



# *Legal Literacy Mission in Haryana*

*From Ignorance To Legal Empowerment*

**Legal Literacy for  
Students**

**Prisoners Legal  
Literacy  
Mission (PLLM)**

**Legal Literacy for  
Underprivileged  
(LLUP)**



## **HARYANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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## HARYANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY



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Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Booklet is at once to inform how the Legal Literacy Mission has been undertaken and an invitation to the legal fraternity and NGOs to participate in this Mission for its success.

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## **BACKGROUND**

Equal Justice and free legal aid are among the most cherished constitutionally declared State Policies. The Legal Literacy Mission with its motto, "From Ignorance to Legal Empowerment" launched by National Legal Services Authority on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2005 is but a significant step towards implementation of the policy.

The National Legal Literacy Mission draws strength and inspiration from prominent reformists in the past who aided the growth of legal awareness in the country, much before the concept of legal literacy evolved. These include Raja Rammohan Roy, who gave a new fillip to women's empowerment with his untiring efforts for the abolition of Sati; Sri Aurobindo who raised the collective consciousness of a nation of its legal rights; Annie Besant, who believed that the future of India and happiness of people can never be secured by denial of justice to the women, industrial

workman and the street children; and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, who devoted his life to improving the status of Hindu widows and urged the British to pass legislation that would allow Hindu widows to remarry.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N.Bhagwati, one of the architects of the legal empowerment movements in India, noted "It is common knowledge that about seventy percent of the people living in the rural areas are illiterate in India and even that percentage of people are not aware of their rights conferred upon them by law. It is this absence of legal awareness which is responsible for the deception, exploitation and deprivation of rights and benefits from which the deprived suffer in this land". Just not the illiterate people, even the so called literate people may be legally illiterate, with inadequate rights orientation, having still little knowledge of the means of securing redress.

On the occasion of launching of Legal Literacy Mission Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.S.Bedi, the then Acting

Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court and now Judge of Supreme Court of India underscored the need to strengthen access to justice, when he observed, “Through the National Legal Literacy Mission, we want to reach out to the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of our society. They need to know that they are equal before the law and have equal protection of the law. The three-way approach of the Mission will focus on education on legal rights, education on fundamental duties and education on the availability and benefits of legal aid.”

Accordingly, the National Legal Literacy Mission has identified a set of beneficiaries who are to be immediately addressed. These include children; minority communities; victims of militancy; victims of crime, disaster and disease; prisoners, disabled, child and bonded labour, landless farming community; Dalits and tribal communities, farmers hit by droughts and floods; trafficking girls and sex workers and the poorest of the poor.

In order to make this Mission a success Haryana State Legal Services Authority has launched following schemes under Legal Literacy Mission:-

1. Prisoners Legal Literacy Mission (PLLM)
2. Legal Literacy for Underprivileged (LLUP)
3. Legal Literacy for Students (LLS).

### **Resources**

The Schemes launched by Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HSLSA) are being implemented through the following resources:-

1. Advocates on the panel of State/District/Sub Divisional Legal Services Authorities.
2. Government functionaries at different levels.
3. Students and teachers.
4. Field staff.
5. Print media and Electronic Media.
6. Para-Legals.



## **Mode of implementation**

### **1. Legal Literacy Camps**



The Advocates on the Panel of District Authorities/ Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committees are regularly holding Legal Literacy Camps in Jails for prisoners and in Juvenile Homes, Shelter Homes/Old Age Homes for the inmates of these Homes. Such Camps and Seminars are also held for the officials at grass root level, such as, for Anganwari Workers, Patwaries, BDOs, Health Workers and also for the

elected members of Panchayats and Local Bodies. Rural areas and urban slums are the targeted venues. The Authority has its website “[www.hslsa.nic.in](http://www.hslsa.nic.in)” containing relevant material for the purpose.

The following are some of topics on which the aforesaid groups are addressed at these Legal Literacy Camps:-

**For General Beneficiaries**

1. Constitutional values.
2. Spirituality and law.
3. Environment and Pollution.
4. National Security and Sovereignty.

**For Women**

1. Marriage Laws.
2. Law regarding Maternity Benefits.

3. Medical Termination of Pregnancy and Female Foeticide
4. Women Empowerment



5. Law governing Dowry and Dowry deaths
6. Sexual Harassment of Women at the Work Places.
7. Right to Maintenance for women, senior citizens.
8. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence.

