

Know Your Rights, Own Your Space

A Legal Literacy and Digital Safety Programme for School Students

Oct 7, 2026 · @Varuna

Course Overview

Parameter	Details
Course Title	Know Your Rights, Own Your Space: A Legal Literacy and Digital Safety Programme for School Students
Vision	Build legal literacy, personal safety awareness, and gender-sensitive understanding among underprivileged students (Classes 6–12) across five districts of West Bengal, through interactive story-based sessions, short films, and age-appropriate resource materials — anchored in legal rights and delivered by faculty of RGSOIPL, IIT Kharagpur
Duration	2 days per school (blended: online preparatory module + in-person engagement per cohort)
Number of Cohorts	3 (October 2026, January 2027, March 2027)
Calendar	August 2026 – March 2027 (8 months). Pre-programme teacher orientation: August–September 2026; Cohort 1: October 2026; Cohort 2: January 2027; Cohort 3: March 2027
Mode of Delivery	In-person at one nodal government school per district (5 districts: Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, Howrah) — targeting underprivileged children from Classes 6–12
Levels	Foundational (Primary & Middle School), Intermediate (Secondary & Higher Secondary), General Educators, School Counsellors and Administrative Staff
Language	Bengali (primary) / English (secondary); all materials bilingual

Parameter	Details
Curriculum Mapping	CBSE Legal Studies — 052; Life Skills framework under NEP 2020; Social Science / Life Skills / Legal Studies
Assessment	Survey-based analysis (pre- and post-session quizzes via Google Forms)
Software Required	None — sessions are discussion, story, and case-study based; short films and Google Forms used for engagement and assessment

Introduction

India has made real progress in protecting people from sexual harassment, but gaps remain. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) protects all children regardless of gender. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 (POSH), however, focuses only on women, leaving some people without the same clear protection.

The digital world has created new kinds of harm — online bullying, sharing of private images without consent, and online manipulation — that affect students of every gender and age. Schools in underserved districts of West Bengal, including those serving children from underprivileged backgrounds, often lack structured, age-appropriate programmes on these issues.

This programme fills that gap by bringing rights-based legal awareness and digital safety education to students across Classes 6–12, using short films, illustrated stories, and interactive workshops — all grounded in Indian constitutional values and delivered by legal faculty from RGSOIPL, IIT Kharagpur.

Objectives

1. Sensitise students (Classes 6–12) across five districts on consent, gender-neutral rights, and personal safety using age-appropriate short stories and short films.
2. Train school teachers and counsellors on identifying harassment, responding sensitively, and using institutional reporting mechanisms.
3. Build awareness of digital safety, cyberbullying, and online rights among adolescent students.

4. Develop and distribute bilingual (Bengali–English) resource materials — student handbooks, teacher guides, activity worksheets, and short films — that schools can use independently after the programme.
5. Foster a culture of respect, inclusion, and rights-awareness in participating schools across Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, and Howrah.

Aim

The programme targets one underprivileged government or aided school per district — schools with Classes 6 through 12 under one roof, serving students from economically weaker sections. The five districts — Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, and Howrah — represent a mix of tribal-belt, semi-urban, and peri-urban underserved communities where structured legal literacy is entirely absent from school life.

Content is differentiated across three school levels:

- **Middle School (Classes 6–8):** Personal boundaries, the concept of consent in everyday life, and what to do if someone makes them uncomfortable. Delivered through illustrated short stories and an animated short film featuring age-appropriate characters in relatable school and home situations.
- **High School (Classes 9–10):** Understanding harassment, peer pressure, and digital safety. Delivered through a story-based module with real-case-inspired vignettes (anonymised), short film, and guided group discussion.
- **Senior Secondary (Classes 11–12):** The law — POCSO, POSH, IT Act provisions. Delivered through a documentary-style short film, mock scenario discussions, and a structured awareness session on reporting and legal aid.

Educators attend a separate half-day session covering duty of care, institutional obligations, and how to handle student disclosures. All five schools host a pre-programme teacher orientation workshop (online) before Cohort 1 visits begin.

Research Approach and Methodology

The programme uses a participatory pedagogy combining three delivery modes:

- **Short Films:** Three professionally produced short films (outsourced), one per school level, 8–10 minutes each, bilingual (Bengali and English), story-driven. The Middle School film follows a student navigating an uncomfortable situation and finding help. The High School film dramatises a cyberbullying scenario and its resolution. The Senior Secondary film presents a documentary-style account of how Indian law protects — and fails to protect — different categories of people.

