

Broad function and Duties of Delhi Judicial Academy

The Delhi Judicial Academy, being entrusted with facilitating continuous Judicial Education and Training under the aegis of the Hon'ble Judicial Education and Training Programme Committee of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, is committed to identifying and achieving training objectives in consonance with contemporary trends in judicial education.

If the constitution of India is seen as a charter of rights and all public institutions are tasked with enabling the fullest expression of such rights, judicial education must also encourage a rights based justice delivery system and an abiding duty is cast upon judges to uphold the rights of the citizens before them. Our entire legal system works essentially to actualize the entire gamut of legislated or recognized rights and the Delhi Judicial Academy finds itself to be an important influencer to achieve this end. The challenges encountered by the citizenry in accessing legal institutions, services of the states and other service providers during the lockdown induced by the COVID-19 pandemic only highlighted the constitutional imperative of giving effect to the rights of people.

The academy focuses on aligning the intent of all stakeholders for achieving the objectives of legislation in issue before the courts and thus our emphasis on multidisciplinary training is well founded. The involvement of partners in judicial education has thus extended to combine training modules for judges, prosecutors, police officials, medical professionals, executive magistrates and counselors besides others.

Judges are always expected to be aware of the realities of their society and economy, therefore, judicial training benefits from enriching the curriculum with appropriate dimensions and subjects from other disciplines like political studies and economy, sociology, psychology, administrative law, the human rights regime and even literature. In particular, the discourse on gender, child rights, rights of labourers, rights of SC/ST community and mental healthcare have become flagship aspirations for our Academy. Many training programmes at the academy focus on these sensitive issues promoting rights of the vulnerable sections of population, for we believe these issues deserve the utmost attention of judiciary as a whole. In many such programmes we collaborate with relevant agencies and individuals to make sure these programmes fulfill their mandate and objectives. The Academy often pools resources with other reputed institutions to draw benefit of their expertise and experience also.

It is not yet lost on us that the litigants navigating the maze of our court systems are not a homogenous group. The training programmes designed by the Academy consequentially pay attention to training needs in consonance with these variations.

Technological innovation is also a direction towards which the winds of change blow in the andragogy of judicial training. The year 2021 is overwhelmed with service delivery challenges faced by all actors of the state, however still it constitutes a landmark in delivery of judicial education in the online paradigm. Under the guidance of our Chief Justice and Patron-in-Chief of the Academy, Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. N. Patel and Hon'ble Chairperson, JETPC, our academy pioneered the notion of shifting judicial training to virtual mode. As the justice delivery system is faced with the challenges posed by non physical hearings on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Academy aims to share best practices of online interactions in the judicial affairs. Infact, in sync with educational trend across the globe and disciplines, the focus of judicial education will now be to fulfil training objectives achieved earlier in the physical space even in the virtual online environment. However, considering the lack of reach of technology among a large section of litigants in our country, judicial education would still rely on classical methodologies also to act as a bridge to the eventual saturated reach of technology. Now, more than perhaps ever before, the Delhi Judicial Academy hopes to galvanise and mobilise the largest spread of stakeholders, institutions and programmes for achieving the super ordinate goal of giving effect to the rights of all persons and aiding adherence to constitutional morality.