



Association for PARIVARTAN of Nation

Annual Report 2020-21

# संघर्ष अस्तित्व और अस्मिता का

## Message from the President



*Mr. Hasan Al Banna*

Hello!

Since its inception, the mission of APNA has been to uphold values and social justice and work at the grassroots to resolve issues faced by communities that have been marginalised in the society. As we present our annual report for the year 2020-21, I am glad to inform you that APNA has worked extensively over the last year to reach out to communities throughout the country and create a positive impact. Our team and volunteers have led various projects aimed at inclusivity and community-based actions for meaningful change.

APNA stands on the principles of social justice at its core and we believe that quality education remains crucial for empowerment of marginalised communities. We have created programs to ensure quality education, not only to strengthen knowledge-base but also as a means to strengthen democracy. Child and community empowerment has been the center of our flagship programs as NSED and Era Tech. Under our Right to Education campaigns, families belonging from EWS, SC/ST, other backward classes and unprivileged sections have been fulfilling their dreams of getting their children enrolled into a private unaided school and thus creating the nation stronger.

As an organization, we have also achieved milestones through our work in gender justice and climate change. Our programs have particularly reached out to girls and women from socially backward communities. Our discussion series 'Tribal Echoes' has been another key achievement that brought forward important voices from various marginalised communities. APNA has also been involved in organising multiple panel discussions, workshops and 'E-Baithak' on issues of law and justice, educational reforms, public policy and gender, as well as organised symposiums and sessions on career-counselling for students coming from different communities. The organization's work over the year has been extensive, and our milestones in the areas of education, gender justice, climate action and human rights have been elaborated upon in the report.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my thanks to all our team-members, partners, donors and volunteers who have been the pillars of the organization, without whom the vision and mission of APNA would be incomplete. I am thankful for everyone who has supported and encouraged our work.

Best wishes  
President





*Ms. Vaishnavi*

## Message from the Vice President

At APNA, we cherish our core goal to help set up a just society and work towards the empowerment of the marginalised. As a youth-run organization, APNA has worked on many important projects over the years, and I am honored to present our annual report that underlines many of our milestones in the area of social justice across the country.

The last year has been unkind to many communities that have been underprivileged further due to the COVID Pandemic, loss of livelihood and migrant crisis. Aid provided by the civil-society has been crucial in the process to help rebuild livelihoods and I am grateful to all team members and volunteers who have been involved in COVID relief work. APNA has also been working extensively for tribal welfare and we recently started a conversation series on tribal identity and issues, called, 'Tribal Echoes'. Over the last year, we have organized various online lectures, workshops and seminars on intersectional issues such as education, gender justice, climate change and human rights. The themes for these discussions dealt with various issues of governance, policy and social justice in the Indian context. The organization has the goal to bring transformational change in the grassroots through community empowerment and awareness programs.

Our work is focused to address structural issues at the grassroots and projects led by motivated youths form the core of the organization. The report highlights APNA's work and initiatives over the last year, and I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the organization, volunteers and donors who have worked hard to create and campaign for social justice through various programs under APNA. I am also thankful to all our supporters who have given us the encouragement and strength to continue our work and achieve milestones.

Regards

Vice-President



*Mr. Manab Singha*

## Message from our Collaborators

It gives me immense pleasure to be writing this message remarking the end of yet another year of striving to create an egalitarian and just society. The grassroots work being done by APNA is an important step towards organising the youth of the country to join the fight against historical injustices. APNA has been actively helping marginalised populations in Ranchi in securing quality education for themselves. This initiative is extremely crucial to awaken young minds and channel their potential towards making the society a better place. We are utterly grateful to the organisation for making it possible for us to be a part of this initiative in our limited capacities. We also encourage and hope to be a part of all of the future initiatives undertaken by APNA.

Indus Action & APNA have been working together to implement one of our primary initiatives has been to provide quality education to students coming from marginalised backgrounds, and ensure awareness about policies and schemes that would benefit them and their community. According to the RTE Act, all private schools are required to have a 25% quota for students coming from underprivileged families and communities, but it is observed that a majority of students from these backgrounds don't even know about this policy. At APNA, we have created mechanisms to bring awareness among communities about the Right to Education Act and help students avail the quota as a means to ensure that marginalised students receive quality education for a better, more democratic and inclusive future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my wishes to everyone at APNA on publishing their third annual report as an organisation that is deeply involved in the society. While the last year was a challenging one, we must aim to persevere through mutual respect and love for one another and especially for people from marginalised intersections of our society. The work that APNA has done in the past year is a testament to the fact that it is only with resilience and determination that we will get through this global pandemic and the various challenges that it poses to our societies.

To finding strength and love to pull each other through these challenging times!

Regards,  
MANAB SINGHA  
State Lead – Orissa & Jharkhand



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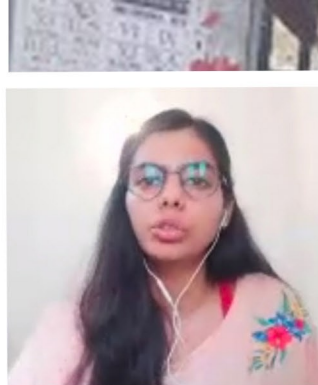
April  
**09**  
2020

## Beyond Exclusion

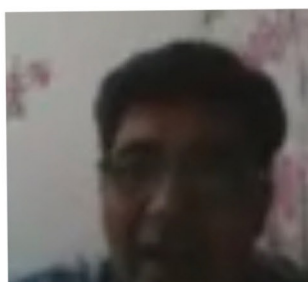
Access to inclusive and sustainable  
gender justice systems

We organised a live session on 9th April, 2020 on the topic of Inclusive and Sustainable Gender Justice Systems. Jhalak Jain, a feminist commentator and poet, was invited to speak on the various discourses surrounding the issues of gender justice. The speaker highlighted the importance of a justice system that believes in the feminist principles of rehabilitation and reformation.

