

A SCHEME FOR STUDENTS LEGAL LITERACY CLUBS

Source:

- 1. NALSA- A Quinquennial Vision and Strategy.**
- 2. Guidelines issued by NALSA under letter NO.2455 dated 6.1.2010.**
- 3. National Plan of Action for 2010-2011-A Vision.**

A. Introduction:

India is a modern state and world's largest democracy with a population of over 1.21 billion people. Since independence in 1947, the country has already passed through 14 general elections on the basis of adult franchise and secret ballot. The Constitution of our country guarantees absolute equality to all its citizens regardless of caste, creed, community and religion. The Supreme Court has ensured strict enforcement of every constitutional safeguard relating to the freedom of all individuals. The country has made a remarkable progress in various respects as well, and has accepted the concept of 'welfare state'. Hence it has to work for the welfare of the general public. It is also the function of the State to establish a just social order by enacting just laws and by providing equal opportunity to all to grow.

To make available the law channels of justice to the poor, free legal services have been incorporated in the legal system. Equally, various socio-economic and social security schemes are being evolved and implemented by the Central Government and State Government for welfare and betterment of the people. Apart from the above, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has been enacted providing for free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and for organization of Lok Adalats to secure promotion of justice on a basis of equal opportunity. But due to illiteracy, ignorance or unawareness a large section of our society, particularly those who live in rural remote areas, still remain deprived of the fruits of those welfare legislations and schemes.

As students are considered the future leaders so they would be the best medium to communicate between those in need and the State Legal Services Authority (in short SLSA). They would be helpful in dissemination of information about legal aid programmes , creating legal awareness among the masses, and to make use of their potential and spirit for the cause of disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society while encouraging them to empathize and identify the problems of the people and make justice accessible to all. The present Scheme of "Students Legal Literacy Clubs" is formed with an idea to spread knowledge of the legal rights and duties and to give legal suggestions to the poor and needy for their various problems and for providing Legal Literacy and legal services programmes without causing any detriment to their study curriculum.

B. Constitution:

In every High School and college in the Union Territory, Chandigarh, there shall be set up a Student Legal Literacy Club comprising selected students of Class-IX and above in schools and Second year and below in Colleges as members and the number of the members shall be not less than 10 and not exceeding 25. More than one club may be set up in a High School/Colleges, if so required,. The Club shall run under the guidance of a teacher called "Teacher-in-Charge" to be nominated by the Headmaster/Principal in association with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and under the overall supervision of the Headmaster / Principal of the respective High School/College. A proforma regarding constitution of the club is at **Appendix- 'A'**. Each club shall bear an index number to be assigned by the SLSA. The Member Secretary of the SLSA shall liaise with the Liaison Officer of the NSS and NSS Programme Coordinator of the High Schools/Colleges in the matter of establishment of these clubs. The School/College Authority shall spare accommodation inside the school/college premises and provide other required infrastructure for functioning of the Club.

C. Legal Literacy classes for the Members of the Club:

There shall be organized at least six Legal Literacy Classes per year in every high school/college where the Club has been established. The Representatives/Advocates of the SLSA will take those classes for briefing the members of the Club as well as the teacher in-charge about the *modus operandi* of legal services by the SLSA, Pre-litigation settlements of disputes, Lok Adalats and ADR generally. "Services of the local Judicial Officers, Administrative Officers, experienced advocates and Law Teachers, may also be availed of in those legal literacy classes for focusing on the laws and welfare schemes of the Government relating to the women, Children, Labourers, people below the poverty line, or suffering from mental or physical disabilities and people otherwise remaining disadvantaged or marginalized in the society, and also regarding the basic legal procedure on criminal side on the subject of FIR, Arrest, Bail, about different forums available to litigants etc.. The School/College Authorities shall extend due cooperation and logistic support to the SLSA in organization and conduct of those Legal Literacy Classes. The programme of such classes shall be chalked out by the SLSA at least one month before hand and intimated to the Headmaster /Principal of the concerned School to enable the latter to circulate the same among the members of the club as well as the Teachers in-charge. As far as practicable, these classes shall be organized on holidays or any working day without any detriment to the conduct of the regular classes in the schools and without affecting the education of the member students. The SLSA may consider payment of honorarium to the external resource persons who are engaged in the Legal Literacy Club and also the Teacher-in-Charge and Class-IV Staff of the concerned school whose service is utilized for the Club.

D. Preparation and distribution of books and reading materials:

The SLSA will prepare booklets, reading materials, leaflets, pamphlets etc. in local language with contents appropriate to the objective of the scheme and functioning of the club and cause distribution of the same to the members of the Clubs for the purpose of their self-awareness and mass awareness. The SLSA may take help of the Chandigarh Administration in different departments such as, Education, Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare Development, Forest & Environment, Law, Labour & Employment and other departments, and also help of the Government of India in different departments as well as UNDP, UNFPA and other voluntary organizations to share with them the expenditure to be incurred in preparation of the materials and meeting the other expenditure. Those Government Departments and N.G.Os may also render help in providing these materials, or collaborate with the SLSA in organizing and sponsoring different legal aid programmes under the scheme.

E. Functions & Activities of the Clubs:

The Primary function of the Student Legal Literacy Club is to Spread Legal Literacy and awareness in their neighborhood and act as a bridge between the persons in need of Legal Services and SLSA. The functions and activities of the club include the following:- .

