Report on the Legal Awareness Camp Organized by Centre for Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell in Collaboration with Centre for Disability and Health Laws, NLUJAA

**Date:** October 25, 2024

Place: Anandi Hindi High School and Amingaon High School

Members Present: Ritu Raj (Student Coordinator of Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell and Student Convenor of Centre for Disability Studies and Health Laws), Saket Sourav (Student Coordinator, Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell), Harshvardhan, Aditya Jha Utkarsh Jha, Vikranta Barsay, Saksham Patiyar, Anupama Das, Arpita Halder, Niharika Deuri, Uma Sharma, Bornaa Baruah, Amrita Kashyap, Niyor Ghatowar

Teacher Members Present: Dr Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Dr Diptimoni Baruah, Dr. Monmi Gohain, Dr. Shailendra Kumar, and Saheb Choudhury

On October 25, 2024, the Centre for Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell, in collaboration with the Centre for Disability and Health Laws at NLUJAA held a legal awareness camp. This event took place across two schools, Anandi Hindi High School and Amingaon High School, offering an opportunity for school students across Classes 8,9 and 10 to learn about crucial legal topics, including mental health rights, child labor laws, disability rights, child protection, and child marriage prevention.

In Anandi Hindi High School, sessions were conducted from 10 a.m. in Hindi by dedicated student members who broke down legal concepts into relatable concepts to students of Classes 9 and 10. Starting the session by Harshvardhan and Utkarsh Jha, they illuminated the provisions of the Mental Health Act, stressing its importance in protecting mental well-being. Saksham Patiyar very engagingly addressed the Prohibition of Child Labour Act, discussing how child labor deprives children of their education and development and encouraging students to act against it. Aditya Jha and Vikranta Barsay passionately presented the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, empowering students to understand the rights of disabled individuals and the responsibilities of society toward inclusivity and equality. In her speech, following them, Anupama Das explained the POCSO Act, focusing on child safety in digital spaces and empowering students to recognize and report abuse. Lastly, Arpita Halder addressed the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, using a storytelling approach to illustrate the adverse impacts of child marriage on education, health, and well-being. The session was concluded by Student Convenors Ritu Raj and Saket Sourav on a positive note highlighting the role of legal aid and how students could seek help from the Centre for Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell.

At Amingaon High School, the sessions began at 1 p.m., starting with a brief introduction of the members, followed by discussions conducted in Assamese. Starting with Niharika Deuri emphasized the significance of the Mental Health Act, highlighting its provisions for promoting mental well-being and ensuring access to mental health care services. Uma Sharma passionately discussed the Prohibition of Child Labour Act, explaining its enactment in 1986 and its strengthening in 2016 as the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act. Bornaa Baruah focused on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, stressing the importance of non-discrimination and the government measures in place to protect the rights of disabled individuals, especially women and children. Amrita Kashyap provided an overview of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, discussing the vulnerabilities of children and the need for protection not just from strangers but also from trusted individuals. She highlighted the importance of recognizing signs of abuse, what to do if victimized. Additionally, she addressed domestic violence, detailing its various forms, how to report it, and the support systems available. Niyor concluded the sessions with an insightful discussion on the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, defining who qualifies as a child under the law, the implications of child marriage, the punishments for offenders, and the overarching need to protect children's rights to education and health. Together, these discussions underscored the importance of legal awareness among students to empower them to advocate for their rights and the rights of others.

The camp would not have been possible without the guidance and support of teachers, who played an instrumental role in the success of this awareness initiative. Teacher members, including Dr. Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Dr Diptimoni Baruah, Dr. Monmi Gohain, Dr. Shailendra Kumar, and Saheb Choudhury, actively guided the process, providing structure and direction. Through this legal awareness camp, the Centre for Clinical Legal Education and Legal Aid Cell and Centre for Disability and Health Laws, succeeded in initiating vital conversations on legal protections, marking a positive step toward a more informed and empowered student community.