

CONSOLIDATED REPORT
ON
3-DAYS TRAINING OF PARALEGAL VOLUNTEERS OF
NORTH-EAST STATES



Supported by

Department of Justice,
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Implemented by

Committee for Legal Aid to Poor
Bimaladevi Memorial Building,
Plot No. E-367, Sector-6,
Markat Nagar, Cuttack – 753014,
Odisha, India.

Phone: 91-671-2363980/2365680, Fax: 91-671-2363454

Email: info@clapindia.org, Website: www.clapindia.org

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1. Introduction:

The Committee for Legal Aid to Poor (CLAP) on being entrusted with the assignment to conduct training of paralegals in the 8-States of North East including Sikkim by the esteemed Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, has undertaken the programme to organise 3-Days Training in the first phase for 400-paralegals in batches consisting of 50 numbers in each of the 8-North Eastern States covering Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Sikkim. The training for paralegal volunteers was held broadly with the goal to promote access of marginalised communities to justice system. The training for paralegal volunteers was organised in the broader premise that paralegals play a pivotal role in assisting the marginalised communities in accessing justice. Adequate training is a must for paralegals so that, they are able to keep themselves updated with the recent laws and procedures. In the recent years, expectations from paralegals have increased manifold. They are expected to act as a resource within the community who can assist the community in accessing justice. The primary function of these paralegals is to bring the people needing legal aid and advice to the Legal Services Authorities constituted at different level as per requirement. A paralegal does not merely focuses on providing basic legal information but also facilitate the community in accessing justice system for securing their legal rights. In this background it was decided to organise training programme to train 50-paralegals each in the 8-states of North East including Sikkim in the first phase which will be of 3-days duration each. For this purpose a training manual based on requirement of training set out by NALSA and inputs from key stakeholders in the North East was prepared in a draft format. The training manual was used in all the programmes to conduct the training. Similarly, 50-paralegal volunteers were selected in each states in consultation with the State Legal Services Authorities and the Department of Justice who were given the opportunity to undergo the training. This report recounts in brief the processes followed in course of holding the training programmes and also mentions the proceedings of the training programmes.

2. Development of Training Manual:

At the beginning of the programme an attempt had been made to draft a training manual which will be used to conduct the training programme in a systematic manner. In this regard a two member drafting committee was constituted who in a consultative manner developed the training manual. The team reviewed the existing curricula, manuals, modules and other relevant guides on paralegal training developed by NALSA and Legal Services Authorities as well as other institutions imparting training for paralegals to develop training curriculum specifically suitable for the 8-States of North East. The drafting committee examined as many as 10-training manuals from across the globe to give a shape to the training manual. The draft training manual was circulated among a group of 4-academicians of law discipline for their observation and inputs for further improvement. Finally, the expert group drafted the training manual which consisted of 12-modules. In each module an introduction, learning objectives of the session, methodology and activities to be carried out and themes to be covered have been thoroughly discussed. In each module a detailed guideline for the facilitator has also been described to guide the facilitator to hold the session in a systematic manner to achieve the learning objectives. The curriculum for each session has been dealt with in detail under the head 'themes to be covered'. The modules of the training manual are described here below with suggested session length for greater understanding:

Module	Subject/Theme	Session Length.
Day One		
Module-1	Inaugural Session	10 am to 11 am (1.00 hour)
Module-2	Introductory Session	11.15 am - 12.15 pm(1.00 hour)
Module-3	Course Material Appreciation, Pre-Training Evaluation and Expectation of Participants.	12.30pm - 1.30 pm (1.00 hour)
Module-4	Understanding the Concept of Paralegal Volunteer	2.30 pm – 4.00 pm(1.30hour)
Module-5	Strengthening Access to Justice and Legal Services	4.30 pm – 6.00 pm (1.30 hour)
Day Two		
Module-6	Glimpses of Constitution of India	10.00 am – 11.30 am (1.30 hours)
Module-7	Understanding Indian Legal System and Institutional Mechanisms	12.00 noon – 1.30 pm (1.30 hours)
Module-8	Fundamentals of Crime and Law	2.30 pm – 4.00 pm (1.30 hours)
Module-9	Issues relating to Civil Law.	4.30 pm – 6.00 pm (1.30 hours)
Day Three		
Module-10	Exposure Visit	9.30 am – 1.30 pm (4.00 hours)
Module-11	Sharing of Experience of Exposure Visit	2.30 pm – 3.30 pm (1.00 hour)
Module-12	Valedictory Session	3.45 pm – 5.15 pm (1.30 hours)

