



The Indian Academy News Paper Clips Eye Donation Camp

Gift a vision
A CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

The Times of India organised an eye donation fortnight in the district recently. The event emphasised the need to make people, especially children, aware about the importance of eye donation.

Let others see with your eyes

Angali Nouryol
mangalore.com

The event on annual forum, was aimed to make people aware about the importance of eye donation. It was sponsored by Director of Medical Health and Family Welfare, who maintained that there is a dire need to make children aware about the importance of eye donation.

Children should especially be reminded so that they can make eye donation a family tradition, after they understanding the importance of the noble act of eye donation. As the slogan goes, if permanent practices have to be witnessed from it is the younger generation that needs to be tapped.

Posters depicting the significance of eye donation made by children of different schools were displayed at the venue of the event, and the most impressive ones were duly awarded with trophies, medals and certificates. If 'Give an eye, don't be shy' was the slogan written on one painting then another said 'A gift of twenty, a blessing for eternity'. Though in their teenage years, children expressed their vision most effectively while they showcased their drawings, painting and sketching skills.

Dr SP Shakti, DC, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Dehration, addressed the students and apprised them about health care and the need to donate eyes, so that others can have light. He understood how over an individual is gone, his or her eyes can keep seeing. He urged the students to spread the message of eye donation in their family and neighborhood. This was one of the best ways in which they could serve society, he asserted.

It was inferred on the occasion that majority of blindness affects young victims and therefore the disease cannot be replaced by a

child donor cornea. But the cost associated with procurement, maintaining standards in processing the tissue and transplantation could be met by eye-cornea donations.

VS Subraman, a parent, present on the occasion said that it was important to tell the new generation that they can be part of the medical breakthrough and make someone's dream come true by donating their eyes. He said that

schools should make this a compulsory activity through NCC and NSS and science or health clubs.

Neha Gupta, a teacher by profession, asserted, "We tend to take our eyes for granted and hardly take care of them. This is what needs to be corrected. This negligence must be stopped right away. We must understand that eyes are important not only for us but also for others, if we choose to gift them. And

this understanding comes through initiatives such as these."

Dr SS Pandey, state programme officer for eye control, emphasised that it is an imperative of present times to leave behind a vision for the sake of others. "There can be no better way to be meaningful as a human being than by being useful in some way that is worthwhile, such as by enabling someone to see through your own eyes and spreading light in their world of darkness. Eyes are a precious gift to mankind by God, and we must be wise to use them well when alive and also after we have this world," he emphasised. "We must all pledge our eyes to signify the pledge card and becoming a donor. We must also carry a donor card while travelling and share our decision with our family members with a sense of seriousness and a sense of belongingness to the world community."

A signature campaign was also conducted wherein children and guests present, signed messages relating to eye donation.

Dr RC Ramesh, an eye specialist with a city hospital, avers that our eyes can change someone's life. "Doha done is made done; we must not think twice about donating eyes and other organs."

Dr Amit Singh, a well-known eye specialist of the town, asserted, "Whenever a death occurs in any neighbourhood, it is the duty of family members to inform the nearest eye bank as per the wishes of the deceased."

Arise Himant Shikpur, when she got to know of the programme, appreciated the initiative and asserted, "These activities are meaningful and urge us to get out of our apathy, think positively and act on an issue that can make a huge difference in the life of the affected. We may not make it now, but in the years to come we could be the ones at the receiving end."

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