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We are proud of our students, hailing from diverse backgrounds, who secured admissions to prestigious law universities in India by cracking the most competitive law entrance exams.

The year was tough due to the pandemic. Our training was conducted online which means issues like digital divide, lack of dedicated space to study, unfamiliarity with new technology and other barriers emerged, which were addressed effectively in a timely manner by our team.

The average expense of putting a scholar through law school comes to Rs 5,00,000/- annually. Help us achieve our target through your generous support. Please donate now!
LET’S MEET SOME

IDIA SCHOLARS OF 2021 BATCH

Mrudula Manoj

Mrudula, a native of Wayanad district in Kerala, belongs to the Kattunayakan tribe (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) and falls under the Below Poverty Line category. She is the eldest among the children in her family and has two younger siblings - a sister in the 8th grade and a brother in the 5th grade. Her mother, who is a daily wage worker, is the sole breadwinner of her family. She secured rank 1 in the ST- Kerala state category under CLAT. She hopes to practice as a lawyer in her community someday. Mrudula is passionate about promoting justice and fairness for all and cites this as one of her major reasons for taking up law. She aims to empower her community and ensure representation for tribal communities in the legal profession as well as in broader public discourse. Mrudula likes to play sports, especially athletics, in her free time. She is currently studying at NUALS, Kochi.

Mayank Kumar

Mayank Kumar hails from Khagaria, Bihar. His father is the sole bread earner of the family and earns around Rs. 15,000 - 20,000 monthly through his dairy business and farming, while his mother takes care of their home. The preparation for CLAT wasn’t easy as the pandemic forced Mayank’s family to move to his village where it was very difficult for him to study in a two room house. He also lacked technical resources. His community stepped in to help him. One of his generous neighbors accommodated him in his house and another helped him by providing a laptop. Mayank gives credit of his success to his community and wants to give back to them. Apart from studies, Mayank also has considerable interest in computer programming. He is credited to have developed several softwares and a drone in his early school days. He is also a badminton player and has qualified for the zonal level badminton tournament. He is studying at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
COVID-19 RELIEF WORK BY IDIA

Distribution Drives

Through 6 distribution drives in 2021, we distributed essential provisions such as dry food items, hygiene products and masks that would be enough to sustain 2000 families in 12 villages for at least 15 days. As India grappled with the second wave of COVID-19, IDIA (being a grassroots community-oriented organization), contributed to the fight against it by distributing provisions in the remote areas of Sundarbans in West Bengal.

Sunderbans is an ecologically sensitive area and the plastic waste poses a serious threat. We incentivised people with an egg for a plastic bag and collected over 150 kgs of plastic from people during our drives there.

6 distribution drives  12 villages  2000 families

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**Construction of Houses in Beleghata Slum**

IDIA had helped the Beleghata slum community fight for their rights when they were illegally evicted in 2017. Our founder, Late Prof. (Dr.) Shamnad Basheer used to visit Beleghata regularly when he was teaching at WBNUJS, Kolkata. During COVID-19, most of them lost their livelihood and we sent them rations to help them get by. In the last quarter, due to the cyclones that hit West Bengal they lost their shelters. IDIA supported them by rebuilding 15 houses in the community so that they had places to keep them safe from climate and pandemic threats.

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SENSITISATIONS

IDIA MEETS STUDENTS

IDIA members from various Chapters in law colleges across India continued to reach out to students and communities to spread awareness about legal education and law as a career.

Here are some numbers for the third quarter of 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensitisations</th>
<th>Students Sensitised</th>
<th>Chapters participated</th>
<th>Towns/Cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>400+</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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SENSITISATIONS

LET’S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THEM

An Interactive Session in Haryana

IDIA Haryana Chapter conducted a virtual sensitisation workshop on 17th August 2021 for the 11th and 12th standard students of JNV Mahendergarh. It was heartening to see the curiosity and the interaction. The students eagerly wanted to know about pursuing a career in law and the skill sets required to excel in the legal field. They understood the support provided by IDIA to equip marginalized and underprivileged students to pursue law. Our team elaborated on the exposure that a quality legal education can give to the students. Examples from real life were narrated to sensitize the students about career opportunities that will be available through studying law. We concluded the session by telling about how IDIA supports and continuously mentors students to pursue their dream career in law.

Enthusiastic Students from Siddipet

Our Hyderabad Chapter spoke to 77 students from 8th -10th standard in RDF Matendla School, Siddipet on 8th August 2021. The session was interesting as it took into consideration the viewpoint of children from rural areas by expanding upon the career options beyond the well known stereotypes. This intrigued them and they asked questions about comparison between law and more popular degrees such as engineering. They also showed curiosity about the functioning of the courts and the judiciary. It’s always a learning experience for our team members to take part in such interactive sessions.

