

A PARTICIPATION

i) We welcome your active participation in the project by volunteering to do any of the below activities:

a. Spreading the word. It could as simple as sensitising the people in your immediate environment (chaiwallah outside your campus, your maid at home, your office peon) to law as a profession, the availability of scholarships to study at the premier legal institutions and free coaching to clear the entrance exams to such law schools. Indeed, we have initiated something along these lines at WB NUJS (called the "Diversity begins at home" project) and are actively speaking with the children of all our support staff, cleaning staff, gardeners, etc. to encourage them to take up law.

At a broader level, you could speak to your media contacts for helping spread the word or connect us to school networks, government contacts, etc. that can help us reach out to more schools. You could also help us by:

- i. speaking to people who are likely to be interested in funding this project, and instituting specific scholarships etc.
- ii. speaking to the various law schools and sensitizing them to this project and requesting them to have policies that will aid this project (such as by instituting scholarships for poor students etc)

- b. Offer to visit schools in your area. Indeed we request all students and lawyers to at least visit their own school and encourage more students to take up the profession of law.
- c. Mentor students from disadvantaged backgrounds who enter law schools and may find it a bit difficult to navigate in the initial years (both academically and socially)
- d. Offer to help prepare materials for CLAT training and/or to physically train students for CLAT.
- e. Offer to help with the English training component.
- f. Join any of the regional IDIA groups that are being set up to help implement the project in different parts of India.

In order for this project to work, it must be a pan India effort with as many volunteers who can sensitise schools and students across the length and breadth of India to the wonders of law as a career. To this extent, our focus would be on creating processes and materials that can be used by any interested third party. We are particularly looking for collaborative networks with students, faculty, law firms, NGO's and other interested persons and institutions in different parts of India.

B FUNDING FOR IDIA

- i) As evident from the above, for the IDIA project to work, we require a massive infusion of funds. Any donations, no matter how small, either as a contribution to the general fund or for any specific processes identified above, will be most appreciated. We don't have any specific target for fund collection as yet—but will work

with whatever we receive, i.e., if we receive more, we can help more students access quality legal education and better their lives. Although we prefer donations for the general purpose of the project, you could, if you wish, insist that your funding be applied to any of the heads below:

- a. Visits to schools to run sensitisation programmes. Illustratively, a group of 4 student volunteers along with a faculty member travelling to schools in Murshidabad (a small town in West Bengal: about a 6 hour train journey from Kolkata) and undertaking sensitisation programs is likely to cost us Rs 15,000/-. If interested, donors could even specify the areas that they would like us to cover and help us by funding that trip.
- b. Buying study materials for students: Our biggest access bottleneck in terms of training students from rural areas and small towns is their lack of proficiency with English. We have to deliver training as will enable them to begin thinking in English. Many of these students in rural and small towns do not even have access to English newspapers. Getting them subscriptions to newspapers, magazines (eg CSR) and buying books on GK and English for them will cost a lot of money.
- c. Bringing in teachers, students and parents for "open" days to law schools, where the wonders of law as a career option are explained and a tour of the law school given.
- d. Preparing CLAT training material: This is a very intensive task, since it involves several components, including modules on English, mathematics, logical reasoning, legal reasoning and

GK. Although some students are likely to volunteer to work for free for this, we're likely to get the best only if we pay for this task. Again, donors could either donate books etc to us or give us moneys generally towards this purpose or indicate specifically that they wish their moneys to be used specifically for this purpose

- e. Creating brochures and publicity materials: these materials can be taken to schools to give students a better idea of law as a career and the benefits of a good legal education. It could also contain information on the various law schools. These materials once created would be made available online for free access. But it may help to print these professionally so that we have attractive colours and photos that will appeal more to students, their teachers and their parents.
- f. Online Component: An open access website to be structured that would have all information on the project that could be useful to potential CLAT takers and anyone willing to help with the project. The website would also host all our CLAT training materials, past years papers and other relevant materials.
- g. Funding Students who clear CLAT and are admitted to law schools: This will require a massive infusion of funds. Although 3 of the top law schools have fee waiver policies for poor students, the others don't. We would therefore greatly appreciate the institution of scholarships by lawyers, law firms, industrial houses, associations, institutions and any others that wish to help us in this endeavour. At NUJS, the cost of tuition per year per student works out to around Rs 1.5 lakhs (around

Rs 7.5 lakhs for the entirety of 5 years). If not for the tuition fee (either full or a part of it), funding for taking care of the stipendiary expenses of an admitted student will greatly help. This works out to Rs 3000 per month per student for NUJS, situated in Kolkata. Even if 3 lawyers come together with Rs 1000 each per month to help one student, that would help a great deal.

- ii) We are in the process of creating an independent trust to run this project. For the moment, any donations (by either cheque or draft) could be made in the name of "Diversity Project A/c No. SB01005913" and sent to the address below:

Shamnad Basheer
Ministry of HRD Professor in IP Law
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WB NUJS)
NUJS Bhavan, 12 LB BLOCK
Salt Lake City, Sector III
Kolkata - 700098, India

- iii) Please mention in your covering letter that the amount is being advanced as a donation towards the IDIA (Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access) Project. Please also remember to request a letter to facilitate your availing tax benefits under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

- iv) Funds may also be transferred online to the account of the University. If interested in this option, please use the following details below:

IFSC : CORP0000663

A/c No. SB01005913

Contact Us:

For more details or clarification, please write to shamnad@gmail.com or call +91 9831512975