

"LEGAL AID EVENT : AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON WORLD POLLUTION PREVENTION DAY"

(Report on the event conducted in senior secondary government school in Lucknow, U.P. on December 18,2019)

Abstract: This event was conducted by Volunteer, Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA. This was an awareness drive on the occasion of World Pollution Prevention Day celebrated internationally on December 02, every year. The kids were taught how to minimize waste and how to innovatively use waste products and the importance of environment and control of pollution. This interactive session was followed by a fun quiz.

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Concept Note:

The legal aid centre of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA is a pioneer at conducting awareness programs and drives as a responsible part of the society to aggravate positive changes happening around us. Being a part of this ever-active cell of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA, I being a student of the college and volunteer at Legal Aid Centre conducted an awareness session on world pollution prevention day celebrated across the world on 2nd December every year; in government senior secondary school situated in Chinhat area in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into the environment that causes instability, disorder, harm or discomfort to the ecosystem i.e. physical systems or living organisms. Pollution can take the form of chemicals; substances or energy such as noise, heat or light. According to study- water pollution causes approximately 14000 deaths per day, mostly due to contamination drinking water by untreated sewage in developing countries .An estimated 700 million Indians have no access to a proper toilet, and 1 thousand Indian children die of diarrhoeal sickness every day. Nearly 500 million Chinese lack to safe drinking water.656, 000 people die prematurely each year in china because of air pollution. There is immediate need for potential pollution prevention and waste minimisation techniques .When wastes are reduced or eliminated, substantial economies can be realised by reduced expenditures for pollution control equipment, and lower treatment and disposal cost.

To carry forward the awareness and the message we at Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA decided to spread awareness to the building blocks of the world i.e. children because they are the ones who can bring about substantial change if taught right from this very moment.

Objectives:

The main objective of Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA was to create awareness and tutor and instruct people about how can they actually prevent pollution at both their individual level as well as, as a part of society at large. Lucknow being a hub of education industry has chains of schools with popular names wherein children as students have repeated sessions where they can learn techniques to minimize pollution, they have ample opportunities and chances to learn various new things unlike those studying in government schools, especially state government situated in lesser parts of big cities. So, I decided to try to up skill children studying in government senior secondary school situated in Chinhat area in Lucknow. The target audience was children of the age group 12-15 years for they are keen observers and are of the apt age to bring about small changes that can contribute to a greater tomorrow with the next generation being the cicerone and path finder of tomorrow, it is necessary for growing children to be innovative and find their own ways to minimize pollution in all its forms and protect the environment before it becomes impossible to save it from the clutches of a monster named Pollution. Therefore, the main objectives of this awareness drive were:

1. To make young children realize their importance as leading light of the future in protecting the environment and making them the champions of environment protection.
2. To make them understand the concept of sustainable development.
3. To ingurgitate into them the habit of finding innovative techniques to make "*Best out of waste*".
4. To imbibe into them the Mantra of "*Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*" and how it can be done easily at their own family level every day.

5. To make them realize the after effects of pollution that the mankind is causing for their own personal desires which in the bigger picture harms each and every individual.
6. To familiarize them with bringing about changes even when they are children by the way of storytelling, incident sharing and discussing about Namami Gange campaign, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Jungle Bachao Andolan, Swacch Bharat Abhiyan various plantation drives, along with the very famous story of Chipko Movement.

Preliminary Preparation:

Before conducting the event a few preparations were done:

1. Time slot was taken in a meeting with the Principal and the teachers of the school discussing with them about the importance of the said topic and how children can learn from it.
2. A blackboard was decorated with an encouraging poster drawn by teachers and myself with a chalk.
3. Researching effective ways and techniques to make best out of waste with our everyday life experience.
4. Preparing for session to be interactive and child – friendly and yet very interesting in the form of a quiz and by preparing questions.

Conducting the Programme:

Developing energy efficient lifestyles are the first step in reducing the environmental impact that humans have made on this earth. If a large amount of people practise small ways to decrease the environmental impact, then we have accomplished a great deed.

