

Late. Shri. Shankarrao Chavan
Founder President

Shri. Shivajirao D. Ganage
President

Prin. Bhausaheb Jadhav
Exe - President

15/12/2023

Equal Opportunity Cell

in collaboration with

Human Rights Cell

Organized

An Expert Discourse on “The Tapestry of Justice: Recent Supreme Court Judgments weaving the Fabric of Human Rights in India”

On 9th December, 2023 an expert discourse was organised by Equal Opportunity Cell in collaboration with Human Rights Cell.

In the lecture titled "The Tapestry of Justice: Recent Supreme Court Judgements Weaving the Fabric of Human Rights in India," by **Dr. Colin Gonsalves**, a **leading human rights activist**, **Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India** shared key insights on significant case laws. This report aims to capture the lecture's essence, focusing on critical legal issues while preserving Dr. Gonsalves' distinctive style and perspectives.

"To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." - Nelson Mandela

Human rights are inherently significant, and recognized as indispensable for the survival and dignity of every individual. International Human Rights Day, observed on December 10th worldwide, serves as a poignant reminder of the shared commitment to upholding these fundamental rights.

In alignment with this global initiative, Marathwada Mitra Mandal's Shankarrao Chavan Law College (SCLC) took the initiative to celebrate 'Human Rights Week' from December 5th to December 9th, 2023. Throughout the week, the college orchestrated a series of engaging activities and competitions aimed at fostering awareness and understanding of human rights issues among the students.

The diverse range of events included enlightening expert lectures, a self-defense program tailored for both male and female students, a vibrant poster-making competition, rangoli competition and a thought-provoking Open Mic Competition. These activities were not just informative but also interactive, encouraging students to actively engage with the principles and challenges surrounding human rights.




Activities for the year 2023-2024 were conducted in collaboration with Cell for Human Rights Activities, Equal Opportunity Cell and Internal Complaints Committee. (ICC)

Date	Particulars
5.12.2023	Poster and Rangoli Making Competition The theme 'Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future' and 'Violence against Women'
6.12.2023	Hands-on training on How to do Self Defence? Trainer: Mrs. Rupali Saikhedkar, Founder of Dhruv Defence Motivation Centre, NGO
7.12.2023	Open Mic – Students to share their thoughts, poetry, music, street play, act, dance etc. related to human rights The theme 'Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future' and 'Violence against women'
8.12.2023	Film Screening – A thought-provoking film screening related to human rights, followed by a discussion.
9.12.2023	An Expert Discourse by Dr. Colin Gonsalves, (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India) on "The Tapestry of Justice: Recent Supreme Court Judgments weaving the fabric of human rights in India"

Through these initiatives, SCLC sought to create an inclusive and informed community that understands the importance of respecting and protecting human rights. By commemorating Human Rights Week, the college not only honored the legacy of Nelson Mandela but also contributed to nurturing a generation of socially aware and compassionate individuals committed to upholding the inherent dignity of all.

Objectives:

1. Facilitating students in expanding their understanding of contemporary correctional issues and translating theoretical lessons on 'Human Rights' into practical insights.
2. Promoting education and fostering heightened awareness of Human Rights.
3. Analyzing and scrutinizing instances of Human Rights Violations for comprehensive study.
4. Extending legal outreach to marginalized communities, ensuring justice for all oppressed groups.
5. Establishing collaborative networks with other organizations, fostering a sense of solidarity for collective action.

