



Param Poojya Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak Samiti's

Dr. Ambedkar College

Deeksha Bhoomi, Nagpur

The institution is bound to realize its vision to develop itself into a premier learning center to produce diligent and ethically responsible professionals contributing significantly to a comprehensive socio-economic development of the society. In concrete approach to this, the institution has an extraordinary 'Legal Aid Clinic' as Right to Legal Aid is an integral part of the Fundamental Rights and Human Rights.

This is an appropriate platform to provide legal aid and to the people who are unable to bear the cost of litigation and to access the machinery for justice. Deekshabhoomi is a historic place which gives message of equality where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar embraced Buddhism-the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity were proposed in a vibrant manner from this place only. A revolutionary figure, a pioneer of social justice and a true reformer, Dr B. R. Ambedkar played a significant role in shaping the social, political and civic contours of India and fostering the advancement of society. Dr. Ambedkar was a astonishing campaigner who created loftier awareness among depressed classes, the downtrodden and socially backward classes in India. The institution consistently seeks inspiration from his life and vision and tries to inculcate the much needed principles for a modern, democratic and socially just nation. 'Legal Aid Clinic' was established by the Department of Law in 2000 with an objective to provide free legal aid and legal awareness to needy and poor sections of the society. This platform in the form of truthful extension is now 23 years young and has been vigorously meeting the objectives by organizing legal aid camps and other social outreach programs. Many thousands have been benefitted from this noble initiative of the college that promotes justice by providing free legal aid and creates an effective mechanism for showing the right path for seeking justice to the poor, downtrodden and disadvantaged.

Free Legal Aid was later extended with 'Legal Literacy Programme' in 2005. Since last 18 years teachers and students in Law, every year on the occasion of Dhammachakra Pravattan Din (Day on which Dr. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur) organise 'Free Legal Aid and Literacy Programme'. Millions visit Deekshabhoomi on this special day and seek help from Legal Aid Cell. Teachers and

students not only offer basic legal awareness on the existing laws and constitutional framework, fundamental rights, human rights but also the newly introduced laws in the nation. These are explained in vernacular to the pilgrims. Printed material in the form of pamphlets and booklets is also distributed to all to make them literate about the judicial framework.

Legal Aid Clinic has a composition of Teachers, Lawyers and Law Students and alumni who voluntarily stay along days and nights to render a selfless service. The Legal Aid Clinic also engages students to spread legal awareness through street plays, competitions, quizzes and seminars, etc. It also encourages as many people as possible to be aware of their rights and assists those people in solving their legal problems. If somebody visits the college for a free legal aid, they are primarily counseled by the members of the cell and sometimes referred to the alumni so that the individual gets an open-minded and rational place to land in.

Free Legal Aid Camp is another significant activity conducted by Legal Aid Clinic which inducts students every year to use their knowledge of law to provide free legal aid and counsel in tehsil places and villages such as Ramtek, Deolapar, Pimpalgaon, Mogra, Narkhed, etc. Teachers and students jointly organize a day-long camp activity at these places, popularization of this programme is made with the help of local administrators such as Sarpanch, Tahsildar, SDOs, BDOs, Police Department so that the locale also feel free to approach them without any fear.

Many other activities are also organized wherein students of law participate in LokAdalat, Mediation program in association with District Legal Services Authority, High Court Legal Services Subcommittee, Nagpur. In addition to this, students participate in Family Court matters and assist in legal empowerment of marginalized sections to make them aware about the social obligations and social responsibilities. The Legal Aid clinic is committed to help the most vulnerable people of the society and also aims to imbibe legal, social and moral values amongst the students by allowing them a space to 'hands on training' like sessions as they actually get a fair chance to take part and see the legal happenings.

The Legal Aid Clinic imbibes a sense of social responsibility, ethical practices and encourages the students to contribute to the human society and provides a platform for ethical and human value development. They are sensitized over the issues of how advocacy can be practiced with a social face and change the outlook of general populace towards judiciary. By organizing legal literacy camps in villages, the college aims to fulfill the sense of social responsibility. Socio-legal surveys during such legal literacy camps are organized by the college on its own or sometimes in association with District Legal Services Authority. Socio-legal surveys help the students to understand the factual data on how legal framework in the nation is seen and this additionally benefits them all to formulate definite views on how they can secure a dissimilar place as an advocate. With this bunch of extra-special features and activities for the students, the institution confidently serves a noble purpose.

Over the years eminent judges, legal experts, Scientists, academicians and professionals such as Dr. Sudhir Meshram, Former VC, North Maharashtra Uni., Jalgaon, Prof. Vijender Kumar, VC, Maharashtra National Law Uni., Nagpur and Dr. K.M. Bhandarkar, Ex- Dean (Faculty of Education), RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar Chief Scientist and Head ERMD Division, NEERI Nagpur, Shree Jaydeep Pandey, Secretary DLSA, Hon'ble Shri Anilkumar Sharma, District Session Judge and Secretry of Nagpur High Court Legal Services Subcommittee, Nagpur and Hon'ble District Judge Shri S.B. Gawande, District Court, Nagpur have graced many occasions and thousands of learners are benefitted by the proficient knowledge delivered by them.