There are many things you can do to reduce your impact on the environment, from using energy efficient goods to controlling harmful emissions into air, land and water. We can definitely begin in the right direction to protect the environment. Every day choice is have the power to make the difference, and help protect our environment for a clean and sustainable future.

The awareness programme was conducted in a government senior secondary school situated in Chinhata Area in Lucknow. The targeted audience belonged to classes 6th to 8th of age group 12-15 years. I went to the principal of the senior secondary school and discussed with her that I wish to conduct an awareness drive for the children in classes 6th to 8th with regards to the topic of pollution prevention on the account of world pollution prevention day celebrated internationally on December 02 every year.

The children gathered in the hall and sat attentively to listen to me firstly I began explaining what pollution actually is and how harmful it is for all of us. The children gave me examples of how they observe pollution happening everywhere around us and also confessed how they are a part of it too, well realizing that they have committed some wrong. We discussed how prevention of pollution is the need of the our and how we should all actively work further for noble cause for protecting our environment for at the end of the day we are the part of the same environment too. We discussed how we can newspapers and how we should not run the water continuously while brushing our teeth, washing our face and clothes, utensils. How we can innovatively reuse single use plastic materials like bottles by cutting them into two halves and using the lower part as a pot for planting saplings as those plastic pots never decay or rot, how we should unplug unused electronics, how we should prefer walking short distances rather than using vehicles which run on petroleum. How we should use less detergent while washing clothes and

utensils for more water would be required for rinsing it off, how we must wash our vehicles on the lawn for not only the vehicle gets cleaned but it also waters the grass, how we shouldn't defrost food with running water for a lot of water is wasted what we can do instead is take some water in utensil and keep the material in it to defrost which can later be used for washing clothes, utensils or even for watering plants and gardening, how we should not waste papers and recycle books and notebooks, and how can we make our own compost piles by storing used tea leaves, and vegetable and fruits remains and peels. I even narrated how they are an important part of the society and how the change should began from them as they are the fundamental unit of the society, country and the entire world. I then, told them the story of Chipko Movement, and the impacts and after effects of Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan, Namami Gange Movement and Narmada Bachao Aandolan which the kids with rapt attention. We then discussed how there is no greater deed than planting a tree and how one tree has the ability to save several lives. I then told them about my birthday ritual of planting as many saplings as my age and they assured how they would try to do the same for they understood the importance of the same for what better can you gift everyone than the gift of life and fresh air! The kids told me of how they learnt about pollution and its prevention through text books and their teachers and parents and how they had learnt the theory and had never thought to practically implement the same. We discussed major types of pollution and how we play a part in degrading the environment, and we collectively took an oath to mend our ways and protect the environment and be the heroes of mother earth! We ended the session with a quiz on what all we had discussed. The best part was even the teachers, principal and subordinate staff actively participated and suggested effective ways to prevent pollution and save energy including drying clothes in air rather than drying them up in the washing machine, and using the water purifier's outlet for consuming that water for cleaning and washing

purposes, and how we should try to maintain a little garden in lawns and balconies.

I also discussed the legal aspect of this topic in consonance with Part III of our constitution which talks about the fundamental rights. I discussed how it is their right to have access to fresh air, water, land and food material under article 21 which provides everyone with the right to life which includes all this. We also discussed how it is their fundamental duty to protect the environment under article 51A which in part IV of the Indian constitution.

It was overall a very interactive session and all of us learnt a lot from each other and are looking forward to meet again and learn again in another session.

Response of the Target Audience:

The kids took a lot of interest in the session, they narrated their experiences of people neglecting pollution and how there is still a lot of lack of information and knowledge among the masses. They felt empowered that they are the most important units who can bring about significant changes. We indulged in a quiz with little candies as rewards for answering and participating as well. Since it was extremely cold and the timings for the school had changed with effect from that particular by the order of District Magistrate of Lucknow, so there were less students than the actual strength of the classes, nonetheless it was fun and even the teachers and the principal really appreciated the efforts I had put and we even discussed the importance of education and how we can be anything we want to be. The kids really enjoyed the quiz for there was a healthy competition and they were all happy and chirpy as it was very interactive. The best part was that they admitted where they commit wrong as in where they pollute the environment and promised to not

repeat the same and in fact will try to educate others too including family members and friends.

