

Rayat ShikshanSanstha's Ismailsaheb Mulla Law College, Satara

Best Practices

Title of the Practice: Free Legal Aid Camps

Objective :

As our college is having the legal fraternity with principal, faculty, students, alumni, and panel advocates of Legal Aid Clinic to create legal awareness in the society especially in the rural areas, society always concerned with legal aspects. It is our duty to impart legal knowledge and legal information to the society at par. So that the general public gets the benefit of much-needed legal awareness and also students get involved in community work. The object of this initiative would be

- To spread awareness about the law, legal rights, legal duties, domestic laws, land law issues, civic responsibilities, and many more connected issues to the community.
- To provide counseling to people about the difficulties faced by them in order to make people understand their rights.
- To bring vulnerable people into the mainstream of legal procedure.
- Clear any misconceptions related to government organizations like police, court, etc.
- Students should know about the legal problems of the members of society.
- To develop the skills in students like public speech, stage courage, and awareness about the conditions of village people.

The Context :

We took the idea from the mandate of Article 39A under Part IV DPSP of the Constitution of India. To make more meaningful this directive principle we have started this practice of organizing the Free Legal Aid Camps at different villages around the district. Some villagers too request us to arrange such camps in their respective villages. We are running this practice for more than 30 years.

The Practice :

The members of the Legal Aid Committee decide the village, date, and resource person for Free Legal Aid Camp. Sometimes students may suggest their village for such camps. Our Principal, staff, and students involved in the organization. Sometimes we organize these camps in associations with DLSA, Satara. We also invite some guests to speak on practical aspects of legal topics. Our students conduct a door to door campaign to collect the legal problems from villages. We try to resolve these legal issues in Camp and help them to approach us to the Court, Tribunal, and Lok Adalat.

Evidence of Success :

The college is successfully conducting Legal Aid Camps every year during the last 30 years. Many aggrieved people approach our faculty, panel advocates, and Legal aid clinic to avail the legal facility. Moreover, due to Free Legal Aid Camps, law students get benefitted from the fact that they get a platform to interact with members of society. They develop their communication skill by delivering awareness lectures to the general public. They came to know different legal problems of villagers. Thereby, the social platform which is very a backbone for a successful legal career, students acquire the lawyering skill through Free Legal Aid Camps. Many Gram Panchayats have given us appreciation letters for this initiative.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required :

The most difficult task while implementing this work is reaching far remote places where easy traveling is not possible. It is difficult for people to leave their agriculture work for some time and attend the camps. It is also difficult to adjust the timing of resource persons who can deliver legal awareness lectures at remote places. As far as financial sources are concerned, no special fund is consistently available to the college for conducting Free Legal Aid.

2. Title of the Practice: - Adv. V.N. Patil Memorial Lecture Series

Objectives of the Practice:-

To remember the Academic Contribution of Adv. V.N. Patil to this college from its inception in 1968 to his sad demise in 1986. To create opportunities for students to hear eminent Jurists, renowned judges, Senior Lawyers, academicians, philosophers, and social activists as resource persons, speaking on various topics of socio-legal importance. To create awareness and understanding of iceberg quality of law, hidden in the roots of history, philosophy, economics, and sociology of the society and to make students aware of Law in Books and Law in Action.

The Context:-

A committee is formed to organize this event every year. The Committee holds a prior meeting for deciding the Chief resource person. This lecture series is very important, to practically understand different social and legal issues and to form views about them after deliberate interaction with the expert resource persons.

The Practice:-

The Committee decides the date and venue and chief guest for the annual lecture series. A press note is published prior to the event and people from the community are given invitations for the event. The lecture is kept open to all public. This lecture series helps students as well as faculty to acquire knowledge of various topics related to socio-legal issues and various approaches towards them by the experts. People get an opportunity to interact with the resource person and clarify the doubts or queries if any.

Evidence of Success: -

The college has organized 30 lectures in this lecture series so far. Many Judges, Lawyers, academicians, thinkers, and social activists have been invited to this lecture series.

Problems Encountered Resources required: -

The College provides the recourses required for the organization of this Lecture Series, including infrastructure, office support, Committee meeting organization and all support of teaching as well as administrative staff and student volunteers for the actual conduct of the event. Financial recourses are partially shared by Adv. D. V. Patil, Former Chairman, and BCI, who sponsors the lecture series in the college. The views expressed by the expert are beneficial to students as well as staff and the general public attending, to update their think tank with the latest knowledge and awareness of the practice.

Notes: - We telecast the recording of this lecture series on the local cable channel in order to disseminate the views in public.