

SHVAASA

Report on documentary screening and interactive session conducted on October 28, 2023 at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA.

ABSTRACT: The event was conducted by the Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School NOIDA in collaboration with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi on October 28, 2021. The event commenced with the screening of the documentary: *Hari Phuljhari* produced by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. The documentary is a deep dive into the implementation of the Supreme Court's orders regulating the manufacture and use of firecrackers. It explores how far the orders of the Court have been implemented and examines the systemic issues that hinder the same. The event was followed by a lecture delivery of two industry experts: Ms. Yogini Oke and Ms. Bhavreen Kandhari with an interactive session.

Conducted by:

1. Ms. Bhavya Bahl, Paralegal Volunteer
2. Soumya Srivastava, Volunteer

Under the Guidance of:

Ms. Charvi Kumar,
Head - Legal Aid
Centre, Symbiosis
Law School, NOIDA

I. Concept Note

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducts various awareness programs to sensitize society towards a plethora of legal and social issues. As an extension of such initiatives, the volunteers at Legal Aid Centre conducted a documentary screening event around the festival of Diwali.

The event covered a detailed discussion on Supreme Court's rulings restricting the manufacture and use of firecrackers, feasibility of green crackers, right to live in a healthy environment under Article 21 of the Indian constitution, and its conflict with Right to Employment under Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian constitution.

II. Objectives

The objectives of this event were:

1. To sensitise the students about the ill effects of crackers so that they could make an informed decision regarding the bursting of crackers.
2. To make the students understand the nitty-gritties of the issue at hand.

III. Preliminary Preparations

Before conducting the event, a few important preparations were made:

1. Researching on the topic thoroughly to gather knowledge of the recent and important issues going in the field
2. Gathering information about the experts of the field and approaching and persuading them to share their expertise, knowledge, and experiences with the participants

3. Gathering support from the Legal Aid Center to ensure maximum participation from volunteers. Dividing work between the ones who signed up, sharing my vision for the event with them, and devising a pedagogy
4. Taking suggestions from other members of LAC and asked the participants to do prior research on the topic as requested by the experts.

IV. Conducting the Event

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this session was held online through Zoom. The two experts namely Ms. Yogini Oke and Ms. Bhavreen Kandhari were invited to share their knowledge, thoughts, and experience of the field with the participants.

The participants were asked to do prior research on the case laws related to the topic by the experts. After the introduction of the event by the hosts, the document 'Hari Phuljari' was shown to the students.

It included all the aspects of the firecracker ban such as the environmental factor, economic factor, and trading factor. It was an enlightening documentary for the participants and it made them more eager to learn about the topic.

Further, the two guests shared their thoughts for about half an hour in which they shared many interesting incidents from their life and how they have been trying to work with the government to continue to impose a total ban on such hazardous firecrackers.

At the end of such an inspiring sharing of thoughts, the floor was open to the participants for asking questions. As the participants were involved in the documentary and session of the guests, they

surely had a lot of questions relating to different aspects of the ban.

The experts were kind enough to patiently answer and resolve all the queries of the participants. The session ended with a thank you note from Ms. Charvi to the experts and the participants for making this session a success.

V. Response of the Target Population

The target population's response was serious and thoughtful, as the situation merited. Several audience members pledged to not use firecrackers during the upcoming Diwali.

VI. Future Plan of Action

1. Creating awareness regarding Environmental related challenges in all the educational institutes.
2. Dissemination of Environmental laws and the ways to ensure sustainability will be the two key areas.

VII. Suggestions/Feedback

It is recommended that more such documentaries should be screened since they can be used to build empathy and inspire action or educate and create awareness about a subject, topic, or issue.

VIII. Conclusion

Through this session, I understood the problems related to green crackers and why it is considered a hoax. For example, one of the experts highlighted that according to the Supreme Court, emissions from NEERI's green crackers must be traceable via QR codes.

The majority of “green” crackers do not use QR codes and their emissions are untraceable. Further, it was also observed that documentaries with interactive sessions are one of the most effective ways to create legal awareness.

GLIMPSE OF THE EVENT

