

IN FULL ATTENDANCE: Children Perform Gall Bladder Surgery, Assemble Explorer Cars, Create Polymers

Kids revel in hands-on Science

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When kids from Blessing Home, an orphanage in Gedalahalli, trooped into the Emergency Room at the Edinburgh International Science Festival here on Friday, they found sick Bob. They saw an LCD screen with an endoscope and grabbers on the side table. The 10-year-old children had a tough job on hand -- operate on Bob, remove his gall bladder stones, excise the cysts and treat his injured thigh.

With an expert to guide them, the kids performed their first surgery perfectly. "I enjoyed the surgery. Holding the stones with the grabber, was a little difficult as I had to see it on the screen as it was a pinhole surgery.

But I guess I did a good job," said 11-year-old Ruth Blessy, a Class 6 student of St Michael High School.

Elsewhere in Bhartiya City, the venue of the festival, Sania Chacko from the same home enjoyed the world of bubbles. Be it the science behind automatic doors in

James Bond movies or the coldest substance on Earth, the nine-day event has something in store for everyone.

"I enjoyed the surgery in the ER. This place is wonderful. I learnt so many things which I'd never have understood from a book," said Narmada Devi, a Class 9 student of New Baldwins School.

The Light and Sound Pavilion was a huge hit. "Wavelength and frequency are complicated concepts but the pavilion made it easy to understand," said R Lawrence, of Class 8 in Maria Niketan High School.

From assembling explorer cars to creating polymers, the hands-on experiments gave them practical knowledge. "I didn't know liquid nitrogen is the coldest substance and never seen it. I also enjoyed the Maths Master. Now, I have loads of tricks for fast calculation now," said S Parameshwari, a Class 5 student of St Mary's Girls School.



MAGICAL WORLD: Children watch in rapt attention as a volunteer performs an experiment on Day 1 of the Edinburgh International Science Festival in Bangalore on Friday

Making Science fun for children

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Don't rely on books, make learning hands-on. That's the way to teach Science to children, feels Simon Gage, director, Edinburgh International Science Festival. He's confident of a positive response in Bangalore. After all, children are the same everywhere,

he says.

The passion for pure Science is diminishing in India and across the world...

Research says that passion for pure Science is dwindling in developing countries. It's true for India too because youngsters are opting for careers like engineering where they see more opportunities. In developed

nations, people have a variety of other options, therefore, Science gets sidelined. Science is more important for a developing country as it fuels innovation. India has huge talent.

How can one make Science more popular?

Teach it well. Schools need to be better equipped in terms of resources and have an active curriculum. Science articles should appear frequently in newspapers and festivals should be encouraged. Science-busking is becoming popular in Britain. Conducting events in museums, cinemas, art galleries, botanical gardens and parks can make the subject fun.



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