

***Report on the awareness drive conducted in South Delhi region on Fundamental Duties on December 10, 2019 on Human Rights Day***

**Abstract:** This event was conducted by volunteer, Legal Aid Centre, and S.L.S. Noida. Human rights are universal since they belong to every human being without any distinction of ethnicity, race, gender, religion, or type of government. It is incontrovertible, that is, they are absolute and innate. Human rights are subjective as they are properties of individuals who possess them because of their capacity for rationality, agency and autonomy. This drive was to give the people about the duties they owe to the state while the state is protecting their rights.

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## **AWARNESS DRIVE**

### **AN INITIATIVE TO HAVE A BETTER SOCIETY**

#### **Concept Note**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA conducted various awareness programme to sensitize the society towards different legal and social issues. As an extension of the above initiative. I, Kanika Sharma student of the Symbiosis Law School, Noida and a volunteer at Legal Aid Centre conducted a awareness drive on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (Human Rights Day).

The nation is what the citizens are. If the citizens of a nation do not work for the progress of their nation then that nation cannot progress. The entire responsibility rests upon the citizens to take their nation to new heights. In India, sovereignty lies in the hands of citizens of India. It is the citizens' responsibility to take upon their shoulders the task of seeing that order, justice and freedom are maintained. It is our duty to see that our country stand out among the comity of nations as the example of racial, ethnic, communal and religious harmony. We have duties towards our Motherland. Awareness of our duties is as important as awareness of our rights. Man does not live for himself alone. He lives for the good of others as well as of himself. Citizens should work for the betterment of their nation to improve life of all. Rights flow only from duties well performed. If everyone performs his/her duty, everybody's rights would be automatically protected. Gandhiji said:

"The true source of rights is duty. If we all discharge our duties, right will not be far to seek. If leaving duties unperformed we run after rights, they escape us like a will-o'-the-wisp. The more we pursue them, the farther they fly".

We must render our duties towards our country diligently and faithfully. Fundamental Duties in the Constitution of India Just as we have rights, we have some responsibilities too. The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976, upon the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee. Article 51 A was included in the Constitution of India in Part IVA. Originally ten in number, the Fundamental Duties were increased to eleven by the 86th Amendment in 2002. Article 51 A of the Constitution of India

begins with the words" It shall be the duty of every citizen of India". The fundamental duties in Article 51 A of the Constitution of India.

## **Objective**

The main objective was to sensitize people about their rights and motivate them to follow and respect their rights and the rights of other citizens final and main motive which my legal aid center and I thrive is to make this world a happy and healthy place to live. Through this awareness drive I also tried to change the trend of awareness drives happening around me, every year human rights day people conduct plant awareness drives and they try to educate and circulate the idea of civil society as much as possible and next day they forget about them and due to lack of care.

## **Preliminary preparations**

1. Visited office of National Legal Services Authority and took permission to talk and aware them about the fundamental duties to general people in the South Delhi area.
2. Got pamphlets and questionnaires from NALSA and I made sure it was in the mother tongue so as to reach the maximum number of people.
3. Went in society (photo attached in the annexure) and talked to people.

## **Conducting the programme**

As decided I started at 9.00 A.M. We tried to find a place where the people are willing to talk and to share a little of their views and information about them. I made sure that I will not affect the movement of the people and keeping security of their information in mind.

## **Response of the targeted population**

Response was the saddest part, not many people took part in the drive citing working day as their excuse. They were ready to help the drive in but they were not comfortable in providing their information. Some people were scared and thought that we were supporting some political parties and said and immediate NO!. this was a really sad moment for me as it shows and people still have the fear of communicating with the ones they have chosen. On the other hand some

people were really happy talking to us and even told their personal experience and what they deal with on regular bases. President of Resident Welfare Association took part in the drive and promised to conduct such drives every year on human rights day.

### **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. Most of the children present there had never been briefed about the environment and thus the feeling of being their ‘first’ was incredible. Secondly, it made me realize the importance of education and its power to change lives and the world.

However, while preparing for the session and brainstorming about the sub-topics I would like to cover, the entire thing seemed like a façade under which I was trying to somehow conceal my privilege. How do I outrightly erase all their daily struggles just so that I can give myself the hollow satisfaction that I did ‘good for the society’? This campaign in particular, gave me the most important personal takeaway. I got educated on how to move out of my own position of privilege. I learnt that the only way to actually do good, is to get into the shoes of the people who I am trying to ‘help’. I learnt that people today do not need sympathy, they need empathy.

### **Future plan of action**

Considering the need of the society, one session talking about awareness and preventive measures is not enough to ensure that people make some changes methods a part of their lifestyles. Thus, more such sessions need to be organized in the future.

Keeping in mind my inability to conduct such sessions frequently owing to academic and time constraints, I briefed other volunteers who had accompanied me that day as to how they should go about things in my absence and shared with them relevant articles and links so that the unavailability of one person does not hinder slow but necessary progress. I will be following up and will be kept in loop throughout and will conduct similar sessions in the future as and when possible.

## **Suggestions/ Feedbacks**

The number of volunteers for the program should be definitely more than one, because if there are more helping hands, then the objective could be better served and achieved. The administration of the LAC should regularly have discussions with the volunteers about how to keep their privilege in check and should be given topic choices that will be more realistic and relevant to the ground reality. Follow up action should be encouraged and more and more such topics to be taken up not just with children but with people of all ages so that these preventive measures that we talk about become habits and a way of life. However, while conducting a session of this nature, the volunteer should not be basing it on their perspective, but should adjust their perspective ranging from one target audience to another.

## **Conclusion**

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. Also, as a law student and a future legal professional, it was of tremendous help as I understood some techniques and strategies to be used while dealing with the rural populace, who are not often educated on such issues so as to create a comfortable space for discussion.

## Annexure-1



## Annexure-2



**Annexure-3**

