

“CAMPAIGN ON RIGHT & DUTY TO VOTE – ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN U.P.”

*(Report on the event conducted in Noida,
Indirapuram Delhi-N.C.R. on 25th January,
2017)*

Abstract: This event was conducted by eight para-legal volunteers from Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S.-Noida. As mandated by the Gautam Budha Nagar District Magistrate, the Legal Aid Centre readily accepted the duty to encourage people to exercise their ‘right to vote’ during forthcoming assembly elections in the State of Uttar Pradesh. It was a road-side campaign in which the P.L.Vs met individuals on gates of residential societies, or, on streets & roads. The P.L.Vs were carrying bill-boards to make the individuals realize the importance of their duty to cast vote; they were further requested to take pledge that they would vote during the forthcoming assembly elections.

Conducted by:

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**Under the
guidance of:**

**Dr. Madhuker S.
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I. Concept Note

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA has been showing success with its members and its Head committed to work for betterment of the society. The aforesaid program was part of endeavour of the Centre in furtherance of its 'aim and objectives'. The areas and topics identified through these programs are of vital importance and extremely necessary to be discussed and acknowledged. With this aim in mind, the program was conducted and successfully culminated.

India is the largest democracy in the world. With elections under way in many states of India, all Indian citizens who are eligible to vote are given a chance to exercise their franchise and participate in the electoral process. The Indian Constitution has granted the right to vote to all Indian citizens of sound mind above the age of 18, irrespective of an individual's caste, religion, social or economic status. This right is universally granted to all Indians, with a few exceptions. Voters are entitled to certain rights and privileges as laid down by the Constitution, which safeguards the rights of the voter. It also lays down the conditions under which this privilege is granted to citizens.

In democracy, it is not simply enough to inform voters about election dates. In order to help the electorates take an informed decision, it is quintessential to sensitize them about the importance of participating in the electoral process. Moreover, voters need to be educated about the process and made aware of the political parties, their manifestos, backgrounds of the contesting candidates and armed with several other information to help them cast 'enlightened' vote. It has been noticed in various instances that the participation of voters in elections have been way lower than expected. Apathy of the voters, busy schedules and intimidation by the process are the main reasons why the voters have a lax attitude towards voting in our country. It is through the casting of votes that our elected representatives are chosen who go on to decide important laws and policies that dominate our lives from cradle to birth. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the common people take part in the voting process to get their voices heard.

The Para-Legal Volunteers of the Legal Aid Cell, Symbiosis Law School, Noida thus organised an event that would spread awareness on the voting rights of people and the importance of participation in the voting process.

II. Objectives

The primary objective was to create in the mind of the people an internalization of the importance of voting process so that voting becomes a habit. The secondary objectives were as follows:

- i. To make people aware about their rights under the Indian Constitution to vote
- ii. To make people aware about their duties to vote

- iii. To make people aware regarding the implications of not participating in the voting mechanism
- iv. To answers the queries of people regarding the various nuances of the voting process.

III. Preliminary Preparations

To make the objectives of the event, the para-legal volunteers of the Legal Aid Centre:

- Made posters and pamphlets that would attract the attention of people
- Made a pledge sheet that would encourage people to actually participate in the elections
- Choose the target population and place of event to ensure all groups and classes of people were included
- Read up extensively on the various nuances of election procedures and steps to cast votes
- The target audience identified was to be senior citizens of the village as they have great influence in their families as well as the village at large.

The topics were divided between the members, and the members took turns to talk about the topic, and answer the frequently asked questions.

IV. Conducting the Event

The PLVs organized the event in areas in and around Sector 62, Noida and Indirapuram. The main focus was to target the underprivileged people and youngsters to ingrain the habit of voting into them. The team held discussion and debates with various people and cleared out their misconceptions about the electoral process. The team educated the people from underprivileged sections on the importance of voting and urged them to get registered with a voter ID Card. The team also had a sheet of pledge sheet with them and ensured people signed it so that they are encouraged to go and vote. The U. P. State elections were to be held soon and this made people interested in what the team had to say. Many shared their grievances with the team and the team members tried to help them as far as they could. The team members were impressed by the interest people had towards the voting process and many eagerly undertook the pledge to participate in the upcoming elections. Many people complained about the sorry state of affairs in election in their hometowns and the team members were able to suggest the filing of complaints with the state electoral commission for the malpractices. The team members answered innumerable queries of the people especially with regard to the transfer of voter ID Cards from one constituency to another, registration of voters, etc.

