



**Special Lecture on CONCEPT OF
LEGAL AID IN INDIA**

SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

**24/2 Mahatma Gandhi Road
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:: SPECIAL LECTURE ON THE TOPIC ::
CONCEPT OF LEGAL AID IN INDIA

:: SPEAKER ::

Prof. Dr. Jatindra Kumar Das

Head & Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Calcutta

on

05.12.2018

09.30 onwards

Venue : Seminar Room

ORGANISED BY :

SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

KOLKATA



Special Lecture on CONCEPT OF LEGAL AID IN INDIA

The Concept Of Legal Aid Was Conceptualized To Protect The Interests Of The Socio-Economically Challenged Sections Of Society By Means Of Providing Them Free Legal Aid To Safeguard Their Constitutionally Guaranteed Rights. Free Legal Services Also Include Provision Of Aid And Advice To The Beneficiaries To Access The Benefits Under The Welfare Statutes And Schemes Framed By The Union Or State Government And To Ensure Access To Justice In Any Other Manner.

According To Section 2 (C) Of The Legal Services Authority Act, 1987, 'Legal Services' Includes Any Service In The Conduct Of Any Case Or Other Legal Proceeding Before Any Court Or Other Authority Or Tribunal And The Giving Of Advice On Any Legal Matter.

The Term 'Lok Adalat' Means People's Court Based On Gandhian Principles And One Of The Key Components Of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism (ADRM) System Which Aims To Deliver Informal , Affordable And Expeditious Justice To The Common People. Lok Adalat Is One Of The Alternative Dispute Redressal Mechanisms, It Is A Forum Where Disputes/Cases Pending In The Court Of Law Or At Pre-Litigation Stage Are Settled/ Compromised Amicably. Lok Adalats Have Been Given Statutory Status Under The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Under The Said Act, The Award (Decision) Made By The Lok Adalats Is Deemed To Be A Decree Of A Civil Court And Is Final And Binding On All Parties And No Appeal Against Such An Award Lies Before Any Court Of Law.

Surendranath Law College Organized A Special Lecture On Legal Aid In India On 5th December 2018, In The College Seminar Room To Highlight The Significance Of Free Legal Aid To Provide Free And Competent Legal Service To The Weaker Sections Of The Society To Ensure That Opportunities For Securing Justice Are Not Denied To Any Citizens By Reason Of Economic Or Other Disabilities, And To Organize Lok Adalats To Secure That The Operation Of The Legal System Promotes Justice On A Basis Of Equal Opportunity.

Prof. Dr. Jatindra Kumar Das, Head & Dean, Department Of Law, University Of Calcutta Was The Speaker Gracing The Occasion. He Highlighted The Fact That Though India Is A Rapidly Industrializing Country, Yet The Society Is Confronted With Multiple Challenges Like A Burgeoning Population, Illiteracy , Human Rights Violations And Exploitation Of The Socio-Economically Weaker Sections. The Poor And The Marginalized Are Deprived Of Their Constitutionally Guaranteed Rights And Freedoms And This Is Where Institutionalized Safeguards Of Free Legal Aid For The Weaker Sections Of Society Assumes A Role Of Paramount Importance.

Keeping This Fact In The Mind The Government Has Taken Up Policies To Spread Awareness Amongst The Common Masses Through Organizing Different Programmes Held By Different Authorities, Governmental Or Non-Governmental Regarding Free Legal Aid. As The People Of The Country Become More Aware About Their Legal Rights, Duties And Responsibilities, They Would Gradually Transform Into An Enlightened Citizenry , Channelizing The Positive Regulatory Role Of Laws To Leave More Fulfilling Lives As Responsible Citizens. Spreading The Awareness About The Rights Of The People And How They Are Or Can Be Infringed Is The Primary Target Of These Authorities. Once People Realize The Importance Of Safeguarding Their Rights, The Awareness Of Redressing The Violation Of Their Constitutionally Safeguarded Rights Arise. The National And State Legal Services Authorities Provide Assistance In The Form Of Legal Aid And Hold Legal Aid Clinics For This Purpose With The Motto To Help The Victims Of Any Violations. The Legal Services Authority Spreads Legal Awareness Amongst The Citizens Of Our Country, Provides Legal Assistance Like Appointing Advocates And Giving Advices To The People And Also To Suggest The Government Different Other Plans Relating This Noble Cause. These Are The Functions Carried Out By These Organizations And Authorities.

Surendranath Law College Has A Functional Free Legal Aid Clinic Catering To The Diverse Needs Of The Vulnerable Sections Of Society Requiring Legal Assistance And Guidance. This Clinic Is Operational In The College Campus Every Tuesday From 2 To 4 P.M. Advocate Anusuya Datta Of The West Bengal Legal Service Authority Is Attached With The Legal Aid Clinic.

