



Cover Page



SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF PARA-LEGAL VOLUNTEERS TO LEGAL AID AND LEGAL AWARENESS IN GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

Maramreddy Adilakshmi

Advocate
B.Sc., LL.M.

Abstract

The constitution has defined and declared the common goal for its citizens in this preamble. According to the preamble of the constitution, the Indian people has entrusted themselves with a constitution that makes India a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic which ensures to all its citizens social, economic and political justice, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity and shall. The object of the Indian Constitution is a "welfare idealism" encompassing a broad spectrum of socio-economic hopes and aspirations of its citizens. Legal aid in the rural sector is an essential means of ensuring that justice is not deprived on account of poverty, illiteracy, or distance. In India, covering the rural parts of Andhra Pradesh and other states, several schemes have been devised under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free legal aid to the poor and marginalized sections. Paralegal services have the most specific pre-primary role in administration of justice as a backbone in delivery of justice. In Andhra Pradesh, where rural populations face widespread illiteracy, poverty, and marginalization, legal aid services play a vital role in the bridging the gap between law and the common people. The Guntur District, a mojo hub with a blend of urban and rural communities, reflects both the promise and challenges of legal aid delivery. The present study focuses on the **significant role of Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) in promoting legal aid and legal awareness** among the rural population of **Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh**. The study adopts an **empirical research method**, based on both **primary and secondary data**. A total of **175 individuals** were approached for the survey, out of which **150 respondents** actively participated, while **25** were not willing to respond. The data were collected from a **randomly selected population** through **interviews, questionnaires, schedules, focus group discussions, and direct observation**.

Key words: 1. Para Legal Volunteers, 2. Legal aid and Legal Awareness 3. Need of legal service by PVLs to the Poor and Weaker Section people

Introduction

The Para-Legal Services play a vital role, as a primary stage and also as an initiation in administration of justice to deliver the justice for economically weaker or poor people but at present these services are facing many challenges in India due to various factor such as social, economic, cultural, political, spiritual, psychological, scientific, customs, usages, practices. Articles 21 and 39-A of the Indian Constitution provide this right. Legal aid is particularly vital for a healthy democracy because it recognises every person's dignity and helps develop a fair society. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (effective 1995) set up authorities at multiple levels to provide legal services to the poor. In the US, paralegals cannot give legal advice or represent clients, while in parts of Canada, they are licensed and can provide limited legal services. In India, with over 68% of the population in rural areas and one-third below the poverty line, Article 39-A mandates free legal aid. This makes paralegal practitioners crucial for bridging the justice gap. In his address at the *All India Seminar on Legal Aid* held in Hyderabad on 14–15 September 1991, Hon'ble Justice Kania emphasized the value of community-level legal empowerment, stating that *"Paralegals have a vital role in spreading legal awareness among the poor and the downtrodden."* This early recognition from the judiciary highlights the institutional acknowledgment of paralegal volunteers as a bridge between marginalized communities and the formal justice system, a perspective that continues to guide present-day legal aid strategies. Although the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for the engagement of para-legal volunteers, *the concept or designation of a "paralegal" in India remains largely absent or, at best, informally recognized*. In practice, there are very few dedicated positions or job openings for paralegals, with their roles often being filled by short-term interns or volunteers attached to legal services authorities or NGOs. This lack of institutionalization undermines



Cover Page



sustainability and professional development within paralegal programmes, despite their acknowledged importance in enhancing access to justice for the poor. The profession of paralegals originated in the 1960s, when access to affordable legal services became a pressing concern. In 2009, NALSA launched the Para-Legal Volunteers Scheme to train volunteers as community bridges to the legal system, helping resolve minor disputes locally and reducing the need to approach courts. Paralegals were introduced as a bridge between lawyers and legal secretaries, designed to deliver legal assistance in a quicker, more cost-effective and efficient manner. Over time, they became an integral part of expanding access to justice, particularly for marginalized communities.

