

## **Project with the Swarnim Gujarat Committee on Legal Reforms of the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU)**

### **1. Swarnim Gujarat Project on Speedy Disposal of Backlog of Cases**

The volume of cases pending before various courts across India is a major issue that needs utmost attention. In India, the courts are clogged with cases. The Chief Justice of India himself has admitted that the backlog of cases in India will take 466 years to finally dispose<sup>1</sup>, and that 10,000 new courts are needed for a speedy disposal<sup>2</sup>. As the popular saying goes 'justice delayed is justice denied'.

It is regrettable that some of the cases take around 15-20 years before they come to the stage of final hearing. There are massive delays at almost all levels of the case and the incentive structure of the various stakeholders is construed in a way whereby the delay in decision making is perpetuated.

The increasing number of pending cases in various courts in Gujarat is causing serious concern. In the courts of Gujarat, as per official statistics, there is currently a backlog of 23 lakh cases, out of which 22 lakh cases are at the lower courts, and more specifically, 10 lakh at the Magisterial level.

The Sub-Committee on Speedy Disposal has been set up at the Gujarat National Law University with the objective to contribute to the speedy and effective disposal of cases in the State of Gujarat. At the moment, the main objective of this Sub-Committee is to come out with pragmatic and workable recommendations as to how can the State of Gujarat reduce the backlog of cases by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

Ms. Kanan Dhru and Ms. Kelly Dhru of RFGI are part of this endeavour of GNLU to help ensure speedy and efficient delivery of cases and reduce the backlog of cases from the Courts in Gujarat.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7883750.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7883750.stm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1229040>

## **2. Project on Effectiveness of Government measures for the Reduction of Court Cases:**

The aim of this project is to assess the effectiveness of Government Measures for the reduction of court cases. Specific objectives sought to be accomplished by this project are:

- a) To assess the role of Lok Adalats in the administration of justice
- b) To assess the role of Nari Adalats in the administration of justice
- c) To assess the role of Fast-Track Courts in the administration of justice
- d) To assess the role of Evening-Courts in the administration of justice.

For the purpose of accomplishing the above objectives, the Sub-Committee plans to conduct an extensive survey targeting all stake-holders in all districts of Gujarat and would finally come out with a Final Report.

Ms. Kanan Dhru has been invited to be a part of this endeavour of GNLU to help assess effectiveness of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms to reduce the burden on existing justice-delivery mechanisms.