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The Quarterly Newsletter of Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT)

July 2023

Profile

Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT), a registered trust, founded by concerned citizens, mobilises public opinion, increases public participation and activism towards promoting honesty, transparency and accountability in governance.

Vision

To strive for good governance, contain corruption, uphold and inculcate values and enhance Sadbhavna in the citizens.

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NO ONE IS BORN A GOOD CITIZEN -PCGT TRAINS THE YOUTH TO BE SO



his quarter, PCGT offered internship opportunities to students from different colleges. They were involved in various activities during their one-month internship with PCGT.

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to pre-Covid

days. The office is alive with young people. They

come from different Colleges in the city and its suburbs. They make new friends and they discuss what is happening in the State, in the country and sometimes even abroad. The developments in Afghanistan and now in Ukraine aroused their interest, which is as it should be.

Last month we discussed the problem of women wrestlers with reference to the POCSO Act. They visited a Police Station and learnt of the busy life of police officers. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, in charge of that area in which our office is situated, visited us and spoke to the students about the Nirbhaya Scheme and how it is implemented in Mumbai by the city's police. His wife, an I.A.S. officer, spoke to them about her induction into the prestigious service and about the work she is presently doing to empower women.

PCGT invited many other experts to talk to the students. They heard the former Central Information Commissioner, Shailesh Gandhi, on the R.T.I. Act and what could be done to tackle the slow disposal of criminal cases in our Courts of Law. Renu Kapoor, a practicing Chartered Accountant, deeply involved in social work, explained how individual students could help citizens in distress. Abha Singh, a civil servant turned lawyer, spoke about her efforts to stop manual scavenging.

Because of the summer holidays the schools were closed but our Kuchh Aur programmes were extended to the Rabale and Mankhurd communities. School children from these communities participated in discussions on "Happiness", "Anger Issues", "Unity" and "Cyber Safety". They were shown the film "I am Kalam", based on the life of President Abdul Kalam, a popular film with children.

Our Founding Trustee, Dr. R. K. Anand could not interact with youth as he suffered a stroke. His favourite topic "We are all one" was addressed by another Founding Trustee, Julio Ribeiro, assisted by Ana Saldanha. It was a lively interactive session much appreciated by the students and the lecturers, both.

Our Leadership Programme was buttressed this quarter by our joining up with the National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice to help poor victims of injustice with free legal advice. The programme was held every week on Saturdays from 5 pm to 6:30 pm throughout the current quarter. Our students studying Law in different colleges helped to give effect to the process with palpable enthusiasm. Three Panel discussions on Police Reforms, the Open Spaces policy of the Government and Violence against Women in India were attended by more than 50 students online. The students were all students of Law and hailed from different corners of the country.

It was a satisfying and productive quarter. With Schools and Colleges re-opening after the summer break our Project Managers will be kept really busy. I end my Editorial by mentioning a letter I received on the occasion of Guru Purnima on 3rd July, 2023 from Ruchi Bhagat, a former staff member of PCGT in charge of our YFG (Youth For Governance) vertical. She is now a Judicial Magistrate, First Class, in Thane. She acknowledged in her letter the debt she owed PCGT for inculcating in her values and ethical conduct in all her dealings.

Nothing gave me greater happiness than the mention of values and ethics in Ruchi's letter. It assured me that PCGT was moving in the right direction. If more of our staff and students are selected for positions of authority where they can make a difference, I think that PCGT as an entity will have done a service to our great country!

- Julio Ribeiro

The interns conducted impactful sessions on values for students in grades V to XII at Janjagruti Vidyarthi Sangh at Mankhurd and the Children of World (India) Trust at Rabale. These sessions are designed to provide valuable knowledge and learning opportunities to the students, aiming to enhance their academic growth and overall development. The interns, with their expertise and dedication, actively engage with the students, delivering content that is both informative and engaging.





