

# **Legal Researchers' Programme 2017-18**

(For Aspirants of Ph.d. in Law)



**IDEAL  
CENTRE FOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

# About Centre for Social Justice

Centre for Social Justice established in 1993, is a human rights organisation fighting for the rights of the marginalised and vulnerable. Active in Eight States across India, CSJ fulfils its mandate by training and strengthening community lawyers and paralegals by building their capacities to deliver change-inducing leadership in their communities through a network of law centres. CSJ has also made path-breaking institutional interventions in the form of research, legal reforms and initiatives bringing together grassroots activism, law and policy-making on a wide array of issues affecting women, Dalits, Adivasis, minorities and other socio-economically vulnerable groups.

At present, the Centre is engaged in action-research, advocacy, training, and capacity building across the following thematic:

- Law, Society & Culture in the Adivasi Context (South Gujarat)
- Rights of Persons living in Coastal Areas (Gujarat)
- Socio-Economic Rights of Minorities (Rehnuma Centres in 7 States)
- Socio-Economic Rights of Vulnerable Groups (Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh)
- Action-Research Study towards Building Rule of Law Communities in Villages (Gujarat)
- National Campaign on Access to Justice

# Our Philosophy

An aphorism often widely debated in law schools is the idea of 'law as an instrument for social change'. But there are few who actually work towards using the agency of the law to empower lives and facilitate socio-legal revolutions. In order to contribute meaningfully as young legal professionals working for human rights, one has to be cognizant of the wide gulf between the law in action and the law as found in statute books, judgments, and scholarship. Therefore, whatever may be the course chosen, a direct/lived experience of poverty and discrimination, an understanding of how things work on the ground and experiencing the practical relationship of law with vulnerability is essential for any lawyer, policy-researcher or legal academician.

The Legal Researchers' Programme is started by Centre for Social Justice (C.S.J.) with the objective of providing, for aspiring Ph.D. candidates an opportunity to locate their research in grassroots realities. This will ensure that they develop a holistic understanding of how legal empowerment at the grassroots plays a catalytic role in bringing social change.

# Programme Details

The research topic will be mutually agreed according to the work of Centre for Social Justice and the research interest of the applicant. Each individual will spend 15 days towards various work that C.S.J. may assign to her. The person is free to pursue her Ph.D. related work for the rest of the duration in C.S.J. field areas or otherwise. The person will be bound by the authorship policy of the organization that ensures that people in the field are recognized as contributors.

**The primary responsibilities of the selected candidates will be to:**

1. Conduct research on law and policy issues for making interventions and creating policy documents.
2. Documentation of research issues, meetings, and events.
3. Supervise data collection for research programs/projects.
4. Collaborate/coordinate programme with stakeholders including representations with various government authorities
5. Contribute to the advocacy work of the organization.

# Eligibility

The Programme is open to **people holding LLM degree and interested in pursuing their PhD in the field of law** as lawyers, practitioners, researchers or academics. Willingness to engage with field realities, to live in challenging conditions and to travel extensively, are pre-requisites for every candidate. Candidates must above all display a strong drive, motivation and commitment towards working for social change.

## **Stipend:**

The Programme stipend will be decided jointly with the selected candidate.

No accommodation will be provided.

**Our current field offices where a person may locate their work are in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh. The programme is open throughout the year and people may send the application as and when they narrow down the topic of their research.**

# Selection Process

Candidates interested in applying for the Programme must send following in their application:

- a) Personal statement of purpose detailing the candidate's motivations and reasons for applying to the Programme. Candidates must also be clear about their areas of interest and expectations from the Programme.
- b) Updated CV along with details of any similar prior work experience.

Applications containing the above-mentioned documents should be sent to [ypple.csj@gmail.com](mailto:ypple.csj@gmail.com). Short-listed candidates will be contacted with further queries where upon they shall be invited for an interview process at Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad.

## **CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

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