



“Saving the world requires saving democracy. That requires well-informed citizens. Conservation, environment, poverty, community, education, family, health, economy-these combine to make one quest: liberty and justice for all. Whether one's special emphasis is global warming or child welfare, the cause is the same cause. And justice comes from the same place being human comes from: compassion.”

- Carl Safina.

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*The Mission of LCHR is to empower the weak, the poor, the needy and the powerless, accompanying them to claim their inalienable rights and human dignity, which has been impaired by inhuman social structure and unfavourable circumstances.*

*“The time has now come, when the court must become the court for the poor and the struggling masses of this country. They must be sensitized to the need of doing justice to the large masses of people to whom justice has been denied by a cruel heartless society for generations” (AIR 1982 SC 1473)*





### Observation of International Labour Day

To mark the International Labour Day, LCHR Programme Managers went to Nagaon and Udalguri. Hemanta Dahal along with Margaret Thomas and Mousumi Kalita, went to Purni Salona Tea Estate, Nagaon as guest speakers. The Programme was organized by Assam Tea Tribal Student Association (ATTSA). Over 300 tea plantation labourers along with members from AATSA took part in the event.

While Abinash Narzary and Pampi Bharadwaj, went to Krishna Susaibini Tea Estate, Udalguri as guest speakers to mark the occasion. There were about 300 tea garden workers present for the celebration. The programme was organized by Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS).

The speakers explained to the people the importance of observation of the International Labour Day. They highlighted the rights of tea plantation labourers, the facilities that the labourers can avail in improving their livelihood, the problems of the tea garden labourers and the solution to such problems.



### Observation of World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kamrup in collaboration with LCHR organized 2 legal awareness programmes on environment at Bakrapara under Boko Development Block and at Thutiabazar village. Shobha K.P., Deputy Director, Mousumi Kalita, and Pampi Bharadwaj, were the Resource Persons at Bakrapara and Abinash Narzary and Hemanta Dahal, were the Resource Persons at Thutiabazar village. A good total of 77 people were present for the celebration. The resource persons explained about the history of observation of the World Environment Day, meaning of 'environment', the need to protect the environment, environmental degradation,

environmental pollution and consequences of environmental pollution, the responsibility of each individual towards the environment, laws relating to environment protection and punishment for violation of their laws. The villagers said that previously there was no deforestation in their locality but nowadays there is massive denudation of the hills around their village for residential and commercial purposes. The villagers also cut the trees for firewood purposes. On request by the participants the resource persons also highlighted on a few social security schemes. The participants were happy to be part of the celebration and expressed their gratitude for celebrating such an event at their place.

### LEGAL LITERACY CAMPS

*Organized by Bethany Social Service Society*

LCHR in association with Bethany Social Service Society organized 3 legal literacy camps on social security schemes and Right to Education in various areas of Kamrup District. The camps were organized in April. Abinash Narzary, Hemanta Dahal, Margaret Thomas, Mousumi Kalita and Pampi Bharadwaj were the resource persons. The resource persons spoke on various Central





and State Government Schemes available for the deprived sections of the people. The participants were given inputs on National Food Security Act, 2013, Pension Schemes, MGNREGA etc. A list of the legal literacy camps is given below-

Date	Venue	Participants	Resource Persons
01.04.2016	Barsapara, Dhirenpara and Itabhata	150	Abinash Narzary, Hemanta Dahal and Mousumi Kalita
02.04.2016	Jyotikuchi, Santipur (Bhorolu) and Tilla (Dhirenpara)	63	Abinash Narzary, Margaret Thomas and Pampi Bharadwaj
06.05.2016	Garchuk, Lokhra and Boragaon GMC Colony	68	Margaret Thomas and Mousumi Kalita

### Organized by DLSA, Kamrup

LCHR in collaboration with DLSA, Kamrup has organized several legal literacy camps during April- June 2016 on various laws. The details of the camps are as follows-

