

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF STUDY AND RESEARCH IN STUDY AND  
RESEARCH IN LAW , KANKE, RANCHI**

Center for Legal Aid Programme [CLAP]

Organized

NUKKAD NATAK

on 5<sup>th</sup> march,2019

at Witch Craft in Hochar Village, Kanke, Ranchi

Nukkad natak was performed on 3<sup>rd</sup> march ,2019, at Hochar village, kanke, Ranchi, Jharkhand, by nine students of NUSRL Ranchi. On the Sunday morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> march the nukkad team of NUSRL reached at the Hochar village, a small village in Kanke Tehsil of Ranchi district in Jharkhand. It is situated 14 km away from district headquarter Kanke. Expanded in 503 hectares, the total population of the village is 3,818 peoples and there are about 734 houses in village. The nukkad natak was performed on the theme of ‘daayan pratha’ .

The objective of performing nukkad in the village was to enlighten the people of Hochar village about the illegality of the daayan cult which refers to a secret society which emerged around 15<sup>th</sup> century in Jharkhand and Bihar. Victims of witch hunting are usually old or widowed women. These women are victimized for their property, or due to problems in the family or for sexual exploitation. State of Jharkhand has emerged as one of the most vulnerable states for witch hunting and ranks first in term of witchcraft murder in India. As per the NCRB data, in 2014 out of total 156 cases of witchcraft murder registered all over India 7, were reported from Jharkhand. Although law were made by the Jharkhand government named Anti Witchcraft Act in 2001 , unfortunately , the existing laws have not been able to either tackle such vicious crimes or create fear in the mind of perpetrators. The threat of punishment and conviction hasn’t been a deterrent. In many cases, FIRs reporting incidents of witch hunting are not getting lodged at all, due to social taboos. Nukkad natak performed by students was a small initiative to provide legal aid to the people of village. The nukkad team educated the gathering of hochar village about the Anti witchcraft laws and spread the awareness among the women about their rights. By interacting with the people personally , the team members asked the villagers about their believe on witchcraft , the village people were supportive and shared their opinions about existence of daayan , the team

observed that the old age people still believed in this stigma. Eradicating this social taboo is not easy but the team tried its best to convince them and also acquainted them with repercussions of not following the laws .the motto of the nukkad natak was “ki bhaiya ab to jaago re har ek adhikar pehchano re” as mentioned, the team worked in the same spirit of enlightening the people about their rights and duties in the society and requested them to fight back against the social taboo collectively.

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