



**DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,
PRAYAGRAJ**

ORGANISED

NUKKAD NATAK

ON

‘CHILD ABUSE’

AT

VILLAGE- MALAAK CHAUDHARI, PRAYAGRAJ

**(A Village Adopted by RPNLUP under the NALSA (Legal Aid
Clinics) Regulations, 2011)**

ON

NOVEMBER 14, 2024



Faculties and Para Legal Volunteers with the residents of the Village

Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, has adopted the village Malaak Chaudhari, Prayagraj, under Rule-23 of the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011. To mark the occasion of Children's Day, the University organized a Nukkad Natak program in the village on 14th November 2024. A team of eighteen Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) from the RPNLUP Legal Aid Society, accompanied by faculty members of the University, conducted the program. The primary objective of the program was to sensitize children and villagers about the critical issue of 'Child Abuse' and to highlight the relevant laws, and resources available to the prevention and protection of the children. This program was designed not only to raise awareness but also to empower the community with the knowledge to identify,



Act depicting Physical Violence against Children

prevent, and report instances of child abuse.

The volunteers drew the audience's attention with a rhythmic chant, 'Suno Suno Bhai Suno Suno!', creating a lively and engaging atmosphere, which encouraged participation and curiosity among the audience. The performance began with an act highlighting the issue of physical violence against children. In this opening act, a scenario demonstrated a young child playing near the school gate is unjustly beaten by a security guard. This act effectively communicated the message that physical violence against children is not only tolerable but also punishable under the law. The *Kishore Nyaya Adhiniyam, 2015* (Juvenile Justice Act, 2015) was introduced to the audience. The Act of 2015 provides a legal avenue through which children and their families can seek justice in cases of physical abuse or maltreatment. Further,

the Act protects children from all forms of violence and ensures the enforcement of child rights i.e. to grow and thrive in a safe environment.

In the next act, the Volunteers addressed the sensitive yet essential issue of sexual harassment of the children. The scene highlighted the subtle ways in which perpetrators may attempt to manipulate children. The second part of this segment underscored the harsh reality that children can be vulnerable to sexual harassment in everyday settings, often by people they might encounter regularly. These scenarios helped the audience to recognize the warning signs of such predatory behaviors which require constant vigilance.



Scene depicting Sexual Harassment of a child

Following these impactful scenes, the child characters expressed their fears about their safety both in school and in public spaces. The audience was enlightened about legislative measures and government programs to protect their physical and mental well-being. The scene reassured them that the State prioritizes their safety and existing legal mechanisms guard their rights and interests.



Scene depicting Good Touch

The performance then turned to sensitize the audience about the concepts of 'good touch' and 'bad touch'. It was explained that touches from trusted adults, such as parents or teachers, make children feel comfortable and safe. Safe touches such as head patting and hugging are considered good touches. In contrast, bad touches cause discomfort, anxiety, or insecurity. These typically include inappropriate touches to private areas, like the chest or lower body. The volunteers held posters highlighting parts of the human body where inappropriate touching might occur. These visuals helped the audience, especially the children, to better understand the concept and empowered them with the knowledge to protect themselves.

Useful advice was given to children on 'how they should respond if they experience an uncomfortable or unwanted touch'. The suggested responses included firmly saying 'no', 'screaming', 'running away', 'hiding in a safe place', and most importantly, reporting the incident to a responsible adult, such as a parent, teacher, etc. It emphasized empowering children to take rapid action confidently in unsafe situations and encouraged them to seek help from trusted adults.

Further, the volunteers informed the audience about legal protections available to children under laws namely, the *Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS, 2023)*, *Kishore Nyaya Adhiniyam, 2015 (Juvenile Justice Act, 2015)*, and the *POCSO Act, 2012 (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012)*. These legislations offer protection of children against abuse, ensuring that those who harm children are held accountable. Additionally, emergency helpline numbers such as the *Child Helpline 1098*, *UP Police Helpline 112*, *Hospital Helpline 108*, and *The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Website* were shared with the audience. These channels are accessible for seeking immediate help, reporting abuse, and accessing justice.



Posters held by PLVs portraying Bad Touch

This impactful Natak highlighted the urgent need to address child abuse and child rights in our society. Beyond being a performance, it served as a compelling call to action for all community members to take responsibility for the safety and well-being of children. It conveyed a powerful message that the protection and future of children rest with each one of us.

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