Date	Topic	Venue	Participants	Resource Persons
30.04.2016	Motor Vehicle Acts and Rules	Ekrabari and Bonda, Chandrapur Development Block	152	Abinash Narzary, Hemanta Dahal and Pampi Bharadwaj
17.06. 2016	Adoption and Modalities Thereof	Kamarpur, Chandrapur Development Block	33	Abinash Narzary and Mousumi Kalita
18.06.2016	Right to Information	Lurigaon and Ural Kachari Basti, Dimoria Development Block	80	Abinash Narzary, Margaret Thomas Deka, Mousumi Kalita, Pampi Bharadwaj and Dipsikha Roy, intern, Banasthali University, Rajasthan
19.06.2016	Adoption and Modalities Thereof	Amguri, Dimoria Development Block	35	Mousumi Kalita and Pampi Bharadwaj
25.06.2016	School Drop-outs	Amchong, Dimoria Development Block	38	Abinash Narzary and Hemanta Dahal
27.06.2016	School Drop-outs	Hatisila Sangghar, Chandrapur Development Block	30	Hemanta Dahal, Margaret Thomas and Shilpa Bhattacharjee, intern, IGNOU

In Ekrabari and Bonda, the Resource Persons explained various provisions relating to motor vehicles and the Motor Vehicle Act and Rules. They made the participants aware of the responsibility of the owner of vehicles on the road and the rights of owners of vehicles with respect to their vehicles.





In Kamarpur and Amguri, the Resource Persons explained the meaning of adoption, who may adopt a child, who may give in adoption, rights of natural guardian, the provisions of adoption under Hindu law, maintenance of wife and children and penalty in case of illegal adoption, etc.

In Lurigaon and Ural Kachari Basti, the Resource Persons spoke on the meaning of information, need and importance of right to information, how to obtain information from public office and the working of the Act with regard to obtaining information from public office.

While speaking on the theme of “School Drop-outs”, the resource persons explained to the participants the meaning of school drop-outs, causes of such school drop-outs, remedies against such menace, provisions of The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 with regard to school drop-outs etc.

The participants attending the programmes were very happy to be acquainted with the laws and rules on various issues. They expressed their happiness to participate in the programmes and gain knowledge on the concerned topics. Apart from the theme of the literacy camps as highlighted above, the resource persons on request by the participants explained a few social security schemes such as MGNREGA, Prime Minister Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), National Food Security Act, 2013 and how to avail such schemes.



### OTHERS

An awareness camp was held on May 29, 2016 on Right to Free and Compulsory Education. It was facilitated by Margaret Thomas and Mousumi Kalita at Brahmajan T.E., Helam, Sonitpur organized by Jagriti Manab Adhikar Manch. There were about 150 participants present in the programme.

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The monthly monitoring and evaluation of the formation of cluster groups of the Para legal Persons’ (PLPs) for the tea-plantation labourers have been held in 2 phases during April-June 2016. In April and May 2016, the Office Bearers’ (OBs) meeting of the 5 districts was held and in June group meeting of the 18 PLP Cluster Groups in the 5 districts was held. The objective of the monitoring and evaluation was to evaluate the activities of the groups and to guide them in their effective formation and development. An outline of the monitoring and evaluation visit in the 5 districts is highlighted below:

Date	Place	Participants	Facilitators
22.04.2016	Udalguri	5	Abinash Narzary, Margaret Thomas and Mousumi Kalita
23.04.2016	Sonitpur	8	Abinash Narzary, Margaret Thomas and Mousumi Kalita
27.04.2016	Nagaon	8	Abinash Narzary and Pampi Bharadwaj
25.05.2016	Nagaon	6	Hemanta Dahal and Pampi Bharadwaj
28.05.2016	Tinsukia	11	Hemanta Dahal
28.05.2016	Udalguri	8	Margaret Thomas and Mousumi Kalita
29.05.2016	Dibrugarh	4	Hemanta Dahal
29.05.2016	Sonitpur	6	Margaret Thomas and Mousumi Kalita



The Obs and group members of the above mentioned groups interacted and shared the problems and difficulties that the people in their area are facing, the steps taken by them in solving those issues and programmes for spread of education among the tea-garden labourers' children. They were happy to meet the Programme Managers and discuss the success and failure of the group activities.



