

**Title: AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON FREE LEGAL AID
AND ADR MECHANISM**

Objective: 1. To make the students aware of the justice system prevailing India
2. To make aware of various legal schemes and Acts
3. To emphasis the role of paralegal volunteers appointed by the District Legal Services Authority to provide free legal aid

Date: 17-11-2018

Time: 11.00 a.m.

Resource Person: 1. Mr. Khagen Dohotia, Retd. District and Session Judge
2. Mrs. Jyotshna Das, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority,
Kamrup, Guwahati

Brief Report of the programme:

An awareness programme on “Free Legal Aid and ADR Mechanism” was organized by District Legal Services Authority, Kamrup, Guwahati, in the premises of Dispur Law College on 17th November, 2018. This programme was presided over by Dr. Gargi Dutta Paul, Principal in charge, Dispur Law College and delivered the welcome speech. Mr. Khagen Dohotia, Retd. District and Session Judge and Mrs. Jyotshna Das, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kamrup, Guwahati graced the programme as the Resource Persons. Mr. Khagen Dohotia in his valuable speech talked about the justice system prevailing in India. The Constitution of India has incorporated Art. 39 A by the Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976. Art. 39A empowered the State to enact legislation to promote justice and to provide to provide free legal aid. In the year 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted by the Parliament and this Act came into force on 9th November, 1995. Under this Act, the National Legal Services Authority has been constituted to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programme.



Fig: 1-Mr.Dohotia, Retd. District and Session Judge delivering his session

Mr. Dohotia also stated that in every State, a State Legal Services Authority and in every High Court, a High Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted. Moreover, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees have been constituted in the Districts and most of the Taluks in order to give effect to the policies and directions of the National Legal Services Authority and to provide free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalat in the State. Mr. Dohotia also spoke that the functions of National Legal Services Authority are to lay down policies, principles, guidelines and to frame effective and economic schemes for the State Legal Services Authority to implement the legal services programmes throughout the country. He also said that the primary functions of the State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees are – (a) to provide free and competent legal services to the eligible persons, (b) to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes, and (c) to organize legal awareness camps in the rural areas. He also discussed about various schemes and Acts, and in order to make those schemes and Acts more accessible to the common

people, mother tongue is encouraged. He had given emphasis on the role of paralegal volunteers appointed by the District Legal Services Authority to provide free legal aid.



Fig:2- Mrs. Jyotshna Das, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kamrup, Guwahati
delivering her session

Mrs. Jyotshna Das, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kamrup, Guwahati, in her speech talked about the Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms such as Arbitration, Conciliation, Lok Adalat etc and people were encouraged to go to the Lok Adalats. She also mentioned that former Judge of Gauhati High Court and presently the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court launched the programme “Reach and Respond” under which legal aid would be provided to the needy people and paralegal volunteers also may be sent to the place of needy people. She also talked about Lok Adalat system, Pre-litigative stages and pending cases.

The students also interacted with the resource persons. The programme was ended with the vote of thanks offered by Ms. Kuhelika Saikia , a student of 5 Year B.A.LL.B.9th Semester.

Authenticated by:



(Dr.Gargi Dutta Paul)
Principal
Dispur Law College



(Dr. Swapna Manindranath Deka)
Vice- Principal & Coordinator
IQAC, Dispur Law College