

22 Anganwadis, 4 LP schools in Ekm district get new life

Anantha.K1@timesgroup.com

Kochi: The Shreshta Balyam project by National Service Scheme (NSS) and Vocational Higher Secondary Education Department (VHSE) that envisages renovating the social infrastructure of old Anganwadi and primary school buildings have been completed in the district successfully. A total of 22 Anganwadis and four lower primary schools in Ernakulam have got upgraded sanitation and electrical facilities, roofing, flooring, child-friendly paintings, play area, etc at an average cost of Rs 60,000 per institution.

SHRESHTA BALYAM

The fundraising and renovation works were completed by around 1,500 NSS volunteers of 26 vocational higher secondary schools in the district with the help of teachers. A programme will be held in the district on December 2 to honour the students and teachers who were part of the programme in Ernakulam.

"The project was started as part of the golden jubilee of NSS and also the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The plan was to identify Anganwadis and LP schools which were in a dilapidated state and adopt them by each NSS unit in the district. At first we identified the necessities of each school and later drafted an action plan. After collecting the requisite funds with the help of local elected representatives and crowdfunding,



NSS volunteers paint the wall of SRV LP School, Kochi

the students themselves started the work," said NSS district coordinator Vipul Murali.

Apart from cleaning and upgrading the basic infrastructure facilities, child-friendly paintings and drawings were also installed in the classrooms and boundary walls to enhance the learning atmosphere of the students. At some schools, white boards, new fans, tubelights, etc were installed. Some schools were provided with water tanks.

"The state-level consolidation of the project will be held on December 4. All the volunteers and teachers will be honoured with a gift pack and certificate. Around 254 Anganwadis and 70 LP schools in the state were renovated at a cost of Rs 1 crore. With the completion of the project in VHSE department, the government is now expanding the project to HSE department also," said NSS (VHSE) state programme coordinator P Ranjith.

As part of the project, water purifiers will be installed in more than 50% of the institutions with the help of funding from a leading bank.