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A B S T R A C T

Main issues taken into consideration are about concepts of Human Rights and Lok Adalats, role of Lok Adalats in protection of Humans Rights .some suggestions are also made in the present study which may be helpful for improving the working of Lok Adalats to ensure better protection of Humans Rights.

Introduction

The rate of human rights violation is increasing day-by-day throughout India especially regarding Kashmir issue, communal riots, terrorists attacks, domestic violence against women, child-labour, poverty, Illiteracy, unemployment, malnutrition, environment decay and AIDS. Lok Adalats play a crucial role in protection of the Human Rights by providing legal aid to the poor and underprivileged sections of the society as well as disposal of pending cases relating to domestic violence against women, child labour money claims, family disputes, Motor Accident Claim Tribunals (MACTs), bank loan, insurance claim, damages, partition suits as well as other cases in which human rights are violated in routine life.

Concept of Human Rights

Human rights are those rights which have been given by the State or Government under the Constitutional provisions and accepted at the universal level for securing citizen's liberty, dignity as well as equality of a free nation.

Concept of Lok Adalat

In recent times, the concept of Lok Adalat has gained popularity through decentralization of justice delivery system for ensuring people's participation in para-judicial institution like Lok Adalat. Lok Adalat means people's court in contrast of the regular law courts established by the Government and developed by the people themselves. Lok Adalats are disputes settlement agencies for providing cheap and quickly justice delivery to the poor people at their door-steps.

Role of Lok Adalats in Protection of Human Rights

Infact, protection of the Human Rights should be fundamental duties of every democratic

country and in this context Lok Adalats play a vital role in protection of the Human Rights in developing country like India through providing free legal service and legal aid counsel schemes to the poor as well as disadvantaged sections of the society as a whole which are described in the following paragraphs.

Finding

Legal Aid Counsel Scheme for Remand Hours Legal aid counsel Scheme for remand hours has been introduced for representation of indigent accused during remand hours in judicial courts exercising magisterial powers. Such legal aid counsel are required to give assistance to the persons in custody for opposing remand applications, securing orders for bail and moving such miscellaneous applications as may be required.

Legal Aid Cells in Jails

Under this scheme, advocates have been empanelled in every district for visiting the jail every week for collecting applications from inmates and helping them in the matter of drafting their appeals, petitions etc. so that the jail inmates do not feel that they have no satisfactory legal assistance for the redressal of their grievances.

Legal Representation to Aided Persons

Representation under this category by way of providing free legal services are of two types. One is to represent the accused who is unable to engage a counsel on his own and the other representation is by way of providing free legal services for filling or defending an aided person in civil matters.

Domestic Violence Against Women Cases

Lok Adalats also play an important role through disposal of domestic violence against women cases as well as family disputes cases for protecting

women's legal rights under the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Disposal of Labourer Cases

Lok Adalats also play a crucial role in protecting human rights of the labourers through providing labour claims and damages as well as accident claims, which happen in working time under the Labour Act, 1923.

Motor Accident Claims Tribunals Cases

Lok Adalats settle maximum cases of Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (MACTs) by providing compensation to the victims. In this way, Lok Adalats play an important role to protect legal rights of the victims.

Public Awareness

Lok Adalats also play utmost role for increasing public awareness regarding their legal rights and deities at grassroots level through organizing Rural Lok Adalats, legal literacy camps, seminars, workshop with the help of Department of Public Relations, NGOs, media, public representatives, civil servants, teachers and law students.

Suggestions:

* There should separate appointments of Judges and their subordinate staff.

* Arrangement of adequate funds for set-up Rural

Lok Adalats in rural areas and Mega Lok Adalats in the urban areas.

* Connectivity with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the National Woman Commission (NWC), the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) through Internet,

* The procedure for organizing Lok Adalats should be made popular among people through proper advertisement regarding date of meeting in leading newspapers and on local T.V. Channels.

* Higher educational institutions should motivate to the research scholars for conducting their research in the areas of Lok Adalats and Human Rights.

Conclusion

Lastly, it is concluded that now-a-days Lok Adalats play a crucial role in protection of Human Rights through providing legal aid counsel schemes to the person who are in custody, free legal services to the poor and underprivileged sections of the society. Lok Adalats have not been reducing the burden of pending cases from regular courts but also spread legal literacy and public awareness regarding education of legal rights and duties for better protection of their Human Rights through organizing Rural Lok Adalats, Mega Lok Adalats, Seminars, workshop, help line,etc.

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