

A Brief Note about Delhi Judicial Academy

A strong and independent judiciary as a guardian of the basic and fundamental rights of its citizens and having power of judicial review over administrative and legislative actions, is the very backbone of progressive nation. The exercise of such powers, judiciously, reinforces the confidence of public in its integrity. This can be achieved only by having a sensitive and proficient judiciary capable of administering fair, speedy and quality justice. It is in this backdrop that the quality education and training of judicial officers assume importance.

The DJA is engaged in conducting Training Programme for Judicial Officers and also other stakeholder including Public Prosecutors, Police Officers, and Counsellors of family courts and members of Child Welfare Committee.

The DJA is also conducting programme for the judges from other states of India and foreign countries upon their request.

The Academy prepare need based schedule of programmes, invites eminent resource person on the subject for conducting training. The reading material for the programme is also prepared and circulated to the participants before the programme. The Academy is also engaged in research on issues of Law and adjudication.

The objectives of Judicial Education are explained by the Acronym ICEE by Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, Canada. This Acronym is explained as under:

- a) Impartiality – Implying an independent judiciary respected for its integrity, guided by publicized code of judicial ethics. The impartiality can only be reflected in judicial work by recognition of judicial bias and addressing it; by social context justicing and developing gender sensitivity.
- b) Competency – relates to knowledge of substantive and procedural laws. This includes judicial skills such as communication skills, developing techniques of application of international conventions to domestic laws, interpretation of Constitution and Statutes, exercise of judicial discretion in delivery of judgments.
- c) Efficiency – Use of technology by way of computers and computer applications, following technique of court and case management, and use of Alternate Dispute Redressal Mechanism are some of the ways of infusing efficiency in dispensation of judicial work.
- d) Effectiveness – To be effective it is important for the judges to be aware of advancement in Science and Technology; social realities and vulnerabilities, our environmental issues and other related areas to be able to have a holistic view when deciding the matters.

The Delhi Judicial Academy which started functioning formally since 2002, (though it started imparting judicial education way back from 1992) has been designing and developing its programs around these principles in its endeavour to impart judicial education and judicial training. The curriculum development is done on the basis of need assessment which is based on interactions with the judicial officers and taking their inputs in consultative programmes, through questionnaires and feedback after every programme. It is a continuous process and it is after great deliberations and discussions that the programs are chalked out.