

“LEGAL AID EVENT: Virtual Teaching Classes”

*(Online Teaching Sessions for a student
belonging to the economically weaker section.
May 2020 - Present)*

Abstract: This event was conducted by Volunteers, Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S. Noida. Regular six days classes a week were undertaken for students allotted to us. (Jan-Feb 2021)

Conducted by:

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1. Concept Note:

At Symbiosis Law School, Noida, the Legal Aid Centre (LAC) undertakes various activities pertaining to legal awareness over the course of the year. In order to continue doing so in the midst of a global pandemic, we conducted online teaching sessions due to current pandemic in collaboration with the reputed NGO, Robin Hood Army, Greater Noida Chapter.

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown that followed, it has been difficult for people to go out and one of the biggest effects of this has been on the education system of India.

During this time, it is technology that has played a major role as it has been able to connect students and teachers from different parts of the country via online video lectures, live or otherwise. When we interacted with the parents of these children, we were told that the children were allotted classes on the basis of their age and not their intellect level. We also came to know that there were no provisions for online classes by the schools of these children. We volunteers decided to teach them for six days a week through smartphones.

The Right to Education Act 2009, also known as the RTE Act 2009, was enacted by the Parliament of India on 4 August 2009. It describes modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children aged between 6-14 years in India under Article 21 (A) of the Constitution of India. This act came into effect on 1 April 2010 and made India one of the 135 countries to have made education a fundamental right for every child. It prescribes minimum norms for elementary schools, prohibits unrecognized schools from practice and advocates against donation fees and interviews of children at the time of admission. The Right to Education Act keeps a check on all neighbourhoods through regular surveys and identifies children who are eligible for receiving education but do not have the means to. So, it is us volunteers who can bridge the gap between the children and formal education by making them aware of their rights and how to avail the same.

2. Objectives:

The concept of online classes works well for the private schools as well as for some government schools, but we can't forget there might still be a particular segment of the society

where not everyone has access to smart phones and laptops or even if they do, there are not enough number of them for each child in the family, or maybe internet connectivity is an issue for them.

Many organizations such as the Robin Hood Academy which operates all over the country, are facilitating one-to-one online teaching classes to ensure that those who cannot access smartphones or do not attend schools that are conducting online classes can have access to uninterrupted knowledge. This is either done via WhatsApp video calls or through normal phone calls depending on the availability.

3. Preliminary preparations:

Preliminary preparation included deciding upon the curriculum to be taught after taking a few introductory sessions with our student. We searched for books and also searched for various alternatives to make the studies more creative and interactive. We looked for various videos, flow charts and pictorial representations to make it easier for her. We planned to conduct a ten-minute activity at the end of each session to keep her interest going.

4. Conducting the programme:

The sessions started in May and have been going on since then. Six days a week, we do video calls where we discuss different topics relating to English, Hindi, Mathematics, E.V.S, G.K., Science and drawing. Generally, these sessions are about an hour long, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm from Monday to Saturday. Since she has been given the actual textbooks for class 3 by her school, but the classes didn't happen to start because of the pandemic so we decided to teach her from the very beginning. We used to plan a day prior as to what she would want to study the following day based on which we prepared the worksheets.

5. Response of the Target Audience :

The best part of this initiative is that the sessions are one on one which means that we are able to pay extra attention to just one person and see their growth. The student with whom we have been conducting these sessions is very interactive and doesn't shy away from asking questions.

At the same time, since it's not really a classroom and something more informal, it means that we are able to make the session more interactive and enjoyable for the both of us by making a game of learning different things. For instance, when we wanted to explain a chapter in science named body parts and tell her how different organs worked, we decided to show her a video clip where all of it was explained in form of a story. So, we told her to make note of the terms she couldn't understand during the video and to ask us the same at the end. So, all she had to do was to watch the video and understand the chapter through a story.

6. Key personal takeaway:

The feeling of making a difference in the lives of so many budding citizens of the nation and influencing them in a constructive way is indeed an amazing experience. She had never been briefed about a lot of topics thus the feeling of being the 'first' is incredible. Secondly, it made us realize the importance of education and its power to change lives and the world.

7. Future plan of action:

At the moment we are trying to learn about various parts of body, as the idea of which is that she is looking forward to being a doctor. And while we are looking at her aspiration there are so many other things that can be dealt with.

