



# **LEGAL AID SOCIETY**

**CAMPUS LAW CENTRE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI** 

**Annual Report (April 2021-March 2022)** 











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#### **Faculty Members:**

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 Mr. Ezekial Jarain
 Dr. Narender Kumar Bishnoi
 Ms. Sneh Yadav
 Mr. Vijoy V. Panicker

### **Student Co-Conveners:**

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### INTRODUCTION

"THE ESSENCE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW IS EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW, THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND THE RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL. THIS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH ACCESS TO LEGAL AID FOR ALL"

'Legal Aid' encompasses a broad range of activities that aim at social advancement by creatively utilizing the instrument of Law. Legal profession, the way it is currently practiced and organized, is primarily concerned with the improvement of the quality of legal services rather than ensuring equitable and even distribution of legal services. That is where the concept of Legal Aid finds its relevance—it strives to make law relevant to the masses that are somehow left out and exist below the visibility line of law in action.

At the Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi (LAS) we want to provide legal aid to those who cannot afford professional legal services and we want to champion those public causes for which support is lacking. For this we have divided the functional areas of LAS into various groups like- Environmental protection, consumer protection, prison reforms, gender sensitization, victims of armed struggle, dramatics, slums, disabled/senior citizen, juvenile justice & child rights, mediation, right to information etc.

LAS has always been a pillar of support for those who require legal assistance. The progress we have achieved in this arena was the result of great work by the law students, the teachers and lawyers who were inspired by the legal aid ideals. Our cherished objectives include work on all the fronts of legal process, i.e. awareness, encouragement and enforcement of law.

#### **VISION**

As *Robert Ingersoll* has rightly said "*The hands that help are better far than lips that pray*." The LAS, with a vision to extend legal aid or support in all manners needed, is dedicated to promoting an inclusive legal system by organizing various activities and programmes pertaining public. The far-reaching goal of these activities is to extend legal help to the marginalized, disadvantaged, and indigent sections of the society.

LAS focus to accelerate the process of providing a platform to spread consciousness about the requirement of legal aid by the indigent litigants. This process involves engaging the student volunteers in organizing of various legal awareness drives, legal aid camps, campaigns, seminars, etc. Also, through these activities the society intends to make the residents of Delhi aware about their legal rights and duties.

The society in order to achieve the goal of establishment of an inclusive legal system facilitates the working of the LSC which functions under the aegis of Delhi State Legal Services Authority ('DSLSA'). The function of LSC is to impart legal aid to the indigent litigants in the procedure of court proceedings and in any additional process for the same. The volunteers of LAS also assist the lawyer and the litigants during the meetings in the LSC.

One such community which is capable of bringing a change in the society is the student community. Therefore, the society is devoted in grooming the student members of the society to become responsible legal practitioners or officers that will be acquainted with the ground realities of the country and will work towards the upliftment of the disadvantaged sections of society by imparting all kind of legal services required by them.

We are open to ideas, and we believe that we can learn from the experience of those who are engaged in similar activities. For that we are keen to enter into collaborations with NGOs and governmental organizations. Our key strength, in this regard, is a large body of students who are talented and equally committed.

We do have a dream, a dream to create a society where none is deprived of legal rights.

#### **LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC**

The Legal Services Clinic ('LSC') of Campus Law Centre, University of Delhiwas inaugurated on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2014 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri (an eminent jurist and former judge of the Supreme Court of India). The activities of the clinic are aimed at organising legalawareness programmes and to facilitateaccessibility of legal relief to backward sections of the society in consonance with



the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 (LSA Act). The sole objective of the clinic is to bridge the gap that exists between what the law promises to offer and the harsh realities of the legal world. It is medium for the students to avail the opportunity of not only applying their legal aptitude and judicial mind but also exposes them to the practicalities of the profession.