Review of Literature

The researcher will be examined, both, the primary and secondary sources of information on the subject, which include the relevant provisions of the Constitutional Law, the Legal services Authorities Act, 1987, legal aid services. The review of literature provides a comprehensive understanding of the existing research on legal aid services, paralegal volunteers, and their effectiveness in India, particularly among rural and marginalized populations. Various studies have highlighted that while the legal aid system aims to provide access to justice for all, the ground realities often reflect inefficiencies and gaps in service delivery.

Dr. S.S. Sharma (2006)¹ in this book “Legal Service, Public Interest litigations and Para- Legal Services”, Dr. Sharma has described about the Legal Services, Public Interest Litigations & Para-Legal Services. Dr. Sharma has provided the deep knowledge about Legal-Aid and other connecting things like that meaning, nature, scope, Legal-Aid in foreign countries, Legal –Aid and Human Rights, and National Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 etc. and court judgments in this book. However, this book provides a very little knowledge about the Role of Para-Legal services. However, this book is relevant and useful for this research work.

Justice P.N. Bhagawati (1971) quoted that, “The legal aid means providing an arrangement in the society so that the machinery of administration of justice becomes easily accessible and is not out of reach of those who have to resort to it for enforcement of rights given to them by law. The poor and the illiterate should be able to approach the Courts and their ignorance and poverty should not be an impediment in the ways of their obtaining Justice from the Courts.”² Research indicates that rural populations, especially the poor, women, and weaker sections, have limited awareness of their legal rights, contributing to their reluctance to approach legal aid authorities.

Despite the allocation of significant resources by the Central and State Governments, there remains a gap between policy objectives and actual outcomes on the ground. The literature underscores the need for a more organized and accessible legal aid system that empowers rural communities by increasing awareness, trust, and utilization of legal services.

Statement of the problem

The Indian Constitution aims to secure justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all citizens. Various laws and statutes have been enacted to protect these rights and ensure their effective implementation. Article 39-A mandates free legal aid to ensure justice for all. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (effective 1995) set up authorities at multiple levels to provide legal services to the poor. The Central and State Governments have been allocating hundreds of crores of rupees to legal aid services in India. However, the ground realities present a dismal picture of the legal aid programme. India as a biggest democratic and second largest population (139 Crore estimated in 2021) country in the world, awareness is an essential element regarding rights and responsibilities for the total development and empowerment of citizens of the country. The post-World War II period was a powerful catalyst for the development of modern, universally accessible legal aid systems. Many people do not trust the services provided by paralegal volunteers through legal aid authorities under the programme, owing to various contributing factors. The poor and weaker sections often lack access to legal aid and awareness. The need of the hour is to rebuild the trust of the poor by making the legal aid system more well-organized and effective. The said research has focused on the commitments and competency of Legal aid service bodies i.e., DSLA in

¹ Dr. S.S. Sharma (2006): Legal Service, Public Interest litigations and Para-Legal Services: Central Law Agency Allahabad: Second Edition 2006.

² Report of the Legal Aid Committee, 1971, Government of India, P.5



Cover Page



light of the low quality of services and the lack of trust expressed by the poor and weaker sections of society who are the beneficiaries of legal aid services in rural areas of India. Legal aid and Legal awareness is essential for the all-round development of the country and fosters unity and integrity among citizens, regardless of caste, creed, or language. Illiteracy and lack of legal knowledge hinder progress and contribute to ongoing injustice and disempowerment. The legal service authorities can launch legal literacy programmes to make the people aware of the legal aid services to the poor and weaker section people. A Para-Legal Volunteer (PLV) plays a crucial role in educating people, especially those from weaker sections of society, about their right to live with dignity and to enjoy all constitutionally and legally guaranteed rights, along with their duties under the law. Without legal awareness and legal aid, a democratic country will not successful why because success of democratic country has been depending up on legal awareness/legal aid of the poor and weaker section. So, the concept of legal awareness and legal aid has assumed a significant roll and recognition in this universe.

