



Sharda Education Society's

Anand Vishwa Gurukul College Of Law

NAAC Accredited 'B' Grade

Affiliated To University of Mumbai

Approved By Bar Council of India

LL.B - 3 Years | LL.B - 5 Years | LL.M

Diploma in Labour Law and Labour Welfare | Post Graduation Diploma in Cyber Law

Office Address: Near Mental Hospital, Opp. ACC Cement Colony, Thane (W) – 400604

Tel.: 9967589008 • Email : avgcollegeoflaw@gmail.com

Best Practice – 2

Title of the Practice:

Legal Aid Clinic

Objectives of the Practice:

The objectives of having a Legal Aid Clinic in the college and their impact on the teaching and learning process are as follows:

- (1) The National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) is set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 with the aim to “*To legally empower the marginalized and excluded groups of the society by providing effective legal representation, legal literacy and awareness and bridging the gap between the legally available benefits and the entitled beneficiaries*”. In order to accomplish this goal, NALSA promotes establishment of legal aid clinics at the local level to facilitate maximum outreach and also encourages law colleges to become a part of the set-up.
- (2) The mission of Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law emphasizes upon establishing itself as a centre for legal education with student-centred goals that prioritise the development of superior legal knowledge and professional practise readiness. The aim of the institution is for our graduates to have the fundamental skills needed to start a legal career.
- (3) Having a dedicated Legal Aid Clinic in college allows the institution to contribute to the cause of ensuring legal services to all and provides an opportunity to the students to participate in a variety of activities as paralegal volunteers, which helps them bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical implementation
- (4) Engaging with a legal aid clinic enriches the teaching skills of the law teacher by providing them the platform to mentor the students and allows them to make a meaningful impact on students' learning and the communities they serve.

The Context:

Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides for “Equal justice and free legal aid-to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.”



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To achieve this goal, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is enacted to constitute legal services authority to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. The Legal Services Authorities are then classified as under to ensure maximum outreach of its services.

- ✦ The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is set up at the national level with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India as its Patron-in-Chief.
- ✦ The State Legal Service Authorities (SLSAs) are set up at the state level under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the respective High Courts.
- ✦ The District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) are set up at the district level with the Hon'ble Principal Judge of the District Courts as its Chairperson.

The Legal Aid Clinics are established at local level under the supervision of District Legal Service Authority at law colleges and local body institutions like village panchayat, mandal / block panchayat, municipality and corporation etc.

The Practice:

In collaboration with and under the guidance of the District Legal Services Authority, Thane, the institution has carried out various legal aid services programme, some of which are stated as under:

Sr. No	Activity/ Program	Date
1	Constitution Day Celebration	26 th November 2023
2	Celebration of National Legal Services Day	09 th November 2023
3	A seminar on the occasion of World water day and water conservation	30 th March 2024
4	A seminar on Women health in general	12 th March 2024

Evidence of Success:

The establishment of the Legal Aid Clinic has been an important milestone for Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law. The Legal Aid Clinic has paved a new road for our students' overall growth, as evidenced by the following aspects:

1. Our students have gained excellent practical legal experience because of the Legal Aid Clinic. Participating in training programmes, seminars, awareness programs and rallies and interacting



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luminaries of the legal field has provided our students with invaluable experience that will serve them well throughout their legal careers.

2. Our students have had the opportunity to directly contact with the community and understand their legal challenges through the Legal Aid Clinic. This experience has enabled them to acquire strong interpersonal and counselling abilities, allowing them to deliver compassionate and effective legal guidance to clients in need.
3. The Legal Aid Clinic has given a forum for our students to polish their advocacy abilities through field trips, training courses, and seminars. Our students gained hands-on experience in various aspects of litigation and mediation by learning the basics of legal drafting from experts in the field, understanding the importance of alternative dispute resolution methods, and volunteering in Lok Adalats. This has improved their confidence and ability to effectively advocate for their clients.
4. Our students have benefited from the Legal Aid Clinic's encouragement of collaboration and teamwork. Working with volunteers from various colleges and legal aid organisations promoted a co-operative attitude, allowing them to learn from one another, share knowledge and resources, and build excellent collaboration skills, which are crucial in the legal profession.
5. The Legal Aid Clinic has fostered in our students a feeling of ethical duty and professionalism. Working with vulnerable populations and resolving social justice concerns has provided our students with a thorough awareness of their responsibility as legal professionals, as well as the need of respecting ethical standards.
6. The Legal Aid Clinic has benefited the community by offering free or low-cost legal assistance to people who cannot afford legal counsel. Our students' efforts have aided in closing the justice gap and improving access to justice for underprivileged individuals, meeting our college's commitment to social responsibility.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

In a traditional educational setup, prominence is given to the classroom teaching methods and practical training which is conducted in the class or supervised field visits where the beneficiaries are often mere audiences who seldom participate in the actual work. The mindset often discourages students who believe that practical application should come only after thorough education i.e., after the completion of course.



