

REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR TORTURE VICTIMS [RCTV]

(An initiative of PEOPLE'S WATCH – TAMILNADU)

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17.05.06

Tree planting by Children attending the Summer Camp

Children of torture victims who are presently attending a summer camp at Mahatma Montessori School, Alagar Kovil, walked all the way to the nearby village Azhagapuri and gave free tree saplings to the villagers.

This 10 day camp that is being held for children on behalf of the Rehabilitation Centre of Torture Victims of People's Watch - Tamil Nadu began on Monday. In this summer camp that is being held ever year for the past five years, children of torture survivors and persons who died of torture are taking part. 250 children are taking part in this camp that is being held for the fifth consecutive year. This camp will go on till the 20th of May.

Unlike other summer camps this is a camp with a difference. Here, these children who have lost their childhood, having witnessed the death of their parents or close relatives, are comforted and are made to hone their creativity and taught art, leadership skills, dance, yoga and naturopathy.

In an important event of the camp, the children set out in a procession from Alagar Kovil to the nearby Azhagapuri Village yesterday and gave hundred saplings of shade giving trees to the villagers, stressing the importance of taking care of the environment. Advocate Mr. C. J. Rajan, the Senior Coordinator of Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims presided over the function. Advocate Mr. Vanniyaperumal gave a special address on the occasion and the children handed over the free saplings to villagers in the presence of the village elders. Then the children and the villagers planted the saplings in the village. They also visited the places where the saplings planted last year by the children from the Summer Camp had grown into trees. This is the third consecutive year that the children have been going by walk to nearby villages and donating saplings. It can be said without an inkling of doubt that this ceremony has created awareness on environment among the children and adults alike.