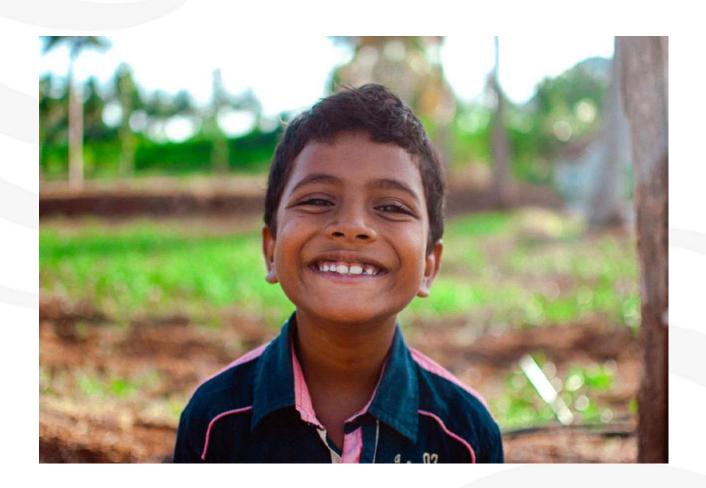
Annual Report

2022-23





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Email: info@haqcrc.org; Web: www.haqcrc.org

HAQ completed 24 years as a non-profit organization with a large vision and dream for realizing every right for every child in 2023. Having started its work in October 1998 and being formally registered under the Societies Registration Act in June 1999, HAQ has dedicated itself to the recognition, promotion, and protection of the rights of all children.

Currently, HAQ's programmes are focused on children's access to justice, especially through legal aid and restorative care, and children in exceptionally vulnerable situations such as mining and brick kilns. HAQ's thrust on children and governance agenda is a cross-cutting approach towards positioning child rights effectively in the national policy, planning, and implementation.

LEGAL AID & CHILD ASSISTANCE

Access to Justice and Restorative Care for Child Victims of Abuse

HAQ's commitment to secure access to justice for children continues with increased rigour through its project "Access to Justice and Restorative Care for Child Victims of Abuse". HAQ has continued to provide psycho-social and rehabilitation support along with legal assistance to children in contact with law in the NCT of Delhi. In the current year, HAQ extended its services to children facing mental health issues for reasons such as domestic violence, emotional abuse or violence at home or in school.

HAQ maintains a strong presence in all the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in Delhi and is called upon to provide services of "Support Person" under the POCSO Act on a regular basis. In 2022-23, HAQ received a total of 785 cases of child sexual abuse (CSA) forwarded by the Child Welfare Committees, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Police, Childcare Institutions (CCIs) and individuals. The psycho-social services consist of emotional and counselling support, educational and vocational training support, medical support, para-legal support, shelter-protection and financial support to the children and their families. Of the 785 referral cases, HAQ provided psycho-social support to 766 children.

Numbers Speak: Legal Aid and Child Assistance in 2022-23

- Psycho-social support was extended to 766 children out of 785 CSA cases referred to by the CWCs, CSOs, Police, CCIs and individuals.
- A total of 26 children were represented before various JJBs, Sessions Courts and the High Court of Delhi.
- A total of 32 cases were disposed, including 16 convictions, nine acquittals, four abatements and assigning of two proclaimed offenders while in one case the police filed the closure report.

 A total of 17 cases filed in High Court of which seven were applications to oppose bail, one habeas corpus petition, one age inquiry, one regarding Guidelines on Preliminary Assessment, one appeal against final compensation granted due to inadequacy of the amount, four applications to oppose appeals filed by accused against conviction, and two appeals against re-call of victims for fresh testimony.

Towards providing better services to children, HAQ continued and extended its partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders MSF) and Children First for mental health support to children and adolescents, Neptune Hospital in Malviya Nagar for medical support, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) for victim compensation and other legal support, Delhi Judicial Academy for judicial training.

HAQ's partnership with iProbono for strategic litigation at the High Court and Supreme Court level has been a great success where we have been able to expand the judicial interpretation of child rights centric litigation while balancing the rights of victims of the child sexual abuse through Writ Petitions. HAQ also collaborated with Amazon and Teach for India – TFI for training and sensitisation of students, teachers and auxiliary staff of schools on the issue of child sexual abuse.

