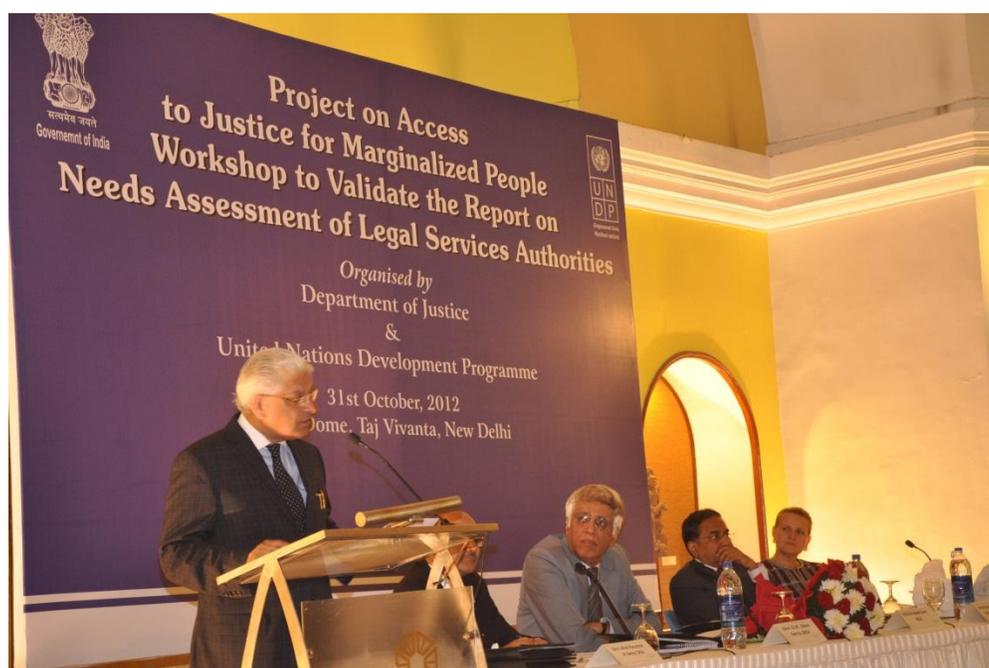


PROJECT ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR MARGINALISED PEOPLE

WORKSHOP REPORT

ON

**VALIDATION OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY OF LEGAL SERVICES
AUTHORITIES**



OCTOBER 31, 2012

Organised by

Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India

and

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND TO THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROJECT:

The Constitution of India obliges the State to make laws for the provision of legal aid. Enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act and the creation of Legal Service Authorities (at the national, state, and district levels), along with Legal Services Committees (at the Supreme Court, High Court, and Taluka Courts) was an important step towards meeting the constitutionally mandated obligation with regards to the provision of legal aid. However, lot more is required to be done in the area of legal aid and empowerment. The Legal Services Authorities, led by the National Legal Services Authority, are taking several steps to enhance people's access to justice by providing improved legal services. The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, under its Project on Access to Justice for Marginalized People, seeks to support the Legal Services Authorities in their endeavours.



**"Access to justice is not only a constitutional directive, but a core part of the current government's ideology, in that the rule of law can only be secured if there is timely and affordable justice for all" -
Dr. Ashwani Kumar,
Hon'ble Minister for Law
and Justice**

The Project on **Access to Justice for Marginalized People (A2J)** is being implemented with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support. It aims to strengthen access to justice for the marginalised sections of Indian society—particularly women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh (M.P), Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (U.P). Apart from implementing several activities for legal empowerment of the communities encouraging them to seek and demand justice, a key focus of the Project is to strengthen the institutional capacities of key justice service providers, particularly the Legal Services Authorities, to enable them to effectively serve the poor and disadvantaged.

The project started in 2009 and is in the process of completing its first phase. The next phase of the project is slated to commence from 2013 and would conclude in 2017. Over the last three years, the Project has enhanced legal awareness by reaching out to 20 lakh individuals and training over 7,000 paralegals and 300 lawyers on issues relating to people from marginalised communities.