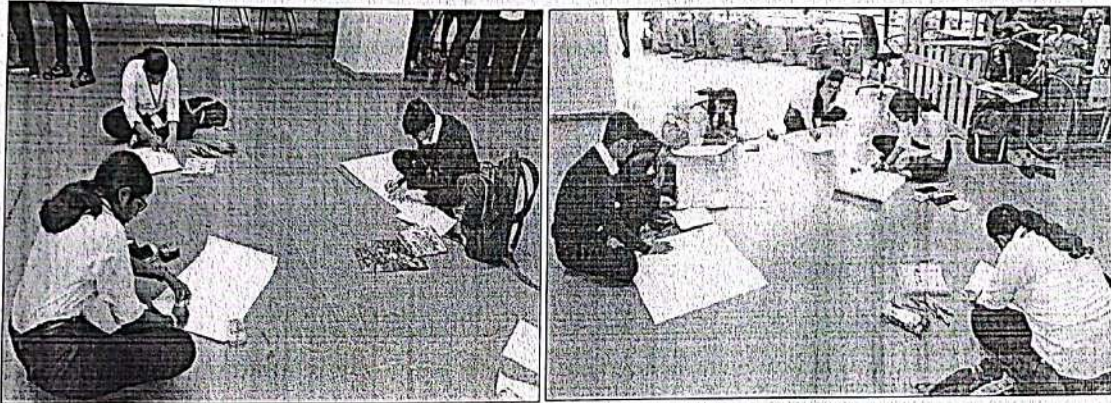


Schedule of the Program

Day 1: Poster and Rangoli Making Competition

Theme 'Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future' and 'Violence against women'

Introduction: The Poster and Rangoli Making Competition held on 5th Dec was a vibrant and creative event that showcased the artistic talents of the students. The event, organized by the college aimed to foster creativity, teamwork, and aesthetic sensibilities among the participants.



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Commendable use of colors, imagination and text



Judges and volunteers of the event

Posters reflecting a variety of perspectives

Conclusion: The Poster and Rangoli Making Competition not only provided a platform for students to express their creativity but also fostered a sense of healthy competition. The event was a testament to the artistic prowess of our students and showcased their ability to translate ideas into visually captivating creations. The competition overall enriched the cultural fabric of our institution resulting in significant and holistic development of the students.

We invited Adv. Colin Gonsalves, Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India to felicitate all the participants and winners by distributing certificates of participation and appreciation. Winners were given attractive gift vouchers. Total no. of participants – 12.




Day 2: Workshop/ Hands On training on 'How to do Self Defense?'

Introduction: The workshop on "How to Do Self-Defense" was conducted on 6th Nov at Hall No. 501. The primary objective of the event was to empower participants, predominantly female students and the non-teaching staff, with practical self-defense skills to enhance their personal safety and well-being. The instructor ensured that female students learn the self-defence techniques to protect them in cases of sexual violence caused. The workshop commenced with an introduction to the importance of self-defense and its role in personal safety. The participants were then guided through various practical aspects of self-defense techniques, facilitated by our esteemed and experienced instructor, Mrs. Rupali Saikhedkar, Founder Director of Dhruv Motivational Centre. (NGO) She has earned numerous accolades in her career. No. of participants – More than 90.



Felicitating the Trainer, Mrs. Rupali Saikhedkar, Founder Director of Dhruv Foundation (NGO)



Guardians of own safety stepping into the world of self-empowerment





Self-defence techniques by the instructor for students and non-teaching staff

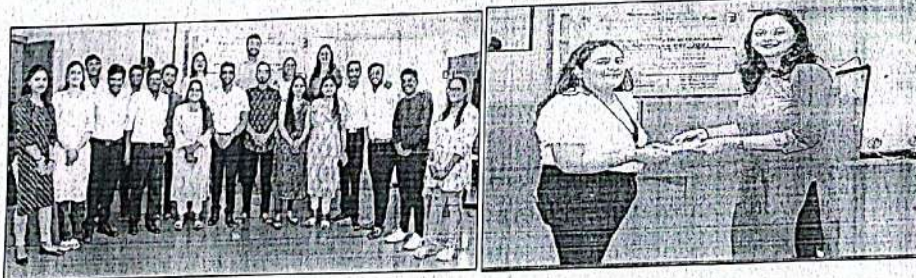
Conclusion: The Self-Defense Workshop held on 6th Nov at Hall No. 501 proved to be a pivotal event in equipping participants, especially female students and non-teaching staff, with essential skills for personal safety. Mrs. Rupali Saikhedkar, the esteemed instructor from Dhruv Motivational Centre, brought her wealth of experience to guide participants through practical self-defense techniques. The workshop not only emphasized the importance of self-defense but also fostered a sense of empowerment and confidence among the attendees. As we reflect on this impactful session, we hope that the knowledge gained will serve as a foundation for a safer and more secure community. We owe special thanks to Mrs. Rupali Saikhedkar for her expertise and dedication in making this workshop a valuable experience for all participants.