Highlighting the protectionist approaches adopted by the existing institutions of justice all around the world, the speaker elaborated on the contribution of such an approach towards further marginalisation of women. It is essential to promote a liberationist approach to tackle the issue of increasing instances of violence against women. The speaker also emphasises the importance of acknowledging the various intersectional experiences of women from marginalised backgrounds while formulating these institutions of justice. More than 100 people attended the event and interacted with the speaker through Cisco Webex.



*Ms. Jhalak Jain*



*Prof. Mohd Asad Malik*

April  
**22**  
2020

## Role of Judiciary to save the Earth

On the 50th anniversary of World Earth Day, a live session was organised on the role of the judiciary in saving the world from the inevitable climate crisis. The session was organised through Cisco Webex with the participation of around 150 people who contributed to the session through their insightful and interactive questions.

Mohd Asad Malik, an Associate Professor at Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, was the speaker at the event. He laid out the importance of a responsible judiciary in tackling the climate crisis. The theme for the 50th World Earth Day was aimed at creating awareness on climate change and the challenges that it poses to the different institutions of democracy. Under a capitalist economy, it falls on the judiciary to secure the rights of communities engaged in environmental conservation from corporate interests. It was also highlighted, during this deeply engaging session, that at a time when we see a criminal abdication of responsibility by the authority in handling the COVID crisis, it becomes essential to have an independent judiciary. It is the responsibility of this highest institution of justice to take cognizance of the threat posed by extreme climate events to the citizens in the very near future and direct states to take effective steps towards addressing it.





*Dr. Kahkashan Y.  
Danyal*

May  
**16**  
2020

## Legal Aid

*Listening to the cries of poor and vulnerable communities*

On 16th May, 2020, we hosted a session on the importance of centering the challenges of the poor and vulnerable communities while seeking legal aid, within the justice system. The speaker for the session was Dr. Kahkashan Y. Danyal who is a professor at Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia and has also worked as a Statutory Member of Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

Dr Kahkashan began the session by quoting the principles enshrined in Article 39A of the Constitution that ensures free legal aid for the poorer and weaker sections of the society so as to facilitate justice for everyone, irrespective of their socio-economic conditions. Anything that contradicts this principle of the Constitution results in the absence of equality for the marginalised citizens of a democratic republic such as India. Free and accessible legal aid for the downtrodden sections of the society is also an essential factor in preserving law and order in a society.

A committee named Committee for the Implementation of Legal Services was formed in 1980 to implement and monitor legal aid programmes on a uniform basis, in all of the states and union territories of the country. Legal aid was promoted under the schemes that were formulated by this committee. At the same time, the Legal Services Authority Act was passed in 1987. The objective of the act was to ensure free and competent legal aid for the weaker sections of the society to ensure equality of opportunities for everyone. Dr Kahkashan described various sections of the Act that provide certain crucial information to recognise and acknowledge the role of societal privilege in pursuing legal aid and the importance of legal literacy for the masses. The Act also describes the role of both governmental and non-governmental bodies (universities, law colleges etc) in ensuring the accessibility to effective legal aid.

As the session progresses, Dr Kahkashan describes the importance of the various chapters of the Act with a special emphasis on the Fourth chapter that describes the groups and communities entitled to free legal aid in India. These groups include people marginalised across factors such as class, caste, gender, disability, sexuality, religion etc. The Chapter also has provisions for free legal aid for victims of trafficking, natural disasters such as flood, droughts etc, ethnic violence, mass disasters and industrial disasters. The Sixth Chapter of the Act is related to the organisation and the jurisdiction of Lok Adalats. The Speaker describes the importance of Legal Aid in Lok Adalats as it is an alternative dispute redressal mechanism which deals with pending cases in the court of law. This is an especially important institution for a country such as India that has been seeing an increase in the case loads across its courts.

Dr Kahkashan concluded the session by encouraging students to come forward and volunteer to provide free legal aid and work towards ensuring legal literacy in the marginalised sections of the society as a lack of awareness of such provisions might further push the marginalised towards a life of hardships and a lack of trust in the judicial structure of the country.





Fr. David M Solomon



Fr. Sebastian Kalra

July  
11  
2020

## E-Colloquium

*The economic, psychological and social impact of migrant labours on their communities*

On 11th July, 2020, we organised an E-colloquium on the topic “The Economic, Psychological and Social impact of migrant labourers on their communities”. The event was attended by almost 700 participants, from across several fields who wished to engage in the migrant crisis that India had been facing since the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown. Participants joined the E-colloquium through Google Meet, the official APNA Youtube channel and Facebook Live.

