

# **“LEGAL AID CAMP: SENSITIZATION OF SOCIETY TOWARDS LABOR RIGHTS & RIGHT TO EDUCATION”**

(Report on the event conducted in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022)

**Abstract:** This event was conducted by a volunteer from Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S.-Noida. Firstly, the focus was on the participants in the campaign as labors on the construction site. The participants were informed about the basic rights that the law in India provides to such persons. Secondly, the focus shifted on their children and they were explained about the importance of education.

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## **I. CONCEPT NOTE**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducted this awareness programs to sensitize the society towards the Labour Rights and Child Rights which was conducted in the month of January 24th. Moreover, the labourers working at a construction site located on the outskirts of the town were invited for the purpose of an interactive session where the workers were made aware of their legal rights as provided in various statutes of labour law.

Provision of free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of fourteen years, is one of the Constitutional Provisions. India celebrates an impressive jump in the literacy figures in the past decade and recent implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Article 21-A and the RTE Act came into effect on 1 April 2010. The title of the RTE Act incorporates the words 'free and compulsory'. 'Free education' means that no child, other than a child who has been admitted by his or her parents to a school which is not supported by the appropriate Government, shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education. Even with this kind of huge support from the government, there still persists a great chunk of children who do not get the privilege of getting an admission into a school. To tackle this issue, an awareness movement is a best fit to bring about a change in the mentality of the people and educating them about the importance of education to a child. Thus, sensitizing the society for a more collaborated and harmonized living is the need of the hour.

## **II. OBJECTIVE:**

The main objectives of this campaign of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS- NOIDA are as follows:

- To make society sensitized towards their rights as a laborer in their work.
- To make the people aware about their rights as a parent to provide an education to their children.
- To make the target audience responsible and aware of the duties and responsibilities of the government so as to achieve the objectives of the Right to Education Act, 2009 in the long run.

### **III. PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS:**

- Seeking permission of the on-site manager at the construction site. Making charts and posters for the awareness program.
- Making various other arrangements like arranging for the refreshments to be served after the event.
- Dividing topics and preparing a brief as to the legal points to be made known to them and the questions that were to be discussed during the interactive session.

### **IV. CONDUCTING THE PROGRAM:**

The on-site manager of GRV Constructions, Mr. Jatin Agarwal and the firm undertaking the construction work, was co-operative and kind enough to agree to help and bring together a few numbers of construction workers for 45 minutes before their lunch time. To initiate the interaction, I started by asking each one the exact kind of work he/she did. To proceed with the topic, I moved ahead to ask the labourers the conditions of service they were working in and the safety, incentives, health and welfare measures that are being provided to them. They were later educated about responsibilities of employer and general provisions in law regarding safety and health, medical facilities and welfare.

Shifting the focus from the labourers to their children, I educated these people belonging to the labor class on the importance of education. Article 21-A in the Constitution of India which provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right was discussed with the people. This section of people, mostly coming from the rural areas, tend to be ignorant about their children's education and how essential it is for their loved one's future to turn into a better and a brighter one. An attempt was made to sensitize the people and urge and motivate them to ensure that not only their own child, but also the children in their neighbourhood.

#### **V. RESPONSE OF THE TARGET POPULATION:**

The audience was initially reserved to them and was not enthusiastic in participation. It was only after each one was made to speak up about their work on the construction site when then ice broke and they started voicing their concerns and opinions. The overall response of the audience was very encouraging and people whole heartedly participated in the discussions.

#### **VI. FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION:**

One session is not enough to make the target population aware of topic chosen in entirety. I could only provide them with a basic structure and an impetus to look forward to a change for a better nation tomorrow. I think more programs like these should be organized in future so that the people can have a clearer idea and have a greater understanding of the topics.

## **VII. SUGGESTIONS/FEEDBACK:**

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

- It would be of immense help if some agency could be collaborated with so as to make the event a major success. 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.
- The number of volunteers for the program should be more than one, because if there are more helping hands, then the objective could be better served and achieved. If the number of volunteers were increased, more population could have been targeted.

## **VIII. CONCLUSION/REMARKS:**

Overall this was a great experience and learning process. Not only did it help me reach out to the common people, but it also helped me understand where I lacked in my organizational skills. It felt very satisfying to see the target audience leaving with a thankful smile to have them motivated and guided towards a right path and have them empowered with knowledge about their rights in the very field that they worked in every day. Moreover, due to the small size of the target population, I was able to interact on a one-on-one basis which was of great help to the target audience. It was encouraging for me since people appreciated my efforts and acknowledged the hard work.

Some pictures from the sites:





