

Report on Maharashtra State Law Teachers' Conference

ALC started functioning by admitting students to Semester I from the academic year 2005-06. In its very first year, the college organised a university level seminar on *The Role of Teachers in the Changing Scenario of Higher Education*. The organisation of Maharashtra State Law Teachers' Conference this year on 22-23 Dec. 2006 was an attempt on the part of the college to provide a common platform to the legal fraternity of the State to assemble together and brood over the prevailing situation. The field of legal education is witnessing revolutionary changes. Due to globalisation and amazing growth in the field of IT & Mass Communication, newer and newer aspects of legal education are coming to the fore. It is but natural that the teachers in the faculty of law must keep abreast of these changes and equip itself to face the new challenges. Frequent meets of the intelligentsia, academicians, educationists and researchers, members of the Bar and the Bench and the student-community should be organised to deliberate on the current issues. The present state level conference of law teachers is a modest attempt made by the college in this direction.

Theme of the Conference:

The main theme of the conference was *Challenges Before Legal Education*. The sub-theme included the following topics-

1. Recent Trends in Legal Education
2. Role of Bar Councils/Bar Associations in Legal Education
3. Alternate Legal Resolution
4. Ethics in Legal Profession
5. Role of Lawyers in Speedy Disposal of Pending Cases
6. Child Labour Legislation & its effectiveness
7. Gender Bias
8. Harassment and Exploitation of Working Women

A call for papers was given to the legal fraternity in the State. It is heartening to note that the response has been over-whelming and spontaneous. The organisers have received as many as 30 papers covering the theme. Delegates from every nook and corner of Maharashtra thronged Akola city on 22nd & 23rd Dec. 2006 to attend and participate in this historic event. Apart from local delegates, others from Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Kolhapur, Sangli, Nanded, Parbhani, Kandhar, Jalgaon, Chandrapur, Amravati, Yavatmal and Washim attended the conference. It was a galaxy of intelligentsia which included Deans, Principals, teachers, research and PG students and members of the Bar. The event has been called 'historic' because it was for the first time in the State of Maharashtra that such a meet had been

organised. It was indeed a proud moment for the Akola Law College which will go down in golden letters.

DAY ONE:

Inaugural Session:

The inaugural session took place on Friday, 22nd Dec. 2006 at 09.30 am. Dr. S. C. Bhandari, Principal of the college, welcomed the guests in his welcome speech. Adv. Rajendra B. Raghuvanshi, Vice Chairman, Bar Council of India, New Delhi, inaugurated the conference. Adv. Raghuvanshi dealt at length about the prevailing situation in the field of legal education in the country and traced the role of BCI in this regard. He underlined the need and importance of uniform syllabi all over the country to ensure mobility of students from one university to another. He also stressed the need of revamping the syllabi contents in view of the latest developments in the field of legal knowledge due to globalisation. He said that the five-year law course colleges having a professional approach have come to stay in the country. He said that the BCI was aware about the crunch of law teachers and promised that the BCI, in consultation with the UGC, would ease the matter.

The inaugural session was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. J. S. Watane, former Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India, New Delhi. Hon'ble Mr. G. V. Patil, former Vice Chancellor of Amravati University was the guest of honour. Both of them expressed concern over the grant-in-aid policy of the government to the law colleges. They opined that release of financial grants to law colleges would foster a healthy growth of law colleges in the country. A time has come when the central and state government should reconsider and revise their policy in this regard, they said.

First Technical Session:

In the first technical session two topics were covered.

- (i) Recent Trends in Legal Education; and
- (ii) The Role of BCs/BAs in Legal Education.

The session was chaired by Dr. Thrity Patel, Dean, Faculty of Law, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur. It was co-chaired by Dr. Varsha Deshmukh, P. D. Law College, Amravati. Adv. Chimne from Amravati was the rapporteur of the session. The following delegate-participants presented their papers in the session.

- (i) Adv. Ms. Anshumalika Shrivastava, Faculty, PGTD (Law), SGB Amravati University, Amravati
- (ii) Adv. Manoj Bendle, Faculty, PGTD (Law), SGB Amravati University, Amravati
- (iii) Prof. S. A. T. Subzwari, Dean, Faculty of Law, North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon & Vice Principal, S. S. Maniyar Law College, Jalgaon

- (iv) Adv. Pallavi Y. Wakte, Faculty, Akola Law College, Akola
- (v) Dr. S. C. Bhandari, Principal, Akola Law College, Akola
- (vi) Adv. Jagan V. Muthal, Washim Bar Association, Washim

Dr. Jayant Aparajit, HOD, Dept. of Law, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Law (RTM Nagpur University), Nagpur narrated the pathetic condition of law institutions in the state. He said that almost all law colleges in the state were under-staffed due to non-availability of qualified teachers. He expressed grave concern over the prevailing situation and exhorted the BCI to take suitable steps to ease the situation. He also emphasised the need of research in the field of legal education. He said that law teachers should equip themselves with the latest developments and upgrade their knowledge.

