

PROGRAMME REPORT

Awareness Campaign on “Legal Literacy for People, Planet and Prosperity”

Under the Aegis of JAGRITI Scheme

Topic: Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

Date: 17th ,Sept.,2026

Time: 1:30 PM Onwards

Venue: 5th Semester Classroom, Government Mizoram Law College

Organised by: Study Tour Committee and Legal Aid Cell, Government Mizoram Law College. In collaboration with: Aizawl District Legal Services Authority.

Resource Person: Mr. Zosangpuia, Assistant Public Prosecutor.

Chairperson: Dr. Rebecca Lalrindiki, Secretary Study Tour Committee .

Prepared by : S.Zonunsanga

5th Semester

Rollno : 36

PARTICIPANTS

The programme was attended by the following members:

Miss Rebecca Lalrindiki – Chairperson of the Programme

Mr. Zosangpuia – Resource Person, Asst. Public Prosecutor

Accompanying members/faculty members associated with the programme

Students of the 3rd Semester – Govt. Mizoram Law College

Students of the 5th Semester – Govt. Mizoram Law College

Members associated with the Study Tour Committee and Legal Aid Cell

The participation of students from both the 3rd and 5th Semesters provided an opportunity for students from different academic levels to learn together and interact with the Resource Person.

1.Introduction :

The programme was conducted under the chairpersonship of Miss Rebecca Lalrindiki, who presided over the awareness campaign. At the beginning of the programme, the Chairperson welcomed the Resource Person, accompanying members, and the students of the 3rd and 5th Semesters. She highlighted the importance of legal awareness among students, particularly law students, as they have an important role in understanding the law and spreading legal knowledge in society.

The Chairperson also emphasized the relevance of creating awareness regarding narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, especially among young people. She encouraged the students to actively participate in the programme and make proper use of the knowledge shared by the Resource Person.

2.Session by the Resource Person

The main session of the programme was conducted by Mr. Zosangpuia, Assistant Public Prosecutor, who spoke on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act). His session was conducted in different parts, beginning with an introduction to the subject and gradually moving towards the history, development and special features of the NDPS law.

2.1 Introduction to the NDPS Act and Court Process

In the first part of his session, the Resource Person introduced Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 to the students. He explained the basic purpose and importance of the Act and discussed how cases relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are dealt with through the criminal justice system.

He also explained the court process in NDPS cases, helping the students understand how a case may proceed from investigation and seizure to prosecution and trial before the court. As he is an Assistant Public Prosecutor, he was able to explain the subject from a practical perspective.

2.2 History and Development of NDPS Law

In the second part of the session, Mr. Zosangpuia discussed the history and development of narcotics law in India. He explained that before the enactment of the NDPS Act, 1985, narcotic drugs were mainly regulated through different laws, including the Opium Act, 1857, the Opium Act, 1878 and the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930. He explained that these earlier laws became inadequate with the development of illicit drug trafficking, drug abuse and new types of psychotropic substances. There was therefore a need for a comprehensive legislation which could consolidate the existing laws and provide stronger measures for controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The NDPS Act was consequently enacted in 1985, repealing the three earlier Central enactments. Section 82 of the Act specifically provides for the repeal of the Opium Act, 1857, Opium Act, 1878 and Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930. The Resource Person also explained that the NDPS law has subsequently undergone amendments to respond to changing circumstances and legal requirements. The official narcotics authorities list major amendments in 1989, 2001, 2014 and 2021

2.3 Why the NDPS Act is Different from Other Laws

In the next part of the session, the Resource Person explained why the NDPS Act is considered a special and stringent law compared with many ordinary criminal laws.

He explained that the Act deals specifically with activities involving narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and regulates matters such as production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transportation, import and other related activities, subject to exceptions such as permitted medical and scientific purposes.

2.4 Detailed Discussion on Important Provisions of the NDPS Act

In the next part of the programme, the Resource Person focused on some of the important provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. He explained the provisions not only from a theoretical point of view but also with reference to their practical importance in NDPS cases.

Section 35 – Presumption of Culpable Mental State

The Resource Person explained Section 35 of the NDPS Act, which deals with the presumption of culpable mental state. He explained that in proceedings under the Act, the Court may presume the existence of the required mental state of the accused, subject to the provisions of the section. The accused can rebut such presumption by proving the absence of the required mental state.

Section 54 – Presumption from Possession

He also discussed Section 54, which provides for a presumption arising from possession of certain substances. The provision is important in NDPS cases because possession of prohibited substances can have significant evidentiary consequences during the trial. He explained the importance of properly understanding possession and the circumstances surrounding the recovery of the substance.

Sections 41, 42 and 43 – Search, Seizure and Arrest

The Resource Person then explained Sections 41, 42 and 43, which are important provisions concerning search, seizure and arrest.

Section 41 deals with the power to issue warrants and authorisations.

Section 42 deals with entry, search, seizure and arrest without warrant or authorisation in specified circumstances.

Section 43 deals with seizure and arrest in a public place.

He explained that officers dealing with NDPS cases must follow the legal requirements prescribed under these provisions. Proper procedure is important because irregularities in search and seizure can become important issues during the court proceedings.

