Agamiscape

2020

The illustration is a creative visualisation of the hand-forged Agami Prize trophy

The Scope

This Agamiscape is based primarily on the analysis of the 230 eligible applications we received for the Agami Prize 2020 (AP20); the 183 applications for the Agami Prize 2018 (AP18); 2 Agami Challenges (Electronic Alternate Dispute Resolution (E-ADR) and Data for Justice (D4J), both in 2019); and the research of the Aapti Institute, which involved extensive conversations with close to 25 exceptional global and local changemakers about their experiences with barriers, changemaking and mindsets. A selection of quotes from those conversations have been featured in this report. Initiatives that are operating in the landscape and doing fantastic work but were not a part of either the Prize (in 2018 or 2020), any of the Agami Challenges, or the research of the Aapti Institute are by process excluded from the scope of this report.
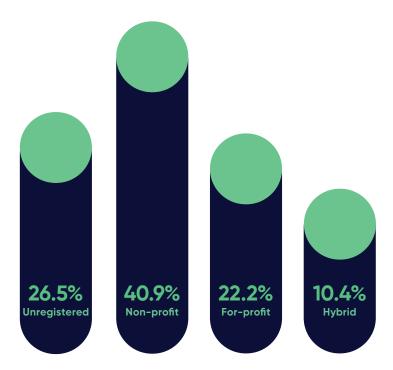
We welcome your comments, inputs, advice and, most of all, ideas on what has been reported in this Agamiscape - *write to us at team@agami.in*
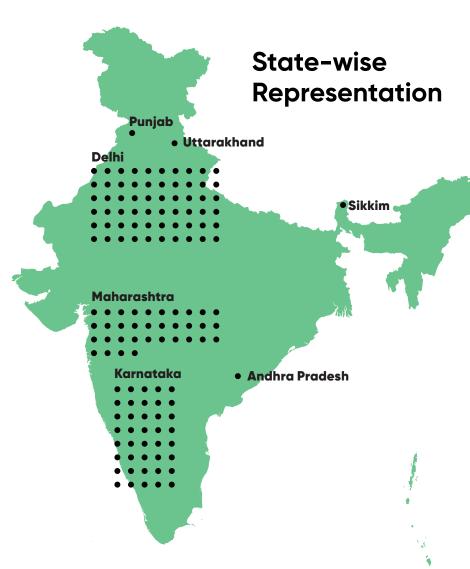
Applications at a Glance

Industry Prize: Awarded to a proven idea that serves justice through the evolution of the legal industry. 16.1% of applications this year were for the Industry Prize.

Shamnad Basheer Citizenship Prize: Awarded to a proven idea that serves justice by empowering citizens to access justice. 23.5% of applications this year were for the Shamnad Basheer Citizenship Prize.

Idea Prize: Awarded to an early-stage idea with the potential to serve justice, either through the evolution of the legal industry or in how it empowers citizens to access justice. Supported by the Jayasimha Foundation in memory of Justice R Jayasimha Babu. A majority, 60.4% of applications were for the Idea Prize.
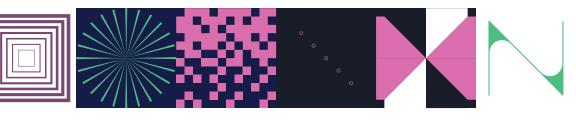
26.5%
Unregistered

40.9%
Non-profit

22.2%
For-profit

10.4%
Hybrid

Types of Initiatives

State-wise Representation

Punjab

Delhi

Uttarakhand

Sikkim

Maharashtra

Karnataka

Andhra Pradesh

Applications were received from the following states. The number in brackets indicate the number of applications. Madhya Pradesh (10), Delhi (61), Haryana (11), Karnataka (46), Bihar (4), Tamil Nadu (11), Goa (5), West Bengal (10), Uttar Pradesh (14), Odisha (2), Sikkim (1), Rajasthan (6), Andhra Pradesh (2), Chhattisgarh (1), Maharashtra (35), Gujarat (10), Kerala (3), Assam (7), Uttarakhand (2), Jharkhand (2), Telangan (3), Nagaland (1), Punjab (1), Chandigarh (2).

All data visualisations and analysis is based on 230 eligible applications received for Agami Prize 2020, out of 251 total applications.

Table of Contents

The Current Landscape of Law and Justice Innovation

Varun
Artika
Saurabh
Keerthana
Supriya & Sachin
Tammanna
Jahnavi
Akhil

Team Agami

An Invitation

This report is an invitation to join Agami in accelerating ideas that serve justice in India.

When we launched the Agami Prize in 2018, our goal was to create a *different* story for law and justice – a story not steeped in what was stuck or broken but one about the *bright spots*, the ideas with the potential to increase quality, effectiveness, access and inclusion. By surfacing initiatives from all over the country, the Prize provides a valuable vantage point, refreshed every 2 years, over the landscape of innovations in law and justice – the *bright spots* themselves.

In our experience, there are many citizens deeply interested in discovering their roles in advancing access to justice in India. They have the skills, capabilities and commitment to become changemakers themselves. A generation of Justicemakers. A glimpse into these bright spots in the field reveals opportunities for action. These ideas, often moving the field against all odds, offer a rich perspective into solutions, approaches and mindsets that can gain traction on the ground.

It is a privilege to share these learnings and opportunities with all of you. We hope that this Agamiscape helps you tap into your fullest potential as a law and justice changemaker.

Supriya Sankaran & Sachin Malhan
Co-Founders, Agami

The Year of

2020 was, and will remain, an incredibly hard year to label. There were great injustices but also stories of incredible strength and resilience; there were failures of leadership but also bold reforms; there was the end of things we knew but also the birth of ingenious new ideas; and there was a resurgence of inner enquiry as to what we stand for when almost everything around us is mired in uncertainty.

Paradoxes

We have long known that we can take a giant leap towards access to justice and ease of doing business by unleashing the power of our public and private legal data, digitising our courts and critical justice infrastructure, resolving disputes collaboratively, and empowering citizens to better service their own justice needs. The pandemic has created a once-in-a-generation push towards advancing these trends by making the flaws in the status quo painfully clear. To serve 1.3 billion Indians, we will have to go beyond merely 'scaling solutions' and also empower millions to act as changemakers by inspiring, skilling and connecting them.

In this momentous time of change, let us explore the emerging landscape of ideas that serve justice in India.

Aajeevika Bureau
@AajeevikaBureau
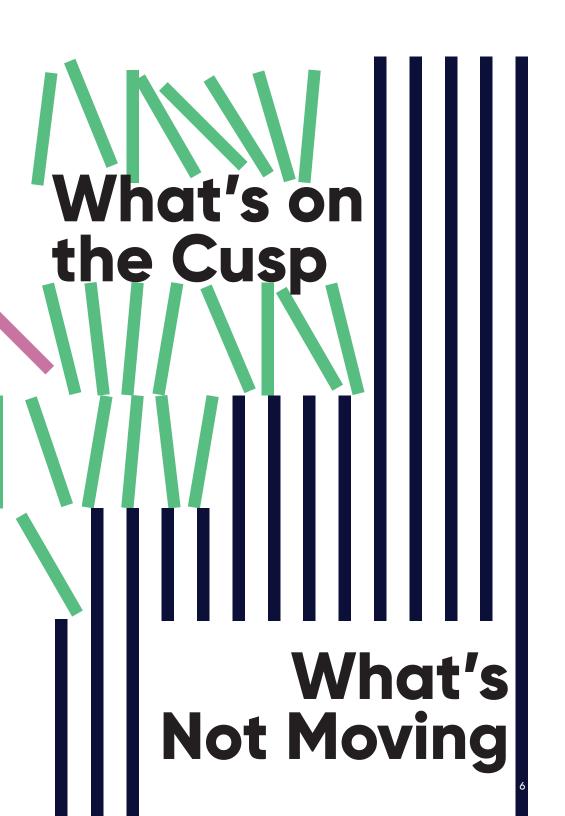
Dear Friends from the Worker Community. In the wake of the Coronavirus Lockdown in Rajasthan, if your employer expels you from work, or proposes unpaid leave, or reduces your wages, you can report to the Rajasthan Govt. and Aajeevika Bureau's Labour Line Number 1800 1800 999.

4:22 PM · Mar 23, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Picture Courtesy: Aajeevika Bureau

The Emerging Future of
Law and Justice in India

What's
Moving

What's on the Cusp

What's Not Moving

What's Moving

1 Realising the full potential of data for justice in creative yet safe and empowering ways

As a society, we have only just begun to appreciate the potential of data, the solutions that can be built using it, as well as the challenges that it presents. To realise its full potential, we need solutions at all levels – greater access to available data, collection of new data, building systems that generate better data, guarding against possible misuses of data, and increasing capacity to use data, to name a critical few.

Data must be envisioned as a vital tool to empower justice stakeholders and effectively respond to the needs of all, particularly the most vulnerable. Currently, the collection of legal data does not adequately reflect the knowledge, experiences or needs of the communities and individuals who are the ultimate end users of the legal system. Remedying this may involve aligning stakeholders so that they can collectively work towards capturing better data from diverse sources.

The lack of uniform standards and structure in the collection and organisation of data, and the presence of hundreds of disparate and often questionable sources also pose particularly hard problems. Through the 2020 Prize, we can see an increase in the number, quality and creativity of data-driven initiatives in areas such as case reporting and management, legal journalism, property rights, legal business intelligence, legal research, police work, online dispute resolution and the future of our courts.

As a huge amount of legal data gets generated daily, the inadequate processes and frameworks will compromise its quality and usage, as well as the growth of new solutions itself. We eagerly anticipate more public and private solutions that will work at a *horizontal* level to support many different initiatives. For example, the launch of the Justice Hub project to enable sharing of open legal and justice datasets; new domestic initiatives akin to the Human Centered Taxonomy of Legal Problems created by the Legal Design Lab at Stanford, which is developing a common user-centric taxonomy of legal issues; and, importantly, institutional and governmental work on standards and processes. This will allow us to unleash the next generation of data-driven solutions.