Impact Litigation

Court on Its Own Motion vs. State (CRL.REF. 3/2016 & CRL.M.A. 16457/2022)

In the Barun Chandra Thakur vs. Master Bholu & Anr. Case, the Supreme Court asked the NCPCR and SCPCRs to consider formulation of guidelines for preliminary assessment of children in the 16-18 years age group who are alleged to have committed a heinous offence for judicial transfer and adult-like trial. Taking cognisance of the Supreme Court's judgement, the Delhi High Court suo moto sought replies from the NCPCR and DCPCR with respect to compliance. HAQ filed an intervention recognizing a need to ensure that the guidelines that evolve do not impinge on the rights of children in question. On August 23, 2022, the High Court allowed HAQ's impleadment to place on record necessary material and make submissions.

After filing an interim report, HAQ initiated consultations with various stakeholders and filed RTI applications to prepare a comprehensive report on practices in Delhi with respect to preliminary assessments under Section 15 of the JJ Act, challenges, and the way forward. December 7, 2022, was the next date of hearing.

COVID Sponsorship

HAQ, alongside the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Vedantu, jointly initiated a Sponsorship Support programme targeting children who lost one or both parents to COVID. Currently, 22 children, comprising 11 girls and 11 boys, receive educational support.

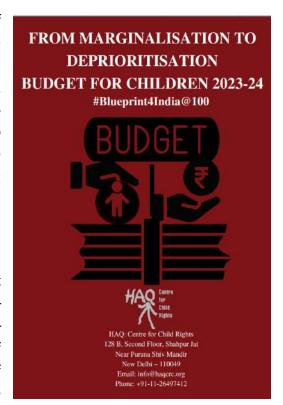
A total of INR 10 lakhs is required per year to sustain support for these children's education, efforts were made to raise funds for the continuity and expansion of this educational support. Vedantu initially contributed INR 10 Lakh to support 25 children's education for a year and is exploring possibilities of continuing support. While Mr. Donald Lobo's assistance of USD 10,000 through DASRA facilitated the programme's continuation into the second year, a crowdfunding campaign was launched with Milaap and garnered INR 1.42 lakh by July 2023.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

Budget for Children: Quick Analysis of Union Budget 2023-24

In continuation with HAQ's tradition of breaking down the seemingly intricate Union Budget into comprehensible information, HAQ published the quick analysis of Budget for Children (BfC) 2023-24, titled "From Marginalisation to Deprioritisation: Budget for Children 2023-24" highlights the share of declining children's share in the Union Budget which stood at mere 2.30 per cent in the Union Budget 2023-24.

A further breakdown of the Union Budget into specific developmental goals – education, health protection, etc. – enables an evaluation of the situation of children vis-à-vis the availability of financial resources in the country. The



analysis points out the inadequate allocations towards some of the critical flagship schemes like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and National Nutrition Mission. The analysis was widely shared with the media houses and CSOs. The analysis was also published/cited by Careers 360, Maktoob Media and Imphal Times.

Taking forward Budget for Children: Analysis of Early Childhood Care and Development Budget

HAQ: Centre for Child Rights collaborated with National FORCES and its state chapters to prioritize Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) across Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Delhi. This partnership delved into a comprehensive scrutiny of both the union budget and individual state budgets, specifically focusing on ECCD provisions and schemes targeting pregnant and lactating women. The consultations weren't just about analyzing budgets; they were a platform to strategize, leveraging the insights and expertise of local partners to create a nuanced advocacy plan. This plan aimed to amplify the voice for increased allocations and policy support for ECCD initiatives within each state.

