



BULLETIN

OF THE

CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

(SANKAR FOUNDATION)



VOX POPULI VOX DEI....

Nearly 600 million voters, more than the combined population of the 'big four' USA, UK, Russia and France, are eligible to exercise their franchise in the 1998 general election, rightly described as the biggest democratic exercise in human history. All credit to the people of India, the election commission and the entire machinery of government conducting the poll for facing the challenge with firmness of will and faith in the process.

There is, of course, the dark side of the picture. Neither the national parties nor the regional outfits have come up with any meaningful agenda and pre-poll alliance to fight poverty, unemployment, corruption and violence. Parties and leaders, uncertain of the outcome of the election, have struck pacts and deals, more in despair than in hope, only to get into seats of power. Money, muscle and primordial loyalties will, it is feared, dominate the process in many contests. "Welcome to the dirtiest fight in the world's largest democracy," observed a recent issue of the internationally reputed journal *The Economist*. The intelligentsia and the better-off sections of the Indian society may also think on similar lines. Apathy and cynicism are the enemies of democracy. We may not be able to prevent totally the entry of criminal and corrupt elements into the system. But we can certainly check their rise and influence by ensuring that a majority of the people exercise their right to vote freely and fairly.

The need of the hour is to keep vigil over the process at every place all over the country. The trust of the people of India is the backbone of our system and it is the duty of the government, the election commission and every one of us to ensure that the confidence of the people is not shaken by the many unscrupulous elements that seek to establish a stranglehold on the electoral process and political institutions. The people of India, known for their unshakeable faith in the democratic system, will again rise to the occasion during this crucial election. In the golden jubilee year of our independence let us resolve to revitalize our democracy and renew our pledge to strive for a just and humane society.

—The Editor

INVESTIGATION AND JUDICIAL PROCESS

—C. Anjaneya Reddy, I.P.S.

Director-General of Vigilance & Enforcement
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

I am grateful to the Shankar Foundation and Dr. Prasanna Kumar for asking me to speak on a subject of great contemporary relevance - investigation and judicial process. This is not a well-structured talk. Here are some random ideas which merit your attention. A few years ago a discussion on a theme like this would have been unwarranted as the roles of both investigators and courts were clearly understood as laid down in the Cr.P.C. Those of us who joined Police Services, three decades ago and have stayed on to work the Criminal Justice system were taught right at the beginning of our careers that the job of the court begins where the job of the investigator ends. Investigation, we were told, is a statutory function and is beyond the purview not only of the political executive but the courts as well. There could be no review or interference by any agency outside the police hierarchy while a case is under investigation.

We now seem to have come a long way from these premises. We are now witnesses to courts decreeing registration of cases, ordering or with - holding arrests of persons, monitoring investigations and even questioning the disposals given by investigating agencies. Are such practices visualised in law? I am afraid. No. The practice seems to be at total variance with the law.

Criminal laws, substantive, procedural, and evidential, in this country are about 150 years old. The laws, over the years, have evolved and lent themselves to interpretation in different courts from time to time but have retained an ethos which seems to have undergone a radical change in the last few years.

"Marx's famous phrase about religion as the opiate of the masses can now be applied and more accurately to television, which will end up anaesthetizing the human race, sunk in an idiotic beatitude."

—Octavio Paz...In Light of India

Criminal Law has created a system in which the investigator, the prosecutor and the Judge are required to play independent but connected roles in the cause of Justice. While the investigator and the prosecutor present the case of the State, the Judge holds scales even between the prosecutor and the defence counsel and arrives at his own conclusion with regard to the guilt of an accused person. Would a dispassionate conclusion be possible in a situation where a Judge in his new role as monitor of investigation willingly becomes a part-investigator and shares in the presumption or otherwise of guilt of an accused person? How can a Judge, who orders the investigating agency to seek the help of the armed forces to effect the arrest of a person, present himself as an unbiased adjudicator? Would such active participation at the stage of investigation by a High Court Judge help a Sessions Judge in presumption of innocence of an accused person as is required by the law. In any case arrest is only a device to compel attendance and under the law, it is discretionary and not mandatory. When a discretion is vested in the investigating agency, one fails to see how it can be taken away.