Several initiatives are shoring up the reliability of specific data sources by parsing and matching multiple sources for solutions such as Transerve, Landryt and Terra Economics & Analytics Lab (TEAL) to address property rights. The Land Rights Initiative is driving data-driven research and policy-making to enable stakeholders. Transerve is also plugging holes in available data sources by gathering new data, both through primary data collection and cutting-edge technology such as drone mapping. Data is being used by platforms like Provakil (AP18 Industry Prize winner) and Legodesk for case tracking, by COMPLAWYER for intellectual property asset management, and by Credgenics for non-performing asset management and legal research. Initiatives such as TrustIn and Samāna are shifting corporate culture by demonstrating how private data can work in tandem with public data to create more trusted outcomes. Lastly, and possibly most importantly, organisations such as the Internet Freedom Foundation are raising public consciousness about the use and misuse of data.

> **We don't have the people power to explain our data, and the data collected is insignificant compared to the data that we should have. Intelligence gathering, data exchange and analysis needs to happen in a transparent way; citizens should participate in this effort.**
>
> Paul Radu, Co-Founder and Chief of Innovation, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

The Power of Data: Teaching Machines to See

ImageNet is a 15-million-strong image database that is widely credited with driving the next wave of AI solutions by teaching machines to recognise objects within images. Before the ImageNet data set, there was no structured way to train software to identify objects and refine itself continuously. The paradigm shift in thinking was that while a lot of the attention was on AI/ML (Machine Learning) *models* towards the end of the last decade, ImageNet focused on *data* as the key enabler.

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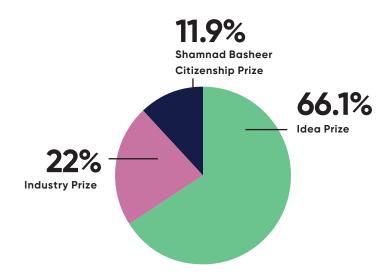
Justice Hub & Agami's Data for Justice Challenge

In 2019, Agami launched the Data for Justice (D4J) Challenge as the first step to catalyse a data-driven future in law and justice. The team at CivicDataLab, which won the D4J Challenge, has launched the alpha version of the Justice Hub as a Commons for legal datasets. Four of the early contributors to the Hub are D4J project awardees – Project 39A, HAQ Centre for Child Rights, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, which are creating and sharing datasets on death penalty, POCSO cases, firm-level litigation and contract enforcement, respectively. In addition to the Justice Hub, the focus is on getting more private organisations to commit to an Open Data Pledge, as well as working with government authorities to expand access to data.

13.2% of AP20 initiatives/innovators use data-driven intelligence. Of those using data intelligence:

11.9%
Shamnad Basheer
Citizenship Prize

66.1%
Idea Prize

22%
Industry Prize

In terms of areas of work

28.1% in legal services

15.6% in practice management

18.8% in legal research

12.5% in legal literacy

6.25% in legal analytics

4.69% in compliance

4.69% in system services

3.13% in improving public infrastructure

3.13% in citizen voice

1.56% in legal education

1.56% in online identity & trust building

2 Mainstreaming digital architecture for law and justice

Digital solutions are transforming almost every aspect of law and justice, and the pandemic has propelled this process forward by at least 3-5 years. The early applications of technology in legal practice, case management, contract management, legal research, dispute resolution and online identity, which surfaced in 2018, have given way to sophisticated solutions that have demonstrated incremental value and even created *digital-first experiences* for many categories. This has been made possible by advancements in foundational technology such as Natural Language Processing and other Machine Learning technologies, as well as greater access to data sources and the buy-in of the government and judiciary at the highest levels. There is also early interest in developing core data and technology architecture that innovators could use via open APIs to develop the next generation of legal and justice solutions, in much the same way that financial solutions have built on the IndiaStack architecture.

However, for technology to increase access to justice, we need to see the critical values of inclusion, accessibility and security being embedded into its very conception and design. End users of technology are not a monolith but a diverse range of individuals who possess varying infrastructures, abilities and challenges when engaging with technology tools or platforms.

Digital systems allow you to emit data. Open data must be treated as compliance and public good... Only once you can see, can you solve.
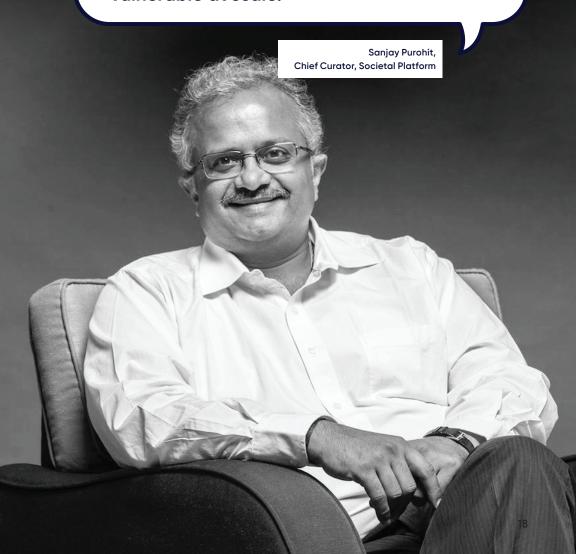
Pramod Verma, Chief Technology Officer, EkStep and Chief Architect, Aadhaar

If this is not taken into consideration, all these solutions, whether public or private, can further disadvantage vulnerable communities, whose lack of access to justice already has significant knock-on effects on their overall welfare, economic opportunities and well-being. To prevent this, the implementation of digital infrastructure, particularly public solutions, must be carefully calibrated and should function as an option alongside existing offline systems. There are opportunities to engage civil society organisations and communities in ensuring last-mile access to private and public solutions.

The Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS), launched in 2019, is an example of a digital infrastructure that is enabling accessibility and inclusiveness in courts. The AI-driven translation tool currently has the capability to translate judicial documents, including orders and judgments, into nine other languages, and can be extended to other languages in the future. Initiatives such as Leegality, Signzy and DOQFY are creating an environment where all elements of legal transactions – from documentation (contracts, application forms and submissions) to execution (signing, stamping and registration) – are fully digital. Others like SpotDraft are enabling contracts to be created and managed intelligently, gradually moving them from formalities and cost centres to potential sources of value. Organisations such as Haqdarshak and Saaras Impact Foundation are extending technology into areas such as government entitlements, semi-automated dispute resolution, management of non-performing assets and legal problem diagnostics; and initiatives such as Riverus and LegalMind are ushering in a new generation of practice analytic tools, including intelligent legal research. NITI Aayog has actively championed the application of online dispute resolution technology in private and public systems.

We have to reimagine the economics of judicial transformation with smart thinking supported by smart technologies. We must reduce the unit cost of change across the Indian judicial system so that we can efficiently administer justice for the most vulnerable at scale.

Sanjay Purohit,
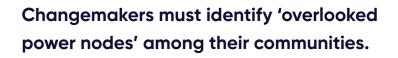Chief Curator, Societal Platform

3 Empowering citizens as justice changemakers

The greatest opportunity to advance access to justice lies in seeing our citizens as justice changemakers, not merely consumers and beneficiaries. Citizens are often best placed to not just name their demands but also create the solutions that can work best for them. We have long known that innovations and approaches at the grassroots level are more likely than others to achieve community well-being. Today, we have the power of data and technology to make this endeavour possible – of enabling our citizens to identify and solve the problems affecting them and their communities to become Justicemakers.

In the Agami Prize 2018, we saw a shift in how innovators were approaching their citizen stakeholders. They sought to engage citizens in the lawmaking process, develop community paralegals, prepare students from underrepresented communities for legal education, and create community legal services. In Agami Prize 2020, there is a giant leap towards the development of citizen changemakers and the democratisation of the field of law and justice.

In order to mainstream this ongoing evolution, where citizens move from active participants to genuine changemakers, we need to build the *changemaker muscle* – critical capacities to solve local problems, navigate complex systems and collaborate with ease, whilst nurturing personal and collective well-being. Justice innovators can also learn from domestic and international organisations that have actively developed citizen changemakers in the last decade. One such model is the system of Youth Courts in New York, which is creating capacities amongst the youth to be able to understand and mete out justice by training them to handle real-life cases involving their peers, offering a restorative response to misbehaviour.

Changemakers must identify 'overlooked power nodes' among their communities.

Janet Visick, Senior Consultant,
Fellow Selection, Ashoka: Innovators for the Public

**Empower people to make better decisions...
It could be an individual user, or it could
be a decision-maker, or a tech company.
That's how we see ourselves – as enablers
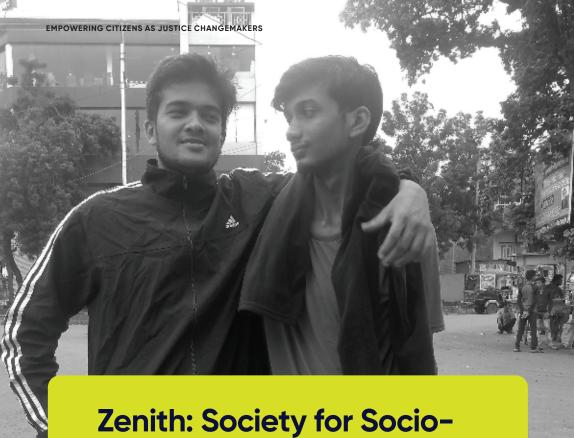or facilitators.**

Stephanie Hankey, Co-Founder and
Executive Director, Tactical Technology Collective

We have to get people in touch with the idea that they can be changemakers. That they can, in their own society, seeing what's going on in their own community, point to it and come together and go like, 'let's do this'...

Bill Carter, Founding Board Member,
Ashoka Innovators for the Public

Zenith: Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment
AP20 Winner - Idea Prize

Zenith is reimagining how legal aid clinics can empower both law students and community leaders to create a virtuous cycle of grassroots empowerment. Based out of Shivpuri, near Gwalior, their unique six-step model to transform communities into advocates for their rights and entitlements involves decoding the issue, research into existing laws and policy and related data, identifying and engaging changemakers from within the community, engaging the authorities directly and indirectly through administrative and legal forums, and mobilising people to gather and create momentum. Zenith sees this as a way to help every community change its relationship with the justice system and within society as a whole.

Lastly, there are always undervalued actors in communities. The world-renowned Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project engaged librarians from various universities since they had access to relevant databases and knew how to support reporters and activists covering crime and corruption. Such engagement of undervalued actors makes for a more diverse network of changemakers and unlocks new resources and skills. We may or may not be able to scale solutions to address the needs of our entire 1.3-billion-strong population, so our surest path lies in equipping citizens to become changemakers themselves.

