

## **Internship of Law Students**

State Legal Services Authority, UT., Chandigarh is conducting internship for law students during winter and summer breaks of Law Colleges. Batches of approximately 20 to 30 students intern with the Authority in the months of December, June and July. A comprehensive schedule of activities is observed for interns. The interns learn the processing of Legal Aid applications and attend Legal advice by Law Officer and counseling by the Para-Legal Volunteers to the visitors in the office of the Authority.

In order to understand the Alternate Dispute Resolution System the students attend the proceedings of the Permanent Lok Adalat at the Pre-litigative Stage and observe the settlement of referred cases by the mutual consent of the parties. They also attend the proceedings of Permanent Lok Adalat for Public Utility Services where the Presiding Officer apprise them about its working. Similarly, during their internship in the Mediation Centre at District Courts they are apprised of the working of the Mediation Centre by a Senior Mediator. They also watch the actual Mediation Sessions with the consent of the parties.

The internees under the guidance of Law Officer of the Authority visit Model Jail, Observation Home and Juvenile Home, Old Age Home, Home for Destitute Children and Women and Institute of Mentally Retarded Children. They are made aware of the working of these institutes by their respective incharges. They are allowed to interact with the inmates in order to know their problems, which are brought to the notice of the authority concerned by the Project Officer of the internship. The internees visit the Legal Aid Clinics in order to know about their working at the spot. They help Para Legal Volunteer in distribution of awareness literature to the inhabitants of that area and interact with the visitors to know their grievances.

For one week, the internees in the guidance of coordinators and with the help of Para Legal Volunteers conduct surveys of the rural and slum areas to identify the problems of the inhabitants and status of implementation of Government Welfare Schemes in those areas. They also learn the preparation of applications regarding problems and help in filling of forms for availing the benefits of Government Social Welfare Schemes with the guidance of Para Legal Volunteers. The applications, forms and data collected by them are used by the Authority in taking up the problems of the people with different Departments of the Administration. Awareness material regarding schemes of the Authority and Social Welfare Schemes is distributed door-to-door and the people are made aware of the location of the Legal Aid Clinic in that area. In case no Legal Aid Clinic is in the vicinity or in the cluster of villages or colonies in that area, the process for opening the same is initiated. Generally, after conducting such survey, a mobile Lok Adalat is organized to solve the problems at the spot. The officials of Social Welfare Department and other concerned departments also join in order to redress the grievances.

A separate schedule for conducting Awareness Programmes in the Schools, Colleges, Villages and Colonies is prepared. The teams of two students each are formed who prepare different topics on Socio Legal Issues, Schemes of the Authority and benefits of ADR System with the help of Project Officer and teachers. They are deputed to have interactive sessions with students of higher classes on such topics in Schools and Colleges. They also give their presentations in Villages and Colonies in the Awareness Camps organized by Para-Legal Volunteers. Thus the Legal Literacy Programmes in Schools and Colleges and Awareness Programmes in Villages and Colonies are conducted at a large scale during each internship session.