In the garb of Public Interest Litigation, interested parties have been forcing investigating agencies to compel registration of cases without any preliminary verification. This has brought about a situation where serious allegations have been made against people holding Public Offices and the courts are approached with prayers for registration of criminal cases. The allegations are widely publicised even at the time of registration of case creating a situation in which the affected person stands condemned in public imagination even before his guilt is probed, let alone established. The authority of court is exploited to compel registration of case; often the purpose seems to end with publicising allegations. As a political analyst has pointed out recently, this has created a situation in which a Judge of any one of the High Courts in the Country can ground a career of even a national - level politician.

In the well-publicised fodder scam case, the Patna High Court assumed the responsibility of supervision of investigation, a responsibility which the law does not vest it. The investigating unit was asked not to report progress to its own superior officers till mercifully Supreme Court intervened to rein in the enthusiastic Judges of the High Court. In an unprecedented assumption of authority, the court directed the CBI team to take the help of armed forces to effect the arrest of a C.M. in office, realising the law does not enjoin such duties either on the courts or the armed forces.

As you all know, in the aftermath of confusion that followed the death of a former CM in office, the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad was relieved of his jurisdiction around C.M's house by High Court in an unprecedented order and DIG, Hyderabad Range was asked to take charge of the situation on the unfounded alle-

gation that CP was more sympathetic to one group. This is an instance where the Court took away what the law has given. One does not know another instance of this kind. In any case, in more than a century - old history of Hyderabad Commissionerate, this was the first time, Commissioner of Police was put to such an embarrassment.

Yet another development of late is summoning Chiefs of investigating agencies to account for so called "delays" in the investigations. Delays occur because of a variety of reasons. What is to be abhorred is wilful delay. If every High Court in the country makes a public spectacle of the CBI chief, senior most police officer in the country being subjected to an inquisition, it would not promote public confidence in the investigating agencies or the image of the inquisitor.

All this has been going on in the name of Public interest. Public interest litigation, it is said more often than not is publicity-interest litigation or private interest litigation. It has transformed the Court of last resort into the Court of first resort. A time has now come to clearly draw the parameters for this type of litigation if the time and scarce resources of the Judiciary are to be saved from clever exploitation.

It is not my case that all is well with our investigating agencies. My grievance, in fact is that we have not been able to effectively safeguard the functional autonomy given under the law to the investigating agencies. This has engaged the attention of the National Police Commission whose recommendations, if implemented, would secure the autonomy. A time has now come to set the investigating agencies free from Government control.

Criminal Justice System is a conglomerate of three connected but functionally independent organs, the investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating agencies. Each has its own area of responsibility. One is not to impose on another. Nor does the law give the responsibility of overseeing the functioning of one to another. In any case, by seeking to impose itself in some way or the other on the functioning of investigating agencies, the Judiciary seems to create a situation in which it will not be perceived as a detached institution. It is good to have an effective Judiciary. What is still better is to have an effective criminal justice system. Systemic defects or deficiencies should be identified and eliminated. Its effectiveness, however can not be improved by one wing asserting itself at the expense of the other wings.

Introducing the subject and the speakers, Dr. A. Prasanna Kumar, Director of the Centre who presided recalled the disturbing figures released by the National Crime Bureau. If the conviction rate was 20% in 1961 it has come down to 6.4% in 1995 and the number of murders went up 294 per cent between 1953 and 1994 and cases of abduction and kidnapping by 398%. Today a murder is committed every 13 minutes which means 106 a day and 37 rapes (reported) every day

amounting a rape every 40 minutes in India. The main reason for the collapse of the criminal justice system is constant political interference and indifference of the Government and Parliament to the pleas of the National Law Commission and National Commission for greater autonomy. "Adversarial Culture" has resulted in a decline of the credibility of most institutions and the judiciary is no exception to it. He pointed out how in the United States a healthy debate is taking place on judicial activism and how scholarly writings show the way for institutional balance and for upholding the supremacy of public will in policy formulation and decision making.

(Text of a lecture delivered at the Centre for Policy Studies on December 5, 1997)

SENSITIVITY IN SOCIETY

—Uday Balakrishnan, M.A., Ph.D.
Post Master General, Visakhapatnam

It is indeed a privilege to be here today and to be talking on a subject I have always felt deeply about. I am indeed grateful to my teacher, Dr. Prasanna Kumar and the Shankar Foundation, which he heads for inviting me. I am also thankful to all of you for being here.