Need of the Study

This research reflects valuable inputs on the commitments and competency of paralegal volunteers working through legal aid authorities, particularly in relation to beneficiaries from poor and weaker sections of society, including women and other special categories of respondents. In addition to collecting primary data, the researcher also observed proceedings in civil and criminal courts in cases where NALSA, SLSA were involved. The study further highlights the role of paralegal volunteers in creating legal awareness among the poor, particularly in guiding them on how to approach the courts and seek remedies for their legal problems. Paralegal volunteers are essential to bridge the gap between rural communities and the formal legal system, providing legal awareness, local dispute resolution, and access to justice for the poor through DSLA. The majority of poor people are unaware of their rights and social responsibilities, and some feel disconnected from the nation due to a lack of understanding of the law and its purpose. In this context, the services of paralegal volunteers, through NALSA and Legal Services Authorities, are essential to empower the poor and promote the development of both society and the nation. PLVs should conduct Legal aid services with support of local legal aid bodies i.e., DSLA, through awareness camps, seminars, street plays, and other outreach methods, help citizens understand their rights and responsibilities, enabling them to protect their interests and fostering a legal culture for a peaceful and secure society. Present study is selected paralegal education is to disseminate the information about laws ad communitarians of jurists on the sacred laws to the weaker section and poor rural people. Moreover, especially, laws and legal aid/legal awareness pertaining to poor & weaker section and human rights would be propagated among the poor people. In Andhra Pradesh, where rural populations face widespread illiteracy, poverty, and marginalization, legal aid services play a vital role in the bridging the gap between law and the common people. The Guntur District, a mojo hub with a blend of urban and rural communities, reflects both the promise and challenges of legal aid delivery.

Objective of the study

1. To critically assess the contribution of paralegal volunteers to legal aid and awareness among the rural poor in selected Mandal's in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh
2. To document the existing legal aid and awareness programmes targeted at the rural poor in the Guntur District A.P, along with the statutory framework that supports them.
3. To critically analyze the recruitment, training, supervision, and incentive structures for para-legal volunteers across selected districts in selected rural area
4. To measure changes in legal knowledge, help-seeking behaviour, and access to entitlements among the rural poor exposed to para-legal volunteers' activities.
5. To critically evaluate the current state of legal aid awareness initiatives in rural areas, with a specific focus on the role and effectiveness of para-legal volunteer.
6. To enhance the quality if legal services of the Legal aid serve authorities provided under scheme through paralegal volunteers



Cover Page



Hypothesis

Legal awareness and Legal Aid is an essential element regarding rights and responsibilities of the citizens for the total development and empowerment of citizens of the country. With reference to Guntur Districts in Andhra Pradesh, India. The present study emphasised on the need to create legal awareness and Legal Aid among poor and weaker section community in the selected areas (Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India) for their empowerment there with advancement of the country. Many rural people are illiterate and lack awareness of their legal rights, and despite legal aid services being free, they often do not recognize the importance of the assistance provided by legal authorities through paralegal volunteers. Programmes conducted by paralegal volunteers such as seminars, meetings, and pamphlets have not sufficiently improved legal awareness among the poor and weaker sections of rural Guntur District Andhra Pradesh. Paralegal volunteers play a significant role in delivering legal aid and promoting legal awareness among rural poor and marginalized communities in rural areas. In the present study is “*Significant Role of Para-Legal Volunteers To Legal Aid And Legal Awareness In Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh*” **The rural poor and weaker section people in Andhra Pradesh have low awareness of their rights to free legal aid due to insufficient outreach and legal education at the grassroots level.** Without legal awareness and legal aid regarding existing laws it is difficult to empower the poor people to know about their rights and duties that provided by law which is obstacle for the development of the country.

- ❖ Interaction with paralegal volunteers increases legal knowledge and awareness among rural poor communities.
- ❖ Rural poor communities with access to paralegal volunteers are more likely to seek legal remedies and exercise their rights than those without such support.

Research Design

In accordance with the requirements of the research problems, hypotheses, and objectives, this study will employ both doctrinal and non-doctrinal research methodologies. Data collection will rely on a combination of primary and secondary sources.

