



MAR GREGORIOS COLLEGE OF LAW

MAR IVANIOS VIDYANAGAR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Affiliated to the University of Kerala & Approved by the Bar Council of India

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

RESEARCH CENTRES: A PROFESSIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

Our specialised research centres, play an important role in our research and teaching activities in a range of areas of the law. They provide a place for academics, practitioners, and policy makers to engage on topics at the forefront of research and practice, on topics of profound importance to society and law. At these centres we use a multifaceted method of embedding the study of law in society and connecting theory to practice, focusing on the live situations of individuals subject to the law. A combination of legal analysis with perspectives from other disciplines, and the research done by the faculty members and research student of the centre becomes an aid or tool in enhancing the capacity building of teachers and students.

The objective of establishing these research centres are:

- To create an environment that facilitates research as well as ensures the required support through research framework and guidelines.
- To encourage empirical research among faculty and students.
- To conduct research activities, add on or value-added courses, certificate courses, publications etc., on varied subjects.
- To formulate policy documents and studies for the benefit of the community.
- To enter into collaboration with national and international agencies on skill development, research and courses
- To promote publication of research data beneficial for the students and researchers.

The activities undertaken by these research centres as part of fulfilling the objectives are:

Faculty Development Programmes on Use of ICT.

The college organised three development workshops on use of ICT, use of online platform for teaching and use of online journals for the faculty members of the college. Two **Faculty Development Training Programme on Teaching and Research** was also organised to enhance the capacity of Teachers on use of research to enhance the classroom teaching.

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Induction Training Programme for Fresh Batch Students.

The first-year students are welcomed with a proper **Induction Training Programme** organised by the Centre for Skill development to familiarise them with the institutional policies, processes, practices, culture and values. A workshop on life skills, stress management and anti-drug drive and other activities are also included. This gives a comprehensive idea of starting their academic study of Law.

Value added and Add on Courses

These courses will provide a value addition to certain subjects of emerging importance, though not included in the syllabus prescribed by the University. Due to the minimalist approach of the University in designing the syllabus of the course, skills sets required for the profession needs to be covered in additional courses to improve the competence of students. Therefore, these courses are an important in enriching the course content of the Law education programme of the College. These courses are planned and executed by the centres in collaboration with the premier institutions and industrial expertise of law, and certified jointly. Two courses were organised in tie up with **National Law School, Bangalore and Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai on Consumer Law and IPR**. One programme was conducted for the post graduate students on **Research for Effective Teaching**.

Legal Aid – Lok Adalats

The idea of this initiative is to make the students aware of the legal and social issues faced by a community in a welfare state, where all the government schemes are implemented. This helps students to understand how to find the problem and search out the solution, which the class room cannot teach. The major challenges posed to address such issues is the reluctance of the public to co-operate and participation in the Adalat. As part of this initiative, we visited the Pazhekunnumal Panchayat and organized legal aid camps in tie up with the Taluk Legal Services Authority to settle the legal issues related to domestic violence, family issues etc.

Promoting Research Publications

The Centres are encouraged to bring out publications on any latest aspect of law affecting the community. As part of these, three research publications are ready on areas of **Human Right Protection and Violation during Covid-19 Pandemic, Handbook on Arbitration and Reproductive Choice of Women:**

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A Fundamental Right. Apart from this, Centres also publish newsletters showcasing their activities every year.

Green Campus Initiatives – Eco Club

The initiative of the environmental centre is visible in the campus through the invoking of green protocol, making the campus beautiful and green. The campus is having a variety of trees, plants, herbs, shrubs and vegetable garden. The Green volunteers working in the eco club make sure that the campus is clean and environ friendly.

Student Outreach programme

As part of celebrating all the national and international awareness days, college students take up the initiative of conducting awareness campaigns. One such event this year was **16 Days Activism Against Gender Based Violence**, a campaign focusing on raising awareness about the violence against women in the college, including talks and awareness classes, panel discussions, survey on building safe spaces and an outreach programme on the various Gender Based Violence and the laws to protect women against such violence. The campaign also included a pledge to end violence against women and girls.

Seminar and Guest Lectures

Under the initiative of various centres regular guest lectures on latest aspect of law is organized for different batches of students. The Guest including, Judges, Advocates, UN Experts etc., from National and International forum share their experiences to the students on various developments in law and society, where the students get a platform to interact on the views expressed. Two National and International seminars was organised on the latest issues of social-legal issue i.e., **Human Right Protection and Violation during Covid-19 Pandemic Reproductive Choice of Women: A Fundamental Right and Environmental Crimes**. This gave a chance to 144 people to present papers and interact with people from all over.

Apart from this there are other initiatives like the documentary making competition on GI tags and impact on local communities, National Law Reforms Competition, Essay Writing competitions etc., are conducted by the research centres as their initiative to bring in talents form all over and provide a platform to discuss their research and get better opportunity of education to all. Thus, these initiatives fulfil the motto of the college, to impart right knowledge and teach them to utilise it ethically and righteously, for the men who uphold righteousness will ever remain immortal.