V. Response of the Target Population

The team members were very happy with the response of the target audience. Most of the people regularly voted in the elections and undertook the pledge to vote in the upcoming elections. Some people were skeptical with the electoral process, especially those of underprivileged class, but through discussion, the team members were able to explain the importance of their voting which would ensure that the voice of every citizen is being heard. They also had several grievances regarding how to change their details in Voter ID Cards, how to get themselves registered in electoral rolls, etc., which the team members answered patiently. People also complained that their employers do not allow them holidays that would enable them to travel and vote. However, the overall response of the audience was very encouraging and people whole heartedly participated in the discussions. Those who had never voted before, or were not registered also came forward and promised to further their efforts to get included in the electoral process.

VI. Future Plan of Action

The team would suggest that such a campaign be held in various other places to increase the level of awareness of people. A workshop may also be organized with the help of the concerned state election commission to register those are not registered in the electoral roles and to record the complaints people have faced while exercising their rights to vote.

VII. Suggestions/Feedback

If the number of volunteers were increased more population could have been targeted. It was very difficult to gather people.

VIII. Concluding Remarks

Overall it was a great experience. Not only did the team members got the opportunity to spread awareness regarding the importance of the election process, they also got educated in the pragmatic problems people face while exercising their right to vote. It was encouraging for them since people appreciated their efforts and acknowledge their hard work.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON VOTING RIGHTS

PLEDGE TO VOTE

Today on 24th January, I hereby pledge that I shall exercise my 'right to vote' on the 11th February, 2017 for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections in our respective assembly constituency in Noida / Ghaziabad.

