**15.2 BLOOD DONATION CAMP**

Blood is the body fluid of warm-blooded animal that delivers oxygen and other nutrients to the cells, tissues and organs all over the body and transport metabolic waste products such as carbon dioxide, away from those cells. Blood is composed of three types of living cells *erythrocytes* **(RBC)**, *leucocytes* **(WBC)** and *thrombocytes* **(platelets).**

* It plays an important role in regulating the body’s system,
* It is pumped by heart to different parts of the body carrying oxygen and other nutrients and returns to the heart with body waste products such as carbon dioxide etc., those are then purified by different organs of the body,
* It regulates the body temperature,
* Its color is red because of hemoglobin, a protein that forms a complex substance with iron,
* Platelets clot blood at site of injury,
* Blood brings waste products to liver and kidney for purification,
* There are four types of blood groups, i.e A, B, AB and O.
* Named after “Rhesus monkey” Rh factor is a protein that may or may not be found on the surface of RBCs of human blood.
* On the basis of presence or absence of Rh factor in human blood, there are 8 types of blood groups found in human beings.
* An adult has about 6 litres of blood in its body,
* Sometimes there arises a need to transfuse blood in accidental cases or blood diseases.
* There exists no fluid that can replace the human blood.
* Human blood is the only option to supplement the insufficient volume of blood in the body.
* This vital importance justifies the demand of collection and preservation of human blood.
* Consequently “blood-donation camps” are held to fill up the pressing demand.

Cognizant of the exigency, school authorities are required to make the students aware of “voluntary blood donation”, a remuneration free activity of donating plasma or whole blood. Organizing “Blood Donation Camp” is the perfect way to cater to the demand of blood, a valuable contribution to the society and humanity.

**In order to hold a “Blood Donation Camp” steps to be followed are;**

* **Contac the Red Cross Society:** and fill up the required form.
* **Finalize a venue:** camp can be held at the site in the school recommended by the school authorities.
* **Confirm a date 2-3 weeks in advance:** after confirmation of the date Red Cross Society contacts various blood banks on school’s behalf, which usually takes 2-4 days to finalize the formalities with blood bank. Two weeks time is taken to publicize the camp.
* **Publicize the camp day:** publicity of the camp is carried out in all possible ways; online mailing, posters and standees. A collection of sample posters that the Red Cross Society provides will be helpful in publicity campaign. An awareness program, if required, can be held by Red Cross Society.
* **The pre camp work:** before the starting time of the camp, volunteers of the Red Cross Society will arrive and help in arranging the venue properly. They will plan out the decorations so that the donor feels special while donating blood at the camp. Information regarding the required things on the camp-day (such as water, electricity supply and its alternate arrangement, tables etc) will be given by the society well before time.
* **Post camp work:** Red Cross Society sends e-mail of thanks to all the donors for their valuable contribution towards the humanity. They will also be asked for feedback on the facility provided at the camp for further improvement of the activities.
* Red Cross Society use to organize the camp in collaboration with government Blood Banks. Their perception is that the government hospitals use the major quantity of blood collected by such camps is to cater for the needs of underprivileged people.

***Blood Bank is finalized on the basis of three factors,***

* ***Shortage in Blood Bank at the time***
* ***The distance of the venue from the Blood Bank***
* ***The preference of the authorities who hold the camp.***