Initiatives such as ARTAM, Criminal Justice & Police Accountability Project (CPAP) and Haqdarshak are enabling community changemakers to advance local dispute resolution, access government entitlements and ensure police accountability. Roots Resource is supporting grassroots lawyers to be better informed about the playbooks they need to represent citizen rights. Organisations like IDIA are equipping local chapters of volunteers to increase representation in law schools as well as address local justice issues, while Zenith - Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment and Parichay are empowering law students to reimagine legal aid and learn and make change at the same time. CAMP Arbitration & Mediation Practice, Centre for Mediation and Conciliation, House Court By Arbitration Rooms, Sama's Indian Mediation Week, India's First Youth-run Conflict Management and Community Mediation (Y-CMCM) initiative and others are building mediation awareness movements, where volunteers are moving from spreading mediation literacy to becoming case managers ensuring alternative resolution of disputes.

No Changemaker Left Behind: A Special Ecosystem Initiative

The only thing more powerful than an idea whose time has come is a changemaker whose time has come. No Changemaker Left Behind (NCLB) is an initiative as mad as the ideas it seeks to mentor. As a way for the ecosystem to grow and support each other, every Thursday afternoon, from 4–5 pm, proven business and social entrepreneurs spend 30 minutes one-on-one with anyone who has an idea in law and justice, to help them expand, refine and strengthen that idea. Steadily growing since it began last year, NCLB's team of 7 mentors has had 79 mentees active in various areas of the law and justice system. If you'd like to join in, as a mentor or a mentee, head to **agami.in/changemakers** to find out more.

The NCLB Mentors

**Pramod Rao,
General Counsel,
ICICI Bank & ICICI
Group**

**Aparna Mittal,
Founder, Samāna
Centre for Gender,
Policy and Law**

**Deepa Iyer,
Principal,
Luminate**

**Ritvik Lukose,
Co-founder &
CEO, Vahura**

**Sachin Malhan,
Co-founder, Agami**

**Supriya Sankaran,
Co-founder, Agami**

**Vasudevan
Srinivasana,
Founder, Leverage**

4 Inviting non-traditional actors to drive inclusive innovation by bringing outside expertise and networks

Complex language, archaic processes and dominant operatives have long kept non-legal actors out of law and justice. Innovators entering the sector have struggled to gain acceptance, access networks and secure resources. In some cases, such as with Agami Prize 2018 winner Indian Kanoon, they have faced active resistance and scepticism despite their profound impact. The emergence of networks and resources, including many from within the current system, to provide technical as well as emotional and social support is thus vital – and as important as the solutions for law and justice problems.

New actors bring new perspectives, skills and energy that almost always increase innovation in the field. They are willing to challenge assumptions or norms and connect dots that traditional actors might entirely miss. The outsized impact of their participation is a pattern long-observed in other sectors, where some of the biggest disruptions have been made by non-traditional actors. To further increase their participation, we need to democratise access to legal knowledge, content and practices.
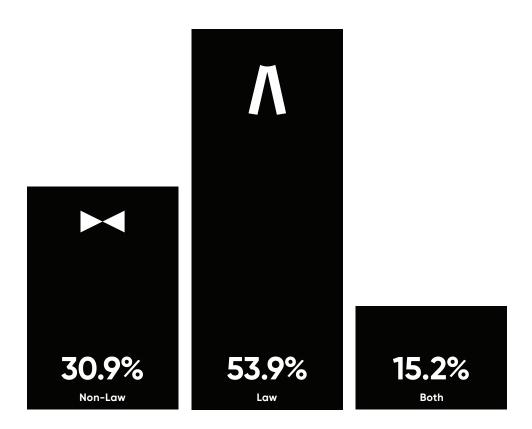
In 2018, we saw a surge of technologists, journalists and media, finance and business professionals participating in the Prize as founders and co-founders. As validation of the unique capabilities of non-law actors to innovate law and justice, all winners of the first Prize were non-lawyers – Indian Kanoon, Provakil (with one lawyer as co-founder), Civis and Impulse Model Press Lab. In 2020, this trend continues to gain momentum. Initiatives such as Article 14 and Youth Ki Awaaz have founders with a media background, while founders of LegalKart, DiL SE WiLL and Law on Wheels come from the field of management and commerce. Designers are also increasingly making their presence felt, with initiatives such as Legal Design India and Justice Adda. At the same time, the participation of engineers continues to grow from strength to strength.
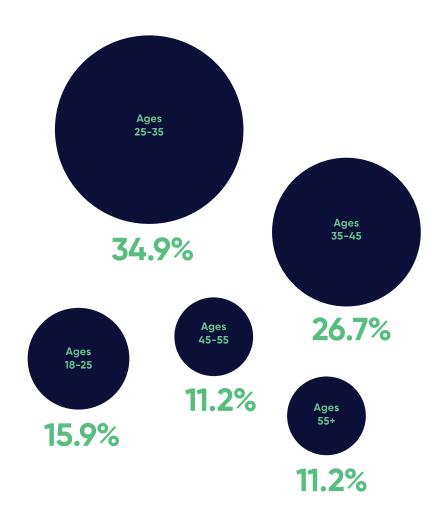
Visual media and representations, in particular, have immense potential in being able to convey and unpack complex information in a way that is accessible for non-legal actors and audiences. Global justice innovator Stephanie Hankey has adopted this approach by bringing on board creative people, including designers, film-makers, storytellers and artists, to create content like the Data Detox Kit that informs people on how to take better control of their privacy and digital life. Closer to home, the Internet Freedom Foundation routinely uses infographics, songs and memes to engage and inform diverse audiences with limited legal expertise.

Even a small increase in the number of non-traditional actors can fundamentally alter our systems of justice.

We need a non-lawyer cadre to be part of the ecosystem of justice delivery.

Gagan Sethi,
Founder, Janvikas

30.9%
Non-Law

53.9%
Law

15.2%
Both
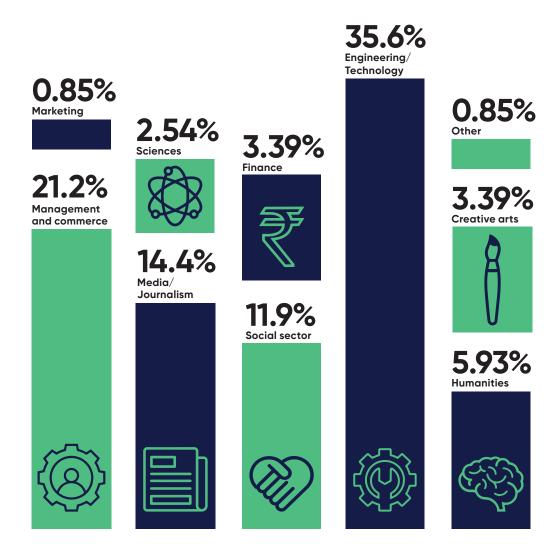
Background of the Founders

Ages
25-35

34.9%

Ages
35-45

26.7%

Ages
18-25

Ages
45-55

15.9%

11.2%

Ages
55+

11.2%

Age of Founders/Team Leaders

0.85%
Marketing

2.54%
Sciences

3.39%
Finance

35.6%
Engineering/
Technology

0.85%
Other

21.2%
Management
and commerce

14.4%
Media/
Journalism

11.9%
Social sector

3.39%
Creative arts

5.93%
Humanities

Non-Law Background

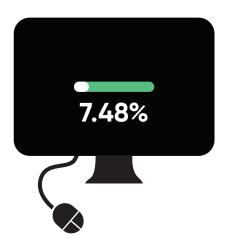# 5 Increasing our capacity to resolve disputes collaboratively and remotely

The resolution of disputes outside of courts, preferably through collaborative means such as negotiation and mediation, has always been regarded as essential to ensuring the ease of doing business and greater access to justice. We've seen a steady growth in such alternate dispute resolution (ADR) in the last two decades, but it has remained a fringe phenomenon as opposed to becoming the first choice for categories of high volume disputes. The rise of *online* dispute resolution (ODR), where technology is used to supercharge alternate dispute resolution, is changing this. It has demonstrated the possibility of dispute resolution solutions that are faster, more cost-effective, more flexible and also, in many cases, more collaborative and trust preserving.

However, there is more to be done to push the wave of innovation in this space. ADR and ODR must be truly inclusive if they are to meaningfully enhance access to justice. All citizens must be able to participate and benefit from these systems, or else it can lead to further disenfranchisement of people who do not have high levels of digital literacy or access. There is a huge opportunity to learn from and incorporate traditional mechanisms of resolution embedded within communities and create the next generation of dispute resolution solutions that can serve all Indians. Bolstered by community level insight and cultural and social knowledge, these new solutions could be much more resilient and scalable.

ADR, particularly technology-driven *mediation*, must be seen as a critical societal muscle that is a tool not just for a small cadre of professionals but for every community and, ideally, every citizen. As this capacity to resolve disputes and, more generally, other kinds of conflict grows, we shall see knock-on effects in every aspect of life, not just access to justice.

In 2018, the Agami Prize surfaced the first crop of ODR service providers in a very nascent marketplace without any large enterprise users. Nevertheless, 3 initiatives – Solve All Disputes Amicably (Sama), Resolve Disputes Online (RDO) and Presolv360 – easily made the shortlist for their sheer ingenuity. In the same year, Agami also launched a national initiative to drive innovation, market adoption and policy change in ODR, beginning with the E-ADR Challenge in partnership with ICICI Bank in 2019. Accelerated by the pandemic in 2020, Agami's efforts have helped create a thriving ODR environment with over a dozen start-ups; 50+ enterprise users; a national ODR policy initiative led by NITI Aayog and supported by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy; and a vibrant community of ODR enthusiasts (called Autonomy). Initiatives such as Credgenics and Sama (E-ADR Challenge winner) are addressing use cases for the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) sector – Sama has already brought 5 state Lok Adalats online – while CORD and CREK are providing a range of tools for dispute resolution professionals to serve their clients in a remote environment.

7.48%

Applicants Working on ODR

Mediation should be a part of the organisational design of the future.