The two esteemed speakers at the event were Father David M Solomon and Father Sebastian Kalra, who engaged with the audiences over this crucial topic in a session that lasted for over an hour. Respected Father David M Solomon is a Jesuit priest who holds a PG degree in Anthropology from Pune University and has worked among the Santals in the Dumka area for the last 25 years. He is currently working as the PUCL Ranchi Secretary and National Council Member, Director of Bagaicha, a centre for training and research. Respected Father Sebastian Kalra is also a Jesuit priest holding a degree in Anthropology from Sambalpur University in Odisha. His thesis analyses the Tribal Knowledge systems amongst the Baigas in MP and Chhattisgarh. At present, he is working as the Asst Director and the Head of Migrant Labour Solidarity Centre Bagaicha. Father Sebastian Kalra initiated the discussion by highlighting the key aspects of the migrant crisis where reverse migration was seen due to crumbling livelihoods in big cities triggered by the sudden, unplanned lockdown. He also drew everyone’s attention towards a lack of accurate data to analyze and understand this trend of reverse migration, suggesting that different data from different sources is an evidence of state neglect in dealing with this crisis. He further gave a historical perspective on labour migration wherein more and more migrants have been migrating from Central India to Southern states due to economic, political and socio-cultural reasons. These migrants are predominantly engaged in construction and agricultural activities in these states. Lack of better living wages, healthy working conditions and proper resources to sustain poorer and marginalised populations is what drove masses in Central India to Southern states in search of a livelihood. However, the coronavirus pandemic has forced a majority of these migrants to return to their home states which will further burden the capacity of these states to provide adequate resources to these populations.

Father David Solomon took the discussion further by focussing on the plight of migrant labourers amidst this pandemic, who were forced to walk miles and starve for days, to be able to travel back to their homes. He says that it is important to humanise these labourers and understand their misery beyond just datasets, figures and patterns of their migration. It is also important to hold the state accountable for failing at providing the most basic forms of sustenance to these populations during the lockdown, which also forced them to take up dangerous routes to their homes. He also talks about the discrimination that these migrant communities face in their work places due to their social locations.

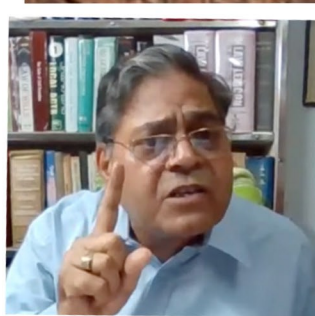
The discussion ends with a focus on development of better labour policies for people working in the informal sectors that protects them from sudden shocks such as the pandemic and also shields them from the abuse that they have to face regularly in their workplaces at the hands of the landlords and big corporations.



On the occasion of Independence Day on 15th August, we organised an E-baithak on the promises of brotherhood based on sacrifices of services. This online event was organised through Google Meet, Youtube Live and Facebook Live and was attended by around 480 participants. The main speaker of the event was Advocate Rajeev Sharma who is a senior advocate in the Jharkhand High Court and has experience of around 46 years in litigation in both the District courts and the High Courts of Jharkhand. He is also an expert in the Constitutional Law of India, Human rights and the laws related to Santhali community.

The speaker spoke about the skepticism of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on the ideals of Constitution that he highlighted in his farewell address to the Constituent Assembly. Dr Ambedkar was one of the crucial members of the Constituent Assembly who contributed towards its formation. However, his doubts regarding the effectiveness of this Constitution were rooted in the deeply discriminatory nature of the Indian social fabric, which he had also described as one of the most important reasons for the existence of British colonial rule for hundreds of years. The speaker also focussed on Dr Ambedkar's ideals of embodying one united national identity over dividing people and discriminating with them based on hundreds of different caste and religious identities.

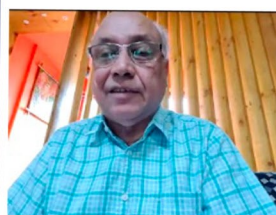
The speaker invokes the principles outlined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution to convey the importance of the ideals of unity and solidarity in a country as diverse as India. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution binds every citizen of India in a brotherhood that must strive towards justice and equity, and this should be the responsibility of the state as well as the individual citizens. The speaker also urges everyone to recognise and respect the ideals enshrined in the Constitution that protect our Fundamental Rights while also simultaneously bestowing the responsibility of carrying out Fundamental Duties on each individual. This is essential to protect the democratic principles that we have inherited, as a country, from the freedom fighters who fought for our Independence. Quoting the Supreme Court judgement for Maneka Gandhi V. UOI case, the speaker also stressed that Fundamental Rights have to go in conjunction with our Fundamental duties to ensure social order and peace. This social order was achieved through years of struggle and must be designed in a way that enables equitable distribution of resources and justice to everyone, irrespective of the privileges that one might or might not enjoy. In conclusion the speaker emphasises that our Constitution is a spiritual document that aspires towards a social order that must drive every citizen to realize their own truth.



Advocate Rajeev Sharma







*Advocate  
Ashok Agarwal*



*Prof.  
Nalini Juneja*



*Dr. John Kurrien*

## Day 1: Challenges and Opportunities

We organised a two-day E-workshop where we delved into the various aspects of the New Education Policy 2020 from 21st August, 2020 to 22nd August, 2020. On the first day, the workshop was attended by more than 880 people, through Zoom, wherein the speaker underscored the various challenges posed by the NEP and the opportunities that it creates for educators and learners, throughout the country. The speaker for the event was Advocate Ashok Agarwal. He is the National President at All India Parents Association and a Practising Lawyer at the Supreme Court of India and the Delhi High Court. While talking about the challenges posed by the NEP 2020, the speaker spoke about the ways in which the policy will marginally increase the burden on State Governments. He also spoke about the need to increase the role of the parents in such policies as they are one of the major stakeholders in education today. Towards the end of the session, he also interacted with the participants and also appreciated the government's efforts to make education completely free in government school until class 12th, under the New Education Policy.

