

# NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY



**TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMIES (SJAs)**

**[P-1254] (*Online Mode*)**

**(*15th & 16th May, 2021*)**

## **PROGRAMME REPORT**

**PREPARED BY**

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## **Objectives of the Seminar**

The National Judicial Academy organized one day ‘Training of Trainers for State Judicial Academies (SJAs)’ on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 virtually. The participants were faculty members of the State Judicial Academies from across the country. The training was conceived with an objective to develop a standard framework for Judicial training by structuring modern teaching principles and pedagogies with assistance drawn from in-house experience and domain experts; to explore new training modules for maximizing learning processes. The training facilitated discussions and sharing of information on principles of adult education, crafting educational objectives and organisation of course content. The deliberations also involved detailed discussions on designing curriculum for continuous training and impact assessment of judicial trainings. Training programme facilitated valuable exchange of knowledge and dissemination of best practices available for enhancing quality of judicial education.

**(DAY – 1)**

**(Special Session)**

**Presentation by E-Committee of the Supreme Court on eCourt Services**

The inaugural session of the seminar was taken by R. Arulmozhiselvi on the initiatives of e-Committee of the Supreme Court. The speaker explained various services offered by the e-Court project including automated Email services and SMS services for communication with advocates and litigants. The speaker then discussed E-Seva Kendras which serve as e-Reception Centre in every court to facilitate e-filing. National Judicial Data Grid and its various uses were explained by the speaker. The speaker focused on method of using the data on the NJDG to monitor the progress of cases in courts, for instance, the query builder format was explained where the causes of delay of cases in courts can be known. The speaker also explained the use of JUSTIS App which can be used by judges for maintaining data of their courts.

## Session 1

### *Principles of Adult Education to meet the Complex demands of Judging*

*Speakers: Justice Akil Kureshi & Justice G. Raghuram*

Justice A. P. Sahi, Director, NJA commenced the seminar and set the theme of the session. He introduced the resource persons for the session and deliberated upon the theme of the session and background. Justice Akil Kureshi then took over and stressing on the importance of judicial education stated that as judges we cannot say that we have full knowledge of everything. He has to keep on learning and keep his mind open for all subjects apart from law like medical, science etc. He stressed that opening minds of judges is very important for judicial education. He suggested that we can call experts in relative fields like child psychologists etc. to teach specific topics which will give judges a different perspective. He also suggested that cultural programme is also an important part of adult education technique and can help judges to understand things in a different way. He stressed the importance of openness, fearless debates, general discussions, sharing of thoughts by participants as important factors of adult learning method in judicial education. He also emphasized the importance of physical fitness for judges and suggested that during training we should take care of fitness of judges as fit body embodies a fit mind. Justice G. Raghuram then took over and suggested that till this day we are following the traditional lecture method or pedagogic method in judicial education, which all over the world now considered to be inadequate to cater the needs of adult learning. He suggested that it's a high that we need to move towards an andragogy method of learning which is more participative, interactive and problem solving. He also stressed the importance of use of audio visual tools and technology in judicial education. He suggested of creating common structural framework for all State Judicial Academies including the quality and capacity of trainers. He stressed on the feedback and after training impact assessment by the judicial academies. Comments and questions were then invited from the participants. Many of participants expressed their comments and experiences in dealing with newly recruited judges and senior judges relating to feedbacks, concerns etc. During the interactive part, Justice Akil Kureshi

agreed that nowadays time has come to train judges to bear the pressure of public perception. Director, NJA concluded the session expressing the vote of thanks.