Sensitivity in society is all about feelings and reactions to the world around us. It is said that there is none so blind as the person who will not see in a way each of us is guilty of that. We all have become more callous and insensitive to our fellow human beings around us - and this is not confined to those of us who are better off. Permit me to illustrate: The other day I was being driven to the airport in Ahmedabad when the cyclist ahead of us fell down allowing a huge bundle he was carrying to roll down. My driver went threateningly close to him. In a society like ours I could only accept the fact that had the cyclist been in my driver's place he probably would have laughed too. To rejoice at another's misery when one should have been lending a helping hand, exhibited, to my mind, a type of callousness we show in different ways to those around us as well as to one another.

It is precisely this callousness that makes us read a news item informing us of a massacre in far away Bihar and turn to our attention to the advertisement below immediately after. Human beings have an indifference to anything that does not directly interest them - it is thus that the news of the recent massacre has occupied less space in our newspapers and television than the death of a wealthy and unhappy Diana in a car crash.

When was the last time you went to the vegetable market and bargained hard to bring the price of onions or beans down? Many of us have come back from such expeditions satisfied that we have got our money's

worth - in spite of the fact that we have gained very little and that money would not amount to much anyway. We are happy denying a self appointed parking lot attendant a couple of rupees but when it comes to paying more sophisticated folk behind computerized billing machines we brass up - be it at the Maruthi garage or a departmental store.

We live in a World of tremendous sadness and an awful atmosphere of hopelessness. 'Everything is terrifying' the Nobel prize winner Elias Canetti once remarked. He had in mind his Jewish reality and the years in Vienna that steadily became worse for his community as Hitler and the Nazis began their pogroms in his country too. The world hasn't changed much in the years that followed - things have only become steadily more terrifying - today's bomb blast in Tamil Nadu and Kerala prompts us to ask where next - and exclaim 'God forbid, it did not hit us!'

Each one of us has contributed to making the situation so terrible that we are often afraid of taking a train or sit in a cinema hall. We have stood on the sidelines and never taken a stand when we see injustice around us.

We have not built kindness and forgiveness into our relationships even with those we live with or work for - our wives or husbands, our children and our parents as well as our colleagues, subordinates or anyone over whom we have an emotional or economic stranglehold.

Every one of our remarkable displays of insensitivity has cumulatively contributed to the situation where we find ourselves. In no other democracy do you find so many people who are officially so well protected or privileged as in our country. Authority which has contributed to the chaos in no small measure is always seeking right of way and easy passage through life and what has the average man done about it - he has just stood on the sidelines and applauded them as they passed by.

In a way this has resulted in a rapidly deteriorating socio-political situation in our country. We are simply not concerned and the post independence money coddling by government attempting to needlessly and unsuccessfully play the part of father and mother to all of us has not improved matters. For anything going wrong we have a vague entity which should be doing something about it - Government. We have perfected the art of passing the buck to this vague entity without making the slightest effort to do our little bit to be alive and react meaningfully and helpfully to problems around us without direction or support.

How do we change things for the better in a seemingly hopeless situation like our own? There is probably only one way-by becoming more sensitive to the world immediately around us to start with. We are daily witness to and participants in the exploitation of the underprivileged and downtrodden. In a way we are all suffering from what I would call underprivileged fatigue as

so much has been spoken about it and too little done. Perhaps we do not recognize that we have each of us, a contribution to make to improve the situation. Let us start with small things, begin by feeling a bit of kindness in your heart and spread it around. One has to work at it. Sensitivity in society is an acquired habit and certainly not an inherited trait. One has to rebel against insensitivity also and for that I have a few suggestions to make – here I go :

- Protest about a bad public utility even if we are not its direct consumers - a badly run government school or college is denying quality education to the sections that can least afford it otherwise. If the vehicles of a town bus service are in bad shape write to those concerned and make a fuss - even if you cannot sustain your protest - your brief reaction would have had some effect. We the privileged must seek to add to our ranks those who are poor and badly off. Only by reducing the number of underprivileged can we hope for a more just, happier and more humane society.
- React to the depredation of the environment around us - forget about global warming for that is an abstract reality for most of us so far and start reacting to the bad public services with some spirit.
- Expect quality service from Government - whether it is the Postal services or the Police or the Income Tax or for that matter the civic authorities or the electricity and water supply organizations.
- Learn to be considerate and patient - with pedestrians, cyclists the old and the sick. In all my years of travelling I have come across only very few examples of consideration - someone giving up a seat in a crowded bus or a train for one whose need to sit down is greater is a very rare sight.
- If you are an employer make sure that you respect the conditions and terms of work.
- There is something to be said in favour of involvement and INVOLVEMENT is at the root of developing sensitivity in society.

