

# **“LEGAL AID CAMP: SENSITIZATION OF SOCIETY TOWARDS THIRD GENDER PERSONS”**

*(Report on the event conducted in Faizabad,  
Uttar Pradesh on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015)*

**Abstract:** This event was conducted by a para-legal volunteer from Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S.-Noida. Firstly, the villagers in a Faizabad village were informed about the pathetic life that the persons belonging to third gender are forced to live because of the restrictions imposed upon them by the society. Then, the participants were informed about the ‘rights’ that the ‘law’ in India provides to such persons. They were further informed about their moral duties towards such persons.

**Conducted by:**  
**Ms. Antara  
Rastogi  
(Para-legal  
Volunteer, Legal  
Aid Centre,  
Symbiosis Law  
School, Noida)**

**Under the  
guidance of:**  
**Dr. Madhuker S.  
(Head – Legal Aid  
Centre, Symbiosis  
Law School,  
Noida)**

## **I. Concept Note**

The Legal Aid Centre at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA had conducted an awareness program as a part of its initial task. This program involved spreading of awareness regarding Sensitization of people towards Third gender People. I, para-legal volunteer had conducted this program in a village in Faizabad on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Understanding, respecting and recognizing the rights of Third-gender is not a favor we would do towards third-gender but it is a matter of their natural right. There is an immediate need to sensitize society which has stigmatized the people of third gender. The discriminations faced by them in public, the lack of education that has ultimately results the community to resort to begging and sex work are major areas of concern. The object of the initiative is to bring to light the difficulties faced by third-gender in order to reduce the stigma attached to them.

## **II. Objectives**

The main objective of the Legal Aid Centre of SLS- NOIDA was to make the society aware about the existence of the Third Gender people. Since the third sex people also form an important part of the society, they too are human beings and deserve equal rights. Since, the rural people are unaware about the rights of these third gender people, the event was conducted by sensitizing them toward this issue.

- The object of this initiative would be to disseminate authentic information about the third gender people.
- Counsel people about the difficulties faced by such people in order to make people understand their rights.
- Make third-gender socially acceptable so as to normalize this.
- Clear any misconceptions related to third-gender.

### **III. Preliminary Preparations**

Preliminary preparation involved arranging banner and printing pamphlets. Since this program followed the RTI program the preparations were same. The same target population was used to conduct this program as well.

Moreover I did some reading about the third-gender rights and how they are gaining momentum recently due to social media

### **IV. Conducting the Event**

After the RTI program, the villagers were charged and enthusiastic about participating in this program. Initially I was apprehensive due to sensitive subject of this initiative but once I started, the positive response of people made it very comfortable to talk to them.

During the interaction I came to know that, the root cause of all myths and taboo related to third gender are the social norms and prevailing practices. People said that conservative beliefs were the reason for this. They also accepted that they also hold such beliefs about Third gender, but are willing to change. Once they were informed that there is no rational explanation for their beliefs they understood that third gender people are like any other gender-male. Female and hence deserve same respect.

### **V. Response of the Target Population**

The response was partly positive, where women and children were open to embrace the idea of respecting the rights of Third-genders , old men seemed apprehensive. I made all of them pledge that henceforth they will respect the Rights of trans-genders.

### **VI. Future Plan of Action**

A large scale program on the same topic can be organized to deepen the impact of this initiative.

## **VII. Suggestions/Feedback**

This was the initial and a very small step towards the cause, again with the assistance of NGOs and local authorities a more positive and long lasting impact can be created. Also if we can include someone from the community in planning and organizing of the program it would have better acceptability among people.

## **VIII. Concluding Remarks**

The response of the people was heartwarming; it was great to see how receptive people were towards such a sensitive issue. The task is not complete yet as one program cannot create desired impact. Persistent efforts will only help the cause.

---













**List of 'office bearers' of Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Noida**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Profile</b>	<b>Contact No.</b>
1	Dr. Madhuker S. (Asstt. Prof. of Law)	Head	9811083999
2	Ms. Sugandha Sharan (Batch 2011-16)	Convener	9654140774
3	Mr. Aakash Gakhar (Batch 2012-17)	Co-convener	9958187490
4	Ms. Aerika Singh (Batch 2012-17)	Para-legal Volunteer	8882880000
5	Ms. Shivani Dang (Batch 2012-17)	Para-legal Volunteer	9650800500
6	Ms. Srishti Girdhar (Batch 2013-18)	Para-legal Volunteer	9871017608
7	Ms. Jasveen Kaur (Batch 2013-18)	Para-legal Volunteer	9911121638
8	Ms. Maithili Moondra (Batch 2013-18)	Para-legal Volunteer	8826307196
9	Mr. Yash Kotak (Batch 2013-18)	Para-legal Volunteer	8527272859
10	Ms. Srijata Majumdar (Batch 2013-18)	Para-legal Volunteer	9871855424
11	Ms. Antara Rastogi (Batch 2013-19)	Para-legal Volunteer	8030887782
12	Ms. Nayanika Ruia (Batch 2013-18)	Para-legal Volunteer	8826779686
13	Ms. Nikhita Kansal (Batch 2014-19)	Para-legal Volunteer	9814843024
14	Ms. Sohini Chaudhary (Batch 2014-19)	Para-legal Volunteer	9088100513

<b>15</b>	<b>Ms. Aastha Garg (Batch 214-19)</b>	<b>Para-legal Volunteer</b>	<b>9999510912</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Mr. Saurabh Vamsi (Batch 2014-19)</b>	<b>Para-legal Volunteer</b>	<b>7042254054</b>

Email: [lac@symlaw.edu.in](mailto:lac@symlaw.edu.in)