- The District Coordinator's meeting for April and May 2016 was held at the Conference Hall of LCHR on May 04, 2016 and on June 13, 2016. The District Coordinators from the 5 districts and the staff members of LCHR were present in the meeting including Ravi Sagar, Director and Shobha KP, Deputy Director. The Coordinators shared the progress and drawbacks of the groups.
- On May 07, 2016 and June 16, 2016 the Staff meeting was held at the Conference Hall of LCHR. While evaluating the activities they also planned for the months ahead.

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

- A two-day regional workshop on "Human Rights Lawyering" was organised at Jagriti, Christianbasti, Guwahati on April 8 & 9, 2016. 50 participants representing 13 legal cells attended the workshop. Hon'ble (Retd.) Justice Cyriac Joseph, member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. Hon'ble Justice Tinlianthang Vaiphei; Judge, Gauhati High Court graced the valedictory session on April 9. In the workshop talks on key issues such as 'Human Rights Lawyering'; 'We Cannot Be But Social Engineers' etc. were dealt with. The participants gave a very positive response towards the success of the workshop.



### RESOURCE TEAM

- On April 16, 2016, Ravi Sagar was the Resource Person for a seminar on 'Legal Issues in Education' held at St. Paul's Institute of Education, Phesama, Nagaland. There were 105 participants attending the seminar.
- Ravi Sagar was the Resource Person at a workshop at Bishop House, Dibrugarh on May 03, 2016. As a Resource Person he spoke on "Provident Fund, Employees State Insurance Act and Gratuity". 40 participants attended the workshop. The workshop was organized by the Education Commission, Diocese of Dibrugarh.
- Ravi Sagar spoke on "Policy for Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults from Sexual Abuse and Mal-treatment". The consultation was held on May 20, 2016. It was organized by St. Paul's Institute of Education, Phesama, Nagaland. A good total of 60 participants were present.
- A 3 day seminar on "Current Legal Issues Relating to Minority Educational and Charitable Institutions" was organized by Navjyoti Niketan at Kurji, Patna, Bihar on May 23-26, 2016. Ravi Sagar was one of the Resource Persons in which 57 participants took part.
- Ravi Sagar participated at a Regional Consultation on Draft National Policy for Women, 2016, organized by Government of Assam and Assam State Commission for Women in collaboration with National Commission for Women at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati on June 27, 2016.





### INTERN SPEAKS

I am Shilpa Bhattacharjee student of MSW at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). I have started my internship in LCHR on June 6, 2016. The duration of my internship is 45 days. Before joining LCHR, I was not properly aware of the activities of LCHR.



After joining LCHR as an intern, I learnt its diverse activities its mission, vision, structure and its various programmes.

I learnt a lot from LCHR about Human Rights, about Right to Information Act, 2005-the importance of the Act, and the important role of the statute as a powerful tool in bringing about transparency in public departments and in promoting good governance. I also learnt about MGNREGA, various laws relating to protection of women and child rights et al. Again after attending the awareness camp on bringing back school drop-outs in Hatichila, I got an opportunity to have the practical experience on conducting awareness camp. I got to know the problems which the children and the

society in that place have been undergoing and what effective remedies could be suggested for their improvement. I further learnt about alternative dispute resolution system such as arbitration, conciliation and mediation. The well equipped library added an extra edge towards expansion of my knowledge and ideas.

Lastly, I would like to thank Sir Ravi Sagar, Director, LCHR for giving me this opportunity to have access to the organization and the staff members of LCHR for their valuable support during the period of my internship.

**Shilpa Bhattacharjee**  
*MSW Final Year, IGNOU*

### IMPRESSIONS

As LCHR, focuses this year on compulsory education of children in the tea-gardens of Assam, we Jivan Jyoti Manav Adhikar Manch, Dimakuchi have been working towards effective fulfillment of this aim of LCHR. In Borengajuli T.E. the school drop-outs are very high and the parents are least interested in sending them to the school. Therefore, we have introduced special coaching classes free of cost for the school drop-outs and for the regular students of the tea-estate separately to increase their interest in studies. As a result of the coaching classes, the interest of the children in studies have increased progressively. Moreover, after organizing awareness camps on Right to Education, the parents of the children have also become aware of the importance of education for their children. Now the children and the parents are taking keen interest in study. The drop-out rate has considerably gone down and even some of the parents have come forward to pay a weekly fee of Rs. 20 to the tutor.



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