(Text of a Lecture delivered at the Centre for Policy Studies on December 5, 1997).

"1998 - ELECTIONS —THE CHALLENGE AHEAD"

Symposium organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Studies and Vizag Journalists Forum on January 18, 1998.

Participants at a pre-election discussion underlined the importance of creating an awareness among the voting public for electing the right candidate to represent them at the Centre.

Mr. P. Lakshman Reddy, said intelligentsia had a role to play in educating the voters, a majority of whom are illiterates, on the principles of democracy, functions of Parliament and about the quality of representatives they

should elect. 'Unless the voter is educated about the system and quality of candidates, we cannot expect the voter to elect the right representative', he felt.

Pointing out that the situation was in striking contrast to the first elections when the voter judged a candidate on the basis of his participation in the freedom struggle and the property he had sacrificed for the sake of the country, he said every political party now was concerned about the capacity to contest - the money to spend - in the election. The Election Commission and the people should take steps to reduce the influence of money in elections, he suggested. He also said that while the rural voters lacked awareness, in urban areas, there was a lot of talk about politics. However, when it came to voting, the urban voters did not have the patience to stand in the queue and cast their vote. And even if they find that their vote is cast by someone else, not many were prosecuted for impersonation due to inaction on the part of the presiding officer, he remarked.

Voter's responsibility:

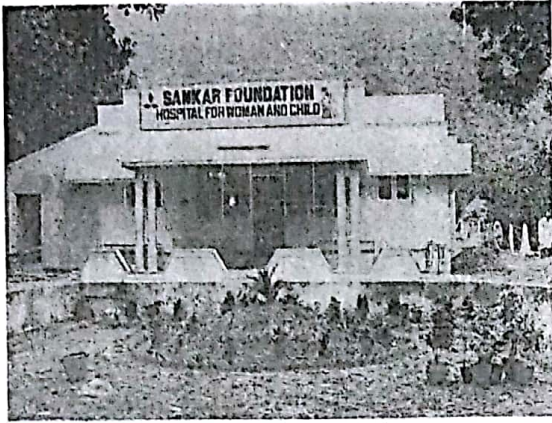
Prof. B. Sarveswara Rao, former Vice-Chancellor of Nagarjuna University in his address said that elections posed a tall order for a voter who was expected to exercise his judgement, play a rational role and assess the role of candidates of political parties. He regretted that there was a dearth of opinion makers who could concentrate on broader issues - political and economic. The role of opinion makers and opinion leaders was important as they have not only to educate the voting community but in the very process of election the opinion leader should clearly bring out what he wants to do if a party was elected. He also endorsed the view of an earlier speaker for forming voters councils to guide the public during elections.

Pointing out that the process should begin as and when the candidate was selected, he said the choice of the candidate was as important as the manifesto. But unfortunately, in the democratic practice, voters were led by small groups and personal loyalties. In the exercise of voting, the voter should see that at least the man he elected was honest, he said and decried the recent attempts to legitimise the colossal frauds on the part of politicians and governments.

Dr. M. Gopalakrishna Reddy, former Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, who also referred to impersonation at polling booths, called for stringent action against the offenders. It was also the duty of the voters to lodge their protest for initiating action. He said people should vote for only honest and service-minded candidates.

