ACCESS, ADVOCACY, AND EMPOWERMENT: A STUDY OF NGO AND CIVIL SOCIETY ROLES IN VICTIM COMPENSATION FRAMEWORKS IN DELHI

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ABSTRACT

This study looks at how civil society actors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) support advocacy, empowerment, and access under victim compensation systems in Delhi's National Capital Territory (NCT). In addition to taking into account institutional actors (State and District Legal Services Authorities), it places Delhi's Victim Compensation Scheme within the statutory framework established by Section 357A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and examines the complementary roles that NGOs play in providing information and outreach, case assistance and documentation, legal aid and court support, facilitating interim relief, advocating for policy reform, and psychosocial rehabilitation and empowerment. The paper identifies recurrent gaps (awareness, procedural delay, variable implementation, and socio-economic barriers) and suggests workable reforms to improve NGO-state cooperation and make compensation schemes more survivor-centered, timely, and empowering. It does this by drawing on government documents, NGO practice literature, and recent scholarly work.

Keywords: Victim Compensation- NGOs- Civil Society- Delhi- Access to justice- Rehabilitation

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1. Overview

An essential, although underappreciated, component of a rights-based criminal justice response is victim compensation, which recognises the state's obligation to help victims recover from their injuries and support their rehabilitation. Every State in India is required by Section 357A of the CrPC to create a plan for allocating cash for compensation to victims and their dependents who need rehabilitation. The Delhi State Legal Services ability (DSLSA) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) are given the ability to execute grants under Delhi's locally formulated Victim Compensation Scheme (VCS), which operationalises that mission in the NCT context.³

The efficiency of compensation systems is limited despite statutory support by structural and procedural barriers, such as victims' lack of awareness, bureaucratic hold-ups, stigmatisation, and unequal aid distribution (Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Report, 2019). Civil society and NGOs have a crucial, frequently bridging role. They serve as advocates for quicker, more equitable, and more sensitive processes as well as outreach representatives and litigation and non-litigational assistants. This study examines these positions in Delhi, assesses the benefits and drawbacks of NGO involvement, and makes suggestions for improving policy and cooperation to improve survivor outcomes.

Approaches and References

A combination of statutory texts and official scheme documents (Section 357A; Delhi Victims Compensation Scheme, 2018; DSLSA materials), current government commentary and standard operating procedures, and academic and practitioner literature on NGO responses to gender-based violence and compensation processes are synthesised in this doctrinal and applied policy study. In order to find recurrent themes and actionable reform points, the qualitative and comparative study catalogues common NGO initiatives, spotlights institutional processes, and uses published case studies and policy papers. The Delhi Scheme documents and DSLSA procedural notes are important primary sources; peer-reviewed research on the roles of NGOs in victim assistance, government press, and legal commentary (e.g., "The Journey of Victim

³ Empowering Victims in India: Legislative, Judicial, and Human Rights Measures. (2022). Law Notes by TheLaw.Institute. https://thelaw.institute/criminal-justice-system/empowering-victims-legislative-judicial-rights-india/

Compensation in the Indian Legal Landscape," 2023) are examples of secondary sources.⁴

Delhi's Institutional and Legal Framework

Section 357A of the CrPC: statutory establishment

Section 357A, which was created to address the state's duty to victims, mandates that State Governments collaborate with the Central Government to create victim compensation plans for victims and dependents who have been harmed or lost something and need rehabilitation. The clause permits victims to apply directly to legal services authorities and envisions judicial

recommendations as one path to compensation.

Institutional players and the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme (2018)

First implemented in 2011, Delhi's Victim Compensation Scheme (DVCS) assigns DSLSAs/DLSAs as the primary administrative authorities for receipt, processing, and disbursement; it also creates a Victim Compensation Fund and establishes eligibility and procedural standards (LegitQuest, 2018; Judicial Academy, 2020).⁵ The plan includes special provisions for survivors who are more vulnerable, such as women, children, victims of acid attacks, etc., as well as provisions for interim compensation, some of which have time-bound

aims.

Litigation and administrative roadblocks frequently impede payment, even in cases where a plan specifies precise dates; choices about the amount and the assessment of "rehabilitation needs" are still up to the individual district and can occasionally differ. For instance, the Delhi High Court has established the temporal limitations of eligibility by ruling that the plan cannot be used retroactively for crimes committed prior to 2009. Territorial applicability issues have also been brought up in court, including whether a Delhi citizen who has been the victim of a

crime committed outside of Delhi is eligible to receive the program.

Practice-Related Gaps and Barriers

Several structural barriers are identified by the literature and official reviews:

⁴ Journey of Victim Compensation in the Indian Legal Landscape. (2023). IJRLMH. https://ijlmh.com/wpcontent/uploads/The-Journey-of-Victim-Compensation-in-the-Indian-Legal-Landscape.pdf

⁵ LegitQuest. (2018). Delhi Victims Compensation Scheme, 2018. https://www.legitquest.com/act/delhi-victimscompensation-scheme-2018/CCA2

1.outreach failure and little awareness. Many victims are unaware that they can apply directly to the DLSA/DSLSA or that compensation is available. Take-up is decreased as a result, particularly among under-represented groups.

2.Red tape and procedural delays. Even if applications are submitted, there may be multi-month delays due to prosecutorial timetables, evidence gathering, and interagency coordination; interim relief procedures are not always applied.

3.Quantity is unequal and discretion is variable. The amount and justification of compensations vary greatly between instances and areas, and the Scheme permits judicial recommendations or DLSA rulings.

4.socioeconomic restrictions and stigma. Without reliable middlemen, survivors—particularly women, minors, and those in economically challenged situations—may not be able or want to go through formal processes.

While these bottlenecks make room for NGOs to help, they also expose them to systemic limitations, such as a lack of funds, heavy caseloads, and a reliance on sporadic grants.⁶

2. The Functions of Civil Society and NGOs

Access, Advocacy, and Empowerment are the three main activities that NGOs and civil society actors do, both directly and indirectly.⁷

1. ACCESS: informational, application, and outreach support

To educate survivors about their legal rights and the availability of compensation plans, NGOs engage in community outreach. They assist with filling out paperwork, compiling police and medical reports, and communicating with DLSAs in order to submit claims. When time-bound interim payments are offered, NGOs have frequently been the first point of contact following an incident, providing accommodation, crisis counselling, and starting compensation applications as soon as feasible.

⁶ Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Improving Access to Justice and Restorative Care for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse: Report. (2019). Haq Centre. https://haqcrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/report-of-multi-stakeholder-dialogue-on-improving-access-to-justice-and-restorative-care-for-victims-of-child-sexual-abuse.pdf

⁷ SocialWork.Institute. (2023). Victim Compensation in Criminal Cases: A New Framework for Justice. https://socialwork.institute/criminal-justice/victim-compensation-criminal-cases-new-framework/

In order to guarantee that the victim's case is registered, that medico-legal reports are received as soon as possible, and that petitions for interim relief are made to DSLSA/DLSA, NGOs frequently operate quick response or helpline services that coordinate with police, hospitals, and legal agencies.

2. ADVOCACY: systemic changes and involvement in law and policy

NGOs use media involvement, policy lobbying, and strategic litigation to demand more equitable plans, more precise regulations, and improved timetables. They lobby for certain provisions (such as streamlined interim relief for survivors of sexual assault or more transparent timelines for acid attack cases), file public interest petitions, and work with DSLSA to improve SOPs. Additionally, civil society organisations keep an eye on implementation and highlight any deficiencies through audits or empirical evaluations.

Impact of advocacy: In several high-profile cases, persistent NGO campaigning has led to judicial recommendations for compensation, the implementation of interim relief provisions in various states (including Delhi), and scheme modifications.

3. EMPOWERMENT: comprehensive recovery and capacity development

In addition to paperwork, NGOs offer livelihood training, psychosocial therapy, legal assistance, and occasionally longer-term housing—all of which support true rehabilitation. Empowerment is both substantive (assisting survivors in regaining economic independence) and processual (assisting survivors in navigating systems and asserting their rights). In order to prevent exploitative middlemen and guarantee that compensation funds are utilised for the intended rehabilitation (medical care, counselling, and vocational training), NGOs that work with survivors collaborate with state agencies.⁸

Benefits of Involving NGOs

- **1. Closeness and confidence.** NGOs frequently operate at the community level and have established trust, both of which are necessary for survivors to come forward.
- 2. Adaptability and promptness. While official claims are being processed, NGOs can

⁸ Times of India. (2025, August 17). Delhi High Court rules victim compensation scheme not applicable retrospectively; 1984 riot claim rejected. *The Times of India*.

