

SHRI DHARMASTHALA MANJUNATHESHWARA LAW COLLEGE Centre for Post Graduate Studies & Research in Law Mangaluru - 575003

Affiliated to Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi Recognized by Bar Council of India, New Delhi (NAAC Accredited B<sup>++</sup> CGPA 2.9)

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## **Criteria VII: Institutional Values and Best Practices**

## Metric No: 7.2.1: Two Best Practices Implemented by the Institution

## Best Practice I: Awareness of Fundamental Duties and General Laws: An Extension Activity

- **1. Objectives:** The Legal Aid Cell of the college launched a program aimed at educating and developing school children's minds to become responsible and conscientious citizens in the future.
- 2. The Context: In a time where rights are frequently asserted, it's crucial to cultivate awareness of our fundamental duties and other laws. Promoting this awareness is essential to cultivating responsible citizens who possess admirable qualities and can make meaningful contributions to a progressive and accountable society.
- **3.** The Practice: The Legal Aid Cell of the college screens and trains responsible and determined students who are then dispatched to different schools to promote awareness about fundamental duties and other laws like cyber laws, Traffic laws, POCSO etc and shape them into responsible citizens.
- **4.** Evidence of Success: The student volunteers who were chosen, have visited various schools, raised awareness about fundamental duties and other laws, and ignited a passion for them among the children. As a result, they have achieved their objective.
- **5. Problems Encountered:** The primary challenge faced by students was the language barrier. In rural schools, the medium of instruction was the regional language, causing communication problems for student volunteers who were not fluent in it. Similarly, students from different states interested in volunteering faced difficulties due to their lack of knowledge or fluency in the local languages.
- 6. Outcome: Student volunteers covered various schools in and around Dakshina Karnataka, Kasargod, Kerala and effectively raised awareness about the fundamental duties and various laws and acts enshrined in the Indian Law, imparting its values



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## **Best Practice II: Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre**

- **1. Objectives:** To support and advance Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), reflecting the core values of our parent institution.
- 2. The Context: The adage "justice delayed is justice denied" emphasizes the urgency for effective dispute resolution. With courts increasingly burdened by litigation, there is a growing need to explore alternative methods. Recognizing this, our institution established the ADR Centre to offer a cost-effective and accessible solution. The centre not only serves the community by providing alternative dispute resolution services but also exposes students to arbitration and mediation techniques.
- **3.** The Practice: The ADR Centre handles cases referred by the courts for arbitration, as well as disputes where parties voluntarily choose our centre for resolution. The centre provides essential resources, including venue and administrative support, to facilitate these proceedings.
- 4. Evidence of Success: The institution's ADR Centre has become a preferred venue for arbitrators, who frequently utilize its services for conducting arbitration proceedings. By offering affordable resources, the ADR Centre has significantly reduced the financial burden on disputing parties, making ADR more accessible.
- 5. Problems Encountered: Initially, the centre faced challenges due to underdeveloped infrastructure and resistance from those accustomed to the traditional court-based dispute resolution system. However, these obstacles were gradually overcome. With the increasing number of parties approaching the centre, there has arisen a need to expand the centre. There is a growing demand for online ADR facilities, which requires the development of suitable online infrastructure to meet this need effectively.
- 6. Outcome: The ADR Centre has successfully established itself as a trusted and effective platform for resolving disputes, leading to an increase in the number of cases being referred by courts and voluntarily brought by parties. This has not only alleviated the burden on the traditional court system but has also provided a valuable learning experience for students, contributing to their practical understanding of arbitration and mediation process. Additionally, the affordability and accessibility of the ADR Centre have made it a preferred choice for many, furthering the institution's mission to serve the community. Moreover, our ADR centre is as a viable choice for the Courts when they refer matters to Arbitration.



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