

HUMAN RIGHTS CELL (Estb. 2008-09)

Report 2019-20

Human rights has implicit importance as they are considered indispensable for the survival of human beings. ILS Law College has recognized human values and has established Human Rights Centre in 2008-09 at the hands of Justice S. Rajendra Babu, former Chief Justice of India and Chairman, National Human Rights Commission. There are more than 100 students enrolled under the Human Rights Cell. They are actively involved in various activities undertaken by the Cell. The Centre for Human Rights Cell aims to provide a “forum where students are able to further their knowledge of modern correctional issues and to bring their classroom learning to life”.

Faculty In-charge: Dr. Tejaswini S. Malegaonkar, Ms. Bhavana Wanre & Ms. Madhura Sawant.

Student Coordinators:-

1. Vishal Pande III LL.B
2. Mehool Seth III LL.B
3. Rhutuja Rai III LL.B
4. Ramit Jain III LL.B
5. ShaaD Mirza V BA LL.B
6. Sonya Mohan V BA LL.B

Activities organized under the Cell are:

1. Inaugural and Introductory session for the year, 1st August 2019.

The first session of the academic year 2019-2020 was held on 1st August 2019 it was conducted in partnership with Amnesty International India. After a short brief about the history of the Human Rights Cell and the spectrum of activities and initiatives taken by the Cell, the team from Amnesty International consisting of Perna Waghale Madam, Prashanti Gadekar Madam and Aniket Wanjale Sir were introduced and welcomed. An introductory video was shown to all the students. The range of tasks including advocacy, awareness campaigns, 1st hand reporting based on which recommendations were furnished to government bodies highlighted the approach of the organization in bringing human rights issues to the fore. The underlying principles with which the Indian hand of Amnesty worked and the role of Amnesty as an independent NGO in preserving and protecting the constitutional values were delved into.

Gender-based violence and human rights education and awareness were the current issues the organization was focusing on. On the issue of sexual harassment in online space was taken up while discussing the menace of online trolling and Amnesty’s newest campaign of “Troll Patrol”.

The session ended taking suggestions from the students present with respect for future plans of collaboration between Amnesty India and ILS Law College and a thank-you speech by the student coordinators. The student coordinators invited recommendations of the students in deciding the theme of upcoming-sessions soon after the student and faculty coordinators were introduced so as to ensure participation and awareness among the attendees.

2. Visit to Junnar, Nandanvan, (Person with special needs), 26th January 2020

On the occasion of Republic Day 26th January 2020, the Human Rights Cell along with the Legal Aid Centre of ILS Law College had organised a social visit to Nandanvan, (Person with special needs), Junnar, Maharashtra at My Activity NGO which aims to provide shelter and education for children and adults suffering from Autism, Cerebral Palsy and other mental disorder. This visit included a group of 20 students from batches of BALLB and LLB course, two faculty members Ms Madhura Sawant and Ms Pronema Bagchi (Faculty ILS Law College) accompanied the students.

The founder of the NGO Mr Vikas Ghogre introduced with his staff and discussed with the students about the children who reside in his shelter, about how they are considered as anomalous from the society's perception. This NGO provides shelter and education to around 30 students ranging from the age of 10 to 24 with variant mental disorder such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy etc. The students interacted with the parents of the children making them aware of the various health, educational, medical and fiscal benefits that they could avail under the law, government policies and schemes. The students informed the parents about how they can seek help through the Legal Aid service of the ILS Law College. The visit ended with cultural activities performed by students for the kids at the shelter home. The students also decorated the walls at the shelter home with colourful hand imprints.

The students had an extensive discussion with Mr Vikas Ghogre, where he explained about the unprecedented methodologies he uses for the education of such children. He informed the students how there is a social stigma attached to people having mental disorder and how society should take steps to accommodate them. The visit proved to be educationally and practically enriching for the students.

3. Visit to Yerwada Mental Hospital, Pune, 6th February 2020

The ILS Human Rights Cell, had organised a camp to the Yerwada Mental Hospital, Pune on 6th February, 2020. The camp consisted of 42 students, having 26 girls and 16 boys. The camp was co-ordinated by Dr. Tejaswini Malegaonkar. Ms. Ninawari Ware and Ms. Mugdha Hedau (Faculty ILS Law College) accompanied the students.

During the visit, the hospital staff explained to the students about the procedure of admission into the hospital, the diet and the facilities provided to the patients. The hospital has a total capacity of 2600 patients.

The admission of a mentally ill person into the Mental Hospital takes place as the patient is brought by the family members into the OPD Ward of the hospital, from there the patient is sent to the court where the court either gives reception order or detention order according to the behaviour of the patient. Relying on the order of the court, the hospital accepts the patient.

On the other hand, the diet of each and every person is taken into account into the hospital. There are different wards into the hospital where the fit and unfit patients stay. The patient

weighing less than 40kg is been treated with more nutritious food in respect with the normal patient's food.

The students also had the occasion to observe different wards in the hospital such as Observation Ward, ECT and Recreational Ward. The Observation Ward consists of an open space where all the patients are present and the Recreational Ward is the space where the patients are given some type of entertainment by listening to songs and letting them work according to their skills to divert their mind and keep them indulged in some work.

The visit proved to be very informative and it enlightened the students about the treatment and care provided in a mental hospital as well as guided them about the administrative nuances of the same.

4. Weekly presentations

Sr. No	Title of the Activity	Resource Persons / Participants	Brief overview of the activity	Date of the activity
1.	LGBT rights	Shaad Mirza V BA. LL.B.	Discussion on the topic, legal aspect, need for LGBT rights, recent case studies and scenario.	22 nd August 2019
2.	Short film screening	Rhutuja Rai III LL.B	Screening of the short film "Karuna" followed by discussion.	5 th September 2019
3.	Surrogacy	Vishal Pande III LL.B.	Discussion on the topic, legal aspect, need for a legislation, comparison with various countries related laws.	12 th September 2019
4.	Movie Screening	Ramit Jain III LL.B	Screening of the movie The "Whistle blower" followed by discussion	19 th September 2019
5.	Women rights & Prostitution	Sonya Mohan V BA. LL.B.	Discussion on the human rights aspect.	3 rd October 2019
6.	Right to Information	Mehool Seth III LL.B.	Power point Presentation and Discussion	11 th January 2020
7.	Session on Kashmiri pandits	Vishal Pande III LL.B	Session was conducted by the coordinator of the Human Rights cell Vishal Pande to discuss the problems going in Kashmir regarding the Kashmiri Pandits and a discussion was also taken by all the members of the cell.	5 th February 2020

8.	Session on Art. 370	Shaad Mirza V BA.LL.B Sonya Mohan V BA.LL.B Vishal Pande III.LL.B	Session on Art. 370 of the Indian Constitution – regarding the special status of J&K. View of different students were taken into consideration and discussion was ended with a debate whether the decision is correct or not.	20 th February 2020
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