- **Illustrated Story Modules:** Printed bilingual booklets with short illustrated stories (comics-style for Classes 6–8, narrative prose for Classes 9–12), activity pages, and rights-awareness posters. These serve as take-home materials students can share with families.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Faculty-led discussions using real-case vignettes (anonymised), role-play scenarios, and Q&A. Student volunteers from RGSOIPL facilitate small group discussions. Each session includes a pre-quiz (baseline) and post-quiz (outcome measurement) using Google Forms.

Each school visit runs across 2–3 days:

1. **Day 1:** Film screening and story module (all three school levels in sequential batches).
2. **Day 2:** Interactive rights awareness sessions by level.
3. **Day 3 (where applicable):** Teacher/counsellor workshop and resource distribution.

Resource Materials and Deliverables

The following materials will be developed before Cohort 1 and used across all three cohorts and all five districts:

1. **Student Handbook** (bilingual, Bengali and English): Age-differentiated versions for Classes 6–8, 9–10, and 11–12. Printed in comic-book format for middle school, narrative format for higher levels. 1,000 copies.
2. **Teacher Resource Guide:** Facilitation notes, case vignette sets, reporting protocols, and referral pathways. 150 copies.
3. **Short Films (3):** One per school level, outsourced to a professional production house, bilingual with subtitles. Distributed via USB drive and QR code.
4. **Activity Worksheets:** Four-sheet set per level for in-session use. 1,000 sets printed.
5. **Awareness Posters:** For school notice boards — covering key rights messages. 5 schools × 25 posters.
6. **Digital Resource Kit:** All materials (PPTs, films, worksheets) made available via Google Drive link shared with school principals for ongoing use.

Assessment and Impact Measurement

Each cohort visit includes baseline and endline assessment:

- **Pre-session quiz** (Google Forms, bilingual): Tests awareness of rights, consent, and digital safety before the session.
- **Post-session quiz:** Same instrument, administered immediately after the session.

- **Teacher feedback form:** Structured feedback from teachers on session quality, relevance, and applicability.

Three key metrics tracked:

1. Percentage improvement in student rights-awareness scores.
2. Percentage of teachers reporting improved confidence in handling student disclosures.
3. Percentage of students who can correctly name one reporting mechanism available to them.

Aggregated anonymised data from all cohorts compiled into an outcome report submitted to the Dean, Outreach, IIT Kharagpur.

Budget

Total sanctioned: ₹12,00,000 — funded entirely through Institute Support (Platinum Jubilee). No external sponsors, course fees, or GST components.

Expenditure Head	Amount (₹)
TA/DA Expense	1,85,000
Proceedings	1,88,000
Miscellaneous / Contingency	2,50,000
Course Material	4,50,000
Boarding / Lodging Expense	1,25,230
Auditors' Fees	1,770
Overhead	0
Coordinator's Fee	0
Professional Service Charge / Remuneration to Faculty/Staff/TA	0
Dept. Payment for Laboratory	0
Correspondence	0
Contribution to Collaborator(s)	0
Honorarium to Others	0
Total Expenditure	12,00,000

Expected Outcome and Sustainability

Across three cohorts and five districts, the programme directly reaches approximately 1,500 students (Classes 6–12), 75 teachers and school counsellors, and 25 administrative staff. Indirect reach through student peer-sharing and teacher-led follow-up sessions is expected to be substantially higher.

At the institutional level, each participating school will have trained educators capable of handling disclosures with sensitivity, awareness materials displayed in common school areas, and a clearer institutional understanding of legal obligations under POCSO, POSH, and the IT Act.

At the student level, measurable improvement in knowledge of rights, consent, and digital safety is the primary outcome. The programme also generates a replicable, documented model that RGSOIPL can scale to additional schools and districts in subsequent years without requiring fresh curriculum development.

Sustainability is built into the design. All resource materials (films, handbooks, worksheets) are left with the school in digital and print form. Teachers trained through educator sessions can conduct annual awareness days independently. RGSOIPL student volunteers gain structured pro bono outreach experience and may return voluntarily in subsequent years. The bilingual short films, once produced, can be shared freely with other schools across West Bengal through district education offices at no additional cost.

Instructors and Reviewers

Role	Name	Affiliation	Contact
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Proposed Schools: Nodal government/aided schools (Classes 6–12) in Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, and Howrah — to be confirmed with District Education Officers.

Role	Name	Affiliation	Contact
Reviewer 1	Prof. Vijay Pratap Tiwari	Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur	vpt@nlunagpur.ac.in
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