

Report of the mega Lok Adalat conducted under the aegis of the Legal Aid Clinic of Mar Gregorios College of Law

Mar Gregorios College of law has conducted a mega Lok Adalat at Vilappilsala Grama Panchayat, on 26-08-2017, in association with district Legal Services Authority, Thiruvananthapuram.

The objectives of the Legal aid programmes are to bring justice to poor and under privileged people of the community. Its aim is to settle the disputes which are pending before the court, by negotiation, conciliation and by persuasive common sense and human approach to problems.

Objectives of Mar Gregorios college of law Lok Adalat could be identified as three fold.

1. To provide free legal services to the economically poor.
2. To give the students, an opportunity to understand applicability of theories learnt in class rooms.
3. To enrich them as social responsible citizens.

Prior to Adalat, Mar Gregorios College of law conducted a mega survey in the community on 26-07-2017, to identify their legal issues. 200 students were divided into 20 groups and each group covered each ward with the help of the ward members. It was a door to door campaign and the students collected 600 complaints.

Students were highly cooperative and participated in the programme with much enthusiasm.

Political interference was a constraint that we faced. People of the community were a bit apprehensive in the initial hours, but when they understood our motive they began cooperating and opened out to students about their problems.

The complaints were sorted out and with the help of DLSA, 300 were listed for settlement. Notices were issued to the respondents.

On 26/08/2017, a Mega Adalat was conducted at the high school located in the area. People were intimated about the Adalat through public announcements, distribution of notices and through newspaper. Hon'ble Justice Shri. P Ubaid, High Court of Kerala, inaugurated the adalat. In the inaugural function, Shri. I B Sathish MLA gave the presidential address and His Excellency Most. Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios, Auxiliary bishop of Trivandrum gave the key note of address. Chief Judicial Magistrate N.K Prabhakar, Vilappil Sala Panchayat President Sri. Vijayaraj, Trivandrum District Legal Service Authority Chairman K. Haripal, Sub Judge Sri. Shiju Shaik also spoke on the occasion.

Awards were passed in 136 complaints. The adalat was a success when viewed from two perspectives. 136 litigations were settled in one day, without any monetary constraints to litigants, upholding the motto "Justice to All"

It also provided the law students, an exposure to the system of alternative means of dispute resolution system.

The main success of the Lok Adalat was that it could inculcate the idea of social responsibility among the students.