



PLANTATION DRIVE, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019

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Abstract : An activity conducted by 10 children in their societies for raising awareness on world environment protection day.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF:

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Noida).

1. CONCEPT NOTE:

The legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, Noida conducts various social awareness programmes to sensitise the society towards a range and variety of socio-legal issues. As a member and volunteer for the Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis law School, Noida, I was glad to take up an opportunity to conduct a plantation drive with 10 children in my society and the neighbouring ones in Prabhadevi, on the occasion World Environment Protection Day on 26th November, 2019.

It is quite alarming, the rate at which our country is moving towards large scale urbanisation. But as we know nothing comes for free, this large scale urbanisation comes at the cost of felling of millions and millions of trees and clearing of large patches of habitable and fertile land for the purpose of construction and infrastructural advancements. This move towards development and urbanisation is coming forth, though as a burden on the natural environment and ecosystems around us. As a result we see the levels of pollution and contaminants in the atmosphere increasing at a rapid rate.

To counter such issues, various organisations and countries globally have decided to take a stand against the increasing pollution and also to counter the inevitable problem of global warming. The Paris Accord, Kyoto Protocol and many other agreements have brought together the nations of the world at the forefront, united in the battle against the rising concerns of the rapid industrialisation and urbanisation causing large scale environmental problems.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective was to plant close to 200 plants in my society and the neighbouring societies with along with a few children and my friends. Apart from the practical approach the main objective of the said initiative was to instil amongst ourselves the importance of trees and the invaluable contribution that they have in the environment, for they not only provide us with the most essential and necessary thing for sustenance of life, oxygen but they also provide us with food, shelter and also reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which indirectly helps in reducing the temperatures in the nearby areas.

3. Preliminary Preparations:

Before the plantation drive the normal preparations like purchasing plants for the garden in the societies and saplings for that in the public garden were purchased on our own expenses by way of contribution from each of the member present there. All in all we were able to purchase close to 200 plants and saplings for the said plantation drive.

Leading up to the plantation drive I had prepared a short write up for addressing the people in the societies however permission to hold a gathering on such a short notice was not granted and therefore, I couldn't address the residents but we were instead given the permission to conduct our drive.

A couple of my friends and me, along with the children of the helpers in our homes we were a group of ten people gathered to carry out the said project. Two of the children of our helpers at home were 8 and 9 years old.

The Precautions that were taken were :

- Since we had young members involved in this activity, explaining to them the significance of the activity was absolutely essential.

- Ensuring that the plants and the saplings were absolutely fresh.
- Making sure that plastics were avoided being used as far as possible.

4. **Conducting the Program:**

The plantation drive was conducted on 26th November, 2019 in the morning at around 10:30 am. All 10 of us had gathered at my house where all of the equipment and necessary supplies were stacked. We left my house and went to the society garden in my society. We planted 25 roses there. We had the gardener help us in planting the same. Most of us were more than thrilled to be a part of such an initiative.

Then after having planted the roses in our garden we moved on to Raheja Society, which neighboured my society and also where my friends Anshu and Harshit lived. Their Garden was relatively bigger than the one in my society so we were able to plant many more plants than we could in our society. We knew that there was also a small temple within the premises of Raheja Society so we were asked before hand to plant Tulsi plants as well. So keeping this in mind we also, planted about 10 Tulsi plants near the temple.

After this we ahead to Tanna Residency and planted saplings there as well.

Having covered our neighbouring societies, we then moved on to the bigger and more challenging part of the activity which was to plant saplings in the public garden cum park in our locality. We had obtained the permission of the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) for conducting a plantation drive in the park. The local authorities were very supportive of the initiative taken by us made the procedure for obtaining permission as simple as possible.

We reached the garden/park at around 1:00 pm and began our plantation drive. We planted around 75 roses and about 20 saplings which would inevitably grow into trees.

It involved a lot of hardwork and a lot of laborious efforts to carry this task even at such a minor level.

5. **Response of the Target Audience:**

Since we were not given the permission to address a gathering of people in any of the societies and in the public garden the response of the intended target audience could not be analysed. However, judging by the feeling of immense pride and happiness that we as the volunteers felt at the end of the activity, I can only think that the response would have only been positive.

6. **Key Personal Takeaway**

The most important aspect of the activity was that in a world where nature is being exploited on a daily basis for the use of its resources at an alarming rate, I was provided an opportunity, to give back to nature. A small contribution by means of this Awareness Campaign of the Legal Aid Centre not only brings a smile to my face but also helps me live with the pride of having become a part of the team which contributed to the betterment of the Society and the Environment.

7. **Future Plan of Action**

The future must always be brighter than the present and keeping this in mind, I not only hope to part of such activities in the future, but I also, hope to involve a larger number of people and making it a large scale event.

8. **Suggestions**

People in the society must be made aware of the impending dangers of environmental degradation and must be shown not by giving them lectures but by involving them in practical approaches to problems like these.

Annexure – 1







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