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provide temporary aid (either through fundraising or their own cash). As a result, survivors experience less immediate financial strain.

3. Holistic offerings. Legal representation is not enough; NGOs' incorporation of livelihood assistance and psychosocial services tackles the root causes of rehabilitation issues.

4. Accountability and observation. Public interest lawsuits and civil society audits can force policy changes and put implementation pressure on state actors.

3. Risks and Restrictions

1. Limitations on resources. Due to heavy caseloads and tight finances, many NGOs experience staff burnout. They are unable to scale rapid response consistently throughout Delhi or offer long-term financial support.⁹

2. Lack of cooperation and fragmentation. Without centralised coordination with DSLSAs or DLSAs, several NGOs may provide overlapping services, leading to inefficiencies and redundancy.

3. Reliance on personal initiative. The impact of NGOs is lessened when governmental actors or courts do not emphasise compensation or issue inconsistent orders; institutional transformation is necessary for systemic change, not only NGO work.

4. Review of Literature

a. Victim Compensation: Foundational Ideas

The foundation of victim compensation programs is the understanding that victims of crime are harmed not only by the perpetrator's actions but also by the criminal justice system's shortcomings (delay, stigma, insufficient support). Academic research emphasises that compensation ought to be viewed as a component of a broader rehabilitation framework; it should be restorative in nature rather than just financial recompense. Offender-based compensation gave way to state-mandated relief when Section 357A of the Code of Criminal

⁹ SupremeToday AI. (2025). Victim Compensation Schemes under S.357A CrPC Are Prospective, Not Retrospective; Cannot Apply to Pre-2009 Crimes: Delhi High Court.

Procedure (CrPC) was adopted in India. Speed, equity, accessibility, and empowerment become crucial metrics in this transition.¹⁰

b. NGOs and Civil Society's Contribution to Victim Compensation

According to research, NGOs serve a variety of bridging roles, including assisting victims with the legal system, preparing applications, obtaining documentary and medico-legal evidence, advising survivors, and advocating for structural and policy change. They also carry out monitoring tasks, facilitating data transparency and keeping governmental officials responsible. However, structural impediments, potential burnout, and resource limitations frequently prevent them from being fully effective.¹¹

In order to ensure that survivors can successfully navigate bureaucratic procedures and assert their rights under compensation frameworks, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a crucial role as intermediaries. They advocate for procedural reform, help with documentation, provide psychosocial counselling, and disseminate legal literacy.¹²

According to empirical research, NGOs working with Legal Services Authorities increase the number of successful compensation claims as well as the pace at which interim relief is disbursed. However, institutional barriers that civil society players frequently face include a lack of consistent monitoring procedures, a lack of legal aid staff, and poor cooperation with DSLSA officials.¹³

The preparation of the medical, financial, and psychological data needed for compensation applications has been greatly aided by a number of NGOs in Delhi, including Sakhi One Stop Centre, ActionAid, and Stop Acid Attacks (DSLSA Annual Report, 2024). However, advocacy organisations are pointing out the ongoing discrepancies between official policy promises and actual conditions on the ground, especially when it comes to awareness, temporary assistance, and rehabilitation after the event.

¹⁰ The Legal Affair. (2025, July 19). Delhi High Court slaps ₹20,000 cost on litigant for misusing SC/ST victim compensation scheme.

¹¹ The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, India.

¹² The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, Section 357A, India.

¹³ The Delhi Victims Compensation Scheme, 2018.

¹⁴ Economic Times / LegalWorld. (2021, June 4). Is Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme applicable if Delhite killed outside city, HC asks DSLSA. *Economic Times / LegalWorld*.

5. Problems with Institutions and Procedures in Delhi and India

The efficiency of compensation programs is compromised in many jurisdictions by delays, lack of knowledge, volatility in magnitude, and inadequate rehabilitative follow-through, according to implementation literature. For instance, the Delhi scheme (as well as other state schemes of a similar nature) frequently suffers from low victim awareness, delays in the interim relief process, and awards that are subject to discretion.

The Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) and district-level committees are required to conduct threshold assessments of applications under the scheme, according to procedural guidelines specific to Delhi. These guidelines also emphasise that the scheme does not cover property loss or cases covered by other statutes, and that compensation may be denied if statutory factors are not met.

6. Delhi-Related Case Law and Decisions

The Delhi High Court's (DHC) various rulings show how the plan and its execution are being understood by judges. Understanding how access, advocacy, and empowerment are either enabled or restricted in practice depends on these decisions.¹⁵

1. The Role of DSLSA vs the Obligation of Trial Courts

The DHC (5-judge bench) ruled in January 2025 that the trial court has the responsibility to determine and grant victim compensation under Section 357 CrPC and that the DSLSA cannot be given this authority. The Court noted that although DSLSA may assist or suggest, Section 357 CrPC gives the trial court the authority to decide how much compensation is appropriate. This is important in the Delhi context because, notwithstanding the similarity of the compensation plan originating under Section 357A (CrPC), the Court made a distinction between the two sections and upheld the fundamental authority of the judicial forum. The structural distinction between courts and legal services agencies is thus made clearer by the ruling. 17

¹⁵ Basu, R. (2023). *State responses to victimization: Comparative perspectives from Indian states*. Indian Journal of Criminology, 51(2), 113–130.

¹⁶ Choudhary, P. (2022). *Bridging the gap: NGO facilitation in victim compensation processes*. Social Work and Policy Review, 17(1), 44–58.

¹⁷ Delhi High Court. (2024). W.P.(C) 2804/2019

Implication: This means that NGOs must keep an eye on sentencing hearings and make sure trial courts are carrying out their obligations under Section 357, even while they may help with scheme applications under Section 357A (via DSLSA). Therefore, advocacy needs to focus on the criminal court procedures as well as the DLSA/DSLSA systems.

2. Delhi High Court Expands Minor Sexual Assault Victim Compensation

With a focus on considerations like educational loss, family income, and ongoing trauma, the DHC raised the compensation for a minor victim of sexual assault from ₹ 85,000 to ₹ 10.5 lakhs in a historic verdict (JGU Child Rights Clinic update, 2025). The decision upholds the idea that courts must adopt a rights-based, rehabilitative lens rooted in the victim's socioeconomic background and look beyond minimum scheduled amounts, even if it was not made exclusively under the scheme but rather through the appeal process.¹⁸

Implication: This ruling gives NGOs a helpful precedent to support their requests for larger amounts in Delhi scheme applications, particularly in cases involving children, where it is demonstrated that there has been a loss of livelihood or disruption of education, and when rehabilitation needs go beyond urgent medical attention.

3. W.P.(C) 2804/2019: ₹30,000 in interim compensation for a claim of acid attack

The DHC considered a case in November 2024 in which the victim requested ₹3 lakhs in interim compensation under the Delhi plan in the context of an acid assault; the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board only granted ₹30,000. The Court ordered DSLSA to deliver the minimum within eight weeks after ruling that the scheme's schedule allowed a minimum of ₹3 lakhs for victims of acid attacks (where injuries were less than 50%) (DHC judgement, 2024). The ruling noted that where a schedule specifies a floor, the Board cannot disregard it only because the individual was handled as a "acid burn" as opposed to a "acid attack."

Implication: Since the scheme stipulates minimum limits, NGOs can use this ruling as a powerful weapon to contest low quantum awards in Delhi. It also emphasises how crucial it is to classify cases precisely (acid attack vs. acid burn) and to make sure that forensic and

¹⁸ DSLSA. (2024). *Annual Report 2023–24*. Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

¹⁹ Gupta, M. (2025). *Empowerment through justice: Assessing Delhi's victim compensation implementation.* Journal of Law and Social Policy, 9(1), 32–49.

medicolegal evidence backs up the statutory category.²⁰

4. State of NCT of Delhi v. Balbir Meena & Ors (July 2025)

A litigant who repeatedly filed claims after the matter was settled was fined ₹10,000 by the DHC in July 2025 for abusing the victim compensation program under the SC/ST Act (LawBeat, 2025). This shows that courts are controlling usage and insisting on credible claims, even though it falls under the SC/ST Act rather than the Delhi plan specifically.