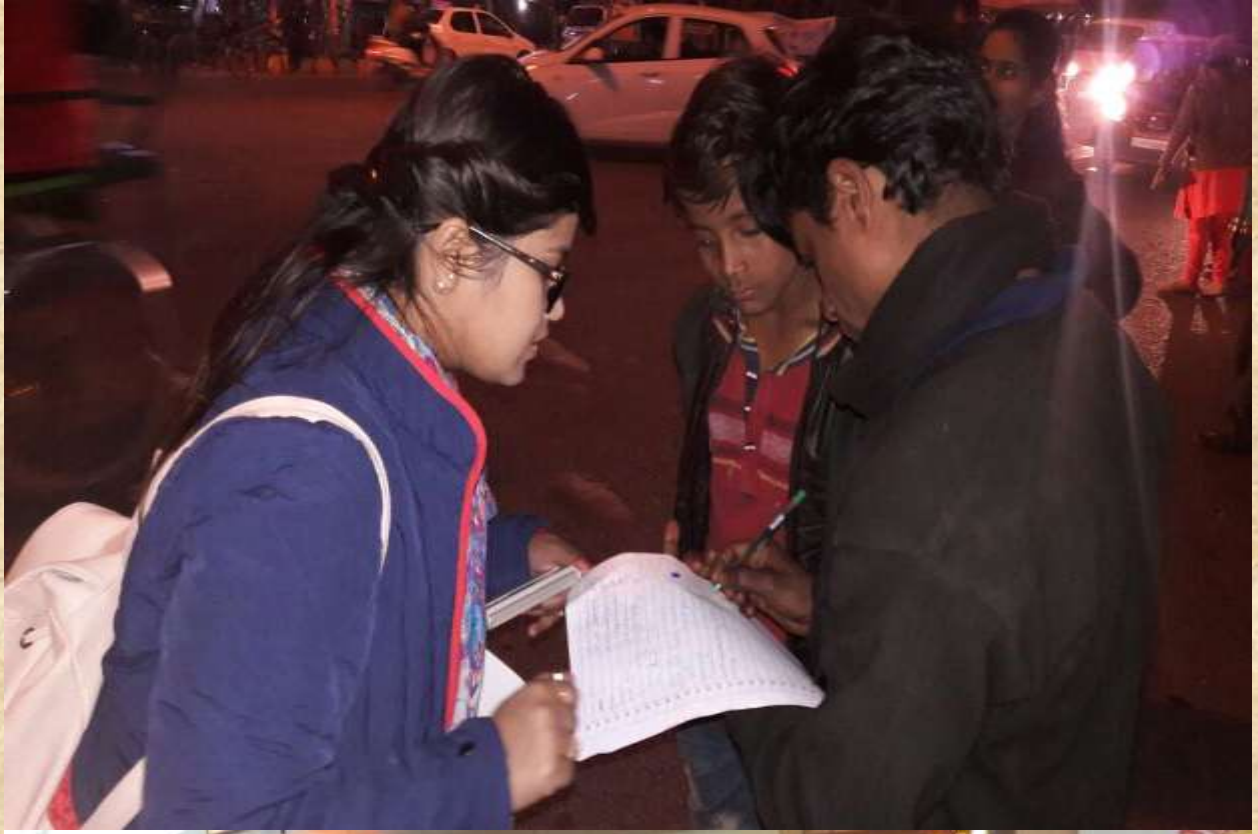
SL NO	NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE/ THUMB IMPRESSION
1.	Shruti Singh	308 Bhagirathi Appt. Sec-62, NOIDA	
2.	Shobonali Asova	Bhagirathi Appts.	
3.	Harshant	908, Bhagirathi	
4.	Seena	809 Bhagirathi	Seena
5.	Kartika Shrivastava	508, Bhagirathi Appt.	
6.	Smeuti Katauria	F902, Sec-77, NOIDA	
7.	Shikha Goel	F309, Sec -62, Bhagirathi Noida	
8.	Yogesh Chacker	F407 Sec 62 Bhagirathi	
9.	Neelam Rawat	F408 Sec62 u	Neelam
10.	Rajwati	Nawada	
11.	Shubhe Choudhary	108 BSAS, NOIDA	
12.	Vimi Datta	207, Bhagirathi Appt	
13.	Sunny Goel	207, Bhagirathi Appt	
14.	Rahul	RI-35 Parshant Garden GZB	
15.	Laxman Kumar	B9/14 Sec 62	
16.	Rajesh Kumar	Sector - 63	
17.	Anand Kumar	Sector 63	
18.	Pradeep Kumar	Sector 63	
19.	Priyanka	Brij Vihar, GZB	
20.	Purushottam Singh	Sector - 48, Noida	
21.	Dilip Kumar	Sector - 63, NOIDA	
22.	Rini Gupta	Sector - 62, Noida	
23.	Manjari Bratnagar	Sector - 100, Noida	

24.	अमित कुमार	खोडा कालोनी	खोडा कालोनी
25.	गोपी अजमेर	गोव वजीतपुर	अजमेर
26.	Rajesh	Khoda Colony	21/6/21
27.	Jatendra Singh	Gadh	Jatendra Singh
28.	Santosh Kumar	Khoria Kalony	Santosh
29.	Sandeep Gupta	Ghaziabad U.P.	Gupta
30.	Dilip Gupta	" "	Gupta
31.	Demendra Yadav	Badhain, Ghaziabad	Demendra Yadav
32.	Vijay	Etla	Vijay
33.	Sai	Sahibabad, GZB	Sai
34.	Vinod	Renukoot, Sonbhadra	Vinod
35.	Praashant Singh	Barabilly	Praashant
36.	Abhishek Rande	Sec 62	Abhishek
37.	Muhammad Anwar	Sec-63	Anwar
38.	प्रदीप	62	प्रदीप
39.	Puneet Rao Barathan	Indira Puram C-2-B	Puneet
40.	Kelkar	NOIDA SECTOR-5	Kelkar
41.	Piyush Upadhyay	North sector 62	Piyush
42.	Demendra Yadav	GZB	Demendra
43.	Akash Yadav	Vaishali, GZB	Akash
44.	C Kumar	GAIL NO 10 A	C Kumar
45.	Uma Dhingra	" "	U Dhingra
46.	Vijay	Ghaziabad	Vijay
47.	Kumar	Bhagirathi	Kumar
48.	R.S Chakravorty	M.E.A. Apples Sec 62	R.S Chakravorty
49.	RK Vaswani	79, GAIL NOIDA SRC 62	RK Vaswani
50.	A. N. ARORA	K-103, Rail Vihar, Sec 62	A. N. Arora
51.	Santosh Kumar	N-60, GAIL NOIDA	Santosh

