

## Legal Aid Society Services of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law Goa India

By Arjun Natarajan

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*"Ignorance of Law is no excuse" is an ancient legal maxim.*

With the legislatures churning out loads of legislation and the Executive issuing far reaching notifications/regulations day by day, it has become extremely important for the common man to ascertain the various legal rules that regulates their conduct in a given situation. The problem has become acute in case of the poor and the deprived classes.

It is in this context that the Indian Government has set up a Statutory Authority called the National Legal Services Authority with the judge of the Supreme Court as its Chairman. Law colleges all over India have been invited to participate in the legal literacy and awareness campaign. It is to fulfill this obligation that Legal Aid and Awareness society has been set up in V M Salgaocar College of Law, (VMSCL) Miramar, Goa.

By setting up the largest number of professionally run Legal Aid Cells in different parts of the state of Goa, VMSCL takes pride in taking a lead over other law colleges in India. Every student admitted to the college becomes a member of the Legal Aid society.

VMSCL Goa undertakes various legal awareness projects to educate the public on various socio-legal issues. The same is being done by organizing lecture series, local discussion programmes, street plays etc, in various parts of the State. Keeping in mind World AIDS Day, every year on December 1, the legal aid cell of VMSCL Goa joins hands with NGOs and organizes rally for AIDS awareness.

About Arjun Natarajan: I attach immense importance to the rule of law as well as equality of opportunity for access to justice and I am proud to be a student of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law (VMSCL) Goa which has been taking great strides in improving the quality of legal education in India.

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The Education at V M Salgaocar College of Law (VMSCL) is not limited to imparting of legal knowledge to the students on various legal subjects but includes a kind of legal training which could enable the students to develop the capacity for rational thinking, articulation, presentation of arguments and sensitivity to the social needs. VMSCL has one of the best libraries which any law college can possess. In fact VMSCL had the option of being one of the National Law Schools but considering the steep fees charged by the National Law Schools, the benevolent Salgaocars decided to retain its identity by maintaining a reasonable and affordable fees structure.

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