Laila Ollapally,
Founder, CAMP

What's on the Cusp

1 Empowering law schools and law students to drive justice innovation in their communities

The role of universities is changing all over the world. From being closeted environments developing professional and career skills, they are increasingly coming to be seen as critical social hubs to drive innovation, develop community capacity and provide leadership. Some of the most creative innovations in recent years, such as Project Echo in the United States, have been built entirely on a reframing of this role of the university vis-à-vis the community. In the case of Project Echo, reimagining medical schools as hubs that can provide expertise, inspiration and social support for local healthcare centres to scale their impact was a game-changer in healthcare. Law schools, including in India, have long had a strong public orientation, and almost every law school has a legal services clinic or legal aid cell. However, these models have become dated and plainly inadequate. For the sake of both the country and the law students themselves, we must hasten the creation of a new role for law schools and their students in India as law and justice changemakers.

What's heartening to see is more youth involvement overall in issues of law and justice, especially the way in which they are organising themselves as peer networks to expand and take justice to the last mile. However, there is a long way to go, and we are confident that we will see new models for legal services clinics and legal aid cells that do justice to the potential of law schools to innovate for their communities. In fact, this needn't be restricted to legal aid; it can also extend to innovation by way of sandboxing research and policy work that drives improvements in systems of law and justice. The opportunities for law schools are endless.

In 2018, IDIA was the only participant whose alumni were playing the role of changemakers in their communities. In 2020, we are seeing green shoots of new initiatives that are linking the unexplored potential of law schools and students to the needs of systems and communities. Initiatives like Parichay are equipping law students to support the appeals of those excluded in Assam by the National Register of Citizens, while Zenith - Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment is reimagining legal aid clinics to empower both law students and grassroots community leaders. The Good Rural Governance and Citizen Participation initiative at Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat and the Legal Aid Society at VM Salgaocar College of Law in Goa are engaging law students with communities and bringing the law closer to the people. Initiatives such as the Prison Project at Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow are collaborating with legal services authorities and drawing on their research skills to supplement the legal services being offered to undertrials. Project Neev at National Law Institute University, Bhopal is working on the underlying framework of legal aid clinics, which they are sharing with other colleges, especially the newer NLUs.

> **We primarily work with young people because we have tried enough with adults... They have formalised, institutionalised and inherited issues**

Abhay Jain, Co-Founder,
Zenith - Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment

2.2%
High School

15.4%
College

82.4%
After college/other

Note: 35 of the participating initiatives in the Agami Prize were founded whilst the founders were still in college. This is consistent with a wider societal trend most visible amongst technology and business students. Despite institutional apathy - and occasional outright hostility - and a lack of resources, students are increasingly more interested in launching their own ventures. With access to dedicated time, technology infrastructure, institutional encouragement, and seed financial support, law schools (and other universities); can become innovation hubs for law and justice in the future. Interestingly, 5 applicants started their initiatives while in High School, a promising start indicative of changemaking starting young.

Picture courtesy: Zenith - Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment

2 Making police and prisons more humane and accountable

The first-hand experience of the justice system for every citizen, and in a way the face of it, is the police. As gatekeepers of the criminal justice system, they play a crucial role in justice delivery. Issues of police accountability made it to the headlines on multiple occasions in 2020 with the Hathras case, the Delhi riots and globally, in the case of George Floyd in the United States. Meanwhile, our prisons, with a few exceptions, have long been miserable places where the majority of those incarcerated – 7 in 10 as per the 2019 National Crime Records Bureau data – have not even been convicted.

Both these systems are fraught with challenges such as poor working conditions, disregard for well-being in high stress jobs, and lack of capacity building to keep up with emerging knowledge and best practices in their areas. They also suffer from trust deficits, requiring us to innovate extensively in and around them.

In 2018, this was a paralysed sphere of work, with hardly any AP18 applicants working in police reform. Prison reform too saw only a handful of initiatives, such as Unnati Plus in Telangana prisons – a part of that year's State Innovation Showcase – which is re-examining practices within the criminal justice system by focusing on the intersection of law, psychology, mental health and medicine. In 2020, this trend improved significantly, with 25 AP20 initiatives (many of which are new) working to strengthen these systems inside out and outside in.

The sensitive and entrenched nature of this area of work means that progress is slow, but we're observing a welcome trend in how changemakers and innovators are increasingly looking at collaboration with the system. Opening pathways for interaction and engagement will increase empathy on both sides, bettering solutions and services.

In 2018, we saw efforts like the Bharosa Project, which is trying to build trust between the community and the police, and People's Archive of Rural India (PARI), which seeks to change the 'othering' narrative when it comes to prisons. In 2020 applications, we're seeing early-stage initiatives that are building capacity for better policing. For example, IDFC Institute's Police Knowledge Hub, which seeks to create a cross-sharing learning platform of best policing practices and implementable solutions; and the Assam Police Sishu Mitra Resource Center, a public-private partnership to provide a more humane response to child victims by equipping staff with knowledge and behavioural support tools. To increase citizen participation, initiatives like Criminal Justice & Police Accountability Project (CPAP) are getting communities to anchor and drive the process of holding everyday policing processes accountable by increasing costs on the system, while Phoenix "A Smart Prison ERP", operational in Haryana prisons, is bringing empathetic and user-centric technology design to better manage prisons.

3 Creating a collaborative ecosystem for changemakers to solve complex problems
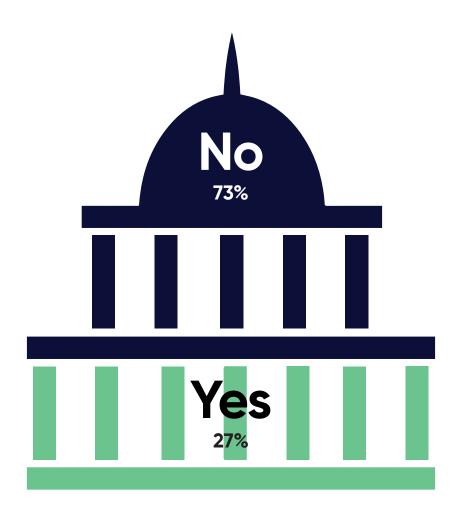
Many of the problems that we seek to solve are complex problems that require us to act collaboratively. The disastrous consequences of the absence of collaborative networks became painfully evident in the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown, when relevant systems were unable to kick into action and provide timely support to migrants. Given the lack of open and fluid structures to facilitate collaboration, relief efforts carried out by concerned citizens were limited, sporadic and temporary. In essence, innovations that focus on enabling collaboration are as important, if not more, than the innovations that solve justice problems. The capacity to collaborate should be integral to any act of changemaking. Only then will we see rapid proliferation of ideas that can truly serve justice.

To develop the capacities and conditions for collaboration, it will require organisations and individuals to operate as *social architects*, capable of breaking the mould of what has gone on before to introduce new ideas, inject new energy and curate spaces in a way that allows for existing actors to collaborate and new actors to enter. These social architects must lead the task of building a shared infrastructure for the field, where resources are shared and serve to strengthen or amplify each organisation's existing efforts.
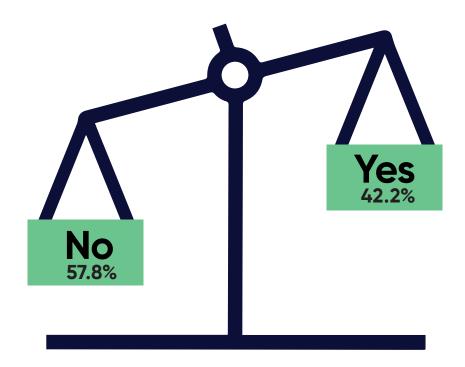
Much of Agami's work has been focused on developing and nurturing a collaborative ecosystem to support changemaking towards goals such as mainstreaming online dispute resolution in India and building a data and knowledge sharing resource for the field. The impact of this effort has already been felt and continues to grow, with more people and organisations joining in, making this truly a network-of-networks. The inclusive and diverse nature of such an ecosystem ensures that it can answer not just one, but a range of challenges.

Initiatives like Open Knowledge Engine by Ooloi Labs and Roots Resource are creating a backbone of best practices and useful knowledge through cross learnings, for the benefit of lawyers, paralegals and community mobilisers. Collaborations are especially critical in areas with deeply entrenched problems, often under the purview of the state, where partnerships are the only way to make inroads and often the most effective way to yield systemic change. For example, Studio Nilima is implementing interventions to facilitate greater collaboration and create solidarity amongst state institution stakeholders. Currently working in 8 Assam prisons, they have brought together judges and policymakers in dialogue with prison officers and District Legal Services Authorities through regular visits and round-tables. This has led to better coordination and legal representation across the 31 prisons in the state and is a model for a more wholesome and inclusive prison reform.

No
73%

Yes
27%

Partnered with State Institutions

Yes
42.2%

No
57.8%

Partnered with Others in the Field of Law and Justice

What's Not Moving

1 Evolving legal education into justice education

Despite its orientation towards developing legal practitioners, legal education has always had a broader impact. Countless civil society leaders, political leaders, CEOs and public intellectuals are products of law schools. This has a lot to do with their orientation towards public service, critical thinking and multidisciplinary studies. However, the time has now come for legal education to embrace its true potential – to equip young people with the skills and knowledge not just to understand and navigate our legal systems for a few, but to engineer better systems for everyone.
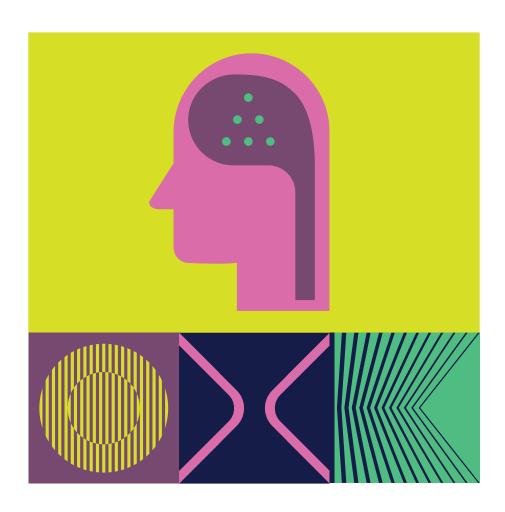
We cannot ignore the fact that we exist in an environment where most citizens do not have access to justice. Training students to understand the laws but also ensure justice in a variety of different contexts is vital. This cannot happen with minor iterations of the old models of legal education. We must reimagine legal education by drawing inspiration from the evolution of other models around the world. Justice education should bring to society as many entrepreneurs, changemakers, community paralegals and systems thinkers as it does practitioners. A promising start in this direction has been made by the South Asia Network for Justice Education (SANJE), which aims to bring together educators and experts from diverse fields to create a transformative pedagogy that can empower everyone from law students to legal professionals at all levels.

