

LEGAL AWARENESS AND LEGAL AID PROGRAMME

Date: 16th November, 2023

Venue: Bamun Sualkuchi, Hajo, Kamrup

On November 16, 2023, the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam, in collaboration with its Pro Bono Club under the auspices of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, organized a Legal Awareness and Legal Aid Programme. The event, conducted by a team of *Nyaya Bandhus* (Pro Bono volunteers) under the abled guidance of Prof. Dr. Diptimoni Boruah, aimed to foster legal awareness and provide insights into the legal aid avenues available to the community.

The *Nyaya Bandhu* team, comprising seventeen students from the Ist to the IVth year, commenced the programme at Bamun Sualkuchi, Hajo, Kamrup, reaching the venue promptly at 11:00 a.m. The event officially commenced at 12 noon with an introductory



The team of Nyaya Bandhus responsible for the event.



speech by Prof. Dr. Boruah, offering insightful overview of the Indian Legal system. Her address covered crucial topics such as *nyayayik vyavastha* (judicial system), the Constitution, and Article 39A, emphasizing the importance of free legal aid.

Dr. Boruah also shed light on the advocate's role and detailed aspects of the Victim Compensation Act, 2012, with specific focus on cases involving

accident claims, mob lynching, dowry death, acid attacks, and more.

The attendees, which mostly consisted of the local people inhabiting the area included housewives and elderly men of the community and they were provided with detailed information on the application process for availing free legal aid through the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) or the *zila pradhikaran* (local authorities).

Additionally, an emphasis was placed on resolving business-related matters through alternate dispute resolution mechanisms such as arbitration and mediation. The Pro Bono Club to provide comprehensive legal assistance and connect individuals who are in need with lawyers who provide free legal aid.

Then onwards, a brief singing performed by some of volunteers in the session in order to add an entertaining interlude, and thus, creating a balanced and engaging atmosphere.

Next a speech was delivered by *Nyaya Bandhu* Mr. Vishwajeet Kumar, a IVth year student at NLUJA, Assam on “*Apradhik Nyaya Pranali*” or the Criminal Justice System, in which he provided clarity to the attendees on cognizable and non- cognizable offenses, F.I.R, bailable & non- bailable offenses among other things. The topic of child marriage was taken up by *Nyaya Bandhu* Ms. Munmun Buragohain who is also a IVth student at the university with Dr. Boruah providing insights on domestic violence and related offences against women.





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Lastly, a *Nukkad Natak* (street play) was performed by the volunteers which added a dynamic and interactive element, while effectively conveying legal messages regarding dowry, domestic violence, bride burning and dowry death to the attendees.

The event concluded with the council member Mr. Rishab Chandra delivering a thank-you note, expressing gratitude for the informative and engaging session.

Nyaya Bandhus performing the Nukkad Natak.



CONCLUSION

The legal awareness campaign was conducted successfully spreading awareness and information on an arena of issues, which exists in today's every society. The students and the audience were made aware of their legal rights and the legal remedies available to them when any wrong is committed to them or to anyone else. The main aim of the awareness campaign was to create awareness various burning issues facing masses in the society, and instill in the minds of the audience the importance of raising their voices and reporting the same to the competent authorities and avail existed facilities available to the people.

Thus, the ProBono Legal Services Club with this awareness paves the way for the younger generation to be legally aware of their rights and duties as well.