

BATCH OF 2004-2009

LEGAL AID PROGRAM – (LEGAL AID AND PARA LEGAL SERVICES)

Group Members –

- T. Bharat Ratna (2004-66) (Group Leader)
- Akash Deep (2004-03)
- Ankit Swarup (2004-09)
- Chakhin Sarah Wanglat (2003-14)
- Datta Abhiroop Amitava (2004-15)
- Dechen Wangmo (2004-16)
- Deepu Jacob Thomas (2004-17)
- Kapadia Shyam Ajit (2004-22)
- Kiran J. Prakash (2004-26)
- Raghav Awasthi (2004-60)
- Tejasvi Purusharth (2004-64)
- Ugyen Wangdi (2004-67)
- Vibhu Verma (2003-65)

The first batch of Nalsar to start the Legal Aid Clinic, their experiential gains made during the course of the exercise not only laid down a ground for a legal aid clinic for the batches to come but also made the group members familiar in getting in tone with the problems faced by common people that often goes unaddressed. The exercise was taken place in Shameerpet Village in Rangareddy District of A.P. The members went through 46 households in the village of Shameerpet where they identified 5 problems out of which two problems were not strictly legal in nature. They concentrated more on the daily problems faced by the villagers due to institutional neglect like drainage problems. Three problems very strictly legal in perspective, out of which two problems dealt with land encroachment while one of the problems centred on accidental compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act.

Looked and assessed the Aarogyasri Health Care Trust and the Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme for the BPL Families in the State of Andhra Pradesh which was implemented specifically by the Aarogya Sri Health Care Trust office at Koti, Hyderabad. The Shameerpet Mandal executive implementation functions via the The Shameerpet Mandal Government Clinic, The Mandal Revenue Office, The Shameerpet Gram Panchayat. The

group members visited the government hospitals, approached the Surpanch Officer and the Deputy Tehsildar.

REPORT ON FIELD WORK (GROUP II)

Group Members –

- Amandeep Rajgotra (2004-05)
- Aniket Prasoon (2004-08)
- Chetan Lokur (2004-14)
- V. Siddhivardhana (2004-20)
- Lohitaksha Shukla (2004-30)
- Nidhi Singh (2004-32)
- Nima Dorji (2004-34)
- Preshit Surshe (2004-60)
- Siddharth Mittal (2004-52)
- Sonam Tobgay (2004-55)
- Swagata Naik (2004-61)
- Utsav Mukherjee (2004-68)
- Vipin Tyagi (2004-74)

Dividing the report problem wise, four problems have been identified in the report; three are legal and one is municipal. While working on the Sewage problems raised by the resident of the Shameerpet village, the group looked at various schemes and programmes including the Total Sanitation Campaign. The team spoke to the residents and recorded 10 problems related to the sanitation and sewage problems. The group also made a record of the condition of the road and followed it up with the Panchayat Office. Meeting with the General Secretary was held regarding the implementation of the TSC. Informed and valuable suggestions were made by the team to the General Secretary regarding these problems. Apart from these municipal problems, legal problems identified were land disputes. The group visited the Mandal Record Office and helped the complainant compile important legal documents and advised him to file the matter in the court. The other complaint which the group came across was regarding patentability of a drug and followed up the problem through the National Innovation Foundation.

OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME IN SHAMEERPET: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

Group Members –

- Vinay Kesari (2004-21) (Group Leader)
- Khalid Mohammed (2004-25)
- Prasan Dhar (2004-38)
- Ruchira Goel (2004-45)
- Siddharth Sihag (2004-53)
- Zehra Khan (2004-78)
- Nirajan Man Singh (2004-36)
- Prashant Roy (2004-39)
- Shagun Parashar (2004-47)
- Vivek Rathore (2004-77)
- Mohsin Alam (2004-79)

The group worked in the Shameerpet region and came across three major problems: non-receipt of pension, land disputes and an accident case. The group spoke to the family who were involved in the accident case, the Sarpanch, people in the Panchayat office to find out what schemes were available and how many people enrolled in them. Similar details were sought out from the Mandal office. The group also found out people in the area who were not enrolled in the scheme and spread awareness about the existence of these schemes. For this, they adopted the door-to-door method and spoke to the aged people in the area regarding the scheme and cleared up misconception regarding eligibility for the scheme. Overcoming the language barrier, the group spoke to people who mostly complained of being in a very bad financial state, poor health conditions, diseases, lack of proper drinking water supply, bad sanitation facilities etc. Regarding Pension Scheme, the problems that the group encountered were that a) People entitled were not receiving it every month, b) that they were not receiving it even though people younger to them were, c) that the person receiving it in the family had died and that the pension has not been stopped, d) that there are more than one elderly in the family but only one receives it and e) that they don't have proper documents to claim the pension.

