

CLEANLINESS AND HYGIENE DRIVES DONE DURING LOCKDOWN PERIOD

**[REPORT ON SANITISATION AND
CLEANLINESS MEASURES UNDERTAKEN IN
AGRA, U.P.]**

Abstract:

This event was conducted by a Para-legal volunteer from Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S Noida. When the country was under Lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Volunteers of the Legal Aid Centre also contributed diligently in the service of the society at this crucial juncture and with the support of the Local Administration and various Non-Governmental Organizations conducted various drives in the city which included sanitizing the localities and disseminating information about proper safety and hygiene protocols to be observed during the pandemic in order to ensure the safety of one and all.

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1. Concept Note :-

The Covid-19 pandemic flourishes in spite of the ongoing lockdown owing to the inability of people to maintain proper hygiene and cleanliness measures. This is especially exacerbated in areas where the population is dense and the denizens are pushed into living together in cramped quarters, creating a further rich/poor divide. Given that these vulnerable sections are also least likely to be able to get proper care and essentials if they fall sick, it is imperative to ensure measures of care are taken to assist these vulnerable sections have a higher quality of life and better standard of living, in keeping with the ideals of the Constitution, especially the right to Life with Dignity under Article 21.

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA, and its hardworking members, have ensured they stay at the frontlines of this battle against the pandemic, casting aside their privilege to work for the masses in accordance with the principles of the law school and the cell. Since Uttar Pradesh is one of the worst affected states in the country, and Agra itself, being a hotbed of tourism as well as migrants, was facing an ongoing increase in the pandemic, it was essential to preserve the city's environment and people once again, in the spirit of MC Mehta's tireless efforts to preserve the Taj Mahal.

While the local administration continued to do an admirable job to provide for and protect the denizens of Agra, the PLV came up with an initiative to take to the streets and actually start sanitizing them, while also spreading awareness about hygiene and cleanliness measures among the more vulnerable sections of society. The first drive took place in the month of March 2020 and then was repeated every week thereafter until May end.

2. Objective :-

The main objective of the volunteer was to support the local administration in as many activities possible by disinfecting the colonies, slums and localities of the city by sprinkling the necessary chemicals (sodium hypochlorite) for sanitization.



3. Preliminary Preparations :-

Before Conducting any activity few important preparations were made :-

- a. Taking permission from the District Magistrate with the assistance of the local NGOs.
- b. Collecting funds for these activities through a local donation drive.
- c. Taking all safety measures like wearing gloves, masks, social distancing, etc.
- d. Contacting farmers to provide pest spraying machines.

4. Conducting the activities :-

In the beginning of all this, the volunteer was curious to take initiative for the sanitization of the houses and markets, and while experimenting the volunteer found the idea. He used his home vacuum cleaner and was successful in converting it to a spraying machine and from sanitizing his own house he ended up sanitizing his whole colony with the help of the vacuum cleaner.

This innovative idea of his caught on like wildfire and soon farmers from neighboring villages on the outskirts of the city were called with tractors and pesticides spraying machines, a total of 50 tractors fleet were put to the job of sanitizing the city, from hotspot areas to public places everything was sanitized. Around 800 litres of Sodium Hypochlorite was used in this activity. Wherever we went we also made people aware of preventive methods they must follow to protect themselves and their families from the virus. Social distancing or '2 gaj ki duri' is what the need of the hour is.

5. Conclusion :-

In conclusion, the plight of the poor in India has always been a sore point in our quest for development. Regardless of the numerous steps taken by the Centre to lift the marginalized people out of extreme poverty, the ongoing lockdown is threatening to push these families below the poverty line again, causing a major setback to the goals of every government to provide a better standard of living for everyone.

This is a harsh but objective reality of our country, and after a certain point, it is also up to us to help uplift the downtrodden through direct action and intervention at the grassroots level.

As we enter the lockdown phases it is becoming increasingly evident that the true challenge for such people won't be to evade the coronavirus but just to get enough food to stay alive. In the pursuit of this noble goal, the members of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS, NOIDA continue to strive, encouraged by the LAC as well as the law school. There are many ways to achieve this goal, and the essentials drive was but one of them.

(The photographs relating to this program are attached as annexure 'A')

ANNEXURE – A