The LSC works in a close collaboration with DSLSA and is opened regularly on every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Legal Aid Counsel, appointed by the DSLSA, visits the clinic. There are always at least two PLVs available to assist the Counsel. This academic session, LSC is not functioning physically since the onset of Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

#### **AWAAZ-THE BLOG**

Literature has the power to mould thought, influence people, and affect change. Recognising the importance of the written word, Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre in 2019 launched a blog called "Awaaz" to aid the society achieves its goals of making the law accessible to all persons. 'Awaaz' aims at providing the students with an opportunity to explore the legal arena and shape discussions relating to paramount and critical issues pertaining to legal aid. Awaaz intends to fulfil two purposes; it aims to provide a space to young writers to present novel insights to emerging fields of law and legal aid and simultaneously aims to create a learning platform for all the law students.

Law students are limited in their knowledge and experiences given the range of issues that concern those accessing legal aid. Awaaz seeks to be the platform that bridges the gap between the theoretical imagination of a legal issue and its practical implications on ground.

Awaaz exists as the knowledge centre of the Legal Aid Society where students can learn about various relevant and vital legal issues. As a result of this, the platform limits its selection process to accept only topics related to legal aid and other socio-political and legal concerns. The blog is dedicated to presenting itself as a primary source of information for all students, para-legal volunteers, and lawyers interested in learning about emerging and pertinent questions in the field of legal aid.

Awaaz was inaugurated by the Professor-in-Charge of Campus Law Centre, Dr. (Prof) Usha Tandon on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, which was the final day of Para-legal Volunteer training organised for selected students of Campus Law Centre by Delhi State Legal Services Authority. The blog invited submissions in the beginning of the year and since then it has received more than 150 submissions from various law colleges around the country. The topics on which submissions were received ranged from diverse themes including gender, politics, economics, sports, cyber laws, labour laws, criminal law, corporate law and various socio-legal issues like same-sex marriage, marital rape as a form of crime, adultery, mental health care in India, and the interaction of COVID-19 lockdown with the courts, and politico-legal issues like abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, communalization of COVID-19.

## TIMELINE OF LEGAL AID SOCIETY 2020-21

The following are the activities undertaken by the society from **April 2021-March 2022** 

	Date	Activities/ Programmes	Mode
1.	26 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021	Webinar on SMEs- A Driver of Innovation and Economic Growth	Online
2.	April-May 2021	Covid-19 relief assistance for Delhi during the second wave of the pandemic	Online
3.	May 2021	Covid-19 Legal Assistance	Online
4.	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Financial Aid to Transgender Persons- Registration Process Assistance	Online
5.	22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2021	Earth Day Campaign	Online
6.	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	International Webinar on "Exploring the scope of Diagnostic patents	Online
7.	26 <sup>th</sup> October,2021	Legal Literacy and Awareness Campaign as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav	Physical
8.	27 <sup>th</sup> October,2021	On foot Awareness Rally in pursuance of PAN India Awareness and Outreach Programme	Physical
9.	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Webinar On Cyber Safety in Post-Pandemic World, Cyber Crime: Awareness, Prevention and Ensuring Safe Cyber Space for Youth	Online
10.	31st October,2021	Awareness Drive observing Vigilance Awareness Week	Physical
11.	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021	Presentation Of Work in an Event Hosted by Kings College London University of Strathclyde & University of York	Online
12.	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Mediation Work at District Magistrate (DM) office related to Senior Citizen's Act	Physical
13.	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Poster Making & Slogan Writing Competition on the occasion of Constitution Day of India	Physical
14.	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Computer Literacy Programme for Girls at Katyayani Balika Ashram Delhi	Physical
15.	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Training on Human Trafficking Laws	Online
16.	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Workshop titled "Gender-Balance Approach in relationship - Capacity Building Programme"	Online
17.	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Project On Legal Awareness and Outreach Programme for 6 months	Physical
18.	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Assistance drive in collaboration with Neev Foundation for Legal Aid in filling Labour Card Form for the Construction Workers	Online

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES AND AWARENESS DRIVES

**Introduction:** The LAS in association with DLSA organizes various kinds of Community Outreach programmes which are also called Legal Awareness Drives. These are majorly conducted in the slums, *jhuggi jhopris* and various unorganized settlements of Delhi. The volunteers contribute minimum of 2 hours in every drive which extends to 3.5 hours depending upon the prescribed area to be covered.

