

# Light at the end of the tunnel - By Mahalakshmi .B

Children are very receptive and curious to learn things and would love to dig deep when something new is been told to them, they only need direction.

During one of the classroom session on urban issues to the 8th graders, one student stood up and spoke, ma'am please don't tell us on issues/ problem that is very evident right from the power cut to filthy stinking smell emanating inside home from the outside garbage, which by and large every individual are experiencing.

I don't want to experience this day in day out, it is frustrating, I want to:

- \* Rest well at night without power break ups
- \* Have regular bath and wear fresh clothes everyday
- \* If not cycling I would love to walk to school safely on the footpath without the fear of vehicles brushing against me
- \* I am not willing to wet my already torn shoes due to the seepage from open chamber outside my school and I have the fear of accidentally falling in
- \* I want to be attentive in the class without having to close my nose and mouth while the heaps and heaps of garbage is lying outside and growing more and more everyday
- \* Before I start with my homework in the evening I would love to play with my friends in open

Phew....

I was shocked; I wish I had a magical wand in my hand abracadabra.....turn all this right, with a moment of hesitation, I immediately shot back with a question.

It is not that we didn't have all this...

We at one point did have all this and more, we are the sole reason for this predicament too. But we have in each one of us to retrieve whatever we have lost, It is never too late.

Yes/No?

After lots of discussion and giving examples shared by the adults at home –

One stood up and told, YES ma'am - We can work towards it and it is in our hands.

Hurrah, I was relieved to hear this...

Well how many of you are willing to act and do in a small measurable ways to make a difference to our children? Measurable doesn't mean money here, it is inculcating, getting sensitized on issues which might not affect us directly but our small effective step can make a significant difference to the greater community.

Whosoever is fortunate not to have experienced these can learn to:

- \* Conserve water and electricity
- \* Can segregate the garbage diligently in spite of whether the neighbor is doing or not
- \* Not to litter or park vehicles on the footpath which can cause hindrance to the pedestrians
- \* If you are not the resident of the place if you witness some open chamber, you may take few minutes from your valuable time to report on this, which might save someone's life

List can be endless.....

Ultimately each one of us can take up one civic issue and work in a small way, I am sure, good actions are also viral it will catch up with ten other people and sooner or later we will definitely be able to make remarkable difference.

I promise to consciously conserve water, not to litter and to avoid plastic covers.

What is yours?

Conclusion -

"A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied,

"Well, I made a difference to that one!"

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.

- Adapted from the Star Thrower by Loren C. Eiseley"