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## LEGAL AID CENTRE REPORT (First Half of A.Y. 2024-25)

The primary objective of a Legal Aid Centre is to ensure access to justice for all, particularly for marginalized and underprivileged sections of society who may lack the financial means to afford legal representation. It aims to bridge the gap between legal rights and their practical enforcement by offering free legal assistance, counselling, and representation in courts.

The Centre also seeks to create awareness about legal rights and remedies through educational programs, workshops, and community outreach initiatives. By empowering individuals with knowledge, it fosters a culture of legal awareness and responsibility.

Its broader goal is to uphold the principles of equality, fairness, and justice, ensuring that every individual, regardless of socio-economic status, has an equal opportunity to access and benefit from the legal system.

We are pleased to share an overview of the initiatives and activities undertaken by the Legal Aid Centre during the first half of the academic year **2024-25**. Our efforts focused on promoting legal awareness, providing legal assistance and fostering a sense of responsibility among students and the community. Key activities included:

- **Internship and Fieldwork Opportunities (27th June 2024 to 7th July 2024)**

Legal Aid Centre of Shankarrao Chavan Law College, Pune, is committed to imparting community-responsive legal education, making it socially relevant and impactful. As part of this vision, students were provided an opportunity to engage in internships and fieldwork with Narmada Bachao Andolan, a renowned organization dedicated to social justice and grassroots



activism. The internship aimed to foster social responsibility, bridge academic knowledge with practical experience, and deepen students' understanding of community-centric legal issues.

The participating students actively engaged in the following tasks during the internship period:

1. **Community Interaction:** Conducted surveys and interacted with affected families to understand their grievances related to displacement, rehabilitation, and environmental concerns.
2. **Research and Documentation:** Prepared case briefs and reports on key issues faced by the communities, such as land acquisition disputes and environmental degradation.
3. **Awareness Drives:** Assisted the organization in conducting legal awareness programs for villagers, focusing on their rights and entitlements under various legal frameworks.
4. The internship enriched students with first hand exposure to working on social causes, enhancing their understanding of grassroots activism and its connection with legal advocacy. It provided them with valuable insights into alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, legal aid, and policy formulation.



*"Engaging with Communities: Understanding Grievances on Displacement, Rehabilitation, and Environmental Concerns"*



We extend our sincere gratitude to Narmada Bachao Andolan for their guidance and support. We hope for continued collaboration in the future to shape socially responsible legal professionals.



#### Participants:

1. Aarya Narendra Belsare – IV BALLB
2. Devyani Subhashrao Talwekar – IV BALLB
3. Sangram Vijaykumar Shinde – IV BALLB



*"Student Volunteers with Ms. Medha Patkar: Inspiring Change Through Grassroots Activism"*

#### • Bal-Yuva Mahotsav 2024:

'Muktaa' Bal Yuva Mahotsav is organized by Muktaa Charitable Foundation for adolescent children of 13 to 18 years old of a school and college. This festival is held every year. Students of Pune and nearby schools and colleges are brought together under this program. This year the Muktaa Charitable Foundation IN Collaboration with Legal Aid Centre organised 'Muktaa' Bal Yuva Mahotsav" on Sunday, 17th November, 2024. The objective of this program is to provide scope to children's oratory, writing skill and presentation skills. We are conducting



competitions under the following heads. Essay competition, debate competition and street play competitions will be held in this.



*Glimpses of Program*

- **Participation in National Lok Adalat:**

The volunteers of the Legal Aid Centre actively participated in Lok Adalat which, contributing significantly to the smooth functioning of the legal processes. Their involvement included assisting the court in preparatory tasks, such as drafting and sending notices to the parties involved, ensuring timely communication and coordination.

On the actual day of the Lok Adalat, the volunteers played a crucial role in guiding individuals approaching the court. They provided procedural information, clarified doubts, and directed parties to the appropriate authorities, ensuring an organized and efficient process.

Their active engagement not only supported the functioning of Lok Adalat but also provided the volunteers with valuable hands-on experience in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. This initiative reaffirmed the Legal Aid Centre's commitment to fostering justice and empowering students with practical legal knowledge.