**Objective:** The major objective of a drive is to spread legal literacy and awareness about free legal services. The awareness drives come across as a fresh insight into relevant legal issues and problems faced by the public. Through these drives the students are made to look into ground realities of various social problems of the people.

**Approach:** Prior to the on-site visits, the volunteers are briefed about the purpose of the drive and are acquainted with the basic information and all the precautionary measures to be taken. Prior police intimation of conducting the drive in the concerned area is mandatory to ensure safety and security of the volunteers during the programme.

On the day, the volunteers go from door-to-door creating awareness about the legal aid services provided by DSLSA for the various sections of the society. The people in the neighborhoods are informed when and where they can avail these services and are explained the procedure in the simplest way as possible. The volunteers make sure that they interact with the people in vernacular in the friendliest way so as to not intimidate them in any manner. The information regarding the LSC of Campus Law Centre which operates on every Saturday is also brought to their knowledge. The volunteers are required to fill-in a response sheet wherein they write the details of the persons in the need of free legal services and ask them to come to the Legal Services Clinic or to approach the concerned DLSA. The volunteers distribute the address of the Legal Service Clinic and as well as of the concerned DLSA office.

# WEBINAR ON SMEs- A DRIVER OF INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (26th April 2021)

On World Intellectual Property Day, the Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre organized a lecture on the topic, "SMEs - A Driver of Innovation and Economic Growth". The lecture was held on 26 April 2021, Monday at 11:00 AM (IST).

About the speaker: Dr. Hemang Shah works with Qualcomm Technology Licensing in India. Currently, he leads their engineering engagements in India including the Qualcomm Design in India Program. Dr. Shah has experience in IP portfolio projects working on a wide range of matters for key

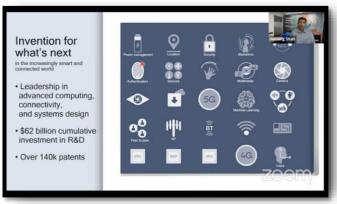


technical areas. He has served on patent review boards for different technical areas and frequently engages with inventors. Dr. Shah holds a Doctorate in Electrical Engineering from Drexel University. The session was moderated by Dr. Kshitij Singh, Teacher Convener of the Legal Aid Society, Campus Law Centre.

**Impact:** More than 50 students actively participated in the webinar and contributed to the discussion on the topic.







# COVID-19 RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR DELHI DURING THE SECOND WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

**PURPOSE:** Deadly second wave of Covid-19 peaked during this period leaving hospitals struggling to cope short supply of critical drugs and oxygen. The purpose of this initiative was to assist and connect people in need of hospital beds, critical drugs and oxygen to the hospitals and vendors; and to provide verified leads.

**PARTICAPATION:** 72 volunteers from CLC participated in Covid relief work. A separate team of 8 members was formed and a poster containing their mobile numbers and other details were circulated in public via different online platforms. The team of 72 volunteers was further divided into Oxygen leads, Home ICU leads, Ambulance Leads, Medicine leads and Teleconsultant team. Student Co-conveners of the society were leading each of these teams.

IMPACT: The society received more than 100 calls within 24 hours of circulating the



poster. The society and the volunteers actively worked over the period of these two months until the situation in Delhi was better. The society received more than 200 calls and could directly provide assistance to 50+ patients by connecting them to a proper channel. The volunteers gained first-hand awareness about the situation on the ground and learned how one could be of assistance during such testing times.

