

Destitute woman becomes watchful PLV

Chandrika Das was found begging in the town. As part of the project *Snehbandhan*, she was assisted by DLSA, Nagaon to file application at district panchayat for old age pension. This transformed her life so much so that she herself became a helping hand to other old ladies in her locality in getting the same benefit. Later all of them also acquired identity cards as domestic workers from the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Nagaon. Seeing the leadership quality and sociable attitude of Ms. Das the DLSA appointed her as a Para Legal Volunteer, so that she may render her noble services in the grassroots in a more organised manner.

Girl received proper treatment

A 12 year old girl in Nagaon had been carrying a tumour in the stomach since her age of four years. But due to superstition and lack of awareness of the family she was deprived of medical treatment while the tumour continued to increase in size. On receipt of a written application from a social worker, the Secretary DLSA personally went to meet the family and convinced the mother to avail medical treatment for the girl. The Secretary immediately wrote a letter to Joint Director of Health Services, Nagaon and admitted the girl in the civil hospital. From there she was referred to Gauhati Medical College where the tumour weighing 18 kg. was removed from her stomach through surgery. The DLSA helped in all the networking and formalities to provide free treatment to the girl. Through the constant follow up it has been found that the girl is healthy and is re-admitted in the school which she had to leave due to her ill health condition.

Justice to acid attack survivor

A 20 year old college going girl in Nagaon became a survivor of acid attack as she had rejected a love proposal. As per instruction received from the Member Secretary, ASLSA the DLSA Nagaon took immediate steps to register the case and as a result the girl received adequate compensation for her treatment, after care and rehabilitation. As the victim was unable to come to court for statements due to her severe injury, the Secretary DLSA made necessary arrangements to record the statement of the survivor, her parents and the village Head at the survivor's residence with the help of police and assisted by a few legal aid counsels. Apart from that, at the initiative of the Deputy Secretary, ASLSA the girl was admitted at the Guwahati Medical College Hospital and she was provided with free medical treatment, including the surgeries required. Now she is out of danger. But it was reported that the perpetrator of the crime got released on bail and was pressurising

the family to withdraw the case against him. Getting the information the DLSA, Nagaon had written a letter to the OC of concerned police station to provide adequate protection to the survivor and her family members, under the witness protection Scheme, 2018, as they were the vital witnesses of the occurrence. For her rehabilitation the DLSA has also taken initiative to let the girl continue studies as well as pursue her interest in cutting and tailoring.

Core Team coordinated with administration during flood

All the DLSAs in Assam extended help and support to the people who suffered in the recent floods. As per the NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster Victims Through Legal Services Authorities) Scheme, 2010. As per direction of the Member Secretary, ASLSA a core group was formed in each district with senior judicial officer, advocates, doctors and NGO members, which monitored the flood affected areas and coordinated with Government and Non-Government departments to facilitate in the relief operations of the district administration. A number of health camps and informal legal aid clinics were held in the affected areas by the DLSAs in collaboration with other departments.

Skill training helped jail inmates

To ensure rehabilitation of the prisoners after discharge, the DLSA, Bongaigaon in collaboration with Bongaigaon Polytechnic, conducted a 3-month training programme on Basic Electrician (wiring) Course at the District Jail, Abhayapuri in July 2019 for the inmates. This skill training would be of great help for the prisoners to start up a decent occupation after release.

Campaign for prisoners' families

A Campaign for legal assistance to the family members of the prisoners was organised by all the DLSAs in Assam. The campaign was conducted to help family members of the jail inmates in establishing rights of children of inmates especially educational rights; facilitating the spouses of the inmates to live a dignified life; securing the parents' esteem and care, most of whom were senior citizens. The campaign covered the family of each and every inmate, including both urban and rural areas. Through this campaign, the DLSAs have succeeded to connect the families of the jail inmates to the concerned departments of the government about which they were not aware. Some DLSAs have even mobilised funds and donated necessary utensils and books for the jail inmates.