

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
(Constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987)

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Speed Post

To

The Member-Secretary
Tripura State Legal Services Authority
East Bank of Melarmath Dighi
Agartala-799 001

Sub: Guidelines for **Student Legal Literacy Clubs / Legal Aid Clubs** in High Schools and Colleges.

Dear Shri S. Das,

Hon'ble Executive Chairman, NALSA is of the view that the energy and talent of the students in colleges and schools should be utilized for dissemination of information about Legal Aid Programmes and to create legal awareness amongst the masses. To make use of their potential and spirit to spread legal awareness and to encourage them to empathise and to identify the problems of their fellow citizens in their neighborhood and to bring the needy and disadvantaged persons accessible to justice, Hon'ble Executive Chairman has been pleased to direct the State Legal Services Authorities for setting up **Legal Literacy Clubs / Legal Aid Clubs in all High Schools and Colleges.**

In this connection, I am directed to request you to take the following steps for setting up Legal Literacy Clubs / Legal Aid Clubs in all High Schools and Colleges in your State :

- A. In Colleges and Universities such Clubs may be set up in association with the National Services Scheme (**NSS**). For this purpose, the State Authority may **write** to the State Liaison Officer (NSS) and NSS Programme Co-ordinators in all universities. In High Schools, the Taluk Legal Services **Committee may be directed** to liaise with the Headmaster / Principal for setting up of **Student Legal Literacy Clubs / Legal Aid Clubs.**
- B. In the Student Legal Literacy Clubs, the **Members may be briefed** by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) / Taluk Legal Services Committee (TLSC) about the salient features of important laws. They shall be briefed by the DLSA/TLSC about the *modus operandi* of legal services by the Legal Services Authorities / Committees. Pre-litigation settlements of disputes, Lok Adalats and ADR generally.

- C. The Clubs may be **headed by the NSS Programme Officers** in colleges and by a **teacher nominated by the Head-master / Principal in schools**. The Club's Members shall **report** their activities to the Programme Officer / Teacher-in-charge.
- D. The Club Members may be encouraged **to identify persons** in their neighborhood who deserve legal aid and who are in need of protecting their rights conferred by the laws.
- E. The Club Members, with the recommendation of the NSS Programme Officers/Teacher-in-charge, **may bring the persons** in need of legal services to the nearest District Legal Services Authority / Taluk Legal Services Committee.
- F. The DLSA / TLSC shall keep a **register of the Clubs** within their jurisdiction and a **record of their activities**, invite **annual reports** from the Clubs. Such reports shall be preserved with other office records.
- G. DLSA / TLSC shall **evaluate** the work done by the Clubs and may institute **cash award not exceeding Rs.2000/-** for the best Legal Literacy Club / Legal Aid Club in the Taluk , every year. In the same manner, the DLSA may select the best Club from amongst the High Schools and Colleges within that District. Certificates / mementoes also may be given to the best Club.
- H. The total number of Members in each Club shall not exceed **25**. The DLSA may grant permission to any High School / College to set up **more than one Club**, if required.

It is requested that **copies of this communication be sent to all DLSAs and TLSCs** for implementation of this scheme. The action taken report in this regard and the outcome of this initiative also may be kindly reported **by 31st March,2010**.

Receipt of this communication may be kindly acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

[U. SARATHCHANDRAN]