

## **A VISIT TO ENGLISH MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL, PIRANGUT, DIST. PUNE**

By Environment Cell, BVP New Law College, Pune

Place: English Medium Primary School, Pirangut, Dist. Pune

**Date: August 20, 2019**

As a part of an Environment Cell's activity, a visit to English medium primary school at Pirangut on August 20, 2019 was arranged by Mr. Amit, who is presently a student of our college studying in final year of LLB course. The main motto behind arranging such visit was to create awareness among the children regarding the preservation of our environment and to act as boost up for our environment cell. A team consisting of Principal (Dr. Bhagyashree Deshpande), two faculties (Dr. Jyoti Dharma & Mrs. Jayshri Khandare) and ten students reached the said place around 3:15 PM on August 20, 2019. The program started at 3:30 PM.

One of the teachers from school introduced our team to the students and asked Principal Ma'am to take the dice. Principal ma'am started the session by showing the importance of environment in everyone's life. The session was held in Marathi language so that it becomes easy for students to understand and grab it. She guided the students regarding protection of environment and how to preserve it. She talked about water preservation in detail by saying students that not to wash clothes in the river because even after the purification of water, the water still has the substance of soap. She also said that not to use shower while bathing but use mug & bucket because by using shower it leads to wastage of water in large amount. Further she said that during the 10 days of festival of Lord Ganesha, instead of making the idol of Lord Ganesha from plaster of Paris, it shall be made from soil i.e. *shaalu mitti* because at the time of visarjan the idol made from plaster of Paris do not get dissolve in water which ultimately harms and pollutes the water. While celebrating the festival of Lord Ganesha, we should not use DJ with high volume density which creates noise pollution. She further explained all the aspects of environment and asked students to prevent our environment by adapting small changes in our day to day life and by ending the session she asked students to stop others also from polluting the environment.

After the first session, welcoming ceremony was held by school by welcoming our team with coconut and rose. Then after our team also thanked the school's staff by giving bouquets. After that the principal of the school addressed the students for some time.

The second session was started by Dr. Jyoti Dharma, explaining girl students of what is sexual harassment and what all actions amounts to sexual harassment for example gestures, bad touch, starring private parts of body, etc. She asked students to be more careful, take care of them and to be always attentive. She said girls that as there are CCTV cameras in the school campus, there is no danger, but the places which are not covered under the cameras and other isolated places like washroom, laboratory, etc., at such places no girl shall go alone. After giving brief idea of what is sexual harassment, she explained various remedies which were available for children. She talked about POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Harassment) Act, 2012. A sexually abused child is considered as "child in need of care and protection" under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Therefore, any child who is suffering from any sexual abuse shall inform their supervisors/guardian/parents about such abuse taking place. They can also file police complain. She also explained the benefits of such legislation and told that not only girls but boys are also victims of such heinous acts. Further she said that there is various child helpline available for helping children of any age who is in need of any aid and assistance. She also acknowledged the students regarding death penalty as a punishment, which is introduced by government of India for the crime of rape. She told girls that they should not hesitate to complain or inform about any sexual harassment taking place with them or any of their friends. She ended the session by asking students whether they had any doubts regarding the topic and also asked girls to be open about any act of sexual harassment which they have faced, so that further actions can be taken on the same. After this session, one of the teachers from school thanked our team for the social awareness which we were trying to create and also asked the students to adapt in their life. We ended the whole environment awareness program by distributing plants to every student as a symbol of environment preservation. Lastly, we had photo session with all the students and their teachers.

**The said oath read as follows-**

*I do swear in the name of god, that I shall dedicate myself completely towards the cause of environmental conservation,*

*That I shall always cherish the gifts which Mother Nature has endowed us with,*

*That I shall never cause pollution or degrade the environment,*

*That I shall acquaint myself with the vagaries of climate change and,*

*Would also strive to sensitise the people around me.*