#### **COVID-19 LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

**PURPOSE:** The society started an initiative to provide legal help to the persons and families

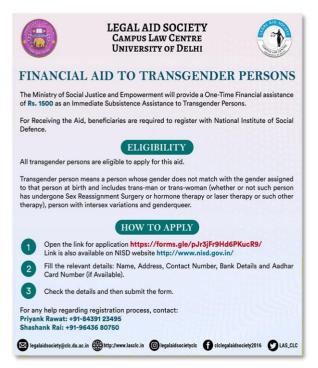
who have been cheated or defrauded while procuring Covid-19 related drugs and resources.

**PROCESS:** Two volunteers of the society were assigned the task of answering the calls and concerns

**IMPACT:** Two people approached the society with the issue of black marketing of essential medicines during second wave of Covid-19 pandemic in India. The same has been directed to the empaneled advocate who was looking into Covid-19 legal assistance.



# FINANCIAL AID TO TRANSGENDER PERSONS- REGISTRATION PROCESS ASSISTANCE



Social The Ministry of Justice and Empowerment introduced a scheme to provide a One-Time Financial assistance of Rs. 1500 as an **Immediate** Subsistence Assistance Transgender Persons at a time that livelihoods were affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For Receiving the Aid, beneficiaries were required to register with National Institute of Social Defence through a google link or NISD website.

**Procedure:** The society circulated a poster with contact details of two student members of LAS stating that any person in need of assistance

regarding registration process can contact the society and the point of contacts in the poster. The society did not receive any request regarding the assistance for registration process.

### "EARTH DAY CAMPAIGN"

(On the occasion of Earth Day 2021)

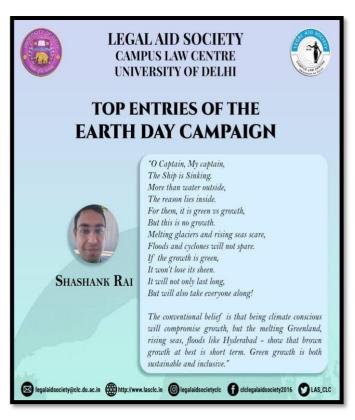
<u>Purpose</u>: On Earth Day 2021, an online campaign titled "Raising Climate Literacy Through Countering Misinformation" was organized exclusively for the members of the society to spread awareness among the members about our environment and to increaseClimate Literacy.

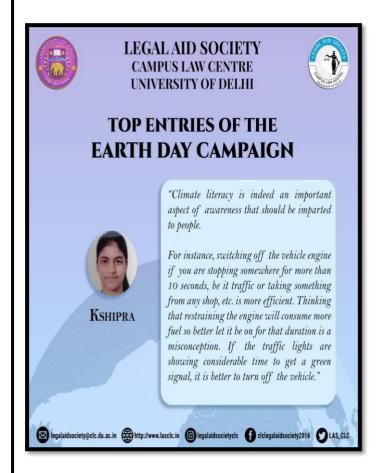
**PARTICIPATION:** The society received 12 entries from the members. The members of the society were asked to send their entries containing any misconception related to the environment protection which people believe to be true, or the rights and duties enshrined in law related to our environment of which people are mostly unaware of, or anything fascinating about the environment and our planet which you think is important for us to know.

<u>IMPACT:</u> The society published top 4 entries consisting of interesting facts and law about our environment which were published on all our social media platforms raising awareness among the members and students of Campus Law Centre.











# Exploring the Scope of Diagnostic Patents with Special Reference to Section 3(i) of the Patents Act

The Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre organized a lecture on the topic, "<u>Exploring the</u> Scope of Diagnostic Patents". The lecture was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Thursday at 05:00 PM.

#### **Panelists:**

#### 1. Dr. Malathi Lakshmikumaran.

Director, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, Attorneys

Dr.Malathi serves as a Executive Director and heads the life science group at the IP division of the firm. She is a registered patent agent and been actively engaged preparing, filing and prosecuting of patent applications, both in India and She abroad. mainly works on pharmaceutical, chemical and biotechnological patent applications.



She advises clients on plant variety protection and registration. She is actively involved in the area of Biodiversity and Traditional knowledge.

