## "PRUTEKT" - AN AWARENESS PROGRAM WAS CONDUCTED ON "PREVENTION OF SEXUAL OFFENCE AGAINST CHILDREN"

"Children Are The Future Citizens Of Our Nation"

Children need healthy environment for the overall development. Any unpleasant or untoward incident of abuse leaves a mark on the young impressionable minds.

Sexual offence against children is being reported in the media. So to sensitize the budding dental professionals against this sensitive issue and to create an awareness about it, A program titled "PRUTEKT – Prevention Of Sexual Offence Against Children" was conducted by the Department of Pedodontics and Preventive dentistry under the aegis of our beloved principal Dr. Chitra.R.Chandran on 27.4.16 at the Auditorium of Tagore Dental College and Hospital.

Three eminent speakers shared their knowledge and experience. The first speaker Dr. Kulandai Kasthuri M.D (pediatrics) former director of ICH Egmore and presently working as HOD of Pediatrics, Tagore Medical College and Hospital discussed in detail about "Child Sexual Abuse" and various signs and symptoms of such abused children.

Understanding the psychology of the abuser and the abused is imperative to prevent the occurrence of such incidents in future. So the second talk of the day was a presentation titled "Child Abuse And Abuser Stigma" by Dr. R. PradeepM.D(psychiatry), Asst. Professor of psychiatry at Tagore Medical College And Hospital on the importance of psychological counselling in these cases.

Third lecture of the day – "Prevention of Sexual Offence against Children –Dental Prospective by Dr. Aruna Sharma, HOD Department of Pedodontics And Preventive Dentistry, Tagore Dental College And Hospital, focused mainly on the management of such patients in the dental office.

The program was attended by the staff and students (CRRI, Third year and Final year) of Tagore Dental College And Hospital. The lectures were very helpful for the students to understand the various aspects of sexual abuse. Steps for prevention of sexual offence against children were impressed upon the gathering.