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The major problem encountered in establishing and functioning of the legal aid clinic is the hesitation to volunteer. It has been observed that students do not volunteer because it would affect academics and that they would not be able to devote enough time and miss out on studies.

Other factor which holds back students is under-confidence. Community engagement requires public speaking and communicating with people from different parts of the society students have never come across. As such, students either shy away from interacting due to their introvert nature or have reservations of 'not knowing enough' to help the stakeholders and beneficiaries.

These issues are however are a matter of experience, majority of times it has been observed that the students most reserved personalities who hesitate to participate eventually develop a deep interest in the programmes and participate in further events with a renewed enthusiasm.



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Constitution Day Celebration at Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law



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National Legal Service Day Celebration at Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law




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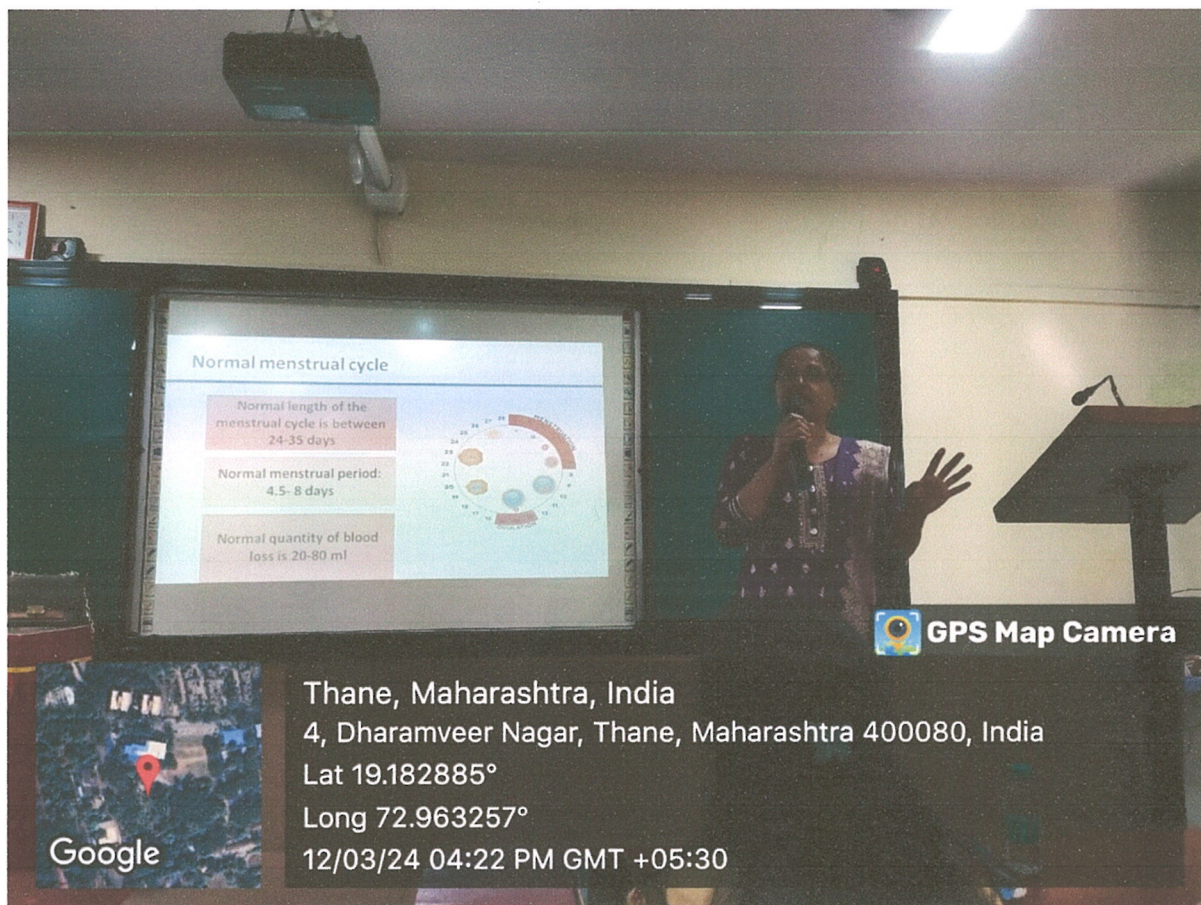
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Seminar on women health in general at Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law



