

Seminar & Guest Lecture Department

(A.Y. 2020 – 21)

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“The capacity to learn is a Gift; the ability to learn is a Skill; the willingness to learn is a Choice.”- Brian Herbert

The Academic Year 2020-21 was filled with hurdles due to the novel corona virus, however ‘Where there is a will, there is a way’ and despite all odds and circumstances, Deccan Education Society’s Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College organized remarkable and brainstorming events under the Seminar Department for 2020-2021 academic year.

The Seminar Department of our college organized a **webinar on “Revisiting Narasu Appa Mali: Where Faith Intersects the Law” on 18th July 2020**. The speakers for the event were Hon’ble Justice Sujata Manohar, Hon’ble Justice Vishnu Kokje, Hon’ble Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi, Dr. Shashikala Gurpur and Mr. Sai Deepak J. The webinar was streamed live on our college’s official YouTube Channel.

“How important is it for us to recognize and celebrate our Heroes and She-roes”.-Maya Angelo, relying on the aforesaid words the **Women’s Study Cell – “Paripoorti”** in collaboration with the seminar department organized a one of its kind an **online teacher student symposium on the Topic-‘Art 15(3) of the Indian Constitution and its interplay in the Mainstream media’ on 9th August 2020**. An interactive session between the students and the teachers was held which covered a vast ocean of sub-topics such as ‘International law perspective for protection of women, Patriarchy in media and portrayal of women in advertisement to name a few.’

The field of law does not fail to cover the field of medicine within its ambit. Medical jurisprudence, Medical law and Medico legal are crucial fields which involve medical and legal aspects. Our college conducted a **webinar on the topic ‘Medico legal issues and challenges during Covid 19’ on 20th September 2020**, for students not only from the legal field but also from the medical field. Dr Manish Machve delivered a lecture on ‘the Do’s and Don’ts during covid 19’. Adv Rhishikesh Ganu covered the legal side delivering the lecture on the ‘Statutes in force during the Pandemic’ and lastly Dr. Avinash Bhondve covered the topic comprising of ‘The implications and role of professional body during the epidemic and pandemic’. The webinar was broadcasted live on our college’s official YouTube channel.

The seminar department conducted a guest lecture for the B.A.LL.B and LL.B students on the crucial topic of **professional ethics**. The lecture was conducted by adv. Rhishikesh Ganu, a practicing lawyer and a pioneer in the field of advocacy. The purpose of interaction was to guide the young budding lawyers to choose the path of ethics and principles in this long journey which this noble profession holds. To conclude the paragraph, I will quote the words of Rhishikesh Ganu- “the main aim of a lawyer should be to deliver justice to his client”

‘Mooting’ is an activity which aids and assists the students in enriching their legal knowledge and improves their orientation skills as they get a glimpse of the real-world court proceedings. The seminar department conducted for the first time a **family law moot activity coined as ‘Iuris Consulti’ on 25th August 2020** which comprised of a preliminary and appellate round followed by a Judgement. The activity was performed by various students from the law school. Dr. Sheetal Babar was the chief guest in the preliminary round and offered useful insights to the participants. Adv. Girish Dange was the chief guest in the appellate round who provided the participants and the students with valuable guidance and insights to help the students. The entire activity was streamed live on our YouTube channel.

“Take risks in your life; if you win, you may lead; if you lose, you may guide.” – Swami Vivekananda. With these inspirational words from Swami Vivekananda the seminar department celebrated the **National Youth Day 2021**. To mark the occasion, a lecture on the topic, **‘The Road Less Travelled’** was conducted by Adv. Pravin Nikam, a recipient of the national youth award.

The Seminar department organised an “alumni guest lecture series “Krutadnyata” for 1 B.A.LL.B and 1 B.B.A.LL.B from 17th May -21st May 2021.

The most Significant and flagship event of our college, **the two-day National Webinar, on Agriculture Laws - 'Krushimanthan'- A Review of Agricultural Laws and the Judgment Writing Competition** was organized for the year 2020 -21 on 28th and 29th May 2021. The National Webinar on Agricultural Laws was conducted via Microsoft teams and Streamed Live on YouTube on our College's Official YouTube Channel 'DES National Seminar'. The webinar was divided into 4 technical sessions with our deemed and respected Guests being from various fields to share their respective opinions and enlighten the audience.

The Deemed guest of honour for the inaugural session was Dr Dilip Uke, the Vice Chancellor of the Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai and a renowned person in the field of Law. The Session commenced with the welcome address by our officiating principal Dr. Nalini Ambad. The session then proceeded with the sharing of views by our deemed guest of honour Dr. Dilip Uke Sir.

A Question-and-Answer session was conducted once our Chief Guest concluded with his speech. The inaugural Session concluded by the Vote of thanks proposed by our Coordinator Dr. Priya Chopde.

Session 1- Dr. Durgambini Patel

Luminary Dr. Durgambini Patel commenced the first session of day 1 of **Krushimanthan-** the National Seminar on **Review of agriculture Laws** on 28th May 2021. Ma'am enlightened the students on the following points-

History enables us to untangle present legal problems rooted in past. Law does not surface from nowhere but is an outcome of a crystalizing process. The Indian agriculture system began as early as 9000 BC. The Vedic period- there was belief that those farmers who are near to nature they must be exceptionally close to God. The Mouryan Empire (322-185 BCE) categorized soils and made meteorological observations for the agricultural use. The Chola Period- collective holding of land slowly gave way to individual plots, The Cholas also had bureaucrats for matters of farming. Mughal Era 1526-1757 A variety of crops were grown both food and commercial crops. Land management was particularly strong during the regime of Akbar (reigned 1556-1605), under whom scholar-bureaucrat Todarmal formulated

and implemented elaborated methods for agricultural management on a rational basis. Cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, indigo, spices, etc. were exported. The concept of a agriculture produce market regulation in British Raj raw cotton was the first farm produce textile mills of Manchester (UK).

Consequently, India's first regulated market (Karanja) was established in 1886 under the Hyderabad Residency Order, with the first legislation being which empowered British residents to declare any place in the assigned district a market for sale and purchase of agricultural produce and constitute a committee to supervise the regulated markets. This Act became the model for enactment in other parts of the country [APMC]. Under the British Raj, the farmers did not have the ownership of the lands they cultivated, the land lordship with the Zamindars, Jagirdars etc. Agrarian Reform in India for building equity in rural population and improvement of the employment rate and productivity reasons behind Agrarian reform: Constitutional mandate of Social Justice, equality, egalitarian society. It was realized that for Industrial growth agriculture is important as it provides raw material. On the eve of independence, India had to face the serious problem of food shortage. Therefore, agricultural development was given top most priority to attain self-sufficiency in food grains so as to feed. As was aptly stated by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru after Independence “everything else can wait but not agriculture”, and this perspective was reflected in several public policies and investment decisions particularly with regard to irrigation, fertilizers, production, land reforms and community development. Green Revolution 1965 agriculture has undergone many changes impacting the environment and society. Implications of green revolution are as follows; Shifting cultivation, conversion of forest land to agricultural land, mono cropping and overgrazing. The Abolition of the Intermediaries, Tenancy Reforms Fixation by Govt., Fixing Ceilings on Landholdings, Consolidation of Landholdings were also taken in phases because of the need to establish a political will for their wider acceptance of these reforms. Abolition of the Zamindari system: The first important legislation was the abolition of the Zamindari system, 1951 which removed the layer of intermediaries who stood between the cultivators and the state. Five-Year plans were made from 1950 onwards, agriculture was given priority. With a view to move towards liberalizing the agricultural sector and promoting free and fair trade, India, a member nation of the World Trade organization (WTO) signed the Uruguay Round Agreements on 1st January 1995. The Agreement on Agriculture of the WTO, was the first multilateral agreement, meant to curb unfair practices in agricultural trade and set off the process of reforms in the agricultural sector. –demand -fairer and more competitive.

Dr. Durgambini Patel stressed on other points like-

Historical antecedent of the 3 bills

1) THE FARMERS' PRODUCE TRADE AND COMMERCE (PROMOTION AND FACILITATION) Act, 2020

- A BILL to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels; to promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of markets or deemed markets notified under various State agricultural produce market legislations; to provide a facilitative framework for electronic trading and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement in Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 (contract farming)

- A BILL to provide for a national framework on farming agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare approved the constitution of a Committee vide Order dated 28th February, 2017 to formulate a Model CF Act.

CF is nothing new. During the British Period Indian farmers were forced into indigo plantation through Cf. but it was exploitative in nature not enforceable contracts. The present is an attempt to protect the interest of both and give legal recognition.

3) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

The Amendment states that the supply of 'foodstuffs' – including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds and oils – may only be regulated under 'extraordinary circumstances' such as war, famine, 'extraordinary' price rise and 'natural calamity of grave nature'. The central government may do this through a notification in The Gazette of India

- The 1955 Act aims to regulate the production, supply and distribution trade and commerce in certain commodities, in the interest of the general public. Intended to stop unlimited hoarding.
- Now except for above situations Private players can stock unlimited hoarding.

Session-2 :Testing the soil beneath- Constitutionality of Agricultural laws

Guest Speaker- Adv. UdayWarunjikar

Session 2 of Day 1 commenced with a mind igniting discussion with Adv. UdayWarunjikar on the constitutionality of agricultural laws. Sir, made a very impacting statement which laid the foundation of the entire session 2 –

“We are students of law and we must not sway in any direction impartially, but understand the intention of law”

It was his contentions that young students rely on social media for facts and figures without a guarantee of its authenticity which causes most of the problems regarding misinformation and being misinformed to ultimately make a biased opinion on a piece of legislation. Stating his, sir made an emphasis on the difference between- ‘understanding the differentiating line between knowledge and information’ and stated that it was his aim through this session to convert information into knowledge by application of impartial mind.

In this session an attempt was made to check the legislation through the constitution glasses and then determine individually its validity as questioned. He gave the students tips on an indepth research for this by looking into the parliamentary debates and legislative discussions. He went ahead to dissect the topic by discussion about the 7th schedule and the 3 lists and entry 22 regarding agriculture and other relevant entries in it, which is in the spotlight of the controversy of the validity of the 3 legislations. It is important to even understand the relation between the union and the state to make an informed opinion on this topic. To explain further he also took the viewers to the historical aspects of agricultural laws, the then legislative debates and the prevalent social scenarios.

The objective of the session by Adv. UdayWarunjikar was to show students the right path of making an informed decision. Sir’s method was a way to make students think independently and did not attempt to force any opinion on anyone. The session was packed with information

and methods to find and analyse the information. On this note it created a platform to understand session 3 which commenced on the next day.

SESSION 3- Contemporary standing of the Farmer's Bill - Role of Media and Civil Society

Guest Speaker- Madhav Bhandari

Madhav Bhandari Sir is related to media for 45 years. According to him the laws in dispute came in existence last year. The constitution has provided a three-tier system which consists of a state list, a union list and the third is the concurrent list. Agricultural sector falls within the concurrent list but these laws which are presently in dispute are union subject because trading is involved and trading comes under union list. The biggest firm relating agriculture right now is Baramati Agro limited. This company is in favour of the laws.

According to Sir the laws which are notharmful to such a big agricultural firm how could it be harmful to others. The main concern that sir raised was the activist that are there on field protesting against the current laws, he wondered that how many of these activists are actually farmers. He claimed that media hides the truth and according to sir the media doesn't provide any real information.

Talking about APMC and the middleman racket sir explained an example of mangoes. The real premium quality of alphonso mangoes has a market price of ₹700 whereas of the same quantity the farmer gets only ₹150. The entire cost difference that is created goes to the middleman or the trader. According to Sir to end this middleman or trader corruption the current laws are created. The new laws are targeted to remove the traders. According to Sir there has been 14,000 crore subsidies given to farmers by the current Government of India but no such news is out.

Further, giving another example Sir mentioned that agricultural insurance scheme has been released in favour of the farmers with an estimated amount of ₹90,000 crore rupees given to the farmers by the union government that is BJP but no such news has been out. According to sir media only portrays or reports that news which is in their favour for TRP and they do not intend to tell the truth to the society at large. Sir showed the students several news articles and photos to clarify his speech.

SESSION 4- Farmer's Bill - Its Economic Clout and the way Forward

Guest Speaker- Adv. DadasahebKardile

The following points were elaborately discussed by sir-

The Indian Government has amended 3 Acts regarding Agriculture in 2020, which are:

1. The Farmers Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.
2. The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce Bill, 2020.
3. The Essential Commodities Bill, 2020. The Acts discuss about Farmers, Growth of Income from the years 1947 to 2021. Cultivation cost and lower prices, population and farmer's competitions. And United large families Vs Nuclear families and farm land. The APMC or Mandis is known as the agriculture service or business. Currently Service is considered as a top priority followed by Business and then farming. The APMCs are located in the district areas. And farmers have to sell their produce here. When the farmers try to sell their produce, the traders hold an auction for this produce to get the best price. But there is also manipulation witnessed as such auctions. Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Food Corporation of India (FCI), FCI sets up the MSP, but it is not mandatory for all traders to follow the MSPs. There is a lot of loot and malpractices done by the government employees and the FCI employees from the farmers. The Essential Commodities Act was amended, which take care of the commodities such as food, medicine fuels etc. anything which is life saver comes under this act. And addition or removal of any item from this list depends on the Government. Hoarding of the items, artificial demand and black marketing is a common scenario, which was mainly observed in the Covid 19 Pandemic.

This leads to increase in prices and increase in profits as well. The government plays an important part to regulate such situations. But they step in only when there is a war, famine or a natural calamity. Or a very high price hike. The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce Bill lays guidelines for contract farming. It functions similarly as MSP, and provides their farming services with contracted institution which creates a huge economic impact. "One Nation,One Market", is a

concept which revolves around farmers having access to sell their produce in any state or district. It is known to be open market without barriers. But it does raise disputes regarding the jurisdiction over trade in that specific state or district. But, there have been new dispute resolution mechanisms put into place to help with the situations. And the new amended laws will help farmers get their payment without any delay. The rural economy was discussed through various aspects, considering the income sources such as farming, labour and farming related businesses. Whereas the expenses vary from child education, medical expenses, marriages etc. the difficulty of farmers getting married is a grievous situation these days, as people deny to maintain relations with farmers, assuming their lifestyle and economic difficulties.

Revisiting the Bench', Judgment Writing Competition on 28th May 2021

DES's Shri NavalmalFirodia Law College conducted '**Revisiting the Bench', Judgment Writing Competition** for the academic year 2020-2021.

The primary aim of the competition was to enhance and boost the various legal research, legal reasoning skills (to name a few) of the students.

The College Received participation from various College all over India i.e Modern Law College Pune, Symbiosis Law College, Dr. Ambedkar Law College Chennai and Sastra University. The Judgment Analysis Session was conducted along 'Krushimanthan'- A Review on Agricultural Laws Webinar on 28th May 2021. The Judgment Analysis session commenced after Technical Session-2 from 2:00 pm. The Judges for the competition were Adv. Girish Dange, Adv. AparnaBhide and Adv. Niyati Shah. The Round commenced with the welcoming of our judges and the students by our student coordinators followed by a briefing and reading of general rules to guide the participants. The Session Also included a Feedback session by our deemed judges in order to guide the participants and the students for their progress and development of legal skills for their journeys that lie ahead. The session was concluded by the vote of thanks by our student co-coordinator.

The results for 'Revisiting the Bench'-Judgment writing competition conducted by DES's Shri NavalmalFirodia Law College for the academic 2020-2021 are as follows:

- Team Code JW-33-Sanjana Shrivastav and TusharPatidar of Symbiosis Law College- Winner
- Team Code JW 32-Aishwarya K and P Arun Kumar of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College- Runner Up

National Statute Analysis Competition, 29.05.2021

DES's Shri. NavalmalFirodia Law College entered in its 15th year, keepingpace with the social change and answering responsibly, all the demands of anycomplex and intricate global legal set up.

For this very reason the college found itindispensable to conduct a National Statute Analysis Competition on the “The Farmers(Empowerment and Protection) Agreement onPrice Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020”; “The Farmers Produce, Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020”; and “The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020”.

Students from various institutions showed their interest in the topic opted by the college and prepared and submitted their written submissions scrutinizing thesevarious Acts to put themselves in the fit state which were carried out on the 28th and 29th of May, 2021. The college through this unique activity gave a chance to prodigies of the legal profession to put fourth their views on these acts.

The agriculture sector is one of the most important industries in the Indian economy, which means it is also a huge employer. Approximately 60 percent of the Indian population works in the industry, contributing about 18 percent to India & GDP. Therefore, the analysis of these statutes was a constructive activity not only for the students participating in the competition but for the organizers and to the public in general to know the views for / against the Acts passed since it's been an imperative issue in recent times.

The introduction to the final round of the National Statute Analysis Competition was put forth by GeetJethwani and the rules of the competition were put forth by NausheenTamboli. The competition was judged by an esteem professor from Indian Law Society, MedhaKolhatkar. The participants from various colleges put forth the analysis along with PPTs and presentations explaining the right of the farmers in a nutshell.

The participants then put forth what is the enactment talks about its analysis its pros and cons to the farmers in India and its repercussions on the economy at large. They spoke about what essentially the bill relates to farmers, how does the law help, and how does it go away with the barriers which has been existing in our country.

Participants also spoke about the Acts creating varied opinions all over the country regarding the provisions involved in it - Some in favour and some against. Questions regarding validity of the enactment were put forth by the judge in the competition, its aspects, jurisdiction, its effects etc. were also been rectified by the students in detail.

After the conclusion of the event, the reputed judge gave her valuable feedback to the participants with a natural eye for improvement. After the successful two days that were packed with information and competitions, as every good thing comes to an end, our national seminar “Krushimanthan” and the allied competitions came to an end but left us with sweet memories and a bag full of knowledge and experiences on the vast panel of luminaries. It was a matter of great honour for every viewer, participant and organizer to be a part of this successful event and a hope for an offline national seminar to look forward to for the next academic year.

To conclude with, the academic year 2020-2021 was marked by a variety of seminars, activities, discussions and guest lectures delivered. Going by the saying- “Knowledge is a superpower” and therefore the seminar department aimed at shaping the young minds of not only law students but students from various streams with true and rich encompassing insights for the journey that lies ahead.)

