with offering general assistance to customers lining outside banks, paying special attention to older as well as poorer citizens, filling out forms, cheques, deposit and withdrawal slips. Moreover, the volunteers were encouraged to educate visitors on the benefits of e-payments, e-wallets, and online transactions, including the use of popular phone apps like PayTM and BHIM.

PLV Exam and Interview

Exam for the first year and interview for the second and third year was conducted this year by the LSS for selection as the prestigious Para Legal Volunteers. Around 480 students applied and many appeared for the same.

PLV Training

After a year gap, the Delhi Legal Services Authority will organize a Paralegal Volunteer Training Workshop for students of Law Centre-1’s Legal Services Society. The workshop spanned 2 days, and 120 students will attend seminars on law held by the members of the DSLSA. Lectures on Criminal, Family, and Labour Law, and their relevant statutory provisions will be provided to the PLV trainees.

E. SUCCESS STORIES
Since the day of its inception, the Legal Services Society of Law Centre I, has excelled in its functioning. It was awarded best LSS clinic in University of Delhi within one year. The Research team won the first prize in Gujrat National Law University and has been functioning to improve the society. Not to mention it is the first LSS which has started using online forms in outreach as much as possible thus saving papers and adhering to the governments’ vision of a Digital India.

Amongst all the cases brought by LSS members during outreach the MCD case stand out as a major victory. Negligence of MCD workers led to death of 3 people and injured 8 people in the Jhandewalan area. The case was found by the LSS members of during the outreach and filed in Tis Hazari court. The victims received a compensation of 4 lacs in 3 months of the case. The case is further being followed by filling a PIL as the case amount to violation of Human Rights and compensation is not adequate.
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS
Academic Session of 2018-19

FACULTY MEMBERS
Dr. Apeksha Kumari – Faculty Convenor
Dr. Daya Devi – Faculty Member
Dr. Negi Bisht – Faculty Member
Dr. Gurpreet Singh Randhawa – Faculty Member
Dr. P. Kalidasa – Faculty Member
Dr. Basukinath Dubey – Faculty Member
Dr. Krishna Murari – Faculty Member
Dr. Suman – Faculty Member
Dr. Surender Meena – Faculty Member

STUDENT MEMBERS (in no specific order)
Rahul Kumar
Shalini Arya
Rishabh
Sumit Mandal
Kartik Yadav
Sunny Tayeng
Amit Jaiswal
Ekansh Tyagi
Sonil Yadav
Kshitiz Chaudhary
Vandana
Ayush Rastogi
Pooja
Deboleena Dutta
Surabhi Budhia
Aadarsh Prakash
Sajal Manchanda
Hanshi Mishra
Sumit Kumar
Diwakar Sippy
Kushal Deep Shukla

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## ANNEXURE A – OUTREACH FORM

### OUTREACH FORM

**LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY**  
**LAW CENTRE-1, FACULTY OF LAW**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area:</th>
<th>________________________________</th>
<th>Date: <strong>/</strong>/____</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>________________________________</td>
<td>Age: ___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>________________________________</td>
<td>Contact No: ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category: GEN/SC/ST/OBC</td>
<td>Gender: __________________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation: (Be specific)</td>
<td>Marital Status: ____________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Income:</td>
<td>Education Level: ____________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domicile/Migrant: (from which State)</td>
<td>Total Family Members: ____________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aadhar Card</th>
<th>Voter ID</th>
<th>Ration Card</th>
<th>Bank Account</th>
<th>House (Owner OR on Rent)</th>
<th>Toilet (Personal OR Common OR Open)</th>
<th>Electricity</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Gas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### DETAILS OF FAMILY MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Members (DO NOT write names, just their relation to the head of the family)</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Education Levels</th>
<th>Employment Status: (Mark Student, Unemployed, Pensioner, if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Q. Are you, or are your family members a beneficiary of any government welfare scheme?  
(If so, please provide details like date of registration, money invested, etc. DO NOT write the name of the family member registered, just their relation to the head of the family)

Q. Please state any miscellaneous, non-legal problems you have that you wish to remedy.  
(Health issues - mental or physical; family/domestic disputes; addictions - drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc.; workplace harassment; mistreatment; or even if they need assistance with registering themselves for a welfare scheme, a govt. ID or legal document)

### TO BE FILLED ONLY IN CASE OF LEGAL DISPUTE

1. Status of Legal Dispute: Resolved/Pending/To Be Filled (Future)

2. Details of Legal Dispute: (State the nature of the dispute, whether civil or criminal, the facts of the case, the relevant statutes of law. For more than 1 legal dispute, number the cases)

3. Do you have legal representation/assistance at this stage? Yes OR No
4. Do you require legal representation/assistance at this stage? Yes OR No
5. Are you willing to come to the LSS Clinic in search of legal representation? Yes OR No

Volunteer Name:

Group Leader Name:
CLIENT INFORMATION FORM

Client Details:

Name: ___________________________ Religion: ___________________________ Age: ___________________________

Contact No: ___________________________ Occupation: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ Monthly Income: ___________________________

Marital Status: ___________________________

Gender: ___________________________ Category: GEN/SC/ST/OBC/PWD ___________________________ Education Level: ___________________________

Socio-Economic Indicators: (Circle if appropriate and mention details of the source)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aadhaar Card</th>
<th>Voter ID</th>
<th>Ration Card</th>
<th>Bank Account</th>
<th>House (Owner OR on Rent)</th>
<th>Toilet (Personal OR Common OR Open)</th>
<th>Electricity</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Gas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Information about the Clinic received from: Outreach (Mention which) / Other

Type of Case: Legal/Non-Legal Nature of the Case: Criminal/Civil/Family/Property/Labour/Other / Document

Facts of the Case: (Mention the dates and details of the Act, name(s) of the opposition, actions taken, authorities consulted, etc.):

Relief Sought:

Details of any past complaint/suit filed:

Advice given by the lawyer:

Client referred to DSLA?: Yes/No Client eligible for Legal Aid: Yes/No

ASSIGNED VOLUNTEER DETAILS (DO NOT FILL UNLESS ASSIGNED BY THE CLINIC):

Volunteer Name: ___________________________ Year: ___________________________ Section: ___________________________

Email ID: ___________________________ Contact No: ___________________________
## INDIVIDUAL PLV CASE DIARY

Name of PLV/Year:  
Mobile & Email ID:  
Year:  
Name of the Client Assigned:  
Nature of Issue (Legal/Welfare)  
Brief Facts of the Case:  
Court/Office where case is to be filed:  
What does the Client want to happen (Claim)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Nature of Meeting (Why did you meet the client?) (Include Phone calls if didn’t)</th>
<th>Details (Facts of Meeting: Place of Hearing, PLVs, Efforts, documents photocopied, etc)</th>
<th>Advice given by Lawyer, if any (Mention Lawyers Name)</th>
<th>Next Date of Meeting/ Court Date</th>
<th>Tasks to be achieved before the next Meeting</th>
<th>Expenses Incurred, if any (Make sure to keep all Bills)</th>
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