52.	Veena Parejs	Flat no 103	Veena
53.	Mousumi Maymunde	Flat No - 916	Mousumi
54.	Kushal Maymunde	4	Kumar
55.	SQ AHMAD	816 Bhagirathi	SQ
56.	Ueno Ahmad.	Apt Sa Gr NOIDA	Ueno.
57.	Ranchi Mishra	618, Bhagirathi Apartment	Ranchi
58.	S.K Mishra	" "	S.K
59.	Sumeta Mishra	" "	Sumeta
60.	Tanima	617, Bhagirathi Apartments	Tanima
61.	Vivek	617, Bhagirathi Appts.	Vivek
62.	Alka Singh / Shashi Singh	616, Bhagirathi Appts	Alka
63.	D. S. Khandel	518 Bhagirathi	D. S. Khandel
64.	Sanika Khandel	Bhagirathi Appts	Sanika
65.	Prashant Khandel	Bhagirathi Appts	Prashant
66.	Sujata Sharma	Bhagirathi Appts	Sujata Sharma
67.	Sanjeev Sharma	"	
68.	GAURAV SINGH	417, Bhagirathi APPT	Gaurav
69.	Arnika Tomar	912 Bhagirathi APP	Arnika
70.	Priyanka Devo	912 Bhagirathi Appts	Priyanka
71.	Anoop Kumar Singh	611, Bhagirathi ap., sec-62.	Anoop Singh
72.	Manju Singh	" " "	Manju Singh
73.	Shreyash Pratap Singh	" " "	Shreyash Singh
74.	Disha Agrahari	512, Bhagirathi Apts	Disha
75.	Abhinav Khare	510, Bhagirathi Apts	Abhinav
76.	Mr. Rakesh Khare	510 " "	Rakesh
77.	Mrs. Poonam Khare	510 " "	Poonam
78.	Padma	412 Bhagirathi Apts	Padma
79.	Sakshi	412, Bhagirathi Apts, Sec-62	Sakshi

80.	Ayesha Saxena	Sec 62, Noida	Ayesha
81.	Neha	412, Bhagirathi Apts, Sec-62	Neha
82.	Preerna Chaturvedi	312, Bhagirathi	Prey
83.	Mukesh Chaturvedi	312, Bhagirathi	Mukesh
84.	Swati	210, Bhagirathi	Swati
85.	Vinay Shukla	F-111	Sh
86.	Vaibhav Shukla	Bhagirathi Apts	Sh
87.	Anshu	NOIDA	Sh
88.	Saunmyam Srivastava	Indrapuram	Sh
89.	Digvijay Thakur	Vaibhav Khand-II	Sh
90.	Ashok Shukla	Bhagirathi Apartments	Sh
91.	Vikas Agarwal	BHA Millennium Towers	Sh
92.	Rudra Kataria	Sec 6d Noida	Sh
93.	Rakesh Vardhan	Mamua / Noida	Sh
94.	Shiv Kr. Kataria	Sec-77, Noida	Sh
95.	Asha Kataria	Sec 77, Noida	Asha
96.	Kethan Kataria	Sec-77, Noida	Kethan Kataria
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List of 'office bearers' of Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Noida

Sl. No.	Name	Profile
1	Dr. Madhuker S. (Asstt. Prof. of Law)	Head
2	Ms. Dhriti Gupta (Batch 2014-19)	Convener
3	Ms. Harshita Prakash (Batch 2014-19)	Co-convener
4	Ms. Ahona Pal (Batch 2014-19)	Para-legal Volunteer
5	Ms. Seetal Patra (Batch 2015-20)	Para-legal Volunteer
6	Ms. Akriti Mehrish (Batch 2015-20)	Para-legal Volunteer
7	Ms. Shambhavi Gupta (Batch 2015-20)	Para-legal Volunteer
8	Ms. Vaishali Singh (Batch 2015-20)	Para-legal Volunteer