

“LEGAL AID EVENT: CLEANLINESS DRIVE”

(Report on the event conducted in Janakpuri East, New Delhi on December 05, 2019)

Abstract: This event was conducted by Paralegal Volunteer, Legal Aid Centre, and S.L.S. Noida. The event included the task of gathering some residential citizens which consisted of males and females, who were made aware of cleanliness and its importance as well as ways on how the same can be implemented. Then a cleanliness drive was conducted in the residential areas that were unclean in the area and the same allowed for spreading of the importance of the value of a clean environment in the area.

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Concept Note :

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducts various awareness programmes to sensitize the society towards a plethora of legal and social issues. As an extension of such initiatives an awareness and cleanliness drive was conducted in Janakpuri East, New on December 05, 2019. The right to a clean environment is fundamental. It is both dependent upon and a precondition to a number of other human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. For example, the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the environment are necessary for the enjoyment of the rights to health, to food, and to a decent, dignified life. The right to a clean environment is not a purely individual right. Rather, it has a collective facet, belonging equally to such groups as future generations and indigenous peoples whose cultures depend on the environment for their existence and perpetuation. A clean important and awareness regarding the same is an issue which is a need of the hour and should be focused on. This can only be done by active participation of people which needs to be encouraged and promoted.

Cleanliness is a habit not an act. However starting a campaign or drive highlights the issue, builds champions and brings focus on the task at hand. This also further leads to internalizing and inculcating cleanliness as a matter of habit and routine.

Objectives :

The main objective of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS-N was to create awareness and educate people about their role and active participation in creating clean and green environment. The attempt to inculcate the same in the event was done by adopting the following objectives:

- a) Gather persons to empower and educate them about their role in a clean environment from all ages and classes.
- b) Encourage cleanliness through behavioral changes.
- c) To promote idea of clean residential areas.
- d) To encourage Goal 6 of sustainable development goals of the United Nations.
- e) Clean and lead through example the methods and keys of a clean environment.
- f) Educate about the right to clean environment.

Preliminary Preparations :

Before conducting the event a few important preparations were made:

- a) Collecting persons in the area and encourage them to participate in the event.
 - b) Collecting materials including those to be used in cleaning and that to be used for spreading awareness and promotional purposes.
 - c) Ensure that only eco-friendly materials are used.
 - d) Identify area for disposing of wastes or create a tool for such disposal.
 - e) Spread the message for persons to bring own equipment when possible.
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Conducting the programme :

The awareness programme was conducted in residential areas of Janakpuri East, New Delhi. Involving residents of the society ensured mass mobilization of people so that more and more people could be benefitted by the cleanliness drive. The process began with selecting and interacting with some residents of the society as well as a detailed plan on how the cleanliness drive could be implemented and conducted effectively. Most of the residents were cooperative while some declined to participate. The session began with a discussion and an attempt at an awareness program to spread the importance and knowledge of a healthy and clean environment. Persons from the age of school going kids to older adults were encouraged to take part to come out and attend the event. Firstly, the importance of clean environment was explained. Many explanations regarding practical solutions for cleanliness in the society were discussed and ideas relating to the same were exchanged. To implement and test the ideas, some of these were also included in the cleanliness drive which followed the discussion. Once the brief discussion was complete, women began to target areas that were selected and began cleaning the premises which were completed in three hours. After the same everyone had an informal farewell showing positive response and ended the session.

Response of the Target Audience :

A great deal of waste gets generated in areas. Therefore, the participants seemed to be hesitant and fearful about the amount of waste to be dealt with. But the participants present were greatly involved throughout the event and actively as well as enthusiastically became a part of the cleanliness drive. They also were actively involved in the discussion and awareness session preceding the drive.

They were also happy with the final results of the whole cleanliness drive as the before and after results of the involvement and cleaning of all the participants led to a huge amount of wastes being removed. Since this improved their own residential area, they were happy and satisfied with the end result.

Key Personal Takeaway :

- a) Experience on how to conduct events and drives
- b) Achieving clean areas one at a time
- c) Learning importance of involving stakeholders and the ones who are directly affected and involved in the issues being tackled

Future Plan of Action :

- a) Planning and organising cleanliness drives at much larger scales and targeting many specific areas where the impact of such an event will be the most effective.
 - b) Involvement of more legal aid volunteers
 - c) Further works and studies by Legal Aid Cell on environment and rights that are related to the same.
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Suggestions/Feedback :

Such cleanliness drives should be taken up regularly in multiple places as well as followed up, encouraging the participation of all people. The cleanliness drives should be conducted with people of all genders and ages so that such pro-cleanliness behaviors about become habits and a way of life.

Conclusion/Remarks:

The event was a learning experience and the final results led to multiple goals being achieved such as women being empowered and involved in an activity being solely conducted, organized, participated in and successfully implemented by women only. There was a spreading of knowledge and awareness regarding a clean and healthy environment. There was a successful cleaning of the area which was a massive achievement and a step towards a better environment.

ANNEXURE I



ANNEXURE II