- **Participation in National Lok Adalat Dated 29-07-2024**

List of Student Volunteers who Attended the court for assisting Lok Adalat

Date- 12-07-2024 To 29-07-2024.

SR. NO.	NAME OF STUDENT	CLASS
1	Juhi Raju Aar	BA.LLB 4
2	Samruddhi Tapkir	LLB 2
3	Shubham Gowde	LLB 3
4	Sangram Shinde	BA.LLB 5
5	Aaliya Menon	BA.LLB 2
6	Farah Menon	BA.LLB 2



7	Sakshi Dongri	BA.LLB 2
8	Akanksha Ghule	BA.LLB 2
9	Siddhi Patil	BA.LLB 4
10	Vaishnavi Urmode	BBA.LLB 2
11	Saee Hingmire	BBA.LLB 2
12	Shantanu Purohit	BBA.LLB 2
13	Venkatesh Joshi	BA.LLB 3
14	Siddhi Gogawale	BA.LLB 4
15	Prathamesh Kanade	BA.LLB 3
16	Pranav Lokhande	BA.LLB 3
17	Archis Rajebhosale	BA.LLB 3

• **Participation in National Lok Adalat Dated 28-09-2024:**

The student volunteers from the Legal Aid Centre actively participated in Lok Adalat proceedings, contributing to its smooth functioning. Their responsibilities included assisting the court by drafting and dispatching notices to the concerned parties, ensuring proper communication. On the day of Lok Adalat, they guided individuals approaching the court, helping them navigate the procedures and providing necessary information.

This participation enhanced their practical understanding of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms while fostering a sense of responsibility toward social justice. The initiative successfully bridged academic learning with practical legal exposure.





*Student Volunteers with Shri. A.C. Birajdar, 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Civil Judge and JMFC, Pune Court No. 1: Bridging Academia and Justice.*

### **Community Outreach Programs:**

Community outreach programs organized by the Legal Aid Centre aim to bridge the gap between legal knowledge and local communities. These initiatives focus on raising awareness about legal rights, providing guidance on legal processes, and offering free consultations. Volunteers and legal experts interact with individuals in underserved areas, helping them understand their rights related to issues such as land disputes, consumer protection, family law, and more. These programs empower individuals with the knowledge to navigate legal challenges and seek justice, ensuring that legal resources are accessible to everyone, especially those from marginalized communities.

### **Legal Awareness Camp Dated 09-10-2024:**

Interactive sessions on topics such as fundamental rights, consumer protection, Forensic law and women's rights. The volunteers of the Legal Aid Centre conducted an awareness session at Parvati Police Station, Pune, on the topic "The Role of Forensic Evidence in Law". The Legal Awareness Camp emphasized the role of forensic evidence in criminal investigations, focusing on the collection, preservation, and analysis of physical evidence such as fingerprints, DNA, and digital data.



The session highlighted its importance in ensuring accurate and fair judicial outcomes, along with the procedural requirements under the law. Practical examples were shared to demonstrate its application in solving cases. The program enhanced the understanding of forensic science among police personnel, promoting better collaboration between law enforcement and legal systems.



**Legal Awareness Camp Dated 10-10-2024:**

Centre organized an Educational Awareness Program on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The program took place at Marathwada Mitra Mandal's Department of Vocational Training for class 11th students, who are enrolled in the MCVC course focused on vocational training and skill-based education.



The session aimed to enlighten students about the growing automobile industry, essential skills required for employment in this sector, and the future of Electric Vehicles (EVs), Artificial Intelligence, driverless cars, and automation. We also covered the optimization of work in the automobile industry over the next decade. Additionally, students were informed about the benefits of EVs, BS6 engines, CNG vehicles, and the emerging hydrogen-based vehicles. We also discussed ethanol blending in petroleum and its impact on the agricultural sector, benefiting farmers and the environment by reducing harmful emissions like CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>. The program provided valuable insights into sustainable living and development goals, urging students to enhance their skills and knowledge, particularly in technology. We also emphasized the importance of physical and mental health in students' lives.