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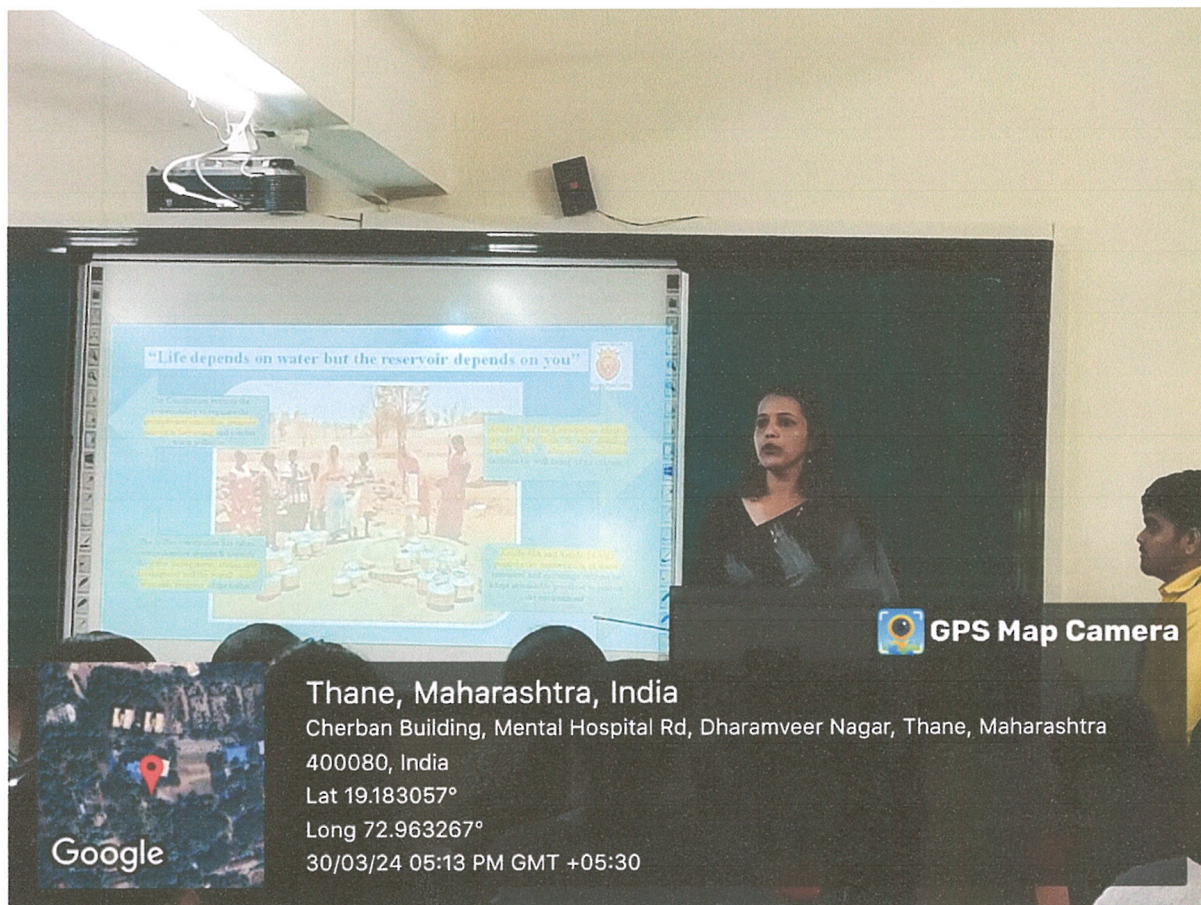
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Seminar on World Water Day at Anand Vishwa Gurukul College of Law




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