## Day 2: Right to Education & NEP Prospects. Problems and Preparedness

On the second day of our E-Workshop, 22nd August, 2020, on the National Education Policy, 2020, we organised a session on the prospects that this policy provides us with while also discussing the problems with it and the preparedness of educational institutions to incorporate it, with the existing resources. The session was organised in two batches through Google Meet due to the large number of registrations. Prof. Nalini Juneja who was the former Head of Department of School and Non Formal Education, NIEPA was the speaker for the event. In the two batches of the session Prof Nalini interacted with the participants and briefed them on the aspects of the NEP that will be challenging for our existing educational infrastructure and the other aspects that might bring about radical changes in transforming education in India.

## Day 3: Strategies for a better educational future for all socio-economically disadvantaged groups and the potential impact of the NEP and Covid-19

Due to overwhelming participation and responses by the participants on our two day E-Workshop on the National Education Policy, we organised another lecture that would specifically focus on the impacts of NEP and COVID-19 on the socially and economically marginalised sections of the society. This session was organised through Google Meet and was attended by more than 550 participants.

Dr John Kurrien was the speaker for the event. He remarked on the aspects of the New Education Policy by reflecting on his own experiences as an educator. He spoke about the need to center the question of social marginalisation while making policies related to education and development of individuals. While talking about socially marginalised groups, he also highlighted the need for a change in perspective of the larger society so as to encourage students from these marginalised groups to pursue higher education, without having to face stigma unfairly rooted in their identities.



Sept  
06  
2020

## Career Counselling

*How to study and prepare for judiciary exams*

We organised a career counselling session for students aspiring to qualify the judiciary exams on 6th September, 2020. The session was attended by more than 270 participants through Google Meet. The Career Counsellor for the seminar was Samirah Khan who has recently qualified Jharkhand Judicial Services Exam securing 32nd rank. She has also qualified for UGC-NET. She is currently pursuing a PhD in International Refugee Law and is also an alumna of Jamia Millia Islamia.

Talking about the strategies she herself employed to clear these exams, she encouraged the participants to passionately prepare for the judiciary exams and believe in being capable of being able to radically transform the system. During the session, she took several questions from aspirants present in the meeting and offered insightful answers to all of them. The session lasted for over an hour and had extremely valuable reflections for all judiciary exam aspirants who joined the session.



Ms. Samira Khan

Sept  
19  
2020

## National Symposium

*How to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL)*

We organised a National Symposium on How to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on 19th September, 2020. This session was organised through Google Meet where it was attended by 330 interested participants who made the session interactive and lively with their valuable questions. The speaker for this session was Advocate Anup Kumar who is an advocate in the Jharkhand High Court and Director of Human Rights Law Network. He is also the founding member of Pratigya organization and has filed several PIL's seeking justice for underprivileged communities.

The speaker, Advocate Anup Kumar, started the session by emphasising that the session must be taken forward through the medium of interaction and encouraged the participants to be an equal part of the discussion. Furthermore, he spoke about the understanding of law as a tool in a democratic republic such as India.

Talking on the subject of Public Interest Litigations, he said that such cases can only be filed in the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The provision for filing these PILs is given in Article 32 and Article 226. While filing a PIL under Article 32 has a wider scope in terms of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India, Article 226 holds wider relevance in terms of the subject matters that can be addressed through the PILs.

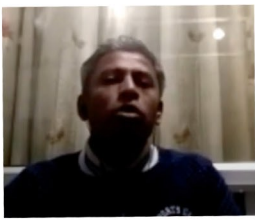
Article 32(2) confers power to the Supreme Court to issue directions, orders, or writs, namely Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Certiorari, Prohibition, and Quo Warranto for enforcing those fundamental rights and the speaker provided an in-depth analysis of these writs, during the session. The speaker also highlighted a crucial difference between Article 32 and Article 226 by explaining that while the Supreme Court of India can only issue the writ petitions when there is an infringement of a citizen's fundamental rights, the High Courts, under Article 226, can issue such writ petitions when there is a violation of an individual's fundamental rights and their legal rights.

Certain other aspects related to the filing process of a PIL such as the dismissal/withdrawal of disputed matters before the court, differences between fundamental and legal rights, the right to hold the government accountable in front of the courts etc were also discussed during the symposium. The participants engaged with these themes and were further encouraged by the speaker to exercise their rights to attain justice and equality. Furthermore, the speaker also spoke about the process of filing a PIL and how an ordinary citizen can also exercise their right to file a PIL.



Advocate  
Anup Kumar





Advocate  
Peter Martin T.J.



Mr. Solomon  
Okedara

Dec  
10  
2020

## Open House

*The crises of criminal justice system & the question of undertrials*

An Open House was organised by the Association for Parivartan of Nation on 10th December, 2020. This session sought to understand the crises of the criminal justice system in India and the looming question of thousands of undertrials languishing in hundreds of prisons of India. The session was moderated by Ilma Khan who is a Law Student at Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia. The speaker for the session was Advocate Peter Martin T.J. who is an Advocate at the Jharkhand High Court and is also a member of Hoffman Law Associates. The session was attended by more than 3,550 people through Facebook.

The session began with a bleak picture of the prison system wherein seventy percent of those in the prisons remain unconvicted and are currently under trial. This number has seen an increase in the past few years. The speaker outlined how the criminal justice system needs reformation at the earliest as the process itself has become the punishment for those who remain in prisons waiting for their day in court. In that sense, the principles of this justice system given in the phrase “innocent until proven guilty” seems like an oxymoron.

The recent cases of brutal treatment of undertrial prisoners were also discussed wherein the speaker dissected into how the torture that several people undergo in these prisons is justified in the name of investigating a case. This way of investigation is termed as a “primitive” way of investigation as it violates the rights of citizens. This provides the police officials with impunity from charges of brutality and torture as they can prove that this was done for a successful investigation into the case.

