

CHILDREN'S DAY EVENT ON QUALITY EDUCATION

**Report on Event Conducted on
November 12, 2022 in the slum
area behind Government Women's
Hostel, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.**

ABSTRACT: This event was a collaboration between the Legal Aid Centre and the Millennium Fellowship Project 'Chaitanya'. As a part of this project, the focus was on SDG 4 and 5 which talk about inclusive and equitable quality education across all genders and Rights of children. This event aimed at not only providing quality education to children but also spreading awareness about several government-run schemes on free and quality education in the country and rights of children.

Conducted by:
Ms. Anushka
Singhal,
Volunteer

Under the Guidance
of:
Ms. Charvi Kumar,
Administrator -
Legal Aid Centre,
Symbiosis Law
School, NOIDA

I. Concept Note

During the UN Millennium Fellowship, the fellows conduct several events to promote the Sustainable Development Goals that they have chosen. As an extension of such initiatives Project CHAITANYA conducted an event in a slum in NOIDA on the occasion of Children's Day. The event aimed at making children aware about the rights they have and the way by which they can exercise such rights.

Children are the gift of God but we often tend to forget this and thus our children suffer. Problems like child labor, child marriage, child trafficking, sexual abuse etc. take a toll on their childhood. Children should know about their rights and the remedies available when these rights are violated. The government has framed laws like Protection of children against sexual offences (POCSO) Act, Child Marriage Prohibition Act, Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act etc. for the welfare of children. Helplines are being created but not all are aware of them. Children are trafficked and are forced to do begging and other such activities.

Thus, we decided to conduct a child rights event wherein all rights were discussed in detail and children were involved through a question-and-answer session. These days, right to good health and healthy environment has also become a big issue with rising pollution and uncleanliness.

We all have the right to a good environment and thus if gets violated, we can approach the Court. So, to make aware the children of their legal rights and remedies, this session was conducted.

II. Objective

The event had the following objectives:

1. To create awareness about child rights.
2. To tell children about the legal remedies available in case of violation of child rights.
3. Make them a responsible citizen.
4. To motivate them to fight for their rights.

III. Preliminary Preparations

We wanted to conduct an event surrounding children so we started looking out for an appropriate audience and place. The slum area near government women's hostel was chosen to organize the event. We needed pamphlets to distribute among the children so a volunteer was assigned to design the pamphlets. The pamphlets were designed and then sent for printing.

Toffees were also bought to be distributed among the children. A meeting was organized with the volunteers prior to the day of event and each volunteer was briefed regarding their role in the event. Topics were allotted to them and the whole event was planned accordingly.

IV. Conducting the Event

The event was conducted in the evening and was of a duration of approximately one hour. The volunteers gathered at Government Women's Hostel and then proceeded together to the slum area from there. The event started by a brief introduction wherein Anushka Singhal introduced the event plan and told children

about children's day. Then Rishabh Pandey told the children about child labor and the ways to prevent it. Tarishi told the children about the Right to Education and schemes available to children to avail this right. Abhilasha, then told them about the cons of child marriage and the legal age to get married. After that Aliyah told them about good touch and bad touch and made them learn the child helpline numbers. Other volunteers then conducted a quiz among the children. They were asked questions based upon the session and each child with a right answer was awarded with a toffee. At the end pamphlets were distributed among the children and they were asked to keep them safe with them and refer to the helpline numbers given therein as and when needed.

The volunteers also clicked pictures with the children and played a lot of games with them. The parents present therein were also encouraged to get their children enrolled in school and not force them to do child labor and child marriage.

V. Response of the Target Population

The children as well as their parents were happy with our event. The children told us that they enjoyed and learnt new things. They were responding to almost all our questions and even remembered the things we told them. This showed that they were attentively listening to us.

The feedback we received was positive. The children thanked the whole team for conducting the event and making them aware of their rights. The volunteers also enjoyed conducting the event. Children were able to understand SDG 4- gender equality and SDG-5 – quality education very well and went back home with a big smile.

VI. Future Plan of Action

Similar sessions have been planned in other parts of the country.

VII. 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 and promote gender equality. 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. With the instances of child labor, child marriage as well as trafficking, it became all the very more important for us to conduct this session and let the children know that they have the remedies available, and they need not fear in such circumstances. The POCSO discussion also 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 telling us a 'big thank you'.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT

