

## **WEBINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ITS INTERFACE WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ARENAS**

In its endeavour to contribute to the discourse in the domain of mental health, the Centre of Legal Aid Programme, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi is organizing a Webinar on Mental Health and its interface with Socio-economic and Legal Arenas.

NUSRL, Ranchi, the 14th National Law University of India, was established by an Act of the Jharkhand State Legislative Assembly. Prompted by the vision of our constitutional forefathers that the law, legal system and legal institutions have an overreaching role of human, social, political and economic development of the nation, the University is dedicated in its endeavour to impart a holistic and inclusive education to the students.

The Centre for Legal Aid Programme is an integral centre of learning at National University of Study and Research in Law. The Centre is known to have been championing the contemporary and globally relevant domain of legal aid and awareness. Constituted in 2012, the Centre has been instrumental in organizing legal awareness camps and ensuring pro bono legal service for indigent complainants.

The Mental Healthcare Act had been introduced in 2017 upon the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016, after incorporating the human rights aspect of persons suffering from mental disorders which wasn't recognized in the prior Act of 1987. Despite the legislation of such an Act, its implementation under the existing socio-economic condition of the country seems to be a practical impossibility. In this context, the seminar on Mental Health tries to explore the issues and challenges regarding implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 and the present status of mental health care in the country, taking into consideration, the societal reforms, and the psychological as well as economic constraints.

The Medico Legal Seminar organized by the Centre aims to bring together the various stakeholders in the domain of Mental Health. Considering the lack of research in the medico legal domain the Seminar solicits participation from Mental Health Professionals which includes Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Clinical Psychologists and so on. In order to enhance the

diversity in the seminar, various experts in the domain of Mental Health Law are also invited to present their valuable inputs for the furtherance of research in this domain

The Seminar has the following broad themes:

#### Mental Health in Society

- Mental health and religious practices
- Gender differences in mental health treatment
- Issues and role of community in rehabilitation
- Socio economic constraints and stigma regarding mental health
- School as a medium for creating awareness of mental health and illness

#### Mental Health in Law

- Legal validity of the Mental Health Act 2017
- Ethics in medical practice of mental health
- Budget allocation and mental health
- Reservation policy and mental health

Note: The above sub-themes are merely suggestive, not exhaustive.

The Webinar shall be instrumental in bringing Mental Health and matters related thereto to the fore and encourage an informed discussion on the same.