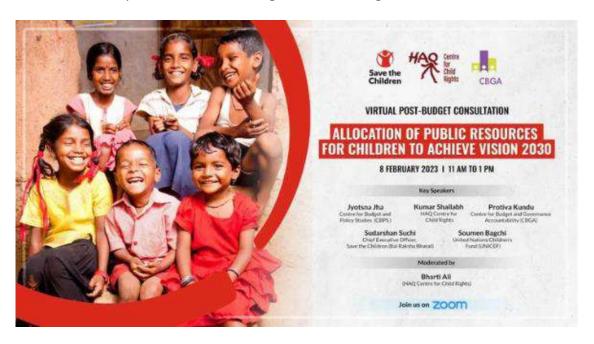


State-level consultations were a cornerstone of this initiative, where the FORCES state chapters played a pivotal role. These consultations facilitated detailed discussions, allowing the collective input of partners from each state chapter and the National Secretariat in devising a strategic plan for ECCD advocacy. The partnership between the Centre for Child

Rights and FORCES sought to bridge gaps in ECCD funding and policy, emphasizing the need for tailored approaches aligned with the unique challenges and opportunities present in each state.

HAQ's Budget Analysis focussed on the issue of Child Labour and Budget was presented during the Stakeholder Consultation on Child Labour Policy in India, hosted by ILO on August 8, 2022. The insights and analysis presented during this event shed light on critical issues concerning child labour and how budgetary allocations could effectively address these challenges within India.

HAQ also joined forces with Save the Children and CBGA for both pre- and post-budget consultations related to the 2023 Budget to scrutinize and propose strategic recommendations for budgetary allocations that could have a tangible impact on addressing issues of children. These consultations also served as crucial platforms to advocate for targeted budgetary provisions and policy changes focused on protecting children from exploitation and ensuring their well-being.



Children In Brick Kilns

The Roundtable held on December 7, 2022, centred around two pivotal themes: the Child Labour System (Abolition, Prevention, and Rehabilitation) Bill of 2017 and safeguarding the rights of children belonging to worker migrant families. Hosted at the Deputy Speaker Hall, Constitution Club in New Delhi, the event brought together a diverse stakeholders, array of including representatives from multiple campaigns,



CSOs, international NGOs, and legal advocates.

Notably, the participation of seven members each from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha added significant parliamentary weight to the discussions, fostering a comprehensive dialogue on critical legislative matters and the pressing issues affecting children's rights within the realm of labour and migration. The roundtable served as a platform for robust discourse, aiming to shape policies and initiatives that protect and advance the well-being of vulnerable children across these intersecting spheres of concern.



Brickwalled

"Brickwalled," the Bi-annual Newsletter, was disseminated to 88 Parliamentarians known for their active engagement in advocating for children's rights, particularly concerning issues like food security, nutrition, health, and early childhood care and education. This publication spotlighted the challenges faced by brick workers and their children, shedding light on their rights-related issues.

The Newsletter aimed to bring awareness among lawmakers about the plight of brick workers and their families, emphasizing the intersections between their struggles and

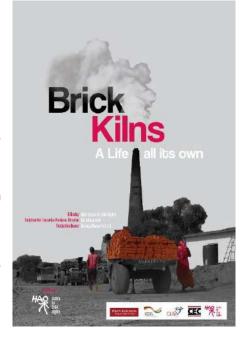


the broader concerns of child welfare and development. By targeting Parliamentarians who have previously raised questions on similar child-centric issues, it sought to engage and further their understanding of the multifaceted challenges faced by these marginalized communities. Through this outreach, the objective was to prompt increased attention, advocacy, and potentially policy initiatives toward addressing the rights, needs, and well-being of brick workers and their children within the legislative framework.

Three Films Around the lives of Brick Kiln Workers

This educational and motivational series seeks to raise awareness and instigate action regarding the fundamental rights—dignity, health, education, nutrition, and food security—of brick workers and their children. It targets key stakeholders, including government officials, kiln owners, contractors, and trade unions, urging them to fulfil their responsibilities in ensuring these rights.

"Brick Kilns: A Life all its own" serves as an illuminating portrayal of the lives of brick workers and their families, aiming to inform them about various government schemes and entitlements they are eligible for, fostering greater awareness among this marginalized community.



"Brick Kilns: Management can make a Difference" is an insightful documentation outlining the potential roles and responsibilities of kiln owners and contractors. It emphasizes the impact that their actions can have on improving the conditions of workers, motivating them to take proactive steps toward fulfilling their obligations.