Research Methodology

Primary sources include legal aid and services provided by NALSA, assistance from legal service authorities, SLISA, DLSA and support from paralegal volunteers for underprivileged communities in rural areas in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh. Secondary sources comprise statutory enactments, judicial decisions over time, and relevant information from internet sources. Primary sources include the judiciary, NALSA's framework, constitutional provisions on legal aid, and the role of local legal authorities such as SLISA, DLSA, and Taluk Legal Service Authorities; secondary sources include statutes, judicial decisions, reports, and relevant publications.

This research is designed to explain and explore as how far the beneficiaries of the legal aid services are satisfied from the services volunteers in providing services under the existing system of legal aid in the proposed in the India. The evaluate the effective functioning of the legal aid programme in the of India, empirical research method has been adopted to collect primary data from all the beneficiaries involved in the legal aid services and paralegal volunteers. In order to collect quality and representative data from the stakeholders in the in the India, satisfied sampling method has been adopted for collection of primary data.

The research is designed to collect primary data through personally administered structures for the purpose conducting quality empirical research, two questionnaires, has been framed for the collection of data, one questionnaire is focus on the PLVs' efficiency, motivation, challenges, and service delivery different categories of respondents such as who giving the service to the poor people in the rural villages with support of Local legal service authorities (DLSA) paralegal volunteers and another questionnaire is beneficiaries of legal aid services in rural area of India.



Cover Page



Collected data form the 150 rural people various categories of people (i.e women, farmers, scheduled castes, schedule tribes, person with disabilities, economically vulnerable person, etc., from weaker section) to collect primary data from the random sample in the of India, I have visited and for the collection of data from Guntur District in two Mandal's Andhra Pradesh, i.e, Tuluuru Mandal and Guntur rural Mandal. not includes the all mandalas of Guntur District rural villages, because of lack of funds and time. 175 questionnaires have distributed the rural people which selected areas, (separate questionnaire in telugu language have papered for illiterate people) but only 150 people are responded to the study, rest of 25 members not interested to give the answer to my questionnaire, and I have taken data random population for the purpose of the survey. Through interviewed and directly observed. The study combines various methodological tools including desk review, interview, questionnaires, schedules, focus group discussions, and direct observation.

After the analysis of data, suitable tables were drawn and the percentages are calculated. Figures are added to the text wherever necessary to show the findings in a more lucid and attractive manner. Chi-square techniques are applied to test the statistical validity of the findings wherever applicable.

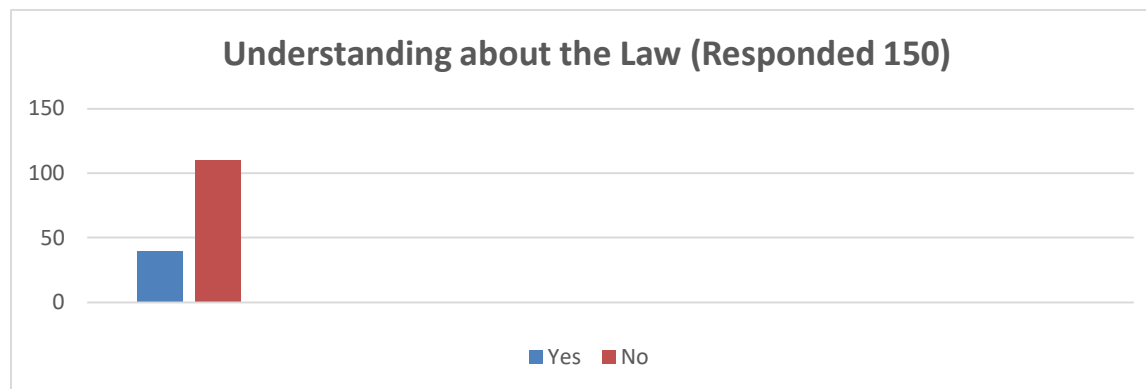
Analysis of the Study

Do you have knowledge about the Law?

Law is an instrument to regulate the society. Law is a part of human society. Its purpose is to further and protect the interest of society. The law is a tool which helps the people to co-exist peacefully in an orderly manner. The common man does not have knowledge about the laws which do the frequent changes in the society. It is a known fact that the common man cannot understand the legal terminology and the activities going on the law courts. In this chapter briefly focus on the basic view of the legal awareness through NGOs, and other Government organizations, to create legal awareness among the women community. The common man does not have knowledge about the laws which do the frequent changes in the society. It is a known fact that the common man cannot understand the legal terminology and the activities going on the law courts.

Table No. 1 Understanding about the Law

S. No.	Opinion, Number of Responses (150)	Number of Responses	Total %
1	Yes	40	33.33
2	No	110	66.67
3	Total	150	100.00





Cover Page



It may be observed from the table that majority of 66.7 % of people have not awareness about the law. However, only 33.33 % of people have known about law. Law is a rule of human conduct, imposed as well as enforced by the State. It deals with rules concerning to external behavior of the subjects.

If yes, what do you know about the law?

Law is influenced by prevailing social values and attitude. Similarly, law attempts to change the existing social values. Law is not only a means of social justice. The law is not autonomous; rather, it is an integral aspect of social transformation. Law and the legal system require an understanding of how the legal system works in light of political, social, and economic viewpoints as outlined in a country's constitution.

Table No: 2 If Yes Knowledge about the Law

S. No.	Opinion	Number of Responses (40)	Number of Responses	Total %
1	Small experiences		28	70.00
2	Good Experiences		12	30.00
3	All most		0	0.00
	Total		40	100.00

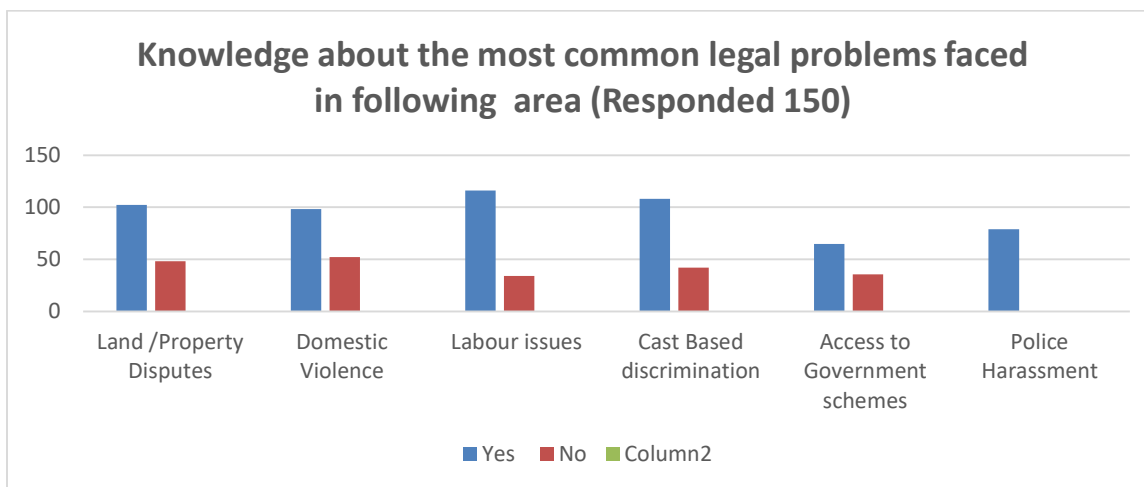
From the above table, it is evident that the highest per cent of people (70%) aware of law in small experience. The second highest percent (30 %) of people are aware on laws in Good Experiences. Only percent 0.00 % of people have All most known about law, respectively.

What are the most common legal problems faced in your area?

The Poor and weaker section and even the citizens of the country require the advice of the advocate to understand the exact meaning of the provisions of the Act and regulation. People who need the most legal aid and legal awareness have the least access to it. By empowering peoples with knowledge of their rights and the legal system, poor people can begin to break down the barriers that prevent them from seeking help. This grassroots movement can lead to more impartial access to justice and ultimately substitute a society where everyone has a voice.