The speaker also discussed the ways in which the legal right to a speedy trial and justice has been violated by keeping undertrials in prisons without any convictions for long periods of time in the recent past. This is particularly seen in the case of political prisoners whose thoughts and ideologies might threaten that of the ruling party.

On the question of the compensation to prisoners whose right to justice has been delayed, the speaker highlighted that such a provision would work towards providing some relief to these undertrials who end up losing valuable time, money and energy in the course of the legal trial. This can be compensated for by the provision for compensation for prisoners who are kept inside prisons without any trial. However, the speaker also points out that the process of achieving this compensation itself is quite difficult and might not be accessible to a majority of undertrials.

In conclusion, the speaker highlighted that while there can be a solution to these problems, there must be a political will from the end of the state to solve the infrastructural and legal problems that emerge in such a system.

Jan  
26  
2021

## E-Chintan Shivir

*Decoding Whatsapp new privacy policy: Question of data protection and privacy*

On the occasion of Republic Day on 26th January, an E-Chintan Shivir event was organised. This event delved into the new privacy policy released by Whatsapp. It centred around the question of the safety of data and privacy of individuals under this policy. The event was attended by more than 690 participants. The session was moderated by Ms. Vareesha Irfan who is a Law Student at Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia and also a member of the Student Editorial Board for South Asian Journal of Law, Policy and Social Research at Foundation for Academia Innovation and Thought. The speaker for the event was Mr. Solomon Okedara. Mr Okedara is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and currently serves as a Legal Researcher with Columbia University in the city of New York. He is a partner at Solomon Okedara & Co. (a firm of Barristers and Solicitors) and co-founded Digital Rights Lawyers Initiative-a not for profit NGO that focuses on promotion and protection of digital rights. The session started with a discussion on what the ‘right to privacy’ actually means and how international laws recognise and protect this right from arbitrary and unlawful interference as declared by the Article 12 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Article 17 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Questions related to data privacy, processing, protection, spreading of misinformation and the misuse of data by big corporations were also discussed during the session. The speaker also addressed the erroneous notion of how developing and under-developed countries do not share the same privacy concerns as the developed nations by citing privacy legislations that have been passed in these countries in the recent past.

Highlighting the new features within the Whatsapp privacy policy, the speaker pointed out that under this policy Whatsapp will share the data of its consumers with Facebook with the consent of these consumers. The session also delved into how these policies might affect the electoral processes in different countries as it did during the 2016 election in the USA.



January  
**30**  
2021

## Career Counselling

LLM from foreign university and scholarship opportunities

On 30th January 2021, we organised a career counselling session on 'LLM from foreign university and scholarship opportunities'. The session was moderated by Saima Anjum and the speaker for the event was Niharika Salar. This prerecorded lecture was viewed by more than 5000 people across cities on Youtube. The moderator for the session, Saima Anjum, is a law student at Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia and is also associated with a number of human rights organisations in the field of legal critical analysis, research and documentation. The speaker, Niharika Salar is an Assistant Professor at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. She completed her LLM with a specialization in Intellectual Property & Technology Law at Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. The session began with a stress on the advantages of pursuing higher studies abroad as it provides ample exposure to students to different cultures and lifestyles. It is also beneficial to be exposed to different perspectives in a classroom where there are people from all over the world with different kinds of opinions and analyses depending on their backgrounds. It also helps in creating a wider network of job opportunities if one decides to settle abroad. Apart from this, there is also a large number of specific specializations available in these universities that might not be available in an Indian university today. This might be due to the better access to resources that students and staff have in foreign universities.

The speaker also explained the process of applying to foreign universities and how tedious it can get. Therefore, it is highlighted that it is essential to remain committed to the process and never lose the determination to achieve one's dreams. The documents required for the application process must be designed with an importance towards describing our own passions and interests and highlighting the reasons for why you are the perfect applicant for a seat at these prestigious universities. It is also suggested to form networks with one's seniors who are currently studying in these universities or have already graduated from there through social media platforms. It is essential to have these networks as they can provide the applicants with invaluable insights that one might not have access to, through other admission pamphlets etc. Various other aspects of applying and studying abroad such as, specializations in LLM, importance of Letters of recommendation, admission to integrated MA-PhD programmes, scholarship opportunities for NLU and non-NLU graduates, were also discussed during the session. The session delved into a well-rounded understanding of what applying abroad looks like for students applying to these places for the first time while also underscoring the importance of a good application to secure better scholarships. A resource pool of various websites that provide suggestions for a good scholarship application was also provided for the viewers of this session.



Ms. Niharika Salar







Prof. Pragya Parijat Singh

February  
**14**  
2021

## ASTITVA'21

*Women's right to choose life partners: Inter religious marriage & the constitution of India*

On the occasion of Valentine's Day on 14th February 2021, the Association for Parivartan of Nation organised an event named Astitva'21. This event was based around the issues related to the women's right to choose their life partners, inter-religious and inter-caste marriages and the Constitution of India. This pre-recorded session was viewed by more than 4700 viewers.

The session was moderated by Simran Kumari who is a law student at Faculty of Law, ICFAI University Jharkhand. The speaker for this session was Prof. Pragya Parijat Singh who is an assistant professor at the Jindal Global Law School. She secured her BBA and LLB from the University of Delhi and received her post-graduation in LLM from Cambridge University. She has been a practising advocate at the Supreme Court of India as well as a panel counsel for the Union of India. She has represented as a counsel in certain landmark cases like Decriminalization of Begging in Delhi (2018), Re- Inhuman Condition of 1382 Prisons in India (2018), Polavaram Dam Case (2017), T.N. Godavarman case on Forest Rights (2019) and Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India (2019), among others.