The above mentioned training manual has been pilot tested and used for conducting all the 8 numbers of paralegal volunteer training. After completion of the training,

suggestions have been received to incorporate two more points in the training manual. These are, firstly a point about expected outcome of the session. Secondly, it was suggested that at the end of each module there should be a special mention of the 'key message' of the session, so that, the facilitator can close the session with a remark about the lessons learnt from that session.

Even though the above mentioned standard programme schedule based on the training manual has been followed in letter and spirit, additional subjects were also covered in addition to what has been proposed in the training manual in almost all the states on the basis of expectations of the participants from the training which they shared at the beginning of the programme. The felt needs of the participants were duly identified and addressed in the training programmes. The suggested subjects were accommodated in the training without changing the basic structure of the training manual. Most of the suggested sessions were added to the overall subjects. The following table shows the additional subjects which were added state-wise based on expectations of the participants:

S. No.	Name of State	Topic added.
1.	Tripura	Women and Law; Child and Law; Labour Law and Right to Work.
2.	Manipur	Women and Law; Child and Law.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Women and Law; Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
4.	Assam	Victim Compensation Scheme.
5.	Nagaland	Victim Compensation Scheme; Child and Law.
6.	Mizoram	Child and Legislation; Women and Law.

Since the above subjects have been identified as expectation of the participants, a process has been started to incorporate these subjects in the training manual.

3. Itinerary of Trainings:

As per the work plan and training manual, in the first phase, training of 3-days duration each was held in all 8-North East States in collaboration with State Legal Services Authorities. The trainings were held between May 2014 to July 2014. The following table provides a description about the training programmes held in different states:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Date of Training Programme	Venue
1.	Manipur	1 st - 3 rd May, 2014	High Court Conference Hall, Imphal.
2.	Mizoram	6 th - 8 th May, 2014	Youth Hostel, Luangmual, Aizawl.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	22 nd - 24 th May, 2014	State Cooperative Conference Hall, Naharlagun, Papunipare.
4.	Assam	28 th - 30 th May, 2014	NEDSSS, Kharguli, Joypur, Guwahati.
5.	Meghalaya	11 th - 13 th June, 2014	Youth Hostel, Shillong.
6.	Tripura	14 th - 16 th June, 2014	Tripura State cooperative Union, CCMT Hostel, Agartala.
7.	Sikkim	28 th - 30 th June, 2014	District Police HQ Conference Hall, Gangtok.
8.	Nagaland	2 nd - 4 th July, 2014	Hotel Saramati, Dimapur.

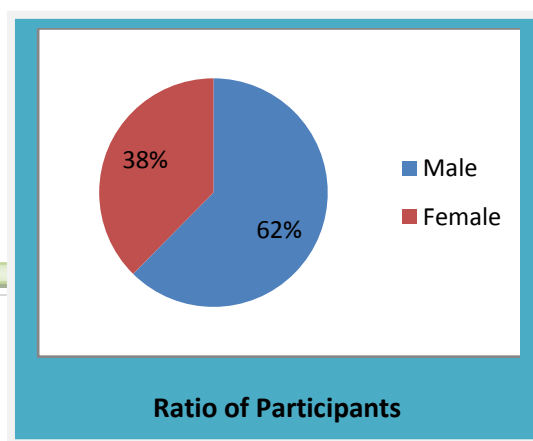
Most of the training programmes were held in the state capital of the concerned state. The State Legal Services Authorities were directly associated in holding the training programmes. It is to be mentioned that the training programme could be completed over a total duration of two months.