### **For Children**



1. Law governing Child Marriages.
2. Minority and Guardianship.
3. Eradication of Child Labour.
4. Juvenile Justice.
5. Right to Education.

### **For Scheduled Castes etc.**

1. Rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes/Backward Classes.

### **For victims of Trafficking and Bonded Labour**



1. Trafficking in Human beings.
2. Bonded Labour.

### **For Industrial Workers etc.**

1. Labour Laws.
2. Procedure for claiming compensation by Industrial Workmen.

### **For Persons under Disability**

1. Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**For Persons in Custody and Persons in Protective Homes, Juvenile Homes, Psychiatric Hospital or Psychiatric Nursing Home**



1. Rights of arrested persons.
2. Plea Bargaining

**For Victims of Mass Disaster, Ethnic Violence, Caste Atrocity, Flood, Drought, Earthquake or Industrial Disaster.**

1. Procedure for claiming compensation by the victims of Mass Disaster, Ethnic Violence,

Caste Atrocity, Flood, Drought, Earthquake or  
Industrial Disaster.

**For poor and needy people**

1. Haryana Panchayati Raj.
2. Food Adulteration.
3. ADR System in Haryana-Lok Adalats/  
Mediation/Arbitration/Counselling and  
Conciliation.
4. Lok Adalats and free legal services.
5. Human Rights and HIV/AIDS
6. Right to Information.
7. Procedure for claiming compensation in motor  
accident claim cases.
8. Procedure for claiming compensation in  
Railway Accident Claim cases.
9. Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens.

10. Health, Hygiene and Sanitation
11. Abuse of Drugs and De-addiction.
12. Social Justice and law.
13. Law governing Juveniles.
14. The Menace of Ragging.
15. National Rural Employment (NREGA).

Following Legal Literacy Camps were held in the State of Haryana from the year 2004 to 2009:

Year	Number of Legal Literacy Camps held
2004	342
2005	928
2006	1241
2007	1182
2008	1549
2009 Upto 31.10.09	2203

**Workshop for Empanelled Advocates:**



In order to sensitize the empanelled Advocates to the need for creating legal awareness and to update them on the various laws, regular workshops are being held. Such workshops have already been held at Narnaul, Gurgaon, Kurukshetra, Jagadhri, Kaithal, Karnal, Panchkula and Ambala.

Since 27.8.2009 the Punjab and Haryana High Court has also started a regular programme for the training of empanelled advocates in the Chandigarh Judicial Academy.

## **2. Legal Aid Clinics**

### **Legal Aid Clinics in Judicial Complexes and Jails and in Villages**

Haryana State Legal Services Authority had opened Legal Aid Clinics in



every Judicial Complex and in every Central/District/Sub Jail and some villages.

The Advocates are available in these Clinics to give free advice to any person who approaches them with any legal problem. Thus these Legal Aid Clinics also help in creating awareness about the legal rights and duties of the citizens.

### **3. Legal Literacy Clubs in Schools and Colleges**



Haryana State Legal Services Authority with the collaboration of Education Department of Haryana has

opened Legal Literacy Clubs in 1444 Senior Secondary/Secondary Schools and 169 Colleges.

At these Legal Literacy Clubs the students are apprised about the various rights and duties of citizens and they are informed about various socio-legal issues. The students also participate in activities such as debates, declamation, poetry, skits, essay writing, slogan writing on issues of socio-legal relevance.

To give impetus to this project, competitions in these activities, are organized at school/college level, then at District level, then at Divisional level and finally at State level. The first State Level function is being organized at Kurukshetra.

#### 4. **EDUSAT:**

The recent advances in telecommunication are also being



utilized for achieving the object of spreading legal

awareness. Documentary films on socially relevant issues, such as “Beti” (dealing with evils of female foeticide), “Nashakhori Sey Nashamukti Ki Aur” (dealing with evil of drug abuse) and “Savera” (dealing with legal services and Lok Adalats) have been shown to the students through EDUSAT.

## 5. Publicity through Print Media and Electronic Media



Print media and Electronic media are among the most potent tools for spreading legal awareness. Haryana State Legal Services Authority has published books, folders, pamphlets dealing with

legal rights and duties of citizens. Following are some of the books published by Haryana State Legal Services Authority:

1. “Aap Aur Aapka Kanoon” (आप और आपका कानून) (dealing with rights and benefits under various Acts).



