



TILAK MAHARASHTRA VIDYAPEETH

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Report on Legal Aid Camp

Venue : Village Kodit, Taluka Purandar, District Pune

Date: 13th April 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 10:00 AM onwards

On 13th April 2025, a Legal Aid Camp was successfully organized in the village of Kodit, located in Taluka Purandar, District Pune. The initiative was spearheaded by TMV's Lokmanya Tilak Law College, Pune, as part of its continuous efforts to foster legal awareness in rural areas. Legal aid and legal literacy are fundamental to ensuring justice reaches the grassroots, and this camp served as a practical extension of that mission.

The camp was conducted under the able guidance of **Assistant Professor Ashwini Biradar** and **Assistant Professor Rucha Kulkarni**, who currently serve as the Legal Aid Coordinators of the college. Their leadership and active involvement played a critical role in planning, organizing, and executing the day-long event. A total of **90 law students**, comprising those from **LL.B. 2nd year** and **B.A. LL.B. 4th year**, participated in the camp. These students served as the key facilitators in engaging the local population, educating them on legal rights and entitlements, and collecting meaningful data to inform future outreach efforts.

Objectives of the Legal Aid Camp

The primary objectives of the legal aid camp were threefold:

1. **To promote legal literacy** among villagers by spreading awareness of their rights, remedies, and accessible government schemes.



2. **To provide law students with experiential learning**, giving them firsthand exposure to the legal needs and challenges faced by rural populations.
3. **To collect data and insights** that could guide future legal aid initiatives in similar rural settings.

By structuring the camp around both interactive sessions and data collection, the organizers ensured that the initiative had both immediate and long-term impact.

Activities of the Camp

The Legal Aid Camp consisted of two main components:

1. Legal Awareness Sessions

These sessions formed the core of the camp's educational efforts. The participating students were divided into smaller teams and assigned to different clusters of the village to ensure maximum reach. They engaged in face-to-face conversations, group discussions, and small public gatherings to inform residents about crucial legal topics.

The sessions covered the following areas:

- **Government Welfare Schemes** - Students shared detailed information about various central and state-level government schemes that villagers could benefit from. These included schemes for financial assistance, senior citizen pensions, subsidies for farmers, health insurance plans, and education-related entitlements. Many villagers were unaware of these schemes or had misconceptions about eligibility, which the students helped clarify.
- **Cyber Frauds and Digital Safety** - With increasing digital penetration even in rural India, cybercrime has emerged as a major concern. Students educated villagers on common online scams, such as fraudulent calls, phishing, ATM and UPI frauds. Preventive measures were shared, including the importance of strong passwords, awareness while using social media, and steps to take in case of financial fraud. This was



a particularly engaging topic, as several villagers shared personal experiences of being targets of scams.

- **Property Rights and Disputes** - Land and property-related issues remain prevalent in rural India. Students explained basic legal principles around inheritance laws, land titles, partition disputes, and tenancy rights. Villagers were also informed about the importance of legal documentation, such as maintaining a clear title, executing wills, and registering transactions. Dispute resolution mechanisms, including how to approach the *tehsildar*, *lok adalats*, or civil courts, were also explained in simple terms.

Each of these sessions was tailored to be conversational and bilingual, using both Marathi and Hindi to ensure clear communication.

2. Survey and Data Collection

A crucial part of the legal aid camp was the structured survey conducted among the villagers. The purpose of this survey was to assess:

- The current level of legal awareness in the community
- The most commonly faced legal issues
- The extent to which villagers were able to access legal help

The survey was administered using a well-prepared questionnaire developed by the faculty to ensure relevance and consistency. It included both closed-ended and open-ended questions to gather both quantitative data and anecdotal evidence. Students recorded responses by visiting households individually and speaking with residents of different age groups and occupations, ranging from farmers and homemakers to small business owners and daily wage workers.

The survey helped in:

- Identifying gaps in knowledge regarding available legal remedies
- Highlighting real-life cases that required legal intervention or advice
- Understanding barriers to accessing legal services, such as distance, cost, lack of documentation, or fear of authority



Learning Outcomes

For the participating law students, the camp was a rare and valuable opportunity to step outside the classroom and engage directly with people whose lives are affected by legal issues in tangible ways. They experienced how legal knowledge—or the lack of it—can influence everyday decision-making in rural households.

Some specific learning outcomes for students included:

- Developing skills in legal counseling, especially how to simplify legal jargon for laypeople.
- Understanding the ground realities of the justice delivery system in rural areas.
- Enhancing their interpersonal and communication skills.
- Learning to empathize and engage with vulnerable groups without judgment.

This exposure also strengthened their commitment to public service and social justice, core principles of the legal profession.

Community Response and Feedback

The response from the villagers of Kodit was overwhelmingly positive. From the beginning of the camp, villagers showed great curiosity and enthusiasm. Many gathered in public spaces to listen attentively during group sessions, while others welcomed the students into their homes for one-on-one discussions.

Several residents expressed gratitude for the knowledge shared, especially regarding government schemes and property-related issues. Many noted that they had never previously had access to such clear and personalized legal guidance. A number of villagers even requested the college to organize more such camps in the future and to provide follow-up sessions to help them with ongoing issues.

The legal aid camp thus helped build trust between the legal community and the rural population, a critical step in ensuring long-term access to justice.



Outcomes and Impact

The legal aid camp successfully met its intended goals and left a lasting impact on both the student participants and the local community. The key achievements of the camp include:

- **Improved Legal Literacy** - Villagers left the camp with a clearer understanding of their rights, legal procedures, and how to seek help when needed.
- **Practical Student Experience** - Law students gained invaluable exposure to real-world legal challenges and learned how to interact professionally and compassionately with individuals facing legal difficulties.
- **Meaningful Data Collection** - The survey responses collected during the camp are now being analyzed by faculty and students. These findings will be compiled into a report that will help in designing more focused and effective legal aid programs in the future.
- **Strengthened Community Ties** - The initiative helped foster a deeper relationship between TMV's Lokmanya Tilak Law College and the rural communities it seeks to serve.

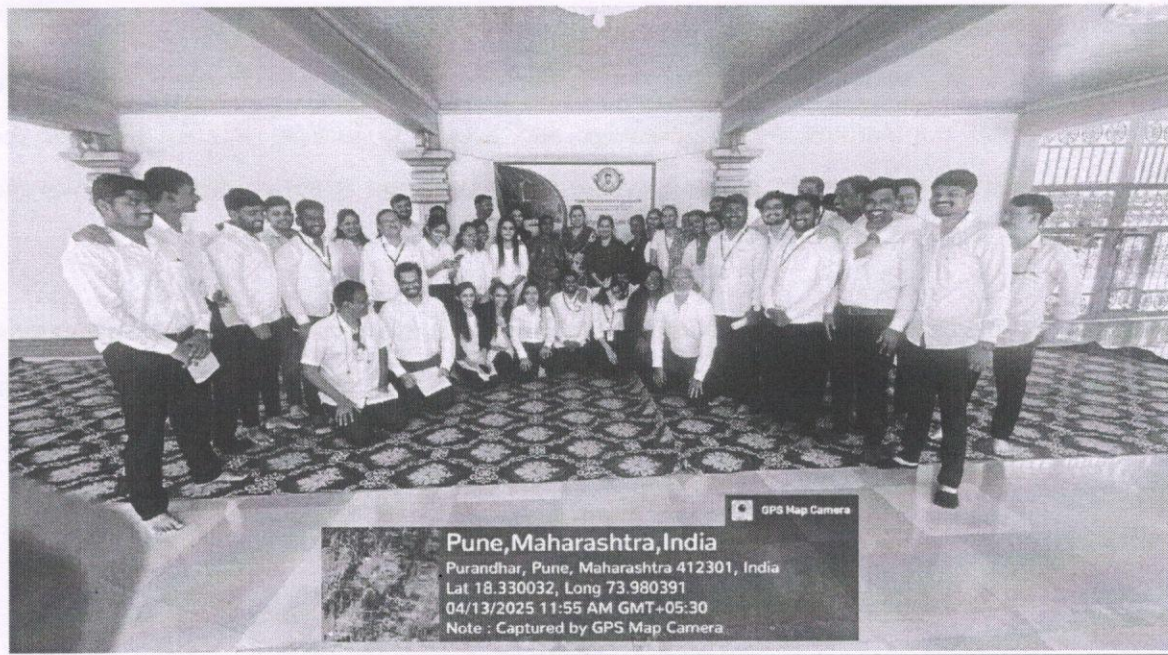
The Legal Aid Camp at Kodit was more than a one-day event—it was a strong step toward empowering rural populations with knowledge and access to justice. It also affirmed the college's commitment to “**law in action**”, where legal education is not confined to books and exams but extends into the real lives of people.

The success of this camp underscores the importance of **institution-led legal literacy programs**, particularly in underserved areas. It demonstrated that with the right planning, student involvement, and community support, such initiatives can bring tangible change.



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