



Mani's own story wins him prize

By Dhanya Ezhuthachan

Mani KP from Madikkayi panchayat in Kasaragod won third prize in high school boys mimicry competition held yesterday at the 52nd Kerala State School Youth Festival.

The theme for his mimicry performance was Endosulfan disaster in Enmakaje panchayat, Kasaragod. But, that was not just a theme; it was Mani's own life. Mani is blind; another victim of the dreadful Endosulfan.

Mani is a 10th standard student at Government HSS, Kasaragod. He lost his eyesight when he was in 4th standard. Endosulfan pesticide was sprayed in Madikkayi panchayat also. It gradually spread to Enmakaje panchayat. The people in both panchayats are still suffering from the after effects.

Friends Saneesh and Unni accompanied Mani to Thrissur to participate in the festival. Saneesh and Unni also have eyesight problems. Saneesh said that Mani learnt mimicry himself listening to TV programmes and movies.

This is the third time Mani participates in the state youth festival. In 2010, Mani won second prize in mimicry competition and in 2011, he got A grade in the competition.

Mani's father Kannan is doing construction works and mother Vilasini is a worker at Dinesh Beedi Company. Mani has a younger brother named Vipin.

Mani is also writing and singing poems. After his performance yesterday, Mani sang a folk song for those who gathered at the back stage to see him.

Mani said he took the Endosulfan theme to remind the world of the living victims of the lethal pesticide.

Mani went back to Kasaragod yesterday. While going back with the prize, his face was beaming.



Mani KP