



**TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMY**  
**Reflective Training Programme for the Civil Judges of 2019 Batch**  
**at Headquarters, Chennai**

**Event Report**

The Reflective Training Programme for the Civil Judges of 2019 Batch was conducted from 16.05.2022 to 20.05.2022, at the Headquarters of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy.

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

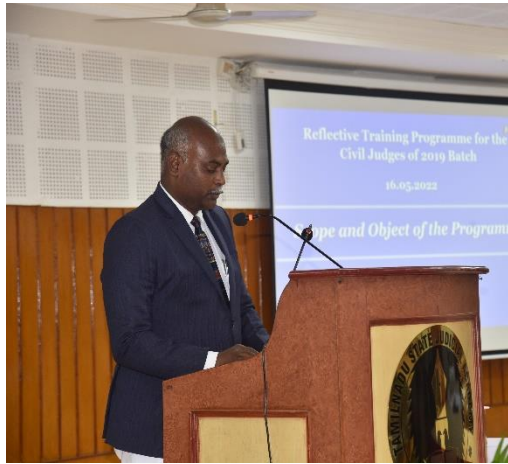
Each fundamental strata of the reflective training programme for the week comprised of;

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 (16/05/2022)**

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



**Mr. D. Lingeswaran**, Director, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy (TNSJA) welcomed the dignitaries, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. RAJA**, Judge, High Court of Madras / President, Board of Governors, TNSJA and **Hon'ble Ms. Justice ANITHA SUMANTH**, Judge, High Court of Madras /



Member, Board of Governors, TNSJA. He also welcomed the participants and set the tone by drawing the Scope and Object of the Programme. The Director elucidated that, the training

programme was aimed as a constructive and critical reflection programme for the participant trainee judicial officers to introspect, reflect and share amongst their peers. He emphasized that it would in turn promote endurance in their work.



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. RAJA**

Judge, High Court of Madras / President, Board of Governors, TNSJA inaugurated the week-long programme 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 fulfill the aspiration and admiration of the institution, but to go beyond the expectation. Speaking further, his lordship explained 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. Though, the legislators make the laws and the executives execute them, whenever there is a confusion between them, judiciary will supersede both. His Lordship then, spoke about the

prefix 'Honorable' attached to the Judges like the Legislators. He told the participants that, when being addressed with the prefix 'Hon'ble Judge' by the learned members of the Bar, the judge is expected to follow all the work ethics. His Lordship stated the importance of Art. 14 of the Constitution which provides for equality, reminded the participant that they are not just equal but more equal.

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 and concluded his speech.



The next session 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 asked 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.

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 (17/05/2022)**

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.

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 duty. Prior to displaying the right answer, few judicial officers were chosen from amongst the participants to select an answer which they think is right and give reasons for the same.



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 மாமதயானை, மரத்தில் மறைந்தது மாமதயானை, 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; *Ponnusamy v. State of T.N.*, (2008) 5 SCC 587, *Sukumaran v. State rep. by Inspector of Police*, (2019) 15 SCC 117, *Chandran v. State of Tamil Nadu*, 1978 AIR 1574, 1979 SCR (1) 176, *Masalti v. State of U.P.*, (1964) 8 SCR 133, *State of A.P. v. K. Srinivasulu Reddy*, (2003) 12 SCC 660, *Jarnail Singh v. State of Punjab*, (2009) 3 SCC 391, *Vadivelu Thevar v. State of Madras*, AIR 1957 SC 614, *Hanumant Govind Nargundkar v. State of M.P.*, 1952 SCR 1091, *Govinda Reddy v. State of Mysore*, AIR 1960 SC 29, *Iqbal Basith v. N. Subbalakshmi*, (2021) 2 SCC 718, *Iqbal Singh Marwah&Anr. v. Meenakshi Marwah&Anr.*, (2005) 4 SCC 370 and *Kannan@ Mannanai Kannan v. State (Crl.A.(MD)No.3 of 2020)*.

Post lunch session was on Framing of Issues & Disposal of cases at the First Hearing by Mr. A. Abdul Kadhar, Principal District Judge, Pudukkottai. This session was an interactive session where the participants were asked questions relating to Framing of issues and how they dispose certain unique cases at first hearing.



The participants too posed questions of practical importance to the resource person. In this session there was also exchange of thoughts and practices.

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 (18/05/2022)**

Day three of the reflective training programme commenced with introduction by the Director. The entire sessions of day were more of an eye opener to the participating judges. 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. They were assisted by the Deputy Directors and the Assistant

Directors. There was also discussion on the activity on framing of charges and framing of issues given earlier. The Director along with his team and the resource person after critically evaluating the judgments discussed some of the common mistakes committed by the participants. They also guided the participants on improvising the art of framing of charges and issues.

The session was more like a peer learning where the participating judicial officers were encouraged to exchange their practices of writing judgments. The Director and his team along with the resource person suggested aspects where changes were required. Questions and queries relating to judgments were raised by the participants which were duly answered.



At the end of the morning session, his lordship, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Jayachandran**, Judge High Court of Madras / Member Board of Governor, TNSJA interacted with the participants and also gave them few tips in conducting civil cases and criminal trials.

His lordship also spoke about the various aspects and skills of judgment writing that have to be improved by the participants.



The post lunch session was also an interactive session where queries relating to civil laws and criminal and their applicability in every day judicial work were raised. The resource persons Mr.

A. Abdul Kadhar, Principal District Judge, Pudukkottai and Mr. R. Shanmuga Sundaram, Principal District Judge, Ramanathapuram clarified the questions posed.

## **DAY – 4 (19/05/2022)**

On the fourth day of the training programme, 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.



Before the lunch break, his lordship, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.**



**Jayachandran,** Judge High Court of Madras / Member Board of Governor, TNSJA spoke to the participants about the importance proper recording of depositions

and its relevance in judgment writing.

At the end of the day the judicial officers were given an exercise to write a judgment with the depositions recorded by them which was 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 (20/05/2022)**

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



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





His lordship, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Sundar**, Judge High Court of Madras / Member Board of Governor, TNSJA then spoke to the participants on Court Management. His lordship also conveyed his best wishes to the participants.



The programme concluded with Mr. R. A. S. Anandaraj, Deputy Director TNSJA, Chennai proposing the Vote of Thanks. He thanked the resource persons, participants, and staff for making the programme a grand success.

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