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## **Coimbatore Corporation to focus on hygiene in schools**

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COIMBATORE: Apart from focussing on improving the quality of education, the Coimbatore Corporation has drawn up measures to ensure health and hygiene among the students in its schools.

Teaching personal hygiene and clean toilet habits and also conducting periodical dental, eye and general health camps are among the many measures the Corporation is planning to carry out from this academic year.

The main focus is on all the 45 primary schools where the approach of teaching them while young is to be adopted.

Besides, 12 middle schools that have primary sections will also be covered.

“Three urban health nurses are to be posted in each of these schools to monitor the children and teach them clean habits,” says Corporation Commissioner Anshul Mishra.

“The health nurses are a good resource not being used properly. This programme will use their potential,” he says.

“They will provide health and basic hygiene education to the students.”

Orientation for the nurses began on Thursday with sessions on accessing information through computers.

The Corporation will conduct basic health check-up camps in each of these schools to identify children with general health problems.

Specific problems will be identified through eye and dental camps. Mobile dental clinics may carry out check-up and scaling.

All these constitute primary health care for students in their schools, the Commissioner explains.

The schools will also have user-friendly toilets and the children will be taught how to use these.

The Commissioner points out that most of the children come from very poor families.

They need to be told of the consequences of open defecation and urination.

Large images of bacteria and viruses will be displayed in the schools in order to warn the children of the risks from unclean habits.

“We need to tell them about some basic things relating to healthy food and practices,” the Commissioner says.

All the Corporation schools will have dining halls and plates will be provided to students.