CHAPER-III

ROLE OF LOK ADALATS IN PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In the context of legal aid for the poor, it has been observed that during the pre-constitutional era despite the absence of strong statutory law regime providing for legal aid, the higher judiciary heralded the cause of right to legal aid be given to the poor who could not afford to engage a counsel for his defence. Indian judiciary pulled up the magistracy for not affording the accused opportunity for defence, denial of access preparation of defence.1

The judiciary took the view that no duty was imposed upon the state so as to provide an indigent accused with a counsel while dealing with the right to legal aid the Supreme Court stated that “the right to legal aid conferred by the Section 340(1) of Criminal Procedure Code does not extend in an accused person to be provided with a counsel by the state.”2 Besides “The duty cast on the Magistrate is to afford him the necessary opportunity”. It has been appointed out that Janardhan Reddy and Tara Singh were a step retrograde when compared with the liberal interpretation of section 340 Cr PC by the judiciary of the pre- Constitutional phase3. Article 22(1) which provides for the “right to consult and to be defended a legal practitioner of his choice”, was also read as an enabling provision to afford an opportunity to the arrested person to engage a counsel for his defence under the provision of Articles 14 and 21 had to await judicial interpretation in the late seventies
when “due process clause” could be smuggled into our jurisprudence. The incorporation of Article 39-A in the Constitution and the creative interpretation of Article 21, requiring the procedure to be “reasonable, just and fair”, was considered as the new era of legal aid. Hence, this decision paved the way for the higher judiciary to address the right to legal aid of different segments of the “Low visibility area” of the society.

The Supreme Court had aptly observed “free legal assistance at the state cost is a fundamental right of a person accused of an offence and this fundamental right is implicit in the requirement of reasonable, fair and just procedure”. The apex court had settled the proposition that “right of the arrestees include the right to the assistance of a lawyer during interrogation”. Regarding the right to legal aid of the undertrials languishing in jails the court had held that “this is a constitutional right of every accused person who is unable to engage a lawyer or secure legal services on account of reasons such as poverty, indigence or incommunicado situation and the state is under a mandate to provide a lawyer if the need of the justice so require.” In this way the accused is entitled to the right “when he is first produced before the magistrate as also when he is remanded from time to time”.

To ensure the right as non-derogable the court had provided that in case any prisoner “is unrepresented in court he shall be intimated that he is entitled to legal aid at the state cost for which the state will put the funds in court.” Infact, “the need to provide legal aid to the person inmates as well as who are much needy for
legal aid is not confined to filling of the jail appeals but also include the active and effective assistance of counsels to prepare petitions and memorandums to seek remissions and pardons. With view to ensure the availability of legal aid at the stage of the entry in the criminal justice system the scheme of Legal Aid Counsel was mooted for all the courts of magistrate and the custodial centres. In the PIL, the Supreme Court of India had recognised right to legal aid of the “helpless and the despairing victims of legal and judicial system.” It is considered as the processual arm of legal aid.

**Concept of Human Rights**

Human rights are those natural rights which are available to a human being by his birth. Thus, the centrality of human rights is the “dignity of the individual,” “liberty” and, “equality of status” and to make them meaningful woven around the right to education, health, shelter, congenial environment without discrimination as basis to unity and fraternity among the people, civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights have been elaborated to feed and give content to the Human Rights. The concept of human rights was in a rudimentary form in ancient times, in formative stage in Middle Ages and full grown in the 20th century with formation of the United Nations (UN) in 1945. The development of these natural rights was at peak after the World War-II especially in third world countries. But these were accepted as the Human Rights after the UN Declaration of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, 1948.
Infact, Indian Constitution came to be inspired by the UN Charter and Declaration of Human Rights. India become a republic on 26 January, 1950 and Part-III deals with the Fundamental Rights under Articles 12 to 35 in the form of civil and political rights.\(^{17}\) The Union Government has enacted The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 for ensuring better protection of these rights, which was came into force on 28th September, 1993.\(^{18}\) The Act provides that the Government is responsible to constitute the National Human Rights Commission under Section 3 and the State Human Right Commission under section 21 as well as the Human Rights Court constituted under Section 30.\(^{19}\)

