

**“LEGAL LITERACY CAMP : SAVE ENVIRONMENT, SAVE LIFE”**

**(Report on the event conducted in Agra, Uttar Pradesh on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2019)**

**Abstract : This event was conducted by a Volunteer from Legal Aid Centre , SLS NOIDA. Firstly the local authorities were informed about the plan, the neighbours of the colony also participated in the plantation drive. Around 51 plant saplings were planted and distributed, walls of the city were painted and cleanliness drive was also organised.**

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## **Concept Note**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School Noida conducted a legal awareness program on "Save Environment, Save Life". Basically the members had to create awareness among the people on the problem of global warming, pollution, etc. As a member volunteer I had conducted this program in Agra.

Today, interaction of human beings with nature is so extensive that the environmental issues have assumed such proportions as to affect all humanity. Industrialisation, urbanisation, population explosion, overexploitation of resources, depletion of traditional sources of energy, and the search for new ones, the disruption of natural ecological balances, as well as the destruction of a multitude of animal and plant species for economic reasons are the major factors that have contributed to environmental deterioration.

Nature Provides the most hygienic and healthy environment for the survival of mankind, but this environment has been changed by mankind for selfish ends by adding concrete, charcoal, plastics, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes and many more objects, devices and processes.

Agra is a famous heritage city, with the increase in the pollution even the Taj Mahal is losing its rich whiteness. The more number of tourist coming up every year in the city not only leads to dirtiness, but also in order to cater the needs of growing tourism industry the forest on the outskirts are cut to construct malls, hotels and resorts etc.

The awareness drive was conducted and was successful in creating its impact amongst the masses.



## **Objective**

The main objective of the drive was to spread awareness amongst the people about the threats to Mother Earth which is necessary for them in order to become responsible and aware citizens of a developing nation. Keeping this main objective in mind the team spread awareness amongst the masses about

- The immediate need to preserve the nature and the environment;
- The growing levels of pollution and its harmful effects;
- To encourage the youth and masses to plant trees;
- To make the city beautiful by painting walls;
- Cleanliness drive : to make people do what they want others to to

## **Preliminary Preparations**

- Inviting people from neighbourhood for plantation drive
- Took permission from municipal councillor and ADA (Agra Development Authority) for plantation drive and cleanliness drive
- Contacting India Rising NGO with whom painted the city walls with paintings
- With the help of Robin Hood Army took part in cleanliness drive after sharbat drive in the largest mosque of Agra on the occasion of EID
- Distributed plant saplings to the Muslim community and other citizens
- Arranged 51 plant saplings sponsored by Forest Department Of Uttar Pradesh



## **Conducting the Program**

The program was conducted in June 2019 on the occasion of World Environment Day. The program was organised on different locations within the city. And various organisations were contacted for the proper and smooth running of the plan. Keeping the aim to reach wider audience the locations chosen were public places and busy roads of the city. On 5<sup>th</sup> June at 6 am in the morning and on the occasion of Eid-ul-fitr a sharbat drive and saplings distribution drive was organised in collaboration with RHA . The footfall of people at the place was around 8000-10000 people who came for the namaj. Renowned personalities such as the Shahar Kaazi, SSP and DM of Agra were gifted plants by the volunteer and RHA. After the drive was over at 9.30 am the volunteer and others themselves cleaned all the garbage and waste generated at the place. After this the volunteer took rest of the saplings in his colony where the saplings were planted in the parks, dividers, and also wherever the old trees fell last year due to a storm and heavy rain. All the citizens who participated with the volunteer took oath to make the city a cleaner and greener one.

On the first Sunday of June the volunteer with a local NGO who works in the field of beautification and cleaning the important areas of the city, painted the walls of a busy road. And spread the message of World Environment Day and responsibilities of citizens to keep the surrounding clean and green.

## **Response of the Audience**

The work of the volunteer received a huge positive response of the citizens of the city and others, people gave their blessings to them for doing such a wonderful task. Also promised to do the same for betterment of the society. The commuters and citizens were happy to see the progressive mind of the



coming generation, and how the volunteers are dedicated to save the environment so that the future generations can live in a proper environment. Also the volunteer received appreciation from the Forest Officers, and other esteemed members of the society for completing the drives.

### **Future Plan of Action**

In future the team will try to organise a much greater event than this, our aim is to plant more and more trees in the flood plains and on the river side so that the unused precious land can be used for a noble and beneficial cause. Such events must not only be conducted once in a year but throughout the year it must be done.

### **Suggestions/ Feedback**

The campaign went as planned and the Legal Aid Centre should encourage more such activities in future. A plantation drive must also be organised in the college premises and near the campus as well.

### **Conclusion Remarks**

This was a good learning experience for us. We got the opportunity to take a progressive stand on a sensitive and important issue and also got the chance to educate people on this. We need to react now in order to get things under control because a tree takes around 10 years to grow properly, so if we want pure air in future and present we need to work on it now. The event gave me an opportunity to get link with new people, also it gave me a sense of self satisfaction and heart touching experience.



## **Personal Experience**

" If you want someone to be good towards you, be good to them first" the same can be related to this campaign, if we want our environment more greener and pollution free we must take steps which we want the government to take in order to protect the environment. I would like to thank Legal Aid Centre for providing the opportunity and specially Ankur Sir under whose guidance we are moving in order to make our society better. Thanks for making us a part of these initiatives and hope to undertake more such campaigns in the coming time.



## ANNEXURE – A

