

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the direction and guidance of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA conducted a "Legal Awareness Programme on Discourses on Road Safety/ Anti-Ragging/ Drug Abuse & Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012" for the student Members of the Legal Literacy Clubs of the 08 Schools in and around Gangtok on 21.04.2018 (Saturday) at 01:00 P.M. in the Conference Hall of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok.

Due to the alarming rate of increase in Drug Abuse and Sexual Harassment of children prevailing in the State and as the roads in Sikkim were becoming congested with the increase of vehicles, and, accidents occurring frequently, this exercise was carried out by this Authority to sensitize the students on the topics above, as these were the burning issues and need of the hour.

The Resource Persons for the said programme were Mrs. Ongmu Bhutia, Additional Superintendent of Police, Traffic Wing, Sikkim Police, Gangtok, who apprised the participants on "Traffic Regulations and Road Safety". Mr. Zangpo Sherpa, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA spoke on POCSO Act, 2012 and Shri Tashi Raptan Barfungpa, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA spoke on Drug Abuse and Anti-Ragging.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Mrs. Ongmu Bhutia, spoke elaborately on the relevant provisions under the under Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 with special emphasis on Motor Insurance Policies. A power point presentation was also screened on Road Safety and Statistics, cause of accidents and steps taken for preventing road accident. A video of pedestrians using mobile phones on roads was also screened.

Shri Zangpo Sherpa, Panel Advocate spoke on Protection of Children from Sexual Harassment Act, 2012 with special emphasis to the provisions of Rule 7 of the Act. He also made references to the Judgments delivered by the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim in such cases.

Shri T. R. Barfungpa, Ld. Panel Advocate also highlighted on the enforcement of the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and how the Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006, came into existence with further amendments of the said Act, 2017. Specific provisions relating to offenders who are students of the school or any educational institutions and the role of teachers dealing with drug abuse was explained. He also spoke on ragging and how to deal in such a situation. A write-up on Anti-Ragging laws in India was circulated amongst the participants.

The programme ended with vibrant interaction between Students and Resource Persons. The welcome address was delivered by Mrs. Matlida Isaacs, Special Secretary, Sikkim SLSA while the vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Bikash Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLSA. 115 students along with the Teachers-in-Charge of 08 Legal Literacy Clubs of Schools from in and around Gangtok attended the said programme.