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VIDYAVARDHAKA LAW COLLEGE

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OUTREACH PROGRAM

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6th Semester, 'A' Section (3 years LL.B)

Report on Leagle Aid Program Outreach Event at Sri Ganapathi Sachidananda High School

Introduction

On 24/6/2024, the final-year law students of Vidyavardhaka Law College, Mysore, particularly those with roll numbers 11 to 20, participated in a Leagle Aid Program outreach event at Ganesha Sachidananda Higher Primary School. The initiative was aimed at educating the 9th and 10th standard students on various legal and constitutional topics, including fundamental rights, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, environmental rights, the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, issues related to child marriage and child labor, and the importance of child helpline numbers. The event was designed to empower young students with knowledge about their rights and the legal protections available to them.

Program Objectives

The primary objectives of the outreach program were as follows:

1. To educate young students about their fundamental rights and the protection provided by the Indian Constitution.
2. To raise awareness about the POCSO Act and its importance in safeguarding children against sexual offenses.
3. To inform students about environmental rights and the need for sustainable practices.
4. To discuss the issues of child marriage and child labor, highlighting the legal prohibitions and consequences.
5. To provide students with essential information on child helpline numbers and how they can seek help in times of need.
6. To inspire students to understand the role of law and lawyers in society and to encourage them to think critically about legal and social issues.

Event Proceedings

Introduction and Welcome

The program commenced with a brief introduction and welcome address by the school administration, expressing their gratitude to the students of Vidyavardhaka Law College for organizing the event. The law students were then introduced to the 9th and 10th standard students, who eagerly awaited the session.

Session 1: Fundamental Rights

The first session focused on the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The law students explained the significance of these rights, such as the right to equality, the right to freedom, the right against exploitation, and the right to constitutional remedies. The discussion also included real-life examples to help students relate to these concepts and understand their relevance in everyday life.

Session 2: POCSO Act

In the second session, the focus shifted to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act. The law students elaborated on the provisions of the POCSO Act, explaining how it serves as a crucial legal framework to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The importance of reporting any such incidents and the role of law enforcement agencies in providing justice were emphasized. The students were encouraged to speak up and seek help if they ever find themselves or others in vulnerable situations.

Session 3: Environmental Rights

The third session was dedicated to environmental rights and the importance of protecting the environment. The law students highlighted the various laws in place to ensure environmental protection and sustainability. They discussed the responsibilities of individuals and communities in preserving natural resources and preventing environmental degradation. The session also touched upon the legal consequences of violating environmental laws.

Session 4: Basic Structure of the Constitution

The fourth session provided an overview of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution. The law students explained the key features of the Constitution, such as its federal structure, the separation of powers, and the importance of checks and balances. The session aimed to instill a sense of respect for the Constitution and its role in maintaining the rule of law in the country.

Session 5: Child Marriage and Child Labor

In the fifth session, the issues of child marriage and child labor were addressed. The law students discussed the legal prohibitions against these practices and the harmful impact they have on children's lives. They emphasized the importance of education and the legal age for marriage, as well as the consequences of engaging in child labor. The session aimed to create awareness among the students about their rights and the need to stand against such social evils.

Session 6: Child Helpline Numbers

The final session was dedicated to informing students about child helpline numbers and the importance of seeking help in times of distress. The law students provided information on the various helplines available, such as Childline 1098, and encouraged students to memorize these numbers. They also discussed the role of these helplines in providing immediate assistance and support to children in need.

Conclusion and Thanksgiving

The outreach program concluded with a heartfelt thanksgiving speech by a school teacher. The teacher expressed deep appreciation for the law students' efforts and highlighted the importance of lawyers in society. She eloquently remarked that lawyers are the ones who bring bad things hidden in the dark to light, symbolizing why they traditionally wear black coats. The teacher also emphasized the evolving role of lawyers in today's society, urging the students to consider a career in law.

The event ended with a photo session, capturing the memorable moments of the day. Chocolates were distributed to the students, adding a sweet conclusion to an informative and empowering session.

Impact and Reflections

The outreach program at Sri Ganapathi Sachidananda High School was a significant step towards educating young minds about their legal rights and responsibilities. The students showed great enthusiasm and interest throughout the sessions, asking questions and engaging in discussions. The law students from Vidyavardhaka Law College were able to effectively communicate complex legal concepts in a manner that was accessible and relatable to the young audience.

The feedback from the school administration and students was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a newfound understanding of their rights and the legal protections available to them. The program also served as a valuable experience for the law students, providing them with an opportunity to apply their knowledge in a practical setting and to contribute meaningfully to the community.

Conclusion

The League Aid Program outreach event at Ganapathi Sachidananda High School was a resounding success. It not only educated the students about important legal topics but also inspired them to think critically about the role of law in society. The event reinforced the idea that knowledge is power, and that understanding one's rights is the first step towards safeguarding them. The law students of Vidyavardhaka Law College demonstrated their commitment to social responsibility and their potential to make a positive impact on the community.