1.2. PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP:

The National Legal Services Authorities (NALSA) and State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) are the key institutions providing legal services to the poor. Therefore, supporting these Authorities in developing their abilities to better serve the people has been one of the key focus areas of the A2J Project. One of the strategies adopted to support the Legal Services Authorities was to conduct a needs assessment study. The key objective of this study was to examine the needs of the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) in order to fulfil their statutory mandate and make recommendations for strengthening their functioning so that they are able to meet the expectations better as expressed in the LSA Act and other relevant documents. The study was conducted by the Multiple Action Research Group (MARG), a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in 2011. The period covered under the study is between 2006 and 2010. . The SLSAs in all seven project states were studied with regards to their three main functions (i) Legal Aid (ii) Legal Awareness and (iii) dispute resolution through Lok Adalats.

Following the completion of the needs assessment study, MARG shared a draft report with DoJ, which was circulated to NALSA and the SLSAs for comments on the findings. Thereafter, a daylong workshop was organised on 31 October 2012 in Delhi to bring together NALSA and SLSAs to take on board their comments. The workshop benefited from the participation of the Member Secretaries of the SLSAs from across the country. The list of participants is available at Annexure 1. This provided an opportunity to all the SLSAs (including those which were not studied and were, therefore, unable to share their inputs earlier) to comment on the findings, share and learn best practices, and discuss strategies to strengthen the existing legal services framework.



“We must look into gaps or challenges constructively and positively with the sole objective of improving the quality of existing legal services, overcoming impediments and shortcomings” – Mr. D.K. Sikri, Secretary, Justice.

SECTION II – OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP

2.1. INAUGURATION OF THE WORKSHOP:

The workshop began with the Welcome Address and opening remarks by Ms. Lise Grande, United Nations Resident Coordinator & Resident Representative, UNDP, India, followed by a Welcome Address by Mr. Devender Kumar Sikri, Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice. This was followed by the presentation on the key findings and recommendations of the needs assessment study by Ms. Anju Talukdar, Director, MARG. Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice delivered the Keynote Address. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Hon'ble Justice D.K. Jain, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairperson, NALSA. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks from Mr. Atul Kaushik, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice.

2.2. KEY FINDINGS OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY:

The Needs Assessment Study focused on three main issues: (i) Legal Aid, (ii) Legal Awareness and (iii) Lok Adalats. Listed below are the key findings with regard to the three issues:

(i) Legal Aid

- **Beneficiaries:** The past 4 years has seen an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the States of M.P., Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. In contrast, there has been a significant decrease in the number of beneficiaries in Bihar, UP and Rajasthan. Respondents in MP, Bihar and Jharkhand expressed satisfaction with the services offered, while noting that they often had to pay court and clerkage fees.
- **Selection of panel Lawyers:** The selection process varied across States; there is no standard selection process for lawyers.
- **Training of panel lawyers:** Most legal aid lawyers received no formal training or orientation, nor were the expectations regarding the level of service expected made clear to them.
- **Fee Structure of panel lawyers:** There was general dissatisfaction with the fee structure amongst legal aid lawyers in almost all the States studied. In addition, the process of fee collection was found to be cumbersome.
- **Monitoring of legal aid cases:** The majority of States lacked proper record keeping systems, making case tracking problematic.

- **Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs):** Formal training and orientation were rarely provided to the PLVs.
- **Linkage with other Agencies, Commissions and NGOs:** The practice on effectively coordinating with other agencies, commissions, and NGOs was mixed. Some SLSAs were able to establish good relationships with other groups, for some these linkages were progressing, though not yet ideal, while others did not have any such relationships.

(ii) Legal Awareness

- **Legal awareness sessions/camps:** Lecture style methodology was used by the Judicial Officers in MP, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha to create legal awareness in the community. Very few States provided sessions aimed at addressing how the resource persons could best spread awareness amongst the population.
- **Choice of topic:** The majority of states did not consult the community on their priorities and need before selecting a topic for legal awareness.
- **Legal Literacy Materials:** The materials created and used for legal awareness were unanimously considered to be useful. But, there were issues related to the availability of adequate numbers of copies for dissemination within the community.
- **Women Beneficiaries:** Women interviewed in Bihar, UP, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, had never heard of the SLSAs and were unaware that they offered free legal services.