LEGAL AID REPORT (GROUP IV)

Group Members –

- Nishita Medha (2004-37)

- Divya Mundra (2004-02)
- Gruhalakshmi Kumar (2004-18)
- Krishna Srikanth (2004-27)
- Lakshmi Kruttika Vijay (2004-28)
- Shivaji Bhattacharya (2004-50)
- Sneha Jha (2004-54)
- Suhasini Sen (2004-59)
- Swaraj Paul Baroaah (2004-62)
- Veena Ganesh (2004-70)
- Yashasvini Kumar (2004-71)
- Srilekha Sridhar (2004-75)

The group carried out their course of action in the Shameerpet village and identified several problems: Garbage collection, problems related to water supply, open drains and drinking water problems, girl's school closed, Untarred roads with potholes, Corruption in the Indiramma housing scheme, Land grabbing of Government lands, rent in the Panchayat owned buildings, medical treatment, legal cases of criminal nature and a property dispute case. The group followed up the Indiramma housing scheme in greater detail. The group initiated the placing the complaint box where the affected people could drop in their complaints grievances and queries. The box would be a) installed at a location where the people will be able to use the facility without being hounded by the locals in power, b) entrusted to a local member to ensure its safety and security, c) secured sufficiently to prevent tampering and d) publicized.

WORKING REPORT OF THE LEGAL AID INITIATIVES ON THE SHAMEERPET VILLAGE DURING JULY-OCTOBER 2008 (GROUP VI)

Group Members –

- P. Pallavi (2003-44) (Group Leader)
- Alekhya Prakash (2004-04)
- Astha Mehta (2004-12)
- Neha Bahl (2004-31)
- Rajni Soren (2004-43)
- Shilipi (2004-49)

- Stella Joseph (2004058)
- Tine Elizabeth Abraham (2004-65)
- Shruti Singh (2004-73)
- Priti Prasad (2004-80)

Restricting themselves to the Shameerpet village, the group engaged themselves with quite many issues. With respect to the municipal problems, the group's primary concern was the non-supply of drinking water, supply of unclean water for cooking and washing and the inconvenience caused due to the distance of municipal water taps from the houses. Apart from community problems, other set of problems dealt with were taxation, fudging landholding records, problems at marital home, refusal to maintain the women after her husband's death, compensation under widow's pension and disability schemes and under schemes for rebuilding houses collapsed due to torrential rains. The group visited the Mandal Development Office, Mandal Revenue Office and the Panchayat Office. While shortlisting the appropriate candidates as recipients of legal aid, the group considered the factors such as, a) legal deposition of the problem so that the acquired legal skills of the group members could be deployed successfully, b) solvable disposition of the problems given the restricted time and resources that the group possessed, c) non-concurring and unique disposition of the problem, so that problems were not handled by the parallel groups working under the overall aegis of the Legal Aid Initiative in Nalsar and duplicity of work could be avoided, d) complete consent and permission given by the people for the group to provide legal assistance for their problems.

LEGAL AID REPORT (GROUP VII)

Group Members –

- Shilpa (2002-37) (Group Leader)
- Aakash Prasad (2004-01)
- Archisman Chowdhary (2004-10)
- Akshay Khobraghare (2003-06)
- Nilesh Pius Kujur (2004-33)
- Nima Lhaden (2004-35)
- Rahul Chandra (2004-41)
- Sandeep Challa (2004-13)

- Vasudha Singh (2004-69)

The group's territorial coverage included Shameerpet Gram Mandal, Gram Panchayat Office in Thumkunta, House of Sarpanch, State Human Rights Commission Office, Nampally, Office of the Commissioner, Gachibowli and the Medchal Court. The group's scope of legal research involved legal questions and procedures and adopted both the direct as well as indirect approach. While selecting the cases, the group followed a certain criterion that a) cases where the group could provide help on a regular and reasonable basis considering their own limitations of time and work pressure, b) cases where there was a scope of legal aid, bringing some benefit especially in the short and medium run, c) Refrained from taking up disputes regarding the sites on Nalsar campus, d) priority was to take cases where the parties were interested in pursuing the matter, e) never to take cases where there were village sensibilities involved and which had ongoing rivalry and violent feuds of recent origin and f) did take cases even though with the realization that such cases had no future scope.

The group worked on various legal and non-legal cases, such as, working on community problems, specifically the maintenance of roads, the Lavanya Pata case, Shankar's case, Gun License case, Assault case, Hit and Run case and Narasimha case. The group also involved themselves in spreading awareness about the legal aid office as well as educating local residents about their legal rights.