Key Personal Takeaways:

The sheer joy of being with kids is unparalleled, their enthusiasm, their creativity, their warm smiles, all of them are as if medicine to sick and home to a wanderer. Hearing them laugh and discuss what you've taught is so satisfying, it feels as if you're successful in doing what you wanted to. They look at you as you are everything they wish to be, you are their role model and you feel the warmth of their presence. Being with them taught me that these kids no matter what they do not have still have everything in them, that they are no less as the society feels for they get less opportunities but they are the most humble and innocent souls. They listen to you so attentively as if what you're saying is the gospel truth. It also made me realise that I took the best decision by choosing them for this drive, and I have promise them to come back again soon. We ended up playing a cricket match. They made me feel at home, it didn't feel like it was the first time I and met them, I felt as if I was always a part of their huge little world and maybe I would forever be a part of it from now on.

Future Plan of Action:

I wish to take this school in focus and conduct more campaigns there, I am planning to get in touch with an NGO based in Lucknow itself for building a library in the school for the kids projected their interest in

reading. I am hoping to provide some books myself for I actually have a lot of books that might help them and which are very readable and informative too. I am also planning on providing a week long English language classes in the next internship break for they are very much interested in learning the language for its importance is known by all. I also got in touch with Saadhna foundation who is now going to provide sports equipments for the school, the principal of the school confirmed me the same after some volunteers from the NGO came to meet her and promised her the same and she was full of appreciation.

Suggestions/Feedback:

Follow up action is suggested and we should focus more on one or two schools and actually keep a check on their performance, and conduct regular events in those schools only and then we'll be able to interact more with same students and make an actual impact in their lives.

Conclusion:

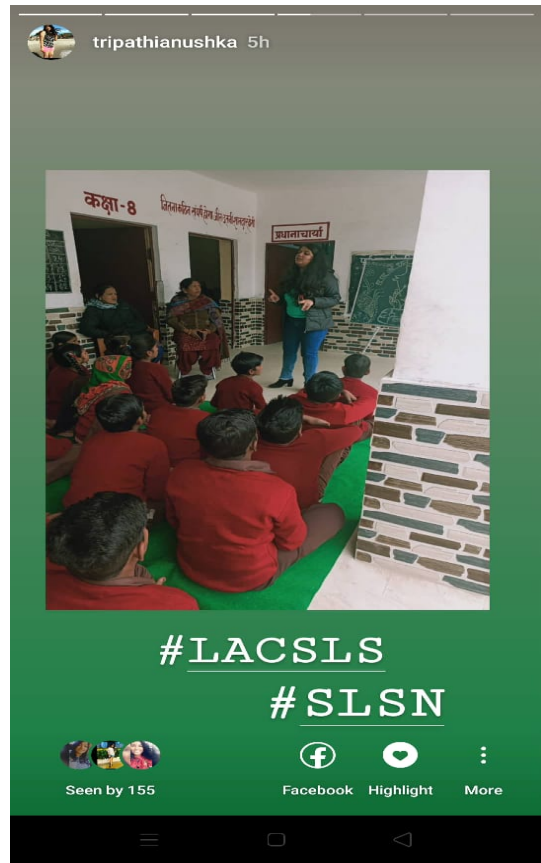
This was a highly enriching experience and it taught me a lot as well. All my nervousness vanished away the moment I saw them all greet me so warmly. I am hoping to take up other issues with them as well which will be really informative and beneficial for them. I hope to really get them the library they wish, and for now they're all geared up for their in-school sports meet, and they have requested me to join them too, let's hope I can!

Annexure A





Annexure B







tripathianushka 5h

Discussing how to make
best out of waste!



#LACSLs



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