

Cuddalore kids attempt to paint pollution away

Express News Service

Chennai, August 19

THEY did not know how to articulate the problems of pollution they faced in their surroundings. Neither do they know how to give scientific explanations to the sufferings they undergo because of contamination of the air and water. But they discovered art as the best medium to express their anguish and concern over the large-scale pollution caused by industries in Cuddalore SIPCOT.

Ten students from two schools in Cuddalore presented their paintings, done at a workshop conducted by Blodsow, a Chennai-based artist, in Book Point on Anna Salai on Thursday.

More than 300 students from city schools came to see the exhibition and interacted with these children on issues of pollution under the guidance of the members of Community Environmental Monitoring. "I asked them to take a handful of the polluted soil from Sangolikuppam and Semmankuppam in Cuddalore SIPCOT area. We made a paste out of this soil, spread it on the white sheet and then I asked the children to draw whatever they wanted with charcoal. I did not give them any directions on what should be drawn. So what you see on the paper is their concern about the polluted air and water in their locality," Blodsow said.

"Now we do not eat fish from the lake near our house. The water is polluted because of the industrial effluent flowing into it. Our entire locality stinks, making people fall ill," Sreekumar, a Class VI student said. All the paintings had imageries of destruction caused by pollution. The children shared their sufferings with the city students. A short film on environmental pollution in Cuddalore SIPCOT was also screened during the programme.