Sessions in the Mankhurd Community

Over the past few months (April to June 2023), we have focused on fostering essential values and their significance in our lives. The topics covered included the value of Rapport Building & its Importance in Our Life, Respect, Friendship, Sharing is Caring, Cyber Safety, Unity, Happiness, and Anger Issues. These interactive sessions aimed to instill these values in the students, enabling them to navigate through various life situations with confidence and integrity.

Ms. Hemangi Sawant successfully built rapport in both communities during her first visit by initiating a lively game of 'Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes' to create a friendly atmosphere. The session continued with an interactive Antakshari of Words, encouraging students to communicate and express themselves. Additionally, a session on the significance of values was conducted, emphasizing their impact on personal and professional aspects of life. Various examples were provided to illustrate the positive influence of values in our lives. Overall, the activities facilitated an engaging and enriching experience for the participants.

"Life is short, and we should respect every moment of it." – Orhan Pamuk

The value of 'Respect' was inculcated among students in Mankhurd community. The students displayed active involvement and exhibited fervent enthusiasm while imparting their thoughts and ideas. Subsequently, they engaged in providing constructive feedback to other groups, thereby fostering critical thinking and facilitating





Drawing competition based on the theme "Mera Bharat, Swachha Bharat" in the Rabale community

mutual learning. This exercise not only underscored the students' understanding of the profound importance of respect but also emphasized its versatile application within various contexts.

On the occasion of 'World Health Day', a drawing competition centered around the theme "Mera Bharat. Swachha Bharat" (My India, Clean India) was organized for students in the Rabale community. The event provided a platform for young artists to unleash their creativity and imagination through vibrant and thought-provoking artwork. The participants beautifully captured their vision of a cleaner and healthier India, showcasing the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in promoting overall well-being. The drawing competition not only encouraged artistic expression but also instilled a sense of responsibility and awareness among the students regarding the significance of maintaining a clean environment for a better future

"The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart." — Elisabeth Foley

Mrs. Asha Varma, an educationist, conducted an impactful session on 'Friendship' in the Rabale community. Using a PowerPoint presentation, she covered various aspects of friendship, including its definition, significance, building healthy friendships, and the benefits of having good friends. Students actively participated by sharing their personal experiences and opinions. Mrs. Varma incorporated



Session on "Friendship" with students of Std. VII to XII in Rabale community

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media clips, including the impactful 'Har Ek Friend Zaroori Hota Hai' advertisement, to emphasize the importance of friendship. The session had a fun and engaging atmosphere with dance and concluded with students providing positive feedback, expressing their newfound understanding of the importance of friendship and how it can positively impact their lives.

"Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality." — His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Rabale community students expressed their understanding and meaning of the phrase 'Sharing is Caring'. They actively participated, showcasing a solid grasp of the concept. To delve deeper into the theme, an interactive activity called "Word Charades" was conducted, fostering creativity and idea association. The students



Session on 'Sharing is Caring' in the Rabale community

demonstrated guick thinking and made meaningful connections between different concepts. Building upon this, the students were tasked with creating stories using given words, aiming to enhance their storytelling skills while reinforcing the importance of sharing and caring. The students enthusiastically embraced the challenge, showcasing their storytelling abilities with imagination and creativity. Throughout the session, a collaborative environment was established. promoting the free exchange of ideas and active engagement among the students.

An extensive session on 'Cyber Safety' was conducted for students in both communities. The session aimed to

educate the students about various cyber threats and how to safeguard themselves. Ms. Kadam covered topics such as mobile recharge store misuse, SMS spoofing, online game addiction, dating websites, social trolling, cyber bullying, call spoofing, cyberstalking, picture morphing and deep fakes, camera and profile hacking, and fake job calls and letters. With examples provided for each topic, the students gained a better understanding of the risks associated with the online world and learned strategies to protect themselves. The session was highly informative and well-received by the students, who appreciated the opportunity to enhance their cyber safety knowledge.



Session on Cyber Safety in both communities

Sessions by Interns

he session commenced with a prayer led by the interns, focusing on 'Unity'. The introduction highlighted the importance of unity and the potential consequences of its absence, supported by relevant examples. Information on unity was provided, including its advantages and disadvantages. An activity involving the clapping of hands was conducted to illustrate the significance of unity and the difference between individual clapping and unified clapping. The session further explored the application of unity to address current issues and the benefits of being in a united group.



