

## The institutional Strategic/ Perspective plan is effectively deployed

The institute has a comprehensive strategic plan to realize its visions and mission. As the college visualizes new paradigms of progressive, inclusive, and ethical education, it greatly emphasizes the empowerment of its students to prepare them for a responsible and dynamic role in society. Women are an integral part of society; no development is possible without their participation and shouldering responsibility. Therefore, they should be well informed, self-sustained and prepared to face challenges in life. Apart from imparting traditional education, it is important to inculcate ethical values, righteousness, justice, inclusiveness, and a sense of gender parity in them. Females often face injustice and violence but are not aware of their rights and available legal recourse. Being a women's college, a need was felt to create awareness amongst the students regarding their rights and remedies.

On January 17-18, 2019, a UGC expert committee visited the college to review and extend its autonomous status and suggested setting up a 'Women's Cell.' The role of the National Legal Services Authority and its mechanism for accessible justice and equal opportunity for aid and assistance to the district level impressed upon the IQAC to set up a Legal Aid Clinic (LAC). LAC took off to a flying start on June 29, 2021, the first for an institute without a Law Faculty.

The scheme aims to familiarize students with their rights and remedies under the law, reach out and render services to the marginalized and vulnerable communities, and help students understand the socio-economic impediments to access justice. To this end, the program commenced by spreading legal awareness among students through plays and posters, organising workshops and seminars, carrying out field surveys, providing community services to people through camps, street plays and legal counselling in coordination with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

The LAC has a dedicated team of student volunteers to provide operational assistance. An advocate visits weekly for legal counselling and undertaking legal proceedings. Additionally, the DLSA has deputed Para-legal volunteers for counselling and fieldwork, and a District Legal Officer to provide guidance.

Activities undertaken by LAC:

- Organized an online orientation program on the aims and objectives of the LAC with 885 participants.
- Arranged two student visits to the *Lok Adalat* to observe the workings of different courts, legal procedures, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

- Conducted an awareness program in collaboration with DLSA and State Commission for Women on International Girl Child Day.
- Organized online discussion on Female Foeticide and Gender Equality (role of education and awareness)' to observe National Girl Child Day.
- Held internship training of students of National Law University, Delhi and GNLU in LAC.
- Provided counselling in more than 50 cases; over 20 cases have been resolved through mediation by the visiting advocate.

Thus, under the able guidance of the DLSA, the LAC, in a short span, has been working relentlessly for the successful deployment of the institution's strategic plan of creating awareness regarding gender issues, reaching out to the vulnerable sections, and their accessibility of the legal recourse.