Caste factor:

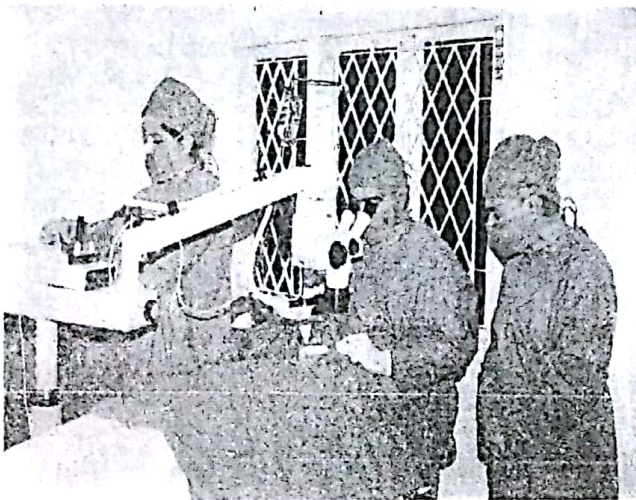
Mr. D.V. Subba Rao, former Mayor, said stability was prime consideration in the present context. He lamented that caste had become the primary factor and majority communities floated political parties. 'Today you have



Sankar Foundation's Hospital for Woman and Child



District Judge Lakshmana Reddy delivering the inaugural address at the Seminar on Elections



Micro-surgery with IOL implantation at the Eye Hospital



TB Camp in progress

to encourage the local satrap and have an alliance with him', he commented and added that in the two most populous States major national parties were at the mercy of the local leaders. He also felt that once a candidate was elected, he should act above his political affiliations while taking decisions on important issues.

Mr. K. Durga Prasad, City Commissioner of Police, said the voter should be exposed to various issues in the election and the candidates should be exposed in their true colours by the electronic media and non-political forums. The people could bring to the notice of the police any violation in model code of conduct such as pasting posters on private buildings, vehicles or blaring loud-speakers for prompt action. He assured the public that police would see to it that people who complained were not subjected to harassment. Mr. M.E.N. Patrudu, former Registrar, Andhra Pradesh High Court, said the voter wondered why there should be another election now and why not political parties joined together to govern. There was need for stability with credibility, he remarked.

Dr. Gangadhara Rao, medical scientist, said barring the BJP and the communal parties which supported Hindutva and the working class respectively, other political parties were beyond the comprehension of the common man. Mr. Kandala Srinivasa Rao, noted lawyer, said the greatest fraud on democracy was committed when BJP. The majority party, was unseated by other political parties whose sole objective was to keep the BJP out of power. Was this acceptable in a democracy, he asked and urged media to play a positive role in formulating public opinion. Ms. D. Saraswathi Devi, advocate, Mr. Parthasarathy, Mr D. Ch. Tirupathi Raju and others participated in the discussion.

Earlier, Prof. A. Prasanna Kumar, Director of CPS, who anchored the session called for a free and fair poll with a large turnout. The candidates elected were accountable not only in Delhi but also at the local levels, he opined. Dr. G. Prabhakar of Sankar Foundation welcomed the gathering.

(Courtesy - The Hindu January 19, 1998)

PLENTY BUT SCARCE

—Prof. M.V. Venkata Rao
Head-Environmental Division
Centre for Policy Studies

Problem:

India is blessed with 5 litres of rainfall per head per second on the average. Man needs 200 litres per day. An Indian needs to collect 40 seconds' rainfall in a day of the average continuous theoretical rain. 60 to 70 percent of Indian river waters join the sea unused. Paradoxically 80 percent of Indians suffer water shortage, while flood damages add up to thousands of crores of rupees every year, with ever increasing trends. In the

art of storing and conveying river water, Indian engineers have an excellent heritage. Bhakra dam was the world's highest dam at the time of its construction. Hirakud dam is the world's longest dam. Nagarjuna Sagar is the biggest masonry dam. Mir Alam dam in Hyderabad is the world's first multiple arch dam and also the only arch dam constructed in masonry. Indian theory of weir design given by Dr. Khosla is followed all over the world today. At present the country has abundant expertise on water resource management, with scarce utilisation. With plenty of water resources and the expertise to harness them, around 70 crores of Indians suffer qualitative and quantitative shortages of water. WHY?

National level:

Rivers flow through more than one state. Controversies about riparian rights prevent the execution of river water harnessing projects by any state. Hurdles in environmental clearances, with justifications or exaggerations, either prevent or delay the river water projects. Delays escalate the inflationary costs making the execution more difficult. National leadership, technically and politically, with vision, is also in acute shortage to evolve a sound water resource management policy at the national level, as well as the state level.