Day 3: Open Mic – Students to share their thoughts, poetry, music, street play, act, dance etc. related to human rights and sexual violence against women

Introduction: The Open Mic event dedicated to human rights and sexual violence against women, held on 7th Dec at Hall No. 501, provided a platform for students to express their thoughts, creativity, and passion through various forms of art. The event aimed to raise awareness and foster dialogue on human rights issues while showcasing the diverse talents within the student community.

The event began with an atmosphere of anticipation as students, filled with enthusiasm, took the stage to share their perspectives on human rights. The range of performances was both impressive and thought-provoking, highlighting the depth of emotions and understanding among the participants. Students participated in thought sharing, dance, poetry, speech, etc., to express their views on human rights. One of the participants through a classical dance portrayed the issues and challenges faced by a 21st century women and how to overcome it.

The event was judged by Dr. Pratik Salgar and Mrs. Shital Keskar, teaching staff of the college.



Individuals were provided with a bookmark featuring a quote on human rights as a means to foster awareness.



Classical dance portraying Sexual violence in the life of a women




Conclusion: The Open Mic Competition on Human Rights was not just an event; it was a celebration of creativity, activism, and community engagement. Through poetry, music, street plays, acts, dance, and heartfelt reflections, students demonstrated their commitment to raising awareness about human rights issues. The event served as a reminder that art has the power to inspire change and that every individual has a role to play in promoting a world where human rights are respected and upheld. The event witnessed a total of 21 participants.

Day 5: An Expert Discourse and Prize distribution:

On 9th December, 2023 an expert discourse was organised by Equal Opportunity Cell in collaboration with Human Rights Cell.

In the lecture titled "The Tapestry of Justice: Recent Supreme Court Judgements Weaving the Fabric of Human Rights in India," by **Dr. Colin Gonsalves**, a leading human rights activist, Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India shared key insights on significant case laws. This report aims to capture the lecture's essence, focusing on critical legal issues while preserving Dr. Gonsalves' distinctive style and perspectives.

Key points from the expert discourse:

The Right to Food and Public Interest Litigations (PILs) in India- Dr. Gonsalves highlighted the Human Rights Law Network's efforts in addressing the right to food and combating malnutrition. He emphasized the provision of subsidized food grains to the impoverished, citing the Melgard Case to underscore the impact of malnutrition on children's rights. The lecture encouraged aspiring lawyers to engage directly with affected communities and raise awareness about the need for legal advocacy.

Climate Change in India- Dr. Gonsalves emphasized the significance of practical legal education, using the Chardham Case as an example to illustrate the need for on-the-ground comprehension. The discourse delved into the environmental and political implications of the Char Dham project, questioning the necessity of controversial highways in the Himalayas.

The Interplay between Sedition and Freedom of Speech and Expression- Addressing contemporary challenges, Dr. Gonsalves discussed sedition charges, denial of bail based on provocative language, and concerns about freedom of speech. While specific case laws were not cited, activist arrests, such as Sudha Bharadwaj's and Surendra Gadling's, were mentioned. The lecture explored current events, including Umar Khalid's denial of bail and the Pinjra Tod Movement, emphasizing the evolving legal landscape.

