

**LEGAL AID EVENT;  
CLEANLINESS DRIVE ON  
NATIONAL POLLUTION CONTROL DAY  
2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**CONDUCTED BY  
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**UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF  
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**Abstract:** This event was conducted by Volunteer of LAC and was aimed towards cleanliness of a public park and also to spread awareness about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene and this event was conducted on National Pollution control day, 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2019 which observed each year after the horrors of 1984 Bhopal tragedy, in hope to avoid such catastrophe and make earth a better place to live.

## **1) Concept Note**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducts various awareness programmes to sensitize the society towards burning social and legal issues. As an extension of such initiatives I, student of the SLS Noida and a Volunteer at Legal Aid Centre conducted a cleanliness drive on ***National Pollution Control day*** in School Block Park, Laxminagar, East Delhi in collaboration with the local MLA Shri Nitin Tyagi and RWA of that resident colony on 2th of December 2019.

Delhi is always in news because of air pollution but cleanliness is an equally concerning issue especially in middle class and lower middle class residential areas where the MCD compared to affluent areas is less vigilant about cleanliness. There is a Delhi beyond the ravishing streets of Lutyens zone and South Delhi, the picture there is not magazine friendly but a huge chunk of Delhi's population lives in such colonies and residential complexes and to healthy life under Article 21 (right to life) includes right to hygienic environment and it is available to all. Our beloved Mahatma Gandhi had once rightly said, "*Cleanliness is equal to godliness*" and it is indeed essential for everyone to learn about cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation and the various diseases that are caused due to poor hygienic conditions. Apart from this poor hygiene and lack of cleanliness also affects mental health and many studies have shown that messy spaces can make it difficult to focus on particular tasks and achieve goals throughout the day. But by engaging in daily cleaning ritual research shows that we feel more optimistic after failure, as tidying up can actually boost self-esteem and confidence. Everyone indulges in some or the other daily hygiene routine but it only limited to personal hygiene but public hygiene is as important as personal hygiene.

## **2) Objective**

The main objective of this cleanliness drive was to volunteer to restore and clean the park. This drive was not only aimed to clean the park but

also to spread awareness among the residents about the importance of cleanliness, segregation of household waste, proper disposal of waste and ways to prevent mismanagement of garbage. The main aim of this drive was to inculcate a feeling or sense of responsibility that it is the duty of every resident of that area to take steps that ensure that hygiene and cleanliness is maintained in the locality. We live in a world where the resources are limited and following the concept of sustainable development we have ensure that we provide the upcoming generations with a clean and healthy environment.

### **3) Preliminary Preparations**

- a) To conduct this cleanliness drive, a certain locality and we had chosen this park because it really needed a restoration as a park was converted into dumping ground.
- b) All the members had to take half-day leave from their internships for conducting this drive.
- c) Several sacks were collected, which would be used to gather the garbage.
- d) The team members were asked to bring their own hand gloves so that their hands remain protected and clean while picking up trash and cleaning the surroundings.
- e) Since, the father of PLV of our team member is the sitting MLA of Laxminagar constituency we took him on board for this drive and he pulled in the support of the local administration and the EDMC supplied us with large brooms, garbage trucks and manual labour to manage and complete this drive successfully.

### **4) Conducting the Program**

On the occasion of National Pollution Control Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, a group of LAC volunteers of SLS Noida had decided to conduct a cleanliness drive in Laxminagar area of the East Delhi Constituency in Delhi. Being a part of this group I got an opportunity to contribute in the cleanliness and

betterment of our environment and I am really indebted and thankfully to LAC for giving me this opportunity. This programme was an eye opening experience and it showed all of us that how people who live beyond the Lutyens zone live in such unhealthy and unhygienic surroundings and they too need vigilant attention of local authorities. After meeting and assembling our team moved towards a public park that was turned into garbage dump yard by the local residents. Such an unattended garbage dump yard could lead to a number of health issues for the nearby residents, leading to spreading of diseases. The entire team divided itself in pairs of two (I was paired with my co-volunteer Rishab) and each pair appointed to itself a particular part of the park which it will be cleaning. The strategy was, that one person of each pair would start gathering the garbage with the help of the large brooms and the other person would put the trash into the sacks. As the team got involved with this task, we realized that people had dumped wet waste like cooked and uncooked food, vegetable peels etc. and had also thrown non-biodegradable waste like old and torn clothes. It took some while to be able to see the ground beneath the trash. Over all this while, the soil and the ground of the park were immensely polluted and had a strong unbearable stench. After an hour or so of collecting and sweeping, we were able to create a noticeable difference in the condition of the park. All our sacks were now brimming with waste and trash. Workers of local administration had also joined us in this process and had organized for the services of the garbage truck which would take the gathered garbage to the nearest designated dump yard of the locality. After unloading our filled up sacks into the truck, we all began another round of cleaning the park which required picking up wastes with our hands and then sweeping the park and completing our resolve of cleaning the park.

## **5) Response of the target population**

The main aim of this cleanliness drive was also to inspire the local residents so that they realize that it is their duty to keep the surroundings

clean. A number of onlookers were really happy to see all of us volunteering for such a purpose. They were vocal about the issues they are facing because of dumping of garbage by people in this particular park. They complained about the unbearable stench and breeding of mosquitoes as a consequence. However, it was disappointing to not have them participate in the cleaning of the park. The local people wanted us to revisit the park after few days and again employ our efforts towards keeping the park clean and green. The members of our team who use certain social media platforms shared the pictures of this drive on their respective social media handle to spread the message of this activity to as many people as possible.

## **6) Future Plan of Action**

In order to achieve the results, which were aimed for, a continuous and diligent effort has to be put. Therefore, a single instance of a cleanliness drive will not achieve the desired results of raising awareness and ensuring clean and safe local surroundings for people. The future prospects of this initiative depend heavily upon helping the residents towards safe disposal of the garbage in order to provide them with a long term and a sustainable solution. We used also conduct awareness drives in locality about proper disposal of waste, segregation of waste and how to approach the local MCD authorities regarding the issue of cleanliness and hygiene.

## **7) Suggestions**

Such events should be conducted on much larger scale covering not only a park but an entire locality and we should also include the youth of that area because they are budding future of our country and if we are able to inculcate the habit of hygiene and cleanliness in them then a better future of that area is assured.

## **8) Conclusion**

It was my pleasure to be a part of such a noble endeavour and I hope to participate in many such events in future and as a student of law it my duty to work for betterment of the society, after all law is nothing but codes to govern and maintain a civil society.

# Annexure-I