(iii) Lok Adalats

- **Cases settled:** In the period between 2006 and 2010, the seven States together have settled 55,90,080 cases.
 - ✓ Bihar settled 479,841 cases.
 - ✓ Jharkhand settled 66,402 cases.
 - ✓ Chhattisgarh settled 67,567 cases.
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh settled 16,661,133 cases.
 - ✓ Odisha settled 646,686 cases.
 - ✓ Rajasthan settled 323,119 cases.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh settled 2,340,332 cases.
- **Client Satisfaction:** Clients and lawyers were, by and large, happy with the outcome of the Lok Adalats.



“UNDP is committed to the A2J project and will commit significant technical support towards improving legal awareness and legal aid services” - Ms. Lise Grande, Resident Representative, United Nations

2.3. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES:

(i) Legal Aid: Selection, Trainings and Payments of Panel Lawyers:

The Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (M.P. SLSA) stated that efforts are underway to put a selection procedure in place for their panel lawyers. Uttar Pradesh does not yet have any set procedures for the selection of lawyers. Instead, there is a Statutory Committee which, in consultation with the Advocate General, District Government Council and the President of the Bar Association, selects the panel lawyers from a list of eligible and willing lawyers who have been members of the bar in good standing for at least three years.

In Bihar, a list of panel lawyers is prepared in accordance with the SLSA's and NALSA's regulations. All Judgeships are asked to prepare a list of legal aid lawyers, and to create separate lists for specialists in the fields of juvenile justice, domestic violence, civil law, criminal law and revenue law. The empanelment of legal aid lawyers in Odisha is done in accordance with the Scheme of Free and Competent Legal Services for the needy. Under this scheme, District Authorities appoint panel lawyers in consultation with the office bearers of the Bar.

Appointment in Jharkhand is not based on formal procedures. Normally a letter is sent to the bar inviting applications from lawyers with experience ranging from 5-10 years, 10-15 years and 15 years and beyond. Selection is made as a result of personal interaction and there is no publication of successful names. However, this practice of not publishing names is expected to be eschewed in the near future. In Rajasthan, lawyers apply to be selected, or have their names recommended by either the Chairperson or the President of the Bar Association. After completion of the selection process, the selected lawyers are informed in writing by the Rajasthan SLSA.

The Member Secretary of the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority suggested that names should be invited from the Bar and judicial officers, as these are the people who will be aware as to which lawyers have the capacity and motivation to dedicate proper time to their clients. Another suggestion was that lawyers should be empanelled for a period of 1-2 years, after which a fresh selection procedure should be undertaken.

In so far as training of lawyers is concerned, the Bihar SLSA stated that although their training programmes have not been finalized yet, they have set up a number of interim programmes for training legal aid lawyers, which are run by the Bihar Judicial Academy. The topics for these training programmes are based on the NALSA guidelines and include the topics prescribed for PLVs. With regards to the fee structure

for legal aid lawyers, the BSLSA noted that remittance of fees is made in accordance with the Bihar Regulations of 1998 and the directions given by NALSA.

The Member Secretary of the OSLSA, discussing the payment of fees, commented that Odisha Regulations prescribe very low fees, and as a result, the lawyers tend not to collect their remuneration. Furthermore, the prescribed procedure for the collection of fees further deters lawyers from claiming their remuneration. Consequently, the OSLSA has revised the existing fee structure and payment plan and is awaiting approval from the Finance Department.

Speaking on the fee structure, the Member Secretary from the JHALSA remarked that while their fee scale had previously been low, Rs. 500/- per case for general cases and Rs. 1000-1500 for Writ Cases, recent proposed amendments will lead to a substantial increase in the fee structure. Similarly, the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) has also substantially raised the remuneration rates, which now stand between Rs.2000/- to 5,500/- per case.

(ii) Legal Aid: Beneficiaries

The Member Secretary, RSLSA pointed out there has been an increase in the minimum income criteria for availing legal aid, which has been enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.25 lakhs. Additionally since 2011, the *Victim Compensation Scheme* is being implemented by the SLSA through its District Legal Services Authorities.

The Member Secretary, BSLSA pointed out that there is a dearth of eligible litigants approaching the SLSA for availing legal aid services. The Secretary, Justice, commenting on this remark, noted that while the findings of the report seem to support this statement, logically, this does not seem to fit with the economic and social situation in the State. He, therefore, urged the Member Secretary to investigate the reasons for such a low volume of people seeking legal assistance.

In response to certain findings in the study relating to Jharkhand, the Member Secretary of Jharkhand clarified that in civil cases, the beneficiaries are not required to pay any fee. In criminal cases also, there is no requirement to pay court fees other than a small application charge of Rs. 1.50 or Rs. 5.

(iii) Legal Awareness

In Uttar Pradesh, SLSA camps are held in collaboration with the District Revenue Authorities, who assist with logistical support. In Uttar Pradesh, the selection of topics

for the training sessions is based on the local needs. The Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA) mentioned that legal awareness camps in the state are conducted by both administrative and judicial officers. Karnataka State Legal Services Authority uses four buses, which are each able to facilitate three camps per day.

The Executive Chairperson of the RLSA conducted several awareness camps in jails, publicity of which was done on a large scale. The BSLSA pointed also out that the Member Secretary and the SLSA Chairperson visit several jails every month, as required by Supreme Court directive.

The Legal Services Authorities face a number of challenges in organising outreach and awareness camps. The participants at the workshop emphasised that key challenges relate to the lack of infrastructure and proper platforms for conducting the awareness and publicity of events (due to a lack of funds). In response to the recommendation made by MARG regarding holding prior consultations with the community to select the topics for creating awareness, the Member Secretaries felt that it would be difficult to do this. In practice, it was pointed out that the LSAs conduct hundreds of such camps every year. They will not have time to go into the community and seek their views on the topics for the legal awareness camps. A solution suggested to address this problem was that the Member Secretaries should meet periodically with the community to discuss and formulate a broad list of training topics that could be used for planning and executing the training programmes.

In so far as legal awareness materials are concerned, M.P. SLSA pointed out that they would soon publish and disseminate materials on relevant laws and schemes. Similarly, Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) has created 7 volumes of law books, in the local language, which are due to be released in the foreseeable future.

(iv) Paralegals:

The U.P. SLSA is currently training law students to serve as paralegals, using formal training sessions and exposure visits. The Bihar SLSA is currently revising the manner in which it recruits paralegals in order to comply with the amended NALSA guidelines. Bihar's list of Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs) will be released shortly. The SLSAs also shared some of the key challenges faced by them in implementing the NALSA paralegal scheme:

- Selection of paralegals: Getting quality paralegals remains a key challenge.

- Adequate resources for paralegal training: Allocated fund are not sufficient for organising residential training programmes for paralegals and distribution of resource materials.
- Resource persons: There is a dearth of trained resource persons for capacity development of paralegals.
- Honorarium for paralegal: There is lack of clarity regarding honorarium to be paid to paralegals. Lack of incentive hampers the motivation level of paralegals. Retaining PLVs remains a key challenge for LSAs.
- Lack of linkages with CSOs: CSOs/NGOs can play an important role in capacity development and mentoring of paralegals. However, there are very few CSOs working on socio-legal issues. Those NGOs which work on these issues are not willing to work closely with LSAs on this issue.

(v) **Lok Adalats:**

The Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (U.P. SLSA) pointed out that since 1987, the use of Lok Adalats in Uttar Pradesh has steadily increased, and to date, the SLSA has managed to settle approximately 1 crore cases. Notably, in the last financial year (2011-12), U.P. SLSA was able to settle around 6,50,000 cases. This year (2012), the U.P. SLSA has, till date, settled around 4 lakh cases and shall be able to settle more than 5 lakh cases in the remaining months of the current financial year. The U.P. SLSA also conducts Special Lok Adalats for Juveniles, called the '*Bal Samvad Lok Adalat*'. Under this scheme, the SLSA settled 1266 cases during the first 9 months of 2012, and has helped 1167 juveniles stay out of the criminal justice system.

The Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA) has also settled a large number of disputes through the Lok Adalats system. More than 1 lakh 90 thousand cases have been settled between 2002 and 2012.



“The goal of the Legal Services Authorities is to make justice accessible to all. Statistical achievements should be used not just to showcase accomplishments but to encourage the marginalised to come forth” - Hon'ble Justice D.K. Jain, Executive Chairperson, NALSA

(vi) **Record Keeping and Accreditation of Non Government Organisations (NGOs):**

With regard to the maintenance of records, the BSLSA commented that a register is maintained at the SLSA office where details of the legal aid cases are duly recorded. There was, however, a broad agreement amongst the participants that the systems of record keeping need to be reviewed and improved.

