Access to Justice

Professor Asha Kanwar
President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning
Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting (CLMM)
Mauritius | 22-25 November 2022
Where is it?

Metro Vancouver  (HQ)

New Delhi  (CEMCA)
To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use technologies to improve and expand access to education and training
Education is a fundamental human right
Access to Justice

Legislative drafting for policy makers

Preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage through Skills for Livelihoods

Technology for violence against women
Legislative drafting
for policy makers
People who have benefitted:

- Edward Eterika
- Jocelyn Shikalu
- Shaheen Ali
“...has assisted me in... legal drafting and legal analysis work, allowing me to interpret and analyze the laws differently and in a manner that I never did before.

Joycelyn Sikalu
“...As an online student, the programme allowed me to work, spend time with family and complete assignments at my own pace.

Shaheen Ali
Distance and online learning can open up access to quality legal education.
Preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage through Skills for Livelihoods
Holistic Approach

LIFE SKILLS

VOCATIONAL SKILLS

FINANCIAL LITERACY

PLACEMENTS AND INTERNSHIPS
Mobile phone technology training with Mann Deshi in India
Community involvement prevented Fatima’s early marriage in Mozambique
Empowering mothers and communities lead to improved access to justice.
Technology for violence against women
SOCIAL SAFETY NETS AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
Solomon Islands
Legal literacy in India

• Training 5,000 women through mobile phones
• Topics: Property rights, Divorce, alimony, domestic violence, senior citizen’s rights
• Legal Conciliation Centre authorized by Madurai High Court
Social Capital critical for Legal Empowerment
Insights from COL

• Capacity building and legal literacy by themselves are not enough
• Social capital and networking are crucial for accessing legal institutions and translating skills and knowledge into action
Thank you