

REPORT ON WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Introduction

In furtherance of the objectives of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to promote awareness regarding the rights, welfare, and protection of senior citizens under the NALSA (JAGRITI) Scheme, 2025, A World Elder Abuse Awareness Programme was organized by Seva Kendra Calcutta on 23rd June, 2026 at MT Hall, Seva Kendra Calcutta, Kolkata. The programme was attended by representatives of the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority (WBSLSA), namely Mrs. Swati Maulik (Deputy Secretary, WBSLSA), Mrs. Archita Sen (Registrar-cum-Deputy Secretary, WBSLSA) and Mrs. Arpita Ghosh (Secretary, WBDLSA), along with interns attached to the Authority.



The programme was aimed at creating awareness regarding elder abuse, the rights of senior citizens, and the legal aid and support services available through Legal Services Institutions.

Activities Conducted

As part of the awareness programme, the interns of WBSLSA presented a skit depicting various forms of elder abuse, including neglect, emotional abuse, financial exploitation, and abandonment. The skit highlighted the challenges faced by elderly persons and emphasized the importance of ensuring their dignity, safety, and well-being.

The performance also focused on the role of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) in providing free legal aid and assistance to senior citizens. Information regarding legal remedies and support mechanisms available to elderly persons was conveyed through the skit in an engaging and informative manner.



Interactive Session

Following the skit, an interactive session was conducted with the participants. The audience comprised senior citizens, youths, social workers, community service workers, and members of the public.

During the session, various questions were raised regarding elder abuse, legal rights of senior citizens, availability of free legal aid, and the assistance that may be sought from SLSA and DLSAs. The queries were addressed by the representatives of WBSLSA and DLSA, and information regarding legal protections and welfare measures available to elderly persons was shared with the participants.

The interaction facilitated meaningful discussions and helped create greater awareness regarding the legal and institutional support available to senior citizens.



Outcome of the Programme

Awareness regarding elder abuse, the rights of senior citizens, and the services provided by Legal Services Institutions was enhanced among the participants. Information relating to free legal aid, legal remedies, and welfare measures available for elderly persons was effectively disseminated.

The programme also encouraged participants to identify and report instances of elder abuse and emphasized the collective responsibility of society in ensuring the welfare and dignity of senior citizens.

Conclusion

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Programme was successfully conducted and served as an effective platform for spreading awareness regarding elder abuse and the rights of senior citizens. The skit presented by the interns and the interactive session contributed significantly towards educating the participants about the legal aid services and support mechanisms available through WBSLSA and DLSAs.

