

Goa University

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Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy

Report on “Workshop on Exploring the Intersection of Law and Society theme on Legal Awareness: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice and Free Legal AID.”

1. Title of the Event/Activity/program	Workshop on Exploring the Intersection of Law and Society theme on Legal Awareness: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice and Free Legal AID
2. Date and Time	14 th February 2026, Time: 9.30 am, Venue: Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Goa.
3. Mode of conduct (Physical/Online)	Physical
4. School/ Directorate/ Section	Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy and UGC Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion of D. D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies
5. Collaborating Agency/School/Directorate	1. Directorate of Equal Opportunity Cell 2. Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Goa. 3. Goa State Legal Service Authority, High Court of Bombay at Goa.
6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	Chief Guest Smt. Durga V. Madkaikar Member Secretary, Goa State legal Service Authority, High Court of Bombay at Goa. Guest of Honour Prof. (Dr). Purnakala Samant Principal Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Goa. Resource Person Adv. Sushma Vantekar Adv. Abijit Gosavi Advocate High Court

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	Dr. Vijay Madhu Gawas, Assistant Professor, MPSLGPP, Goa University Mr. Saprem Shrivoikar, Assistant Professor, MPSLGPP, Goa University
7. Number of Faculty attended/participated	05 faculty members
8. Number of Student attended / participated	60
9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants	65
10. The objectives of the Program/activity/event	Workshop on Exploring the Intersection of Law and Society theme on Legal Awareness: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice and Free Legal AID has the following objectives: 1. To Promote Constitutional Awareness To educate citizens about the fundamental right to access justice as enshrined under the Constitution of India, particularly under Article 39A, which mandates equal justice and free legal aid. 2. To Create Awareness about Free Legal Aid Services To inform participants about the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and the role of Legal Services Authorities at the National, State, District, and Taluka levels. 3. To Enhance Understanding of Legal Rights and Remedies To provide basic knowledge of legal rights, available remedies, and procedural aspects of seeking justice in civil, criminal, family, labour, and consumer matters. 4. To Address Barriers to Accessing Justice To identify and discuss socio-economic, geographical, and



systemic barriers that prevent individuals from approaching legal institutions and to suggest practical solutions.

5. To Strengthen Community Participation

To empower local leaders, NGOs, students, and community volunteers to act as facilitators in spreading awareness about legal aid services.

6. To Simplify Legal Procedures for Common Citizens

To demystify complex legal processes and explain in simple language how to approach courts, legal aid clinics, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

7. To Improve Outreach in Rural and Marginalized Areas

To encourage proactive engagement with rural and disadvantaged communities by connecting them with legal aid institutions and services.

8. To Promote Social Justice and Equality Before Law

To reinforce the principle of equality before law by ensuring that marginalized and economically weaker sections can effectively exercise their legal rights.

9. To Encourage Utilization of Legal Services Authorities

To increase awareness and practical usage of free legal aid schemes, Lok Adalats, mediation services, and other justice delivery mechanisms.

10. To Build Long-Term Legal Empowerment

To foster a culture of legal literacy and rights consciousness



	that contributes to sustainable access to justice for all sections of society.
11. Description of the Program/activity/event	The Workshop on Exploring the Intersection of Law and Society theme on Legal Awareness: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice and Free Legal AID is designed as a community-oriented legal awareness programme aimed at promoting the constitutional vision of justice for all. Rooted in the mandate of Article 39A of the Constitution of India, which directs the State to ensure equal justice and free legal aid, and implemented through the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the programme seeks to bridge the gap between citizens and the justice delivery system. The event will focus on educating participants about their fundamental right to access justice, the concept of equality before law, and the institutional framework established to provide free and competent legal services to eligible persons. Special emphasis will be placed on marginalized and vulnerable groups, including economically weaker sections, women, children, senior citizens, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and persons with disabilities. Through expert lectures, interactive sessions, case illustrations, and practical demonstrations, the workshop will explain: • The constitutional foundation of free legal aid under Constitution of India • The structure and functioning of Legal Services Authorities at National, State, District, and Taluka levels • Eligibility criteria and procedure for obtaining free legal assistance • Lok Adalat mechanisms for speedy and cost-effective dispute resolution



	• The role of para-legal volunteers and community-based legal awareness initiatives The programme has also address the key challenges faced by citizens in accessing justice, such as lack of awareness, financial constraints, procedural complexity, and geographical barriers. By connecting participants directly with legal aid institutions and resource persons, the event will provide practical guidance on how to file applications, approach authorities, and seek remedies without incurring financial hardship. Overall, the activity aims to strengthen public confidence in the legal system, promote legal literacy, and ensure that justice is not denied due to economic or social disadvantages. The workshop contributes to the broader objective of fostering an inclusive and accessible justice system in line with constitutional values and the rule of law.
12. Benefit/Key outcomes of the Program/activity/event	1. Promotion of Constitutional Mandate: Strengthened awareness of Article 39A of the Constitution of India and the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, ensuring understanding of equal access to justice. 2. Increased Legal Awareness: Participants gained knowledge about free legal aid services, eligibility criteria, and procedures to approach Legal Services Authorities. 3. Empowerment of Marginalized Sections: Women, SC/ST communities, economically weaker sections, senior citizens, and other vulnerable groups were encouraged to seek legal remedies without financial burden. 4. Reduction of Legal Illiteracy: Simplification of legal procedures enhanced participants' confidence in approaching courts and legal forums. 5. Improved Access to Justice Mechanisms: Awareness regarding