In 1987, Padma Bhushan NR Madhava Menon created the national law university model, beginning with the National Law School of India University in Bengaluru. That model has made its mark, launching over 23 national law universities and creating a new generation of corporate general counsel, law firm partners, senior advocates and high court judges since the early 2000s. Initiatives like IDIA seek to make the new models more inclusive and impactful. Now we need to see the next generation of innovations from within the law schools to achieve the goals of justice education.

2 Shifting mindsets at a societal level

A significant number of initiatives are focused on building awareness about rights and enabling legal aid support for marginalised groups, especially women and Dalit communities. Their efforts range from organising awareness training and workshops, building apps that offer information, creating helplines, and building a network of paralegals or lawyers who can assist in securing justice. However, for 'wicked problems' like gender justice, the core issue lies in the societal mindset – the shared, unstated beliefs and assumptions about women and their roles.

We might instinctively believe that societal mindsets are harder to change than anything else about a system. But the truth is that there's nothing physical, expensive or even slow about the process of paradigm change. In a single individual, it can take place in a millisecond. All it takes is a click in the mind, a falling of scales from eyes, a new way of seeing. However, the process of changing the mindsets of whole societies is another matter – they fiercely resist change. Lessons from history tell us that it requires fundamentally different strategies than merely awareness building or mass sensitisation. Central to such strategies is identifying the anomalies and failures in the existing mindset – why it is not working for anyone (not just women) – and presenting an alternative new reality by inserting people with a different mindset in places of public visibility and power. Efforts to change societal mindsets need changemakers to model a new system, which takes them outside the system and forces them to see it as a whole.
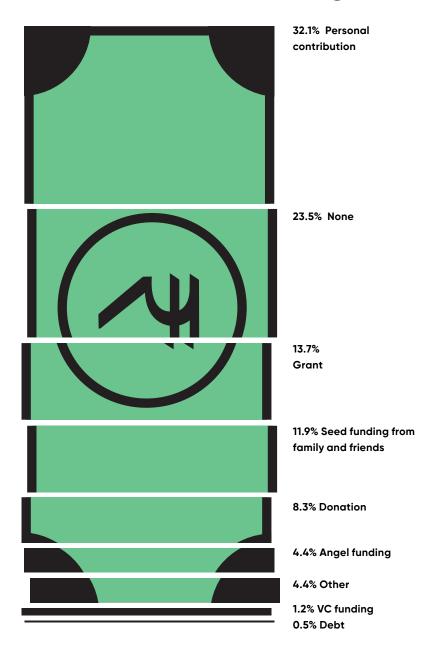
3 Resourcing justice innovation

Justice innovation is very poorly resourced the world over. Partly due to the strong association of justice delivery with state responsibility and partly as a result of the fear of associating with rights-based work, there is very little non-state institutional funding for legal literacy, affordable legal services, dispute resolution and rights and entitlements. In India, this trend has become even more marked, with hardly any CSR funding or family philanthropic funding going to justice innovation. Only 18% of AP20 initiatives have raised any kind of institutional funding and 40% identified money as the number one resource they need.
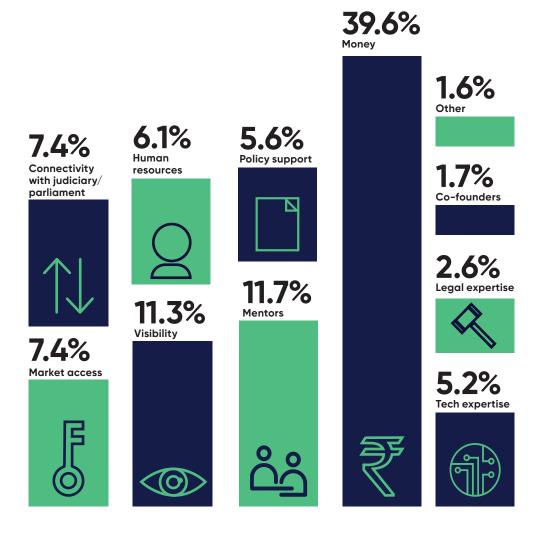
While much work needs to be done to unlock more institutional funding in the sector, we also need to see more creative ways of resourcing law and justice initiatives. We eagerly await both innovative fundraising models such as community fundraising, powerful campaigns and peer support, now visible in other sectors, as well as inventive ways to manage resources more efficiently such as shared data resources, shared networks and long-term volunteering strategies. Creative funding models, such as membership-based ones, can also build community trust and accountability. Building on the experience and example of organisations like Amnesty International and Greenpeace, the Internet Freedom Foundation has shown the way by implementing such a model that gives members more oversight over their work, thereby naturally increasing their ownership and participation.
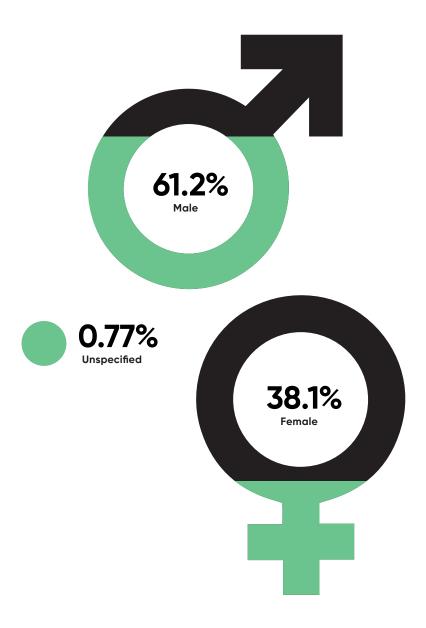
Sources of Funding

32.1% Personal contribution

23.5% None

13.7% Grant

11.9% Seed funding from family and friends

8.3% Donation

4.4% Angel funding

4.4% Other

1.2% VC funding

0.5% Debt

Overall Top Resource Needs

7.4%
Connectivity with judiciary/ parliament

7.4%
Market access

6.1%
Human resources

11.3%
Visibility

5.6%
Policy support

11.7%
Mentors

39.6%
Money

1.6%
Other

1.7%
Co-founders

2.6%
Legal expertise

5.2%
Tech expertise

4 Increasing the representation of women in law and justice

Globally, women's participation in the workforce is 48%. In India, this drops to a woeful 27%. India ranks 120 among 131 countries in female labour force participation rates as per the World Bank's 2017 India Development Report. Only 14% of the country's elected Members of Parliament are women, compared to, say, 24% of the members of the House of Representatives in the United States, not to mention the new Vice President, Kamala Harris. Corporate India has also failed to bring more women to the top. Of every 100 CEOs and managing directors of companies listed on the National Stock Exchange, only about 3 are women. Sharpen that lens to the justice field, and the picture is even grimmer. In our independent history, only 8 women have been appointed as judges of the apex court so far, while the 25 high courts in the country have had only 78 women judges out of 685 (as on August 1, 2020). Amongst AP20 initiatives, 38% of the justice innovators were women.
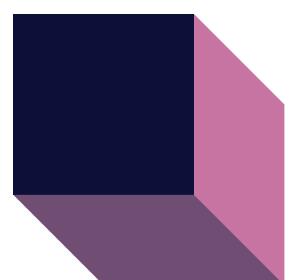
Clearly, concerted efforts need to be made to bring more women into the fold. Though many teams have co-founders or team members as women, it would be incredible to have this trend turn the majority into women, because the future, as they say, is female.

61.2%
Male

0.77%
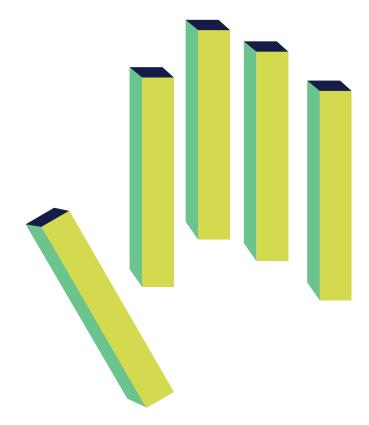Unspecified

38.1%
Female

The Current Landscape of Law and Justice Innovation

This section looks at the current state of innovation in critical areas of law and justice. It also includes within its sweep some areas that are more akin to strategies or elements of the justice system, but showed up prominently in the 2020 Agami Prize cycle and merited inclusion. The objective of this section remains to outline who is doing what and where.

1   Citizen Participation

Traditionally, citizens have had to rely on lawyers and other formal stakeholders to access justice as there are many barriers to their participation in the justice system. Increasingly, however, new roles and pathways are being built to invite citizens to engage more directly with the justice system – as seen in the work of 13 AP20 initiatives. Nine of these are setting up platforms through which citizens can voice their grievances, learn about their rights, appeal for greater transparency and accountability, and even influence policy. The remaining 4 are also building the capacity of communities and creating roles for citizens, either as dispute resolution professionals or as paralegals, to be able to participate in the justice system. A majority of the initiatives are leveraging media and storytelling tools to empower citizens to make their voice heard.

Mobile Vaani (MV)

Gram Vaani's Mobile Vaani programme is creating a federated network of media platforms to share content relevant to the local community, such as localised information on rights and entitlements, local news and feedback on government efforts, as curated by citizen volunteers. Using IVR technology, the platform can be accessed on any basic mobile phone by calling a specified toll-free number. It also allows citizens to contribute information by easily recording a voice message. MV is currently operating 25 separate networks in districts across India in partnership with 150 organisations.
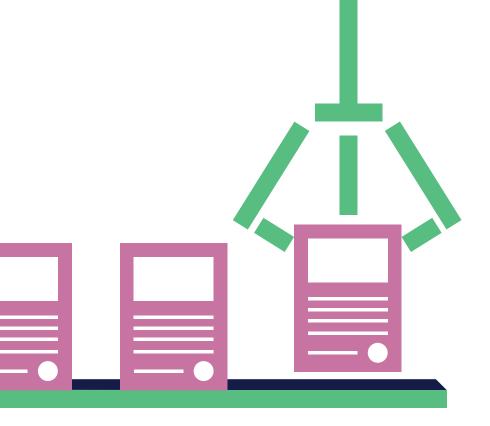
Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF)

IFF is bridging the gap between the 'public' and 'public policy' by creating a bottom-up model for digital rights advocacy in India. Their jargon-free and relatable content, filled with pop culture references and humour, has been able to inform and engage the public effectively. SpeechBill.in, their online campaign which attempted to repeal criminal defamation and consolidate civil defamation, generated over 4,000 signatures and led to consultations with Lok Sabha MP Tathagata Satpathy, who filed The Protection of Speech and Reputation Bill, 2016. This model has been replicated by the SaveOurPrivacy campaign to publicly present a draft law for data protection in India.