4. Participants:

Before holding the training the CLAP prepared a list of 60 paralegal volunteers identified by State Legal Services Authorities of each state for the purpose of inviting them to attend the 3-days training. It is to be mentioned empathetically that the lists were prepared in consultation with State Legal Service Authorities. In each state 60-numbers of paralegal volunteers were invited to make sure that at least 50-participants attend the training. The following table shows the total number of participants in each of the programme held in different states:

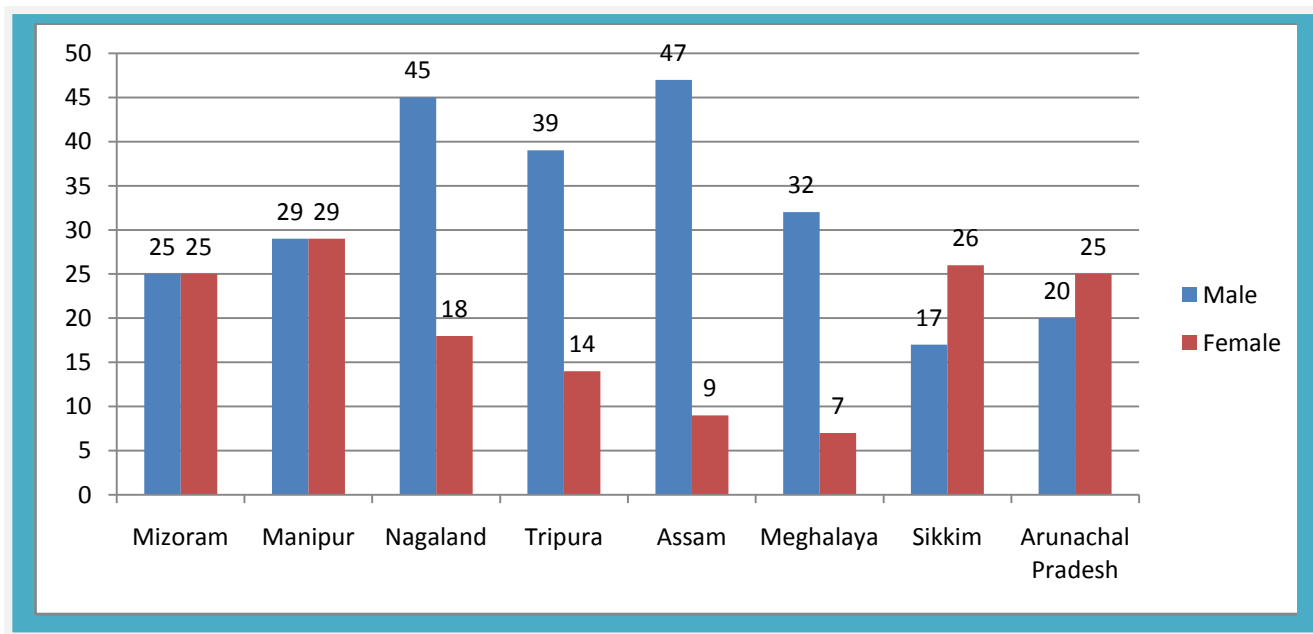
Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total Participants	Male	Female
1.	Mizoram	50	25	25
2.	Manipur	58	29	29
3.	Nagaland	63	45	18
4.	Tripura	53	39	14
5.	Assam	56	47	09
6.	Meghalaya	39	32	07
7.	Sikkim	43	17	26
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	45	20	25
	Total	407	254	153

It needs to be mentioned that out of the total training programmes held in 5 states 50 or more than 50 participants attended the training. Meghalaya has recorded the lowest number of participants with only 39 paralegal volunteers



turned up for participation. The reason for low participation can be ascribed to the fact that suddenly there was a ‘bandh call’ given by local organisations for which the paralegal volunteers could not make a move to participate from far off districts in time. Similarly, Nagaland recorded the highest number of participation with 63 participants.