Starting off with an emphasis on the conservativeness of the Indian society, Prof Pragya underscored that the distinction between embracing one's culture and enforcing it through regressive measures has been lost in our society.

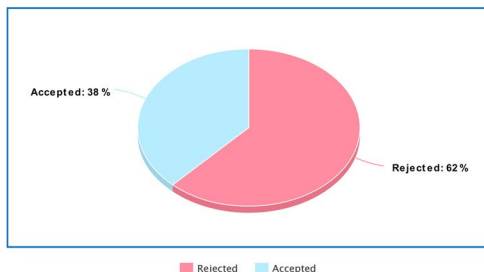
Furthermore, she talks about the fundamental right laid down in our Constitution wherein a person has a right to life and personal liberty which also provides the right of choosing one's life partner irrespective of religious or caste differences. She reiterates that despite the conservative social fabric of our society, the Constitution of India invariably supports individual rights of all citizens.

By highlighting the interconnections between the historical oppression of women and the demonisation of the minority communities by extremist groups, Prof Pragya elaborated on the concept of 'love jihad', a term that was invented and furthered by conservative groups. She says that this term has been used by these groups repeatedly to deny women their agency and autonomy while also portraying themselves as so-called guardians of the Indian culture and capitalising on the Hindu-Muslim divide for political and electoral benefits. She also talks about the role of organisations such as the National Commission of Women in instilling a fear of the Muslim community by passing misleading statements on 'love jihad'.

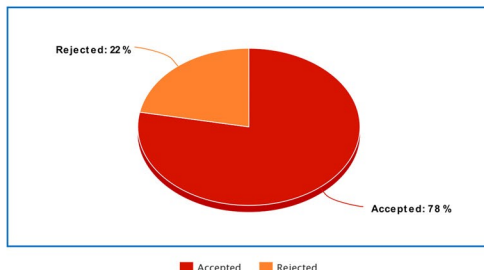
Through farcical claims of manipulation of Hindu women by 'deviant' Muslim men, the conservative Hindu parties have succeeded in spinning a narrative of hatred against the entire Muslim community which is again, used to deny women their agency and autonomy and can also have far worse consequences for the Muslim man involved in the union. In conclusion, the speaker stresses on the state's responsibility to identify its citizens as individuals and ensure that their way of living their lives, as long as it is not a threat to anyone, is protected by the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India.



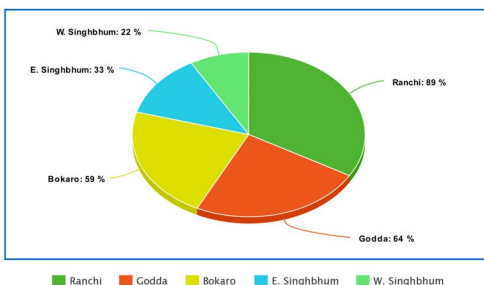
Acceptance and Rejection rates of schools for 7 districts of Jharkhand  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



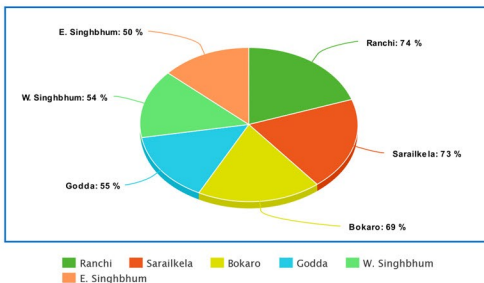
Acceptance and Rejection rates of schools for W. Singhbhum district  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



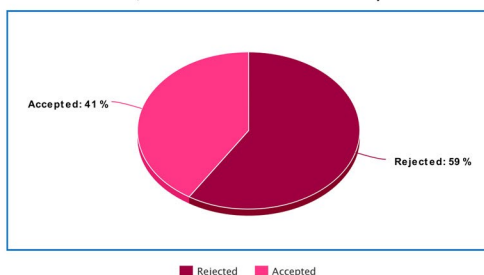
Rejected Applications Percentage  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



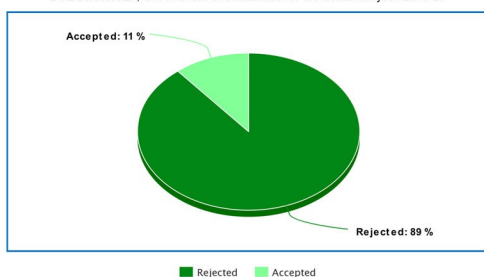
Vacant Seats Percentage  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



Acceptance and Rejection rates of schools for Bokaro district  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



Acceptance and Rejection rates of schools for Rancho district  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



## RTE Campaign

The Association for Parivartan of Nation undertook several initiatives to provide crucial information to families regarding the provision of the Right to Education. These camps were specifically aimed at creating awareness amongst the underprivileged strata of the society about their right to education in private unaided schools. According to the Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 states that “specified in sub-clauses (iii) and (iv) of Clause (n) of Section 2 shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighborhood and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion”.

According to this Act, private schools have the responsibility of reserving at least 25 percent of their total seats for students from marginalised sections of the society. The section aims to desegregate the educational opportunities available to students in India. Due to a highly hierarchical and differential structure of schooling in India, some students find it difficult to access education due to social, political, cultural and financial restrictions. By reserving a quarter of the seats in private schools, the section works against the aforementioned factors of these exclusionary forces.