Ensuring water supply to the citizen, though accepted as of top priority, receives poor attention from the leaders, scientists and engineers of the country. Domestic water gathering, by heritage, is the prerogative of women, who are second rate citizens in the male dominated policy makings. Perhaps domestic water supply, like the cooking stove efficiency, remains neglected in spite of the country's technological advances due to gender bias. 'India lives in villages'. Poor domestic water supply linked with gender bias is also rampant in villages.

Urban Level:

Cities grow with commercial interests out weighing the quality of life. Consequently industrial needs rob the domestic water resources. In Visakhapatnam 60 per cent of the water resources of the city cater to the industries, which simultaneously multiply the city's population and their domestic water needs. The cheapest domestic water resource is a well. The local ground water is over exploited by industries and is also contaminated by their waste effluents. The complacent civic authorities are incapable of evolving the much needed local ground water management policy. The citizen of the free democracy is taken for granted in the administrative lapses of knowledge and ethics.

Domestic Level:

While the national leaders and civic authorities are easy to blame of the avoidable water shortages in spite of resource abundance, the apathy of the citizens towards water conservation can not be ignored on a lo-

cal scale. Liberal water consumption goes with the apparent glamour of modernisation. Washing a face needs one litre. A luxurious wash basin supplied from an overhead tank consumes ten litres of water for washing a callous face. A good commode needs 5 litres for flushing, while 15 litres of potable water is normally consumed in each flush losses through missing or dripping tap heads, leaking pipes and discarding old storages in preference of fresh tap waters and the luxury of gardening with potable waters amount to 30 percent of the city's water supply. The citizen needs to know that yesterday's tap water stored in decent condition is far, superior to today's tap water with its fresh contamination, since the bacteria-in sewage, that enter the water supply through the leakages in the street pipes, die rapidly during domestic storage. While the city's slum dweller has to win a battle at the public tap or a municipal water tanker to collect 15 litres of water, the more privileged citizen can water his lawn with tap water, while his domestic waste water more suited to his lawn is let out to stagnate in the street drain clogged with the garbage dumped by him. When privilege and irresponsibility go together, suffering is generated.

REPORT ON THE MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES OF SANKAR FOUNDATION

—Dr. G. Prabhakar
Coordinator, Health and Projects

The Eye care programme and Tuberculosis programme of the Foundation are running satisfactorily with the active participation and enthusiastic response from the urban and rural poor and the Voluntary Organisations. The following Camps were conducted recently and the turnout of patients at the camps was good.

6th December 1997: Health camp at Makavarapupalem

Dr. Prabhakar and Dr. Nageswara Rao conducted the General Health camp at Makavarapupalem, conducted by local NGO, TARA. 278 children were examined at the Camp.

17th December 1998: Visit to Marie Stopes Clinic, Madras.

Dr. Prabhakar visited the Marie Stopes Clinic at Madras to study the free services being provided to the poor for Antenatal, Post-natal checkups and for Family Planning.

22nd December 1997: Eye camp at L.Kota:

Rural Eye camp for screening Cataract was conducted at L.Kota (Lakkavarapukota) at the Primary Health

Centre. 105 patients were screened and 58 were selected for Cataract surgery.

23rd December 1997: Programme on AIDS

Awareness Programme on AIDS with a Street play on AIDS, was conducted at Belhesta Institute of Health Sciences, Venkojipalem. A large Group of Health workers along with public enjoyed the Street play on AIDS, staged at the busy Venkojipalem Junction.

29th December 1997: Eye camp at Chinthala Agraharam:

Rural Eye camp was conducted at Chinthala Agraharam and the camp was organised by the N.S.S. Unit of St. Joseph's College for Women during the NSS Camp. Sri Sabbam Hari, H.W. Mayor of Visakhapatnam was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the Camp. 120 persons were screened and 24 were selected for surgery.

5th January 1998: Eye camp at Old Gopalapatnam:

Eye camp was conducted at Old Gopalapatnam with the help of Village Development Committee and local Mahila Mandali. 125 persons were screened and 21 were selected for surgery.