Session on Unity by May interns in the Rabale community

Another activity involved drawing the tail of a horse, where five students were selected and instructed to work together, demonstrating the power of unity. The presentation concluded by emphasizing the value of unity and its practical implementation.

he session began with a prayer, followed by a reflection on 'Happiness'. The children shared their perspectives on happiness, ranging from simple activities like watering plants and helping others to experiences such as going to the beach or watching an IPL match. The importance of understanding different forms of happiness was discussed. A story about a farmer's journey from happiness to greed was shared, emphasizing that money does not guarantee happiness. A game called "ATLAS" was played to promote happiness and learn about new places. Another story about a wealthy businessman finding happiness within was shared, prompting reflection and discussion. The session concluded with a lively game of dumb charades, adding an element of fun to the overall experience.



Session on Happiness by May interns in Mankhurd community

nterns took a session on the "Anger Issue" in the Mankhurd community. They commenced the session with the recitation of the Gayatri mantra, emphasizing its significance in bringing success and happiness. They then proceeded to discuss with the students about the importance of anger management. Through interactive activities, the interns effectively conveyed the significance of managing anger.

'I am Kalam' movie was screened in the Mankhurd community, with 37 students in attendance. The film conveyed several important lessons to the students, including the significance of determination and hard work, the transformative power of education, the importance of dreaming big, the need for equality and social justice, the value of self-confidence and self-belief, the significance of friendship, and the necessity of perseverance in the face of adversity. Each student had an opportunity to connect with different aspects of the story based on their personal experiences and aspirations.

Session for Interns

rs. Shahani, Trustee of Kuchh Aur Initiative, addressed various topics, including Role Model, Feel Good Club, and Attitude of Gratitude. Emphasizing the significance of prayer, she introduced the interns to the concept of CCD, which stands for Connection, Correction, and Direction. Mrs. Shahani emphasized the importance of establishing strong connections, acknowledging and rectifying mistakes, and always moving forward in a positive direction. The discussion also highlighted the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and expressing gratitude towards others and a higher power. As a practical exercise, Mrs. Shahani encouraged the interns to write heartfelt notes of appreciation to individuals who have made a positive impact in their lives and recognize their importance



Online session with interns by Mrs. Rekha Shahani

Mrs. Jyoti Tanna, an Educationist and Founder of Each One Teach One Charitable Foundation, along with Mrs. Renu Raut, the CEO of the foundation, conducted an insightful session on 'Emotion' for our interns. The session encompassed various valuable learnings and insights. The interns first explored the significance of personal motivations in career choices, with each individual sharing their enthusiastic pursuit of law. The discussion on remote emotions emphasized the importance of selfawareness and individual responsibility in managing emotional well-being. Concepts like the Pareto Principle were introduced, shedding light on prioritization and efficiency in life. The exploration of the origins and types of emotions deepened the interns' understanding of their own emotional experiences. Learning that approximately 80% of brain functions related to genetic mutation can be controlled was both fascinating and empowering, highlighting personal growth opportunities. The 'Just A Minute' formula and the emphasis on reflection encouraged introspection and self-improvement. Mrs. Tanna's personal life stories provided inspiration, and the assigned homework promoted further selfreflection and goal-setting. Overall, the session equipped the interns with valuable knowledge and tools for effective emotion management, personal growth, and self-awareness, empowering them to navigate both their professional and personal lives successfully.



Session on Emotion by Mrs. Renu Raut & Mrs. Jyoti Tanna at PCGT office

ETST Workshop on 'Educating for Life' at Asia Plateau, Panchgani

Ms. Hemangi Sawant, a staff member of PCGT, recently attended the 'Educating for Life' workshop organized by Education Today, Society Tomorrow. The workshop, held from May 3rd to May 6th, 2023, aimed to inspire participants to reflect on their inner voice and make positive changes within themselves, empowering them to make a difference in the world. Key focuses of the program included

fostering open communication and trust within school communities, recognizing the necessary changes in education and co-creating a better future. Attendees were encouraged to develop practical plans for implementing their newfound knowledge and insights in both their personal lives and the field of education. The workshop provided valuable opportunities for introspection, collaboration and proactive application of learning, equipping Ms. Sawant with the tools to contribute meaningfully to education and personal growth.

