

# EVENT ON VOTING RIGHTS AND LEGAL AID AWARENESS

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Report on the event conducted on 19 February, 2022

Abstract- This event was conducted by Vibhuti Rao (Para Legal Volunteer) , Bhavya Vijay Lakshmi (Volunteer), Anushka Singhal (Volunteer) at LAC Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA. This event aimed at creating awareness about voting rights and legal aid facilities available to us.

Winter  
Internship Event  
Under the  
guidance of:  
Ms. Charvi  
Kumar (Head  
Legal Aid  
Centre,  
Symbiosis Law  
School, NOIDA)

## **Concept Note**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducts several awareness and welfare programmes for the benefit of the society. The volunteers at the center are expected to conduct an event each during their summer and winter internship break. Thus, this event on Voting Rights and Legal Aid Awareness was conducted by the volunteers Vibhuti Rao, Bhavya Vijya Lakshmi and Anushka Singhal on 19 February 2022 via hybrid mode i.e., both online and offline (at Rama Krishna Puram, New Delhi). The event aimed at telling people how to make their voter ID cards as well how they can exercise their legal rights provided by the Constitution.

Voting is a very important exercise for our democracy. As soon as a person turns eighteen, he becomes eligible to vote. One needs to first apply for a voter id card to become an eligible voter. Many people are not aware of the process involved in applying for a voter id card. Even if they are aware, they only know of the offline procedure and not the online one. This event aimed at informing people about the voter id card and how to deal with the issues related to it. Moreover, the event also aimed at teaching them how to cast their votes using a VVPAT machine.

Article 39-A of our Constitution provides us the right to Free Legal Aid. In order to further this right, we have the district, state and the National Legal Service Authority. These authorities have their own websites and helpline numbers to help the needy. They ensure that people are not deprived of justice. Several people are not aware of this concept of legal aid and our aim was to tell them about this concept.

## **Objective**

- To aware people about their voting rights.
- To tell them about the procedure to make a voter id card.
- To create awareness about free legal aid.
- To help them apply for voter id card.

## **Preliminary Preparations**

The event aimed at a certain section of the society like house helps and other such people. Thus, in order to attract people, we prepared certain posters (both digital and handmade). Vibhuti Rao visited the designated place and found a perfect spot for conducting our event. She even spread awareness about the event through her own house help who lives there. We prepared a script for the whole event and even a presentation was prepared for the same. the presentation also contained a small quiz so as to make the event more interactive. We visited the websites of the Delhi Legal Service Authority and the National Legal Service Authority and collected all the relevant information. The website of the National Election Commission was also visited and all the information regarding making a voter id card was collected. Bhavya and Vibhuti reached the place half an hour before and collected people.

## **Conducting the program**

Vibhuti and Bhavya reached at the spot and conducted the event offline while Anushka joined them through google meet. The event was kept short (about one hour) as the people had to report to their work. We told them about the procedure involved in making a voter id card. They were told that they can visit- <https://voterportal.eci.gov.in/> for making their voter id card online or they can fill a form called Form-6 (available on their website) or also available at their nearest election officer or the Booth level officer (BLO) and then can submit it both online and offline. Then were also told about the procedure involved in making corrections in a voter id and even about making a duplicate voter id card.

As the people had to go their work, we did not have the time to share the ppt or even conduct the quiz. We told them in a conversational language as what all can they do exercise their Right to Free Legal Aid under Article 39-A. The helpline number of the Delhi Legal service authority was also shared with them. As the women came to know that we have come from the Legal Aid Center they started telling us their legal problems. One of them told us about her landlord and how he was asking her to vacate the house without any notice period. We encouraged her to go to the police station which she was reluctant to do so at first. One of them also raised the issue about the issuance of her brother's Aadhar card. We listened to all their grievances and even took note of their names and mobile numbers so that we can follow up later.

### **Response of the beneficiaries**

We received a positive response from the beneficiaries. They even started asking us questions beyond our event and we tried to answer them. They told us that almost all of them have their voter id card and would make their children's too as soon as they turn 18. They gave us their names and numbers so that we can help them in making their Aadhar card, ration card and other such documents. There were children too who were attending the event, the children promised us that they will encourage their parents to vote whenever voting time comes.

### **Future plan of action**

We plan to follow up with these people who gave us their name and number to help them with making their legal documents. Moreover, we plan to conduct other types of legal awareness event in this locality as we found the people to be very supportive and eager to learn. As the place is located near to Vibhuti's house, we can conduct legal awareness events here more often. Next time we plan to conduct the event at a time when these people are free and not have to rush to their work. Also, we plan to take our seniors there who can actually deal with their legal problems in an efficient manner.

### **Feedback**

The event was conducted successfully. It would have been better if we had more time at hand. The people responded positively and pledged that they would

exercise their voting rights. They also said that they would encourage others to do the same and help them in making their voter id cards. We found that we did good by making posters as they were very appealing, especially too the children.

## **Conclusion**

The topic chosen for the event was very appropriate, seeing the elections happening in several states. Free legal aid is also an untouched topic and we felt happy that we were able to convey it to the people. The people were able to connect well with us and this is evident from the fact that they shared their problems with us even after the session ended formally. Bhavya and Vibhuti stayed at the place for some more time so that they can solve the queries of the people. The event ended on a happy note with all people clicking pictures with us and saying us a big 'thank you'.



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