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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

**Religious Stigma Stands a Barrier to Eye Donation – says
Ophthalmologist**

National Service Scheme (NSS) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and Sankar Eye Centre jointly organized Eye Donation Awareness programme at Anna Auditorium, TNAU on 7-9-2015. Eye Donation Awareness fortnight is observed worldwide every year between Aug. 20 and Sept. 8.

Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU, Coimbatore in his presidential address stated that Tamil Nadu ranks first in India in eye donation and there is increasing awareness on blood, eye and other organ donations. He called on NSS volunteers to be forerunners in activities which will be blissful and he made the gathering realizing the importance of eyes by closing them for a minute. The crowd felt the trauma of the blind.

The activity followed the special address by Dr. Rajath Kapoor, Ophthalmologist, Sankara Eye Centre who gave detailed description of Eye bank, removal of eyes and fixing of artificial eyes within six hours demise of a person. He said that religious stigma that eye less body cannot reach the heaven stands a barrier to eye donation. He called on young volunteers to break the superstitions and become sight ambassadors to excel in eye donation and also create awareness among the public. Except a few injections conditions, the eyes of all persons from the age of four can be transplanted, he added.

250 NSS volunteers, Dr. K. Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator, TNAU, Programme officers Dr. Guru, Dr. M.R. Latha, Dr. Hema, Dr, Sakthivel and Dr. Hemavathy, Sankara Eye Centre, PRO Mr. Vigneswaran and Mr. Arunachalam of Eye Donation AC Trust participated in this Eye Donation Camp.

Earlier Ms. Keerthana, NSS Volunteer, TNAU welcomed the gathering. Finally Ms. Dhanalakshmi proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Asst. Public Relations Officer