2. “Beti”(बेटी) and “Muje Bhi Janam Lane Do Maa”(मुझे भी जन्म लेने दो माँ)” (both dealing with evil of female foeticide).



3. “Nashakhori Sey Nashamukti Ki Aur” (नशाखोरी से नशामुक्ति की ओर) (dealing with evil of drug abuse).

4. Bal Shram (बाल श्रम)



5. Bandhuya Majdoori (बन्धुआ मजदूरी)

6. Chhua-Chhut (छुआ-छूत)

7. Dahej (दहेज)



8. Hindu Vivah, Sampati Ka Adhikar (हिन्दू विवाह, सम्पति का अधिकार)

9. Manav Adhikar Aur HIV/AIDS (मानव अधिकार और एच.आई. वी./एड्स)



10. Sir Par Maila Dhona (सिर पर मैला ढोना)

11. Nagrikon Ke Maulik Adhikar (नागरिकों के मौलिक अधिकार)



12. Police Se Sambandhit Adhikar (पुलिस से सम्बन्धित अधिकार)

13. Mahilayon Ka Youn Utpeeran (महिलाओं का यौन उत्पीड़न)



14. Soochana Ka Adhikar (सूचना का अधिकार)

15. Theka Majdoori, Antar-Rajyik Parvasi Masdoor, Rashtriya Gramin Rozgar Guarantee (ठेका मजदूरी, अन्तर-राज्यिक प्रवासी मजदूर, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारण्टी)



16. Quarterly Magazine Nyay-Gyan-Udai (न्याय-ज्ञान-उदय)



17. Constitutional values (संविधानिक मूल्य)

18. Right to Maintenance (गुजारा-भत्ता का अधिकार)

19. Laws governing Child Marriages, Minority and Guardianship, Juvenile Justice, Right to Education (बाल विवाह, अवयस्कता एवं अभिभावकता, बाल न्याय एवं शिक्षा का अधिकार)

20. Rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes/Backward Classes (अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों व पिछड़ी जातियों के अधिकार)
21. Trafficking in Human Beings (मानवता में दुर्व्यापार)
22. Labour Laws (श्रम कानून)
23. Rights of Persons with Disabilities (अपंग व्यक्तियों के अधिकार)
24. Environment and Pollution (वातावरण और प्रदूषण)
25. Spirituality and law (आध्यात्मिकता और कानून)

These books are distributed to the public through District Legal Services Authorities and Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committees for distribution amongst the public.



**Electronic Media** are even more effective than print media. Even an illiterate person can be informed about his rights and duties through the electronic media. District Legal services Authorities disseminate information about the Lok Adalats and various schemes launched by Legal services Authorities through the use of cable networks.

It was resolved at the last Annual General Meeting of Haryana State Legal Services Authority that an independent Television Channel for telecasting programmes dealing with law and law enforcing agencies such as Judiciary, Prosecution, Police and Legal Services Authorities be launched. The said channel would help in spreading legal literacy and legal awareness and thereby achieve the objective of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Director, Public Relations Department,

Haryana has been approached to examine the feasibility of launching such a Channel.

## **6. Para-Legals**

As per the instructions from National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Haryana State Legal services Authority has initiated steps for identifying Para-Legals Volunteers.

These Para-Legal volunteers would assist an individual in obtaining the services of NALSA, DLSAs and SDLSCs. Such volunteers would be expected to have some rudimentary knowledge of the basic rights of the individuals, functioning of courts, functioning of Legal Services Authorities and the functioning of some of the organizations such as Municipal Corporations and District Administration. These para-legals would include people at the grass-root level such

as Anganwari workers, teachers, primary health workers, Panchayat Members, etc.

In the first phase every District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) shall identify about 50 volunteers and every Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee (SDLSC) shall identify about 25 volunteers who can read and write vernacular language.

HLSA proposes to build a strong base of Para-Legals all over Haryana, not only to act as a bridge between the individuals and Legal Services Authorities but also to help people in need, to approach the concerned authorities such as the Police and the District Administration by helping them in preparing petitions, filling forms and providing relevant information which may be necessary for asserting any right.

## **7. Helpline**

HLSA has also started a helpline on telephone

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Number 0172-2604055. Any person, who has any legal problem, can contact for legal advice and obtain legal help on any legal matter through the said helpline number on any working day from 9.00 AM to 12.00 mid night.

