

Two Best Practices of the Institution

1. Title of the Practice – Free Legal Services through the Students and the Staff

2. Objectives

With the noble aim to ensure that the opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any person by reason of poverty, illiteracy, ignorance or inaccessibility, the College has started providing free legal services to the society.

- a) To provide legal services to the poor and weaker sections of the society through the students and the staff
- b) To inculcate the spirit of social responsibility among the students
- c) To resolve disputes of local people through mediation and conciliation and thereby preventing the disputes from reaching Courts.
- d) To conduct surveys on contemporary socio legal issues.
- e) To impart clinical education as part of practical training and also to imbibe the students to commit to social service to help the weaker sections of the society.

3. The context -

Every legal system works with intend to provide the justice with equality. Quest for justice has been the passionate demand of mankind since the advent civilization hence it is the core principle of the legal system. Large sections of India's poor and marginalized have little or no knowledge of their rights. Weaker sections of the society have no access to justice which has socio- economic, cultural and political dimensions.

In such situation of the society free legal services provide a holistic support to it. Hence the College has taken the responsibility to spread legal awareness and provide necessary assistance particularly about rights, entitlements and privileges to combat their pain and plight

4. The Practice –

The Legal Aid Clinic is extremely instrumental in sensitizing the students to the cause of the indigent thereby inculcating a spirit of social responsibility within them.

The Clinic is a dynamic tool of learning, through which, the students learn the techniques of interviewing, interaction, eliciting the relevant information from the Client and to suggest possible remedies and the alternatives. It also enables the students to learn drafting notices,

complaints, petitions and in turn it helps the students to be socially responsive and committed.

The Clinic organizes various outreach programs such as legal aid camps, legal literacy programs, gender sensitization programs, human rights awareness programs, Jail Visit, Lok Adalat Visit, Workshop in Collaboration with District Legal Service Authorities etc.

The Clinic functions on every second and fourth Saturday from 9.00am to 5.00pm of every month. The Clinic maintains records and documents of various activities conducted by the Clinic including the list of seekers, the type of service rendered, particulars of para Legal Volunteers, the personnel's from the Bar and all other related information.

5. Evidence of Success –

- a) This best practice enable the institution to provide community services through the students and the staff
- b) Legal Aid Clinic is bridging the gap between Legal Services Authorities and the common people who are ignorant about the laws
- c) Through Clinic we provide solutions to self solvable legal issues
- d) The Clinic is engaged in spreading legal awareness through street plays, lectures, competitions and seminars
- e) It is enhancing practical aspect of legal education. This leads to students to handle the practical application of law in real life
- f) Students coming from different areas are becoming social activists
- g) Good linkage is established between senior advocates, staff and students
- h) Paralegal volunteers are working with NGO's
- i) These practices are sensitizing the students about stark realities of the society
- j) The College has established Legal Aid Clinic in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Latur
- k) Students and the staff participate as panel members in Lokadalats organize by District Legal Services Authorities, Latur
- l) Information about laws, policies and facilities is disseminated. Jail visits are conducted

6. Problems encountered and Resources Required

- a. It is co-curricular activity. All students won't participate in the affairs of the clinic.
- b. Students won't get any honorarium or incentives or any financial assistance. At least their TA DA must be provided by the District Legal Services Authority whenever they take them out of station. Some students cannot afford the expenses hence get discourage
- c. Insufficient Financial fund constraints in providing services
- d. Regional backwardness are withholding the people from sharing their legal problems
- e. Female from rural areas are conservative, they hesitate in giving required information
- f. Students cannot devote sufficient time for legal aid clinic due to academic workload
- g. Seekers may not fully trust on the advices given by the clinic
- h. Lack of awareness of existence of the clinic even after publicity

7. Notes

- i. The College encourages its students to take up research activities through socio-legal surveys which strengthen the ties of students with society and it makes them understand and study the social problems of the people. Surveys are conducted by the students on contemporary socio-legal issues under the guidance of faculty members. College has fruitfully transformed the Seminars and Workshops from a mere intellectual exercise to a participatory form of research and learning by ensuring attendance of students in large number and active interaction.

Second best practice

Title of the Practice - Gender Sensitization

Objectives of the Practice - The College being a co-educational Institution offering higher academic programs in legal studies, is particularly conscious about the gender issues. In the backdrop of the present scenario in India where women are being exploited, dishonoured, molested, raped and ultimately murdered, the College has taken responsibility to create gender sensitization to increase the sensitivity of people at large towards women and their problems with following goals:

- To create a value system in society that accords explicit and spontaneous recognition to the contributions of women in socio economic development and respect their wisdom
- To create a system that makes women conscious and bold enough to recognize their own contributions and make them feel proud of it.
- To bring a definite orientation in the thinking, practices and approach of students concerning gender issues so that stereo type mindset of men and women about their unequal entities can be changed.
- To encompass gender values, needs and aspirations so that outdated discriminatory practices can be eliminated
- To create self confidence, self dignity and self respect among girl students

The Context

Gender bias is deeply rooted in the Indian society. Hence in order to bring out the desired changes in people and society, we need to develop a well thought out gender sensitization strategy considering the prevailing socio- cultural, economic and psychological environment of women group.

What the social obligation is, not to lend mere an ear to her agony but not to cause agony to her womanhood. This thinking should be cultivated from the grass root levels of the society.

Practice –

This practice is put into operation by educating and encouraging girl students to participate in all activities. College arranges many extension and outreach activities through NSS, Human Rights

Education Centre and Women's Studies Centre to create gender sensitization and to inculcate sense of responsibility in students.

- The Institution conducted many seminars and workshops on themes like Domestic Violence, Female Foeticide, Dowry harassment, literacy among women and so on.
- The Institution established linkages with some NGO's and in collaboration with those organisations conducted outreach programs such as Legal aid camps, legal literacy programs and socio legal awareness programs, street plays, rallies and processions.
- Elocution, Debate and Essay Writing competitions are also conducted to create a definite orientation in the thinking, practices and approach of students concerning gender issues
- The Women's Studies Centre (UGC Sponsored) was established to conduct various women related programs particularly gender sensitization programs.
- Boy students are also enrolled as volunteers to strengthen and support gender sensitization programs.
- Research Projects are conducted on Dowry and Female Foeticide.
- Gender Sensitization is promoted through Dissertation to be submitted in Partial fulfillment of LL.M Program. Research in Gender sensitivity studies is also promoted by the Institution viz on Dowry and Female Foeticide.
- The Library is enriched with valuable reference books related to women issues.
- Women's Grievance Cell is constituted in the College for the immediate redressal of women's grievances

Evidence of Success

By effective implementation of the best practice of "Gender Sensitization" the Institution could able to provide women friendly atmosphere on the campus. Ever since this practice is introduced, girl students are increasingly participating in all activities of the Institution. Girl students coming from rural areas are becoming feminist activist promoting the cause of women.

Problems encountered

1. It is becoming increasingly difficult to collect data with regard to certain sensitive issues like Dowry, Domestic Violence, female foeticide, child marriages and so on
2. Regional backwardness and conservative family background are withholding the girl students from rural areas to actively participate in gender sensitization programs.
3. Insufficient funds is another problem in vigorously conducting gender sensitization programs