In her address, Dr. Thrity Patel, Dean, RTM Nagpur University, elaborately dealt with the recent trends in legal education. She emphasised the need of short-term certificate and diploma courses for specialisation to deal with the latest subjects.

Dr. Narayan Rajadhyaksha, Dean, Faculty of Law, Mumbai University, spoke about the introduction of regional languages in legal education. He said that he was not averse to the introduction of regional languages. But regional languages had their own limitations and, therefore, before introducing this experiment, a proper background and support material should be made available, he said.

Dr. R. K. Patil, Dean, Faculty of Law, Swami Ramanand Prasad Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, expressed his anxiety over the status of 'professionalism' to be awarded to the law course. He said that the universities regard the law course to be professional one, but the government does not consider it to be so. Therefore, a sort of contradiction exists in this matter which hampers the healthy growth of legal education. The teachers and the students are deprived of proper opportunities and facilities due to such policy, he said.

Dr. V. T. Chougule, Dean, Faculty of Law, Shivaji University, Kolhapur also presented his views on the subject.

Second Technical Session:

The second technical session was chaired by Dr. Narayan Rajadhyaksha, Dean, Faculty of Law, Mumbai University and Principal, New Law College, Mahim, Mumbai and was co-chaired by Dr. V. M.

More, Principal, Shivaji Law College, Parbhani. The rapporteur of the session was Adv. Chimne, Amravati. The topic under discussion was 'Alternate Dispute Resolution'. The following delegates participated in the deliberations and presented their papers.

- (i) Adv. Shyam A. Mohta, Akola Bar Association, Akola
- (ii) Adv. Sagar P. Bhongade, Faculty, PGTD (Law), SGB Amravati University, Amravati
- (iii) Prof. Yogesh Deshmukh, Jubilee English Junior College, Akola
- (iv) Ms. Deepali S. Gangane, Student, PGTD (Law), RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur
- (v) Adv. Ratna G. Chandak, Faculty, Akola Law College, Akola
- (vi) Dr. Suprabha Yadgirwar & Adv. Vijesh B. Munot, Amolakchand Vidhi Mahavidyalaya, Yavatmal
- (vii) Prof. Nandu M. Khirale, Faculty, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Law College (RTM Nagpur University), Nagpur
- (viii) Adv. Aparna C Panchabhai, Faculty, MKSSS's College of Law for Women, Nagpur

Third Technical Session:

The topic of the third technical session was 'Child Labour Legislation & its effectiveness'. Prof. Jyoti Deshmukh, HOD. PGTD (Law), SGB Amravati University, Amravati was the chairperson and Dr. R. K. Patil, Dean, Faculty of Law, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded and Principal, Narayanrao Chavan Law College, Nanded was the co-chairperson of the session. Prof. V. K. Paraswami, Principal, S. S. Maniyar Law College, Jalgaon acted as the rapporteur. The following delegates presented their papers in the session.

- (i) Dr. Sunita Adhav, S. C. Law College, Pune
- (ii) Adv. Suraj N. Jaisinghpure & Adv. Gaurang Kaushik, SPNALSAR, Chandrapur
- (iii) Mrs. Hema Menon, Faculty, Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Nagpur
- (iv) Dr. Sharmila Ghuge, Faculty, K. C. Law College, Mumbai
- (v) Shri Jagvijay Singh Gandhi, Student, Symboisis Law College, Pune

Plenary Session:

A Plenary session was specially convened during the course of the conference to discuss the formation of Maharashtra State Law Teachers' Association. Dr. R. K. Patil, Dean, Swami Ramanand Prasad Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, Prin. More, Parbhani, Prin. Joshi, Kandhar, Dr. Rajadhyaksha, Dean, Mumbai University, Prof. Paraswami, Jalgaon, Adv. Vijaykumar, Chandrapur, Dr. S. C. Bhandari, Akola and others took special interest in the matter and participated in the discussion. All of them unanimously agreed about the formation of such an association for the welfare of law teachers in the state, where they could come together to discuss their problems. Dr. R. K. Patil pointed out that such

association already exists and is registered in Marathwada. But many of its members have retired and the association is not very active. Therefore, it was resolved to revive the said association instead of forming a new one. It was further resolved to hold a meeting at Jalgaon on the second Saturday in the month of March 2007. Prin. V. K. Paraswani, S. S. Maniyar College, Jalgaon, volunteered to host the meeting. As an alternative, Dr. Rajadhyaksha also showed his willingness to host the meeting at Mumbai. Dr. R. K. Patil was empowered to take an initiative in the matter and give a final shape to the matter and convene the meeting.

