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MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE

I’m pleased to present to you all the IDIA Impact Report for the financial year 2020-2021. IDIA’s journey has been one filled with many challenges right from the time of its conception – from breaking barriers to inclusive legal education, to shattering the glass ceilings of elitism, to embracing diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. We have focused on i) reaching out to underprivileged and marginalised communities to sensitize them about the law, ii) hand-picking trainees with an aptitude for legal education to train them for law entrance exams, iii) mentoring and guiding scholars through their time in law school, and iv) mobilising students, faculty, and administration across law colleges in the country, among other things.

As we are learning to adjust to the new normal, courtesy the covid pandemic, we have found alternate and efficient methods for our outreach programmes. Incidentally, through our online sensitisation programmes, we have been able to reach out to more students than several previous years combined! We have provided relief material in various parts of West Bengal in the aftermath of the super cyclone Amphan and the pandemic. Amid the gloom of the current crisis, we have been pleasantly surprised with the success stories of our scholars and trainees. We would like to share our journey of these twelve months with all our well-wishers and supporters.

Wishing you all good health and safety!

Shishira Rudrappa
INTRODUCTION TO IDIA

IDIA Charitable Trust (IDIA) focuses on empowering marginalised communities by creating leading lawyers and community leaders from within these communities. Founded in 2010, IDIA has a pan-India presence with 27 chapters housed in leading law colleges and comprising of 600+ volunteers from these colleges.

Sensitisations and Selection of Trainees

Our volunteers travel far and wide to spread awareness about law as a career and legal education through “Sensitisation” sessions. They identify underprivileged students with an aptitude for law who are selected through a three stage process involving an aptitude test, an interview, and a background check.

Training

Once selected, the students (“IDIA Trainees”) undergo free training that enables them to ace entrance exams. Along with our training partners, our internal Training & Materials team provides them with mocks and materials.

Scholar Development/Making CHAMPS

For students who crack the exams, IDIA then supports their entire legal education and provides training, mentoring, and other assistance for the “IDIA Scholars” under the broad rubric of the CHAMPS project that aims at creating lawyers/community leaders who are Creative, Holistic, Altruistic, Maverick/Moral Problem Solvers.
COVID 19 & Cyclone Amphan Relief

IDIA
We distributed food and essential provisions such as rice, pulses, cooking oil, soaps, sanitary napkins, etc. in Sundarbans and Kolkata depending on the needs of the families in these communities.
Providing Internet Access to a Village

We helped in the construction of a tele tower in a remote village called Purbo Shreepati Nagar in the Sundarbans area to help make online education accessible during the pandemic.

Prof. (Dr.) Shamnad Basheer Night School & Library

In collaboration with "Prantojon" initiative, we distributed 300 books to make this night school and library a reality! We also donated bookshelves. Around 2000 students were benefitted through this project.
Sensitisations conducted in co-ed schools: 72
Sensitisations conducted in rural areas: 41
Sensitisations conducted in vernacular/bilingual schools: 69
Sensitisations conducted in Govt. schools: 81
Number of sensitisations: 37
People Sensitised: 16973+

Sensitisations in FY 2020-2021
As we moved to online sensitisations, we sensitised more people by April 2021 in total than in any other year!
A snapshot of sensitisations conducted in FY 2020 – 2021 across India
Radhika, IDIA scholar, belongs to the Kattunayakan ("chiefs of the forest") tribe from the calm, serene and peaceful Wayanad, Kerala. She is the first member of her tribe to crack CLAT.

The Kattunayakan are a particularly vulnerable tribal community living in South India with an estimated population of around 60,000 people.

During our visit, we interacted with the community, and understood about their way of life as well as the problems faced by them.

We have sensitised the students at Ambedkar Memorial Rural Institute for Development and talked about law as an instrument of social change. The students surprised us with their interesting thoughts on various social issues.
We reached out to 500 students in Latehar, a remote district in Jharkhand. It is located about 120 kms away from Ranchi and faces a high illiteracy rate and many social issues including trafficking of women and rampant child labour.

IDIA Alumni Yogendra Yadav also joined us for a session and shared his personal story. The students raised concerns about lack of resources and proficiency in the English language and we told them about the role that IDIA could play in helping them overcome these barriers.

There were many negative stereotypes about lawyers that we had to negate during the sessions.

We also talked about the wide range of career opportunities available after legal education which, invoked a lot of interest and excitement.
Trainees Information
From January 2020 till April 2021

Trainees Selected
83

Female Trainees
33

Trainees belonging to SC/ST/OBC/MBC/OEC Categories
47

Trainees belonging to SC/ST/OBC/MBC/OEC Categories
63

Gave law entrance examinations in 2020
18

Trainees joined us as IDIA Scholars in 2020
83

Had their vernacular language as medium of schooling
22
Annual income of Trainees selected from January 2021 to April 2021
Our Scholars Aced Law Entrance Examinations in 2020

Ranks 3, 5, and 48 in CLAT 2020 are IDIA Scholars

The 2020 Batch of Scholars comes from diverse geographical areas such as Masaurhi (Bihar), Wayanad (Kerala), Bahraich (UP), and Koriviched (Telangana). They also have diverse family backgrounds with their family sources of income including farming, small grocery stores, plumbing, daily labour and even forest dwellers. 7 candidates belong to SC/ST/OBC categories, and 2 candidates are persons with disabilities.
IDIA ENABLE INDIA INCLUSIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

Basics of using computers and legal database with screen reader technology
Gap
It is a delight to witness the growth of law students with visual impairment in the last few years in National Law Universities (NLUs). However, diversity in itself is not enough and we needed to dismantle the barriers to inclusion. One of the major obstacles to accessibility is the lack of skills in using screen reader technology.

Content
The training for law students with vision disabilities covered computer basics, advanced Microsoft Office, and the use of legal databases with screen reader technology.

Impact
The participants of this training are the students of various NLUs. Many of them are in their first year and this training helped them considerably in making proper projects, writing research papers using various legal databases, making excellent presentations, and in achieving their academic pursuits.
Attendee Experience

“It was ... tough for me being from Hindi medium student to cope up with the academics in GNLU and that too online. I am having difficulty with computers and researching with legal databases. I learned easy tricks and methods to read and navigate well using the screen reader... I thank IDIA and Enable India for giving me an opportunity to learn all of this. The trainers were very supportive and they used to explain all my doubts and give clarifications in Hindi also.”
Some Achievements of IDIA Scholars in 2020-2021
Yamuna, IDIA scholar, won 18 gold medals graduating from National Law School of India University, Bangalore. This is the highest number of medals won in the history of the college. She is now pursuing her post graduation from Trinity College, Cambridge University.

6 IDIA Scholars were selected for Harvard University’s Crossroads Emerging Leaders Program, which enables first-generation college students living in different parts of the world to be next-generation leaders.

Hope Foundation has awarded Jitendra Majhi with the Teacher’s Icon Award 2020 for his work with around 50 students from tribal communities.
Thank You

We hope to move onward and beyond with your support and good wishes!

Contact

Phone: +91 80 42197924
Email: info@idialaw.org
www.idialaw.org

No. E 1/9, Hanumanthappa Layout, Ulsoor Road, Bangalore-560 042