

BEST PRACTICE : (AY 2020-21)

TITLE : PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH PRACTICAL LEARNING

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE

To develop professional abilities among students.

- **To refine students by polishing their talents, skills and proficiency and further blending them with practical knowledge.**
- **To enhance the level of knowledge of the students specially in procedural laws i.e Civil Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Law of Evidence and Alternate Dispute Resolution.**
- **To stimulate among students the sense of service towards society.**
- **To expose students to the factual position in the areas involved in procedural laws i.e police lock-ups, prisons, courts and tribunals**
- **To promote institutional neighborhood and networking**
- **To create professionalism with social commitment**

THE CONTEXT

Practical learning consists prison visits, court visits, master-classes, community service through legal awareness and legal aid.

- **Permissions are a condition precedent for all activities. It is a strenuous process as it includes numerous authorities. For prison visits permission are required from the Home Department and Inspector General of Prisons. For Court visits permissions from the Principal Session Judge in the Sessions Court and Chief Judicial Magistrate in the lower Courts are required.**
- **The institution is bound by the norms of Bar Council of India as well as Goa University there is no autonomy to decide on the Practical aspect of subjects within the syllabus.**
- **Programmes conducted under Community Service demand exposure of law to the society. It is challenging to accommodate problems of people from different sects of the society and cater to their needs within the allotted time.**

THE PRACTICE

- **Practical learning was introduced with the intent of encouraging and motivating students towards societal evolution.**
- **The College has undertaken numerous steps and has adopted prudent practices that make learning experience comprehensive and helps in building the character, confidence and perfection, which inculcates professionalism amongst the students.**
- **At the commencement of every academic year the Principal along with the faculty members formulates different committees/clubs, to prepare a planner of activities, which are finally incorporated in the academic calendar, in order to ensure that practical learning runs smoothly.**

- The College has various Committees/Clubs like the Environmental Law Club, Human Rights Club, Consumer Law Club, Constitutional Law Club, Criminal Law Club, IPR Law Club, Labour Law Club, RTI Club, Medical Law Club, Literary Club, Library and Information Science Club, Sports & Entertainment Law Club, Women Cell, Childs Right Club, Entrepreneur Club, NSS, Legal Aid Society.
- The Human Rights Club has shouldered the responsibility of creating awareness on Human Rights. They conducted a rally on the Human Rights Day in Margao where in the students shouted slogans and carried placards for a pictorial display of slogans. Various other Clubs have also conducted rallies on “Socio – Legal Issues”
- To encourage the commitment of students towards society the College organizes Jail visits every year. Permissions have to be obtained from the Home Department and the Inspector General of Prison. A batch of 20 students are allowed at a time. The students get an opportunity to interact with the inmates and understand their problems. The students envisage the importance of “Legal Aid.” They also learn the pivotal role of subjects like the ‘Law of Evidence’ and the ‘Criminal Procedure Code’ in administration of justice in the society.
- The Criminal Law Club organizes interactive sessions with Senior advocates, Public Prosecutors to gain practical knowledge on the subject.
- The Legal Aid Committees have 21 legal Aid Clinics, the students of these clinics are trained to cater to the needs of the community. The Legal Aid coordinators along with their students conduct various awareness programmes through street plays on various topics such as human rights, constitutional rights etc. They also conduct surveys on socio-legal problems. They also strive to facilitate the backward classes of the society to avail facilities of the various available schemes like Griha adhaar, Ladli laxmi, Den Dayal Pension, Mamta Scheme etc.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

The State/District Legal Services Authority in association has organized a State Level Students Seminar and an Essay Competition.

- Practical learning in the form of legal aid, legal awareness, prison and court visits and practical experiences through master classes by Professionals has been amalgamated into the academic environment.
- The Practices followed have resulted in better responsible and confident lawyers to meet the needs of the society. Our students have secured Government Jobs, Judicial Posts, Administrative Posts which speak of our Success.
- The exposure of students to Prisons, Courts, Tribunals, Administrative Offices, Villages transform their behavior and has created a sense of responsibility among them and has also polished their professional abilities.
- A large number of participation and dedication of students creating Legal awareness motivates others to join this awareness drive.
- College has 21 legal Aid Clinics to encourage the student to work enthusiastically an also display a collage of all the activities of these Clinics in the form of an Exhibition on the “National Legal Aid Day” wherein winning team is awarded a trophy for being the ‘Best Legal Aid Clinic’, which in turn inspires the other Clinics to perform better in the future.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED

Permissions for Prison visits involve a complex procedure and a lot of time. The allotted slot of students is also very small which requires numerous visits and also engages many teachers on various days. The prison being situated in North Goa demands for an entire day to gain Practical Knowledge.