9th January 1998: Eye camp at Gudvanipalem:

Screening camp for Cataract was conducted at Gudvanipalem during the NSS Camp of Mrs. AVN College, covering the patients from near by villages. 86 persons were screened and only 9 were selected for surgery.

19th January 1998: Eye camp at Anakapalle Town:

Sankar Foundation with Mahila Margadarsi, local Voluntary organisation conducted screening camp for cataract at Anakapalle. The camp was very successful with 135 persons turning out for check up and 35 were selected for surgery.

20th January 1998: TB Camp:

The TB programme got a shot in the arm with the arrival of Dr. CSRL Narasimham from USA, and a TB camp was conducted at on 20th January. The camp was conducted with the help of the leading Voluntary Organisation in the tribal belt, Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samithi. 83 patients were screened and investigations were conducted on the spot. 18 patients were registered for treatment. The Camp at Narsipatnam was very well organised under the guidance of Sri A.L. Narasimha Murthy, Secretary of VJNNS and his very dedicated staff working in the tribal areas.

Sankar Foundation started a Nodal TB Centre, at Narsipatnam and the Centre will cater to the needs of all TB patients from the tribal areas. The TB Clinic will be

conducted on 20th of every month at Narsipatnam, and medicines will be distributed to the patients. VJNSS will monitor and assist the programme at Narsipatnam.

22nd January 1998: Seminar on AIDS

At the request of Viswa Samakhyā, the Federation of Voluntary Organisations, Sankar Foundation conducted a Seminar on AIDS at Anakapalle on 22nd January. Around 60 leaders from various NGOs participated in the Seminar.

Dr. B. Swarajya Lakshmi, Reld. Prof. of SPM, Andhra Medical College and President of Mahila Vikasa Samstha, Dr. K.N. Kondala Rao Secretary of SPAAD (Society of Prevention of AIDS and Allied Diseases), Sri D.S. Prasad, President of Viswa Samakhyā, Dr. C. Nageswara Rao and Dr. Prabhakar from the Foundation, were the main Speakers at the Seminar. The participants at the Seminar generated many interesting questions, and good interaction. The Role of Voluntary Organisations in the Awareness and Prevention Programmes of AIDS was discussed at length with the doctors.

'Mahammari' Street play on AIDS was staged at the Gandhi Centre, Anakapalle. A large gathering at the busy centre, enjoyed the street play and requested for Health Education material on AIDS, as the street play generated lot of interest and curiosity among the public to know more about AIDS.

27th January 1998: T.B. Detection camp at Narasannapeta:

TB Detection camp was conducted at Narasannapeta, Srikakulam District with the help of the leading NGO, SVC Trust (Swamy Babu and Vajramma Charitable Trust). Sri T. Babajee and Sri T. Gopalakrishna Murthy, Directors of the Trust made elaborate arrangements for the Camp. 95 Patients were screened and 6 were registered for treatment.

The Foundation started the nodal TB Centre, at Narasannapeta and will conduct regular TB camp at the Centre, on 27th of every month. The Centre will provide free services to all sputum positive TB cases at Narasannapeta and near by villages.

The various rural programmes, are challenging us to reinvent our strategies, to face our drawbacks and at the same time reinforce our efforts to consolidate our strength, in delivering free services to the needy and poor.

Sankar Foundation's Hospital for Woman and Child:

To provide free services for Ante-natal, Post-natal, Family Planning and Child care, Sankar Foundation is starting a Hospital for Woman and Child, at Srinivasa Nagar, Simhachalam Road, Visakhapatnam. The Hospital aims to provide adequate services to children both before and after birth and health and medical services to Women. The inauguration of the Hospital is scheduled for 6th February 1998.

NOBLE JOURNEY

—K. Parvathi Kumar

International President – World-Teacher Trust

Many would consider commissioning of noble work is beyond their abilities. Such people measure in life by ordinary standards. They do not even attempt to develop adamant striving for themselves. They are just over cautious. They are limited by the phantoms of their current illusions. Meanwhile, so-called present time slips away! When lighting has struck, the thunder is inevitable. When one is struck by noble thought, he should strive to commission and pursue. It is sure to manifest as noble work in due course of time. Those who do not perceive this, live in the confusion of the present—it is a mirage of hopes to those who do not act. Build your future realistically by striving hard. For noble journey timidity is unsuitable.

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