

31 March 2022

BRIEF OF E-NYAYAGANGA PROJECT

The e-Nyayaganga: Digital Legal Literacy – Design, Development, Management and Testing (National Level) is a project under the scheme of Access to Justice by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India (GoI), titled “Designing Innovative Solutions and Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)” from 2021 to 2026. The National Law Institute University, Bhopal, is designated as National Nodal agency for e-Nyayaganga: Digital Legal Literacy – Design, Development Management and Testing (National Level) by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, GoI.

The National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal, was established by the *Rashtriya Vidhi Sansthan Vishwavidyalaya Adhinyam* (Act No. 41 of 1997) enacted by the Madhya Pradesh State Legislature, recently substituted by the *Madhya Pradesh National Law Institute University Act, 2018* (Act No. 6 of 2018). The NLIU is a leading law school in the country imparting legal education and promoting research and publication. The NLIU, Bhopal, is recognized by the University Grants Commission and the Bar Council of India.

Project Objectives: The objectives of the project are:

- To make the targeted marginalised sections of the society have the requisite digital skill-set to search, understand and seek the legal rights ensured to them by new enactments and amendments in the law, by making them learn methods of seeking knowledge of the law directly affects their rights and duties. Making access to justice and information pertaining to justice delivery mechanism available at the doorstep to the marginalised and vulnerable section of the society through mass proliferation methods involving digital media.
- To help marginalised sections of society build their intellectual faculty to assert, attain, and realise their constitutional and legal rights as well as duties as provided by the Constitution of India and special statutes and social welfare measures as enunciated in various statutes and policy measures in this regard through various ICT means.
- To enhance the existing knowledge base by deploying various engagement means, e.g., community talk on the radio, short films, jingles, etc. It will provide a base to measure the endowment gap, which will be mitigated through the design and development of digital legal literacy tools. To inculcate basic knowledge of rights and duties relating to them *vis-à-vis* the appropriate government and the nation in general via the use of digital media.

- To empower the targeted marginalised sections of the society to read, understand and seek the judicial remedy of rights and duties available to them by law.
- To facilitate the targeted marginalised sections of the society to apply the law to a given fact situation.

Core implementation Activities:

- Preparation of Research Plan based on ground reality for effective implementation of Project, after consulting the Project Management Team and Local Functionaries.
- Consultative exercises with Legal Aid Clinics through Consortium of NLUs in collaborations with concerned District Legal Services Authority.
- Engagement with stakeholders at the grassroot-level and organizing consultative meetings with representatives of civil societies.
- Engaging, collaborating and coordinating with the Implementation Partners, like National Judicial Academy, Bhopal; State Legal Services Authorities; State Judicial Academies; Bar Councils; Legal Aid Clinics at NLUs; National and International Academic Institutions of Excellence, and Civil Societies.
- Evaluating and assessing the need, intelligence, capacity, competence and aptitude of the targeted section of the society for effective and efficient dissemination of knowledge content.
- Develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for dissemination Radio, TV, Print Media, Digital Media, social media, etc., in different formats as per the requirement of the targeted audience.
- Develop print materials like brochures, booklets, primers, guidelines, folders, leaflets, posters and calendars for dissemination to the targeted audience.
- Dissemination of information and features of various activities/events/programmes/schemes of the Department of Justice.
- Testing and assessment of identified key components to determine the outcome and effectiveness of project implementation.
- Organising District Level Conclave with PRI and Public consultations to understand public perception and seek feedback on project implementation.
- Collection of data and preparation of the Project Report and a model framework for further development and use by the Department of Justice.

Further, the activities that will be conducted during the project period are as follows:

- Training of district-level trainers in the readily available information and knowledge on rights and duties provided by law to the marginalised sections of the society and how to quickly disseminate the digital content to the masses.
- Develop audio, video and reading content for legal literacy of the targeted sections of the society.
- Organise live sessions and on-field activities to disseminate legal literacy.
- Dissemination of content through an easily accessible web platform with which the targeted sections are compatible.
- Training the targeted sections of society to use the information technology tools for knowing the existing rights and duties and their enforcement.
- Develop digital content on legal literacy, which may be utilised throughout India by the Ministry of Law and Justice to achieve pan-India legal literacy and awareness. Also, make such digital content openly accessible to all stakeholders under creative commons license.
- Create and maintain a repository of existing literature in English, Hindi and relevant vernacular on legal literacy and awareness, which may be made openly accessible to all stakeholders by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

National Law Institute University, Bhopal, shall act as the nodal agency (PMU) to administer this project. It has all the requisite infrastructural facilities, including excellent access to the library and other resources. However, the entire project would be conceived, arrangements made, communication, selection and administration would be done by a team from NLIU lead by Prof. (Dr.) V. Vijayakumar, Vice Chancellor, NLIU, Bhopal.

National Law Institute University has 35 full time teaching faculty along with several research scholars and more than 70 administrative staff for technical support.

NLIU has a dedicated library building with more than 23,000 books, online databases, journals, magazines, etc. The library building also has separate individual office chambers allotted to its faculty members. There are dedicated non-teaching buildings with space for office and conference rooms, which can be turned into hybrid audio-visual and online interaction rooms. There are three dedicated academic blocks with many classrooms for teaching. There is a Convention Centre with a seating capacity of more than 800. The Convention Centre also has additional rooms for conducting online, offline and hybrid mode of meetings and interactions. There is a Guest House with 33 rooms with the capacity of boarding and lodging of 70 persons. There is an IT Lab with 90 working computer systems. There is Wi-Fi enabled campus. We have a language lab for the development and design of language media and tools. We have a media lab for the development and design of tools.

Expected Outcome: On the completion of this project, the benefactors of the project are expected to:

- Think clearly, dispassionately, logically, analytically, rationally, creatively and critically towards their rights and corresponding duties.
- Have basic knowledge of constitutional and legal rights and duties relating to them *vis-à-vis* the appropriate government and the nation in general.
- Understand and differentiate between rights and duties.
- Read, understand and seek the judicial remedy of rights and duties available to them by law.
- Apply the law to a given fact situation.