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	Lok Adalats, mediation, and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms was promoted for speedy and cost-effective justice. 6. Capacity Building: Community leaders, students, and volunteers were sensitized and trained to further disseminate legal awareness at the grassroots level. 7. Bridging Institutional Gaps: Strengthened linkage between citizens and Legal Services Authorities, thereby increasing trust in the justice delivery system. 8. Contribution to Social Justice: Advanced the goal of "Justice for All" by ensuring that economic or social disadvantages do not hinder access to legal remedies.
13. Enclosures with report	Geo-tagged photos, Attendance Sheet and Flyer, acceptance Letter



Signature:

Dr. Vijay Madhu Gawas

Coordinator

Asst. Prof., MPSLGPP, Goa University



Signature:

Dr. Maria Norma Menezes,

Director

D.E.O.C Goa University

Director
Directorate of Equal Opportunities



Signature:



Mr. Saprem Shirvoikar

CO-Coordinator

Asst. Prof., MPSLGPP, Goa University





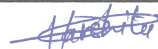
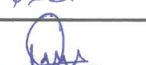
MANOHAR PARRIKAR SCHOOL OF LAW, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY
&
UGC CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF D. D. KOSAMBI SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BEHAVIOURAL STUDIES
IN COLLABORATION WITH
DIRECTORATE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
&
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND NSS UNIT, GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE, KHANDOLA GOA
&
GOA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA
WORKSHOP ON EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF LAW AND SOCIETY THEME ON "LEGAL AWARENESS: ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FREE LEGAL AID".

Date: 14th February 2026 Time: 9.30 am,

Venue: Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Goa.

Sr. No	Name	Contact Number /Email	Gender	Signature
1.	Neelam Bind	9983221307	F	
2.	Chandani Gaonkar	9075178961	F	
3.	shruti Orkonkar	9763024209	F	
4.	Abhidnya Parab	8308062714	F	
5.	Sanisha Gaude	9699199559	F	
6.	Tanuja Tulshidas Gaude	7038484361	F	
7.	Victor Vaz	8237998221	M	
8.	Vastav Tavi	2841021279	M	
9.	Sarvesh Baadkar	9511603596	M	
10.	Varun Vaz	9498529893	M	
11.	Ieesha Bhosle	9325806419	F	

Sr. No	Name	Contact Number /Email	Gender	Signature
12	Smritika . N. shinde	9322601924	F	<u>Shinde</u>
13	Sandhya M. Kumar	8087983691	F	<u>Sandhya</u>
14	Shilpi Kumari	9145335436	F	<u>Shilpi</u>
15	Videet Gaude	9373268107	M	<u>Videet</u>
16	Ayushi . B. Gurav Kerkar.	8208287082	F	<u>Ayushi</u>
17	Dikshita Gaude	7507200383	F	<u>Dikshita</u>
18	Ethan Alfonso Afonso	9422928327	M	<u>Ethan</u>
19	Rishabh Kerkar	9834306046	M	<u>Rishabh</u>
20				
21	Chandan P. Gavade	7820955075	M	<u>Chandan</u>
22	Sumant V. Naik	7082663317	M	<u>Sumant</u>
23	Sneha M. Gaude	8669240933	F	<u>Sneha</u>
24	Vinika Gaude	9657248073	F	<u>Vinika</u>
25	Akanksha Naik	7066331226	F	<u>Akanksha</u>
26	Vinika V. Samdar	7499779429	F	<u>Vinika</u>
27	Pravay Tari	70828463211	M	<u>Pravay</u>
28	Anjali Kaku	8887993529	F	<u>Anjali</u>
29	Urvasi Jalmi	8767305213	F	<u>Urvasi</u>
30	Shweti Kunkalientkar	8830623929	F	<u>Shweti</u>
31	Munali Gaude	8668928371	F	<u>Munali</u>
32	Disha D. Naik	8767236583	F	<u>Disha</u>
33	Sonam S. Bhonsle	9373654892	F	<u>Sonam</u>
34	Tammy Shinde	7972824748	M	<u>Tammy</u>

Sr. No	Name	Contact Number /Email	Gender	Signature
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49	Kashish J. Naik	9359177864	F	
50	Anisha L. Halankar	8010265911 /	F	
51	Bhakti G. Kavlekar	9511763169	F	
52	Jay G. Kavlekar	8468949515	M	
53	Pashkaraj D. Kamat	9699662149	M	
54	Gauravi Graude	9322056432	F	
55	Kayal Prasad	9370744329	F	
56	Mahavi Naik	7823034558	F	
57	Hemvikesh D. Bhosle	7972655082	M	