The participants were mostly invited from two to three districts of each state as planned. In some cases participants were selected on the basis of their training need, as such participants never attended a training earlier. All through the training, efforts were made to make adequate participation of women. It was noted that in Manipur highest number of women paralegal volunteers turned up for participation with the figure stands at 29. In the state of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh the number of women participant is more than that of male. An analysis of gender participation in the training programmes conducted in the first phase in all the 8-North East States shows that the percentage of women participant was 38% of total participation. The following diagram provides a clear insight about the male and female ratio in the training programmes held in different states:



5. Proceedings of the Trainings:

The proceedings of all the 8-nos of 3-Days Paralegal Trainings held in North East States is given here below in a consolidated form under different heads:

5.1. Inaugural Function:

As a matter of programme design each training was started with a formal inaugural ceremony. Inaugurations of the programmes were held immediately after registration of participants. Inauguration session was designed exclusively to welcome participants to the training and to offer an opening remark. In order to add value and create a sense of uniqueness of the programme dignitaries were invited to address the inaugural function. In this regard high level dignitaries mostly from judiciary and State Legal Services Authorities were mostly invited as guests. It was a matter of achievement that in many cases the Hon'ble Chief Justice who is the Patron in Chief or the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authorities have graced the inaugural function and addressed the paralegal volunteers. The following table provides an insight into the inaugural function of training programmes held in different states of North-East:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Guest attended
1.	Manipur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Laxmi Kanta Mohapatra, Chief Justice, High Court of Manipur, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar, Executive Chairman, SLSA, Mr. Ch. Brajachand Singh, Member Secretary, Manipur State Legal Service Authority (MASLSA), Mr. Saimon Singh, Register, High Court of Manipur.
2.	Mizoram	Mr. R. Thanga, District and Sessions Judge; Mrs. Lalnipuii, Chairman, Mizoram Women's Commission, Mr. L.R. Sailo, Director, I&PR, Ms. Julie Lalrinzami, Member Secretary, District Legal Service Authority.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dr (Mrs) Justice Indra Shah, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Shri Budi Habung, Member Secretary, State Legal Service Authority, Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Dani Belo, OSD, State Legal Service Authority.
4.	Assam	Mr. P.K. Saikia, Member Secretary ASLSA, Dr. Pratima Devi Sarma, Chairperson, State Social Welfare Board.
5.	Meghalaya	Shri. L.M. Sangma, Secretary, Law Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, Mrs. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson, Meghalaya State Women Commission, Shri. Noor Ain Khan, Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Shri K.J. Lyngdoh, O.S.D. Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority.
6.	Tripura	Justice U. B Saha, High Court of Tripura, Mr. S.G. Chattopadhyay, Member Secretary, Tripura State Legal Services Authority, Mr. S. Bhattacharjee, Deputy Secretary, Tripura SLSA, Mr. Sanjib Majumdar, District Secretary, DLSA, West Tripura Mrs Purnima Roy, Chairperson, Tripura Women's Commission.
7.	Sikkim	Hon'ble Shri Justice N.K. Jain, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim,

		Hon'ble Shri Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Smt. Subdhra Rai, Chairperson, State Commission for Women, Shri K.W. Bhutia, Member Secretary, SLSA.
8.	Nagaland	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. K. Sema, (Rtd.) Judge, Supreme Court of India & Former Chairman, State Human Rights Commission, Uttar Pradesh Smti. Yarenjungla Longkumer, District & Session Judge, Dimapur-cum-Chairman, Dimapur DLSA

In order to make the inaugural function gender focused and gender neutral, the representatives from State Commission for Women or State Social Welfare Board were also invited. It was a great success that the Chairperson of the State Commission for Women or the representatives of Women Commissions attended the inaugural session in most of the states.

