

Now, 'Bal Swachhta Puraskar' to motivate students on cleanliness

A primary school in Kaushambi district has taken a novel initiative to educate students about the importance of cleanliness. Individual students from each class are feted with 'Bal Swachhta Puraskar' every month after their performance is assessed on a number of parameters.

Taking cue from the central government's Bal Swachhta Mission (a part of 'Swachh Bharat Mission'), the school in Perai area of Newada block acknowledges the 'clean work' of students by giving them a certificate and a gift hamper comprising soap, toothpaste, etc. "We have formed a Bal Swachhta Committee in the school comprising a few students and teachers. Certain yardsticks are followed to assess students on cleanliness. For instance, if they wash hands before and after the Mid-Day meal, use school toilets instead of open defecation, dispose of waste in dustbins, etc," explained Hari Om Singh, assistant teacher of the school.

Singh said students could play a major role in achieving a 'Swachh Bharat' – they can become ambassadors of cleanliness and motivate others to keep their homes, schools, and surroundings clean.

"Cleanliness habits can be inculcated among children through informal activities like small games and interactions with other children," he added.

The result has been very encouraging as students are maintaining good health and hygiene. They are also encouraged to ask their parents, relatives and neighbours to maintain cleanliness. The Bal Swachhta Committee keeps a tab on students and honours them at the end of every month. The winners are selected for each classroom, said the teacher. This month, students who were felicitated included: Monu Kumar of Class 5; Rashmi Kumari of Class 4; Kajal Devi of Class 3; Rashmi Devi of Class 2 and Ansh Kumar of Class 1. Now, other schools in Kaushambi are encouraging students to stay clean by organising similar contests.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD

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