

CHHATTISGARH STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY,

VISIONS & PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2015-16

“ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL” is the vision of Legal Services in India. It summarizes what we stand for, what we have strive to achieve since the day of our inception and what we intend to do in the years to come. We are re-emphasizing it once again when we are unfolding our vision and strategy for the year 2015-16.

National Legal Services Authority [NALSA] resolved to lay down ‘realistic working-strategies’ and to design ‘effective and concrete action plans’ to achieve the object of providing ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL, keeping in view the impediments in the process of access to justice on account of social disparities and systemic barriers to legal aid movement .

Thus NALSA framed quinquennial vision and strategy document for the period July 2009 to June 2014, which contains the following parts-

- * Part-I (Legal Services – a journey from charity to constitutional Rights) recount the history of legal aid and coming into existence of NALSA.
- * Part-II- Looking back – the activities thus far.
- * Part-III- Projects, challenges and strategies.
- * Part-IV- Identifies the thrust areas and sets out a proposed strategy to strengthen the legal services machinery in India.
- * Part-V- Lays down the road map for making the assessment and implementation of the strategies.

Further NALSA has also framed important Schemes and Regulations, which are:

- Scheme for Supporting the Implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA), 2008
- Micro Legal Literacy Scheme, 2008.

- Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities Scheme, 2009.
- National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009.
- National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010
- National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill Persons and Persons with Mental Disabilities) Scheme, 2010.
- National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2010.
- National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulation, 2011.

Thus keeping the letter and spirit of the NALSA- quinquennial vision and strategy, regulations, schemes and National Plan of Action framed by the NALSA and in addition to above, the State Legal Services Authority of Chhattisgarh has pledged to provide its better legal aid services to weaker sections of the society.

Role of State Legal Services Authorities:

Apart from implementing the National Strategies and Plans of Action, the State Authorities have a pivotal role to play. The State Authorities are to function in such a way as to serve as the State level apex body for the legal services activities taking place in the State concerned under the functions as mentioned in Section-7 of the Legal Services Authority Act 1987. They should work in such a manner as a benevolent institution to which all categories of persons mentioned in Section-12 of the Legal Services Authority Act 1987 can pin their hopes on.

Thus Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority decided to frame plan of action of the year 2015-2016.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2015-2016

- **Ensuring total benefit of all the schemes formulated by Central Government and Chhattisgarh State Government for vulnerable groups through legal awareness and legal empowerment.**

Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority observed various socio Legal problems being faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups. They are deprived of benefits of all the schemes formulated for their upliftment in lack of awareness. Therefore extensive legal awareness programs will be organized for facilitate the vulnerable and marginalized groups to avail benefits of such as schemes and programs. In this regard GOI- UNDP project on Access to Justice for Marginalized people proposed contours of the period 2013-2017 will be implemented in the state of Chhattisgarh as it words and spirit.

Keeping in view of the new enactment and amended provisions of the justice delivery system specially for women and children shall be taken along the following other programs

- Encouraging Mobile Lok Adalat, Jail Lok Adalat, Lok Adalat in Juvenile Justice Boards.
- Encouraging Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services.
- Encouraging free competent, effective and comprehensive Legal Services with support of grant-in- aid of the 13th finance commission.
- Establishment of ADR Centre in all Districts with support of grant –in- aid of the 13th finance commission.
- Training of mediators with coordination of The Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India and committee for monitoring the mediation centers, High Court of Chhattisgarh.
- Training of Panel Lawyers, Secretary and Staff of the DLSAs with the coordination of the State Judicial Academy.

- Preventive and Strategic Legal Aid Programmes.
- Ensuring the establishment of Legal Aid Clinic in all Jails and Juvenile Justice Boards and for each Gram Panchayat/Cluster of Gram Panchayats and to make them functional and active.
- Ensuring the establishment of front office in all Court Premises of the State and to make them functional and active.
- Ensuring the Establishment of Student Legal Service Centers in all Law Universities and Law Colleges.
- Para-Legal Volunteers: Identification and training and to make them functional and active.
- Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness :
 - Legal Literacy and legal awareness programmes will be conducted with the help of lawyers, law teachers, law students and legal academics.
 - Legal literacy programmes will be conducted at different levels.
- Legal Awareness Camps at village level.
- Legal Literacy classes for school and college students.
- Legal awareness programmes for empowerment of women and children.
 - Special legal literacy classes will be organized for other target groups like industrial workers, drivers of commercial vehicles, professionals like Doctors, Engineers, and I.T. Professionals.
- Awareness programme about women and children empowerment issues.
 - Better implementation of Laws enacted for the help of women and children.
 - Organize a state level discussion on better implementation of laws framed to protect women and children.

- Government of Chhattisgarh has framed a scheme for compensation for the loss caused to victims and his/her family member which will be compensated by the Government of Chhattisgarh due under Sec 357A Cr.P.C. which has to be implemented. In order to implement the said scheme methods will be adopted for its implementations.
- Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority keeping in view the needs of the marginalized people of Chhattisgarh has decided to continue the programmes for Rights of Child, women and senior citizens.
- Under the National Plan of Action for 2015-16 “Project on Sensitization Programme for Prohibition of Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Child Labour and Ensuring Child Education and Juvenile Justice” is going on in the State of Chhattisgarh, it may also be continued in the year 2015-16.
- Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority has decided to start a “Campaign for Care, Protection and Rehabilitation of Mentally Disabled Persons.”
- Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority shall call upon local body institution like the village panchayat, mandal or block panchayat municipality and corporation etc. to provide space for the functioning of the legal aid clinic. The Chhattisgarh State Legal may impress upon the local body institution and district administration the need co-operation with the functioning of the legal aid clinics.
- Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority has decided to start a legal awareness programme throughout the state for unorganized labour/ workers in co-ordination with labour department of the local area and to educate the labour/workers to avail the benefit under the scheme for worker in the Unorganized Sector, 2010 framed by NALSA.
- Proper and effective utilization of 13th Finance Commission (TFC) Award, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority shall take steps for full utilization of the funds granted by the FTC under different heads pertaining the legal services authorities. One of the important and vital areas which required special attention is construction of District ADR Centres.

- Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority shall be taken step with co-operation of the Government Department and the various training institutes under the Government for spreading awareness about the functioning of Legal Services Institutions.
- Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority will be organized special legal literacy programmes and workshop on the subject of P.N.D.P. Act and Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
- Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority will be make a programme with the help of District Judges to send some authorized team of officers and lawyers to visit the jail and report on the living conditions in jails & lack-up and inspection of the facilities provided like bathrooms, lavatories, cleanliness & sanitation, health (both physical and mental) quality of bedding, food, drinking water, living space, facilities in jail and lock up in every 4 month.

OUR THEME

- This year shall be dedicated to spreading awareness for curbing human trafficking . Also focus will be spreading awareness regarding provision of Placement Agency Act and implementation. There off, in collaboration with govt. agencies.

Thus with above plan of action in mind, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority decided to provide better legal services to weaker section of the society.

(Rajnish Shrivastava)
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