With respect to accreditation of NGOs, the BSLSA stated that a list of credible NGOs was obtained from the Judges, and a letter has been sent to all the District Legal Services Authorities instructing them to obtain police verification reports from the Superintendent of Police along with the financial returns of the NGOs for the last 3 years.

SECTION III – BEST PRACTICES & MODELS FOR REPLICATION

KEY BEST PRACTICES IDENTIFIED BY THE STUDY

- A toll free legal helpline number
- Outreach through websites
- Use of documentary films for awareness generation and publicity
- Holding legal aid clinics in jails
- Use of mobile vans for holding Lok Adalats
- Promotion of school legal literacy clubs
- Disaster management programmes for victims of calamity
- Filing of Public Interest Litigation
- Setting up monitoring committees to monitor progress in legal aid cases
- Holding televised panel discussion on rights and entitlements

Select Best Practices:

The two States short-listed by the study, as offering several ideas and practices worthy of replication were Delhi and Haryana.

1. Delhi State Legal Services Authority:



Partnerships:

The decision of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority's (DSLISA) to partner with the Mission Convergence Programme of the Delhi Government was a strategic move that resulted in large scale publicity for the DSLISA.

Under the Mission Convergence Programme, the Delhi Government has set up Gender Resource Centres (GRC) at every 3 km, primarily to empower women in the community through training, awareness generation and provision of legal aid services. DSLISA is responsible for the legal aid services component. The GRCs are State sponsored and legal aid undertaken by the DSLISA under this programme is sponsored by the Delhi Government under the Mission Convergence Programme.

In terms of providing services, a DSLISA lawyer is always available in the community not only for providing legal advice but also for counselling the parties involved in petty disputes, which need not be taken to court. Once a case is referred by the community paralegals for adjudication through the Courts, the DSLISA lawyers provide their services from the initial stage of the case till its conclusion. Records are maintained with regard to the number of cases referred and the number of cases registered with the office of the DSLISA. This negates the practice of touting for cases and ensures efficient solutions.

Another aspect of this partnership is that the GRCs are also used for placing student volunteers during a summer and winter internship programme. Interns are trained to work with the community, and to provide training and awareness generation.

To maintain the quality of their services, the DSLISA takes regular feedback from the GRCs on the services provided by their lawyers, students or any other representatives.

Training panel lawyers:

Training panel lawyers is one of the important components of the DSLISA's function, as this ensures the quality of their services. Lawyers undergo various training programmes which are mostly conducted by retired judges, senior lawyers and sitting judges within court premises, thereby substantially cutting down on the cost of training.

The first training session for the panel lawyers is generally the orientation session which centres on sharing the objectives of the DSLISA and its vision. Later training sessions centre around building and enhancing practical skills and include sessions on drafting, pleading, framing of issues, cross examination, legal ethics and plea bargaining. The assessment of this model found that lawyers took active interest in the trainings, and also suggested additional training topics.

Video Conferencing:

Initially, the facilities for video conferencing were available only in the High Court, but now these have been extended to all District Courts and Jails. As a result, DSLSA lawyers can now communicate with their incarcerated clients through video conferencing. The use of video conferencing has now become so common that even remand orders are heard through video conferencing, avoiding the need for undertrials to be physically brought to the court premises.

Paralegals:

The DSLSA has created three types of paralegals. The first type are attached to the GRCs, and undergo 24 training sessions over a period of six months, in order to be able to provide services to the community. The second type of paralegals are jail inmates who are selected based on their interest levels and length of sentence. They are trained by the DSLSA officials on rights and entitlements, and are empowered to provide assistance to other inmates and to make referrals to panel lawyers. The third type of paralegals are students who are trained by the Member Secretaries and the SLSA lawyers.

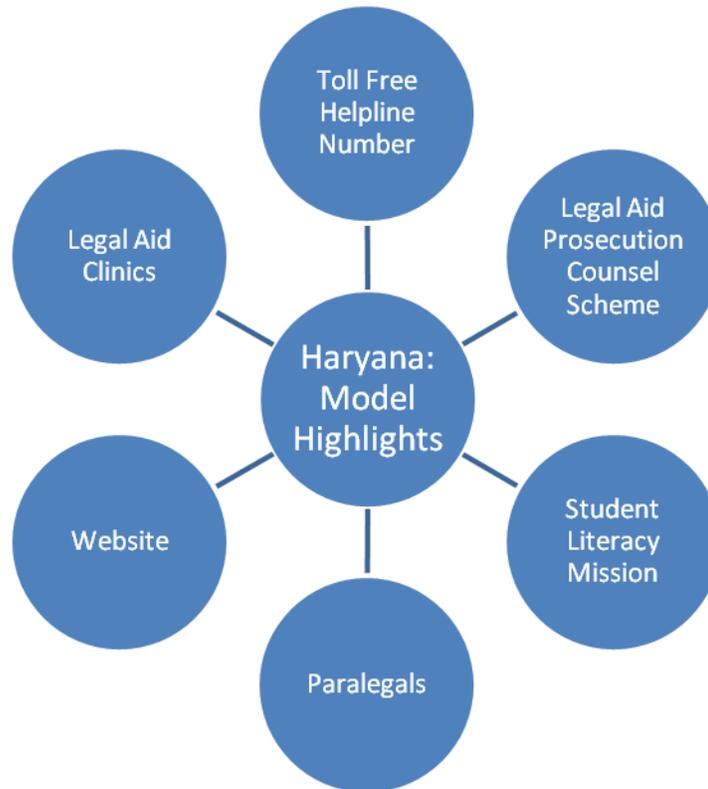
Services for Rape Victims and Missing Children:

As per the High Court direction, the DSLSA now functions as an interface between the police and the families of rape victims and missing children. The DSLSA has prepared Standard Operating Procedures for the police when dealing with cases of rape and missing children. Copies of the First Information Report in cases of rape or missing children are directly picked up by DSLSA lawyers from the police stations. The DSLSA then investigates these cases looking for any evidence of further abuse, such as trafficking or torture.

Proactive approach to legal services: the case of mental health of street children:

This is a unique model being practiced in Delhi since 2008. The focus under this initiative is the care and protection of street children in need of treatment for mental health problems. The process of getting treatment orders was found to take a full day, which meant loss of income for the working child. The reason for the delay was that the process required the police to produce the child before a Magistrate who would then pass an order for a certificate of mental illness from a doctor. Only when the doctor issued a certificate were the treatment orders passed. To streamline this process, the DSLSA, with the approval of the High Court, now holds open court in the Jama Masjid area of Delhi every Monday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. The Magistrates are assisted by teams of doctors and therefore treatment orders may be granted instantly, where appropriate. This new process has been found to be child friendly and accessible.

2. Haryana State Legal Services Authority



Toll Free Helpline Number:

The calls to the toll free helpline number are received at the head office of the SLSA by a legal assistance officer. Calls are then redirected to the concerned District Legal Services Authority for legal assistance. Information related to the call is forwarded directly to the concerned authority. A register is also maintained which is used for recording the names and contact details of the caller, in order to facilitate case tracking.

Legal Aid Prosecution Counsel Scheme:

A list of female lawyers and their contact details is circulated to all police stations for use in cases related to crimes against women and children. Despite the lists being with the police stations, the Station House Officers of various police stations refrained from calling these lawyers, as they feared interference in the case. However, after the recent rise in reported crime against women in Haryana, a circular has been issued to the Secretaries of all the DLSAs in Haryana to ensure that either a female lawyer or PLV is available to all female complainants.

Student Literacy Mission:

Students are seen as important agents for social change. An initiative was started in 2006 in collaboration with the Education Department of Haryana, under which, the Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HSLSA) conducted six days of legal awareness training for teachers, who then passed on this information to their students. Apart from training the teachers, the DLSA spread awareness amongst students through competitions on rights and entitlements. This programme started at the government schools at the block level, and was later extended to districts and finally, was taken up at the State Level. After the success of the school programme, it was extended to government colleges. As the initial phase of the programme was implemented only in government schools and colleges, it was able to reach out to approximately 35% of the student population only. In the second phase, the HSLSA will reach out to private schools and colleges also.

Paralegal Scheme, Website and Legal Aid Clinics:

- ✓ The paralegals are selected by the sarpanches with the help of the SLSA, and are provided with a six day intensive training programme by the panel lawyers of the HSLSA.
- ✓ There is a dedicated technician to manage the website and ensure effective information sharing.
- ✓ The HSLSA conducts 20 Legal Aid Clinics per month in each district. Every Legal Aid Clinic has trained paralegals and lawyers, who are available twice a week.