Sugam Sangeet:

At the end of the day, a sugam sangeet programme was arranged after dinner. Pt. Sanjay Patki, a vocal artist from Jalgaon, was invited for the programme. He was accompanied by Shri Pankaj Bhavsar on Tabla and Shri Gyaneshwar Kasar on harmonium. They kept the audience spellbound for about two hours by their exquisite performance. With this, first day's programmes came to an end.

DAY TWO

Fourth Technical Session:

Prof. Anshumalika Shrivastava, PGTD (Law), SGB Amravati University, Amravati, chaired the fourth technical session. Prof. Dr. Varsha Deshmukh, P. D. Law College, Amravati, was the co-chairperson. The rapporteur was Adv. Pallavi Wakte. The topics covered during this session were-

- (i) Gender Bias; and
- (ii) Harassment and Exploitation of Working Women

The following delegates participated in the discussion and presented their papers.

- (i) Dr. Varsha Deshmukh Faculty, P. D. Law College, Amravati
- (ii) Ms. Aarti Kalnawat, Faculty, GHRLS, Nagpur
- (iii) Dr. Pankaj Kakde, Faculty, SPNALSAR, Chandrapur
- (iv) Dr. S. Vijay Kumar, Faculty, SPNALSAR, Chandrapur
- (v) Prof. Ravishankar Mor, Faculty, SPNALSAR, Chandrapur
- (vi) Ms. Sheetal Jadhav, Faculty, Shankarrao Chavan Law College, Pune
- (vii) Prof. Ms. Jyoti Deshmukh, Co-ordinator, PGTD (Law), SGB Amravati University, Amravati

Fifth Interactive Session:

The fifth interactive session proved to be a major attractive event on the second day, wherein Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. Dhananjay Y. Chandrachud, Judge, High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Mumbai, was invited to deliver a guest lecture on 'Challenges to Constitutional Governance'. The learned judge spoke

comprehensively and at length on the subject, underlining the need of constitutional governance in the country. He pointed out that the courts in the country were overburdened with pending cases involving petty matters. In more than 50% cases, the High Court was approached to intervene because some petty official entrusted with some duty under law did not perform the duty under law and had to be directed by the court to perform his duty. Such cases prove to be a hindrance in the process of law and disrupt the smooth working of the judicial machinery, he further said. They also cause a hindrance in the constitutional governance of the country. The learned judge opined that if every citizen became duty conscious, such unhappy situation could be easily avoided and courts could concentrate on other matters of grave concern. The Hon'ble guest speaker spoke about the hopes and aspirations which the Indian common people had in the judiciary. He exhorted the judges to be deeply conscious of the social background in which justice is rendered. He said that there are limits to law. Sometimes the law is much ahead of the times. Judges should realise this fact when dispensing justice.

There was a question-answer session after the speech. The delegates posed several queries which were duly attended to by the hon'ble guest speaker.

Sixth Technical Session:

The sixth technical session was on the topics Role of Lawyers in Speedy Disposal of Pending Cases and Ethics in Legal Profession. The session was presided over by the former chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa Adv. B. K. Gandhi. Adv. M. G. Mohta, President, Akola Bar Association was the co-chairperson. In this session, the following delegates presented their papers.

- (i) Prof. V. K. Paraswani, Principal, S. S. Maniyar Law College, Jalgaon
- (ii) Adv. Shilpa P. Sarda, Faculty, Akola Law College, Akola
- (iii) Dr. Yusuf Khan, Retired Principal, Govt. B. Ed. College, Akola
- (iv) Adv. Vijaykumar Singh, Faculty, S P NALSAR, Chandrapur

Adv. B. K. Gandhi, Adv. M. G. Mohta and Adv. G. K. Sarda also presented their views in the session.

