



CHILD RIGHTS CLINIC REPORT FOR 2018-2019

The academic year 2018 – 2019 was an eventful year for the Child Rights Clinic, for the fourth consecutive year- from the time of its inception in 2015. At the beginning of the academic year, a notice was sent to Second and Third Year Degree and Third and Fourth year BALLB students for enrollment to the CRC. Seats were limited to 30. The date of the Screening test, scrutiny of applications and display of final results on the notice board was mentioned in the Notice. On account of an overwhelming response of 63 applications for membership to the CRC being received, a screening test was scheduled on 12th July 2018.

1. Screening Test- 52 students answered the screening test which tested the students not just on their knowledge of the law but on their aptitude and their attitude towards children and child related problems. 35 applicants in all were successfully enrolled in the Child Rights Clinic. The membership consisted of new and existing members.
2. The first meeting was held on 16th July 2018. In this meeting the Director and Asst. Director, addressed the meeting. The members were congratulated on being enrolled. They were also briefed about their duties as members and the role they would have to play as members of the Clinic. Students were divided into 2 groups . (i) Those going to the Children’s Court (CC) (ii) Those going to the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). It was also resolved at the meeting that since about 15 members were new, the existing members would accompany the new members in their visits under the “Going to Court Programme” permitted by the State of Goa by the Director, Women and Child Development, Government of Goa.
3. A new WhatsApp Group was created for this year’s JJB members and CC members so as to coordinate the visits and activities of each group. Two senior members were selected to head each of the groups as Student Coordinators. In case of the JJB, the Student Coordinator was Pallavi Dicholkar and in case of the CC, the Student Coordinator named was Clinton Rebello, both of whom were Final Year students.
4. The ‘Going to Court Programme’ was successfully continued in this academic year. Two new Members undertook visits to the respective courts along with a final year student who was familiar with the court. This was done on a rotation basis each week. Each of their visits consisted in providing assistance to the Court/JJB by drafting documents such as applications for bail, exemption from appearance for the CCL and for the appointment of surety. Besides, they also observed the proceedings before the Juvenile justice Board and the Children’s Court. During their observations, they witnessed the conduct of the inquiry/ trial proceedings, heard

the arguments before the Board/Court. The experience provided them with an opportunity to acquire critical lawyering skills as well as interviewing and counseling children. They also undertook research and assisted the Public Prosecutors to find authorities on different points of law besides drafting documents on behalf of the child victims/ children in conflict with the law.

5. In the month of August , the CRC members were informed about the visit of Prof. Gabrielle Appleby from the UNSW Sydney, Australia to the College. Ms. Gabrielle had a meaningful interaction with the CRC members and learnt of their work and involvement with the Board and Children’s Court. Being impressed with the work of the Clinic, the UNSW intends to collaborate with the CRC of VM Salgaocar College of Law to carry the forward the cause of child rights and child protection.

6. The On Campus Research Project by the Macquarie University, Sydney students and CRC members was scheduled at the end of year 2018. However, in February 2019 , the CRC was informed that the project would be postponed to September-October 2019 due to the ill health of Director of the PACE Program at the Macquarie University..

7. The members have reported their experiences at meetings with the Faculty in charge held once a month. All the members have maintained a journal with a short report of their visits and their learning experience during each such visit.

8. At the NAAC Peer Team Visit on 8th October 2018 , the CRC presented their work through an Exhibition and Presentation. Three members of the Clinic made a presentation before the NAAC Team in which they showcased their learning skills, and also emphasized the assistance they provided to the JJB and CC authorities. They also made charts displaying their work in action. They also kept on display the Report of the Research Study undertaken by the Macquarie University students and the VM S College on the topic “Juvenile Justice: The Missing Piece in India’s Legislative Puzzle.” It was well appreciated by the NAAC team,

9. At the end of the semester in October 2018, the Clinic members had to answer their examinations. They resumed their visits in the month of November when the College reopened after vacation.

10. The Director of the Clinic attended The ‘Building Bridges’ Conference National Level Consultation with Child Rights Centres in India Organized by: Child Resource Centre (CRC), HCM-RIPA, Jaipur, Rajasthan on 30 and 31st October ,2018 at Jaipur. In the Consultation the Director of the CRC informed the audience about the CRC experience and the motivation of some alumni of VM Salgaocar College of Law in starting their own NGOs for the protection of child rights in the State.

11. On the reopening of College after Diwali vacation, the members resumed their visits to the courts. The scheduled visits continued and the final years discontinued their visits in the month of January 2019 as the new members had been sufficiently acquainted with the courts.

12. On the 15th of January, the CRC had a meeting in the new year. At this meeting the Director informed the members about the forthcoming National Girl Child Day on the 24th January. They were informed that to commemorate the Day, Street Plays on the Girl Child and Talks on the Girl Child Rights would be held. 15 members opted for the Street Play performance and 15 for conducting Talks and awareness on Girl Child rights. Street Plays on three different topics concerning Girl Child Rights was performed at the Panaji market, Panaji Bus stand and the Caculo Mall. There was a tremendous response from the crowd gathered and the CRC members performed exceedingly well. The script for the Street Play was written and directed by the Associate Director Ashwini Naik. The entire performance of the street play was recorded by three different channels and was aired by Goa 365 News Channel the same night.

The other 15 members had taken prior permission from schools and HSS to deliver talks on girl child rights. Accordingly, students at different schools in and around Panaji were provided with information on the rights of the Girl Child, schemes available and offences that can be committed against children including cybercrimes. The link for this programme is https://youtu.be/4upzQk_SAFM

13. On 2nd February, the members attended the ‘**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**’ programme conducted by the Directorate of Health Services, Govt of Goa at the Conference Hall of the College.

14. The year ended with a meeting of the CRC members on the 12th March at 12.30 pm in the Conference Hall. The Final Year members were each awarded a Certificate in Appreciation of their efforts and for the commitment shown in continuing the Going to Court programme and as members of the CRC.

15. The travel expenses incurred by the members of the CRC for the Going to Court Programme for this academic year has been borne by the College.

Achievements:

1. The success of the Clinic is both in terms of the assistance provided to the Juvenile Justice Board/ Children’s Court and also in terms of the Clinic members’ meaningful learning experience .
2. The CRC is pleased to announce that the UNSW has confirmed its collaboration with VM Salgaocar College of Law in taking the cause of child rights and child protection to a higher level in the following academic year 2019 -20.
3. A few outgoing final year CRC members inspired by the learning experience at the CRC are in the process of registering their own NGO named “ CHAR”.
