

Awareness programme on skin donation launched in schools across Mumbai

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Thanks to the kidney racket that today children are aware of the concept of kidney transplants, however, not many children know about skin donation. Doctors and social workers from National Burns Centre in Airoli have taken up this daunting task of creating awareness on skin donation through lectures in schools across Mumbai.

Starting with Swami Vivekananda High School and Junior College in Chembur, the team will visit several schools in the city. "Last week we finished with Swami Vivekananda School, this week we are planning to take up six other schools in Airoli and five in Chembur," said Dr SM Keswani, cosmetic surgeon from National Burns Centre, who initiated the programme.

Since the last 35 years, Burns Association of India

has been successfully conducting series of lectures on burns and prevention of burns. "International association of burns has awarded the Burns Association of India for their unique contribution to burns prevention programme. But this year we are shifting focus to skin donation as it is the need of the hour," said Keswani.

"Involving children is very important as it is said that a child is the father of man. Awareness is very important

in all ages, but something learnt in early age will be remembered later," added Keswani.

The 45-minute presentation also includes awareness about donations of other body parts either live, dead or brain dead. This is followed by a question-answer round.

"Children are not aware that skin as an organ can be donated. Many queries were put forth by students. One of them asked why are we being taught about skin do-

nation, when it should be taught to elders to which the doctor replied that children should teach their grandparents and parents," said Bina Gole, principal of Swami Vivekananda High School and Junior College. The lecture was given to 500 students of class eight and nine.

"Apart from skin donation, children were also informed about the harmful effects of cosmetics on the skin. Timely intervention can help these children who will soon go to different col-

leges," added the principal.

"The biggest problem for the doctors is time. Hence, it becomes imperative to involve non-governmental organizations that are willing to take up the task. We will cover 80 schools across Mumbai and about 230 schools will be taken by the Rotary Club," said Keswani.

Once the programme takes off successfully in schools, it will be launched in colleges and NCC cadets in colleges will also be roped in.