

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

*(Report on the event conducted in Kansal
Village, Chandigarh on December 15, 2015)*

Abstract: This event was conducted by one para-legal volunteer from Legal Aid Centre, S.L.S.-Noida. Firstly, the villagers of Kansal 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.

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1. Concept Note:

The Para-legal volunteers of the Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA, conducted an awareness programme disseminating knowledge to the people of villages regarding the sensitization of the society towards third gender.

The third gender is a category in which the person is neither a man nor a woman. In layman's terms they are known as 'hijras' or for that matter transgenders. The Supreme Court of India in a landmark judgment termed them as 'third genders'. They were also given the right to be allowed into educational institutions. It was also said that they shall in no case be denied employment.

The members of the Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA had earlier conducted a programme where the third genders were also called and their grievances were heard and they were assured by the members that soon the society will accept them. When there has been a progressive decision taken by the judiciary, soon the society will also accept them and not look down upon them.

The programme was conducted on 15th December, 2015 in Kansal village, a village nearby Chandigarh.

2. Objective:

- The first and foremost objective was to make the people aware of the third genders and tell them that they too are a part of the society and hence must be accepted with open arms.
- They must be made aware of the fact that these people have achieved legal acceptance.
- Change the mindset of the people towards the third genders and look at their problems and issues that they face. Helping them adjust in the society was the main motive.

3. Preliminary Preparations:

Few preparations had to be made before the event was conducted,

- Collection of banners and pamphlets from the Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA.

- Choosing of the appropriate village, where there would be need to disseminate the knowledge.

4. Conducting the Program:

The event was conducted in Kansal village, a small village near Chandigarh. The programme was conducted in the porch of the house of a lady to whom I contacted for help to gather people. Slowly around 9-10 ladies were there. Once the crowd was seated I started explaining them about the topic- 'Sensitization of the Society towards Third Gender Persons'. Firstly, they were told about the people who constitute the third genders. Gradually the evolution of the Indian legal system was explained to them and how the third genders have finally got recognition. Then the problems that they face were discussed. The remedies were discussed for solving the problem. Then I asked the people over there about the problems that they face because of the third genders. They all discussed and we then discussed solutions for that as well.

5. Response of the Target Population

Initially they all were hesitant to ask questions or even answer, but gradually they became comfortable and came up with the problems and remedies. In the starting of the discussion many had a hostile attitude towards them, but after the discussion, they all had a different mindset- a positive frame of mind.

6. Future Plan of Action

This program was conducted earlier as well. This is the perfect way of implementing something. Going there and explaining them to once, would not help us to achieve the goal. This will take a lot of time. Visiting the places time to time will give them an impression that yes we generally are concerned and that they must take this seriously.

These are sensitive issues and must not be left in the middle. Regular attention must be there.

7. Suggestions/Feedback:

Various ways in which the program could be better conducted in future are as follows:-

- No. of Volunteers- The number of volunteers for the program should be definitely more than 3, because if there are more helping hands, then the objective could be better served and achieved.
- Association with NGOs- A prior association with NGO functioning in the particular area would help in a great way to execute the program successfully because they could help to accumulate groups and they could also improve the techniques of the execution of the program.
- Information to the Police Department- An association with lot more volunteers and a larger target audience and a proper street display of banners and posters requires a prior information to police department so that operation and program could be conducted without any hindrance to the society.

8. Conclusion/Remarks:

Overall this was the great learning experience as a Para-legal volunteer. It provided me with an opportunity to go out and explore the ground realities which are very needed and useful for every law student. It helped in acclimatizing me to the problems faced by the masses ignorant about their rights and remedies under the law.

ANNEXURES