Table No.3 Knowledge about the most common legal problems faced in following area

S. No	Opinion	Number of Responses (150)	Yes %	No %	Total %
1	Land /Property Disputes		102 68.00	48 32.00	150 100.00
2	Domestic Violence		98 65.33	52 34.66	150 100.00
3	Labour issues		116 77.33	34 22.66	150 100.00
4	Cast Based discrimination		108 72.00	42 28.00	150 100.00
5	Access to Government schemes		97 64.67	53 35.33	150 100.00
6	Police Harassment		118 78.67	32 21.33	150 100.00



The data analyses of responses show that the highest percent of people 78.67% of the poor and weaker section people facing on Police Harassment by the police in the rural society. It is further observed that 77.33 % and 72 % people facing on Labour issues and caste discrimination , and 68 % people facing on Land /Property Disputes and only 32.37 % domestic violence in the society respectively.

Do you know the benefits of legal awareness?

Legal literacy therefore, is seen as a tool to bring about qualitative change from the gross root level. It has been witnessed that better awareness of laws helps the people to work more effectively in diverse shapes. The poor people have difficulty in making use of law due to several reasons, including lack of legal awareness and lack of legal aid services The poor and the illiterate should be able to approach the Courts and their ignorance and poverty should not be an impediment in the ways of their obtaining Justice from the Courts.

Table No.:4 Know the benefits of legal awareness or not?

S. No.	Opinion	Number of Responses (150)	Number of Responses	Total %
1	Yes		137	91.33
2	No		13	8.67
	Total		150	100.00

The table No. indicates that majority of the members of the poor people 91.33 percent have useful of the legal awareness programmes. Only 8.67 percent of poor and weaker section people have not known the useful of legal awareness programmes to the people. Because of they have understand the law literacy.

Types of Legal Awareness Programmes you have benefitted by the PLVs

The awareness camps conducted at public libraries will help the social groups and individuals to acquire awareness about their rights, privileges and benefits and sensitivity to the laws applicable to them and helps social groups and individuals to give a variety of experience and acquire a basic knowledge of law which is helpful to solve their problems and also helpful to awake up them from meek surrounding nature before the superior class and change their attitude to fight



Cover Page



against injustice done to them. Para-Legal and Legal-Aid services are co-related, Interrelated and complement any to each other. Legal-Aid Programs, Schemes, Services, Legal Services and other related things are implemented with the help of Paralegals by means of Para-Legal Services, providing supporting assistance, aid or help for fulfilling the ends of justice. Need of Para legal Services to aware the weaker section and poor people about his rights. Government organizations and judiciary department have been offered various programs to its users on social, cultural, legal field etc. which are more helpful for public and also to collect the legal information. Analyses are given in the following table.

Table No.: 5 Legal Awareness Programmes you have benefited from PLVs

S No	Opinion Number of Responses (150)	Yes %	No %	Total %
1	Individual legal awareness Programmes	86 57.33	64 42.67	150 100.00
2	Group legal awareness programmes	92 61.33	58 38.67	150 100.00
3	Community legal awareness programmes	84 56.00	16 44.00	150 100.00
4	The Social legal awareness programmes	73 48.67	27 51.33	150 100.00

It may be observed from the above table that benefit of the legal awareness programmes for the poor. Above table indicates that majority of the members of the poor people 61.33 percent have useful of the Group legal awareness programmes and 57.33 % stated that need of Individual legal awareness Programmes. Only 56 & and 48.67 % percent of poor and weaker section people have need on Community legal awareness programmes and The Social legal awareness programmes useful of legal awareness programmes to the people

Types of Legal Programmes Needed and Conducted by Para-Legal Volunteers

Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) play a vital role in strengthening access to justice at the grassroots level. They act as a bridge between the community and the Legal Services Authorities. To fulfill this role effectively, various **types of legal programmes are needed and conducted** by PLVs to promote legal aid and legal awareness among the public.

