

# MAHARAJA AGRASEN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

(A unit of Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society)

Affiliated to GGSIP University; Recognized u/s 2(f) of UGC

Recognized by Bar Council of India; ISO 9001: 2015 Certified Institution

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## Department of Law

Academic Year: 2021-22

Session: April – June 2022

### Value Added Course

### Research Methodology and Soft Skills Development Course Report

Today's teaching and learning experience calls for emphasis on innovative and original thinking which requires enabling students to harness their creativity and develop new perspectives and effective ways of presenting and communicating their ideas. With this aim and foresight, the Department of Law presents a Value-Added Course on **Research Methodology and Soft Skills Development** which was designed to help students to develop communication competence and research know-how. The course not only introduced students to ethical study and application of the process of research which in turn encourages critical thinking and problem-solving abilities in students, necessary for achieving the highest standards of quality in scholarship but also additionally the emphasis on soft skills included the development of oral and written communication skills, focusing on cultivating better and effective ways of and interpretation and presentation. In this way, the objective of this Value Added Course was to build research know how and communication competence in prospective Lawyers as well as equip them with the basic skills required for a variety of practical applications of communication such as applying for a job, writing reports and proposals.

**Total Number of students who participated in the VAAC was 120, all 120 students completed the course successfully.**

**Total Duration of the course was 30 Hours.**

The course began on 4th of April 2022 and comprised of ten topics which were carefully curated to impart students with the basics of research methodology as well as equipping them with variety of practical applications of communication.

**Topic 1 :** Session one, gave the students a basic introduction to the topic Research Methodology, and how necessary training in the directions can help them develop disciplined thinking or a 'bent of mind' to observe the field objectively gathering material /data, participation in the field work when required, and also training in techniques for the collection of data appropriate to particular problems, in the use of statistics, questionnaires and controlled experimentation and in recording evidence, sorting it out and interpreting it. The students were familiarised with how the knowledge of research methodology is helpful in various fields such as government or business administration, community development and social work where persons are increasingly called upon to evaluate and use research results for action.

**Topic 2:** this session, Titled introduction to Legal Research, was directed towards explaining to the students the meaning, nature, objective and purpose of conducting legal research. It involves a systematic search of legal materials, statutory, subsidiary and judicial pronouncements. For making advancement in the science of law, one needs to go into the 'underlying principles or reasons of the law'. These activities warrant a systematic approach. Thus, the term 'legal research' takes into its ambit 'a systematic finding' or 'ascertaining' law' on the identified topic or in the given area as well as 'an inquiry' into 'law'

Session three, was an Introduction to different methods of legal research like doctrinal research, empirical research, quantitative research, qualitative research, sample survey, case study etc.

**Topic 3:** Session four, consecutively introduced to the students the actual process and methodology of research, from formulating a research problem, to doing an extensive literature review to developing a working hypothesis /tentative assumption made in order to draw out and test its logical or empirical consequences, procedures for acquiring and analysing/interpretation of data and finally arriving at conclusions and findings.

**Topic 4:** Concluded the series of lectures on Research Methodology, the last topic discussed was research ethics, sensitising the students to the importance of ethics in research, the attempts was to make students understand the social relevance of conducting research and the ethical and moral responsibility attached to it. The students we re familiarised with the guidelines of authoring research documents, formatting and paraphrasing summarising and citation strategies to avoid plagiarism and maintain originality throughout the research process.

**Topic 5:** This Session was Lab and Reading related Activities and involved reading different types of texts for different purposes with focus on and Emphasis on correct pronunciation interpretation and inference.

**Topic 6:** This session focussed on developing the students' presentation Skills to equip them with techniques to orally present arguments during debates and discussions both inside or outside of the courtroom , this involved teaching them how to plan and prepare reading and presentational material, organizing the data to suit the audience and context; connecting with the audience during presentation as well as projecting a positive image while speaking.

**Topic 7 and Topic 8:** These two sessions focussed on teaching students the basics of technical writing, all the aspects involved in formal writing and basic Writing Applications and formats: Memorandums and Informal Format and Formal Format.

**Topic 9:** Session nine, was on, mooting skills and Client Counselling, in this session the students mooting skills were brushed up, students were divided into groups and assigned different positions as well as familiarised with stimulated court setting, provided application-based questions, case scenarios and asked to argue on varied points. Similarly students were taught effective counselling strategies with the help of scenarios and examples from real experiences. Students were taught communication skills, listening, and comprehension all required for an effective counselling session.

**Topic 10:** Session ten was on Legal Ethics and Court Craft, the final session, session twelve, introduced to the students the topic court craft and legal ethics. Students were taught how legal ethics were a code of conduct meant to regulate the behaviour of a practising legal professionals towards the court, the presiding judge, his client and the opposing party in a court room setting. Students were taught how ethics is a fundamental prerequisite in any profession and not just the legal profession. Thus on a general note Ethics basically denotes human behaviour and their standard of moralities. A lawyer or an advocate must obey certain professional codes with regard to the standards of fair dealing with the client and also includes the standard of confidentiality required between them and uphold the self-possession. Students were also taught the essentials of court craft and pre trial preparations, the various stages before the, after and during the commencement of a trial.