Collaboration with Pro Bono Club, MNLU, Mumbai

In a collaborative effort to increase our reach and impact, PCGT joined hands with the Pro Bono Club of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai. We conducted sessions in the Mankhurd community on the Introduction of Legal Awareness, the Importance of Fundamental Duties and a Drawing Competition with the theme 'Constitution of India'. Furthermore, we provided valuable insights into the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to raise awareness and promote a safer environment for our children.



Session by Pro Bono Club at Mankhurd community



Group photo of ETST workshop at Asia Plateau, Panchgani

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

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The following activities were covered during the period with the interns.

Former Director General of Police. Maharashtra, Mr. D. Sivanandhan provided insight into the numerous cybercrimes committed and how to prevent them. He led a discussion on "Safety of Women in Modern Times" and emphasized on the atrocities committed against women as well as security precautions to be taken to stop such crimes. During his presentation on leadership, he shared his life experiences as the Director General of Police of Maharashtra State and Commissioner of Police, Mumbai.



Mr. D. Sivanadhan conducting virtual session on Cyber Safety

The interns engaged in an interactive discussion about the ongoing issues like 'Khalistan, Wrestlers Protest and the Uniform Civil Code' with Mr. Julio Ribeiro (IPS Retd.), Chairman Emeritus, PCGT, which had a significant impact on them.



Mr. Ribeiro, Chairman Emeritus, PCGT with interns post discussion

Ms. Sayali Kadam, Programme Manager of PCGT conducted sessions on Human Rights, Tribal Rights and Plight of Manual Scavengers in India. She shared her expertise on human rights, shedding light on the various violations that occur, particularly against impoverished individuals. She highlighted the harsh realities faced

by marginalized communities, igniting a sense of empathy within the interns and the need to fight against these atrocities and advocate for a more just and equitable society.



Ms. Sayali Kadam conducting session on 'Introduction to Human Rights'

The former principal secretary to the Maharashtra government, Mr. Mahesh Zagade, IAS (Retd.), led sessions on the "Health of Democracy" and "The Perception of Political Pressure on Bureaucracy." He discussed the democracy index and its calculation during his "Health of Democracy" session. He shared a report from the Economic Intelligence Unit (EUI) and discussed his opinions on it while highlighting the steps that must be taken to maintain the health of democracy. He discussed how the general public views political pressure on bureaucrats, the structure of democracy, the significance of bureaucracy in a democratic state and the protections offered to bureaucrats.



Mr. Mahesh Zagade with interns from colleges across India

The former Central Information Commissioner, Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, conducted a session on the possibility of time-bound justice in India. He discussed the concept of judicial delay and how it is harmful to the development of our nation. Without prompt judicial action, corruption will increase and the rule of law cannot be upheld.

Mrs. Ana Saldanha spoke about Leadership. She emphasized that leadership is something that everyone possesses and is only waiting to be unlocked, not just a small group of people. She highlighted the value of self-control, efficient time management and defining specific goals as essential elements of good leadership. The interns were motivated to take advantage of their potential and take initiative in various aspects of their lives.

PCGT interns visited the Crime Against Women Unit at N. M. Joshi Marg Police Station. Nathan Heredia, an intern from The Cathedral And John Connon School shared his experience - "The visit provided us with a sobering insight into the different forms of domestic violence that plague our society. Interacting with the officers and hearing stories of survivors emphasized the urgent need to address these issues and work towards creating a safer environment for women. We also learned about the various government schemes and initiatives that have been implemented to protect and uplift women, reinforcing the importance of gender equality and Empowerment"



June batch of Interns at Crime Against Women Unit at N. M. Joshi Marg Police Station

PUBLIC CONCERN

YOUTH FOR GOVERNANCE

The interns got an opportunity to interact with Mrs. Renu Kapoor, a Chartered Accountant by profession. Her session was motivational and inspirational. She emphasized on channelling our emotions into action and highlighted her experiences of initiatives taken by her to bring about social change. She shared about portals and toll-free numbers which citizens can use to lodge complaints to the government authorities (CPGRAMS, RTO, BMC portal).



