



Call for Participation in 12th CLR Project

The Community Law Reform (CLR) is a research-oriented program of the Empowerment through Law of the Common People (ELCOP) since 1999. Since the beginning, the program has been resulting in a detailed and authentic research publication about indigenous, tribal or any deprived community of the country, reflecting their legal and non-legal problems and with recommendations for their empowerment by way of resolving their problems and by bringing them alongside the mainstream population. CLR also identifies and trains potential community leaders as part of their capacity building. After the research, the findings are published as a book. The participants, viz-a-viz, the researchers are trained on the research methodology.

Objectives of 12th CLR:

- To identify the legal grievances of the community;
- To suggest specific measures whereby deprivations and grievances may, as far as practicable, be remedied by effecting reforms of the existing customary and legal framework of each of the communities;
- To create a group of potential motivators and community leaders.

Till today, under CLR project, ELCOP has covered several communities, e.g., Garo, Santals, Khasia, tea garden workers, Climate change victims, etc. This year, ELCOP would like to address the situation of one of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the society, i.e., street children of Bangladesh.

CLR 2022-2023: "Street Children of Bangladesh: Making them Visible":

An estimated 1.5 million youngsters in Bangladesh are compelled to live and/or labor on the streets. These kids are frequently referred to as 'street-connected children', 'children living on the street', or 'street children'. UNICEF¹ in 2020 cited unemployment, poverty, violence at home, family disintegration, lack of shelter, rural-urban migration, displacement due to floods, drought or any

1. UNICEF in India, "Rapid Assessment of Learning During School Closures in the Context of COVID",

<https://www.unicef.org/india/media/6121/file/Report%20on%20rapid%20assessment%20of%20learning%20during%20school%20closures%20in%20context%20of%20COVID-19.pdf>

other calamity as some of the major 'push factors' that encourage or forces children onto the streets.² Due to their socio-economically marginalized status as street children, these kids typically rely on their 'works' to survive, regardless of how exploitative or dangerous they may be.

In order to address this pressing issue, this year, **CLR-Community Law Reforms**, a research-oriented program, is organizing a project in collaboration with **Sports for Hope and Independence (SHI)** from **October, 2022 to January, 2023** on the theme **"Street Children of Bangladesh: Making them Visible"**.

LLB (3rd year onward)/LLM students are invited to participate in this project where they will *inter alia* evaluate in person on the situations and life styles of the street children on different socio-legal aspects in the major cities of Bangladesh. After the evaluation, ELCOP will publish their research papers as a Book of which the participants will be guaranteed their authorship on the book. This year, CLR is going to start this project in remembrance of valiant freedom fighter Late Chowdhury Shahabuddin Ahmed. Our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Maqusuda Chowdhury for her generous financial support through **"Sports for Hope and Independence (SHI)"** to make this project successful.

If you are interested, please fill up the application form.

Note: You have to attach the following requirements with the application:

- Your Photo (as JPG file)
- Your Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- S.S.C and H.S.C Certificates

** Applications are to be submitted either through Google Form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHPb9mYJFS2ABJOgJ1XIFNtDIkhYU3y2kcl0-ZVSs98fw1Xw/viewform> or through an application form (Available here- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13QvqOMkD_GvdHbWOhiFfq5hN13u_bncD?usp=sharing) and send it along with the necessary documents to elcop71@gmail.com or you may post them to: Tapas Kanti Baul, Barrister-at-Law, ELCOP, House No. 4/2, Flat B1, Block C, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1209. The subject of the email shall be named **"Application for CLR Project 2022"**.

Important Dates:

Application Deadline: 10 October 2022

Confirmation of Participation: 20 October 2022

Training: 25-28 October 2022

² P. Singh, "Street Children: The Neglected Pathology", Observer Research Foundation, <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/street-children-the-neglected-pathology/>.

Field Visit: 05 – 10 November 2022
First Draft: 05 December 2022
Second Draft: 15 January 2023
Final Draft: 30 January 2023
Book Launching Ceremony: 15 February 2023

FYI: There is no charge for the application or the participation. Dates may vary as per the decision of ELCOP. Please check your academic calendar before applying. You will not be allowed to leave the program before the final draft is submitted, unless in exceptional circumstances.

About valiant freedom fighter Late Chowdhury Shahabuddin Ahmed:

Late Chowdhury Shahabuddin Ahmed was a valiant freedom fighter in the war of independence of 1971. He was a close ally to our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and he was incarcerated for participating in six-points movement in 1966. Mr. Chowdhury studied engineering at Ahsanullah Engineering College (now BUET). However, he is the best remembered as a successful industrialist who founded the Chowdhury Chemical Industries in Tejgaon in the early 1960s. He was the Vice-President of City Awami League in the mid-1960s when he played important roles in party activities, especially at a time when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was interned in Central Jail for the Agartala Conspiracy.

About ELCOP:

Empowerment Through Law of the Common People (ELCOP) is a voluntary, non-profitable, non-political, non-governmental human rights education, research and training organization dedicated to the common people of Bangladesh. ELCOP is embracing communities for democracy, justice and empowerment through action and participation.

ELCOP's Objectives:

ELCOP aims at achieving the following objectives:

- Provide people with specific legal information, making them conscious of their rights and duties;
- Improve understanding of basic norms and values underlying democracy in the society;
- Foster justice, tolerance, fairness and transparency in the society;
- Contribute effectively to bringing up the marginalized sections of our society and to their empowerment;

- Involve the students and the teachers of law in promoting legal awareness in order to impact the process of institutionalization of democracy.

The dominant feature of ELCOP is that it is administered and managed by the law students and teachers of different universities of Bangladesh. It also involves those legal experts in its activities who are concerned, have commitment and are competent enough to deal with human rights and empowerment issues.

CONTACT:

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