

Enhancing Access to Justice: Leveraging Clinical Legal Education and Pro Bono Initiatives for Social Changes

National Law University, Jodhpur
Poriborton Kori Foundation

**SMART
VILLAGE
INITIATIVE**

**RIGHT TO
EDUCATION**

**PRO BONO
CLUB**

**PROGRESS
IN
BANGLADESH**



Smart Village Initiative



**Community
Library &
Computer
Lab**

**Digital
Survey**

**Unnati
Classes**

**Essay
Writing
Competition
& Online
Webinars**

Community Library

- The Community Library in Surpura is **one of a kind** in the state of Rajasthan
- Prior to the library, students & adults **had to access paid libraries** in neighbouring areas.



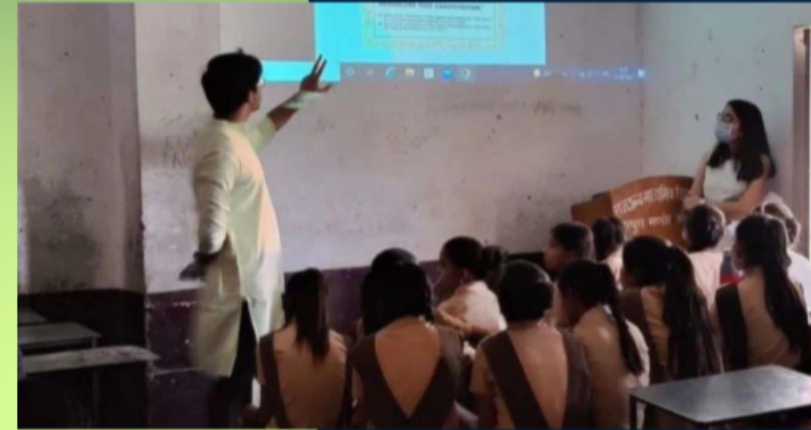
Digital Survey

The committee conducted a digital and financial literacy survey to assess the level of digital & financial literacy among the women of Surapura Village in Jodhpur, and to initiate a discourse on their exclusion from basic resources in rural India



Project Unnati

Project Unnati is a holistic educational initiative undertaken by the Committee to compliment the curriculum existing in government schools using digital resources.



Essay Competition & Online Webinars

- The committee organised a essay writing competition at the Community Library on the topic “**Spreading Awareness on Electoral Participation**”.
- The Committee has also **conducted webinars** on Disability Rights, Cybersecurity, Domestic Violence, etc



Pro Bono Activities

To bridge the gap between quality legal services to the marginalized, the committee inaugurated the Pro Bono Club under the Nyaybandhu initiative of the Law and Justice Ministry

**Legal Aid
Camp**

**Aajeevika
Collaboration**

MAP

**Jan
Sunwai &
Village
Adalat**



Adhikaar Ki Pukar (Legal aid camps)

- The aim of legal aid camps is to understand **the legal needs of people** and help people who are truly in need of effective legal assistance but **could not afford the fees of advocates**.
- We address these problems by giving **appropriate legal advice** and taking other necessary steps, including providing them counsel assistance free of cost if a case is filed in the courts.
- To date, we have received **over 50 cases**, which we have endeavored to address by collaborating with Pro Bono Lawyers.

Aajeevika

The collaboration with Aajeevika (an NGO working for the rights of migrant labourers for the past 19 years) is to ensure that the basic rights can be secured for the migrants.



MAP

- The Committee has recently collaborated with Migration and Asylum Project (MAP) for their Migrant Worker Project.
- MAP is India's only dedicated legal centre for the study of asylum and migration issues.



Jan Sunwai & Village Adalat

- The Committee conducts Jan Sunwais in Jodhpur with an aim to improve public service delivery, **enhance citizen participation** in governance, transparency and accountability in the government.
- It provides a forum for the citizens **to interact with government officials**, voice their concerns and grievances, and seek redressal from them.



MILKAR KAREIN RTE KO SARTHAK ("Collaboration for the Success of the Right to Education")



Started as a Jodhpur (Rajasthan) specific collegiate competition to spread awareness and maximize admissions under the Right to Education Act of 2009 .

