



TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMY
Reflective Training Programme for the Civil Judges of 2019 Batch

Event Report

The Reflective Training Programme for the Civil Judges of 2019 Batch was conducted from 09.05.2022 to 13.05.2022 at TNSJA Regional Centre, Madurai.

The Reflective Training Programme was significantly divided into four fundamental strata of learning for the week-long training programme after assessing the judgments received by TNSJA from the Judicial Officers before the commencement of the programme. The fundamental emphasis was supplied on the following four strata,

1. Framing of Charges,
2. Framing of Issues,
3. Do's and Don'ts on Recording of Evidence,
4. Appreciation of Evidence and
5. Judgment Writing.

Each fundamental strata of the reflective training programme for the week comprised of;

1. Lecture sessions by important Resource Persons,
2. Interactive session with the Director,

3. Discussion session with the peers moderated by the Director,
4. Practical sessions, and
5. Impact assessment and evaluation session by the Director and his team comprising of Deputy Director and Assistant Directors.

DAY – 1 (09/05/2022)

The Reflective Training Programme for the Civil Judges of 2019 Batch commenced with the invocation song 'தமிழ்த்தாய் வாழ்த்து'.

Mr. D. LINGESWARAN, Director, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy set the tone by drawing the Scope and Object of the Programme. The Director elucidated that, this training programme is aimed as a constructive and critical reflection programme for the participant trainee judicial officers to introspect, reflect and share amongst their peers. This would in turn promote endurance in our work.

For the inauguration of Reflective Training for 2019 Batch Civil Judges, Registrars of the High Court were also present.





Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. RAJA Judge, High Court of Madras / President, Board of Governors, TNSJA gave the inaugural address and prepared the participants with ethical teachings that conveyed the importance and need for reflecting on their daily affairs of work. His Lordship reminded the participants to not only fulfil the aspiration and admiration of

the institution, but to go beyond the expectation. Speaking further, his lordship told the participants the objective behind organizing the reflective programme. His Lordship enunciated that, judiciary is the only institution which can relieve difficulties and burdens of other people and judiciary or the courts are the only place where fairness prevails.

His Lordship spoke about the Court rooms being the temple of justice and told the importance of judicial service in comparison with the other wings, the legislative and executive.

Further, His Lordship articulated about the issues, problems, challenges brought before the judges which must be addressed fairly by meticulously

examining the arguments of both sides and dispassionately looking into the documents. His Lordship also gave practical example.

The next session was presentation by the participants. Each Judicial Officer was assigned a topic which was of daily importance for a Judge on which they had to speak for 3 minutes. The presentation by the judicial officers aimed at promoting critical and constructive peer learning exercises. The Judicial officers presented the topic allotted to them and discussed how that it maybe be applied by their day-to-day work. The presentation was followed by an elaborate discussion on the case moderated by the Director of the Academy.



Post lunch, there was a lecture on "Framing of Charges" by Mr. N. Dilip Kumar, Advocate, Madurai. He enunciated the importance of framing of charges. Further, he spoke about the significance of framing of charges in a criminal trial and how it can change the entire process. He also cited few important judgments relating to

framing of charges of the Apex Court and the High Court. The participants posed questions of practical importance to the resource person which were duly answered.



The first day's training concluded with Practical Training on Framing of Charges comprised of an activity based on critical evaluation of Participants' judgments. Participants were given practical exercises to

frame charges. The premise for the activity was derived from the judgments submitted by the participants to TNSJA for critical evaluation.

DAY – 2 (10/05/2022)



Day two of the reflective training programme commenced with introduction to the session on 'Appreciation of Evidence' by the Director. The participants were first asked the meaning of appreciation of evidence. Some answers given by the participants were appreciated by the Director.



The trainee judicial officers were showcased with the critical issues found after reviewing the judgments submitted by them. The Director and his team reviewed the judgments of the judicial officers and identified the critical problems and slipups which was modulated into multiple choice questions and placed before the judicial officers for discussion. The Discussion was moderated by the Director and his team.

The practical questions were of multiple choices which were answered by the participating judicial officers. The platform used to collect answers was Google forms. The situations in those questions were extracted from some of the issues dealt by the Magistrates and Munsifs in their day-to-day work. Prior to displaying the right answer, few judicial officers were chosen from amongst the participants to justify their answers and after an elaborate discussion, the participants would come to the right conclusion.