Dr. Malathi has successfully supervised several Ph.D. students in the area of Plant Molecular Biology. She has more than 100 publications to her credit in various International and Indian journals

**2. Prof. Shubha Ghosh**, Professor, Syracuse University College of Law, New York: Ghosh joined the Syracuse University College of Law in January 2016, as Crandall Melvin Professor of Law and Director of the Technology Commercialization Curricular Program, a unique program which trains students in intellectual property, business law, and the legal foundations for the commercialization of patents, copyrights, trademarks, and other legal property governing technology and innovation. The Program consists of the Syracuse Intellectual Property Law Institute (SIPLI), which Professor Ghosh manages, and the Innovation Law Center, which offers clinical experience for students in the Program

**3.** Dr. K. S. Kardam, Former Senior Joint Controller of Patents and Designs at Indian Patent Office, New Delhi.

**Impact:** More than 60 students actively participated in the webinar and contributed to the discussion on the topic

### **Legal Literacy and Awareness Campaign**

The Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre invited applications from the students of 2019-22 and 2020- 23 batch to volunteer for Legal Literacy and Awareness campaign which was organized by **Delhi State Legal Services Authority**. This campaign was part of Pan India Awareness and outreach program from 02nd October 2021 to 14th November 2021 as part of "**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav"**. More than 120 students registered for this initiative and took part in the awareness campaign.





# On foot Awareness Rally in pursuance of PAN India Awareness and Outreach Programme

Central District Legal Services
Authority (CDLSA) under the aegis of
NALSA and DSLSA and in pursuance of
PAN India Awareness and Outreach
programme under Bharat ka Amrit
Mahotsav organized a pan-India legal
awareness and outreach On Foot rally for
common citizens on 27.10.2021. Students
from Campus Law Centre who are interested
to participate in the rally are required to



register by filling the below application form. T-shirts for the rally will be provided to participating students on returnable basis at the venue itself.

### **Awareness Drive observing Vigilance Awareness Week**

The University of Delhi observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 26<sup>th</sup> October to 01<sup>st</sup> November with the theme "Independent India @75 Self Reliance with Integrity". The Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre organised an awareness drive regarding "Complaints under PIDPI (Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers)" and for dissemination of anti-corruption messages and a vigilant India. The



event was open for all the students of Campus Law Centre.

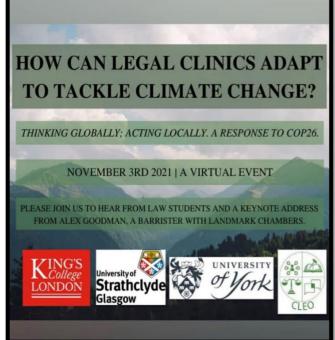
Students took Online "Integrity Pledge" (e-pledge) which is available at Central Vigilance Commission's website.

Students benefited significantly from their participation in their course.

# Presentation Of Work in an Event Hosted by Kings College London University of Strathclyde & University of York

Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre gave a presentation about the society's work related to environment and climate change on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021. The event was hosted by Kings College London University of Strathclyde & University of York. As the world turned its gaze to the U.K for COP26 conference, the event showcased how clinics are working at grassroot level to adapt and consider how climate change impacts on our communities.





# Mediation Work at District Magistrate (DM) office related to Senior Citizen's Act

Central District Legal Services Authority (CDLSA) in collaboration with District Administration office took an initiative to dispose-off or settle the pending cases under Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 related to eviction and maintenance in a timely manner through Mediation with the assistance of law students. The students of Campus Law Centre (CLC) were invited to be part of this mediation process and understand the work related to mediation under the said Act by assisting the office. Students participated in the event in large numbers and got a chance to work in District Magistrate (DM)'s office and enhanced their skill and knowledge office related to Senior Citizen's Act.

CDLSA provided certificates to the students after the completion for the requisite visits.



### **Training on Human Trafficking Laws**

Central District Legal Services Authority (CDLSA) conducted an online training on Human Trafficking laws in order to commemorate Human Rights Day which is observed on December 10th every year- the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The students of Campus Law Centre (CLC) were invited to attend the training.