Table No. 6 Types of Programmes you have Need

S No.	Opinion Number of Responses (150)	Yes %	No %	Total %
1	Symposia	110 73.33	40 26.67	150 100.00
2	Seminars	92 61.33	58 38.66	150 100.00
3	Street Plays	86 57.33	64 42.66	150 100.00
4	Workshops	47 31.33	103 68.67	150 100.00
5	Posters display	58 38.66	92 61.37	150 100.00
6	Above all	97 64.66	53 35.33	150 100.00



Cover Page



It may be observed from the above table that among various legal programmes. It reveals that 73.33 % of poor people not know about symposia. 64 all above programmes need for the poor people. 61.33 % and 57.33 % of poor people and weaker section people need on Street Plays on seminars, and street play. Only 38.66 per cent of people are need about the Posters display at public places for legal awareness programmes. Lastly 31.33 % of people have need on awareness on workshop programmes respectively.

Type of laws and legal issues are focused in legal awareness camps Conducted by paralegal volunteers

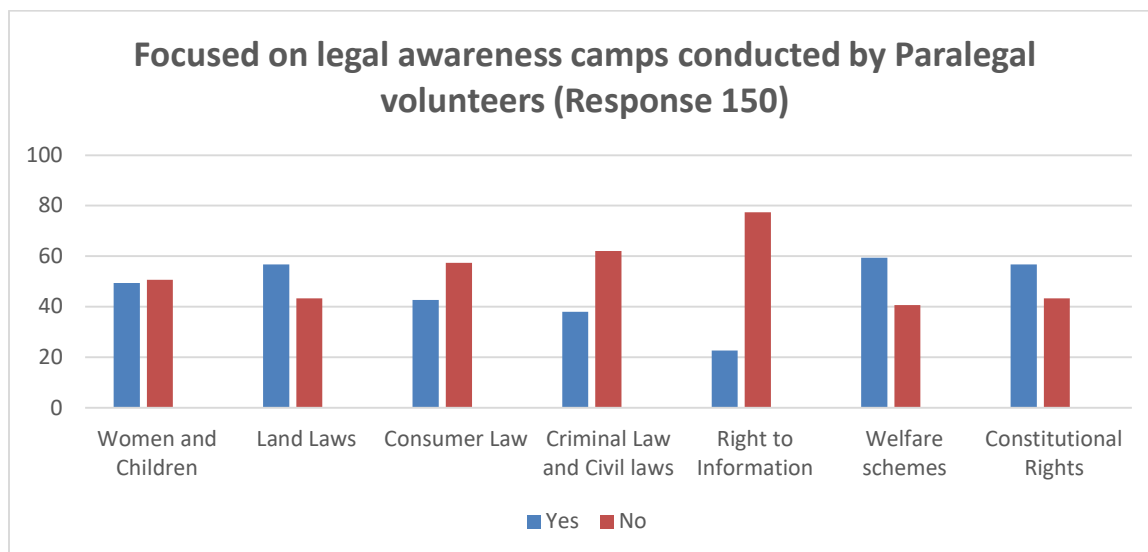
Through their paralegal services, volunteer organisations may assist these people in resolving their socio-legal issues and even contact the appropriate authorities to hear their complaints. Legal awareness workshops aim to disseminate knowledge about local issues and social practices that influence women's legal rights in order to make civil society aware of their responsibilities and to expose the struggles of the poorest sectors of society. Legal awareness camps conducted by paralegal volunteers focus on educating the public about basic legal rights and laws that affect daily life. Key topics include fundamental rights, free legal aid, family and child laws, women's rights, labor laws, property rights, criminal procedures, and government welfare schemes. These camps often cover acts like the Domestic Violence Act, RTI Act, POCSO Act, and Consumer Protection Act. Through interactive methods like street plays, pamphlets, and Q&A sessions, they aim to empower communities, especially marginalized groups, to access justice and legal remedies.