8. Suggestion/Feedback:

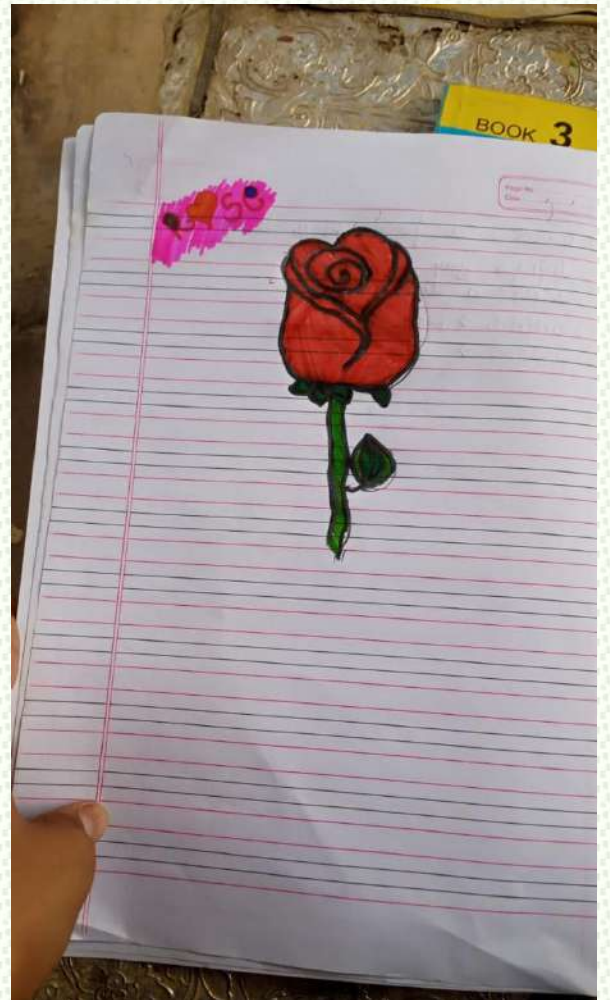
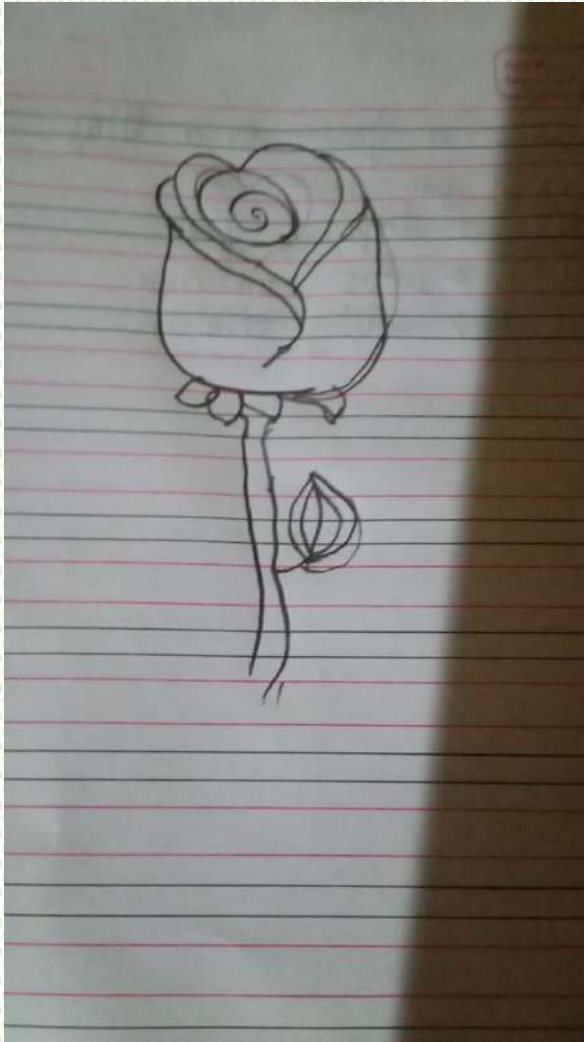
We think that she is just one of the many children out there who have been losing out on their fundamental Right to Education due to this pandemic, and as volunteers of LAC, it is our duty to make more and more parents and children aware about it. If a contribution of few hours per week can help a student, make his/her life we don't think it is that tough a job to spare a little time from our schedule. After all, these few hours can help a child make his/her life.