The next session was a lecture session on 'Appreciation of Evidence' by Mr. E. V. Chandrasekaran, Advocate, High Court of Madras. Mr. Chandru started his lecture with an interesting song quote - மரத்தை மறைத்தது மாமத யானை,

மரத்தில் மறைந்தது மாமத யானை, பரத்தை மறைத்தது பார்முதல் பூதம்,பரத்தில் மறைந்தது பார்முதல் பூதமே, and explained that the perspective of each and every person is different. As judges the participants were cautioned to differentiate and appreciate the evidences that are relevant only.

Further, Mr. Chandru explained in detail 'Appreciation of Evidence' with relevant case laws. Some of the important case laws discussed during the lecture session were; *Sukumaran Vs. State rep. by Inspector of Police*, (2019) 15 SCC 117, *LIC of India & Anr. Vs. Ram Pal Singh Bisen*, 2010 (4) SCC 491, *Masalti Vs. State of U.P.*, (1964) 8 SCR 133, *Salem Advocate Bar Association, T.N. Vs. Union of India*, 2005 (6) SCC 344, *Jarnail Singh Vs. State of Punjab*, (2009) 3 SCC 391, *Vadivelu Thevar Vs.State of Madras*, AIR 1957 SC 614, *Harry Parker, Limited Vs. Mason*, 1940 (2) KB 590, *Kunju Alias Balachandran Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, 2008 (2) SCC 151, *Iqbal Basith Vs. N. Subbalakshmi*, (2021) 2 SCC 718, *Iqbal Singh Marwah & Anr. Vs.Meenakshi Marwah & Anr.*, (2005) 4 SCC 370 and *Kannan@ Mannanai Kannan Vs. State (Crl.A.(MD)No.3 of 2020)*.



Post lunch session was on "Framing of Issues" Mr. H. Arumugam, Advocate, Madurai. This session was a lecture session where the resource person explained lucidly the framing of issue. He spoke about the importance of issues framing and how to frame them. The participants posed questions of practical importance to the resource person which were duly answered.

The second day's training concluded with Practical Training on Framing of Issues comprised of an activity based on critical evaluation of Participants' judgments. Participants were given practical exercises to frame issues. The premise for the activity was derived from the judgments submitted by the participants to TNSJA for critical evaluation.

DAY – 3 (11/05/2022)

Day three of the reflective training programme commenced with introduction by the Director. The entire session of day was presentation of case laws. The Judicial Officers were divided into groups and were given exercise to read and understand a landmark decision by either the Apex Court or the High Court, which was of daily importance for a Judicial officer thereby, promoting

critical and constructive peer learning exercises. The Judicial officers presented the cases allotted to them and discussed how that particular case has to be applied by the judicial officer. The presentation was followed by an elaborate discussion on the case moderated by the Director of the Academy.



After the presentation by the speaker, the participants from other groups were to ask question/ doubts or any practical situations related to the case where they faced difficulties. The questions/ doubts and practical difficulties were then clarified by exchanging of thoughts and practices adopted by other judges. Wherever, there arose a difficulty in finding solution or clarity, the Directors of the academy intervened and helped the participants with their experiences.

DAY – 4 (12/05/2022)

On the fourth day of the training programme, firstly, the session commenced with the Director's introduction. The day began with the session on Strengthening Basics through Judicious Introspection by the Director and the resource person Mr. R. Shanmuga Sundaram, Principal District Judge,

Ramanathapuram. The discussion was on writing good and commendable judgments. The session was interactive in nature where, the Director and resource person guided the participating judges to improve their judgment writing skills.



A mock court set-up was constructed and the judicial officers adorned the Bench as an actual Court and Director along with his team role played prosecutor, defence counsel, witnesses etc. When they identified a mistake, the mistakes were corrected then and there. Each judicial officer was given a chance to play the role of the presiding officer of the Mock Court.





The main purpose of conducting the Mock Court was to improve the quality in recording of evidence, handling of court and deciding the admissibility of the evidence tendered.

At the end of the day the judicial officers were given an exercise to write a judgment with the depositions recorded by them and shared to them through e-platforms from the recording of evidence activity. These submissions were collected separately and evaluated for understanding the learning curve of conducting a reflective training programme.

DAY – 5 (13/05/2022)



On the final day, the Director and his team comprising of Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors, gave each participant individual feedback and comments about the critical errors apparent in the judgments submitted by them for evaluation. Individual comments and suggestions were also given to the participants based on the evaluation of the activity submitted by them.

The Director and his team also discussed many of errors which were common among the participants and guided them to rectify the same.



The participants gave their individual feedback and their take away message from the training programme.



The programme concluded with Mrs. D. Shoba Devi, Assistant Director TNSJA, Chennai proposing the Vote of Thanks. She thanked the resource persons, participants, and staff for making the programme a grand success.