"Brick Kilns: Trade Unions' Perspective" captures a crucial meeting between trade union activists, contractors, and brick workers. It showcases the pivotal role that trade unions can play in advocating for the concerns of brick workers and their families, underscoring the importance of collective representation and solidarity.

By spotlighting these diverse perspectives, the series aims to catalyse positive change by enlightening stakeholders about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding the rights and well-being of brick workers and their children, fostering a more informed and engaged approach towards addressing these critical issues. These films were also submitted at the 11th Aarogya Film Festival.

Children in Mining Areas

The National Consultation on Impact of Mining on Children and the Functioning of District Mineral Foundation Trust "SAMVAAD II" held on December 22, 2022, convened a diverse spectrum of stakeholders at the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra in New Delhi. The gathering encompassed 41 participants, representing various critical sectors, including the CSOs, the government, the media, mining affected communities, and trade unions. The inclusion of a mine supervisor added an invaluable perspective from the field, as he reported on the realities and challenges within the mining sector. This consultation was a crucial forum

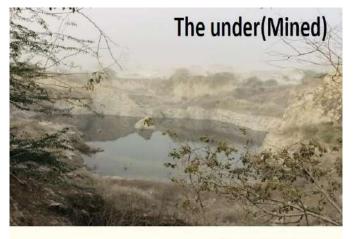


for comprehensive discussions, bridging perspectives and expertise from different spheres to address issues pertinent to mining-affected communities and laborers, aiming to formulate inclusive and effective strategies for positive change.



The under (Mined)

The Annual Newsletter focusing on mining-affected communities. particularly emphasizing the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) and the utilization of DMFT funds for the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), specifically targeting the welfare of women and children, was circulated to 71 Parliamentarians. This specific group of lawmakers has been



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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identified for raising pertinent questions concerning the impact of mining activities on children and their communities, as well as inquiries related to the functioning of the DMFT. The newsletter aims to highlight the significance of the DMFT and its role in addressing the socio-economic needs of communities affected by mining, especially focusing on women and children as a high-priority area within the PMKKKY framework. By disseminating this newsletter, the intention was to keep Parliamentarians informed about the developments, challenges, and potential solutions pertaining to the utilization of DMFT funds for the welfare of mining-affected communities, particularly underscoring the importance of prioritizing the well-being of women and children within this context.

CRC Alternate Report

HAQ assumed the critical role of Secretariat for the CRC Alternate Report, bolstered by a Core Group including Karuna Bishnoi, Enakshi Ganguly, Shailabh, Nicole Menezes (Leher), Swagata Raha (Enfold), and Arlene Manoharan (Enfold). Their primary mandate involved orchestrating seamless coordination between core group members and Regional Coordinators for both regional and national-level processes.

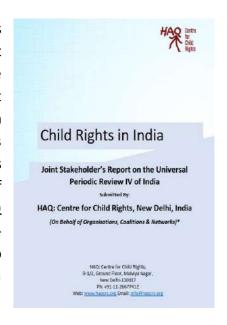
Financial support for this initiative materialized through diverse channels: Regional Coordinators received funding from tdh (Germany), while the Secretariat secured funds from UNICEF. Additionally, CRY contributed seed money of INR 1 lakh, enhancing the initiative's resources for comprehensive coverage and impactful outcomes.

Despite the challenge in recruiting a suitable Principal Researcher cum Coordinator, HAQ adopted a strategic approach by engaging subject experts renowned in their respective fields. These experts, including Dr. Vandana Prasad, Dr. Dipa Sinha, Ms. Mridusmita Bordoloi, Ms. Radhika Alkazi, Mr. Siddharth Pillai from RATI Foundation, and Mr. CJ George, committed to contributing chapters focused on specific domains such as Child and Adolescent Health, Nutrition and Food Security, School Education, Rights of Children with Disabilities, Child Online Safety, and Children's Ecological Rights within the CRC Alternate Report.

This collaborative effort aims to infuse multidimensional expertise into the report, ensuring a comprehensive and nuanced exploration of diverse aspects impacting children's rights and well-being, enriching the discourse and recommendations put forth within the report.