Mrs. Renu Kapoor interacting with the interns

Adv. Sonali Shelar led an interactive discussion with the interns on the rise in crime against women and children and the factors behind it. The discussion then moved on to changes that should be made to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO).

The Mumbai Roti Bank Foundation is a non-profit organization that works to eliminate hunger and malnourishment. PCGT organized a visit there to help the interns understand the issue of hunger in India. In 2017, Mr. D. Sivanandhan started the organization. Interns got an opportunity to serve lunch at KEM Hospital as well as visit Roti Bank's kitchen to observe the process by which the food is prepared.



Interns distributing food at KEM Hospital



Interns with Roti Bank staff, Mr. Tambe

Dr. Navashika Duara, Principal of Pravin Gandhi College of Law conducted a virtual session on the topic of 'Citizens in a Democratic Setup: Key to Good Governance'. She focused on the definition of democracy, the evolution of democracy and the deliberations over the 'political obligations' of the citizens/subjects.

The June batch of interns had the wonderful opportunity to go to the Lokmanya Tilak Marg (L.T. Marg) Police Station. They got an overview from Mr. Rahul Bhandare, Assistant Police Inspector, on the complaint-filing process, police department operations and its roles and responsibilities. Mr. Dnyaneshwar Wagh, Sr. Police Inspector interacted with the interns and answered their questions related to Cyber Crime and the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA)



PCGT Interns and Staff with Sr. PI Dnyaneshwar Wagh and API Rahul Bhandare

Mr. Ribeiro, Chairman Emeritus of PCGT and Mrs. Ana Saldanha, Trustee In-charge, Youth For Governance, propagated the message of 'Hum Sab Ek Hai' during their interactive session with interns on 'Communal Harmony'.

Adv. Abha Singh, social activist and former civil servant spoke with the interns on the Legal Landscape of Adoption by Individuals of LGBTQ+ community and on surrogacy in India. She discussed various case laws and the contemporary scenario in this aspect.



Adv. Abha Singh with PCGT Interns

The June batch of interns had an opportunity of meeting Mrs. Indu Jakhar (IAS), Managing Director, Maharashtra Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM), WCD, GoM and Mr. Mohit Garg (IPS), DCP- Zone 2 Mumbai. Ms. Jakhar regaled the interns about her journey in civil services and the functioning of MAVIM. Mr. Mohit Garg focused on the 'Nirbhaya Safe City Project' where he spoke about developments that were done in the following aspects - Prevention (Proper Street Lighting, Installation of CCTV Cameras), Investigation (Enhancing Forensic Capabilities, Strengthening Dog Squad) and Counselling (provision of enclosed room and video conference for women survivors to give their statements).



Mrs. Indu Jakhar and Mr. Mohit Garg with Mr. Ribeiro and Interns

Former Programme Manager of Youth For Governance Ms. Ruchi Bhagat, Judicial Magistrate, First Class, conveyed her best wishes to Chairman Emeritus Mr. Julio Ribeiro on the occasion of Guru Purnima :

"Respected Ribeiro Sir, Happy Gurupaurnima ! I have learnt a lot from you. Thank you so much for imbibing the ethical and moral values in me.

Warm regards, Ruchi Bhagat JMFC, Thane"

PCGT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Certificate Course on Fundamentals of the Indian Constitution

CGT in association with SVKM's Pravin Gandhi College of Law (PGCL) successfully organized the 2nd edition of the Online Certificate Course on Fundamentals of the Indian Constitution: Socio-political-legal perspective. This year the course was interdisciplinary in nature and spanned over ten weeks, from April 23, 2023 to June 25, 2023.