The training was held on 09.12.2021 (Thursday) in virtual mode.

# Workshop titled "Gender-Balance Approach in relationship - Capacity Building Programme"

Central District Legal Services Authority (CDLSA) under the aegis of NALSA and DSLSA in collaboration with Genwiz Consulting LLP conduced a workshop on **05th January**, **2022**. (Wednesday) titled 'Gender-Balance Approach in Relationships- Capacity Building Programme' for the law students. The programme was a part of the unique Gender Cognizance Workshop Series and is designed towards making participants cognizant of gender and sex-based differences.

This was open for all the students of Campus Law Centre.

The workshop was organised in virtual mode. E-certificates were distributed for the students who attended the programme.

# Project On Legal Awareness and Outreach Programme for 6 months

Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA), in collaboration with the law colleges in Delhi and with the assistance of the law students, started a project "Legal Awareness and Outreach Programme" to reach out to the last man of society standing in the row seeking Justice and to make people aware about their rights and duties as well as existence of Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA).

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4 vacancies were to be filled in the project.

Selected students visited the allotted villages for few hours on weekly basis to do door to door campaigning and fulfil the following responsibilities.

- 1. Make the people aware—
  - About their Fundamental Rights and duties as envisaged in Indian Constitution.
  - · General Laws.
  - Various schemes of NALSA & DSLSA.
  - Helpline number of Authority. (1516)
- 2. Also, fill in the details of person seeking legal aid. (Format provided by the Authority)

It was open for all the students of CLC who have applied for the Legal Aid Society's membership. The duration of the project was 6 months and was held in physical mode.

The students who participated in the project were awarded with Appreciation Certificate.

# Assistance drive in collaboration with Neev Foundation for Legal Aid in filling Labour Card Form for the Construction Workers

The Legal Aid Society of Campus Law Centre in collaboration with **Neev - Foundation** for Legal Aid invited volunteers to assist the team in filling **Labour Card forms** for the **Construction workers.** 

This was open for all the students of Campus Law Centre on First Come, First Serve basis.

The drive held on 06th February, 2022. (Sunday) in virtual mode.

The majority of the students made the most of the opportunity and helped more than one hundred construction workers in filling their Labour Card form. The students after the event also followed up with the respective workers with regard to the progress of their application form and made the event great success.

### THE ROAD AHEAD

- 1) The society plans to resume the community outreach program and conduct **extensive follow-ups** in the on-going and future cases of LSC.
- 2) In the academic session 2022-2023, the society has a vision to focus on providing legal assistance and bridging a gap of access to legal aid which has been created due to the ongoing pandemic situation. The society will also focus on research on various issues which have arisen related to legal aid during the last academic year and the changes in sociopolitical aspects of the society affecting access to legal aid during and after Covid- 19 pandemic. This vision will broadly be achieved through the following projects:
  - a) Launch of Domestic Violence Handbook- Violence against women during Covid-19 was declared as "Shadow Pandemic" by UN Women organization. The society has worked on Domestic Violence (DV) Handbook during the academic session 2020-21. The launch of the handbook was put on hold due to the pandemic situation during April-June 2021 in Delhi. The society will make efforts to launch DV handbook in collaboration with DSLSA during the academic year 2022-23.
  - **b) Digital Literacy Project-** The field of digital rights is nascent and growing. At this juncture in legal history, we believe that creating this Project will provide the platform to have important discussions on digital rights amongst students, scholars, and practitioners. Working towards our goal of access to justice for all, this Project will be a step in that direction and a dive into the development of the right.
  - c) Collaboration- The society plans to collaborate with legal aid cells of other law schools, DSLSA and various other organizations to collectively work for our goal of access to justice for all. With such collaborative effort, the society would be able to provide legal aid and assistance effectively and reach out to a larger number of people in need of legal aid.

The society shall always strive towards its vision and innovate to create legal awareness and provide legal assistance.