Universal Periodic Review Report of India

As a charter member and one of the founding entities of the Working Group on Human Rights (WGHR) at India & the UN, HAQ actively participated in the preparation and submission of the Stakeholders' Report to the UNHRC for India's Fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This comprehensive report outlined numerous recommendations aimed at enhancing the status of child rights within the country. Moreover, HAQ played a pivotal role in contributing to the UPR Mid-Term Report, further underscoring its commitment to advocating for the improvement of child rights in India across various platforms.



Particularly notable was HAQ's involvement in the UPR Pre-Session held in Geneva

from August 29th to 31st, 2022. HAQ contributed as part of the delegation comprising representatives from Civil Society Organisations, assuming a position within the panel of speakers specifically focusing on the thematic area of child rights. This engagement allowed HAQ to address pertinent issues, share insights, and advocate for critical improvements in child rights during the preparatory sessions leading up to India's UPR review at the UNHRC.

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

Promoting and Improving Children's Access to Justice

The project's implementation strategy involves strategic partnerships with State and District Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and Juvenile Justice Committees (HCJJCs) across eight districts in four states. Progress has been initiated through communication channels, including emails sent to the concerned HCJJCs and SLSAs, aiming to introduce and gain support for the project.

An online meeting successfully took place with the Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir HCJJC, resulting in preliminary approval and a commitment to offer support for the project. Additionally, an online presentation about the project was shared with representatives of the Madhya Pradesh HCJJC and MPSLSA, paving the way for a detailed project proposal to be forwarded to the Chairpersons of the MP HCJJC and MPSLSA for further consideration and action. This preliminary groundwork signifies a positive step toward securing support and collaboration from key stakeholders across these states and districts for the successful execution of the project.

Capacity Building of Stakeholders

Trainings in association with CSJ

CWCs - 50

Probation Officers and Social Workers – 50

> Trainings in association with Inner Hour

Counsellors/Psychologist and Psychiatrist-30

Trainings in Schools

Students – 1916 Teaching and Auxiliary Staff – 460

> Trainings in CCIs

Children – 49 Staff – 35

Trainings in association with DCPCR

DANICS Probationers on various issues pertaining to child rights – 25

> Trainings in association with Delhi Judicial Academy

ASJs (POCSO)/ASJs (FTSC) (POCSO)/ASJs (SC) (POCSO) / ASJs (SFTCs) / ASJs (FTSC) (RC), Public Prosecutors, Police Officials & Support Persons—150

Trainings in association with Child Resource Centre, Jaipur

State Resource Group (Jodhpur) – 30 State Resource Group (Jaipur) – 30 Childline- 40

> Trainings in association with Malala Fund partners

Staff of NGOs, School Students, Teachers, Ancillary staff, and Community Members on Refresher Training on dealing with mental well-being of children during COVID times - 110

➤ Trainings in association with Gujarat Judicial Academy and UNICEF JJB chairpersons — 33

➤ Trainings in association with MP State WCD and UNICEF CWC & JJB Members – 75

Trainings in association with West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Kolkata
Students

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration with Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) #ChildLabourFreeIndia - 12 June 2022

In recognition of the World Day against Child Labour on June 12, 2022, HAQ partnered with CACL for a 44-day online campaign aimed at addressing child labour issues. This initiative provided a platform for 34 children from 18 states across India to articulate their dreams and aspirations through storytelling and various art forms. Eminent panellists engaged with these children, offering insights and support while amplifying their voices to raise awareness about the challenges and aspirations of children affected by child labour.



Collaboration with Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR)

The seminar on "POCSO Act and the Age of Consent: A Dilemma" focused on deliberating the complexities surrounding the POCSO Act and the intricate issue of determining the age of consent in cases of sexual offenses involving minors. It brought together legal experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the challenges and nuances within this realm.

Additionally, the seminar addressing the Rehabilitation of Survivors under the POCSO Act aimed to highlight and strategize effective mechanisms for the holistic rehabilitation of



survivors of sexual abuse, emphasizing their psychological, social, and legal needs.

