

GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR DISTRICT JAIL VISIT, LUKSAR, UTTAR PRADESH

4th and 5th October 2021

ABSTRACT:

This event was conducted by The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in collaboration with Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Noida. It was a two-day visit to the District jail to make observations and get surveys filled based on on-ground realities to acknowledge and address issues faced inside the premises.

CONDUCTED BY:

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Legal Aid Centre,
Symbiosis Law School,
Noida

and District Legal Service Authority

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF:

Ms. Charvi Kumar

Head - Legal Aid Centre,
Symbiosis Law School,
Noida

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS:

Vibhuti Rao

Bhavya Vijay Lakshmi

Pravar Dennison

Vidisha Mathur

Nandeesh Nanda

1. Concept Note

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducts various awareness programmes and jail visit collaborations to sensitise the society towards a plethora of legal and social issues. As an extension of such initiatives I, student of the college and a Volunteer at Legal Aid Centre attended a two-day long jail visit on 4th and 5th October 2021 wherein with members of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, prisoners and undertrials were observed and survey responses were recorded.

The local innumerable cases of justice being inaccessible to various backgrounds of individuals is no hidden plot. Measures have been taken to mitigate this difference and extend Free legal aid in such situations but there is still a long way to go. This has seen a further increase with the ongoing COVID - 19 pandemic situation and hence such collaborations are good for effective on ground difference making and practical learning for students of law schools.

2. Objectives

- To get acquainted with the procedure and conduct inside the jail premises.
- To ensure that the rights of the inmates are not violated.
- To get surveys filled to assess and analyse real problems faced.
- To conduct interviews of inmates.
- To observe how virtual court proceedings take place during the time of the Covid 19 pandemic.



3. Preliminary Preparations

- Understanding the various laws and manuals which protects the rights of the inmates. In order to achieve this we were asked to go through UP Jail Manual, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, India Prisons Act, 1870.
- Thorough reading of survey questions to be asked to inmates
- Ensuring compliance with Covid-19 protocol.



4. Conducting the Program

The two-day jail visit was conducted by CHRI and several observations were made in the course of it. The volunteers displayed a dedicated and unified learning front to observe and learn as much as possible. It included meeting the superintendent, taking rounds of the male and female barracks, library, common meetings areas, virtual court proceedings setup, hospital, recreational facilities. Several interviews were taken and survey forms were filled to ensure proper follow ups of specific cases which were raised.

5. Future plan of action

A range of activities as future plan of actions were discussed and are as follows :

- Following up on the responses of specific cases filled in survey forms
- Forwarding details of ill practices not following procedure established by law in the prison.
- Cross checking of data found online and jail website with actual on ground realities

- Informing the DLSA Judge of the findings during the course of the two-day visit
- Keeping in touch with CHRI members for similar collaborations in the future to gain more insights.

6. Suggestions/ Feedback

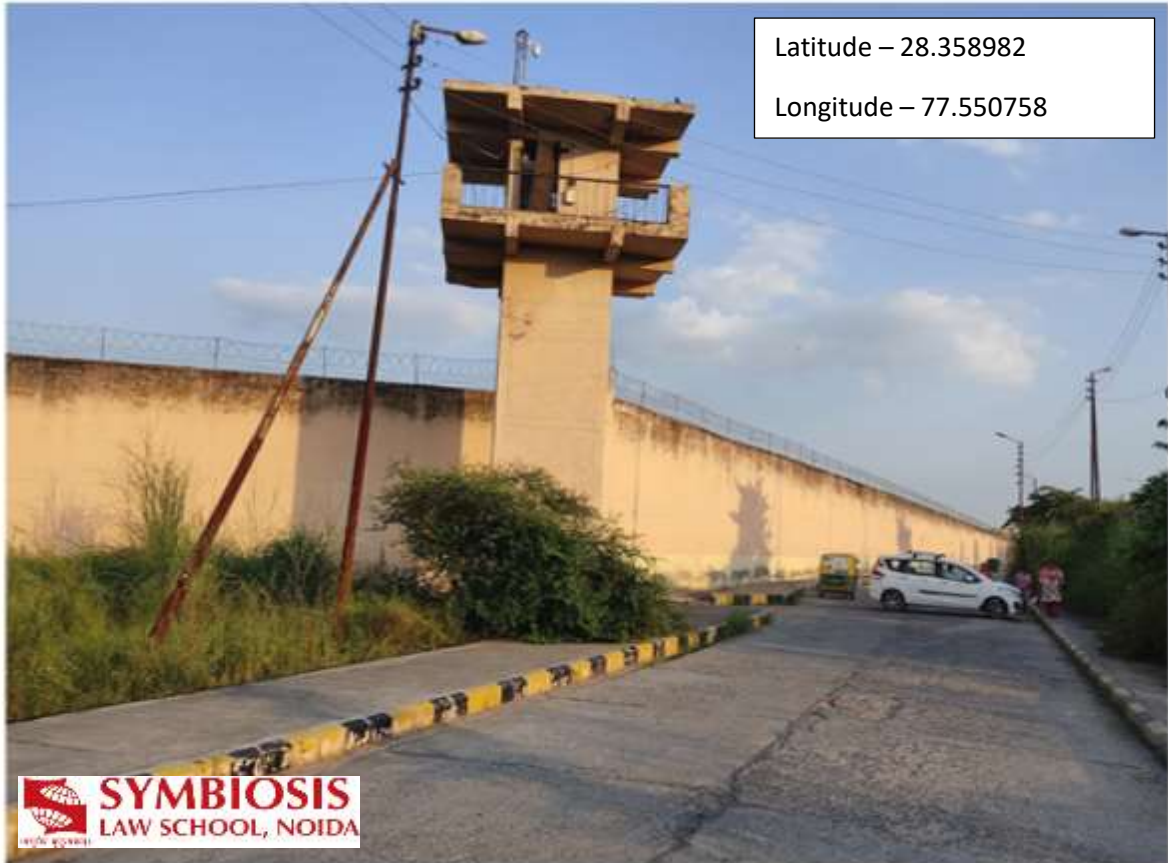
Several suggestions and constructive criticism was put forth by the members of CHRI to the jail authorities.

- To improve the status of legal knowledge of inmates with respect to their case, court hearing details and information about lawyer.
- Making the quality and type of nutrition available to inmates better to ensure their good health.
- Increasing availability of a range of medicines that come handy and should be present on premises
- Suggestion of a separate ward for terminally ill patients to give non medicinal treatment as well.

7. Conclusion/ Remarks

This was a great learning experience to be able to learn from distinguished members of the CHRI foundation and how they interacted with the jail authorities and inmates in prison. I got the opportunity to understand how a prison actually is and what the ground realities are and what changes can be brought to improve upon it. I got the opportunity to understand what goes behind the formation of such meaningful collaborations between NGOs and law schools to bring about accessibility of justice. I understood that as a team and whole, more is accomplished, more ideas come forth and become a reality and greater heights are attained in a more efficient manner with wider reach!

Brief Glimpses of the Event





Gautam Buddha Nagar District Jail – Jail Visit

