

# Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya



(Accredited by NAAC)

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## State Level Seminar on “Protection of Free Legal Right Services of Citizens organized by Department of Political Science

Date: 01.04.2022

Time: 2 p.m.- 3 p.m.

Venue: Room no. 15

Number of Participants: 104 (Including Teachers, Students, All Faculties)

**Name and Designation of Resource Person(s):** Justice (Dr) Pritamana Nanda, Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, North 24 Parganas; Ms Aratrika Das, Civil Judge, Junior Division, Barasat Judge Court

**Organizing Committee:** Department of Political Science and IQAC.

**Brief Report:** An Awareness Program on West Bengal Legal Service Authority: Protection of Free Legal Right Services of Citizens was organized in the college premises on 1st April 2022, by the Department of Political Science in association with The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata. The program was introduced to the audience by Dr Uttara Kundu (Choudhuri). This was followed by felicitation of the eminent resource persons by respected Teacher-In-Charge, Dr Parthasarathi Dutta, respected IQAC Coordinator, Dr Alpana Ray and respected Secretary of Faculty Council, Dr Somdatta Ghosh (Kar). Respected Teacher-In Charge, Dr Parthasarathi Dutta delivered the Welcome Address. Respected IQAC Coordinator, Dr Alpana Ray, extended a warm welcome to the Resource Persons and highlighted the importance of this Awareness Program and also spoke about the possibility of creating a Legal Literacy Club within the college premises. The Awareness Program was moderated by Dr Uttara Kundu (Choudhuri). The first lecture was delivered by Justice (Dr) Pritamana Nanda (Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, North 24 Parganas). Justice Nanda began her lecture by explaining briefly to her audience the structure of the legal framework in the country. She then spoke about access to free legal services being provided in the country. In this regard she emphasized on Article 39A of the Constitution of India that states that State shall secure the operation of the legal system by promoting justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities are present for securing justice. All women, children, adults with special needs, refugees, victims of communal violence, environmental refugees, unemployed adults, SCs/STs and every other vulnerable category have access to free legal services. Adult men (who have an annual income of less than 1 Lakh INR) also have free access to legal services. Free Legal Rights Services provided to Citizens include pre-litigation counseling; legal support; alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; Lok-adalats (arranged daily, monthly and quarterly) and Victim Compensation Schemes. The services aim to be inclusive and empowers every citizen, specially focusing on very vulnerable categories like acid-attack victims, victims of child abuse, the economically disadvantaged etc. The Resource Person also made the audience aware about *BHORSHA*: (A unit of West Bengal State Legal Services Authority): A One Stop Support Center to facilitate access to justice in West Bengal. The second Resource Person–Ms Aratrika Das (Civil Judge, Junior Division, Barasat Judge Court) re-emphasized the importance of creating a Legal Literacy Club in college. She stated that this could be created in collaboration with the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority and would help promote legal awareness among students, who are the future citizens and society-builders. The last Resource Person–Ms Bedas Shruti Mallick, Civil Judge, Junior Division, Barasat Judge Court ) emphasized the importance of spreading awareness about Free Legal Services to one and all, so that the most vulnerable categories of

society can avail of this service and be benefitted by it. An intensive Question-Answer Session took place after the awareness-raising talks by the eminent resource persons. Issues such as cyber-crime, bank frauds, ragging, domestic violence, functioning of fast-track courts were raised during this session and the eminent resource persons deliberated upon these issues and provided the audience with their valuable insights and relevant information. The Awareness program ended with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. Mohiuddin Mondal, In-Charge, Department of Political Science.

The benefits of such seminars are as follows:

- Participants became aware of access to free legal services being provided in the country.
- The speaker also emphasized on Article 39A of the Constitution of India that states that State shall secure the operation of the legal system by promoting justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular ensure that opportunities are present for securing justice.
- All women, children, adults with special needs, refugees, victims of communal violence, environmental refugees, unemployed adults, SCs/STs and every other vulnerable category have access to free legal services.
- An intensive Question-Answer Session was executed after the awareness-raising talks by the eminent resource persons. Issues such as cyber-crime, bank frauds, ragging, domestic violence, functioning of fast-track courts were raised during this session and the eminent resource persons deliberated upon these issues.



**Resource Person: Justice Nanda Addressing the Audience**



**The Seminar in Progress**



**Resource Person: Ms Aratrika Das Addressing the Audience**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Parthasarathi Dutta'.

(Dr Parthasarathi Dutta)  
Teacher In Charge