

No more waste: Mumbaikars learn to create art from junk

Seema.Mattoo@timesgroup.com

In a positive move, 2018 saw Mumbaikars becoming more environmentally conscious and responsible. Taking a step ahead, many people are now aggressively involved in teaching and training children in issues revolving around the environment. Recently, one such workshop, which aimed at raising environment-consciousness, was held where children were taught to create art from junk. Parents as well as kids took keen interest in the concept and were seen engaging in activities.

Parinita Choudhary, who attended the workshop with her two children, said, "Children are fast learners and they are the best when it comes to spreading any message. I've taught my children how to keep their surroundings clean and this workshop was all about going one step ahead — teaching them to use junk to create things that can be used again. It was

mandatory to get junk from home and they were excited to get their old T-shirts, my *duppata* and newspapers, to create many things. I'm sure that they will use this knowledge later, too."

REPAIR AND REPURPOSE JUNK

The workshop was all about highlighting repair, repurpose and upcycling as the alternate to the 'use and throw' culture. And to get kids interested their were repurpose fashion workshop, creative craft engagements, kitchen waste gardening, clay moulding, musical puppet drama, rhythm music circle and a book swap corner. Explaining the initiative, organiser of the event, Oindrila Purohit, said, "When I was growing up, repairing old dolls and mending broken toys were normal part of play. I presumed the same shall be for my child. However, today it is tough to find things that are not for 'one time use only.' Use and throw is a culture our kids are growing up in. With so much being said about environmental preservation and minimalism as a sustainable lifestyle, we felt that it is important our kids know that repair and repurpose is a possibility. This was the thought behind initiating the Junk Art Festival."

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A rhythm circle where children and parents played to the beats with PVC pipes



This coconut shell has been transformed into a planter

WHAT DID THE JUNK GET TRANSFORMED INTO?

- ▶ Pre-worn T-shirts got repurposed as tote bags
- ▶ White scarves redesigned with tie-dye
- ▶ Empty coconut shells were made into planters
- ▶ Newspapers became art canvas
- ▶ Plastic bags were recycled to create trendy bands of friendship