**Lok Adalats and Human Rights Protection**

The rate of human rights violation is increasing day-by-day throughout India especially regarding Kashmir issue, communal riots, terrorist’s attacks, domestic violence against women, child-labour, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, malnutrition, environment decay and AIDS.\(^{20}\) Lok Adalats play crucial role in protection of the Human Rights by providing free legal aid to the poor and underprivileged sections of the society as well as disposal of pending cases relating to domestic violence against women, child labour, money claims, family disputes, Motor Accident Claim Tribunals (MACT), bank loan, insurance claim, damages, partition suits as well as other cases in which human rights are violated in routine life.\(^{21}\)

Infact, protection of the Human Rights should be fundamental duties of every democratic country and in this context Lok Adalats
play a vital role in protection of the Human Rights in developing country like India through providing free legal service and legal aid counsel schemes to the poor as well as disadvantaged sections of the society.

**Legal Aid Counsel Scheme for Remand Hours**

Legal aid counsel Scheme for remand hours has been introduced for representation of indigent accused during remand hours in judicial courts exercising magisterial powers. Such legal aid counsel are required to give assistance to the persons in custody for opposing remand applications, securing orders for bail and moving such miscellaneous applications as may be required.

**Legal Aid Cells in Jails**

Under the legal aid cells scheme, advocates are empanelled in every district for visiting the jail every week for collecting applications from inmates and helping them in the matter of drafting their appeals, petitions etc. so that the jail inmates do not feel that they have no satisfactory legal assistance for redressing of their grievances. This type of aid is considered most important in protecting human rights.

**Legal Care and Support Centre**

Legal care and support centres have been established to help the needy. The related data have been presented in table 3.1 given below.
Table 3.1

Legal Care And Support Centres Established in Haryana Till Date 02-01-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Legal Care &amp; Support Centre in Jails</th>
<th>Village Legal Care &amp; Support Centre in PRIs</th>
<th>Legal Care &amp; Support Centre in Primary Health Centres</th>
<th>Legal Care &amp; Support Centre in District Court</th>
<th>Legal Care &amp; Support Centre in Law Colleges</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambala</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naraingarh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurugram</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pataudi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sohna</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hissar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hansi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohtak</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Haryana Legal Services Authority

The Lok Adalats play a significant role not only for providing free legal services to the needy and poor but these para-judicial institutions are also imparting legal literacy through well established legal centres at district level in the State of Haryana. According to the figure shown in table 3.1 one legal care and support centre each has been established in Ambala, Gurugram and Rohtak districts and there are two centres in Hissar district. There are 10,9,13 and 16 village legal care and support centres in PRIs respectively. In Primary Health Centres, these centres are one in Ambala, three in Gurugram and six in Hissar. It is interesting to
note that no such centre has been working in Rohtak district. As regards centres in district courts, there two centres in Ambala, three in Gurugram, one in Hissar and five in Rohtak. Three, one, five and one centres have been set-up in law colleges in respective districts. Hissar district has topped with 27 total centres followed by 23 centres in Rohtak district and the remain districts have 17 centres each. More centres are needed in districts of Ambala and Gurugram.

**Legal Representation to Aided Persons**

Representation under this category by way of providing free legal services is of two types. One is to represent the accused who is unable to engage a counsel on his own and the other representation is by way of providing free legal services for filling or defending an aided person in civil matters.\(^{25}\)

**Protection of Women Rights**

Lok Adalats also play an important role in protection of women rights through disposal of domestic violence cases, matrimonial cases, property cases, neighbours disputes and family disputes cases under the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.\(^{26}\)
Table 3.2

Different Types of Cases Against Women Disposed off By Lok Adalats Organised By DLSC Ambala During 2011 - 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Matrimonial Cases</th>
<th>Family Disputes</th>
<th>Property Cases</th>
<th>Neighbours’ Disputes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2134</td>
<td>2744</td>
<td>4455</td>
<td>4104</td>
<td>3202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Legal Services Authority

The data presented in Table 3.2 indicate that the percentage of settled cases of domestic violence has increased from 6.2 in 2011 to 24.5 in 2016. The percentage of settled Matrimonial cases has also increased from 16.6 to 27.8 during 2011 to 2016 and the percentage of family disputes has increased from 10.1 in 2011 to 21.9 in the year 2016. While the percentage of property cases has also increased from 5.7 to 24.0 and the percentage of neighbour’s cases increased by 25.7 from 8.5 during 2011 to 2016.
Disposal of Labourers Cases

Lok Adalats also play a crucial role in protecting human rights of the labourers through providing labour claims and damages as well as accident claims, which happen in working time under the Labour Act, 1923.

