

Learning to enjoy education

At this camp students learnt how the basics of life can be made interesting.

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Sudhapriya, a Std. VIII student, took a quick look at the science displays at the Anna Science Centre before queuing for the planetarium show. Her homesick friends, meanwhile, waited for her at the doorway raring to go home.

After four days of intensive training on leadership at Karur, the students were on their way to their respective villages when they halted at the centre for a brief stint. In all, 65 students selected from various villages across the State gathered at Karur for the camp.

Mary Anne Charity Trust, Chennai-based non-governmental organisation, conducted leadership camp as a part of its "Children's movement." The students, selected from 29 villages in three districts including Tiruchi, Pudukottai and Kancheepuram, were chosen democratically. Each



STUDY HOUR: Students on an educational visit at the planetarium. PHOTO: R. ASHOK

village had election for their representatives and children were the voters.

Participants had discussions on social issues, personality development training and educational tours.

"We focus on imparting education to the children involved in do-

mestic labours. This apart, villages that we have adopted in Tiruchi and Pudukottai district witnessed massive tree planting campaign. Each child was assigned the job of nurturing one tree. The project has picked up pretty well," the executive director of the Trust, Cyril Alexander, said.

Students were enthusiastic when asked about the project: "We are given identity cards and trainers have taught us ways to rear a tree. We have also learnt to give petitions putting across our demands," a student from Kancheepuram said.

Coordinators in each village play

the role of facilitators for the children who take up responsibilities in bringing about a positive change in their area.

At the Anna Science Centre Planetarium, they watched a show on astronomy and learnt the basics of sciences through interactive kiosks.