Civis: AP18 Winner – Idea Prize

Civis is a platform that works to enable effective dialogue between governments and citizens on draft laws and policies. They empower individuals to co-create the laws that impact them before these laws are finalised. Civis aggregates, simplifies, translates and analyses feedback on draft laws, which is then shared with the government. They have worked on 100+ laws with citizen leaders from over 211 cities in India. They have also worked with 5 government bodies to facilitate effective consultations on laws at both the national and city level. Up to 52% of the citizen feedback facilitated through their platform has been incorporated into certain laws, such as the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020. With a focus on constructive dialogue, Civis is building the capacity of both citizens and governments to engage with one another.

2 Contract Automation and Management

The lack of consistency and standards in drafting contracts has been a roadblock to contract automation and management in the legal industry. Template contracts (mostly in the telecom and manufacturing industry) are now lending themselves to automation with tools like NLP that can navigate through some of these roadblocks. Twelve AP20 initiatives are working specifically in the field of legal contract automation, of which 8 are using tech tools like apps and interactive dashboards that allow users to track the lifecycle of a contract. A leap in contract automation, however, will require standardisation in the industry practice of drafting contracts and changes in the state machinery to enable digital signatures, e-stamping and e-registration in a manner that fits seamlessly with contract automation systems.

SpotDraft

SpotDraft is arguably the first Indian contract review and management solution of global standard. Their clear understanding of the exact pain points of contract review and management has led to the creation of a highly user-friendly solution with features including bulk contract review, renewals, identification of critical clauses and deviations from standards, the ability to extract data from historical contracts, and an AI-powered native editor. Their understanding of how enterprises work has also led to a product that supports organisational workflows and protocols and makes adoption that much easier.
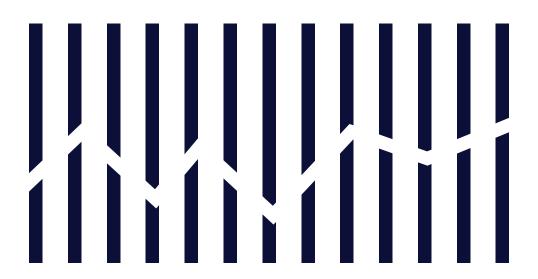
The Legal Capsule

The Legal Capsule is a contract lifecycle management (CLM) platform for companies to manage all their legal documents on the go. They also have a B2B model to ease the process of digitising contracts. The product is an end to end solution that makes it easier to create, collaborate, negotiate, e-sign, store and manage agreements and forms all in one place. Among other features, it provides online e-stamp papers, management of recurring payments through an e-NACH system, e-KYC, automated renewal reminders, dedicated legal support and ODR mechanisms for contract needs of all kinds. They have priced themselves in a way as to be accessible to SMEs as well.

3 Criminal Justice and Prison Reform

As a nation, our approach has always been to seek harsher penalties for crimes, instead of deepening our understanding of the underlying causes of such crimes and working towards addressing them. In addition, our justice institutions are in dire need of reform, especially the prison system. Prisons in India suffer from extreme 'othering', rather than serving as spaces for rehabilitation. Agami Prize 2020 saw 25 initiatives working actively in this area, offering solutions that range from legal representation for the most vulnerable and services for the institutions themselves, to rehabilitation programmes that enable former prisoners to reintegrate into society.

Phoenix 'A Smart Prison ERP' (AP20 Winner - Industry Prize)

Phoenix is a unique offering that promises to make prisons humane. Born from the founder's deep personal insights into the conditions in jail, Phoenix has digitised critical prison operations while still in keeping with the Jail Manual. Its notable features include a canteen transaction system that is directly linked to online payment systems and gives biometric access to prisoners; an e-custody system to ensure timely and accurate delivery of custody certificates before courts, which would also free up the manpower assigned to this tedious task; and a Court Production Management System that automatically generates production lists, without errors. Phoenix is currently impacting 4 lakh prisoners through full-scale deployment in all prisons in Haryana and pilot projects in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to Legal Education (IDIA):

IDIA is making legal education more accessible to underrepresented, underprivileged and differently abled students. Their student volunteers have driven IDIA's agenda of inclusion, by both sensitising and recruiting prospective students, training them for admission, and mentoring them while at law school. Since inception, IDIA has sensitized over 38,000 students and trained 450 students for CLAT and other law entrance examinations, of which 137 passed the entrance exams and a majority secured admission to top universities. 20.3% of IDIA's students are visually challenged and 32.8% belong to SC/ST communities. The IDIA community is increasingly becoming an effective voice for inclusion and quality at India's law schools.

4 Legal Education

Legal education develops and nurtures the people that shape the legal system. Many political and social leaders in the country have also benefited from a legal education. With 25 AP20 initiatives, we're seeing a steady rise in the number of initiatives that are enhancing access to and the quality of legal education. There is a concerted effort being made to not just upgrade law school pedagogy but also supplemental education and skill development. Seventeen AP20 initiatives offer online co-curricular learning spaces, skill development, mentorship networks and capacity building through online and offline training in partnership with civil society organisations and volunteer networks. Seven others are going beyond merely subject-matter interventions to proposing models for high quality degree-length education regardless of which law school students are able to formally enrol in. This could level the playing field by enabling a wider range of students to access quality legal education and skill development.

Lawctopus Law School

Lawctopus' online law school offers a creative alternative to traditional classrooms complete with specialised courses, live and recorded lectures, student hang-out zones, career counselling and a placement cell. They aim to provide a 'warm' learning experience through a blended approach, supplementing quality reading material and live classes for doubt resolution with a team to support students via WhatsApp groups, email reminders and even phone calls to those struggling with the course. Students can take the school's courses while being formally enrolled in any law school. So far, the school has already catered to 1,200+ students.

Project Second Chance

An empathetic intervention, Project Second Chance works with incarcerated youth to equip them to become change agents. Through a fellowship programme, they come together with young liberal arts graduates to start interventions inside and outside the prison that are sustainable, scalable and systemic in nature. The Second Chance Fellows work full-time in prisons during their 12-month tenure, with a focus on developing educational, livelihood and life skills programmes and facilitating sessions and workshops for youth at risk. There have been over 20 fellows so far, and many of their projects have been incubated by UnLtd India, TFIx, Changelooms, School for Social Entrepreneurs India, Shakti - The Empathy Project, etc.

5 Legal Journalism

Matters of law and justice deeply impact most aspects of society. Unfortunately, legal news and journalism is rarely accessible to those outside the legal circle. Furthermore, while the media narrative is a crucial factor in determining the response of citizens, there is a proliferation of fake news, insensitive reporting and misreporting. This leads to general civic apathy and has an adverse impact on victims of crime. Fortunately, an increasing number of media initiatives are focusing on issues at the intersection of law and justice and citizens' rights. Eight AP20 initiatives are media organisations that are equipping journalists with legal knowledge so that they are better able to report on issues. They are also expanding the scope of reportage by linking it deeper with questions directly relating to law and justice.
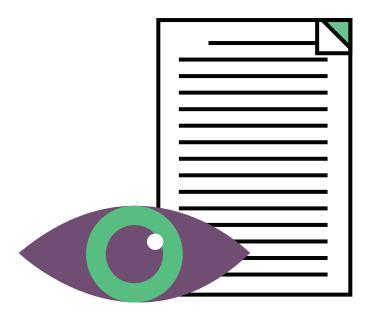
Article 14

Article 14 is pioneering 'research journalism' to deeply investigate and amplify issues of justice. With reputed legal professors and journalists on their editorial team, they effectively blend nuanced perspectives of law with journalistic flair and storytelling to build legal awareness amongst the public. Their series of investigative stories on ASHA workers' wage disputes and lack of transparency in the national COVID-19 task force was shared more than 800 times on Facebook and Twitter and was picked up by reputed journalist Ravish Kumar for his prime-time show on NDTV. They were also called on by the commission formed by the Delhi government to investigate the Delhi riots in February 2020, on account of their story on Facebook's role in the riots.

Impulse Model Press Lab: AP18 Winner – Idea Prize

One of 2 Idea Prize winners back in 2018, the Lab is an initiative of Impulse NGO Network, whose groundwork in human trafficking issues has helped them understand the critical role of the press in resolving cases. They have been successfully running a fellowship programme for media houses across 4 countries - India, Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh - to promote sensitive reporting on cross-border human trafficking in Asia. Building a coalition of journalists, the programme aims to improve the quality of reporting on cases of human trafficking, inculcate gender sensitivity among reporters, and provide technical information to media houses. Over 72,000 cases of human trafficking have been addressed through their work since 1997.

6 Legal Literacy

One of the main reasons why citizens have always been intimidated by the justice system is because of their inability to understand their rights and then navigate the system to either avail them or challenge injustices. To be legally literate is essential today, and as many as 73 AP20 initiatives have made this their core area of work. Of these, the highest number of initiatives, around 20%, are advancing legal literacy in gender justice; 15% are focusing on building legal capacity among the youth; 13% are ensuring vulnerable communities are made aware of the legal remedies available to them; while 6% are working on digital rights awareness. However, only 1 initiative is concerned with laws that exist to protect the environment around us, a critical area currently in crisis. To boost the capacities of those at the forefront of fighting legal battles, 7% of the initiatives in this category are concentrating on improving the knowledge available to lawyers, particularly those advancing social justice issues, by building cross-learning platforms and networks to aid and assist them.

Land Rights Initiative (LRI)

Centre for Policy Research's LRI employs a range of research tools to understand the applicability, interplay and impact of over 1,000 relevant laws and provide actionable insights. They publish concise, jargon-free research reports to simplify this complex area of knowledge for all. LRI is also launching a comprehensive, interactive website, with open APIs, on the land laws of India. By organising events for relevant stakeholders from academia, policy, government and civil society, LRI is not only helping to create an informed citizenry but is also building pathways for those in the legislature, executive and judiciary to make informed policy decisions.