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Director
Directorate of Equal Opportunities

Invitation



GOA UNIVERSITY

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR SCHOOL OF LAW, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

&

**UGC CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF D. D. KOSAMBI SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BEHAVIOURAL STUDIES**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

DIRECTORATE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

&

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND NSS UNIT, GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ARTS,
SCIENCE AND COMMERCE, KHANDOLA GOA**

&

GOA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA

All are cordially invited

**WORKSHOP ON EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF LAW AND SOCIETY THEME ON
"LEGAL AWARENESS: ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FREE LEGAL AID".**

Date: 14th February 2026 Time: 9.30 am,

Venue: Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Goa.

Chief Guest

Smt. Durga V. Madkaikar

Member Secretary,

**Goa State Legal Services Authority,
High Court of Bombay at Goa**

Guest of Honour

Prof (Dr). Purnakala Samant

Principal

**Government College of Arts, Science
and Commerce, Khandola, Goa**

In the Distinguished presence of:

Dr. Maria Norma Menezes Reballo, Director D.E.O.C

Session Speakers

Adv. Sushma Vantekar

Adv. Abhijit Gosavi, Advocate, High Court Ad

Dr. Vijay Madhu Gawas, Assistant Professor

Mr. Saprem Shirvoikar, Assistant Professor

CO ORDINATORS

Dr. Vijay Gawas

CO COORDINATOR

Mr. Saprem Shirvoikar

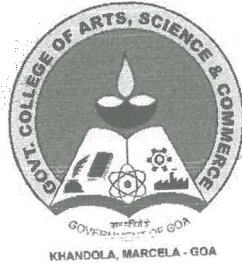
COLLEGE COORDINATOR

Dr. Sapna Pelapkar, Associate Prof.

Dr. Nawoo V. Varak, Asst. Prof.

CO COORDINATOR

Mr. Akbar Gaded, Asst. Prof.



GOVERNMENT OF GOA

GOVT. COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE
KHANDOLA, MARCELA - GOA 403 107
(Affiliated to Goa University) (Estd. 1989)
Accredited by NAAC with 'A+' Grade
Email: gcasck@rediffmail.com

No. GCASCK/EST/F-173/2025-26/ **4813**.

Date: 05/02/2026

To,
The Director,
Directorate of Equal Opportunities,
Goa University

Subject: Acceptance of collaboration and logistic support for One Day Workshop.

Sir/Madam,

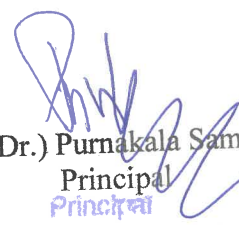
We are happy to conduct one-day workshop by Directorate of Equal Opportunities, Goa University titled 'Legal Awareness: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice and Free Legal Aid' in our college on 14th February, 2026 at 9.30 AM.

The Department of Political Science in collaboration with NSS unit of the Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Marcela will facilitate the logistic support and coordinate with the Dr. Vijay Madhu Gawas, Assistant Professor, Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Goa University.

Thanking you!



Yours faithfully,


Prof. (Dr.) Purnakala Samant
Principal

Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce
Khandola, Marcela-Goa.



**GOA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA, PENHA-DE-FRANCA,
PORVORIM-GOA**

**Tele. No.:(0832) 2492614 (Chamber), 2492664 (Off.)
Website : <http://www.slsagoa.nic.in> Email Id: ms-gslsa.goa@nic.in**

No.:GSLSA/Prog/2026/593
Date :- 30th April, 2026

To,
The Director,
Directorate of Equal opportunities
Goa University.

Sub: Acceptance of Collaboration for One Day Workshop on "Legal Awareness: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice and Free Legal Aid."

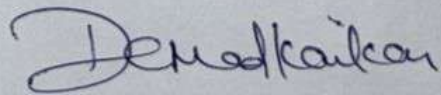
Sir,

We are pleased to formally acknowledge and accept our participation in the programme titled "Legal Awareness: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice and Free Legal Aid," which was successfully held on 14th February 2026.

We sincerely appreciate the initiative taken to organize this meaningful programme aimed at promoting legal literacy and ensuring access to justice for all, especially for marginalized and underprivileged sections of society. The programme served as a valuable platform for awareness, discussion, and community engagement.

Kindly accept this letter as our official acknowledgement and appreciation.

Yours sincerely,


(Durga V. Madkaikar)

Member Secretary
(District Judge Cadre)

Goa State Legal Services Authority



Khandola, Goa, India



Government College of Arts, Science & Commerce Khandola

Lat 15.497499° Long 73.935641°

Saturday, 02/14/2026 09:30 AM GMT +05:30



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