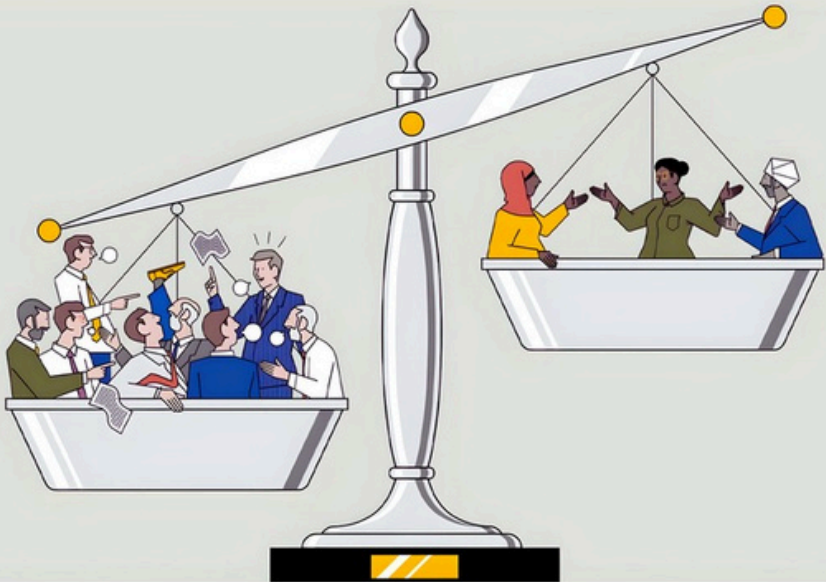


ICSSR Sponsored

TWO-WEEK CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Advancing Legal and Para-Legal Skills for
Inclusive Social Justice & Policy Implementation



25 May - 6 June 2026

Organised by
School of Law, GD Goenka University, Gurugram

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Law in India carries a transformative promise of equality, dignity, and justice. Yet a clear gap persists between legal text and lived reality. Rights exist on paper, but due to procedural, informational, and socio-economic, barriers that impedes meaningful access to justice.

Bridging this gap requires capacity building at multiple levels. Legal education must move beyond doctrinal teaching as to embrace interdisciplinary approaches, empirical research, policy engagement, and digital justice tools, that are in consonance with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020. At the same time, India's extensive legal aid framework, led by National Legal Services Authorities, State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities, needs a stronger academic collaboration to improve legal literacy, para-legal training, and grassroots justice delivery.

This programme responds to that intersection. It integrates law as social transformation, impractical aspect towards research and innovation in linking classrooms with communities, and theory with institutional realities.

The aim is to build a cohort of educators and researchers who can contribute to design socio-legal studies, strengthen para-legal systems, develop practice-oriented curricula, and provide suggestions for policy and justice reformation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme aims to:

1. Strengthen conceptual clarity on foundational and emerging issues in legal and para-legal studies.
2. Build interdisciplinary research capacity in law and allied social sciences.
3. Equip participants with practical tools for doctrinal and empirical research.
4. Integrate technology and digital justice mechanisms into legal pedagogy.
5. Enable participants to design and implement community-based legal education initiatives.
6. Foster a collaborative national network of socially engaged legal academics.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

1. Theoretical Foundations of Legal Studies

- Law as a tool of social transformation
- Constitutionalism and justice
- Socio-legal theory and critical perspectives

2. Para-Legal Systems in India

- Legal aid structures: NALSA, SLSA and DLSA
- Community legal education models
- Customary and informal justice mechanisms

3. Research Methodology in Law and Social Science

- Doctrinal vs empirical methods
- Qualitative research design
- Ethics in socio-legal fieldwork
- Legal ethnography and case analysis

4. Technology and Access to Justice

- Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)
- E-courts and digital justice
- Legal informatics and AI in law (AI in legal evidence)
- Online legal awareness campaigns

5. Rights-Based Frameworks and Legal Empowerment

- Gender justice
- SC/ST protections
- Disability rights
- Minority rights and inclusion

6. Policy and Legislative Analysis

- Evaluating contemporary laws
- Legislative drafting and critique
- Linking research to policy reform

7. Pedagogical Innovation and Curriculum Design

- Clinical legal education
- Practice-based learning modules
- Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into legal curricula

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The programme is designed for 30–40 faculty members (Lecturers/Assistant Professors) from across India, particularly those teaching:

- Law
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Public Administration
- Social Work
- Gender Studies
- Development Studies

Participant distribution:

- Minimum 10 participants from the local region
- 10 participants from within the state
- Remaining participants from outside the state

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates have to fill the application form given along with Required Documents mentioned below.

- Lecturers/Assistant Professors: A No-Objection Certificate (NoC) and a Recommendation Letter from their Head of Department. Both the NoC and Recommendation can be included in a single letter (PDF file).
- The candidates can apply through the online form provided in the link : <https://forms.gle/w6SEaenmk4rHFWnWA>

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection will be conducted in accordance with ICSSR guidelines.

REGISTRATION FEES

There is no registration fee for this programme.

TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION

Travel: Participants will be reimbursed for to and fro travel (point-to-point) by 3-tier AC / AC Chair Car / Volvo Bus as per the ICSSR Guideline.

Accommodation: As accommodation is limited and very moderate, only participants residing outside the city(Gurugram) but within state or other regions of India will be provided accommodation facilities in the university's hostels. The accommodation will be provided from 25th May 2026, 9.30 AM onwards to 7th of June 2026, till 12 noon.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Last Date for Application: 3rd May 2026
- Announcement of Final Selected Participants: 10th May 2026

CONTACT FOR QUERIES:

Dr. Apoorva Dixit (Course Director)

Associate Professor

+91-9893088822

Dr. Leena Chhabra (Co-Course Director)

Assistant Professor

School of Law

+91-9971001584

Email id -cbpgdgu@gmail.com