- a) To identify persons in their neighborhood who deserve legal aid or assistance and who are in need of protecting their rights conferred by law, and to refer those persons, with recommendation of the Teacher-in-Charge, SLSA i.e. for facilitating provision of due and necessary legal assistance to them in accordance with Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and Rules and Resolutions there under.
- b) To distribute Legal Aid application forms free of cost to those who need legal assistance (these forms will be made available to the clubs at the instance of Legal Services Institutions).
- c) To spread legal literacy and awareness by setting up Rallies, making door-to-door visits in the neighboring areas, forming small groups of villagers for inter face, making Road shows, distributing leaflets, pamphlets, study materials etc. containing information regarding modus operandi of Legal Services, Pre-litigation settlement of disputes, Lok Adalat etc., various Government schemes on Poverty Alleviation, Health, Employment, and other social security measures.
- d) To observe important Days like World Environment Day, World Day against Child Labour, Women's Day, Disability Day, Mental Health Day, Children's Day, National Legal Services Day, Anti-Tobacco Day etc., and spread message in the public about the aim and object of those Days.

For the purpose of the activities the student members need not undertake tedious journey or resort to any expensive or laboring schedule. They may divide themselves into groups each comprising 8 to 10 members and proceed to different segments of their neighboring areas for the purpose of campaigning.

A brief report about the activities/ programmes undertaken by the clubs shall be sent by the Teacher-in-Charge to the SLSA as soon as possible.

F. Maintenance of Registers:

The club shall maintain **four** separate Registers for the purposes as follows:-

i) MEMBERSHIP REGISTER - to reflect the names of the Club members in every Academic year starting from 2011-12 onwards with signature of all the members as well as the name and signature of the Teacher-in-Charge. A copy of the entry in the Register for every Academic year shall be forwarded by the Teacher-in-Charge to the SLSA through the respective Headmaster of the school within a fortnight after commencement of the Academic Session.

ii) RESOLUTION REGISTER - to contain all the Resolutions passed by the Club with their respective dates, signature of the Teacher-in-Charge of the Club. Every such resolution should be countersigned by the Headmaster of the School.

iii) ACTIVITIES REGISTER - to contain a brief description of the activities undertaken by the club with date, place, number of members participated etc. A brief report about the activities / programmes undertaken by the Club shall be sent by the Teacher-in-Charge to the SLSA as soon as possible.

iv) DESPATCH REGISTER - to reflect the letters and correspondences issued by the Club to different quarters.

The Registers will be supplied to the Clubs by the SLSA or its field units or the State Government. It shall be the duty of the Teacher-in-Charge to maintain those registers fairly and properly. Any officer of the SLSA , shall have power to inspect the Registers maintained by the Club.

G. Supervision, Evaluation & Cash Award:

The SLSA shall exercise supervisory function over the activities of the Clubs operating in jurisdiction, maintain a separate register to reflect the details such as, members of the club, name of the Teacher-in-Charge, name of the Headmaster, brief mention of the activities undertaken or organized by the Club, number and details of the persons in need of legal services referred to by the individual clubs to SLSA, etc. The action taken report under the scheme shall be submitted to the SLSA as per the proforma vide **Appendix-B** at the end of each month where-after the SLSA may submit consolidated report in this respect to the National Legal Services Authority.

The SLSA shall assess and evaluate the work done by the individual clubs and may institute cash award not exceeding Rs.5,000/- per year for the Best Legal Literacy Club with Rs 3000/- for the First Runner Up and Rs 2,000/- for the second runner up separately for School and College level.

SLSA may also institute cash award for the Best Student at the School/College Level.

H Saving:

Notwithstanding anything contained herein before the SLSA shall have power to alter any of the provisions or to introduce any new provision in the scheme or to issue guidelines to supplement or complement to the existing provisions for the purpose of effective and efficient functioning of the Clubs in general or any particular club (s).

STUDENTS LEGAL LITERACY CLUB**STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH**

1. Name of the Club :
2. Date of Establishment :
3. Name of the High School
With details :
4. Name of the Headmaster :
5. Name of the Teacher-In-Charge :
6. Number of Members :

S.No	Name of the Member(s)	Class and Section
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Signature**Member Secretary, SLSA**

Subject: - Action Taken Report in relation to Students Legal Literacy Club.

STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH

- (i) Month under Report :.....
- (ii) No. of programmes organized / activities undertaken by the Clubs. :.....
- (iii) No. of applications for Legal services referred by the Clubs to SLSA for legal assistance :.....
- (iv) No. of applicants provided with legal aid / assistance by SLSA out of those as referred by the Clubs) :.....

Please specify:

- a) Legal Aid provided :.....
- b) Legal Advice/ Counseling rendered:.....
- c) Disputes settled amicably on the basis of conciliation / Mediation.:.....
- (v) Other information if any:.....

Signature
Member Secretary, SLSA



STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLUB:

CLUB INDEX : SLSA/LLC/2011/

ACTIVITIES REGISTER

S.NO	DATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN
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Full Signature of the Teacher in Charge



STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLUB:

CLUB INDEX : SLSA/LLC/2011/

RESOLUTION REGISTER

S.NO	DATE	DETAILS OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED
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No. of Members present

Full Signature of the Teacher in Charge



STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLUB:

CLUB INDEX : SLSA/LLC/2011/

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER OF THE CLUB

MEMBERS OF THE CLUB FOR THE YEAR 2011-12

Club Name:

Club Index: SLSA/LLC/2011/

S.NO	Name of the member	Class and Section	Signature
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No/Dated...../

Copy forwarded to the Member Secretary State Legal Services Authority, Union Territory ,Chandigarh

Full Signature of the Teacher in Charge



STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLUB:

CLUB INDEX : SLSA/LLC/2011/

DESPATCH REGISTER OF THE CLUB

