

PARA LEGAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

The students of B.A.,LL.B. (2018-23) of the NMIMS School of Law (Navi Mumbai), under the guidance of the Associate Dean, Prof (Dr) Saurabh Chaturvedi, had got an opportunity to attend a training programme held by the District Legal Services Authority (D.L.S.A)of Alibaugh. The programme had been organized to train the Para Legal Volunteers who will help the D.L.S.A. to solve the problems of the people living in the remote areas or people belonging to the weaker sections of the society who are not able to solve their problems due to the lack of legal knowledge. The Chairperson of the programme was Hon`ble Justice Abhay Waghwase, who is the Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority of Alibaugh, Justice Waghwase inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. He then quoted the tagline of D.L.S.A. that is “Nyaay Sarvanchya Daari” which means “Justice At Your Doorstep”. After the inauguration Adv. M M Gunjal gave a brief lecture on Criminal Procedural Code (CrPC). He also gave a brief information on FIR. FIR is the prime report that is given to the police officers after an unlawful act has been committed. He also told about the different types of offences namely cognizable and non-cognizable, chapter case, arrest warrant, bailment, etc. The students of NMIMS had asked certain questions related to CrPC such as what is the stand of judiciary in victimless crimes, difference between judicial custody and police custody etc. and they received informative responses for it.

A session on Consumer Protection Act was then conducted by Adv. Nilofer Shaikh. The Consumer Protection Act was drafted on 26th December, 1986 but was established on 15th December, 1987. While drafting the Act, natural justice had been given maximum importance. As per the Act consumers do not need a lawyer, they can approach the consumer forums with their problems all by themselves. Adv. Nilofer Shaikh also guided the students about the different consumer protection forums namely District Forum, State Commission, and National Commission. She also gave a brief information on the various rights of the consumers and mentioned certain cases regarding consumer protection. The students had questions regarding which party should be sued if a defect is found in the services or products, whether the retailer or the manufacturer needs to be sued. Adv. Nilofer clarified all the doubts and confusions of the students. After that there was a session on Women Protection Laws conducted by Adv. Tanushree Pednekar. Ma`am spoke about the Domestic Violence Act 2005 and the Dowry Prohibition Act May 1, 1961. From 26th October, 2006 domestic violence has

been considered as a cognizable offence. Adv. Pednekar also mentioned about how women are affected due to domestic violence. A woman gets oppressed physically, mentally, emotionally, financially and verbally. When a domestic violence case has been registered the protection officer must first provide her with medical aid and the expenses should be paid by the Protection Officer.

The next session on was laws for the protection of women against sexual harassment at work place conducted by Adv. Neha Raut. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act was established in 2013. Adv. Raut gave information about some major features of the Act. She also spoke about the compensation given to the victims and the charges filed against the offenders. After that was a session on Legal Services Authority Act conducted by Hon`ble Justice Jaydeep Mohite. Hon`ble Justice Mohite is the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority at Alibaugh. The Legal services authorities Act was established on 11th October, 1987. This Act was established to constitute legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal services to weaker sections to the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen of the Nation.

The programme ended with the distribution of identity cards and certificates to the para-legal volunteers. The volunteers can now conduct their work as representatives of district legal services authorities and help in providing legal aid to the weaker sections of the society and anyone who is in need of legal advice.