Valedictory Session:

Hon'ble Mr. Khan Md. Azhar Hussain, Former Minister of State, Govt. of Maharashtra was the chief guest at the valedictory session. Hon'ble Mr. S. G. Dhattrak, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Akola presided over the function. Adv. Chimne and Adv. Pallavi Wakte presented a summary of deliberations that took place during the technical sessions. Adv. Vijaykumar, Dr. Rajadhyaksha and Dr. Yusuf Khan expressed their sentiments on behalf of the delegates.

Hon'ble Chief Guest Mr. Azhar Hussain praised the quality of papers presented in the conference and lauded the efforts of Akola Law College in arranging the convention. He advised the law teachers to brush up their bank of knowledge and keep abreast of the latest development to ably guide the students. Hon'ble Mr. S. B. Dhattrak, the chairperson of the session, spoke about the expectations of the Bench from the law students so that they may become efficient lawyers of tomorrow. Prof. P. D. Mandaogane, Patron-in-Chief of the conference and President of Akola Education Society proposed the vote of thanks.

Legal Books Expo:

One of the highlights of the conference was the Legal Books Expo in which the leading publishers of law books i.e. All India Reporters Pvt. Ltd. and Wadhwa & Co. participated by putting up their book stalls. The book stalls proved to be a major attraction of the conference and was visited by the delegates. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhananjay Y. Chandrachud made it a point to visit the stalls. The exhibition was hailed by the press.

The major features and achievements of the conference may be enumerated as below.

- (i) PG students were given a call to participate in the conference and present their papers. Student-delegates from RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, SGB Amravati University, Amravati, Swami Ramanand Teerth University, Nanded and Pune University, Pune attended the conference and presented their papers.
- (ii) With a view to establish a linkage with the Bar, members of the Bar were invited to participate in the conference. A special session was arranged for the lawyers to present their views on Speedy Disposal of Cases and Ethics in Legal Profession. The session was presided over by senior advocate B. K. Gandhi, former President of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa and Adv. Motisingh G. Mohta, President, Akola Bar Association, Akola. Adv. G. K. Sarada, Adv. Balapurkar, Adv. Shyam Mohta, Adv. Ms. Manorkar, Adv. Ms. Mitkari, Adv. Jagan Muthal, Adv. Niraj Ambhore, Adv. Chandrashekhar Bahakar and others attend the conference.
- (iii) The idea of formation of a state level law teachers' association was mooted in the Plenary Session. The teacher-delegates appreciated the same. In furtherance towards this cause, it was decided to convene a meeting at Jalgaon in the month of March, 2007.
- (iv) The research papers presented by the delegates have been published in the souvenir and which is being sent to the concerned teachers and authorities.
- (v) Many delegates were in favour of making the organisation of such conference an annual feature so that the law teachers in the state of Maharashtra can come together periodically and deliberate over the current issues.

- (vi) The conference was attended by Deans and Principals and HODs. They include, among others-
- a) Dr. Narayan Rajadhyaksha Dean, Faculty of Law, Mumbai University, Mumbai and Principal, New Law College, Mahim, Mumbai-16.
 - b) Dr. Thrity Patel Dean, Faculty of Law, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur & HOD, Dept. of Law, RTM Nagpur University.
 - c) Dr. R. K. Patil Dean, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded & Principal, Narayanrao Chavan College of Law, Nanded.
 - d) Dr. V. T. Chougule Dean, Shivaji University, Kolhapur & Principal, N. S. Law College, Sangli.
 - e) Dr. Jayant Aparajit Former Dean, Faculty of Law, RTM Nagpur University.
 - f) Prof. Ms. Jyoti Deshmukh HOD, Dept. of Law, SGB Amravati University, Amravati.
 - g) Dr. V. M. More Principal, Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani.
 - h) Prof. V. K. Paraswani Principal, S. S. Maniyar Law College, Jalgaon.
 - i) Dr. P. D. Joshi Principal, Shri Shivaji College, Kandhar.
 - j) Dr. S. P. Yadgirwar Principal, Amolakchand Vidhi Mahavidyalaya, Yavatmal.
 - k) Adv. P. B. Bagdia Principal, Late R. R. Vidhi Mahavidyalaya, Washim.
 - l) Adv. A. L. Jagtap, Dean, Faculty of Law, SGB Amravati University, Amravati & Principal, P. D. Law College, Amravati
 - m) Prof. S. A. T. Subzwari, Dean, Faculty of Law, North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon had given their acceptance but could not attend the conference due to other engagements.

The conference ended on a happy note.