**What more needs to be done**

**Legal Literacy clubs in every school and college:** It is planned to involve more and more students in the various programmes of Legal Services Authority. More Legal Literacy Cells would be opened and students shall be encouraged to participate in the various competitions such as debates, declamation etc. on topics dealing with legal rights and duties.



There is need to include subjects dealing with legal awareness in the syllabus at school and college level.

### **Legal Aid Clinics in every Village**

There is need for opening more legal aid clinics at village level.

**Mobile vans** : Every District Legal Services Authority should be provided with a Mobile Van equipped with audio and video system which can be used for exhibiting various documentaries dealing with socially relevant issues, legal rights and duties of citizens. These vans can also be used for holding of Legal Literacy Camps at various places. The vans can also be used as Mobile Lok Adalat for settling of cases at the doorsteps of the villagers.

The matter has been taken up with Haryana Government for the sanction of twenty Mobile Vans

equipped with LCD TV, DVD Player, Amplifier to promote the awareness campaigns initiated by this Authority.

### **Haryana State as Torch-Bearer**

The Mission will succeed if each citizen participates with enthusiasm and it becomes people's movement.

Haryana State could be the torch bearer to the whole nation in this legal literacy mission, if we are successful in the way we have planned.

**MEMBERS OF  
HARYANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court	<i>Patron-in-Chief</i>
Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court	<i>Executive Chairman</i>
Secretary to Government, Haryana Administration of Justice Department.	<i>Member</i>
Secretary to Government, Haryana, Finance Department	<i>Member</i>
Secretary to Government, Haryana, Law and Legislative Department.	<i>Member</i>
Advocate General, Haryana.	<i>Member</i>
Director General of Police, Haryana	<i>Member</i>
Chairman, Bar Council of Haryana & Punjab	<i>Member</i>
Director, Public Relations Department, Haryana	<i>Member</i>
Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ambala.	<i>Member</i>
Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Hissar.	<i>Member</i>
Chairperson, Haryana State Commission for Women	<i>Member</i>
Director, Welfare of Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes Department, Haryana	<i>Member</i>
Chairman, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak.	<i>Member</i>
District & Sessions Judge	<i>Member Secretary</i>



## HARYANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, CHANDIGARH

THIS AUTHORITY PROVIDES FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR AND WEAKER SECTIONS OF SOCIETY.

### "WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO GET FREE LEGAL SERVICES"

- ❖ Any citizen of India whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs.50,000.
- ❖ Provided that the State Legal Services Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee, District Legal Services Authority and the Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee, as the case may be, may grant legal services to any other person irrespective of his income:-
  - To a member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or Backward Classes;
  - To a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred in Article 23 of the Constitution;
  - To a woman;
  - To a child, i.e. person who has not attained the age of 18 years or if he is under the guardianship under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 the age of 21 years;
  - To a person with disability as defined in clause (i) of Section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996);
  - To a person, under circumstances of undeserved want such as being victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
  - To an industrial workman; or
  - To a person in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956(104 of 1956), or "Children's Home, Observation Home, Shelter Home and Special Home within the meaning of clause (e), (o), (u) and (v) respectively of section 2 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000(56 of 2000)."
  - To a person in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (q) of Section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or
  - In a test case, the decision of which is likely to affect cases of numerous other persons belonging to the poor and weaker sections of the society; or
  - To a person, in a special case, which for reasons to be recorded in writing is considered otherwise deserving of legal service where the means test is not satisfied; or
  - To a person in the case where the High Court or the Supreme Court provides legal service under any order in that case legal service would be deemed to have been provided by the Authority/Committee in relaxation of all the conditions laid down in this rule; or
  - To a person in case of public interest litigation.
  - To an ex-serviceman, and the families of such persons who have died in action; or
  - To riot victims, and the families of such persons as well as terrorist victims and families of such persons; or
  - To freedom fighters.

### "WHOM TO CONTACT TO GET FREE LEGAL SERVICES"

**Member Secretary**, Haryana State Legal Services Authority, SCO No. 142-143, Sector 34-A, 1st Floor, Chandigarh-160022 at High Court Level.

**Chairman/Secretary**, District Legal Services Authority, at District Level.

**Chairman**, Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee at Sub-Divisional Level.