

Anti Cracker Deepawali campaign

Objective: To spread the message of reducing pollution, maintain hygiene and save money

Theme: Celebrating Diwali in an eco-friendly way. Initiative to be taken to celebrate anti cracker Deepawali

Tools:-

1). **Skit:** It included points to prove that crackers are not healthy for human beings as well as animals and harms our environment in a catastrophic way. Some of the points which the skit tried to depict are as follows-

- Cause harm to environment
- Cause of fatal diseases
- A person burning crackers might get hurt
- Pathetic condition of the workers involved in the crackers manufacturing industries.
- Wastage of money
- Cleanliness

2). Question answer session

3). Debate and discussion

The members of the Pallavan Social Service visited a village, Munderi in the vicinity. As the festival of lights, i.e. Diwali falls in this month of October, the school committee decided to spread a message of celebrating Deepawali in eco-friendly way and took this issue as the theme of the month. The visit was aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of burning crackers. The students tried to depict the problems caused by the burning of crackers through a skit. It included scene no. 1,2 and 3 presenting harms caused in the environment, diseases caused by pollution, problems which the child labourers in crackers factory face in their lives respectively. In the end the children gave a message on how can we celebrate eco-friendly Diwali.

After performing the skit, a discussion was held between the villagers and the league members. The response of the first question was quite positive. A boy stood up and pledged not to burn crackers. However, it was not easy as it sounded to us. One of the villagers initiated an argument regarding the use of crackers in cities. One of our teachers convinced the man by telling him that we were only there to spread the message, it is they who see the wrong and the right and choose which way to follow. The students realised the importance of 'not preaching others' but stating and making them aware of what causes harm and what does not.

Many villagers came and showed interest in celebrating Diwali by not burning crackers but by just lighting a lamp to illuminate the right path to sweep away the darkness of ignorance. All of us were motivated and filled with the zest to make this Diwali less polluting, less disease causing, full of joys and sweet delights for those who suffer.