Constitutionofindia.net

The Centre for Law and Policy Research is establishing Constitutionofindia.net as a multilingual digital archive of user-friendly information on the Constitution and related documents, thus providing a dynamic way for citizens to learn about and understand the Constitution better. The archive is free, human tagged, open access and easily discoverable, making it an accessible resource on the history, values and text of the Constitution that can be used to further popular knowledge and engagement. The site gets thousands of monthly website views and ranks sixth in the Google search rankings for 'Constitution of India'. They also organise quizzes, seminars and workshops in partnership with other organisations to enhance constitutional education and literacy, especially among students.

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Indian Kanoon: AP18 Winner – Citizenship Prize

Founded by Sushant Sinha, Indian Kanoon began by democratising access to Indian judgments through its free and simple user-centric search engine. With millions of page views per month, it has become a necessary companion for law students and practitioners everywhere. Indian Kanoon is now moving into a new area with 'Laws of India', to make all laws completely accessible (including their sections, subsections and sometimes even subsubsections). With over 800 laws in its database, the platform offers all legislations in the standard Akoma Ntoso format, which makes it easy to manage and work with complex documents.
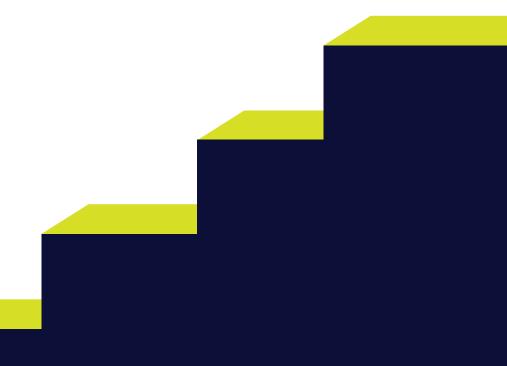
7 Legal Practice

To serve the justice needs of 1.3 billion people, it is necessary that legal practitioners have the tools and resources to evolve their practice. From precise legal research and streamlining documentation to digital identification, payments and e-signing, the 2020 edition of the Agami Prize saw 31 initiatives working to establish trusted systems for legal practice. Thirteen of these are using technology and data-driven intelligence to create disruptive solutions. In the legal research and analytics space, the growth of foundational technologies such as NLP and ML is leading to improvement in results that have historically been keyword dependent and devoid of any analytics. Four AP20 initiatives in this area offer commercial standard legal research and analytics tools.

Legitquest

Building on an interlinked database that integrates multiple sources of information such as cases, laws, news, etc., Legitquest offers one platform for all the research, analytics and even networking needs of legal professionals. Their AI-powered search makes research less time consuming and more efficient, and their analytics tools enable data-driven decisions for the best strategies relating to a case. With thousands of paid subscribers, Legitquest is being used by large numbers of lawyers and students, as well as members of the police and judiciary to gather accurate data towards better prosecution and quality decision-making.

Riverus

Riverus combines the latest technology with user-centric design to build systems that empower legal professionals to do their work exponentially better. Their Riverus Telescope is a ready reckoner, especially for tax law professionals, generating research and insights from an otherwise complex system. Hundreds of web crawlers download information from various courts, and data science processes extract intelligence. Human editors then use custom technology to efficiently approve or reject this intelligence to ensure that the user receives research that is genuinely useful for their work. The aim is to take this man-machine model and the proven design capabilities to all areas of law in due course.

Provakil: AP18 Winner – Industry Prize

Provakil is employing the latest in data science and management to put in place a data-driven enterprise that can address different use cases through separate applications, beginning with its case and practice management application for lawyers. Its founders bring the experience of having dealt with data challenges in other sectors, notably health, where data needs to be dependably aggregated from different sources, reconciled and then directed to specific user needs. While they are currently creating solutions focused on practicing lawyers, law firms and legal departments, they have also executed projects to demonstrate how court data can be utilised to make courts more efficient.

8 Legal Research

Legal research is the bedrock of almost all work in law and justice. From addressing the information deficit to strengthening policy advocacy, research has a critical role to play in how we understand and improve our systems. Fourteen AP20 initiatives are diving deep to identify gaps in current research, enhance transparency, and generate actionable insights and feedback for different actors in the system. They are also leveraging legal research and analytics tools, including qualitative legal research, quantitative and statistical methods, geographic information system (GIS) and data analytics techniques, in their work ranging from creating databases of case laws to figuring patterns in bail behaviour.
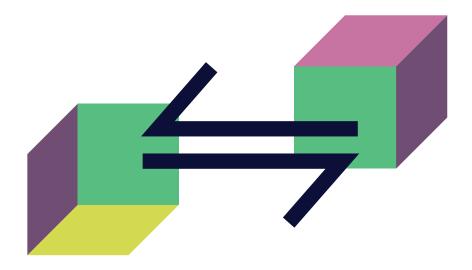
Finance Research Group's Bankruptcy Case Database

This database is creating the foundation for empirical research and data-based decision-making in the field of bankruptcy and the performance of commercial tribunals in India. Their aggregate data and case-level data from orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), combined with already existing datasets (e.g., from the CMIE Prowess database), can feed into rich analyses of the impact of structural reform as well as the behaviour of debtors and creditors in India. This, in turn, can facilitate analysis into the characteristics of firms that go bankrupt, the correlation between firm size and time for disposal of cases, etc. FRG is also leveraging their openly published pilot datasets and early findings to strategically engage think-tanks, the NCLT and judges, while also working with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to recommend commensurate capacity building measures for the NCLT.

Criminal Justice & Police Accountability Project (CPAP) (AP20 Winner - Idea Prize)

An early-stage initiative, CPAP is enabling marginalised communities to anchor and drive the process of holding everyday policing procedures accountable. This is done by undertaking data-driven research and strategic litigation to increase cost on the system and create feedback loops. The CPAP team collects data on different policing functions such as detention, arrests and externment, which helps understand and reveal the impact of specific laws on the criminalisation of certain communities. They draw data from publicly available sources like FIRs, Arrest Data and Right to Information applications submitted to the state and district crime bureaus.

9 Legal Transactions

Legal transactions have long been held back from being fully digitized due to their dependence on government services like registration and stamping and legal requirements around signing. In 2020, a convergence of factors such as legal changes, new government services, an overall push towards Digital India and the persistence of entrepreneurs in the face of a pandemic has led to truly digital-first experiences for many categories. Three AP20 initiatives are maximising this opportunity to create online identity and trust building tools that offer both B2C and B2B services for easing transactions in the legal industry.

Leegality

A comprehensive solution for the otherwise tedious processes of e-signing and e-stamping, Leegality is transforming the way transactions are executed by digitising the lifecycle of a document. Building upon the framework of the Information Technology Act, Indian Evidence Act and Stamp Acts, it uses a highly automated, end to end digital process, eliminating the need for physical signatures, stamping and related processes like courier/delivery, storage and other physical compliances. Leegality counts among its clients hundreds of organisations, including Federal Bank, HDFC Ltd, Airtel Payments Bank, L&T Financial Services, IndusInd Financial Services, HDB Financial Services and Power Finance Corporation.

DOQFY

Easing legal document management for enterprises, DOQFY is building a user-friendly and secure document automation SaaS platform, with built-in electronic signatures, workflow management and document builder tools. The platform also offers personalised templates and e-stamping services. DOQFY has collaborated with the legal teams of various organisations, including banks, to ensure compliance with local laws while saving over 80% of the time spent on this and over 45% in costs for companies.

ODR

10 Online and Alternate Dispute Resolution

Mounting court backlogs, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing interest in alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, particularly mediation, have led to a tremendous growth of this ecosystem in the last 2 years. A mechanism traditionally confined to family matters is now demonstrating its applicability to many other types of disputes such as commercial disputes. This has encouraged the emergence of several initiatives, including 19 AP20 initiatives, which are innovating solutions for ADR. They are creating networks of mediators; platforms to connect mediators as well as assist enterprises in their dealings with staff, distributors, wholesalers and customers; and software to support mediators and their cases. From apps to online platforms where cases are resolved end to end, 9 of these initiatives are blending technology with human expertise to achieve the goal of resolving disputes efficiently outside of courts.
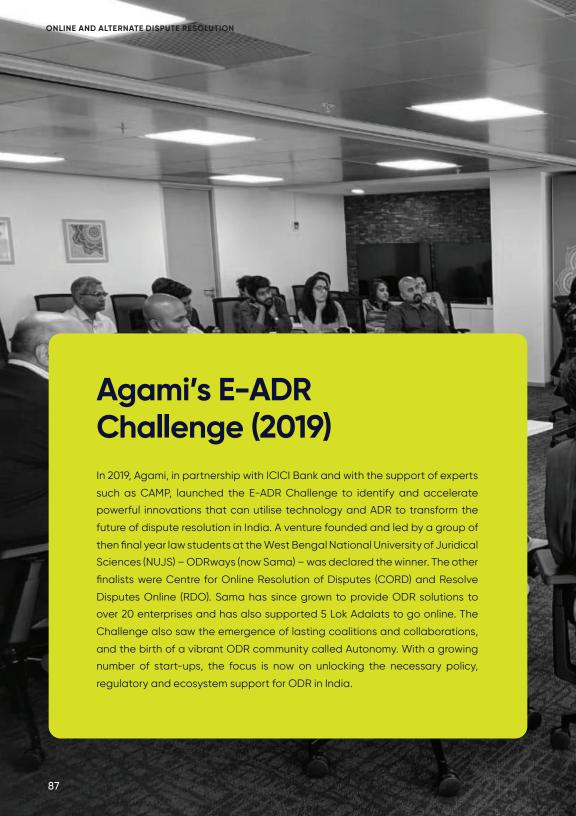
Legal Education and Aid Unit (LEAD) by Aajeevika Bureau (AP20 Winner: Shamnad Basheer Citizenship Prize)

LEAD's strong network of 200 paralegals across Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra provides pre-migration counselling to workers at pre-identified 'source' centres of migration, to promote awareness of rights and entitlements and good work practices such as maintaining documentation and attendance diaries. The LEAD team leverages mediation as an effective tool suited to informal work conflicts to settle disputes. Employers tend to participate in these mediation processes as the burden of proof in formal systems is on them and they rarely maintain proper documentation. As of June 2020, LEAD has succeeded in resolving over 9,000 cases through mediation and dispute resolution. Their helpline receives an average of close to 5,000 calls a month, and they have also retrieved wages in favour of workers amounting to over 25 crores.

