

CLEANLINESS DRIVE ON NATIONAL POLLUTION DAY

Abstract: This drive was conducted by paralegal volunteers and volunteers of the Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School Noida to spread awareness about cleanliness on National Pollution Control Day. A park in the Laxminagar area of New Delhi which was turned into a garbage dump by the locals was cleaned up to spread the message.

Locals were further informed about their responsibility towards the cleanliness of their environment. The event was organised by Aprajita Tyagi, an LAC volunteer of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA.

Conducted by:
Mridula Trivedi
(Volunteer,
Legal Aid
Centre,
Symbiosis law
School NOIDA)
Under the
guidance:
Mr Ankur
Sharma (Head,
Legal Aid
Centre,
Symbiosis Law
School, NOIDA)

1. Concept Note

The Legal Aid Centre of the Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA has always strived to spread awareness among the masses about the issues affecting the society. One of the most prevalent and important issue in today's time is the issue of Pollution. To control pollution and its related health problems it is important that the surroundings of a person are clean. In an endeavour to promote this thought a cleanliness drive was conducted in a park located in the Laxminagar area of New Delhi on The National Pollution Control Day, 2nd December 2019.

National Pollution Control day is being observed in India since the infamous Bhopal Gas Tragedy took place on 2nd December 1984. Since then this day has become important in spreading awareness about the various forms of pollution taking place around us, their harmful effects and the ways to control them. Keeping the surroundings clean by proper waste management is elemental in pollution control. India produces 42.0 million tons of municipal solid waste annually at present. Per capita generation of waste varies from 200 gm to 600 gm per capita / day. Collection efficiency is between 50% to 90% of solid waste generated. Urban Local Bodies spend Rs.500/- to Rs.1500/- per ton on solid waste management of which, 60-70% of the amount is on collection alone 20% - 30% on transportation. No fund is spent on treatment and disposal of waste. Crude dumping of this waste is practiced in most of the cities.

It has been observed in various studies that people residing in areas near garbage dumps have poor health like allergy, asthma, skin irritation and other gastro intestinal diseases. The public perception indicated that most people lack knowledge of the harmful effects of waste heaps including that they are breeding grounds for flies, cockroaches, and mosquitoes, rodents etc. which are responsible for transmission of germs and zoonotic infections to the people living nearby. It is therefore important that the

waste is at least transported to actual garbage dumps instead of being collected in local areas.

2. Objective

The main objective of the legal aid centre of SLS-N was to create awareness among and educate people about the importance of keeping their surroundings clean and take initiative to manage waste in a right way. The target audience were the local people of Laxminagar area in Delhi where a public park had been converted into a garbage dump by the locals. These people were capable of bringing a significant change in the cleanliness of the area. Therefore the main objectives of the drive were-

1. To initiate the process of cleaning up the public park which had been converted into a garbage dump and to inspire people to take up the responsibility upon themselves to keep the area clean.
2. To spread the message of keeping the park clean by conducting the cleanliness drive.
3. To make the local people aware of the health implications of living in a surrounding which is not clean.
4. To make people aware about the possible steps they can take to prevent this environmental degradation.

3. Preliminary Preparations

Before conducting the drive a few important measures were taken-

1. Permission was sought from the local authorities for the drive to be conducted.
2. Garbage bags, masks and gloves were arranged for the volunteers.
3. Authorities responsible for transporting garbage to the dump were contacted to send garbage trucks.

4. Some local sweepers were also asked to help in the process of cleaning.
5. Locals were also called to witness the drive.

4. Conducting the programme

The cleanliness drive was conducted at the School Block park, Laxminagar, New Delhi. It was organised by Aprajita Tyagi, a Paralegal Volunteer of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS-N. This park was chosen because it was a public park converted into a garbage dump by the local people.

Some local people were contacted beforehand and they took us to the park. Reaching there we found that the whole park was covered with heaps of garbage. There was no grass and the park didn't look like one at all. We the volunteers then started collecting the garbage in the rugs we had brought with us. Some local sweepers helped in collecting the garbage at one place. While the garbage was being collected by us locals gathered in the park. This gave us an opportunity to explain the importance of keeping the area clean. We collecting the garbage in their area was a great way of attracting their attention towards what we were trying to convey. Many young kids also gathered around and started talking to us. We explained to them that it is their responsibility to keep the area hygienic and healthy. We then put away the collected garbage in the garbage trucks. The local people cooperated with us in the whole process of cleaning.

5. Response of target audience

The people who lived around the School Block Park gathered around when we started cleaning the park. They were not just a passive audience; they actively took part in the drive. They started talking to us and even helped us in cleaning. They very well understood the importance of keeping their surroundings clean. They expressed their desire to have a clean looking

park in front of their houses. They had a positive response when we asked them to take initiative in keeping the area clean and hygienic. They were happy that we had come to the place and had given a start to the process of cleaning up the area and they promised to continue this process by working in unison.

6. Key Personal Takeaway

The feeling of making a difference in the lives of so many budding citizens of the nation and influencing them in a constructive way was indeed an amazing experience. After talking to people I understood that everyone wants a clean environment, but the difficult part is to take the initiative and put the first foot forward. By this event I now realise that this is the most important part and this realisation will lead me to take more good initiatives in the society.

7. Future Plan of Action

Now that the School Block Park has been cleaned it will be converted into an actual park by the locals. By starting the initiative in one park and asking the locals to keep the other areas clean as well, it is hoped that other similar initiatives will be taken by them.

The problem of Cleanliness is so huge that only one drive is not enough. More such drives will be conducted by the volunteers in their nearby areas and other places.

8. Suggestions/Feedback

Keeping surrounding clean should be encouraged in people from all age groups. Since cleaning up your localities and properly disposing waste is not something that requires any special skill, more and more people should turn up and take initiative in this direction.

9. Conclusion/Remarks

This was a great learning experience. I got the opportunity to take a progressive stand on an important issue and also got the chance to educate people on it. This also gave me an opportunity to interact with people and understand their thinking about such issues related to the environment.

ANNEXURE 1





ANNEXURE 2





2 December 7:15 pm

#SLSNOIDA



Seen by 132



Share



Highlight



More



2 December 7:16 pm



Seen by 132



Share



Highlight



More