

EVENT ON 'GOOD TOUCH' & 'BAD TOUCH'

Report on the event conducted on 9th April, 2022

Abstract- This event was conducted by Mridula Trivedi (Co-convenor), Aditi Pandey (Para-legal Volunteer), Vanshika Rana (Para-legal volunteer), Anushka Singhal (Volunteer), Mrityunjay Joshi (Para-legal volunteer) and Vipoolaksha Mudra (Volunteer) at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA. This event aimed at creating awareness among the children about the sexual offences committed against them.

Organized by – Aditi Pandey (Para-Legal Volunteer) and Mridula Trivedi (Co-Convenor) at Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA 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. As an extension of such initiatives, we conducted an event on 'Good Touch and Bad Touch' at Primary School, Hazratpur, Wajidpur, District Gautam Buddha Nagar on 9th April 2022. The event aimed at making children aware about the sexual offences committed against them.

Children are the gift of God but we often tend to forget this and thus our children suffer. They often become the victim of sexual offences as they cannot differentiate between a 'good touch' and a 'bad touch'. Children should learn to differentiate between a 'good touch' and a 'bad touch' and should know that it can come from anybody even from a family member. The government has framed laws like Protection of children against sexual offences (POCSO) Act and has started a dedicated helpline number for children so that they can easily share their grievances.

With the covid restrictions relaxed, we decided to conduct an offline event where we could interact better with the children. We interacted with them and even asked them questions to know whether they understood what we wanted to explain them. Games were played, toffees were distributed and pictures were clicked at the end of the session.

Objective

- To enable the children to differentiate between a 'good touch' and a 'bad touch'.
- To tell children about the legal remedies available in case of sexual offences committed against them.
- To inform them about the child helpline number.
- To motivate them to fight for themselves.

Preliminary Preparations

We wanted to make the session as interactive as possible. Therefore, we made a chart wherein we tried to showcase all the body parts, touching whom would be considered as a bad touch. We rehearsed our parts a day prior to the scheduled event through MS Teams wherein suggestions from each team member were taken into consideration. The next day, we arranged our transport to go to the school and also bought some toffees to make the children happy.

Conducting the program

The event was conducted in the morning during the school hours around 11:30 AM and was of a duration of approximately one and a half hours. The event started by a brief introduction wherein Mrityunjay Joshi introduced the children to all the team members. He tried to engage the children with us through certain anecdotes and jokes. He told the children about our purpose of coming to their school. Then Anushka Singhal explained the children about a 'good touch' and a 'bad touch'. A short story was told to them and then they were made to identify whether the touch in the story was a 'good touch' or a 'bad touch'. Most of the children were able to identify the type of touch in the situation put forth towards with them.

Then Aditi Pandey elaborately explained about the body parts wherein a touch would be considered a 'bad touch'. The chart was used and the children were made to learn that if anyone touches them on their face or neck, chest, between their legs, and at the back, it is considered a 'bad touch'. The children were made to repeat these places two to three times so as to memorize the same.

Then Mridula Trivedi elaborated on the same. She explained in detail about the touches and told the children about the POCSO Act. The slogan, "Darna nhi hai" i.e., one should not be afraid was used now and then to make sure that the children understand that there is nothing to be afraid of whenever they encounter with such a situation. Further they were also told about porn and what should they do if someone forces them to watch this.

Vanshika Rana then told the children about the helpline number 1098 available for the children. The children were made to memorize the same with the help of backward counting. They easily learnt the number and each one of them was asked to repeat the number after Vanshika.

The event was concluded by Vipoolaksha Moodra who summed up all that was said by the other teammates. He even asked the children to repeat whatever that was told to them. The children happily repeated all the things. Then toffies were distributed to them and a lot of pictures were clicked. The chart was pasted in the school itself so that the children could refer to it whenever needed.

Response of the beneficiaries

The children as well as the teachers were very happy with the event. The children were answering all our questions and were even repeating whatever we said. The teachers also thanked us for making the children aware of such an important issue. they asked us to visit their school frequently with more such events.

Future plan of action

Seeing the positive reaction from the audience, we are planning to conduct more such events. We can identify more such nearby government schools where we can conduct events. Events can be conducted on issues like child marriage, child labor and other such topics revolving around children. The help of street plays can be taken to make the events more interesting.

Feedback

The feedback we received was positive. The teachers informed us that the children liked the session and learnt new things. Even the children thanked the whole team for conducting the event and making them aware of their rights. The team loved the energy of the kids. Only one thing that the team regretted was the less count of children. Since it was Ashtami, the count was less than usual. We would make sure that next time we conduct event on such a day when the count of children is maximum.

Conclusion

It is said that 'children must be thought how to think and not what to think'. On the same lines we did an effort to make the children learn about the child rights. This event proved to be a good experience for the team members. They learnt the art of sensitization and as well as learnt that interaction is very important for making an event successful. The POCSO discussion paved the way for the children to

understand about their bodily rights and understand that no one can touch them without their consent in a wrong way. Overall, the session ended on a happy note with the children saying us a 'big thank you'.



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