SECTION IV – CONCLUSION

The day long deliberation on the findings of the Needs Assessment Study of the Legal Services Authorities and existing best practice models was brought to a close with a general agreement amongst the SLSAs regarding the findings of the Report. Based on the deliberations of the SLSAs, it was recommended that some of the factual errors in the report be amended. Furthermore, in order that the report maintains its relevance and value, it was agreed that brief information would be added to the Report to illustrate the changed practice of the SLSAs since 2010.

In the concluding session, five actionable points were highlighted.

1. All project states should devise a mechanism for providing legal awareness at the school level. This will ensure that the next generation is aware, sensitised, respectful of the rule of law, and become harbingers of change.
2. As demonstrated by the DSLSA, many benefits can accrue through strategic partnerships and alliances. It is, therefore, in the best interest of all SLSAs to explore and identify potential areas of cooperation with existing government schemes.
3. It is imperative that SLSAs act to ensure the coherence of policies and procedures. In order to simplify and expedite matters for the beneficiaries of their services, the SLA should be a 'one stop shop' for all legal aid matters. This implies that the SLSAs must strive to increase the level of coordination, synergies and policy coherence with the relevant organisations and Government Departments.
4. It is important to ensure that all measures and initiatives adopted by the SLSAs are sustainable to ensure continuity of service. The LSAs must then undertake extensive financial and resource impact analysis prior to the introduction or modification of schemes or work practices.
5. The importance of monitoring activities, in order to assess achievements and to identify areas for further development or change, cannot be over emphasised. All SLSAs were urged to initiate appropriate monitoring programmes for all their activities.

The atmosphere at the workshop was one of hope and satisfaction at a good beginning. The needs of SLSAs and the gaps in the service delivery were discussed openly and solutions generated. The SLSAs indicated their willingness to go beyond the improvements discussed in the report and expressed interest in maintaining linkages with the project, and in learning from other good practices, both from within and outside India. The SLSAs expressed their appreciation for the opportunity provided by this interactive session, and showed their willingness to be part of future events aimed at improving the delivery of legal services to the marginalised communities of India.

The Department and UNDP pointed out that the A2J project has benefited from a high degree of ownership amongst all stakeholders as well as from the widespread support of the SLSAs in the seven project states. These factors demonstrate the resounding will within India and amongst the SLSAs to improve the delivery of legal aid services within the country. This is a positive indicator for the future of the legal aid system in India, creating reasonable expectations that the replicable models and action points identified in the study would be considered for adoption by the SLSAs. The next phase for the A2J project will focus on strengthening linkages with NALSA and SLSAs to support them in effectively fulfilling their mandate. The project will also seek to facilitate stronger partnerships between the NALSA, SLSAs and other stakeholders including Government Departments, Commissions, civil society organisations, law schools, and law firms, to facilitate improved delivery of legal services.



Project on Access to Justice for Marginalized People

Workshop to Validate the Report on Needs Assessment of Legal Services Authorities



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

October 31, 2012

Venue: The Dome, **Taj Vivanta Ambassador Hotel**, Sujan Singh Park, Subramania Bharti Marg (near Khan Market)

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Registration and Tea
9:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Inaugural Session
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Welcome address and opening remarks Ms Lise Grande, Resident Representative, UNDP Shri D. K. Sikri, Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, GOI
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Presentation of “Needs Assessment Study”, a report analyzing the functioning of Legal Services Authorities in Target States Presentation by Ms. Anju Talukdar, Director MARG
10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Keynote Address Shri Ashwani Kumar, Hon’ble Minister of Law and Justice
10:10 AM – 10:25 AM	Inaugural Address Hon’ble Shri Justice D.K. Jain, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairperson, NALSA
10:25 AM – 10:30 AM	Vote of Thanks Shri Atul Kaushik