The event was highly interactive, with teachers and students contributing insightful perspectives on the automobile industry's growth and challenges. We, too, gained precious knowledge from their contributions, enriching our understanding of the sector.



#### Legal Awareness Camp Dated 06-09-2024:

On 6th September 2024, New Secondary & Higher Secondary School, Jalna, organized an awareness camp on traffic rules and good/bad touch for its Junior and Senior Secondary students. The objective of the camp was to educate students on essential life skills and promote a safe and responsible lifestyle.



As a speaker, I, Rajeshwari Rakh, along with other students from Shankarrao Chavan Law College (SCLC), conducted informative sessions. The camp focused on the importance of adhering to traffic rules, such as wearing helmets, using seatbelts, and understanding traffic signals and safe pedestrian practices.



Another significant part of the camp was dedicated to educating students about good and bad touches. We helped students differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate physical contact, recognized how to report such behavior, and provided self-protection strategies. Interactive activities like group discussions and Q&A sessions allowed students to engage actively and clarify any doubts. The camp successfully educated 150 students, and participants received certificates as a token of encouragement to apply their newfound knowledge in daily life. The school acknowledged the efforts of SCLC, emphasizing its commitment to student well-



being and safety. This initiative was a step towards creating a more responsible and safety-conscious student community.

#### Legal Awareness Camp Dated 06-09-2024:

The Forensic Science Camp was conducted to introduce participants, particularly students, to the legal concept of **expert testimony** and its crucial role in judicial proceedings. The camp aimed to provide a practical understanding of how expert opinions significantly impact court cases, especially those involving complex and specialized knowledge.

The primary objectives of the camp were to familiarize participants with the concept and legal framework of expert opinions.



- To highlight the importance of experts in legal proceedings, particularly in areas like Forensic science, Medical negligence, Handwriting analysis, Ballistics
- To engage participants in exercises designed to analyse the reliability and relevance of expert testimony in judicial processes.



Key Topics Covered by Volunteers such as:

- Role of Expert Witnesses in Legal Proceedings
- Types of Expert Witnesses:
- Admissibility of Expert Testimony:
- Distinction Between Fact Witnesses and Expert Witnesses:



The camp successfully introduced students to the intricacies of expert testimony within the framework of Indian law. By blending theoretical insights with practical analysis, the session provided participants with a holistic understanding of the role of experts in legal proceedings.



This initiative not only enhanced legal knowledge but also emphasized the importance of specialized expertise in fostering fair and informed judicial decisions.

#### **Legal Awareness Camp Dated 18-10-2024**

The camp was conducted on the subject The Practical Dimensions of Policing, Law Enforcement, and Public Safety which aimed to understanding the practical aspects of policing, law enforcement, and public safety. During the visit, students had the opportunity to engage in a meaningful conversation with Constable Mr. Balasaheb Chavan, who shared valuable insights on several aspects:

**Role of Law and Policing:** Mr. Chavan emphasized the importance of basic legal knowledge for every individual. He elaborated on the role of the police in maintaining law and order and the challenges they face daily.



**Emergency Services:** He explained the functionality of emergency numbers: **100:** Restricted by geographical boundaries. **112:** Allows freedom across geographical areas, ensuring broader accessibility. He highlighted the importance of women's safety, urging women to remain alert and not hesitate to seek help using the 112-emergency service, which is always available. The camp to Kasba Police Station and the conversation with Constable Mr. Balasaheb Chavan was highly insightful. His guidance and practical insights on law enforcement, public safety, and the role of lawyers added significant value. The interaction reinforced the importance of ethics and social responsibility in the legal profession, leaving a lasting impact on my learning journey.

- **MOU with Aspire Legal Club**

Aspire Legal Club (ALC) is a social foundation committed to providing social justice to marginalized and downtrodden communities. The club works toward achieving a more equitable society by advocating for the rights of underprivileged individuals and groups. It strives to create opportunities for empowerment through legal awareness and support.

