

PAEDIATRICS AND CHILD RIGHTS AWARENESS CAMP

**Report on Awareness Event
Conducted on October 26, 2021 in
Noida, Uttar Pradesh**

ABSTRACT: The camp was held to inform children of their rights under the law and extoll the virtues of obtaining a quality education as per Sustainable Development Goal 4. The event also aimed to raise awareness of the rights of the child as well as the difference between good touch and bad touch and how to differentiate between the two.

Conducted by:
Ms. Medhika
Sharma, Paralegal
Volunteer

Under the Guidance
of:
Ms. Charvi Kumar,
Head - Legal Aid
Centre, Symbiosis
Law School, NOIDA

I. Concept Note

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." — Nelson Mandela

In India, a child has the right to be protected from neglect, exploitation, and abuse at home and elsewhere. Children have the right to be protected from the incidence of abuse, exploitation, violence, neglect, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour, and harmful traditional practices to name a few.

India still faces health care crises due to inadequate medical facilities. Children's health is one of the major areas that gets affected due to lack of proper medical facilities. First there is there is a lack of knowledge about proper eating diet and preventive care, and basic hygiene awareness is minimal. Secondly, there is also lack of accessibility to the nearest hospitals which delays immediate patient care. The pandemic has taught us to be more conscious about our health.

Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, Noida in collaboration with Golden Lioness Club (Riddhi) organised a paediatrics and Child rights awareness camp at Sector-143 Park, Noida opposite Aakriti Shantiniketan on 26th October 2021. Ms Savita Sharma, Ms Sneha and Ms Shashi came forward to represent Lioness Club and Ms Medhika Sharma, a Paralegal volunteered on behalf of the Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Noida

II. Objective

The event had three objectives:

1. To do a basic check-up of children and inform them about proper nutrition intake.
2. Teach children and their parents about child right.
3. Teach the children about good touch and bad touch.

III. Preliminary Preparations

Before the event was conducted, the following preparations were made:

1. Understanding the child rights in India
2. Ensuring covid-19 protocol for which children were given masks if they did not have one
3. Refreshments for the children and parents were arranged
4. Contacting a paediatrician to set up a camp for the children

IV. Conducting the Event

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Dr Jitendra Kumar, a paediatrician at Kailash Hospital was called to examine the underprivileged children. The children aged from 12 days to 15 years of age were present. There were total 40 children who had come for check- up along with their parents. The majority of them suffered from appetite loss, bone weakening and being underweight. The reason behind this was not taking proper nutrition and drinking unhealthy/ untreated water. The doctor explained to them all the feasible methods that they can adapt to keeping themselves healthy such as boiling the water before drinking it, eating at least one proper meal. He also explained to their parents how to maintain the children's nutrition level as this their developing age and if they are not looked after properly it affects them in future specially to the mother of a 12 days child.

The children subjected to poverty suffer from various dark realities of the world. They fall prey to sexual abuse, child labour, child marriage, dropping out of school, trafficking and the list is endless. Thus, Ms Medhika Sharma explained to the children about good touch and bad touch, how they should be careful and pay attention as to how they are being touched by anyone, when speaking to the kids she realised that some of the girls have been subject to stalking and being touched inappropriately by their own relative and they had no one to speak because they believed the predator that this is usually what happens with the girls of their age. Therefore, she informed that if they believe that they are being a victim to sexual abuse they must call on 1098 and inform them about it.

She also showed them videos on child rights, how it is their right to get educated and not work before they are 14 years of age. During the lockdown period when schools were closed some children started working as an apprentice at a car repairing shop, some started working in general stores. They all think that they eventually have to work in such places and by going to school they

are not supporting their families. Therefore, a video was shown to them which informed them that though they might be earning at such a little age but they are not being given the same amount of salary that the adults are getting. Medhika also tried to sensitise the parents, that they need to invest in child's education at least till the age of 14 years. She had also spoken to them about child marriage and how it is an offense, moreover, about the grave wrong they do against the girl.

V. Response of the Target Population

The audience was receptive to the awareness campaign and many children expressed an interest in continuing their education well after middle school.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



