

**A REPORT ON**  
**LEGAL LITERACY AND LEGAL AID PROGRAMME**

Organized by

**PRO BONO CLUB AND CENTRE FOR CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LEGAL AID  
CELL (CCLELAC), NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM**

Pro Bono Club and the Centre for Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell (CCLELAC) organized a Legal Literacy and Legal Aid Programme at the Seminal Hall, National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam on 25th February, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The aim of this programme was to promote legal literacy and spread awareness about legal aid services available at the Legal Aid Clinic, NLUJAA and Legal Aid Centres in courts. The programme was meant for the local people and they attended the event in large number.

The invited guest-speakers for the programme were Mrs. Pranami Goswami, Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, Kamrup and Adv. Ismail Ali, empanelled advocate for the University Legal Aid Clinic. The programme was also graced by the presence of Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja (Vice Chancellor, NLUJAA), Dr. Indranoshee Das (Registrar, NLUJAA), Dr. Diptimoni Boruah (Asso. Prof. and Coordinator, Pro Bono Club), Dr. Monmi Gohain, and Dr. Kailash Jeenger (members, CCLELAC).

At the outset, Prof. V.K. Ahuja introduced the guests and delivered a welcome note. The student-volunteers felicitated the guests and the Vice Chancellor. Thereafter, Dr. Diptimoni Boruah set the plot of the event by explaining the purpose of organizing the programme. She explained that the National Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has been enacted to constitute legal aid centres and legal services authorities at almost every level, which aim at providing free legal services to the weaker sections of the society. The Act seeks to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, she said. There are provisions for organizing Lok Adalats to ensure easy and expeditious availability of justice. She further discussed the benefits of Assam Victim Compensation Scheme, 2012. There are so many services available, she continued, but people are unable to access them because of lack of awareness and other reasons.

After the introductory note, the guest speaker Mrs. Pranami Goswami was invited to deliver her address. She laid emphasis on the fact that justice should reach everyone irrespective of caste, creed, gender or status. She gave a brief description of the National Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. She then informed the audience that the services are free for the vulnerable groups of the society, including women, (irrespective of their status or wealth), members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. She then talked about the para-legal volunteers scheme which aims at imparting legal training to volunteers selected from different walks of life to ensure that legal aid is available to all sections of people. She then urged the audience to share their experience of the programme with others also so that everybody can benefit from it. Furthermore, she discussed the procedure to apply for the compensation under Assam Victim Compensation Scheme, 2012 which covers application, inquiry, approval and cheques.

The next speaker of the programme was Adv. Ismail Ali who stressed on the motto, 'Justice for All'. He concurred with what was previously said and emphasised that the justice is for everyone. He then informed the audience in an elaborate manner about the purpose of the District Legal Service Authority, its location and how to have access to legal services. He reiterated that access to justice is a fundamental rights and a human right.

Thereafter, an interactive session was started wherein the audience shared their legal problems with the guests. The guests discussed various dimensions of the issues raised by the villagers and provided them with appropriate answers. Meanwhile refreshment was served to all present in the hall. The student-volunteers of the Legal Aid Cell helped a lot in the smooth conduct of the programme. The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Indranoshee Das.

Ms. Aanchal Singh and Ms. Tanusha Bang, BALLB 1<sup>st</sup> year students, and Ms. Prosfutita Singha, a BALLB 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at NLUJAA who are the members of the reporting committee of the Center for Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell, NLUJAA were rapporteurs for the event. They recorded the proceedings of the programme and prepared the reports.