On 8th August 2024, the Legal Aid Centre (LAC) of Shankarrao Chavan Law College (SCLC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Aspire Legal Club (ALC). This partnership aims to further the shared goal of providing legal education and support to



underserved communities. The MOU was signed by Mr. Aditya Jadhav, the co-founder of ALC, and Coordinators from SCLC's Legal Aid Centre.

**Objectives of the MOU:** The MOU outlines several key objectives and initiatives to be undertaken by both organizations in collaboration:

- **Organizing Workshops and Practical Training Programs:** ALC and LAC will jointly organize various workshops and practical training sessions to enhance students' practical understanding of legal concepts. These sessions will cover real-life applications of the law, focusing on how it can be used to support and uplift marginalized communities.
- **Conducting Legal Awareness Programs:** One of the primary goals of this partnership is to raise awareness about legal rights and responsibilities. Through community outreach programs, both organizations will work to educate people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, about their legal rights, government schemes, and avenues for seeking justice.
- **Assisting Students in Gaining Real-Life Legal Experience:** The MOU also focuses on providing SCLC students with real-life experience in dealing with legal queries and assisting communities. This will be achieved through hands-on involvement in community outreach, legal counselling, and advocacy work, helping students gain practical exposure to the challenges faced by marginalized groups in accessing justice.
- **Collaborative Initiatives for Social Justice:**

Both institutions aim to promote social justice by addressing systemic issues faced by underprivileged communities. Through this MOU, students will be able to engage in activities that directly contribute to solving real-world legal issues while learning the practical skills necessary for a career in law.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- **Enhanced Student Learning:** Students will benefit from exposure to practical legal work, which will strengthen their academic foundation and boost their confidence in handling legal issues.



- **Community Impact:** The joint programs will empower marginalized communities by providing them with the knowledge and tools to navigate legal systems and fight for their rights.
- **Institutional Collaboration:** This partnership will create a long-term relationship between ALC and LAC, fostering continuous collaboration and mutual growth.

The MOU between Aspire Legal Club and the Legal Aid Centre of Shankarrao Chavan Law College marks a significant step toward empowering both students and underprivileged communities. Through workshops, legal awareness programs, and hands-on student involvement, this collaboration will create lasting social impact, contribute to social justice, and bridge the gap between legal education and real-world legal challenges.

### Activities with ALC:

- **Awareness Campaign at Radha Krishna Vidyalaya, Perne**

On 20th September 2024, a team of students from Shankarrao Chavan Law College's Legal Aid Centre visited Radhe Krishna Vidyalaya in Perne village, Taluka Haveli, to conduct an awareness campaign on crucial legal topics. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, offenses against women, and self-defense techniques for young girls.



The students engaged with girls from standards 8th to 10th, educating them about their legal rights under the POCSO Act and how to recognize and report any inappropriate or abusive behavior. They also conducted practical self-defense training to empower the girls with basic techniques to protect themselves from potential threats.



In addition, the campaign focused on educating boys about preventing offenses against women. They were sensitized to the importance of respect and responsibility, fostering awareness of how their actions could contribute to a safer community.

The students also interacted with the girls, encouraging them to share their past experiences and challenges. This open dialogue helped address the personal concerns of the girls, providing them with advice on dealing with difficult situations and creating a supportive environment for them to voice their issues. The camp successfully raised awareness, provided practical knowledge, and created a sense of security and confidence among the students. It reinforced the Legal Aid Centre's commitment to promoting legal education, gender equality, and empowerment for all.



*"Lighting the Path to Justice: Volunteer Students Educating Future Leaders"*

**Women Empowerment Camp by Legal Aid Centre, Shankarrao Chavan Law College, and Aspire Legal Club:** The Legal Aid Centre of Shankarrao Chavan Law College, in collaboration with Aspire Legal Club, is launching the *"Student Vigilance Committees"* to promote self-defense training and establish a robust network of safety among students and the



community. This initiative is designed not only for personal protection but to foster real change in society by empowering individuals, especially women, to stand against violence, harassment, and injustice.

