

# “LEGAL AID EVENT: AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY”

This event was conducted by Shaina Khurana Volunteer, Legal Aid Centre, and SLS Noida. It involved children belonging to the age group of 12-17 years , to hold healthy discussions regarding the importance of Human Rights and jogging up their minds about the concepts of human dignity, decency, equality and morality. It was followed by an essay writing activity among the students in each class.

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UNDER THE GUIDANCE  
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## 1. 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 I, student of the college and a Volunteer at Legal Aid Centre conducted a session on *Human Rights Day* at D.A.V. Public School, Ludhiana, Punjab as well as collaborated with Law Circa to spread further information regarding Human Rights on December 24, 2019.

Human rights are a set of rights which every human is entitled to. Every human being is inherited with these rights no matter what caste, creed, gender, the economic status they belong to. Human rights are very important for making sure that all humans get treated equally. They are in fact essential for a good standard of living in the world.

In a country as diverse as India with people belonging to not only different faiths but also sects, languages, classes and castes finding peace and unity is not an easy task, however despite all the differences our country has always been known to set an example to achieve just that. There have also been times wherein this peace has been jeopardised but our human principles have always brought us back. Therefore, it is important that the youth in the society are made familiar with a world beyond the lines created by the societies.

## 2. Objective

The main objective of Legal Aid Centre of SLS-N was to create awareness and familiarise people with principles of human rights and why they are important to preserve the peace in the society and co-habit with our differences. The focus of this awareness programme were children of the age group of 12-17 years of age as they get easily influenced by the constant media and now social media news which nowadays contains less of facts and more of opinions which could include violence as well as hate speech for that matter.

It is imperative that they first understand the concept of the issue from a neutral perspective to be able to form an opinion about it.

Therefore, the awareness programme focused on:

- a) Making students familiarise with the concepts of rights and their importance in order to every individual and the process of law making
- b) To help them understand the various bounds of differences and the efforts that are put in to achieve equality
- c) To inspire a feeling of appreciation towards all human kind and humanity
- d) To make them understand the necessity to form opinions and expression but only after having a complete grasp over the concept

## 3. Preliminary Preparations :

Before Conducting the event a few important preparations were made:

- a) Gathering the necessary permissions to hold the campaign among the students
- b) Researching effective strategies to make discussion revolving around human rights in a way that is relatable and well-received by audience
- c) Maintaining contact with the authorities for effective collaboration
- d) Developing collaboration with Law Circa for publishing of article

#### 4. **Conducting the programme:**

The programme was conducted at D.A.V Public School, Ludhiana, Punjab. The school was chosen due to volunteer's previous status as a student of the institution as well as the history of the school in encouraging students to be involved in activities regarding social well-being. Moreover, it was felt that having someone familiar conduct the campaign the students would feel more comfortable as well as show better enthusiasm to participate in the programme.

The programme was conducted class-wise so as to not disrupt the academic schedule of the students and have better participation and interaction with them. The programme began with having students write 500 words essay on why human rights were important and having them share their views and opinions amongst their peers.

The discussion mostly involved questioning the students in regards with their views and opinions and the thinking process that had led them to such an opinion. The students were motivated to answer as no right or wrong answer existed while conducting the discussion. The teachers had been briefed to also participate, however to not interrupt the thought process of the students.

The exercise was concluded with the help of a game the volunteer discovered online to help check the level of understanding the students have developed, which was based as a version of traditional game of Karma's developed to teach principles of Hinduism. The winners of the game were distributed with chocolates and candies.

The volunteer had also been collaborating with Law Circa as an intern and wrote an article with regards of Human Rights and their importance in India.

#### 5. **Response of Target Audience:**

Since, the onset of winter's in the Northern region most of the schools had been busy with their internal examinations or had already declared their vacations and hence, the volunteer could not cover more audience in regards with other educational institutions.

The students being familiar with the volunteer were comfortable and even enthusiastic to participate. It was a fun activity for them as they could express their views upon different matters as well as were exposed to different aspects of some common issues such as caste differentiation, affirmative action, faith and gender related issues and others.

The students gave a positive feedback and even requested for a re-session and felt further motivated to be more aware in regards of their rights as well as their duties as citizens of the world.

The article uploaded on the website of Law Circa also crossed more than 100 reads, within its first week.

**6. Key personal takeaway :**

Interacting with students and hearing their views and opinions was very motivating as well as brought about a feeling of contributing towards bringing a change in the mainstream thought process of the individuals. Most of the students had only very standard information about the topic at hand, therefore it was very exciting to expose and introduce them to the base or crux of the reason why human rights are important and needed and the efforts that are put in to preserve them.

It also made me realise the importance of proper guidance in shaping young minds.

**7. Future Plan of Action :**

It was a great experience for all of us and the volunteer feels that broadening the scale of the activity to involve more institutions would be even more beneficial, however it is necessary to have smaller groups to ensure better interaction and participation, so the volunteer would like to include more people into the programme as volunteers.

A conversation with the principal of the school, it was decided that the school would be enthusiastically celebrating Human Rights Day, each year on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December and the teachers would try to garner the spirit among the students as well as the volunteer would keep up for any further collaborations with the school.

**8. Suggestions/Feedback:**

The students should continuously exposed to issues regarding social-wellbeing and their thought processes be challenged for them to form accurate opinions and develop respect for all human citizens of the world.

**9. Conclusion/Remarks :**

This was a great learning experience. The volunteer 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 students, who are not often challenged or guided in regards to these issues, so as to create a comfortable space for discussion.

#### **ANNEXURE 1**















## ANNEXURE 2

Link of the article

<https://lawcirca.com/is-india-moving-towards-lawlessness/>