

Awareness Programme on 'Free Legal Aid Services' held at GMFC



(The Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Shaikh Mohammad Parvez Al-Usmani with the Chief Guest Honourable Smt. Sunita Gaunekar and her team from the Legal Aid Cell, Sanguem, and GMFC staff, students & other participants.)

SPES's Goa Multi-Faculty College in collaboration with the Legal Aid Cell, Sanguem, South-Goa, organized an awareness programme on 'Free Legal Aid Services' on 24th October 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at SPES's GMFC campus. Around 52 participants consisting of students, residents of Okamb village and staff members of GMFC attended this event. The function was graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries Smt. Sunita Gaunekar, Civil Judge Junior Division, and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Sanguem, Goa; Shri Ajay Gaude, Dy. Collector, Revenue, North Goa and Shri Mangaldas Gaonkar, Asst. Commissioner Excise, Panaji.

Adv. Abhilasha Naik and Adv. Ishwar Kuttikar served as the main resource persons for the event.

The objective of the programme was to create awareness about various free services provided by the Legal Aid Cell (such as advice on Legal matters, free legal representation by qualified advocates in both civil, criminal and revenue courts etc.) and to enlighten participants on how to access services of the Legal Aid Cell.

The Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Shaikh Mohammad Parvez Al-Usmani, welcomed the gathering and stated his intention to develop the college to act as an essential

socia-cultural resource centre in Dharbandora. This was followed by the floral welcome of all the dignitaries and the lamp lighting ceremony.



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After this, the Chief Guest Smt. Sunita Gaunekar explained the rationale for organising such awareness programmes in different locations of the state. Then Shri Ajay Gaude shared his personal experiences and advised students to follow 3D principles: discipline, determination, and dedication. This was followed by a speech by Shri Mangaldas Gaonkar who shared useful insights on the preparation for competitive exams.

Later, Adv. Abhilasha Naik talked about the free legal aid services available for various issues such as cases related to domestic violence, delay in registration of birth and death and other civil and criminal matters. She further spoke on the person who are not able to issue their birth/death certificate can avail the facility of free legal aid. She also explained certain pre-litigation procedures, Lok adalats etc.

Adv. Ishwar Kuttikar focused on the importance of the United Nations Day observed on 24th October. He discussed various types of free aid services which are available for civil cases such as land disputes and explained in detail the procedure

required for availing benefits of free aid. He further touched upon the few sections of Motor Vehicle Act.

Finally, a Question & Answer session was held wherein the participants were given the opportunity to voice their queries regarding multiple legal issues encountered at a personal and community level.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Asst Prof. Kalpita Naik. The Programme received overwhelming response from the participants.

Under the guidance and supervision of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Shaikh Mohammad Parvez Al-Usmani, Asst. Prof. Kalpita Naik, Asst. Prof. Sandhya Joseph and Asst. Prof. Milan Anand Gaonkar took the initiative to propose, plan and organise this programme as part of the 75 hours of Community Work for University & College Teachers. Asst. Prof. Rajendra Gounder assisted with venue prep and other logistics on the day prior and during the event. The programme was eloquently compered by Asst. Prof. Shivpranav Damodar Alavani. Technical assistance was provided by Ms. Ruchi Kuttikar, System Administrator. Other staff members who helped in organizing the event included Mr. Praneet Shigaonkar, Accountant, and Multi-Tasking Staff Mr. Udas Dessai, Mr. Mahesh Shirgaonkar and Mr. Suresh P. Gaonkar.

Report drafted by Ms Sandhya Joseph, Assistant Professor in English.

Report checked Ms Kalpita Naik, Assistant Professor in Commerce.