5.2. Ice-Breaking:

It is pertinent to mention that in all training programmes held in 8-nos of North-East States an Ice-breaking session was conducted. The ice-breaking session was generally held immediately after the inauguration of the programme. A common exercise was adopted for ice-breaking in all the states. For the purpose of the ice-breaking exercise all the participants were divided into two groups on the basis of a roll call of 1 and 2. After division of the group into two groups, the first group was asked to pick up one placard from a set up placards in which titles of different laws were mentioned. The other group was also similarly asked to collect one placard each from a different set up placards which carried mention of different rights like right to work, right to education and right to information. After collecting their respective placards each participant of both the groups were asked to find out match between the title of the law and rights provided under that law from the other group. It engaged the participants in a brainstorming and bringing each one close to the others. The exercise helped the participants before the actual beginning of the training to come across various laws which are in operation for marginalised. As a result not only ice-breaking among the participants could be attempted but also it engage them thinking about various laws which are essential in the process of promotion of access to justice. The following table gives an example of laws covered and rights highlighted in the process of ice-breaking:

Issues highlighted for Ice-breaking

Laws Covered	Rights Highlighted
Child Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act.	Right to Education.
MGNREGA.	Right to Work
Right to Information Act	Public Information
Legal Services Authorities Act	Access to Justice
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.	Rehabilitation of Children in Need of Care and Protection.
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences.
Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act	Protection Order for Women.

5.3. Distribution of Resource Kit:

As the part of the training a resource kit was provided to each participant. A resource kit contained a bag, writing pad, copy of NALSA Scheme on Paralegal Volunteers, a copy of Legal Services Authority Act and reading materials for all 6-nos of technical sessions. In course of training the paralegal volunteers were also provided with a copy of the Constitution of India for their reference in some states. Together these materials constituted the Legal Resource Kit for paralegal volunteers. In addition to the above materials the respective Legal Services Authorities of different state also provided various legal education materials prepared in the local language for the use of paralegal volunteers. Besides, in course of progress of the sessions reading materials were provided to the participants on each of the themes covered under different sessions.

5.4. Pre-Training Evaluation:

At the beginning of the training an exercise was made to evaluate the pre-training knowledge and understanding about the role of paralegal volunteers, meaning of access to justice and major constitutional and legal provisions. In this regard a pre-evaluation questionnaire was developed to solicit information from the participants. The information were collected just after the inauguration of the programme but prior to holding technical and thematic sessions. A copy of the pre-training evaluation is attached with this report in the shape of Annex-1.

5.5. Expectation Sharing:

Like pre-training evaluation, at the beginning of the programme few moments were spared with the participants to collect their expectation from the training programme. It is to be mentioned that the participants were given general understanding about the programme schedule which was going to be covered in the 3-days training programme before asking them to share their expectations. Based on the information communicated with them about the programme schedule, many participants suggested points which they wanted to be inserted in the programme schedule. It is pertinent to mention here that the training manual has suggested a specific method to collect expectation from the participants. As per the training manual in each training the participants were divided into 5-groups and each group was provided with a flip chart and marker to discuss and note down the expectations. It needs to be emphatically pointed out that these exercises were a kind of “on-the-spot” assessment of training needs of participants as perceived by them. The suggestions collected through group discussion of the participants were both incorporated in the programme schedule for that particular training and also kept on record for incorporation in the training manual. Broadly the following suggestions were collected from the participants from different states in course of sharing of expectations:

1. Clarity about Role of Paralegal Volunteer.
2. Can Paralegal directly approach court and other institutions?

3. Rights of Women. What remedies are there when wife is deserted? Is there any security for women who are subjected to domestic violence?
4. What schemes are in operation for poor and downtrodden for their social security?
5. Is it necessary to approach the State Legal Services Authority for legal aid in all cases? If legal aid structure is available at different level, how to decide which office is to be contacted or approached?
6. Can free lawyers and other expenses be made available in cases of matters where only legal advice is given?
7. What is fundamental right?
8. Is a paralegal authorised to conduct case in the court like lawyers?
9. Are criminals also entitled for legal aid? Is it good for paralegals to advocate for criminals?
10. Can we file case in the Supreme Court through Legal Service Authority?
11. What is a consumer court? Can we approach such courts for people?
12. What is customary law? Which court is more appropriate- general courts or village councils?
13. Can woman get maintenance if they are not ready to stay with the husband?
14. Where children can stay when the parents are dead or remarried?
15. How much compensation is given in a case of road accident?

5.6. Technical Sessions:

As per the training manual there were 6-technical sessions to be conducted after initial inauguration of the programme, introduction, ice-breaking and expectation sharing. Accordingly, technical sessions on 6-broad themes were held in all 8-North East States as per the training manual and the suggested curriculum. Various methodologies were used for conducting the training which was discussed elsewhere in this report. Qualified and skilled resource persons were invited to conduct the sessions in accordance with the suggested module for that session. A list of resource persons who have conducted these sessions is given in this report in shape of **Annex-2 and Annex-3**. It is pertinent to mention that in most of the states additional subjects were also covered which were identified by participants in course of sharing of expectation. The additional courses held in different states have been mentioned in the appropriate place of this report.

5.7. Exposure Visit:

As a part of the training methodology exposure visits were arranged for the paralegal volunteers on the third day of the training in each state. As per the plan the paralegal volunteers paid visit to institutions which work for women and children. The institutions were identified on the basis of different laws in a planned manner, so that, the paralegal volunteers can understand how the social or welfare legislations especially for women or children work in practice. Therefore, in a planned manner the paralegal volunteers visited Observation Homes or Children's Homes or Special Homes created under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act as well as Homes created for women by service providers to provide shelter to women who are in need in accordance with the provisions of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. In

some cases the participants also paid visit to Homes for Children with Special Need like the paralegal volunteers of Sikkim visited Homes for Mentally Retarded Children. As a part of the process of training on-the-spot training was imparted to make the participants understand how the laws are translated into action and the nature of function of institutions created under law.

5.8. Development of Profile:

In course of conducting training a process has also been started to prepare a profile of paralegal volunteers who have participated in the training. The profile contains name and address of the participants, qualification, date of joining as a paralegal and special expertise if any with photographs. The data has been collected from the participants during the 3-days training programme which is being processed after data entry. It will be one of its kind information tools both for State Legal Services Authorities and the paralegal volunteers to know about themselves for support, collaboration and networking for future coordination.

5.9. Feedback of Participants:

At the end of the 3-days training, the participants were provided with a feedback questionnaire to give their opinion about the content, sessions, logistic arrangement and approach of the organiser. Approximately 30-minutes were devoted for the purpose of feedback collection from the participants. A copy of the questionnaire is attached with this report in the shape of **Annex-4**.

An analysis of the feedbacks collected from the participants is being made which will be brought out as a report separately with diagrams and opinions of the participants.

5.10. Post Evaluation:

Like pre-evaluation which was conducted at the beginning of the training, post evaluations were also carried out using the same format to understand changes occurred and enhancement of knowledge. A copy of the post-evaluation format is attached with this report which is presented as **Annex -5**.

The post evaluation revealed that there is a clear improvement in the knowledge of participants about the role of paralegal volunteers, access to justice, role and function of various legal service authorities and committees at various levels.