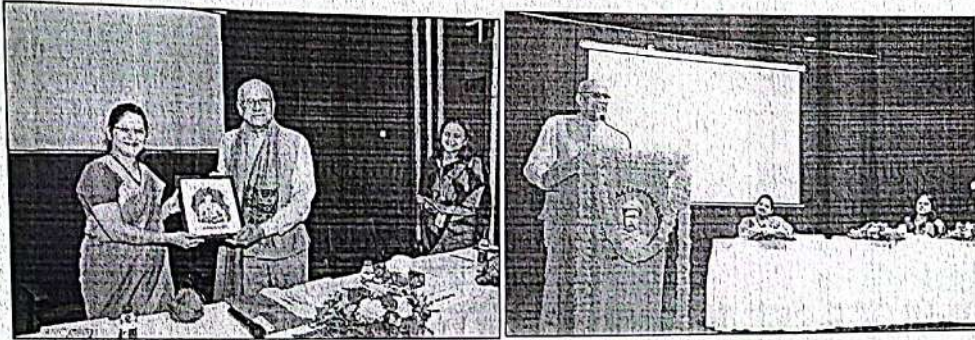
Environmental and Tribal Rights- Dr. Gonsalves shed light on issues faced by tribals in India, discussing climate change, forced evictions, and broader constitutional principles potentially linked to cases like "T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India." The lecture highlighted the significance of the Forest Tribes Act and discussed the 2023 amendment to the Environmental Conservation Act, emphasizing the vulnerability of unnotified forests to industrial encroachment.

Essentials for Legal Professionals- The discourse emphasized qualities essential for judges and advocates, urging candor and fearlessness in addressing authority. Dr. Gonsalves stressed the duty of judges to speak truth to power and the importance of expressing dissent respectfully. The lecture underscored the need for a dynamic and flexible approach, urging legal professionals to explore and travel.



Right to Marry and Legal Education- The lecture touched on the global context of the right to marry, emphasizing the importance of reading judgments for informed opinions. Dr. Gonsalves encouraged aspiring lawyers to develop their own opinions and compelling arguments, highlighting the role of legal education in societal betterment.

In this particular occasion, our students were honored for their active involvement in diverse competitions held throughout the Human Rights Week celebration. Special recognition was extended to those who engaged in internships at Mitr Clinic, Pune's pioneering transgender healthcare unit. Furthermore, we expressed appreciation to students who took part in the Clothes Donation Drive orchestrated by Shrivardhan Knowledge Foundation.

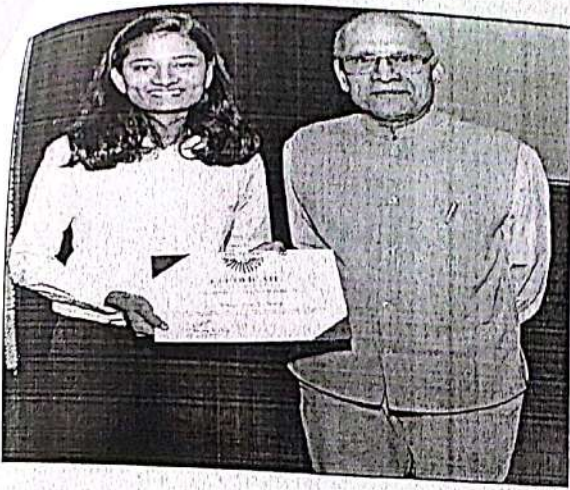


Felicitation of the guest of honour Dr. Colin Gonsalves



Dr. Colin Gonsalves with Executive President Prin. B.G Jadhav, HRC and EOC team members and invited guests





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MAHATHWADA MITRA MANDAL'S
SHANKARRAO CHAVAN LAW COLLEGE



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Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University & Approved by Bar Council of India, New Delhi
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Late. **Shri. Shankarrao Chavan**
Founder President

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Conclusion- Dr. Gonsalves' discourse provided a comprehensive exploration of human rights in India, encompassing historical perspectives, contemporary challenges, and a vision for the future. The report concludes with a call for bravery and exploration in the pursuit of justice, urging young law students to advocate for the communities they aspire to serve, guided by the mantra, "Be Brave, What have you got to lose?"

Dr. Renu Naidu

Assistant Professor
Program Coordinator Equal Opportunity Cell
MM's SCLC

15/12/2023

Dr. Kranti Deshmukh

Principal
MM's SCLC

