

# “LEGAL LITRACY CAMPAIGN: SENSITIZING CHILDREN ABOUT VARIOUS TOUCHES”

*(REPORT ON THE EVENT CONDUCTED IN COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018)*

**Abstract:** This event was conducted to make children aware of the various types of touches, whether good or bad. Educating them as to what all steps should be taken.

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## **1. Concept Note:**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School understands and appreciates the key role that will be played by today's children in the future. While they hold the key to the future, their present safety and security is our concern. As an extension of the above initiative Amira Dhawan, student of the college and a legal aid volunteer at Legal Aid Centre along with Devanshi Tiwary, a fellow legal aid volunteer conducted a small workshop in a community school in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

The young minds are fragile, observant and more receptive to their surroundings. Their minds can be molded into any shape and any negative experience at this young age can permanently hamper or damage their outlook towards the society and can also have a negative long term impact on their personality. This further increases the responsibility on the informed section of the society. In such matter the responsibility on the informed and knowledgeable part of the society becomes two fold. Their first and foremost priority is to protect the children from falling prey to the anti-social elements of the society. This cannot be implemented and put to use all the time, therefore another duty arises that is to sensitize the children about the negativity that exists in the society. This need to be implemented by developing the concept of what actions are acceptable and what are not. Only when they will be able to comprehend the actions taking place in their

surroundings the next step includes the practical solutions that can be undertaken which subjects the child to least harm.

## **2. Objective :**

The objectives of this endeavor are as follows:

- i. To educate the children about the meaning of good touch-bad touch.
- ii. To give them practical solutions that can be implemented when faced with such a situation.
- iii. To reach out to children belonging to the weaker section of the society.

## **3. Preliminary Preparations:**

To execute the objectives of the event, the legal aid volunteers undertook the following steps:

- i. A thorough analysis and research was conducted to break the nuances of the information that needs to be shared. Since the audience was very young, the material had to be broken down in its' simplest form, making it easier for them to understand.
- ii. A video published by the CHILDLINE India on youtube titled '*Komal*', informing about good touch- bad touch was selected for showing.

- iii. Basic psychological concepts that are used by anti-social elements of the society to lure children, were understood and incorporated in the discussion

#### **4. Conducting the Event:**

The event was organized in the community school run by the community center, present in Vasant Kunj. The event consisted of holding two workshops. The first workshop was conducted in the community hall amongst the children of age group between 8(eight) - 10 (ten) years old. The tone of the session from the very beginning was kept very informal and lively as to grasp and retain the attention of a large group of children. The volunteers did a small introduction of the children, which was followed by showing the video of '*Komal*'. The video laid the foundation on which the discussion was to be held.

The children were asked to share their understanding of the video or if any part of the video that they could relate with. At the beginning the basic meaning of the terms such as good, bad and touch were discussed. Both the volunteers demonstrated and explained the differences between good touch-bad touch. During the course of the second workshop which was held in a classroom, the volunteers drew the basic human body on the body and

marked the areas where no one is supposed to touch. The visual representation made the grasping of the concept easier for the children.

After making the children aware of the meaning of good touch-bad touch, the next area covered during the course of discussion consisted of educating them of what steps to be undertaken if anyone tries to violate their personal space, which primary consisted of three steps.

Towards the end of the discussion, the volunteers along with the children summarized all the points that were discussed during the discussion. The workshop was concluded by making the children memorize the child helpline number.

### **5. Response Of The Target Audience:**

The children were thrilled to see new faces and get a break from their mundane daily routine. Since it was a community school, such a workshop was being conducted for the first time. This was an altogether new experience for the children as well as the teachers. Their excitement and keenness to know what is in store was very evident. The children actively participated and for most part of the discussion would repeat everything that was said by the volunteers. Overall the children were very receptive towards the knowledge that was being shared to the extent that some even volunteered to demonstrate to their classmates as to the places that should

not be touched and recite the children helpline number. They could relate with the video which was showed to them.

## **6. Future Plan of Action:**

In total two sessions were conducted in the community school, since the feedback from the teachers was very positive and another session regarding gender sensitization can be held in the school. At the same time since drop-out rate of such schools are generally high and children at this young age tend to forget the knowledge that is imparted to them, such sessions should be made bi-annually. This will help in memorizing and better understanding of the concept, which will help in achieving the objectives of the event.

## **7. Suggestions/ Feedback:**

The feedback from the faculty of the school was positive in nature but following are a few steps that one can undertake to make the event more effective:

- i. Sound System:* the volume of the video was not audible to all the students which hindered the procedure of communication. It is advised to the volunteers to beforehand ask and check for whether

proper sound system is in place or not. In case it is absent, portable Bluetooth speakers should be kept handy by the volunteers.

- ii. Visual Representation:* it has already been established that such events are a rare occurrences in such community schools, a few visually appealing chart papers should be submitted to the school. The intent behind being that the teachers can periodically own their own also go through the charts with the children, helping them to retain the knowledge. The concept of "out of sight, out of mind" should not take place.
- iii. Spreading Awareness:* it was shocking news to the volunteers when they were made aware of the fact that such events rarely happen in the lifetime of the school. This highlights the fact that a survey should be done listing schools which consist of children belonging to the weaker section of the society. Such schools should be targeted and more such events should be held their.

## **8. Conclusions/ Remarks:**

Overall, it was a learning experience for the volunteers, the knowledge gained not only refers to the theoretical knowledge but also includes the experience gained by conducting the workshop. It was indeed an eye opening experience as this was the first workshop conducted by both the volunteers.

It was a heartwarming and an endearing experience as the volunteers got a chance to gain firsthand experience and bring a change in the lives of the children, however small the impact maybe !

### **ANNEXURE 'A' : PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EVENT**





