

Darkness after 'Holi' day for 11-year old

BANGALORE, DHNS: For 11-year-old Sunil Kumar, Holi revelry proved to be costly, as chemicals in the colours have severely damaged the cornea of his right eye.

Sunil, a student of class 5, was frolicking with his friends when some revellers threw colour right into his eye.

Examination on his right eye showed that there was severe chemical toxicity in his eyes with his eye lids and conjunctiva swelling up. Dr Arum Samprathi of Samprathi Eye Hospital said, "There has been a serious damage to his cornea and the prognosis of vision is difficult to predict. He will have to undergo treatment for the next four to six weeks at least."

Sunil's father Hukumchand said, "A bunch of unidentified revellers who were pelting eggs at everybody suddenly threw the toxic green colour into his right eye. It began to water because he started rubbing it." Soon, Sunil began to experience severe pain in his right eye along with fading vision, and was immediately rushed to



Sunil Kumar

the hospital.

A closer examination revealed that the colours used were extremely strong and had stained the tissues in the front part of the eye. Doctors apparently had to peel off the tissues to clean the eye.

Several colours contain harmful chemicals like lead oxide, copper sulphate and mercury sulphite that can cause allergies, bleeding inside the eye and temporary blindness. In more severe cases, the toxic chemicals can even result in glaucoma, retinal detachments and permanent loss of vision.

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