Table 3.3

Laborers’ Cases Taken-Up And Disposed off By Special Lok Adalats Organised By DLSC Gurugram During 2011-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Cases Taken-up</th>
<th>Settled Cases</th>
<th>Compensation Paid (in Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 N</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>678865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 N</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>876559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 N</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>986544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 N</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>112387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 N</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>237655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 N</td>
<td>1078</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>345667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total N</td>
<td>3991</td>
<td>3106</td>
<td>3237677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>77.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Legal Services Authority

Table 3.3 reveals that during the period 2011 to 2016 special Lok Adalats took 3991 total cases and could settled 3106 (77.8%) cases and an amount of Rs.32, 37,677 was paid to the victims for ensuring protection of human rights of labours. From 2011 to 2014,
percentage of settled cases of labours has increased from 74.1% to 85.8%.

**Motor Accident Claims**

Lok Adalats settle cases through Motor Accident Claim Tribunals (MACTs) by providing compensation to the victims. In this way, Lok Adalats play an important role in the protection of legal rights of the victim.

**Table 3.4**

**Number of MACT Cases Taken- Up And Settled By Lok Adalats Organised By DLSC Rohtak During 2011 - 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases Taken-up</th>
<th>Cases Settled</th>
<th>Percentage of Settled Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>69.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>46.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>67.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2809</td>
<td>1705</td>
<td>60.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The District Legal Services Authority

Data given in Table 3.4 show that during the period 2011-2016 Lok Adalats entertained 2809 total cases of Motor Accident Claims through Tribunal and could settle 1705(60.7%) cases and an amount of Rs. 35,26,5,124 was paid as compensation to the victims. Percentage of settled cases in 2011 has decreased from 69.3 to 46.8 in 2013. But in 2014 onwards, the percentage of settled cases increased in 2015 and 2016. This is a good sign.
Disposal of Child- Labour Cases

Lok Adalats protect human rights of the child labour through providing free legal aid regarding working time, wages, accident claims and other benefits. In this context, the HALSA has also published various journals and magazines for imparting the knowledge of child labour to eradicate this social evil from its roots.27

Legal Aid Clinics (LACs)

Legal Aid Clinics (LACs) operating under the overall supervision of the Districts Legal Services Authority (DLSAs,) are set up in courts, community centres, schools and religious places for the protection of legal rights of common man in the districts. A Legal Aid Clinic can be a nodal contact point for a person in need of legal aid. The legal aid clinics can also conduct and control local legal literacy campaigns.28

Mobile Legal Aid (MLA)

To further supplement the work of legal aid clinics, the DLSAs can also run mobile legal aid for protecting human rights of common masses at ground level. These MLA teams can move with a pre-determined frequency and greatly facilitate legal literacy and information dissemination pertaining to legal aid. Being mobile, over a relatively short period of time, they should hopefully cover a large population.29
Table 3.5

Beneficiaries of Mobile Legal Aid Given By The Lok Adalats in Hissar During 2011-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>GEN.</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>PH</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>1234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Legal Services Authority