Implication: While advocating for access is important, NGOs should be aware of the legal requirements for admissibility, documentation, and bona fides in compensation petitions. Ensuring the quality and legality of applications will lessen the likelihood of judicial rejection or censure.²¹

5. August 2025: Retrospectivity Ruling

According to the Times of India, the DHC denied a claim from a victim of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, ruling that the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme is not applicable retroactively (Times of India, 2025). The Court ruled that Section 357A CrPC's scheme is prospective and must be applied to crimes committed after it was passed. The Court further noted that victims who have previously received compensation under other programs are not eligible.²²

Implications: This ruling highlights the significance of prompt claims and awareness among NGOs; outreach should concentrate on recent occurrences rather than cases that date back decades; NGOs should verify if victims have previously received government compensation, as this could disqualify them from the program.²³

7. Synthesis: A Novel Legal Setting for Nonprofit Lobbying

When considered collectively, Delhi's case law from 2019 to 2025 shows a developing victim compensation framework where restorative justice is strengthened by the intersection of

²⁰ Jindal Global University Child Rights Clinic. (2025). *Judicial developments in child victim compensation*.

²¹ Tripathi, S. (2024). *Procedural inconsistencies in state victim compensation boards*. Indian Journal of Public Law, 28(3), 143–164.

²² Kaur, S., & Pillai, A. (2021). Civil society advocacy in access to justice. Indian Law Review, 5(3), 272–295.

²³ Times of India. (2025, August 20). Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme not retrospective: High Court.

judicial innovation and NGO activism. Several guiding principles are established by the Delhi High Court's jurisprudence:

- 1. Minimum compensation requirements are obligatory and subject to judicial review.
- 2.Courts must be prepared to step in when there is an administrative delay, and interim remedy must be provided promptly.²⁴
- 3.Education, therapy, and economic reintegration must all be included in a comprehensive understanding of rehabilitation.
- 4. For NGOs to preserve procedural integrity and prevent abuse, their involvement must be sincere.
- 5. Compensation plans work in the future and call for additional support for elderly victims.

NGOs can shift from individual casework to structural advocacy—monitoring payment timings, reviewing DSLSA procedures, and participating in policy reform—by taking advantage of these legal developments. The Delhi model is a prime example of how civil society may turn a statutory right into a flexible tool for restorative justice.²⁵

Three recurring issues emerge from the intersection of Delhi jurisprudence and scholarly analysis:

- 1.Access: The biggest obstacles to justice continue to be awareness and procedural literacy. NGOs fill this gap by providing legal aid, but they also need to reach out to hospitals and police stations outside of urban areas.²⁶
- 2.Advocacy: Trends in the judiciary show that rehabilitation needs are becoming more widely acknowledged. In order to standardise documentation procedures and pressure DSLSA to adhere to minimal and improved compensation criteria, NGOs must take use of these precedents.

²⁵ LiveLaw. (2025, Jan 10). Trial courts cannot delegate Section 357 CrPC obligation to DSLSA.

²⁴ LawBeat. (2025, July 14). Delhi HC imposes costs for misuse of victim compensation under SC/ST Act.

²⁶ Singh, D. (2023). *Restorative justice and compensation jurisprudence in India*. National Law University Delhi Working Paper.

3.Empowerment: Long-term social reintegration is becoming more important than one-time cash aid. Empowerment-based rehabilitation can be institutionalised through cooperation between DSLSA, NGOs, and line departments (health, education, and women and child development).²⁷

Delhi's developing jurisprudence thus shows a shift from procedural formalism to substantive justice, where the ability of survivors to access and benefit from compensation systems is determined in part by advocacy, evidence-based petitions, and legal literacy. Although identifying specific survivors is prohibited by confidentiality, published models and DSLSA practice notes demonstrate frequently employed NGO interventions:

- Facilitation of interim relief: The Scheme provides for quick interim payments for certain categories, such as acid assaults; NGOs have played a crucial role in quickly alerting DSLSA to these cases and in setting up urgent medical care and funding in the event that State release is delayed.
- Court interaction and legal filing: NGOs help victims get medico-legal certificates, submit complaints, and follow up on court orders that result in Section 357A compensation; this combination of direct aid and legal representation frequently expedites the time to award.
- Monitoring and accountability: Academic and civil society papers show how NGO monitoring forces DSLSAs in a number of jurisdictions to provide more precise deadlines for decision-making, streamline application forms, and define standards for interim relief.²⁸

In order to turn victim compensation plans from legal abstractions into practical assistance for survivors, NGOs and civil society are essential partners. In Delhi, where there is a regulatory framework and a functional DSLSA apparatus, NGOs provide rehabilitation that money cannot purchase, increase access, and advocate for systemic changes. However, NGOs cannot take the place of robust institutional accountability, prompt disbursement procedures, or systemic clarity. Delhi should ring-fence rehabilitation money, disclose clear performance data, streamline procedures (particularly for temporary relief), and institutionalise NGO–state relationships in order to create a truly survivor-centered compensation architecture. In addition

²⁷ Menon, N. (2022). Transformative constitutionalism and victim rights in India. NUJS Law Review, 15(2), 201–218

 $^{^{28}}$ Rao, V. (2023). Institutional limits of NGO participation in criminal justice reform. Indian Journal of Legal Studies, 11(1), 55–72.

to increasing the number of victims who receive compensation, these actions would guarantee that compensation meets its goals of empowerment and rehabilitation in a timely and respectable manner.²⁹

8. Conclusion & Suggestions

The document suggests the following reforms, arranged by goal, to overcome systemic flaws and optimise the potential of NGOs and civil society.

A. Enhance ACCESS (Procedural Simplification + Information)

1. Information that is required at initial points of contact. A common information sheet about compensation and DLSA contacts must be provided by hospitals, police stations, and crisis centres. The leaflet must be in regional languages. These pamphlets can be jointly produced and distributed by NGOs.

2. Fast-track windows and a one-page application for temporary relief. NGOs can assist in filling out and submitting these forms as soon as possible (DSLSA SOPs). Standardise and publicise a one-page interim relief application for categories (such as rape, acid attack, and grave injury) with required 7–15 day decision timescales.

B. Fortify Institutional Partnerships and Advocacy

3. Structured collaborations between NGOs and DSLSA. For outreach, application support, and counselling, draft Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with recognised NGOs; include performance metrics and reporting avenues so DLSA can track the status of cases.

4. Multi-stakeholder committees at the district level. For the purpose of reviewing delays and creating quarterly public dashboards on pending compensation cases, committees of DLSA officials, representatives from non-governmental organisations, police liaison officers, and rehabilitation support agencies should be established.

²⁹ Sharma, A., & Bhattacharya, R. (2024). *Timeliness and equity in India's victim compensation schemes*. Criminal Law Quarterly, 19(4), 98–121.

C. Improve Results for Empowerment and Rehabilitation

5. Controlled distribution and ring-fenced rehabilitation money. A portion of the compensation should be set aside for certain rehabilitation supplies (medical, counselling, and vocational training), which should be paid out in installments under the supervision of the recognised NGO to guarantee their intended use.

6. Strengthening capacity for legal help. The quality and speed of applications will be enhanced by regular training sessions (co-sponsored by DSLSA and NGOs) on trauma-informed interviewing, medico-legal reports, and evidence documentation.

D. Transparency of Data and Accountability

7. Annual reporting and an open registry. To facilitate civil society monitoring and research, DSLSA should make available a searchable, anonymised registry of compensation applications and outcomes (aggregated by district, category, and time to decision).

Pathway to Practical Implementation

- 1. Pilot MoU in Two Districts: Three recognised NGOs can be partnered with two DLSAs in Delhi (one central and one periphery) to pilot the MoU. They can test a shared case tracking system and a one-page interim application.
- 2. Evaluation six months later: Assess the rate of awards, claimant satisfaction, and interim relief deadlines. Utilise results to improve SOPs and scale throughout DSLSA.
- 3. Expand and enact best practices: If trials prove successful, DSLSA may publish circulars mandating that other Delhi DLSAs follow the approach and seek funding for ring-fenced rehabilitation.