Aiding Resolution Through Advanced Methods (ARTAM)

Creating new roles and a new pedagogy for citizens and college students respectively, ARTAM is introducing a consensual dispute resolution mechanism like mediation to students at the college stage itself. Once introduced to these mechanisms, the hope is that this means of resolving a dispute will become the more natural way for them to settle disputes and they carry that culture forward with them to society at large. These individuals can then go on to set up community mediation centres, especially in economically backward areas, and act as peer mediators to help solve disputes locally and efficiently instead of ending up in the court system. Led and run by students, ARTAM's training module has been built by known academicians and mediators, and they have trained close to 500 students till now.

Agami's E-ADR Challenge (2019)

In 2019, Agami, in partnership with ICICI Bank and with the support of experts such as CAMP, launched the E-ADR Challenge to identify and accelerate powerful innovations that can utilise technology and ADR to transform the future of dispute resolution in India. A venture founded and led by a group of then final year law students at the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) – ODRways (now Sama) – was declared the winner. The other finalists were Centre for Online Resolution of Disputes (CORD) and Resolve Disputes Online (RDO). Sama has since grown to provide ODR solutions to over 20 enterprises and has also supported 5 Lok Adalats to go online. The Challenge also saw the emergence of lasting coalitions and collaborations, and the birth of a vibrant ODR community called Autonomy. With a growing number of start-ups, the focus is now on unlocking the necessary policy, regulatory and ecosystem support for ODR in India.

11 Pro bono or Affordable Legal Services

Despite state mechanisms for legal aid, the majority of citizens, particularly from marginalised groups, still do not have access to quality legal services. Even those who can afford services struggle to find trusted lawyers for their particular needs and price points. The legal services industry has only a few of the basic systems that enable effective consumer protection in other sectors, such as adequate choice of services, delivery standards and grievance mechanisms. The second edition of the Agami Prize saw 58 initiatives working in this area, providing pro bono, low bono or market-based services. Of these, 10 are working within the criminal justice system, 8 are offering online dispute resolution services, and 8 are empowering citizens towards availing their rights and entitlements.

A further 6 AP20 initiatives are creating marketplaces for legal services beyond connecting with a lawyer, such as problem diagnosis and free legal advice, while 4 are working to help citizens prepare their cases better.
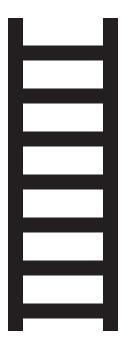
Parichay

19,06,657 persons were excluded from the final National Register of Citizens for Assam. Parichay, a collaborative legal aid effort among law schools, trains and facilitates law students to assist lawyers representing NRC-excluded persons at the Foreigners' Tribunals in the appeals process. Parichay's student volunteers are supporting lawyers across 8 districts in Assam, and they hope to expand their reach to be able to benefit at least 5,000 excluded people.

LegalKart

LegalKart is building a comprehensive tech-enabled ecosystem where users can get professional legal advice and support via a phone helpline. In a country like India where making a call is the easiest option for a citizen, LegalKart is a simple port of call for those who first seek to understand their legal issue. This is followed up with systems that match the user with an appropriate lawyer for their needs. LegalKart has served over 12,000 users so far and has 10,000+ verified lawyers in 800 cities.

12 Rights and Entitlements

For many citizens, the idea of justice has less to do with litigation in courts and more to do with their ability to secure rights and benefits under various laws and schemes. Lack of awareness, resources and skills, coupled with systemic biases, hinders their ability to rightfully claim such rights and benefits. This is an area of focus for 10 AP20 initiatives, which are using helplines and active on-ground engagement to equip vulnerable groups with the knowledge and support to avail what is sanctioned for them as per legal norms. Interestingly, 7 AP20 initiatives are dedicatedly looking at the issue of land rights through the lens of research, database building and the use of technology to improve access to land titles.

Haqdarshak

Haqdarshak is combining research and technology with a strong service network to advance access to welfare schemes. Their research team has codified over 6,000 central, state, municipal and private welfare schemes and translated them into local languages. Their product is designed to enable any person to determine which scheme or benefits they are eligible for. The information is accessible and is supported by services such as the Haqdarshak app, the Citizen app and the MSME app. Recognising that merely providing access to digital information is not sufficient for most rural citizens, Haqdarshak has also recruited and trained a cadre of women to act as 'Haqdarshaks' – agents who help communities become more aware of their rights, process their claims and address grievances at their doorstep in return for a small fee. Their platforms have reached over 3 lakh citizens, facilitating their applications and enabling them to receive their due benefits.

Transerve

Transerve is a data platform working in a coalition with Tata Trusts and the Odisha government to ensure the allocation of property titles to those living in slum settlements across Odisha. Their approach uses geolocation to pinpoint people's occupation of certain properties and demarcate their boundaries in highly fluid environments, combining it with primary data gathering to assess people's claims, double-check the boundaries and collect a wide range of secondary data to support title claims. They are also developing structures and collaborative frameworks to utilise the data and enable different stakeholders to create a pioneering solution. This is a clear use case for how geospatial technology can be used in conjunction with primary sources of data to create property rights for the urban poor. Extending this approach to other states could benefit millions of urban poor.

About Agami

Agami serves as a movement and platform for powerful ideas to create new or improved systems of law and justice.

We envision a future where these systems are accessible, inclusive and effective for all. This future depends on the growth of changemakers who are reimagining possibilities and driving action. We work towards enabling and supporting the growth of these changemakers.

To learn more about Agami and our collaborative initiatives, visit **agami.in**

The 'A to Z' of Ideas Serving Justice

Early-stage initiatives, unregistered at the time of the Agami Prize, have been mentioned along with the Founder's name. For clarity sake, in some cases, the name of the larger organisation, of which the initiative is a part, has been mentioned. This is a compiled list which includes both Agami Prize 2018 and 2020 applicants. Initiatives that are no longer active, to the best of our knowledge, have not been listed. Incase you were an applicant and do not find your name mentioned, do drop us an email at **team@agami.in**

A

Access to Free Socio-Legal Aid Services, by Praveen Kumar
Ad Vac To
Adhrit Foundation
ADR-Cloud
ADR Initiative, by Sangeeta Mehrotra
Initiative for Legal Reforms, by Rohit Sharma
Aiding Resolution Through Advanced Methods (ARTAM)
AishMGhrana Law Governance Responsibility
Alexis Foundation
Alexis Society
Alt+Law
Alternative Justice
Altinfo
AnnexLegal
ARAD
Arappor Iyakkam
Arista
Article 14

D

Dhwani Legal Trust
DiLSEWiLL
DOQFY
Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow
dtox.network

E

Enfold Proactive Health Trust
ExpertEvidence.Org

F

FACTS | Fight For A Change In The Society
Fair Trial Fellowship Programme (FTF), Project 39A
FemJustice Legal Centre
Fight4Right
Fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights, by Priya Menon
Find That Law

G

Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME)
Gram Vaani Community Media (OnionDev Technologies Pvt Ltd)
Greater Democracy
Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan (Guria India)

H

HAQ: Centre for Child Rights
Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions Private Limited
Haq Samuh - A Citizenship Rights Collective
Hopebright Legal Empowerment Foundations
House Court by Arbitration Rooms, by Hanin Business & Consulting Private Limited

I

ICE Foundation
IDFC Foundation
IDIA Charitable Trust
IJLJ Consultants
Imperium
India Rights Initiative
India Vision Foundation
Indian Civil Liberties Union (ICLU)
Indus Action
International Bridges to Justice
Internet Freedom Foundation
Implementing the Good Samaritan Law

J

J Sagar Associates
Jindal Global Law School
JRTC Intern
JUDAS (Judges Under Dynamic Appraisal System)
Judicial Appointment Authority, by Prashanth Chandra S N
Judicial Activism, by Gaurav Kumar Bansal
unior Faculty Forum for Indian Law Teachers
JustAct
Justice Adda
Justice for all (JFA)

K

Karnataka State Legal Services Authority
Kayda Kanoon
KHOJ
Kovise Foundation

L

Landesa

Landryt

Land Conflict Watch, by Nut Graph LLP

Law Essentials India, by Mohammed Farhan C

Law on Wheels

Lawctopus

Lawculus.com

Lawyer Diary

Leegality

Legal Aid Clinic, NLIU

Legal Aid For Socio Economic Reform Organisation, by Gowrishankar E

Legal Angles Patna

Legal Design India

Legal Education and Advocacy Unit (LEAD), by Aajeevika Bureau

Legal Reach, by Afsar Raza

Legalfoxes

LegalKart

LegalMind

LegalPay

LegalWiz.in

Legalxgen

Legge Rhythms, by Devika Gupta

Legistify

LegitQuest

Legodesk

Let India Breathe

LEX DO IT Trust

Lexic

Legal Task Force, at Bundl Technologies Pvt Ltd (Swiggy)

Love Therapy, by Alokananda Roy

M

Maadhyam

Mentorology

MGZ Edutech Pvt Ltd

Mine Workers Welfare and Compliance Commission

Minority Coordination Committee, Gujarat

Mojo Story

MSAAW Foundation Research Centre

N

Neev – Foundation for Legal Aid
News Broadcasters Federation
NoRapeIndia, by Ravina Raj Kohli
North East Network (NEN)
Nyaya
Nyaykarta
Nyaykosh

O

Olawyer
OLF: Online Law Firm
One Future Collective
One India One Court, by Prashanth Chandra SN
Ooloi Labs LLP
OurDemocracy.in
OutLawed
outofcourt.in

P

Parichay
Parwaaz Project
People for Green Eartth, by Asim Sarode
Phoenix ' A Smart Pison ERP'
PIL (Public Interest Litigation), by Ronak Sharma
Pink Legal
Presolv360
Prevention of human trafficking, by Priya M Menon
PRISM – Prisoners Reform Intervention Support Mission
Project Abhimanyu
Project Second Chance, by TYCIA Foundation
ProMooters
Public Interest Advocacy Initiative