This course is a part of PCGT's



Sr. Adv. Mihir Desai delivering special lecture on Right to Free Speech & Expression - Freedom of Press & Media Trials

Constitutional Literacy Programme, which began in 2021 under its vertical Youth for Governance. The course consisted of 20 live lectures held in online mode as well as course evaluation. Nearly 40 students completed the course in its second edition.

Throughout the course, participants received extensive knowledge about the Constitution of India and it was particularly beneficial for civil services and law aspirants, students and young professionals from all streams. The course was taught by eminent practitioners, law professors and former civil servants, who covered the theoretical as well as the practical dimensions of the working of our Constitution, giving the participants a broad perspective about its importance and applicability in day to day life.



Mr. V. P. Raja addressing the participants on "Understanding Governance & Bureaucracy in India"



Prof. Dr. Sebastian M. Michael speaking on Right to Equality, Inclusivity and Exclusivity



Prof. Dr. Pratiba Naitthani sharing her views on Cooperative Federalism



Adv. Abha Singh giving an overview of Centre-State Relations in Indian Constitution

in Mumbai

PCGT – NFSFJ Panel Discussions

Three Panel Discussions were jointly organized by PCGT and National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice (NFSFJ) in May 2023, in online mode. Each Panel Discussion was attended by more than 50 students from different institutions as well as PCGT Interns and Campus Ambassadors and touched upon important socio-legal issues.



Panel Discussion on Addressing Violence against Panel Discussion on Need for Police Reforms Panel Discussion on Recent Open Spaces Policy Women in India

PCGT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Virtual Legal Advice and Consultation Centre

The Virtual Legal Advice and Consultation Centre (VLACC) is a one of its kind initiative of the PCGT and the National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice (NFSFJ) to provide free legal advice and consultation to citizens. The VLACC was conducted by Shri Anjani Kumar Singh (Advocate, Bombay High Court and Supreme Court of India) on a pro bono basis, every Saturday from 5 pm to 6:30 pm, from 8th April 2023 to 10th June 2023, in online mode.

More than 80 queries were addressed during these sessions and they came from citizens from different parts of India – ranging from Gujarat to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A core committee comprising Adv. D. L. Chavda (Gujarat High Court), Adv. Shivam Jain Kakadia (Bombay High Court) and Mr. M. Venkatraman (Trustee, Forum for Fast Justice) was constituted to streamline queries to Adv. Singh on a weekly basis, and citizens who were otherwise not able to afford legal consultancy fees benefited immensely through this project.

Several interns and volunteers of PCGT, majority of them being in their first and second year of law course, also gained practical experience by attending these sessions and were inspired to take up pro bono legal work in future. The VLACC has therefore not only furthered PCGT's mission of good governance, but it has also taken ahead PCGT's Constitutional Literacy Programme, as access to justice and legal aid is an important goal outlined in Article 39-A of the Constitution of India.



Felicitation of Adv. Anjani Kumar Singh in the last VLACC session held on 10th June 2023

workshop on the Right to Information Act was organized by Public Concern for Governance Trust in association with NMIMS School of Law on Monday, April 10, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the NMIMS Navi Mumbai Campus. The workshop was delivered by Adv.

RTI WORKSHOP

Shivam Jain Kakadia, who explained the theoretical and practical aspects of the RTI Act 2005, including drafting of RTI Applications. Nearly 40 students of School of Law participated in the workshop and it was successfully executed with the assistance of PCGT Campus Ambassador at School of Law, Ms. Amisha Upadhyay.



Adv. Kakadia delivering the RTI Workshop at NMIMS School of Law, Navi Mumbai

DONATIONS TO PCGT

All activities of PCGT are undertaken from the funds received from the donors. People who want to donate any amount of ₹ 1,000/- and above may please issue cheques in favour of 'Public Concern For Governance Trust'.

Donations to PCGT qualify for deduction u/s. 80G(5)(VI) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

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