

**LEGAL AID EVENT: WORLD ELDER ABUSE  
DAY [REPORT ON THE EVENT  
CONDUCTED IN FARIDABAD (HARYANA),  
JUNE 15, 2019]**

**Abstract:** This event was conducted by the Volunteer from Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S.-Noida to highlight and spread awareness about the worst manifestations of ageism and elderly abuse. Firstly a play was staged at the local auditorium with the purpose of evoking empathy and sensitivity in the hearts of the audience. Secondly, the volunteer went on for an awareness drive in the neighbourhood to communicate with the elderly persons listening to their experiences and encounters interactions with their children and grandchildren.

**Conducted  
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**Under the  
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## **1. Concept Note**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducts various awareness programmes to sensitize the society towards different legal and social issues. As an extension of the above initiative, the volunteer at Legal Aid Centre conducted a program in Sainik Colony, Faridabad, Haryana.

Research has shown that elderly abuse, neglect, violence and expectations is one of the biggest issues around the world. World Health Organisation data suggests that 4 to 6 % of elderly suffer from some form of abuse, a large per cent of which goes unreported. The purpose of the WEAAD is to encourage communities to recognize the problem of elderly abuse, and for countries to create policies that foster respect for elders and provide them the tools to continue to be productive citizens. The idea of this event was to portray the reflection of this problem in front of the society as it is the need of the hour.

## **2. Objectives**

The main objective of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS- NOIDA was to make society sensitize towards the elderly abuse. In order to achieve the ultimate goal, interlocutory and theatrical tools were

used in order to educate and remind the people of the moral duties towards elderly.

- a. To sensitize the youth about the issue of elderly abuse happening around in the country and to motivate them to love and respect their grandparents.
- b. There aren't too many laws for this problem right now but the motive was to make the elderly and the youth both familiar with the existing laws.

### **3. Preliminary preparations**

Before conducting the event few important preparations were made:

- a. Directing and dramatizing the play and getting involved in rigorous rehearsals
- b. Purchasing kachoris and samosas before the awareness drive for the elderly and the children both.

### **4. Conducting the program**

In order to fulfil the objective of sensitizing the youth about the issue of elderly abuse happening around in the country and to

motivate them to love and respect their grandparents, the play 'Bali and Shambhu' written by Manav Kaul was directed by the volunteer and was staged for the audience. For this, the volunteer along with his co-actors took permission from Huda Convention Centre on behalf of Sambharye Foundation. The play was set against the typical backdrop of an old age home tells the story of two old protagonists who are roommates, Grumpy Shambhu who likes to be left alone, is living his life, somewhat peacefully, until he crosses path with Bali, a joyous and young-at-heart fellow his, total opposite. The idea of this theatrical even was to portray the reflection of this problem in front of the society as it is the need of the hour. Another purpose was to invoke empathy in the hearts of the audience.

The second event was the awareness drive in the neighbourhood that was organized with the motive to make the elderly and the youth both familiar with the existing laws. Firstly we purchased kachoris and samosas before the awareness drive for the elderly and the children both. Then we had an interlocutory session in the neighbourhood with both the elderly about their levels of interaction with each other. The volunteer also shared the information about 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The elderly were told that this act provides in-expensive and speedy procedure to claim maintenance for parents and senior citizens. The

Act also takes initiative of setting up old age homes in the vicinity. They were also told that although the Act is under consideration for amendments. Seeking public opinion / suggestion is over. Debate in Parliament is pending. Section 24 is being amended to include elder abuse (including harassment) will attract a prison sentence of 6 months and a fine of Rs. 10000 or both. (broader definition of abuse / increase in penalty).

### **5. Response of the target population**

The volunteer received lots of love after the play. The kind of response received from the audience which included all age groups was simply overwhelming. It was a comic yet heart-warming play that fulfilled the objective of sensitizing the audience about the issue.

Even during the awareness drive the volunteer received a lot appreciation and blessings from the elderly which was like a 'cherry on the top'.

### **6. Future plan of action**

One session/ event was not enough to make every resident of the city aware about the concept and therefore it is suggested that more programs like these should be organized in future.

## **7. Suggestions/Feedback**

The volunteer felt really satisfactory after this programme and is grateful to the Legal Aid Centre for this opportunity. The volunteer looks forward to more such events.

## **8. Conclusion/Remarks**

Overall this was a great experience and learning process for the volunteer and it indeed did make him aware of the society's mind-set at a very basic level, which is needed and useful for every law student for their comprehensive and holistic understanding of Law. The volunteer thinks that such underlying issues against which there aren't such rigid laws should be taken every year and more often to make the citizens of the country more about the situation in the current scenario. The social campaigning done online is a boon for such events as it expands the reach.

**(The photographs relating to this program are attached as annexure 'A')**

## Annexure 'A'





**(Pictures of Social Media Coverage {Instagram stories}  
are attached as Annexure 'B')**



**Annexure 'B'**