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM	Tea
10:50AM –11:00 AM	Preliminary Remarks on the Report Member Secretary, NALSA
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Remarks on the Report by SLSAs of all states Moderator: Shri D. K. Sikri, Secretary, Department of Justice <i>The State Legal Services Authorities of all states including the seven states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh will provide brief comments on the report and an opportunity will be given to the authors of the report to respond to the comments</i>
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM – 3:20 PM	Identified Best Practices - Models for Replication Moderator: Shri Atul Kaushik, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice <i>Many good practices have been identified in the report. Some are from the 7 SLASs studied in the report. Others are from Delhi and Haryana. In addition, other good practices can be discussed and identified. This will be an open house discussion where MARG, SLSAs, and NALSA will provide inputs on these best practices and the possibilities of replication in other parts of the country.</i>
3:20 PM – 3:30 PM	Tea
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Moderated Discussion on the Way Forward Moderator: UNDP <i>The session aims to receive inputs and strategies- based on the recommendations of the report and the discussion held in the preceding sessions- to strengthen legal services in India. Suggestions will be sought for possible interventions/support from the Project in the next phase (2013-2017)</i>
4:45PM – 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks Shri Atul Kaushik, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice

List of Participants

S.No.	Name and Designation
1.	Hon'ble Justice D.K. Jain Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairperson NALSA
2.	Hon'ble Shri Ashwani Kumar, Minister of Law and Justice
3.	Shri D.K.Sikri Secretary, Department of Justice
4.	Ms. Lise Grande UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative
5.	Ms. Caitlin Wiesen-Antin Country Director, UNDP
6.	Shri. U. Sarathchandran, Member Secretary, National Legal Services Authority
7.	Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava Joint Secretary, Department of Justice
8.	Shri. Atul Kaushik Joint Secretary, Department of Justice
9.	Shri. Anil Gulati Joint Secretary, Department of Justice
10.	Smt. Neerja Sekhar, Director, Department of Justice
11.	Shri YM Pande Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice
12.	Shri. S.Ravi Kumar, Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority
13.	Shri. Radha Krishna Member Secretary, Bihar State Legal Services Authority
14.	Shri Jagdeep Jain, Member Secretary, Union Territory of Chandigarh, State Legal Services Authority
15.	Shri. AK Singhal Member Secretary Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority
16.	Smt. Asha Menon, Member Secretary, Delhi State Legal Services Authority

S.No.	Name and Designation
17.	Shri A.P.Thaker, Member Secretary, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority
18.	Shri Deepak Gupta. Member Secretary, Haryana State Legal Services Authority
19.	Shri. D.K.Sharma, Member Secretary, H.P. State Legal Services Authority
20.	Shri B.K.Goswami, Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority
21.	Shri. Irshad Ahmed Special Secretary Law Government of Jammu and Kashmir
22.	Shri Viswanath V. Angadi, Member Secretary, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority
23.	Shri P Mohanadas Member Secretary, Kerala State Legal Services Authority
24.	Shri Anurag Kumar Shrivastava, Member Secretary, M.P. State Legal Services Authority
25.	Shri A. Guneshwar Sharma, Member Secretary, Manipur State Legal Services Authority
26.	Shri. W. Diengdoh Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority
27.	Ms.Marli Vankung, Member Secretary, Mizoram State Legal Services Authority
28.	Shri Mayang Lima Member Secretary, Nagaland State Legal Services Authority
29.	Shri Bijaya Chandra Rath Member Secretary, Orissa State Legal Services Authority
30.	Shri Munish Singal, Member Secretary, Punjab State Legal Services Authority
31.	Shri. Mahendra Kumar Dave Deputy Member Secretary Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

S.No.	Name and Designation
32.	Shri. G.Palaniappan Member Secretary Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority
33.	Shri Satya Gopal Chattopadhyay, Member Secretary, Tripura State Legal Services Authority
34.	Shri Kanwar Amninder Singh, Member Secretary, Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority
35.	Shri Pramod Kumar Goel, Member Secretary, U.P. State Legal Services Authority
36.	Shri. Mir Dara Sheko, Member Secretary, W.B. State Legal Services Authority
37.	Ms. Kanta Singh Programme Analyst, UNDP
38.	Ms. Anju Talukdar Executive Director, MARG
39.	Shri. Rajesh Dedi Programme Officer, MARG
40.	Ms JJ Choudhury Programme Officer, MARG
41.	Shri. Ashutosh Srivastava Project Officer, A2J Project
42.	Ms. Sripriya Pandurangan M&E Officer, A2J Project
43.	Ms. Meenakshy Rana, Project Assistant, A2J Project
44.	Shri. Fahad Ahmed Consultant, A2J Project
45.	Shri. Soumya Bhaumik Consultant, A2J Project
46.	Ms. Anuradha Singh Rapporteur
47.	Shri. Rahul Sunil Intern, NALSA