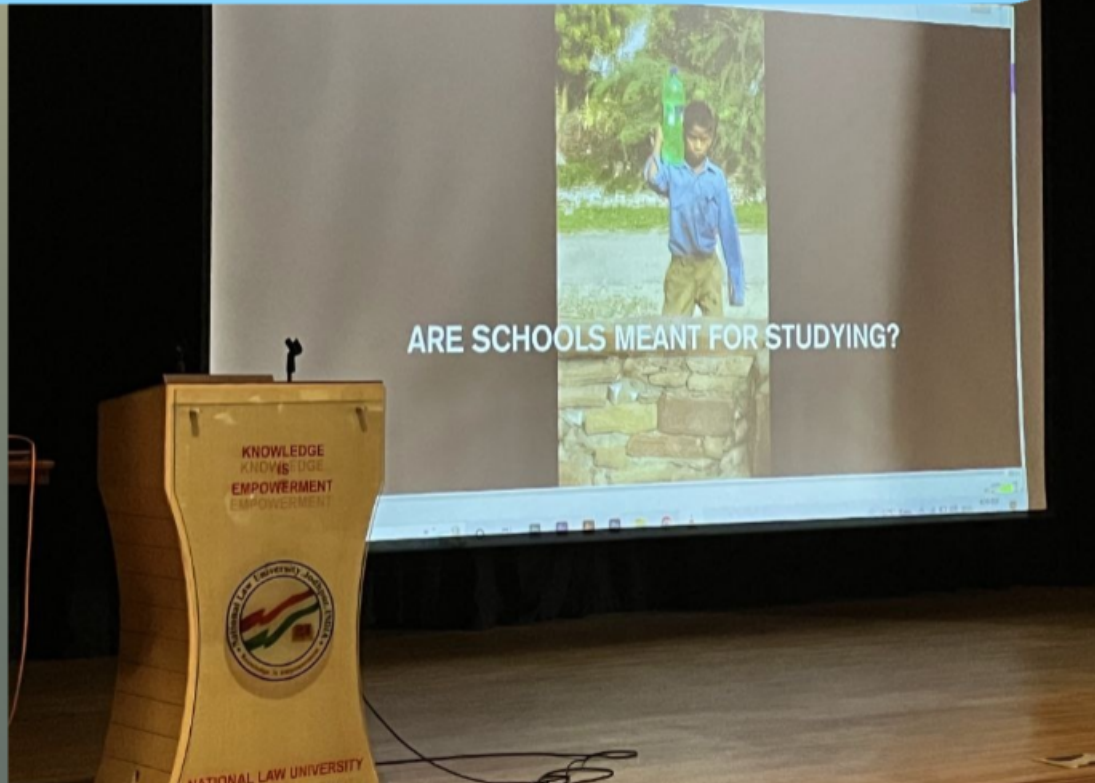
In 2022, due limitations imposed by COVID - 19 we launched an online nationwide volunteering program where we connected 70 + Law Students and Pro Bono Lawyers (to help streamline the RTE admission process for the children in their respective states.)

The Program allowed volunteers to facilitate the implementation of RTE Act and identify various challenges faced in different states regarding the effective implementation of the RTE Act and.



PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

(Regrading the Challenging Conditions of Govt. school infrastructure in Jodhpur Area)



The petition is still on going.

In 2017: We conducted a survey of around 107 schools in the districts of Jodhpur.

- Prepared a comprehensive report to improve the state of education in Rajasthan and filed a PIL before Rajasthan Hon'ble High Court.
- Rajasthan High Court issued directive for compliance norms under the RTE Act in the surveyed schools.

A noticeable improvement in the infrastructure was observed in subsequent surveys conducted by committee members, with the assistance of the District Legal Services Authority of Jodhpur in two parts - **one in 2019 and another in 2022.**

RTE Paper Presentation and Discussion Series (24 Law Schools across India participated in this)

- **Paper Presentations:** The Presenters shared the results of a survey that evaluates the Act's implementation.
- **Group discussion:** It delved into the current state of implementation of the RTE Act.
- **Report Publication:** Breaking Barriers to Education: An In-Depth Study of Implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act Across Indian States.



Strengthening pro-bono legal services in Bangladesh

(Need to address the prevalence of Informal Pro-Bono Culture)



Progress



1 Social Impact through pro bono

Although, there is no formal structure of pro bono in Bangladesh, there is an informal culture of providing legal services free of cost to vulnerable clients.

2 Project with Basha Enterprises

Employs women who were sex workers or victims of trafficking, to create textiles, jewelry, and accessories.



3 Project with Drinkwell

An organization that works to solve Bangladesh's arsenic problem, and enhanced their operations by modifying their franchise agreements to suit the Bangladeshi context.

Progress



4 Project with Subrata Trust

Subarta Trust, an initiative that provides support to senior citizens, by giving advice and drafting legal documents to strengthen their services and impact.

5 Project for Human Trafficking

Alongside the governmental endeavors, several renowned law firms teamed up to make pro bono more accessible.



CSOs providing Pro bono

In addition, organizations including Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Ain o Salish Kendra, and other civil society organizations are also providing pro bono services on a regular basis.

In 2020, Ishrat Hasan, a Bangladeshi lawyer, was awarded the IBA Pro Bono Award from the International Bar Association. Yet all these attempts are relatively minor and more can be done.





Poriborton Legal

A pro bono legal wing of Poriborton Kori Foundation connecting people who are in need of legal information with expert lawyers willing to meet those needs for free. It works to make people aware of their legal rights through pro-bono legal suggestions and online information. Primary goal is to remove barriers to access to justice, and support positive policy changes in support of Legal Aid and Pro bono.

