

PROJECT SHIKSHA

Report on Interactive Literacy Drive on account of International Literacy Day on September 08, 2021

ABSTRACT: The Legal Aid Cell of Symbiosis Law School, Noida conducted an educational session with the children at Human Hope Foundation, an NGO in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The aim of the session was to educate children about technology and to make them aware of the Right To Privacy in the simplest terms. The students were also made aware of how to access basic features of a computer such as creating a folder, using MS word, etc. This was followed by a brief discussion on data privacy and the distinction between private and public information, along with the importance of passwords in the digital era. This session was concluded with some interactive educational activities and games followed by a question round.

Conducted by:

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I. Concept Note

We find ourselves fortunate enough to be able to study in prestigious schools and colleges, to be able to read and write and have access to technology. However, there are many who do not have the same resources and therefore education remains a privilege to them. As the International Literacy Day is celebrated every year on 8th September the Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA this year conducted the Literacy Drive on the 8th of September 2021.

This year International Literacy Day (ILD) 2021 was celebrated under the theme "Literacy for a human-centered recovery: Narrowing the digital divide". As the COVID-19 crisis has disrupted the learning of children, young people and adults at an unprecedented scale. It has also magnified the pre-existing inequalities in access to meaningful literacy as majorly the classes were being conducted online, ignoring the digital divide that exists in India. Although India is the world's second-largest internet user base with around 630 million users, there lies another fact which says that for every Indian who has an internet connection there is at least one person who does not have access to it and in all likelihood, this person lives in a rural area. In addition to this, even if children in rural areas have smart phones, connectivity and the technological know-how remains an issue.

II. Objective

The primary objective of this event was to make the students aware of the importance of education, the role of digital media in education and an attempt to bridge the digital divide gap.

III. Preliminary Preparations

Before conducting the event, the organisers made the following preparations:

1. Created interactive quizzes and pamphlets.
2. Researched and compiled materials that would enhance the educational status of the target population.
3. Gained permission from Human Hope Foundation to collaborate on the event.

IV. Conducting the Event

The event was conducted in online mode with the children at Human Hope Foundation, an NGO in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on September 08, 2021. This was done in pursuance of International Literacy Day. The Theme of this year's International Literacy Day (ILD) 2021 by the United Nations was "Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide". In pursuance of the theme the aim of the session was to educate children about technology and to make them aware of the Right To Privacy in the simplest terms. This was done through an online interactive session with the students at the NGO on the topic 'Role of Digital Media in Education.

The session began with an introduction of the children and the Legal Aid Volunteers followed by a discussion on the importance of education and the need for digital literacy. Each volunteer then through the ways of a PowerPoint presentation educated the children about various applications such as YouTube, Pinterest, and WhatsApp and their educational aspects. The students were also made aware of how to access basic features of a computer such as creating a folder, using MS word, etc.

This was followed by a brief discussion on data privacy and the distinction between private and public information, along with the importance of passwords in the digital era. This session was concluded with some interactive educational activities and games followed by a question round.

V. Response of the Target Population

The LAC contingent was successful in drawing attention of the audience to this critical workshop. The colourful presentations caught the eyes of the audience who later expressed how they enjoyed watching them. The enthusiasm of the kids and the high-spirited involvement in the educational games helped achieve the target set by the legal aid centre. The aim was to make the students aware of the importance of education, the role of digital media in education and an attempt to bridge the digital divide gap. The beneficiaries successfully interacted with the volunteers and provided an opportunity to have one to one interaction with them in an unhurried manner.

VI. Future Plan of Action

Quality education is not attained in one day. This event was the culmination of several volunteers' year-long association with tutoring the children online. The volunteers intend to continue this association in the future as well.

VII. Conclusion

The floor was opened for the question-and-answer session in the end where audience actively asked questions and clarified their

doubts. The volunteer were glad to answer the questions of these students who showed great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the session.

As a whole the event was a great success for every volunteer and we hope that the volunteers will continue to contribute in such endeavours and also motivate and encourage other people to do the same, and help make difference in the lives of others.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



