

Legal Aid Centre

To impart Clinical Legal Education and social-legal services to the needy and poor segments of the community the Nowgong Law College established the Legal Aid Centre. It is necessary to expose law students to the practical aspects of the legal field as study of law is a professional course; the Legal Aid Centre aims at fulfilling this purpose and alongside provides a platform to serve the poor and needy. The ultimate purpose of NLC Legal Aid centre is to harbor a place of innovation and experimentation for the development of effective approaches to the legal education and rendering pragmatic services.

Composition

1. Faculty Coordinators

The faculty actively participates and promotes the activities at the Centre. Their contribution is highly noteworthy.

2. Student Co-ordinators

A team of student co-ordinators is quintessential for the functioning of the NLC Legal Aid Centre.

3. Accomplishments

It can be said with satisfaction that the hard work of the teachers and the students, and their commitment to the cause of poor people and to legal education has sustained this activity continuously since the inception of the Legal Aid Centre.

1. The Centre provides free legal aid to the sections of society which are entitled for free legal services enlisted under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
2. Indian society is generally illiterate in the matters of information about law and in order to create a just social order legal awareness is indispensable. NLC Legal Aid Centre has been conducting literacy programs in its neighborhood for the last five decade and such programs are conducted with the help of NLC Students Union, Gram Panchayats, School Managements, Local Clubs, etc. The target group is villages, farmers, women, school children, social workers, school teachers, laborers etc. The programs are generally need based and information about law which will be most relevant to a target group. Their queries are answered and they are requested to contact the Centre for advice/support if they need it. Lectures, discussions, posters, literacy material, street-plays are used as methods of communication. The camps consisted of student and teacher's presentations on relevant issues like Domestic Violence, Dowry Prohibition, Child Sexual Abuse, Writing will, etc. The sessions are made interactive and reactive to needs of villagers. The experience is proved to be enriching for the students and the attending villagers.
3. **Legal Aid Clinic** The Legal Aid Centre runs its clinic at the campus, six days a week. Legal grievances of a wide variety like domestic violence, divorce, dowry prohibition, cruelty, land acquisition, etc. are addressed here. The Clinic is run in a tandem of students and teachers, with both in attendance and in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Nagaon. The Clients are those who cannot afford legal fees. The same is settled free of cost at the Clinic.

The Legal Aid Clinic also participates in other activities for widening its students' practical knowledge. Visit to Jail, Orphanage etc. are held annually and are open to active student- teacher participation.

4. **Publications:** The centre also prepares the legal literacy material on various issues of law. It is generally English and Assamese language and also in the form of posters. NLC in regular course invite student participations by holding competitions and awarding prizes for literacy material and posters. Our literacy topics cover a wide ambit of social laws and aim at educating people regarding their basic and fundamental rights. Some of the topics are:
 1. Domestic Violence Act, 2005
 2. PCPNDT Act
 3. Noise Pollution Rules
 4. Dowry Prohibition Act, 2005
 5. Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2012
 6. Testamentary and Intestate Succession
 7. Land Laws (Assam)
 8. Senior Citizens Act
 9. Laws relating to Drugs and Narcotics
 10. Right to Information
 11. Child Rights
 12. Criminal Procedure Code
 13. Rights of Persons with Disability
 14. Consumer Protection Laws
 15. Overview of our Work
5. Legal Aid Camps are conducted by the Centre on a regular basis. The various camps organized by the Centre camps are
 1. **School Camps:** Students of the Legal Aid Centre visit schools in and around Nagaon to take sessions on legal literacy for school children. Topics covered range from child abuse, right to education, drugs and narcotics awareness, social media and cyber crime, etc. Language is no barrier as sessions are taken in English and Assamese language. Use of visual aids and posters is encouraged and students prepare skits and performances to connect better with their young audience. Separate time is allotted for a question and answer session with the students.
 2. **College Camps:** Students of the legal aid centre also take sessions in various colleges in and around Nagaon District. The topics discussed here range from domestic violence, dowry prohibition, drugs and alcohol awareness, child abuse, cyber crime, intellectual property rights, etc. The students engage in discussion with their audience and have lively, interactive sessions.
 3. **Village Camps:** Students of the legal aid centre take legal literacy camps in villages around Nagaon District. The topics discussed in these camps are pertinent to the living situation in villages and range from dowry prohibition, domestic violence, land laws of Assam, Right to Information, etc. These camps are held in Assamese languages. Many camps have also been conducted with the dual purpose of spreading legal literacy and holding legal aid clinic to address legal grievances of the audience. Interactive sessions with lots of questions and answers are held and legal literacy reading material is also distributed.