

6-day certified training program on “Court Annexed Mediation and issues related to Gender and Religious Minorities” (3rd draft)

The SJA (Sindh Judicial Academy) in collaboration with LAS (Legal Aid Society) conducted a six-day certified training program on “Court Annexed Mediation and issues relating to Gender and Religious Minorities”. The training was held from May 07, 2018 to May 12, 2018 at Sindh Judicial Academy Karachi, the interactive training was based on the best practices nationally and internationally. The participants were certified as Mediators by SJA after evaluation.

"Training for Judicial Officers on Conflict Resolution Techniques and Mediation in the Light of the Current Legislative Developments in Pakistan" was proposed by National Centre for Dispute Resolution, Karachi, Pakistan. The training proposal for mediation and conflict resolution training was in line with the requirements of the High Courts of Pakistan and also incorporated the requirements laid out in the ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution) Act 2017.

The objective of the training was to build knowledge and capacity of participants in conflict resolution and mediation fields through this training program, also, to enable them to mediate between parties and resolve issues in a cost-effective manner and timely, furthermore, because strong ADR and mediation skills have not been introduced in Pakistan’s legal education, law faculties, Bar Associations, and Bar Council, practicing lawyers particularly internees and young lawyers often feel ignored as they were not trained in the said field and lack in legal knowledge and professional skills. NCDR’s (National Center for Dispute Resolution, former KCDR) consultation through engagement with lawyers illustrated the need for filling gaps in the professional learning of lawyers.

Fourteen participants from the districts Naushahro Feroze, Matiari, Tando Allahyar, Ghotki and Khairpur along with three participants from LAS were trained in mediation skills. These participants were able to exercise these strategies when assisting and advising their clients on settlements of disputes. This effort was done to consequently reduce the time and costs incurred in litigation and minimize the unnecessary flow of cases in the formal justice system, moreover, clients who prefer being represented by a lawyer during mediation would be more comfortable if their lawyers are trained in the mediation by training and how to assist during in the mediation of a negotiation proceeding by using art of negotiation.