



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Country/Organisation:** India - International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSED)

**What are the primary challenges your country faces in ensuring equal access to justice within your criminal justice system? How do these challenges impact groups in vulnerable situation in your society? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

Justice is not a service by State, it is an inherent right of every human being. It ensures Criminal justice system as a complex network of agencies and processes work together to investigate, prosecute, and punish illegal activity which is a primary challenges in our nation for protecting the innocent, convicting criminals and providing a fair justice process. The impact of marginalized and vulnerable situation justice should not be mere formal in sense; it should be proportionate to the disabilities of a person. It is a greatest challenges to our society/country, it should be lawful, fair and it demands equitable distributions and the correction for the inequitable part.

**Can you provide examples of initiatives or policies that have been successful in addressing access to justice issues in your country? What key lessons have been learned from these initiatives or policies? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

India, with its diverse cultural, social, and economic fabric, is home to a myriad of marginalized communities. It prioritized the strengthening of justice through government initiatives including a public grievance redressed system, Gram Nayalay for villages like panchayati Raj. Presently Indian judiciary implementing diverse system of mechanism to get the early justice by curtail the unnecessary legal complicity and for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities within their reach. In recent time our Apex court tested some legal aid cases by constituting some benches in their gap period of court proceedings. Beside these our judiciary already admitted the ADR process as a time consuming and cheaper mechanism in judiciary. We are developing an innovative idea to spread out the process in different areas and parts of the country to procure a larger no. of beneficiaries.

**What are the best practices currently being implemented in your criminal justice system to enhance access to legal aid and fair trials? How do these best practices improve outcomes for individuals involved in the criminal justice system? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

Legal aid is a foundation for the enjoyment of other rights, including the right to a fair trial

it is an essential element of humane and efficient criminal justice system based on the rule of law. Legal aid plays an important role in facilitating diversion and the use of community-based sanctions and measures, including non-custodial and promoting greater community involvement in the criminal justice system; reducing the unnecessary use of detention and imprisonment; rationalizing criminal justice policies; and ensuring efficient use of State resources for free justice to the poor, a fair and efficient fairness to criminal justice system.

**What factors have been crucial in enabling successful reforms or improvements in your criminal justice system? How can these enabling factors be replicated or adapted in other contexts or regions to ensure equal access to justice for all? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

Criminal justice framework based on some enabling factors for free access to all sectors in the community, especially for the vulnerable marginalized section, proper investigation, fair trial, witness, cross examination, etc. and for its improvement it requires some protective umbrella to safeguard from cruelty, enforcement of law at the right time and authority. State should ensure preventive action in any discrimination amongst the rich and poor, caste & creed, religions, languages, etc. to get free access and enjoy legal aid and fairness in criminal justice system and over the most to maintain equality.