9. Conclusion/Remarks:

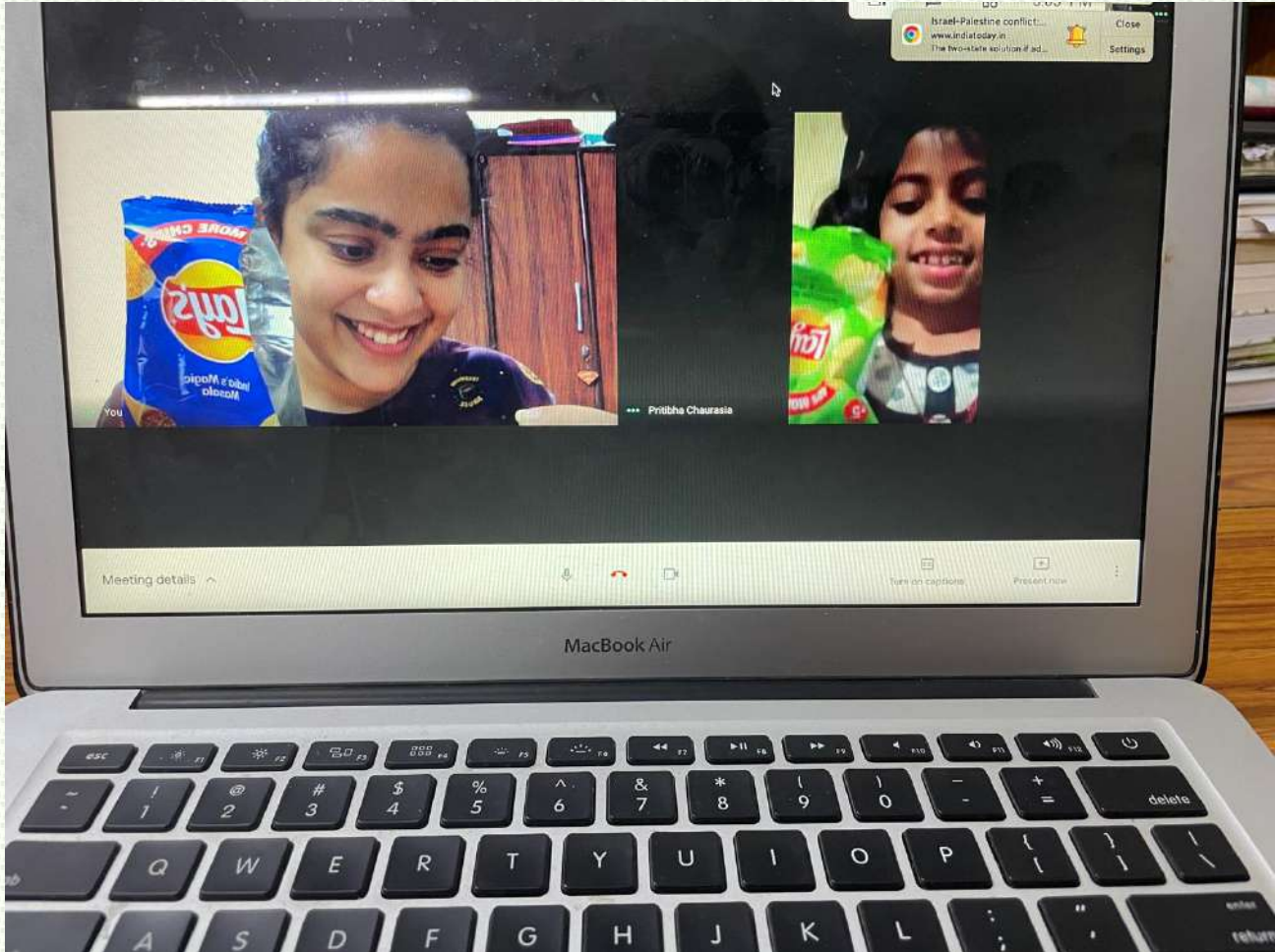
At first, this whole teaching experience was something that none of us were aware of as this was the first time that we were doing something like this but over time, it has become a part of our daily schedule and is something that we look forward to. In this entire process the contribution and efforts are from both the sides. At times there are instances where she tells

us about certain facts, she reads which is why the sessions become more fun and interactive.

Annexure-1







Annexure-2

