

A Three-Day Training Program for Para Legal Volunteers at Sikkim Government Law College, Gangtok

Date - 30th May - 1st June 2024



A comprehensive three-day training program for 103 students as Para Legal Volunteers was successfully organized at Sikkim Government Law College, Gangtok, from 30th May to 1st June 2024. Students from the School of Legal Studies of The ICAI University, Sikkim actively participated in the programme, which aimed to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to serve as Para Legal Volunteers.

Day 1: inaugural session and constitution awareness -

- The program commenced with an introductory session by Mr. S.S. Hamal, Designated Senior Advocate, High Court of Sikkim. Mr. Hamal elucidated the purpose and role of Para Legal Volunteers, emphasizing the do's and don'ts to be adhered to in their roles. His session set the stage for the training, providing a clear understanding of the importance and responsibilities of Para Legal Volunteers.
- Following this, Dr. Dilip Pandey, Associate Professor and Dean (Student Affairs), Sikkim Government Law College, delivered a comprehensive session on the Constitution, covering Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, and Fundamental Duties. This session provided the students with a holistic understanding of the legal framework and their responsibilities as Para Legal Volunteers. The interactive nature of the session encouraged students to engage in discussions and activities that enhanced their learning experience.
- Ms. Zola Megi discussed Article 39A of the Indian Constitution and the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, including the NALSA Regulations. She highlighted the provision of free legal services to the underprivileged and the role of Para Legal Volunteers in facilitating access to justice.
- Mr. Bhushan Nepal focused on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and laws related to sexual harassment in the workplace. His session was crucial in understanding legal protections available to women and the role volunteers can play in advocating for these rights.
- Mr. Tashi Raptan Barfungpa covered laws relating to children, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act,

1986, and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. He also discussed Central Schemes promoting social welfare and various social security schemes.

Day 2: Specialized Legal Sessions:

- Mr. N. Rai, Designated Senior Advocate, High Court of Sikkim, elaborated on state and central schemes promoting social welfare, social security schemes, and criminal laws, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). His session included practical knowledge on bail and arrest procedures and the concept of plea bargaining.
- Mr. R.C. Sharma discussed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, emphasizing the protection of children's rights and the legal mechanisms in place to prevent sexual offenses against minors.
- Ms. Kessang Diki Bhutia provided insights into Section 357 of the CrPC and the Sikkim Compensation to Victims or his Dependents Scheme, 2021, highlighting compensation mechanisms for victims of crimes.
- Mr. Thupden Youngda covered property laws, including inheritance, transfers of immovable property, registration, and revenue laws, equipping students with knowledge critical for handling property-related legal issues.

Day 3: Practical Legal Applications – By Panel Advocate:

- Mr. J.K.P. Jaiswal and Mr. Rajendra Upreti addressed family law matters, discussing marriage laws, adoption, maintenance, custody, guardianship, judicial separation, and divorce. They also covered the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
- Mr. Safal Sharma talked about Lok Adalats, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) systems, and free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, emphasizing the importance of ADR in reducing the burden on the judiciary.
- Mr. Tshewang Namgyal Bhutia discussed labor laws, including the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and laws related to unorganized workers and inter-state migrant workers. He also mentioned the legal assistance provided under the NALSA Scheme for workers in the unorganized sector.

The training program was a resounding Knowledge full, empowering the students with the knowledge and skills necessary to serve as effective Para Legal Volunteers. The interactive sessions, comprehensive legal education, and practical insights provided a robust foundation for the students to contribute meaningfully to their communities.