## Session 2

### *Crafting Educational Objectives to Facilitate Selection & Organization of Course Content & Identifying Constraints Influencing the Design of Training*

*Speakers: Justice G. Raghuram, Justice Shalini Phansalkar-Joshi & Prof. Balram Gupta*

Director NJA set the theme of session and also introduced speakers for the sessions. Justice G. Raghuram expressed that no doubt newly recruited judges needs to be taught some basic laws, but this is totally departing from judicial education goals as there is very basic difference between legal education and judicial education. To avoid this legal education being done at judicial academy, we can make our recruitment procedure more rigorous to test knowledge of law. In judicial academies we should be teaching role of courts in democracy, hierarchical courtesies like precedent, independence of judge and judiciary, administrative areas that he might be required to deal, adjudicatory calls, management of bar and staff, emerging domains and local domains. He also stressed on importance of training of trainers in judicial academies. He suggested that knowledge is a progressive elimination of ignorance. He suggested that judicial objectives for induction training as well as for continuous judicial education should be clearly crafted out. Prof. Balram Gupta then took over and shared his experience of crafting judicial educational objectives at NJA. He said object of training should always be shaping good judges. He suggested various methods like mock trials, perusal of practical cases, quiz etc. as important judicial education tools. Justice Shalini Phansalkar-Joshi then took over stating that designing training objective is a very complex issue as you have high number of trainee judges coming from different backgrounds, legal expertise, judicial culture, experience. She stressed that helping judges to acquire new skills, tools, techniques, knowledge and making the justice system more accessible should be the object of training. SJAs should be providing different life experiences to the newly recruited judges to improve their understanding. She also emphasized the importance of developing the faculty in SJA and using the visual methods to lessen the dependence on ad-hoc faculties. SJAs should randomly study the judgements and orders of trainee judges to understand where the training is required to be improved and what

are the common errors which should be highlighted and addressed in future trainings. Floor was then left open for discussion. Many participants expressed their opinions and shared their experiences about objectives of the training, dealing with trainee judges, impact assessment etc.

### **Session 3**

#### ***Designing Curriculum for Continuous Training on Specialized Subjects***

***Speakers: Justice Sonia Gokani, Justice Atul Sreedharan & Prof. B. T. Kaul***

On the theme of Designing Curriculum for Continuous Training on Specialized Subjects, the speaker initiated the discussion by highlighting that legal systems are getting complex and globalized, hence, continuing education and specialized training in scientific and systemic manner is paramount. It was advised to take inputs from domain experts to design curriculum for continuous learning. Further, it was stressed that training programmes on specialized subjects must have a blend of hard skills and soft skills. Hard skills to focus on technical knowledge, build competencies and soft skills to focus on sensitivity and ethics. Further, the speaker suggested for multidisciplinary approach to holistically appreciate the nuances involved in deciding complex cases. For instance, while deciding resource person/faculty for training programmes on POCSO, psychologists can be of great value to enable judicial officers understand child behavior. *Aparna Bhat vs The State of Madhya Pradesh* (Criminal Appeal No. 329 of 2021) was also discussed in detail. The speaker also highlighted the significance of understanding social context adjudication with various examples. It was also suggested that judicial academies should start research cells to facilitate training based on utility. The session was concluded by stressing that the function of education is to enrich the character. What is needed today, more than anything else is moral leadership founded on courage, intellectual integrity and a sense of values.

## Session 4

### *Impact Assessment: Review of Judicial Training*

*Speakers: Justice Shalini Phansalkar-Joshi, Prof. Balram Gupta & Prof. B. T. Kaul*

On the theme of Impact Assessment: Review of Judicial Training, the speaker initiated the deliberation by stressing that judicial academies would get honest evaluation of training only if the object of the training gets transmitted to the participants. In order to assess impact of the training correctly, the evaluation and feedback questionnaire must contain open ended and close ended questions with the mechanism of keeping participants' identity secret. The evaluation of programme serves two broad purpose- institutional accountability and formulating the future training programmes better. It was suggested that the participants may be circulated with pre training questionnaires in order to gauge what the participants expect from the training. Similarly, a post training questionnaire to gauge whether the participants were satisfied with deliberations during the course of training. Thereafter, the significance of research cells was further reiterated in the context of collating and examining the feedback of training, thereby facilitating in designing the future trainings better. The session was concluded with the suggestion that judicial academies should collaborate and design trainings which can be beneficial on pan India basis, to achieve the ends of judicial education.

#### *Prominent suggestions by participants:*

- Designing common training programmes involving different stakeholders. For instance, training programmes for judges, investigators and prosecutors.
- Establish research cells in judicial academies.
- To have common minimum schedules for all state judicial academies in workshops relating to special laws.

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