Body Search and Section 50

The Resource Person also explained the provisions relating to search of a person, particularly Section 50 of the NDPS Act. He discussed the safeguards applicable when a person is searched and explained the importance of following the statutory procedure during a personal or body search. Section 50 specifically deals with the conditions under which a search of a person is to be conducted

This part of the session was particularly useful for the students because it showed how procedural safeguards operate in actual NDPS cases.

Section 52A – Disposal of Seized Drugs

The Resource Person further discussed Section 52A, which deals with the disposal of seized narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. He explained the importance of proper handling, documentation, sampling and disposal of seized substances in accordance with the law

2.5 NDPS Courts in Mizoram

The Resource Person also provided information about the court system dealing with NDPS cases in Mizoram. He explained the role of the Special Court in NDPS matters. Under Section 36 of the Act, Special Courts may be constituted for speedy trial of offences under the Act, and Section 36A provides for the offences that are triable by such Special Courts.

The students were also informed that Mizoram has provisions and judicial arrangements for dealing with NDPS matters. A Mizoram Government notification has designated District Judge Grade judicial officers as Special Judges under Section 36 of the NDPS Act, subject to the specified jurisdiction.

2.6 Punishment under the NDPS Act

The Resource Person also explained the punishments prescribed under the NDPS Act. He particularly explained that punishment can depend upon the quantity of the drug involved, such

as small quantity, quantity greater than small but less than commercial quantity, and commercial quantity.

He explained that, for several offences, involvement with a commercial quantity can attract a punishment of 10 to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh. For quantities greater than small but less than commercial quantity, the punishment can extend to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine. The exact punishment depends upon the particular offence and provision involved.

The Resource Person also informed the students about provisions relating to attempt, abetment and criminal conspiracy, which can attract serious punishment under the Act.

3. General Legal Awareness and Practical Knowledge

Apart from explaining specific sections, Mr. Zosangpuia shared several practical points and general legal information relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. He encouraged the students to develop a basic understanding of the NDPS Act because drug-related offences involve not only criminal liability but also important questions concerning investigation, evidence, search, seizure, arrest, bail and trial. The session therefore provided students with both legal knowledge and practical awareness.

4. Interaction Session with the Students

After the main presentation, an interactive session was conducted between the Resource Person and the students. Students from the 3rd and 5th Semesters actively participated in the discussion and asked questions relating to the practical application of the NDPS Act.

The students raised questions (5 questions from 5th semester & 6 questions from 3rd semester) concerning search and seizure, personal or body search, possession of narcotic substances, punishment under the NDPS Act, bail in NDPS cases, the role of the police and prosecution, and the procedure followed by the court in NDPS matters. The Resource Person answered the questions and explained the relevant legal provisions with practical examples based on his professional experience.

The interaction helped the students to clarify their doubts and gain a better understanding of how the provisions of the NDPS Act operate in actual cases. It also gave the students an

opportunity to connect their classroom knowledge with the practical functioning of the criminal justice system.

The session was informative and engaging, as students were able to freely interact with an experienced legal professional and understand the practical difficulties involved in dealing with NDPS cases.

5. Outcome of the Programme

The programme provided the students with a better understanding of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and its practical application. The students gained knowledge about the history and development of NDPS law, important provisions of the Act, search and seizure procedures, body search, punishment for NDPS offences and the functioning of NDPS cases before the courts.

The session also helped the students understand the importance of following proper legal procedures during investigation and trial. The interaction with the Resource Person gave students an opportunity to clarify their doubts and learn about the practical aspects of NDPS cases from a legal professional. Overall, the programme helped bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical legal experience and increased the students' awareness of drug-related laws and their consequences.

6. Vote of Thanks

At the end of the programme, the Chairperson, Miss Rebecca, delivered the vote of thanks. She expressed her gratitude to the Resource Person, Mr. Zosangpuia, Assistant Public Prosecutor, for taking the time to interact with the students and for providing valuable knowledge and practical insights into the NDPS Act.

She also thanked the members of the Study Tour Committee, Legal Aid Cell and Aizawl District Legal Services Authority for their support in organizing the programme. She appreciated the active participation of the students from the 3rd and 5th Semesters and encouraged them to make use of the knowledge gained from the session in their academic and future professional life.

The programme concluded with a note of appreciation to everyone who contributed to making the awareness campaign informative and successful.

7.Conclusion

The awareness campaign on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 was informative and beneficial for the students. The session helped the students understand the history and importance of the NDPS Act, important legal provisions, search and seizure procedures, punishment, and the functioning of NDPS cases before the courts. The interaction with the Resource Person, Mr. Zosangpuia, Assistant Public Prosecutor, also helped the students connect their theoretical knowledge with practical aspects of criminal law. Overall, the programme increased the students' legal awareness and provided valuable practical knowledge about NDPS law.

ANNEXURE : PROGRAMME PHOTOGRAPH

Photo 1:Dr.Rebecca Lalrindiki (Chairperson) addressing the topic.



Photo 2 : Mr.Zosangpuia (Resource Person) delivering the session on the NDPS Act,1985.



Photo3:Students participating in the awareness programme.



Photo 4 : Group photograph of the participants.