While the Act itself is an appreciable move, its implementation has been faulty on several levels due to which around 60 percent of the seats reserved for underprivileged children in private unaided schools weren't used in the last academic year (2019-20).

### APNA AAPKE DWAR

A campaign called ‘APNA AAPKE DWAR’ was initiated by APNA in order to spread awareness about 25 percent reservations for students belonging to underprivileged backgrounds. Under this initiative, volunteers from the organisation went door to door in several marginalised localities, providing crucial information regarding the rules and procedure of availing admission for students in private schools. Under this initiative, the organisation was able to cover 2000 houses who could benefit from this information

### RTE CAMPS

Around 18 camps were organised in different villages highlighting the importance of education for students from underprivileged sections. Information regarding RTE and its different clauses and objectives was made available to the public in an accessible and simplified way. These camps were attended by more than 1500 people

### RTE MOBILE VEHICLE

A mobile vehicle with a microphone and a loudspeaker was arranged by APNA in order to strengthen on ground awareness efforts on the right to education of marginalised students. The vehicle covered several localities making announcements about the importance and objective of RTE camps and encouraged them to unflinchingly claim their positions within the education system.

### HELPLINE NUMBER

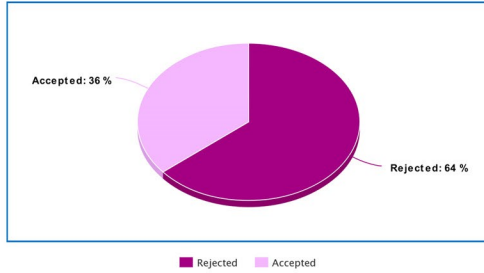
APNA also issued a toll free helpline number for underprivileged families seeking admissions in private schools for their children but finding it difficult to navigate through the admission process. More than 500 people reached out to the organisation through the helpline.



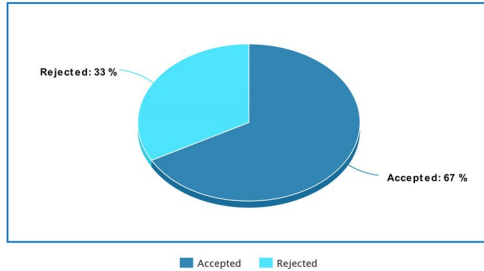
## RTE Campaign

This initiative is a step in the direction of making education universal and accessible for all sections of the society as education is a tool of empowerment that helps us recognize the inherent violence in the structures we inhabit and gives us the means to challenge them.

Acceptance and Rejection rates of schools for Godda district  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20

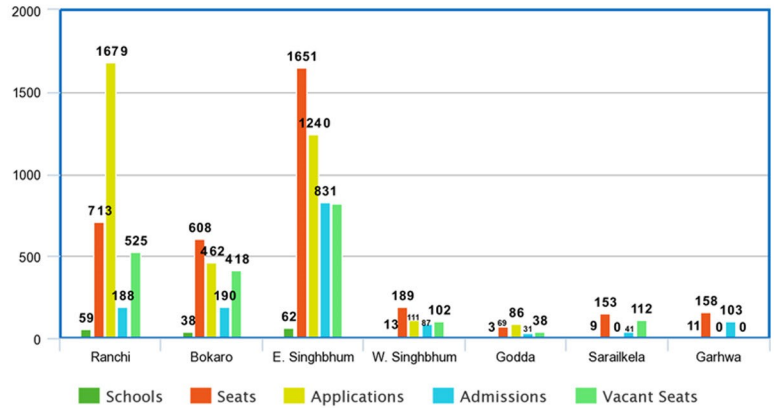


Acceptance and Rejection rates of schools for E. Singhbhum district  
DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



RTI reply on number of Admission under Section 12 (1) (c) of RTE Act - 2009 in the academic year 2019-20

DSE/District JEP, Government of Jharkhand for the academic year 2019-20



In seven major districts of Jharkhand,

**62% of applications are rejected,**

and

**60% of seats remain empty;** as per the RTI data provided.

एसोसिएशन फॉर परिवर्तन ऑफ नेशन



**RTE section 12 (1) (c)**  
**प्राइवेट स्कूल में भी निःशुल्क**  
**शिक्षा अधिकार हमारा!**

इस सुविधा का लाभ उठाने के लिए हमारे टोल  
फ्री हेल्पलाइन **993-99-79-888** पर सम्पर्क  
करें!



# RTE Campaign





# APNA COVID RESPONSE 2020

The onset of the COVID-19 lockdown in India in March last year, forced a large population of daily wage and other informal sector labourers in India, into conditions where they found it hard to fulfil their basic amenities and safeguard themselves against the COVID-19 pandemic. To address this problem, APNA started distributing masks, sanitisers, dry ration, vegetables and hygiene kits to people who could not afford to buy these. A team of volunteers at APNA ensured that these kits containing essential supplies were safely and responsibly delivered to the vulnerable communities in Ranchi and Hazaribagh. The lockdown upended the lives of many communities living on the margins and APNA believes that the rights and the safety of the most underprivileged must be ensured and they must be provided with the material means that they require to live a life of dignity.