Table No. 7 Issues Focused on legal awareness camps conducted by Paralegal volunteers

S. No.	Opinion Number of Responses (150)	Yes %	No %	Total %
1	Women and Children	74 49.33	76 50.67	150 100.00
2	Land Laws	85 56.67	65 43.33	150 100.00
3	Consumer Law	64 42.66	86 57.33	150 100.00
4	Criminal Law and Civil laws	57 38.00	93 62.00	150 100.00
5	Right to Information	34 22.66	116 77.34	150 100.00
6	Welfare schemes	89 59.33	61 40.67	150 100.00
7	Constitutional Rights	85 56.66	65 43.34	150 100.00



Cover Page



The data analyses of responses show that the 84.32 per cent of the people stated that women and child aspects focused by the paralegal, and next preference is 70.32 %, 63.12% 55.12% of poor and weaker section people stated that Land Laws, welfare schemes, constitutional rights. 51.6 percent of people stated that paralegal volunteers focused on right to information aspects. Only 45.36 % and 31.12 % people stated that focused on consumer protection laws and criminal laws and Civil Laws.

Major findings

1. It is observed that a majority (66.7%) of people do not have awareness about the law, while only 33.33% of respondents have some knowledge about legal matters. This indicates a significant gap in legal literacy among the general public.
2. Among the respondents, 70% of people with small experience are aware of the law, followed by 30% of those with good experience. None of the respondents (0.00%) are almost fully aware of the law.
3. A large proportion (78.67%) of poor and weaker section people reported facing **police harassment** in rural areas. Similarly, **77.33%** and **72%** of people experience **labour-related issues** and **caste discrimination** respectively. **68%** of respondents face **land or property disputes**, while **32.37%** experience **domestic violence**.
4. The findings show that **91.33%** of poor and weaker section respondents found **legal awareness programmes** useful, while only **8.67%** stated that they were not aware of their usefulness. This shows that legal literacy programmes play a vital role in empowering rural communities.
5. Among various forms of legal awareness activities, **61.33%** of respondents found **group legal awareness programmes** useful, and **57.33%** expressed a need for **individual legal awareness programmes**. Further, **56%** and **48.67%** of respondents highlighted the importance of **community-based** and **social legal awareness programmes** respectively.
6. Regarding the types of legal programmes needed, the majority (73.33%) of poor people were **not aware of symposia**, showing the need for such informative events. Around **61.33%** and **57.33%** of respondents preferred **street plays** and **seminars**, respectively, as effective tools for legal education. Only **38.66%** of respondents supported **poster displays** at public places, and **31.33%** expressed the need for **workshops** for legal awareness.
7. With respect to the focus areas of **Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs)** and **84.32%** of respondents stated that **women and child welfare** aspects are prioritized. Another **78.96%** gave importance to general legal awareness activities. Additionally, **70.32%**, **63.12%**, and **55.12%** of respondents mentioned the focus on **land laws**, **welfare schemes**, and **constitutional rights** respectively.



Cover Page



8. Furthermore, **51.6%** of people stated that PLVs concentrate on creating awareness about the **Right to Information (RTI)**. Only **45.36%** and **31.12%** of respondents noted attention to **consumer protection laws, criminal laws, and civil laws**, indicating a need to expand focus in these areas.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The constitutional law of India has been provided equal rights for all without discrimination and equal opportunities in economic, political and social spheres. In a democratic country people will have right and power to question when any executive authority or political leader not appropriate at their duty. Poor people are also equipped with power to question for their rights and empowerment. Poor people rights and freedom will play a crucial role for the advancement of the country in all fields and also their individual development. These programs help individuals understand their rights and legal protections, enabling them to stand up against exploitation, discrimination, and injustice. By involving paralegals, legal awareness can reach the grassroots level where it is most needed. Paralegals act as vital links between the legal system and marginalized communities, while Paralegal volunteers contribute by conducting awareness campaigns, assisting in legal aid clinics, and spreading knowledge in simple, understandable terms. These efforts not only resolve immediate legal issues but also plant the seeds for long-term social change.

Legal aid and awareness in rural Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, hold significant future benefits for poor and weaker sections of society. As people become more aware of their legal rights, they will be better equipped to stand against exploitation, discrimination, and injustice. Access to justice will improve, leading to quicker resolution of issues such as land disputes, domestic violence, and denial of government welfare schemes. Legal awareness will also help reduce social evils like child marriage and caste-based oppression. The involvement of paralegal volunteers will strengthen grassroots legal support and promote a culture of justice and accountability.