It is evident from the Table 3.5 that during year 2011 total beneficiaries were 409, out of these 16.4% belonged to General category, 8.3% belonged to SC, while the percentage of beneficiaries belonging to BC category was 11%, 8.1% were Physically Handicapped and there were 56.2% women beneficiaries. In the year 2012 total beneficiaries were 344, out of these 23.1% belonged to General Category, 13% belonged to SC and the percentage of beneficiaries belonging to BC category was 22.7%, 8.7% were Physically Handicapped as well as there were 32.5% women beneficiaries. While, in 2013 total beneficiaries were 420, out of these 23.3% belonged to General Category, 13% belonged to SC, while the percentage of belonging to BC category was 23.5%, 8.3% were Physically Handicapped and there were
31.9% women beneficiaries. In the year 2014 total beneficiaries were 654, out of these 18.8% belonged to General Category, 11.6% belonged to SC, while the percentage of beneficiaries belonging to BC category was 22.3% and 8.2% were Physically Handicapped as well as there were 39.1% women beneficiaries. During the year 2015 total beneficiaries were 912, out of these 25.2% belonged to General category, 9.7% belonged to SC, while 20.5% beneficiaries belonged to BC category, 9.1% were Physically Handicapped and there were 35.5% women beneficiaries. During 2016 total beneficiaries were 1234, out of these 28% belonged to General category, 8% belonged to SC, 20% were BC beneficiaries and the percentage of beneficiaries belonging to Physically Handicapped was 7% as well as there were 37% beneficiaries were women. Consequently, the percentage was also increased all over all categories but women beneficiaries were the maximum i.e. 458.

Indeed, the Indian judiciary has succeeded in elevating “the right” to the status of the Fundamental Rights by the interpreting the guaranteed right of equality and life and liberty within the scope of the Directive Principles providing for legal aid. It has been observed that the conceptualization of right to legal aid as a basic human right is a great milestone in the annals of the human right jurisprudence. In the initial phases of its evolution and development it has to suffer a raw deal at the hands of the governmental apathy almost under every legal system as it had to depend on the altruistic attitude of the bar charitable institution, church, kings and individual charity. Legal aid was not a subject to be asserted by the indigent litigants as a matter of right but was given as a matter of grace and charity. Affirmative state action in the form of
extending statutory berth to the right, institutionalization of the mechanism to realize the right to the man at the social margin and fund allocation took a sluggish pace.\textsuperscript{31}

However, with the waning out of the laissez-faire order in the nineteenth century and emergence of the welfare state, the ‘access to justice approach’ started gaining ground to ‘attack access barriers in a more articulate and comprehensive manner’.\textsuperscript{35} The right to legal aid apart from getting berth in the constitutional documents and statutory enactments also received prominence under international humanitarian law. It has been noticed that in the countries where the constitutional documents were not containing the provisions legal aid, there the judiciary discerned the right to legal aid from the established jural postulates of equality, justice, liberty, rule of law, etc.\textsuperscript{32} These basic constitutional principles were read as a strong justification for the recognition and realization of right to legal aid as a non-derogable basic human right. The evolution of right to legal aid as the most basic human right was in recognition of the fact that possession of the right without effective mechanism for their vindication would have been meaningless to the person- economically incapable and socially vulnerable.\textsuperscript{33}

Right to legal aid has contributed to a great extent in protection of human rights. The right of access to justice is universal and fundamental of all rights and it is given not as a matter of charity but as a matter of right. In fact, recognition of the right to legal aid is to accede to the inalienable claim of the poor to social justice. The right to legal aid is the only right that gives operational dimension to different strands of human rights to ensure the reach and access of the handicapped constituencies to justice.\textsuperscript{34}
Therefore, right to legal aid becomes a basic human right in the normative hierarchy of human rights since it is the only right that gives life blood to the human rights jurisprudence. Thus, right to legal aid has provided support to the human rights.

**Public Awareness Through Legal Literacy**

Lok Adalats generate public awareness through legal literacy camps, seminars and workshops. This noble task is performed with the help of Department of Public Relations, NGOs, media, public representatives, civil servants, teachers and law students. Most of the people living in rural areas are illiterate and are not fully aware of the rights conferred upon them by law. It is a fact that even substantial number of the literate people living in the cities and villages do not know what are their rights and entitlements. In the absence of legal awareness people suffer from deception, exploitation and deprivation of rights and benefits. The miserable condition of the people can be alleviated to some extent by creating legal awareness amongst them. The Haryana State Legal Services Authority has taken certain steps for Legal Awareness Campaign.