# Testimonials

- Johar, my name is Shobha Hans, I belong to ST community. My two daughter Aradhya Hans and Aruhi Hans recently got admission into one of the best private schools of Ranchi through APNA. It was a moment of pride for me as I myself could never acquire world class education for myself. Due to financial constraints at home, we did not think that it would be possible for us to send our children to private unaided schools, however the extensive campaigns led by APNA in the city made us realise that education is the right of every child and a tool for them to rid the society of social evils. I wish to see my daughter lead a happy and fulfilling life and I believe that enrolling her into private school is a first step towards such a life.
- My name is Rajesh Ram and I am from Ravidas Mohallah, Doranda Ranchi, where I had first heard about the camps held by APNA on Right to Education for underprivileged children. I decided to attend the camp and found an invaluable piece of knowledge from these camps - that education needn't be a monopoly of the rich as long as we are aware of our rights. I received guidance from the organisation throughout the process of admission for my son. It would have been a far reality for someone like me who comes from an underprivileged background to get their children enrolled in a private school. I am extremely grateful for the aid that APNA has extended to my children and several other such children whose parents cannot afford to send them to private schools.
- Hello, my name is Md Salahuddin and I am the Mukhiya at Navada Panchayat, Hazaribagh when I first came across the COVID relief work that was being done by APNA. I am grateful to this organisation for recognising the challenges that arose over night for several of us following the lockdown. I believe that organisations like APNA are doing God's work by providing people with means to sustain themselves even as governments shirk off this responsibility.





# Media Wall

## RTE: रांची के स्कूलों ने रिजेक्ट कर दिये 89 % आवेदन

प्राइवेट स्कूलों में गरीब बच्चों के दाखिले का कानून फेल है झारखंड में

News Wing 05/12/2020



## 89% seats under RTE lying vacant in Ranchi: RTI

टाइम्स न्यूज़ नेटवर्क / TNN / Updated: Dec 6, 2020, 12:19 IST

OPPORTUNITIES OTHERS

**WEBINAR ON "LEGAL AID : LISTENING TO THE CRIES OF POOR COMMUNITIES" BY ASSOCIATION FOR PARIVARTAN OF NATION : REGISTER SOON!!!**

May 15, 2020 / DSV

OPPORTUNITIES OTHERS

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May 15, 2020 / DSV

## 60 pc seats reserved for poor vacant last year

SANJAY SAHAY

**RANCHI:** Even as the government aims to provide state of the art education to underprivileged students through the Right to Education (RTE) act, data revealed by the Jharkhand government shows that 60 percent of the seats reserved for them were vacant in the last academic session.

The government provided the figures in reply to a Right to Information (RTI) filed by activists. It stated that in the Ranchi district 74 percent of these seats were empty. The vacancies were on the lower side in East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum with a figure of 33 and 22 percent respectively.

For the 3383 seats available in private schools, 3578 applications were received by the government. However, 62 percent of these applications were rejected. Out of the 3,541 seats in seven districts of the state namely Ranchi, Bokaro, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Godda, Saraikela, and Garhwa 1471 admissions took place.

Many eligible families who pinned their hopes on securing admission for their children were sorely disappointed to find their applications rejected without any reason.

Among them was Fauziya Perween. She said, "We had filled the online application for our son Umar Farooque's

admission in a private school on the website dseranchi.com. We somehow had managed to gather all the required documents but my son did not get admission. I have individually visited the DSE office and schools very often and the authorities are still not providing any substantial reason for the rejection and no action has been taken so far."

Hasan Al-Banna, president of the Association for Parivartan of Nation and RTI activist said "The high rejection rate cost many underprivileged and deserving children their right to education and possibly their chances of a better future."

Section 12(1)(c) of the law clearly states that private

schools shall admit in class 1 (or pre-primary) at least twenty-five per cent of children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighborhood and provide free and compulsory education till its completion.

Swati Narayan, founder of 25percentin network said that the implementation of this RTE clause in Jharkhand is one of the worst in the country.

The activists said that the education department and deputy commissioners especially of Ranchi need to immediately initiate a transparent application process before the next academic year 2021-22 which will commence soon.



निजी बड़े स्कूलों में बच्चों को कैसे कराए दाखिला, अभिभावकों को बताया गया

## NGO rolls out right to education camps for Ranchi's poor

Initiative aims to help deserving families get children admitted to private schools



Residents attend an RTE camp in Doranda, Ranchi, on Tuesday. Telegraph Pictures

## Over 60 per cent seats, meant for the poor in private schools, go abegging

Rejections of RTE applications unusually high in 7 districts, including Ranchi



## Only 1 in 10 RTE school seats in city are occupied: RTI

Times News Network

**Ranchi:** Pinning hopes on Right To Education Act, Fauziya Perween had dreamt of getting her son educated in an English medium private school. It was under the provisions of this Act, regulations of which were notified by the state government. In May 2010, that her son Umar Farooque could have got his education free of cost. As per the regulations, she arranged for necessary documents and applied online at dseranchi.com, but her application was rejected without any reason being cited.

Umar Farooque is not the only

Though the RTI application asked for the status of admission at private schools in all the 24 districts, information was available only for Ranchi, Bokaro, East and West Singhbhum, Godda, Saraikela Kharsawan and Garhwa.

While school education department secretary Rahul Sharma did not respond to repeated phone calls, Ranchi district's superintendent of education Kamla Singh said, government had no role to play in rejection of applications. "The seats must have remained vacant because there was no application and if there were application they might not be full."

Law College

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Announcements

Webinar on Food Mountains and Lockdown Hunger: Policy Emergency in India

Association for PARIVARTAN of Nation is going to organize a Webinar on the topic "Food Mountains and Lockdown Hunger: Policy Emergency in India".

Date: 7th June, 2020

Time: 3:00 PM onwards

Association of PARIVARTAN of Nation





# Gallery







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WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT TO KEEP RUNNING OUR  
OPERATIONS. BE GENEROUS. IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE.



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