

THE HINDU

Visiting officials impressed with welfare projects implementation

Zero Waste Centre in Pammal an eye-opener, they say

Special Correspondent:

TAMBARAM: Visiting officials from several developing countries are impressed with the welfare schemes being implemented in Tamil Nadu. Some of them even want to replicate a few of programmes back home.

A total of 21 officials from Egypt, Zambia, Indonesia, Nepal, Djibouti, Ethiopia and the Philippines, besides Denmark, visited the State recently as part of the International Learning Exchange programme of United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UNICEF India and the Central Government launched the programme one year ago to facilitate developing countries to share their experiences on providing better water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, particularly to benefit children.

On Saturday, the 21-member delegation visited the Zero Waste Centre of Pammal Municipality. The centre has been set up with the participation of the State government, Exnora International, Pepsico and residents of the municipality.

Representatives of UNICEF in Tamil Nadu said the delegation visited Periyakattupakkam village in Tirukazhukundram Block in Kancheepuram district. The village was a recipient of the Nirmal Gram Puraskar award for implementing sanitation schemes under the Total Sanitation Campaign. The delegation went to government schools, where school sanitation programmes were in place.



MAKING AN IMPACT: A delegation of officials, part of a UNICEF programme, visited the Zero Waste Centre of Pammal Municipality on Saturday. – PHOTO: A. MURALITHARAN

They also got an idea of the newly-launched Activity-Based Learning in primary classes.

Speaking to reporters, Fiona Waid, Technical Officer, Supply Division of UNICEF in Denmark, said they were impressed with the novel initiatives of implementing welfare schemes with the participation of the beneficiaries, in addition to corporate houses and the governments. The Zero Waste Centre in Pammal was an eye-opener, Ms. Fiona said.

"We have also observed that many water bodies are being polluted due to discharge of effluents and sewage. This has to be stopped," she said.

While appreciating the Zero Waste Centre for recycling plastic waste, she suggested that the government focus on reducing the quantity of garbage generated at source.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene specialist at UNICEF Indonesia Zhenbo Yang said when it came to handling solid waste, Indonesia faced similar

problems. The Pammal model of solid waste management was worthy of replicating in Indonesia, Mr. Yang said, adding he would recommend to the government to implement it.

V. Karunanidhi, Pammal Municipal Chairman, Mangalam Balasubramanian of Exnora Green, Pammal, and representatives from Pepsico and UNICEF India were present. The delegation also interacted with municipal authorities, school students and Pammal residents.