**Legal Awareness Camps**

According to the direction of the Haryana State Legal Services Authority, Legal Literacy/Legal Awareness Camps in the remote rural areas in the State of Haryana at least once in a week i.e. on Sunday/ holidays, on the topics concerning SC/ST, Women and children and general public are organized by all the District Legal Services Authorities. It is through these camps that the common man is made aware about his legal rights so that he may not face humiliation or violation of rights.
Implementation of Legal Literacy Missions

For achieving the objective of spreading Legal Literacy, Haryana State Legal Services Authority has launched special Legal Literacy Missions in the State of Haryana.39

Prisoners Legal Literacy Mission (PLLM)

Prisoners Legal Literacy Mission (PLLM) is going on so as to provide access to justice and to eradicate the evils of exploitation, inequality and suffering with the lamp of literacy. It is hoped that this mission will reform the mindset of the prisoners and help them become responsible members of the society.40 The PLLM has been implemented the Haryana State Legal Services Authority with a view to:

- target the prisoners and jails in a systematic manner;
- hold Legal Awareness Camps in prisons, prepare and publish Legal Literacy Literature in local language;
- circulate the same amongst the prisoners; to organize skits and audio/visual presentations for the prisoners;
- educate them about their rights;
- co-ordinate with the prisons authorities to ensure that freedoms that belong to the prisoners are made available to them; and
- to help improve prison conditions by setting up low cost programs such as crafts, weaving, workshops etc. These crafts are vocation oriented and self-financed.41

The implementation and monitoring work is completed district level by the District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority through Co-ordination
Committee. And The Haryana State Legal Services Authority periodically reviews the progress of the mission.  

Legal Literacy Mission for Empowerment of Underprivileged (LLMEU)

Legal Literacy Mission for empowerment of underprivileged (LLMEU) is creating awareness among neglected children, who are forced to take shelter in orphanage centres, helpless girls and women who are forced to take shelter in Nari Niketan or other such institutions, neglected old age people, disabled, mentally ill persons living under helpless situation under the care or control of government-run or non-government-run organizations. The people in reference have also guaranteed constitutional right to food, clothing and shelter and right to equality and equal access to justice and legal aid for enforcement of the said rights. The Haryana State Legal Services Authority through Legal Aid Panel Advocates or otherwise is coordinating with all such organizations running such homes so as to ensure the fulfillment of constitutional rights thereof.

Publicity

District Legal Services Authorities and Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committees are displayed by the books, pamphlets and folders are distributed among the masses and flex banners/calendars/canopies on the different occasions to make in people aware about their legal rights and availability of free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Wide publicity is also given in the leading newspapers in the State of Haryana and on cable TV and Doordarshan.
Public Relations and Cultural Affairs Department, Haryana gives wide publicity with the help of electronic and print media by organizing skits and nukkar-nataks, displaying the documentary films “Savera”, “Beti” and “Nasha Khori Se Nasha Mukti Ki Aur” through the local cable network and mobile vans of the Department.\(^{46}\)

**Effort are made to highlight the activities of the HALSA.**

On 9th November, 2011 i.e. Legal Services Day, Hon’ble Executive Chairman of this Authority attended a talk show on TV, highlighting activities of The HALSA and explained the various schemes being run by The HALSA for downtrodden people which was telecasted in all over Haryana through Doordarshan Kender, Hissar. Similar talk show was broadcasted on All India Radio, Chandigarh.\(^{47}\)

**Documentary Film Through EDUSAT**

Documentary films on socially relevant issues, such as “Beti” (dealing with evils of female foeticide), “Nashakhori Sey Nashamukti Ki Aur” (dealing with evil of drug abuse) and “Savera” (dealing with legal services and Lok Adalats) have been shown to the students through EDUSAT.\(^{48}\) In this way legal awareness is being spread through telecommunication.

**Legal Literacy Classes for Women**

All the Secretaries, District Legal Services Authorities, Director, Social Justice and Empowerment, Director, Women and Child Development Departments, Haryana have been asked to organize legal literacy classes for women in small groups like neighborhood groups(NHG) and self-help groups(SHG) with the assistance of District Child Welfare Officers/ District Welfare
Officers/Protection Officers and distribute the books published by this Authority on the topics of social and legal issues concerning women. Moreover, a set of books has been sent to them with the request to get published sufficient number of these books for distribution to the women attending these classes. In this regard legal literacy classes for women are organizing by the District Legal Services Authorities. So, assistance from all directly or indirectly related organization is sought for legal awareness among women.