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IDIA’s aim is not only to ensure that our Scholars from diverse backgrounds get admission to top law colleges, but also to create community leaders and CHAMPS (Creative Holistic Altrustic Moral/Maverick Problem Solvers). Towards this purpose, IDIA develops mentorship and counselling programs along with trainings, financial support, and other holistic assistance to help them use their full potential.

**Welcoming the IDIA Scholars and Making CHAMPS**

We feel grateful to our senior Scholars, alumni, and core team who welcomed IDIA Scholars 2021 over an interactive session with insights about law college life relating to academics, extracurricular activities, English skills, personal stories, and a lot more.

Law college can often feel like a new alienating world and the IDIA family has come together to make it an interesting and learning experience for our IDIA Scholars. IDIA alumni Arvind and Karthika encouraged the Scholars to embrace their differences in the legal world where there are few people from similar backgrounds. Arvind encouraged them to overcome their fears and to participate fully in law college activities. Karthika spoke about her journey, regrets and joys; while IDIA alumni Raghvendra suggested that they shouldn’t shy away from seeking support and trying new things.

Raju, an IDIA Scholar who graduated from NLU Odisha, spoke about law as a tool of change wherever injustice is being done and the importance of understanding the practical applicability of laws at grass root level. Rinju, another IDIA Scholar from the Calcutta University, suggested stepping out of their comfort zone to tackle the challenges they will face as it will lead to self-improvement.

Other speakers also shared their journeys and welcomed IDIA Scholars 2021 to the family.
English Training session for IDIA Scholars with Visual Impairment

In association with Indic AI, IDIA organised English training classes for IDIA Scholars with visual impairment. The teacher, Ms. Hannah LS, provided the students with speeches and materials to listen to and read, post which they discussed and spoke about the material given to them. The teacher also helped them improve their grammar. We hope to conduct more trainings and workshops to bridge the gap that an ableist society inadvertently creates.

Mental Health Well-Being Sessions

IDIA has structured a sustained mental well-being programme for our Scholars. It will address the importance of good mental health; assist in identifying and mitigating risk factors for stress, anxiety, and depression; help in building mental well-being and resilience through emotional regulation skills; provide a platform for students to speak up about their challenges. It will enable them to get the most out of their academic and vocational training and develop coping mechanisms that will help these students live a healthy and balanced lifestyle by providing them with opportunities for personal growth and development.

Among other things, some common myths about seeking mental health help were debunked during the first session by the team of psychologists, such as: mental health problems are caused by personality/character flaws; people with mental health problems can snap out of it; and counselling is only for treating mental health disorders.
IN THE PIPELINE

IDIA is spreading its wings, and with the support of our enthusiastic student volunteers, and supporters, we are initiating new projects and expanding our reach. Here’s a look at two of these projects:

Project Lawgic

Law remains a mystery to many when its knowledge is crucial for all of us to enforce our rights and to contribute towards society. To bridge this gap, IDIA will start Project Lawgic to disseminate high quality information about the law among the citizens of tomorrow. The idea for Project Lawgic was floated by IDIA well-wisher and NLS alumnus (batch of 2006) Mr. Raghvendra Patnaik. IDIA in collaboration with Outlawed India will develop easily palatable and bite-sized modules for middle school children across relevant concepts and philosophical paradigms such as the Rule of Law, Federalism, Rights and Duties etc., along with practical modules of daily application such as Privacy, Right to Information, Freedom of Speech and Expression, and Equality under the Law.

IDIA's English Seekho Project

With an aim to supplement the mission of IDIA, we are starting a pilot project ‘English Seekho’ to teach spoken and written English to underprivileged and marginalised children studying in classes VI, VII and VIII in the state of Chhattisgarh. As Prof. (Dr.) Shamnad Basheer said, “Proficiency in English is not a test of intelligence, wit or wisdom. It is a mere matter of privilege and we want to bust this.” We are starting this project with the hope of bridging this inaccessibility by empowering and training children from an early age. Through this project, we aim to improve students’ proficiency in comprehending the English language including their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, and equip them with the necessary skills and confidence to become effective leaders in the future.
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Indian Citizens can donate to the following account:

Name of the Bank: Canara Bank  
Bank Branch Address: ‘Avani Arcade’, L-1135, 17th cross, 80 feet Road, Sector – 7, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560102  

Name of the Trust: IDIA Charitable Trust  
Account Number: 2673101012389  
Account Type: Savings Bank Account  
IFSC Code: CNRB0002673  

Payment Link: https://bit.ly/support-idia