

File No. N-9/22/2019-NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
(Department of Justice)

Jaisalmer House,
26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi- 110011
Dated: 22.08.2019


OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: **Minutes of Thirteenth Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' - Regarding**

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of thirteenth meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice, on 19th August, 2019 (Monday) to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information and record.

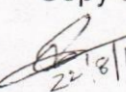

(Girdhar G. Pai)
Director
Tel. No. 011-23072145

Encl: As above

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1. Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
 2. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
 3. Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice, Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi.
 4. Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, 2nd Floor, B-Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi – 110003(Kind Atten: Shri Rajiv Mani, JS, Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.)
 5. Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
 6. Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
 7. Smt. Varsha Chandra, Additional Law Officer, Law Commission of India, 2nd Floor, B-Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi – 110003.
 8. Prof. D. P. Verma, Additional Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Copy to:-

PPS to Secretary (Justice)


22/8/19

Minutes
of the 13th Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee for the Scheme of Action
Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms
held on 19.08.2019 at 3.30 PM

Agenda Item I – New Proposals:

S.No.	Name of Project / Implementing Agency	Decision of 13 th PSC
1.	Study on victims' experience in the Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Systems - Exploring potential and possibilities for engagement with restorative Justice in India - By National Law School of India University, Bengaluru	The subject of study i.e. criminal justice and juvenile justice is quite vast. Interviewees proposed as above 18 years of age. However, juvenile justice relates to persons below 18 years of age. The proposal needs to be reworked to restrict the cope to criminal justice or juvenile justice. Also, focus only in Bengaluru restricts the scope of the project and its findings. Therefore, project implementing agency may be asked to rework the proposal.
2.	Children in conflict with Law vis-a-vis State of Jharkhand : Identification of issues and challenges in effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and remedies - By National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi	The subject essentially pertains to Ministry of Women & Child Development. Department of Justice is concerned with the role of Courts in implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Therefore, the project implementing agency may be asked to rework the proposal to focus on role of Courts.
3.	Assessing the Gaps in Criminal Justice Delivery System and its impact in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal - By Indian National Bar Association, New Delhi	The PSC approved the proposal subject to the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The budget shall be restricted to Rs.25 lakh. 2. Item wise details of establishment costs, travel expenses, overhead expenses shall be provided. 3. Stakeholders such as public prosecutors, police may be included for the purposes of data collection. 4. Districts for study may be selected from North, South, East and West i.e. it should be representative of the States.
4.	Impact and implementation of Plea Bargaining in India - National Law University, Delhi	NLU, Delhi is already conducting 3 projects under the Scheme. Further, item wise details of cost have not been given. Therefore, the project implementing agency may be asked to rework the proposal by giving detailed cost break up and the outcome envisaged under the project.

5.	Existing Framework and Impact assessment of Information and Communication Technology in Administration of Justice Delivery Mechanism in the District Courts of Assam - National Law university and Judicial Academy, Assam	The subject matter relates to eCourts Project Phase-II which is being monitored by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. Also, an evaluation of the Project is being done by NCAER, New Delhi. Therefore, the project is not approved.
6.	Challenges and Solutions in establishing Functional Family Courts in different States-Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad	The PSC approved the proposal subject to the condition that the districts chosen for the study are representative of the entire State.
7.	Adoption and utilization of ICT in the Indian Judicial System- A study of selected Indian High Courts-Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad	The subject matter relates to eCourts Project Phase-II which is being monitored by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. Also, an evaluation of the Project is being done by NCAER, New Delhi. Therefore, the project is not approved.
8.	Children in conflict with the Law-Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad	The subject essentially pertains to Ministry of Women & Child Development. Department of Justice is concerned with the role of Courts in implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Therefore, the project implementing agency may rework the proposal to focus on role of Courts.
9.	Role and importance of Fast Track Courts and Special Courts and their Performance in Indian context.- Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad	NLU, Delhi is already undertaking a project on evaluation of Fast Track Courts covering the States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Delhi. Therefore, the project is not approved.
10.	Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ease bottlenecks in judicial systems- Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar	The subject matter relates to eCourts Project Phase-II which is being monitored by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. Also, an evaluation of the Project is being done by NCAER, New Delhi. Therefore, the project is not approved.
11.	Feasibility of multiple shifts in lower Judiciary and its impact on pendency of cases: A Study of State of Punjab and Haryana.-Rajiv Gandhi National Law University, Punjab	The project is in the nature of scoping study instead of action research. The project could focus on Morning / Evening Courts and Holiday Courts being held in various Courts and whether functioning of these Courts has resulted in significant quantitative impact on pendency.
12.	Assessing the possibilities and challenges of the use of social media and mobile technology for judicial awareness-.Indian Institute of Management, Tiruchirapalli	A comprehensive publicity and outreach campaign through print and electronic media was conducted for the eCourts Project during 2018-19 and its impact was measurable in quantitative terms. A similar campaign is planned for FY 2019-20.