**Training of the Empanelled Advocates**

Those advocates who were on the penel of District Legal Services Authority were sensitized for spreading legal literacy especially amongst the under privileged and regarding need to inform the weaker sections of the society about their rights and also about the mode for enforcing those rights. The Trained advocates were also asked to address the Legal Literacy Clubs set up in the schools and colleges, on the topics listed for Legal Literacy Camps.

In response thereto Front Office have been set up by nine District Legal Services Authorities of Faridabad, Fatehabad, Jhajjar, Kaithal, Karnal, Palwal, Panipat, Narnaul, Rewari and Rohtak districts. There are 21 Districts in Haryana and DLSAs of other districts were asked to set up the front offices for providing free and competent legal services.

**Scrutinizing Committee**

A Scrutinizing Committee under Regulation 7(2) of the National Legal Services Authority (Free Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010, has been constituted in each District and in each
Sub-Division of Haryana so as to scrutinize and evaluate the applications received for legal services.\textsuperscript{53}

**Monitoring Committee**

Monitoring is a process through which we come to know as to whether we are loading in the right direction if not what are the hurdle those are found and feedback is given to overcome them. Regulation 10(3) of the National Legal Services Authority (Free Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010. The Haryana State Legal Services Authority constitute a Monitoring Committee District and in each Sub-Division of Haryana for closely monitoring the court based legal services rendered and the progress of the cases in legal aid matters.\textsuperscript{54} This committee helps in steering the legal services being rendered.

**Duties Education**

Legal aid is provided giving free legal services to the poor and needy who cannot afford the services of a lawyer for conduct of a case under the legal proceeding in the court of law. There are following duties of the State for ensuring Right to Legal Aid to the common masses:

- To see that the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities for all its citizens. It must therefore arrange to provide free legal aid to those who cannot access justice due to economic and other conditions;
- In case the accused does not have sufficient means to engage a lawyer, the court must provide one for the defense of the accused at the expense of the State;
- The Constitutional duty to provide legal aid arises right from the time the accused is produced before the Magistrate for the
first time and continues whenever he is produced for remand; and

- A person entitled to appeal against his or her sentence has the right to ask for a counsel to prepare and argue the appeal.\textsuperscript{55}

**Duties of Aided Person**

A person who gets free legal aid from the State has also certain duties which are includes:

- Complying with the directions given by the Secretary of the Legal Services Authority;
- Attending the office of the Committee or court as well as the advocate assigned, as when required;
- Furnishing full and true information to the advocate rendering legal service; and
- Paying no fee to the advocate rendering legal service to the aided person.\textsuperscript{56}

**Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)**

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an international non-profit organization with its headquarter in India. To promote the practical realisation of the human rights in the commonwealth.\textsuperscript{57} Beside, it educates on human rights issues and advocates for greater adherence to human rights standards. It is working for enhancing the education of human rights in following areas:

- Prison reforms
- Police reforms
- Human Rights Commissions
- Right to Information
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Constitutionalism and
- Biennial Reports for presentation to the Commonwealth heads of the Government meeting on human rights issues.

It is concluded that now-a-days Lok Adalats play a crucial role in protection of Human Rights through providing legal aid counsel schemes to the persons in custody, free legal services to the poor and underprivileged sections of the society. These para-judicial institutions have not only reduced the burden of pending cases of regular courts but also spread legal literacy and generate public awareness about education of legal rights and duties for better protection of their Human Rights by organising rural Lok Adalats, Mega Lok Adalats, Seminars, workshop, Legal Aid Clinics (LAC), Mobile Legal Aid (MLA) as well as help line. The Lok Adalats can perform better role if whole hearted support and cooperation is received the parties in dispute, general masses targets groups, civil society and NGos. Those role honestly and sincerely with dedication and excellence should be awarded and appreciated. Special campaigns should be launched to make each and every person in need fully aware of the importance, role and relevance of the Lok Adalats in protection of human rights.
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