The colloquium on Child Rights Strategic Litigation provided a platform for legal professionals and advocates to exchange insights and best practices in leveraging strategic litigation for the advancement and protection of children's rights within the legal framework. It explored innovative approaches to using litigation as a tool for systemic change and enhancing the enforcement of child rights laws.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Revised Guidelines for Recording of Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses

As part of a working group established by Justice Gita Mittal following directives from the Supreme Court in Smruti Tukaram Badade v. State of Maharashtra [2022 LiveLaw (SC) 80], HAQ contributed to the revision of guidelines for recording evidence of vulnerable witnesses. The focus was on enhancing the procedures and protocols to ensure a more supportive and conducive environment for vulnerable witnesses, particularly in cases involving children, enabling more effective and sensitive handling of their testimony within the legal system.

Training and Mentoring APF Partners to provide Support Person services under the POCSO Act

Six APF partner organisations from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Odisha underwent an orientation on casework management approach and providing support person services to children under the POCSO Act to plan their own interventions. Programme was held in Delhi from 21-24 September 2022.

Building A Better World for Our Children

Addressed youth associated with the Indian Youth Federation on formation and orientation of child protection committees at grass-root level as part of the International Youth Day celebrations and a campaign titled, "Surokshito Shaishab", initiated by the youth with support from SPAN, West Bengal.

INTERNSHIP REQUESTS

- Azim Premji University
- Dr. BR Ambedkar University
- Jindal Global Law School
- Jamia Millia Islamia
- Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

- National Law University, Odisha
- Sushant University, Gurgaon

CHANGES AT HAQ

People Who left	New Team Members
Ms. Manisha Verma	Ms. Jinti Sarma
Mr. Kailash	Ms. Shivangana Mena
Ms. Saine Paul	Mr. Sanjay Singh
Ms. Sidra Khan	Ms. Jasleen Kaur
Ms. Urmi Chudgar	Ms. Tejaswinee Hazarika
Ms. Sunaina Tourangbam	Ms. Sona
Ms. Harshita Nayyar	Ms. Gulnaz Khan
	Ms. Svetlana S. Correya
	Mr. Shiv Pratap Singh
	Ms. Ankita Wilson
	Mr. Vineet Dwivedi

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT ΔT **WORKPLACE**

Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at HAQ was initially formed in the year 2008, the current committee stands reconstituted w.e.f. 20.08.2022 for a period of three years, ending 19.08.2025. The current ICC members are:

Dr. Kavita Mangnani Phone: +917742456150 Email: kavita@haqcrc.org

Ms. Uzma Parveen Phone: +918860864244 Email: uzma@haqcrc.org

Mr. Dhanpal

Phone: +919990028838 Email: dhanpal@hagcrc.org

Dr. Bharti Sharma Phone: +919811390630 Email: bharti41@gmail.com

Advocate Ali Chaudhary Phone: +919711417359

Email: alichaudhary56@gmail.com











Activities:

- No. of Complaints Received NIL
- No. of Inquiries initiated NA
- Inquiries completed NA
- Inquiries Pending NA
- Reasons for pendency NA
- Training on POSH Act (Online), May 15, 2022 for all staff. Facilitated by Advocate (Ms.) Tara Narula

The policy can be accessed at https://www.haqcrc.org/new-at-haq/gender-policy/

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

The Child Protection Committee at HAQ: Centre for Child Rights stands constituted w.e.f. 22.08.2022 for a period of three years, ending 21.08.2025. The CPC consists of the following members:

Advocate. Svetlana Correya Phone: +919599768103 Email: svetlana@haqcrc.org

Mr. Dhanpal

Phone: +919990028838 Email: dhanpal@hagcrc.org

Dr. Bharti Sharma Phone: +919811390630 Email: bharti41@gmail.com



Activities:

- No. of Complaints Received NIL
- No. of Inquiries initiated NA
- Inquiries completed NA
- Inquiries Pending NA
- Reasons for pendency NA
- Training on Understanding

 Fundamentals of Law and Justice: A
 Legal Literacy Workshop (Online), 16
 25 May, 2022 for all staff. Facilitated
 Advocate (Ms.) Abha Singhal Joshi