- The legal aid activities do not always furnish immediate results and sometimes have an unpleasant experience for not being able to cater to the needs of the people with punctuality due to delay from the Government officials.**
- While creating awareness among the illiterate strata of the society the students have to come down to the level of these people and explain to them the different provisions of law. They have to speak to them in their local languages. Sometimes the students are demotivated when the local people are rude and do not agree with the law.**

NOTES

- The G.R. Kare College of Law through its Practical learning conducts various Legal Awareness and Legal Aid Programmes every year.**
- Being a Law College the students acquire legal knowledge and absorb the law, it is therefore easy for them to cater to the legal issues of the weaker section of the society.**
- Moreover, our students are trained to draft applications specifically for Ration cards, Mutations, Income Certificates, Residence Certificates, Divergency Certificate, Senior Citizen Cards etc.**
- The students of our College also help the economically backward class of the society to avail different schemes like Dendayal pension scheme, Mamta Scheme, Griha Adhaar Scheme etc. a lot of legal requirements are involved in the same.**
- In every academic year students enlighten the public at large on their “Constitutional Rights”**
- It is a feeling of contentment that the Institute serves a large number of needy people.**

BEST PRACTICE : 2

TITLE: LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES THROUGH HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN GOA

OBJECTIVES:

- **To inculcate professionalism and civic responsibilities amongst young students that advocate societal commitment articulated through legal awareness programmes.**
- **To encourage students to explore legal regimes in addition to regular curriculum.**
- **To sensitize the students, their parents/guardians and other stakeholders associated with educational institutions who come from different strata of our society; of their rights and duties, to generate social consciousness and encouraging them to voice their concerns on various socio-legal issues existing in our society.**
- **To improve the quality and accessibility to the appropriate law enforcement agencies while achieving maximum cost-effectiveness and redeeming the confidence in the legal system.**
- **To strengthen community solidarity and supporting grassroot advocacy.**
- **To create a hub for the understanding of law and government and to participate creatively in its growth and improvement.**

CONTEXT

Socio-legal issues, such as gender discrimination and other women related problems, caste system, communalism, poverty, unemployment, corruption, violation of various human rights, health, environment, child labour, etc. has caused a lot of chaos in the society. Most people in India are not aware of the basic rights conferred upon them by law or are rather confused about it. Therefore, creating legal awareness is the need of the hour to deal with these uncertain problems which are existing and rising in the society with every passing day. Basic knowledge of legal provisions and procedures coupled with professional skills to realize rights will empower people to demand justice, accountability and effective remedies from appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Students are encouraged to generate legal knowledge and awareness through the medium of Higher Secondary Schools by organizing talks, skits, street-plays, debates, discussions, seminars and other related activities at regular intervals. These activities help uproot misconceptions about the legal system and its administration of justice and also creates a culture of self-learning and improvement in our students bringing about academic excellence in their performance. Keeping in mind the professional

ethics our students strive to work for welfare of society where they act as torchbearers of justice.

THE PRACTICE

In lieu of the above and the permission granted to our institution by the Directorate of Higher Education, Porvorim, Goa; various topics pertaining socio-legal issues which are prevalent in our society are chosen after which students are trained and prepared to conduct various activities such as presentations, skits, street plays, etc. using Higher Secondary Schools in Goa as a platform to reach out to the people. These activities are done under the instructions and supervision of the faculty and practicing advocates to ensure that the most updated and accurate information is given to the audience.

With the permission from the respective HSSC schools we send a team of our law students on allotted date and time to the respective institutions, whereby they interact with the junior college students with respect to the given topic. This practice enables our students to be more receptive to what is taught in class and drives them to learn and research more, taking initiative enthusiastically about the concerned issues and learn better as they learn and spread the awareness.

The above-mentioned activities are performed in the college premises and/or the surrounding area whereby people can actively participate and benefit from the educative sessions/activities. These activities enable the students to be more connected with the problems of the masses and to help them find solutions to the same thereby fulfilling their civic responsibilities to a great extent. These activities also present an opportunity to our students where they can put their academic knowledge and newly acquired skills into practice before they graduate.

These legal awareness activities conducted by our students for the students and other stakeholders of the HSSC schools help them identify any legal problems or conflicts and recognize their rights and responsibilities by providing them with the know how's and where to find the necessary information, legal assistance and legal remedies. Training the students at a very young age is crucial as it helps give the society a more informed and responsible generation which will be more committed to their social goals and fulfil their social responsibilities by acting as torchbearers of justice and good administration in the State of Goa as well as our Country.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

Our initiative has been immensely acclaimed and applauded by the Governor of State of Goa, Her Excellency Honourable, Ms. Mridula Sinha during the Constitutional week from 19th January 2018 to 25th January 2018 whereby our students participated in great numbers for legal awareness programmes in all HSSC schools in South Goa whereby our students shed light on the topic "Importance of the Constitution of India" and the students of junior college were very receptive to the same.

The Directorate of Education, Government of Goa, recognizing our efforts in imparting legal education particularly in terms of sensitization of the rights of the citizens has granted us permission to conduct legal awareness activities like skits, presentations, talks, etc. in Higher Secondary Schools from time to time.

Our students have shown keen interest and have willingly participated in this practice not only for academic purpose but for the sheer interest in this activity displaying their creative ability and talent.

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PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED & RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The problem encountered by us in conducting this practice is the time schedule and coordination with the Higher Secondary Schools. Since all the activities to be conducted by our institution is planned before the commencement of the new academic year and days are already allotted by our institution as to when these activities are to be conducted, often they clash with the planner of the Higher Secondary Schools as they are engaged with their own School activities as a result entertaining our students is not feasible.

Another problem we often face is that some Heads of the Institution are displeased with the selection of the topics we choose to speak on as a result they decline approval or permission.

NOTES (OPTIONAL):

Absence of legal literacy and legal culture are the main reasons for a large number of pending cases in courts all over India and one of the major reasons owing to this is illiteracy of law. Therefore even though ignorance of law is not an excuse to evade punishment in the eyes of the law, many people in our society are indeed ignorant of the law. Therefore, spreading legal awareness could actually help in the better implementation and execution of law.

It is highly recommended that we educate the youth giving them adequate training at a very young age giving them proper direction and inculcating proper legal values and helping them grow into responsible and law abiding citizens of India.