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Cloth bags distributed in AGS Colony

The local Association takes the initiative to wean residents off plastic bags

L. Kanthimathi

n the third week of October, AGS Colony Residents Welfare Association distributed 300 cloth bags to families in this residential locality in West Velachery.

"Custom-made, these bags have a holding capacity of 10 kg and different compartments, one for fruits, another for vegetables and so on," says Geetha Garesh, secretary, AGS Colony Residents Welfare Association.

The Association also approached commercial establishments and vendors in the neighbourhood and educated them about the ban on plastics that comes into effect

on January 1, 2019. "We were happy to note that a few commercial establishments have even installed a board in front of their shops requesting customers to bring cloth bags, 'says Geetha Ganesh. AGS Colony Residents Welfare Association has plans to conduct work shops-cum-competitions for children about the different types of plastic, recycling of plastic, hazards of using plastic and solid-waste management.

AGS Colony Residents Welfare Association can be reached at 98402 29774

SHGs to help provide **alternatives** to plastic items

D. Madhavan

The Greater Chennal Corporation has roped in self-help groups (SHGs) to make alternatives to plastic bags and cups and provide them at a nominal cost to small traders and vendors within its limits.

Forty percent of the traders found in the 15 zones of the civic body are amall traders, including tea shop owners, fruits and vegetable sellers. They are among the biggest users of plastic bags and cups with thickness below 40 microns, which were banned by the civic body in August this year as a prelide to the comprehensive ban on single use and throwsway plastic items from January 2019. "We have roped in SHGs to provide these small traders with cups and bags made

of paper, at a nominal cost. Many traders have already started to use paper bags. and other covering materials," says a Corporation official,

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