

# **“LEGAL AID EVENT: AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON CHILD RIGHTS”**

*(Report on the event conducted in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on December 10, 2018)*

**Abstract:** This event was conducted by Para Legal Volunteer, Legal Aid Centre, and S.L.S. Noida. Firstly, children mainly belonging to the age group of 5-12 were explained about the violations done by the society to suppress a child's growth according to his/her will. Thereafter, the children were made aware of the rights that the law in India provides to the children. They were further informed about their moral duties towards such rights.

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## 1. **Concept Note:**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School Noida conducted a legal awareness program on "Human Rights". Basically, the members had to create awareness among the people about various human rights they are provided with. As a para-legal volunteer I had conducted this program in Meerut. I did the task individually and informed a few children of their rights. In the history of human rights, the rights of children are the most ratified. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines Child Rights as the minimum entitlements and freedoms that should be afforded to every citizen below the age of 18 regardless of race, national origin, colour, gender, language, religion, opinions, origin, wealth, birth status, disability, or other characteristics. These rights encompass freedom of children and their civil rights, family environment, necessary healthcare and welfare, education, leisure and cultural activities and special protection measures.

## 2. **Objective:**

The main objective of the LAC of SLS-N was to create awareness and educate people about various Human rights and how it is an important tool. The urban populace is well versed with its rights and is aware of the means to safeguard their rights.

- To educate the people on the technicalities of the Rights and how to use them.
- To encourage the people to use Human Rights whenever required.
- To establish a society where people are aware and protect their Rights.

## 3. **Preliminary Preparation:**

- Reading articles from various websites on the topic at hand to have a considerable amount of information and forming a strong opinion.

- Selection of events from the past that describes the use of child rights for better understanding.
- Carefully analyzing the estimated target audience to ensure that the message is conveyed and received properly.
- Selection of candidates of an age group that will be most benefited.

#### **4. Conducting the Program:**

In the winters of 2018, I had conducted the event in Meerut, an urban city. This winter, I conducted the event in Nehru Nagar colony of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. The target population were children from the age of 13 years to 17 years. I took help from the incidents available on the internet and examples from nearby areas and explained the topic to the audience. This helped a great deal in making the audience understand the subject.

I started off by telling them about basic rights as a child such as Right to survival, right to development, right to protection and right to participation. Information was taken from various online websites and statistical data uploaded by organizations such as CRY, Smile foundation, etc.

#### **5. Response of the audience:**

The reaction of the audience was encouraging for me. Though the children were of age group 13-17 years, they still responded well to my surprise. Some of them even tried answering basic rights they have and put up their doubts. Their family even praised the college for its efforts in conducting the program here. The audience was delighted to know that even they could use their rights to excel in their lives in so many ways. The children were not completely aware of their rights and were benefitted a great deal with this awareness drive.

## **6. Future plan of action:**

This particular exercise gave me a sense of responsibility and motivated me to further use my knowledge to the best capacity in trying to educate more and more people about their rights and duties as a citizen of this country.

## **7. Suggestions/ Feedback:**

- The feedback I received from the children was positive and we should try to do such programs more often at a large scale too.
- We as members of Legal Aid Centre can also put forward queries and concerns of the population so that they feel empowered thereby protecting their rights and making a step towards a better informed society.

## **8. Conclusion/ Remarks:**

This was a real time learning experience for me. I got the opportunity to contribute to society be it in a small way and also got the chance to educate people about the very basic and fundamental rights that they lacked knowledge on. Also, as a para legal volunteer, it was of great help as I understood some techniques while dealing with the Children and their families, who are not often educated on the basic issues.

**Pictures of the events:**

Children listening to the speaker about their rights and clearing their doubts regarding to the issues faced by them or seen in nearby areas.