5.11. Valediction:

In each training programme there was a session at the end of the programme for valediction. The valediction session generally stretched over a period of one and half an hour. A valedictory function included feedback collection, post-evaluation and a formal valedictory address in a plenary by the organisers and representative of concerned State Legal Services Authorities. The following table shows the guests and dignitaries who have joined the valedictory function:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Guest attended
1.	Manipur	Mr. Ch. Brajchand Singh, Member Secretary of MASLSA, Mr. S. Serto, Registrar General, High Court of Manipur, Mr. Rajinikanta, Additional District and Session Judge.
2.	Mizoram	Ms. Julie Lalrinzami Mr. Joel Joseph Denga, Member Secretary, Mizoram State Legal Services Authority.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Mr. Dani Belo, OSD, SLSA (AP)
4.	Assam	Mr.P.K.Saikia, Member Secretary ASLSA
5.	Meghalaya	Shri.L.M.Sangma, Secretary Law Deptment, Govt. of Meghalaya, Shri. Noor Ain Khan, Member Secretary Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Shri. K.J.Lyngdoh, OSD, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Mr. Amikar, Parwar, Project Officer, A2J-NE&JK.
6.	Tripura	Smt. Purnima Roy, Chairperson, Tripura Women's Commission Mr. Sanjib Majumdar, District Secretary , DLSA, West Tripura, Mr. S. Bhattacharjee, Deputy Secretary Tripura, SLSA.
7.	Sikkim	Shri K.W. Bhutia, Member Secretary, SLSA, Additional Secretary, High Court of Sikkim
8.	Nagaland	Joshua Sheqi, Advocate, Ms. Atu Longkumer, Advocate,

5.12. Distribution of Work Diary:

For follow up of the training a Work Diary for 100-days prepared by CLAP was distributed among all the participants. The idea behind 100-days work diary is that the refresher training shall be held after a period of 3-months i.e. around 90-days during which the paralegals will be engaged in promotion of access to justice. Each of their activity everyday is to be recorded in the Diary for review by the respective State Legal Services Authorities. It is pertinent to mention that the Diary also contained information about various Human Right Institutions, Legal Service Authorities at various levels and Legal Information. The Diary is a tool to monitor follow up action both by the participant themselves and subsequently by the State Legal Services Authorities and CLAP.

5.13. Stipend and Travelling:

As a matter of fact it needs to be mentioned that each participants was provided with a stipend of Rs 250 per day for 3-days towards attendance. Similarly travelling expenses as actual was also reimbursed to the participants.

6. Processes of the Training:

The following processes were followed for organising and conducting the training programme:

6.1. Consultation with SLSAs:

For the purpose of organising and conducting the training consultations were held with the State Legal Services Authorities of all 8-North East States. The process began with an initial discussion with the Member Secretaries or Representatives of various State Legal Services Authorities of North East States in the presence of the high level delegation of DoJ in January, 2014 in Shillong, Meghalaya followed by state-wise visits made by CLAP for dialogue with the officials of State Legal Services Authorities. During this visit discussions were held about the training manual and its contents, resource persons to be involved, venue where the training to be arranged and identification of paralegal volunteers.

6.2. Networking with NGOs:

Apart from consultation with State Legal Services Authorities, networking was also built with local NGOs in the North-East States. The identified NGOs were given information about the programme and they were requested to support and coordinate the training programme in their respective States.

6.3. Methodologies:

For the purpose of conducting the training various methodologies were identified and incorporated in the training manual. Based on the suggested methodologies for the training, the 3-day programme has been conducted. Broadly, the following training methodologies were applied in course of imparting training:

1. Screening of documentary films.
2. Presentation and Lecture.
3. Question-answer Session with the Participants.
4. Group Discussion and Presentation.
5. Plenary-Power Point Presentation and Discussion.
6. Role Play, Experience Sharing, Case Study Analysis and Problem Analysis.
7. Participatory Group Work.
8. Exposure Visit.