		Therefore, the project is not approved.
13.	Status and situational analysis of Human Trafficking to Cross border District of Bihar with special reference to Children- Chanakya National Law University, Patna	The subject essentially pertains to Ministry of Home Affairs. Department of Justice is concerned with the role of Courts. Therefore, the project implementing agency may rework the proposal to focus on role of Courts.
14.	Impact assessment of Commercial Courts Act, 2015 with reference to Commercial litigations pending in State of Bihar- Chanakya National Law University, Patna	The PSC approved the proposal subject to the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The budget shall be restricted to Rs.25 lakh. 2. Apart from the State of Bihar, the project should cover at least one more State. 3. City based courts should be considered considering that Commercial Cases may be prevalent in cities. 4. Cost relating to seminars / training programmes, books / stationery, computer / laptop, etc. may suitably adjusted to cover the cost for covering one more State in the study.
15.	Impact assessment of Fast Track Courts in Bihar- Chanakya National Law University, Patna	NLU, Delhi is already undertaking a project on evaluation of Fast Track Courts covering the States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Delhi. Therefore, the project is not approved.
16.	An impact study on pendency of cases after amendments to the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881: A study of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan- Indian Institute of Management, Indore	A project on NI Act, 1881 cases is being undertaken by NIT, Rourkela which covers 13 States namely, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. Therefore, the project is not approved.
17.	Bringing efficiency and visibility in the Judicial Processes: A process, system and data driven study- Indian Institute of Management, Indore	The proposal is not as per the format of DoJ. Item wise details of cost of project are not provided. Outcome of the project is not clear. Therefore, the project implementing agency may be asked to rework the proposal.

Agenda Item II: Increase in Cost:

Name of Project / Implementing Agency	Decision of 13 th PSC
Revised proposal titled "Review of Sexual Harassment Laws, Implementation and Access to Justice in Tertiary Academic Institutions in India" received from O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat	The PSC approved the project implementing agency's request to increase in the project cost from Rs.7.5 lakh to Rs.8.0 lakh.

Agenda Item III: Extension of time:

Name of Project / Implementing Agency	Decision of 13 th PSC
Project titled 'A Study to Create Evidence based Proposals for Reforms of Legal Education in India – suggestions for reforms in law programmes offered at Central Universities / Private Universities / Deemed Universities" sanctioned to NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad on 22.03.2016 for a period of 6½ months - Final Report not submitted.	The PSC decided to grant extension upto 15 th October, 2019 to the project implementing agency to finalize and submit the project report without any further delay.

Agenda Item IV: Reduction in sample size:

Name of Project / Implementing Agency	Decision of 13 th PSC
Proposal for reduction in Sample Size commensurate with the reduction in project cost - National Law University, Delhi	The PSC approved the project implementing agency's request to reduce the sample size from 45 Districts (15 States x 3 Districts per State) to 20 Districts (10 States x 2 Districts per State).

Agenda Item V: Presentation on Status of Ongoing Projects:

S.No.	Name of Project / Implementing Agency	Remarks / Decision of 13 th PSC
1.	Project titled "To identify the Reasons for delay in disposal of cases and evaluate 'Capacity Gap' to manage the pendency of cases in District & Subordinate Courts of Delhi" being conducted by Delhi Judicial Academy, New Delhi	It was informed that the study is being conducted in association with the Indian Statistical Institute. An extension of 2 months time i.e. upto 31.10.2019 was approved.
2.	Project titled "Evaluation of functioning of Fast Track Courts in India-An empirical study" being conducted by National Law University Delhi	Secretary (Justice) stated that the questionnaires may be framed in such a manner that their analysis should result in quantitative outcomes. He further stated that the study may identify in quantitative terms as to whether Fast Track Courts have actually resulted in fast tracking cases compared to other Courts. For this purpose, stage-wise time taken for cases in Fast Track Courts and other Courts may be obtained and compared.
3.	Project titled "Analysis of lack of infrastructure and vacancies and its impact on pendency in Subordinate Courts: A study of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana" being conducted by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University	Secretary (Justice) stated that concrete outcomes in measurable terms would enable policy makers to know the impact of schemes, such as CSS for Judicial Infrastructure, being implemented by the Government.

4.	Project titled "A field study to evaluate the efficacy for Access to Justice for Under Trials in selective prisons in specific States" being conducted by National Law University, Delhi	Secretary (Justice) stated that filed study is required to ascertain the actual status of under trials i.e. despite procedures in place, whether under trials who are eligible to be released are still languishing in jails. If yes, then what is the actionable remedy for the same.
5.	Project titled "Resolving pending cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution under Section 89 of Civil procedure code: A case Study" conducted by Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar	The final project report shall be submitted by the implementing agency by 31 st August, 2019.
