

Success Story of Jharkhand
in settling Family Matters
through
Expert Counsellors and Mediators,

**Jharkhand High Court Family Court Committee for
Sensitisation of Family Court matter**



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty
Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand



Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.C. Mishra,
Judge, High Court of Jharkhand
Chairman



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh,
Judge, High Court of Jharkhand
Member



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Chandrashekar,
Judge, High Court of Jharkhand
Member

Genesis:

- The Hon'ble Committee took initiative of special drive of settling the disputes of family Courts through mediation. This exercise was to achieve the objective of Family Courts Act 1984 which aims to promote reconciliation and amicable settlement of family disputes. This special drive was to be conducted from 3rd of October to 6th of October, 2016. The Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority provided the name of 28 expert mediators including 13 trained Trainers and 11 Districts namely: Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Hazaribag, Deoghar, Giridih, Dumka, Sahibganj, Pakur and Godda were selected for this pilot project. Two expert mediators were sent for each of the Family Court including additional Family Courts at Ranchi, Dhanbad and Jamshedpur.
- Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court Committee for Sensitisation of Family Court matters interacted twice, firstly on 22-9-16 and secondly on 29-9-16 through Video Conferencing with all the 24 Family Court Judges including the Family Court Judges of the chosen pilot districts.
 - ✓ Hon'ble High Court Committee for Sensitisation of Family Court matters 1st Video Conferencing on 22-9-16 : From the Video conferencing room of Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court the interaction was made with all Family Court Judges of State of Jharkhand including 10 pilots districts and they were directed to identify 80 cases and post 20 cases for each of the four days. It was further directed to issue notices in all the matters and ensure service of notices to parties concerned. Family Court Judges were instructed to inform Ld. Counsels for the parties also.
 - ✓ Hon'ble High Court Committee for Sensitisation of Family Court matters 2nd Video Conferencing on 29-9-16. His Lordships Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand and Member, High Court Committee for Sensitisation of Family Court Matters interacted with all the Family Court Judges. His Lordship directed:
 - I.** To ensure refreshment to all participating persons.
 - II.** To provide referral order to the mediators one day in advance.
 - III.** The mediators were directed to reach the venue one day in advance.
 - IV.** The stay arrangement was directed to be made by DLSA.
 - V.** JHALSA was directed to issue notice in newspapers.
- The mediation took place on each of the 4 days in all the 11 pilot districts in 14 courts (11 courts of Family Court Judges and 3 courts of additional Family Court Judges). The mediation proceeding continued from morning till the departure of last contesting party in the evening. The responsibility was humongous. The initiative was first of its kind and everybody was enthusiastic. The exercise proved to be hugely successful and the success went up to 237 cases. The chart is as follows:

Special Drive for Mediation held from 03.10.2016 to 06.10.2016

Sl. No.	Name of Judgeship	No. of Cases referred for mediation	Mediation successful	Husband wife re-union	No. of cases for one time settlement	Mediation successful in maintenance matter
1.	Bokaro	84	18	10	5	3
2.	Dhanbad	244	23	10	8	5
3.	Dumka	84	18	6	5	7
4.	Giridih	79	14	12	-	2
5.	Godda	86	19	17	1	01
6.	Jamshedpur	177	54	14	23	17
7.	Hazaribagh	16	9	5	3	1
8.	Deoghar	73	27	10	-	17
9.	Pakur	66	6	3	-	3
10	Sahibganj	10	5	3	1	1
11	Ranchi	121	44	5	20	19
		1040	237	95	66	76

Such drive was the need of the hour. It was an eye opener for all the stake holders including the Family Court Judges, the Mediators, the Lawyers and the litigants. It was hitherto un-imaginable that such a great success can be achieved in such a short span of time (only 4 days). From out of total pendency 237 cases were removed successfully and both parties were in win-win situation.

- The mediators were given remuneration @Rs.2000 for successful mediation.
- The opinion/response of Mediators
 - I. The expert mediators felt that success would have been higher had they got more time.
 - II. It was their view that ultimately the case would result in settlement of dispute.
 - III. The mediators hoped that such exercise would continue in future also.
 - IV. The scheme of sending mediators to another district was welcomed heart and soul.
- The general public and the litigants welcomed the initiative very much. The response of litigants were very enthusiastic.