

Dreams flying high

Children affected by DMD and SMA spent a fun evening at Codissia in Coimbatore, learning how to fly kites

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Over the last two decades, technology has greatly advanced offering the medical world several highly advanced scanners and detectors. Some of these instruments are even capable of detecting an anomaly that is still in its nascent stages and in turn, help save millions of lives.

However, even with such advancements in the field of science there are, to this day, certain diseases and genetic disorders that still do not have a cure. MDCRC (Molecular Diagnostics, Counseling, and Care & Research Centre, a not-for-profit charitable organisation that works in the area of public health with specific focus on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), two lethal genetic disorders, have found close to 1,500 afflicted children across various cities in the south. Their primary objective is to educate people about these disorders and to that effect, they organised comprehensive multi-disciplinary care for



Students affected by muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy learn to fly kites

children suffering from the two genetic disorders, and a fun evening with kites.

Dr. B.R. Lakshmi from the MRDC foundation said, "There was only one reason for us to have this event — to make it a day to remember. We had two professionals from Kite Life Foundation in Kerala teaching the kids how to make kites and fly them. We chose to do it Codissia at Coimbatore because there was more than ample place for the kites to really take to the skies."

"DMD and SMA are genetic disorders that only affect the muscles of the body but the children affected by them are highly intelligent. If guided well and taken care of right from an early age, they can live the



rest of their lives comfortably. We organise such events annually to raise awareness and also, along with our team of doctors, help ease their pain in different ways. Children with DMD and SMA need various types of multidisciplinary care involving Pediatrics, Neurology, Orthopedics, Pulmonology and Cardiology, which we offer to the children and their parents for free," she added. The two-day event helped 36

children and their parents understand the disorder better and return home with loads of memories. A parent at the event shared, "This is the first fun outing that my son has had in a while. He's a computer genius, but watching him learn how to make and fly a kite really made me feel so proud. I hope they will be many more initiatives because it's important that people are made aware of DMD and SMA."