It is needless to say that a number of documentary films were selected for screening. These were mostly on role of paralegal volunteers and access to justice which were produced by Legal Services Authorities and UNDP. These documentaries were presented in the beginning of the training programme. Generally, the resource persons

invited for the session made formal presentation in a lecture method to begin with. The resource person consequentially asked participants to form themselves into small groups to discuss various themes relating to the subject among themselves. After the group discussion the participants used to meet in a plenary for presentation of the issues identified, possible legal intervention and recommendations. The participants were also engaged in role play, group exercise, experience sharing on certain matters, case study analysis and problem review in a participatory method. As a matter of practice on the third day of the training the participants visited various institutions to have first-hand information and on-the-spot understanding of the institutional arrangements. In this regard in most of the cases the participants visited two sets of institutions. The first sets of institution were concerning children whereas the second set of institutions relate to women. The facilitator of the exposure visit provided a broad understanding about the institutions that they are created under different laws like Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. The need, functions, target groups and purpose of these institutions were shared with the participants for their understanding about rights of women and children.

6.4. Resource Person:

In order to make the technical sessions most effective and to ensure long term impact of the lessons taught, skilled and qualified resource persons were selected from academic institutions, bar associations and judiciary in consultation with State Legal Services Authorities. Various parameters were used in the process of selection of resource persons. Persons having thorough knowledge of substantive and procedural law were mostly invited to address the sessions. The following themes were by and large covered under the training as technical session as per the training manual in all the 8-nos of North East States with focus on relevant local laws:

- Understanding the Concept of Paralegal Volunteer,
- Strengthening Access to Justice and Legal Services,
- Glimpses of Constitution of India,
- Understanding Indian Legal System and Institutional Mechanisms,
- Fundamentals of Crime and Law,
- Issues relating to Civil Law.

Besides the above, additional sessions were also conducted which were identified in course of sharing of expectation from training by the participants. The list of Resource Persons state-wise is given in **annex-2**. In addition to it another statement is also attached with this report in shape of **annex-3** which contains the name of resource person in different states who have taken the technical sessions described in the training manual.

7. Media Coverage:

In order to bring into focus the role of paralegal volunteers in a society for promotion of Access to Justice, media coverage of the training was given due importance. In every state both electronic and print media were invited for coverage. In almost all the states the Doordarshan had given coverage to the trainings. Similarly, the major newspapers of the states had given coverage. Some of the selected media clippings are attached in this report in the shape of **annex-6**.

8. Challenges Encountered:

By and large the training programme for paralegal volunteers in 8-North East States with the profound support of DoJ and also incredible cooperation of Legal Services Authorities of different states was successful. However, a handful of challenges which were encountered in course of organising and conducting training are explained below:

1. It has been observed that there is a huge difference in respect of education among the paralegal volunteers. The level of understanding is also varied and the grasping capacity is also widely dissimilar. They belong to different culture and background and possess different kind of qualities. Due to such heterogeneous nature of paralegal volunteers it was difficult to conduct the training and convey the message in the same length and pitch. Keeping in mind the diverse background of the participants adequate precautionary measures were taken by the organisers to address the personal needs and special attention required for them.
2. In most of the states there is more than one language which is being used as means of communication. Due to multi-lingual communication sometimes it was difficult to decide which language will be used as the common language. Hence, in each of the training the organisers tried to build a consensus among the participants to use the language which is most suitable to all. Accordingly, the resource persons were asked to use a particular language for communication in the training programme.
3. There are instances of localised issues which had adverse impact on the training. One such incident was a bandh call given on the first day of training in the state of Meghalaya. Due to sudden bandh call given by the local groups many participants who have earlier confirmed for participation could not turn up for attending the training. As a result there was a restricted participation of 39 paralegal volunteers instead of 50.
4. The major challenge encountered was the declaration of General Election of the country at the time of holding the training programmes. Although it was not completely unknown still it appeared at a point of time when initial preparations were made for organising the training. As a result the beginning of the training got delayed for almost two months. However, at the end of it the programmes could be arranged successfully. Only issue is that the original plan to complete the whole process of training of 3-days duration followed by 2-days duration refresher training by July 2014 could not be attended.

ANNEXES