LEGAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN: AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON "GOOD TOUCH - BAD TOUCH"

[Report on the event conducted in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) December 07, 2018]

Abstract: This event was conducted by Volunteer from Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S.-Noida. Firstly, the participants who were girl students of ages 8-12 years studying at an NGO in Noida were informed about the concept of good touch and bad touch. The students understood the concept about safe/unsafe touch and this was explained to them in a simplified manner with the help of a diagram and a documentary. A few students were asked volunteer also to and demonstrate few examples of good touch and bad touch such as hugging, pushing, slapping, and patting on the shoulder for a better clarity of the concept.

1.Concept Note:

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducted various awareness programmes to sensitize the society towards different legal and social issues. As an extension of the above initiative I, student of the college and a Volunteer at Legal Aid Centre conducted a program in an NGO in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) on 07th December 2017.

The increase in instances of child molestation around the country has raised concerns among parents all over the nation. While it is an undeniable responsibility of the schools, children day-care centres, and parents to make sure that they do a rigorous background check before hiring employees who work in children-oriented environments, a dire need to make children differentiate between good-touch and bad-touch has also become necessary. The importance of good and bad touch should be taught to children at the beginning years itself. They should understand the difference between good and bad touch. Parents and teachers should not hesitate or feel awkward in talking about anything like this. They should encourage their children and students to talk about these things with them and report them if they are going through anything like this. Thus, sensitizing the society towards the children's safety is the need of the hour.

2. Objectives:

The main objective of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS- NOIDA was to teach students how to differentiate and identify "bad touch" or other "uncomfortable behaviour". They were also given instructions on how should one react or respond in an uncomfortable situation. The session was aimed at creating awareness among teachers to sensitize children in the age group 8-12 about good touch & bad touch. It emphasized on how to distinguish between different kinds of touch such as safe touch, unsafe touch & unwanted touch. The interactive workshop also dwelled on the urgent need to empower young children & to report an abuse, as children often keep abuse as a secret and encourage them to confide their problems in parents & teachers.

3. Preliminary Preparations:

Before conducting the event few important preparations were made:

a. Reading articles from various websites on the topic at hand to have a considerable amount of information and forming a strong opinion.

b. Carefully analyzing the estimated target audience to ensure that the message is conveyed and received properly.

c. Making poster for the awareness programme.

d. Contacting the NGO and deciding upon the place and timing for the said event.

e. Making various other arrangements like arranging for the refreshments to be served after the event.

4. Conducting the program:

The event was conducted in Noida. The target population was girls from the age of 7years to 12 years. I took help from a poster and showed the students a documentary- KOMAL which is based on Child Sexual Abuse and also includes the concept of good touch and bad touch. The session started with activity on feelings and emotions. Children mentioned different emotions and their meaning. Then the children were asked to name different types of touch. Children enumerated various examples of good touch and bad touch. They were also asked to volunteer and demonstrate few examples of good touch and bad touch such as hugging, pushing, slapping, and patting on the shoulder for a better clarity of the concept. Then the students were briefed about what they should do if they are in a risky situation of bad touch. Children learnt the three steps which they have to take when they are in a risky situation i.e.

1. SHOUT NO,

2. RUN AWAY FROM THE PLACE AND THE PERSON, and

3. TELL ABOUT THE MATTER TO SOMEONE ELDER TO THEM WHOM THEY TRUST.

Last but not the least, chocolates & sweets were distributed among children to make them happy. Page 2 of 7

5. Response of the target population

The reaction of the audience was encouraging. The students participated and indulged in the discussion with full zeal and were keen to know more about the topic. The students were not completely unknown about the concept. The matter was worrisome and it had to be taken up for creating awareness in the minds of the students.

6. Future plan of action

Conducting more such awareness programs across different target populations and educating them about the same.

7. Suggestions/Feedback:

Various ways in which the program could be better conducted in future are as follows:-

No. of Volunteers - The number of volunteers for the program should be definitely more than one, because if there are more helping hands, then the objective could be better served and achieved. Association with NGOs - A prior association with NGO functioning in the particular area would help in a great way to execute the program successfully because they could help to accumulate groups and they could also improve the techniques of the execution of the program.

8. Conclusion/Remarks:

Overall this was a great experience and learning process as Volunteer and it indeed did make me 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. It made me more equipped with handling twisted legal dilemmas.

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