As part of this collaborative effort, Shankarrao Chavan Law College and Aspire Legal Club are organizing the **Women Empowerment Camp**. The camp will focus on educating participants about crucial topics such as **POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act)**, **Eve-teasing**, and **Stalking**. These critical issues will be addressed through interactive training and awareness sessions that aim to equip participants with knowledge and practical tools to handle and prevent such situations. The main objectives of the Women Empowerment Camp are:

- **Educating Participants:** Providing valuable information and training on legal protections under POCSO, handling eve-teasing and stalking incidents, and understanding the legal and social repercussions of these actions.
- **Self-defence Training:** Practical self-defence techniques will be taught to build participants' confidence and ability to protect themselves in any threatening situation
- **Building a Safer Community:** The *Student Vigilance Committees* will act as a support network for individuals, particularly women, in the community, offering guidance, resources, and a sense of solidarity.
- **Awareness and Advocacy:** Participants will be empowered with knowledge that they can share within their families, communities, and educational institutions to spread awareness and advocate for a safer, more informed society.



Expert trainers will guide participants through various self-defence methods, emphasizing strength, agility, and confidence. The camp seeks to equip individuals, especially women, with the tools to respond effectively to threats, fostering a sense of security and self-assurance in their daily lives. The camp will also highlight the importance of vigilance and quick decision-making.



#### **Self Defense Camp Dated 25-08-2024:**

A Self-defence Camp was organized on 25th August 2024 by the Centre in collaboration with ALC. The camp aimed to empower participants with crucial self-defence techniques and strategies for personal safety. Expert trainers led practical sessions, teaching physical defence moves, situational awareness, and mental preparedness. The camp focused on building confidence, strength, and quick reflexes, particularly for women, to handle potential threats. Emphasizing the importance of vigilance, the event provided participants with valuable tools to protect themselves and foster a sense of security in their everyday lives. Total number of 19 Volunteers taken the benefit of it.



#### **Self Defense Camp Dated 16-09-2024:**

In continuation of the Self-Defense Camp held on 25th August 2024, the Legal Aid Centre organized another Self-Defense Camp on 16th September 2024. This session provided an opportunity for 24 volunteers to further enhance their self-defence skills. Participants were trained in various defensive techniques, focusing on building physical strength, mental resilience, and situational awareness. The camp aimed to equip the volunteers with practical knowledge to safeguard themselves in potential threatening situations. The Legal Aid Centre's initiative continues to empower individuals, especially women, with the necessary tools to stay safe and confident in their daily lives.



### Self Defense Camp Dated 19-09-2024:

This initiative by the Legal Aid Centre and Aspire Legal Club represents a proactive approach toward women's empowerment and personal safety. It provides not only valuable self-defense skills but also essential legal knowledge to combat social issues such as harassment, eve-teasing, and stalking. By fostering a strong network of vigilance, this camp aims to create lasting change, one empowered individual at a time.



### Conclusion

The first half of the academic year 2024-25 has been a period of remarkable progress, innovation, and active engagement across various activities. From empowering students with practical legal knowledge through workshops and camps to fostering holistic development, we have successfully achieved significant milestones in alignment with our academic and institutional goals. The initiatives undertaken, such as the Forensic Science Camp, Self-defence Camps etc. have enriched students' understanding of their subjects, enhanced their skills, and prepared them for real-world challenges. The active participation and positive feedback from students highlight the effectiveness of these programs. Furthermore, the introduction of collaborative projects, such as the formation of *Student Vigilance Committees*, and partnerships with organizations like Aspire Legal Club, have added a new dimension to experiential learning and social responsibility.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to sustaining this momentum by introducing more innovative programs and activities, ensuring the comprehensive development of our students, and fostering a culture of excellence. With the continued support of faculty, students, and collaborators, we are confident that the second half of the academic year will be equally impactful.

This concludes the report for the first half of the academic year 2024-25.

Co-ordinator

Dr. Ashwini Ingole  
Dr. Sudhir Traote



Principal