1. O/L English Support Materials by RCF: Possible Essay Topics: A Model Essay on the Dengue Menace

Dengue fever which is known as a breakbone fever has created havoc in Sri Lanka. Since January 2010, 27142 dengue cases and 195 death have been reported.

Dengue is transmitted by the bite of an Aedes mosquito infected with any one of the four dengue viruses. Dengue fever is a febrile illness that affects infants, young children and adults.

The government has taken serious measures to control the dengue menace. Sri Lankan Health officials took speedy measures to import Plasma Expander from Thailand. The Plasma Expander will be given to patients identified as worst affected dengue cases. The plasma Expander is used to increase or expand the volume of Plasma in blood which is decreased in dengue infected patients. This Plasma Expander, Dextran 40 is no miracle cure for dengue but is an effective intravenous fluid that can help control dengue related deaths.

The government of Sri Lanka is in the process of importing BTI Bacteria from Cuba. Meanwhile locally produced BTI Bacteria is also available in the market.

However Sri Lanka is taking a cue from Thailand in lowering dengue related deaths & taken necessary steps to arrest the dengue epidemic. May all these gestures along with the gestures rendered by the general public prevent this epidemic from the island.
In addition to these measures, Dengue Preventions Campaigns are also held islandwide. Public Servants, Members of the Security Forces, School Children take part in these campaign to make the public aware about Dengue breeding places. They also help in cleaning badly kept gardens in both private & public institutions.

Media Institutions also broadcast programmes to educate the public on this menace. These institutions are also involved in other campaigns to eradicate this disease.

 2. O/L English Study Materials by RCF: A Model Essay on Vandalism.

Vandalism

Vandalism is wilful and deliberate destruction of public property by anti-social and irresponsible citizens. It can be of various forms. It is not uncommon to see that the walls of buildings are defaced with scratches or ugly marks. Another target of vandalism is the bus shelter. Scratches on the newly painted seats or even broken seats at these shelters hardly escape the attention of those who wait there for the bus. If we travel by bus we will find that seats are often ripped open and the foam pulled out or vulgar writing on the back of seats.

What causes this kind of behavior? The reasons are many. Some youths show hatred for the society and its values. These irresponsible citizens out of frustrations in life are tempted to do these undesirable acts ofvandalism. They do not have a sense of belonging or loyalty towards their society or nation. In some cases it could be for drawing attention to themselves or just a desire to see their names written in prominent places.

Vandalism is not exclusive in our society in Sri Lanka, it could be a social ill in other countries too. Although there are strict laws to prevent vandalismin every country it is rather impossible to enforce the laws strictly. One way to eradicate or reduce the rate of vandalism is to instill civic sense into the citizens, besides of course, the introduction of compulsory education up to the age of sixteen. Vandalism can be curbed to some extent if the government law imposes severe penalty on those caught in the act. But the permanent solution is inculcating the right values including respect for public property in all the young citizens. If people start regarding that public property is their property, they will not want to spoil it. Schools can provide a healthy atmosphere for children to form healthy attitudes and this in turn would make them realise the values of discipline in life.

All of us should realize that we deprive our children of their heritage if we deface beautiful things and damage public property.