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Tamil Nadu - Kancheepuram

Collector urges NGO to create awareness of sanitation in Kancheepuram district

Staff Reporter

Hand-in-Hand has given top priority to eradicating child labour

- Toilets to be constructed in 60,000 houses in rural areas
 - There are 3,000 child labours in the district
 - A programme, INDUS, has been chalked out to help them enrol in schools
 - The NGO has set up people's centre in 43 hamlets
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KANCHEEPURAM: Kancheepuram Collector Pradeep Yadav has called upon volunteers of Hand-in-Hand Tamil Nadu (HiH), a non-governmental organisation, to act as the torchbearers of total sanitation campaign in the district.

Addressing the inaugural session of 'volunteerism for growth,' organised by the NGO, here on Friday, the Collector urged the organisation to create awareness among rural masses about the disadvantages of defecation in open places.

Stating that sufficient funds had been allocated to the district under the Total Sanitation Campaign to encourage construction of individual household toilets, Mr. Yadav pointed out that around 60,000 houses in rural areas were yet to be covered.

Complimenting the decision of the NGO to give top priority for eradication of child labour in their agenda, he said that as per an official survey, conducted two years before, there were 3,000 child labours in the district.

The Government has chalked out a programme called INDUS to help these children enrol themselves in regular school after undergoing coaching in transit schools for a specific period.

Steps lauded

Speaking on the occasion, A.K. Venkatasubramaniam of Catalyst Trust, commended the efforts taken by the NGO in setting up 'makkal maiyam' (peoples' centre) in 43 hamlets in Kancheepuram block.

This would help rural masses get themselves acquainted with the developments that were taking around them and also making them realise the role they were to play in keeping the democracy hail and healthy.

Welcoming the gathering, the CEO of HiH, Kalpana Sankar, said the organisation had its presence in five districts and was working for the development of disadvantaged groups, especially rural and tribal families, through grassroots action, research and education.

Around 1,300 volunteers had been identified to promote the ideals of HiH and work along with the Government for bringing about a perceptible change in the lives of the poor and voiceless.

Mr. Venkat Reddy of M.V. Foundation, Hyderabad, Mr. Percy Barnevik, management specialist, and others participated in the function.

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