

BMC BRINGS 1,000 STUDENTS ON BOARD TO FIGHT MALARIA, DENGUE

By Ankita Bhatkhande, Mumbai Mirror | Sep 7, 2015, 09.20 AM IST

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With cases of dengue, malaria and H1N1 cases on the rise, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has roped in 1,000 students as part of its elaborate campaign to spread awareness and detect cases at an earlier stage.

The initiative is funded by the SD Welfare Trust and will be implemented by United Ways of Mumbai in association with the Mumbai Health Mission of the civic body. Around 1,000 students from 40 NSS units of colleges in the city are currently being trained for the month-long campaign, which will focus on generating awareness amongst various communities on the symptoms of the diseases, and immediate precautions.

"It is essential to train students in various aspects of the monsoon ailments before engaging them in awareness drives. These trainings will be imparted by a team of expert officials from municipal wards, comprising of the Medical Officer, Health (MOH), Pest Control Officer (PCO) and Community Development Officer (CDO) or experts from non-profit organisations working in the field of community health.

"In 2010, around 76,000 cases of malaria were reported, which we managed to bring down to less than 10,000 last year. Now, we want to bring it down further and make it nil eventually.

"For this, we need participation from all quarters and youth participation is the most important as they can convince their families and friends to adopt safer and more hygienic measures for malaria and dengue prevention," said Dr Santosh Revankar, Deputy Executive Health Officer, MCGM.

Apart from awareness about these diseases, they will also help people get to public hospitals closest to their homes and follow up on treatment to ensure they do not stop it at any stage.

"Mumbai is humid and this is the time when the transmission of malaria is at its peak. The programme aims to heighten the awareness among communities and induce behavioural change," said Dr Padamaja Keskar, Deputy Executive Health Officer, Family Welfare & Mother-Child Health, MCGM.

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