

Abhivyakti

Sankalp India Foundation

Let's Give Life A better Chance

Introducing You to The Blood Network



Walk For Life
Blood? Call 1062

को पूरा कर
CALL 1062

ONE WITH
BHOPAL!

NO MORE
BHOPLAIS

ST

Of tribute and travails
On Shabard Bhopal, the youth held a candlelight rally and a signature campaign for Bhopal gas tragedy victims

PRIME MINISTER
WALK YOUR TALK

NO MORE
BHOPLAIS

ST

THE YEAR BOOK OF
SANKALP INDIA FOUNDATION
2008



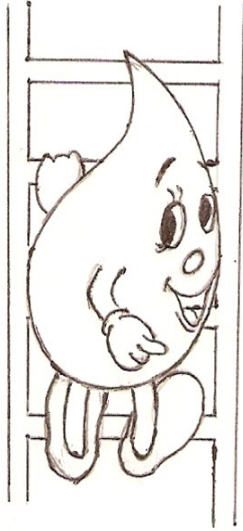
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EDITORIAL

We are proud to present to you the second edition of Abhivyakti, the annual magazine of Sankalp India Foundation. This year we complete 5 years of our existence and there has been a sea of change within the organization in the last one year. It's difficult to keep in touch with our well wishers on a regular basis so this magazine will help in keeping the bond alive and ticking.

Around this time last year we got the stamp of being an NGO but that has not changed anyone of us. We continue to work with the same zeal with the final result in mind. But we have been successful in getting camps in many companies and colleges. Blood shortage problem in Bangalore is on it's way to becoming a part of history. Companies are standing up to the opportunity of helping whenever the blood stocks go low in the blood banks. The CTC Disha helpline is working in a fantastic manner. Sankalp is raising it's voice to the injustice being handed over to the people of Bhopal. The wheels of revolution are turning and we are walking ahead.

This magazine is yet another attempt from us to provide to all our readers and well-wishers a clear view of the structure and the working of the Organization. We accomplished a Herculean task by ensuring that all the Project reports and other experiences to be shared are given to us. When we got all the content in one place, we heaved a sigh of relief!! But it was short-lived. We had the basic templates and ideas from the previous magazine. But the Organization has itself grown in the past one year, then why not improve this year's magazine?

With some basic plans and decent new templates, we began the work on the magazine. We tried very hard to bring it out by the time of the Fifth Anniversary, but failed to do so. We ask you to forgive us for the delay and for any other mistakes which might have crept in. We know that there is always a scope for improvement, thus we request your valuable suggestions wherever we need to improve.

We thank the users on www.sankalpindia.net where they have been posting their opinions and interactions and sharing wonderful blog posts. Their posts have immensely helped in bringing out this magazine.

We hope that this magazine will help you in understanding Sankalp better and help you on your journey to make your dreams come true. We wish you will continue to support us on our journey too.

We are proud to present to all of you this collection of our dreams, our ideas and our experiences. Hope you have a good experience reading them. Thank you.

For more information visit www.sankalpindia.net or call (+91) 9880132850 or mail to sankalp.admin@gmail.com.

Celebrating 5 years of a Choice

23rd May, 2003 – a day on which a few engineering first year students decided that they will neither complain nor ignore the death of a patient in one of the Bangalore hospitals. Five years later, we are celebrating our choice – our choice to step in and do something for the problem. How often do you confront a situation that you do not like? And how often you wish that someone take charge and change the way things are? We celebrate today, the day when we made a choice to be the one who tries to do something to make the situation better.

Please do not think it is a social service related issue. There was no society on that night. We did not see it. It was a patient, a hospital, and us. It was about the few men on the street who did not like to see someone die because of shortage of blood. It was about the system that is ours and in which we live. Five years later, for us it is still the same. Our attempt is to make what is our own the way we like to see it.

Gods must be on our side. For in measured proportions they have put hurdles and challenges on our way. They want to make sure that we grow and develop gradually and firmly to face the larger challenges that lay ahead. As we celebrate the five years, we celebrate the moments of testing. We celebrate each hurdle that promised to pull our faith down. We celebrate the triumph of our faith.

The road that we took promised to be lonely. They say it always is. But should we say it was divine intervention, or was it purely by chance? We were not all that lonely. From all quarters faith poured upon us. Faith from our parents, faith from our teachers, faith from our friends and faith from our well-wishers. We choose to walk the road less trodden but they came to give us company. Their presence made life so much more beautiful.

On the fifth anniversary we celebrate the chain. The chain of our hearts. The coming in

of each and every dreamer's heart who joined in to walk the bed of thorns. We celebrate the spirit that drove young girls and boys to break free from the protection they had and face the storm in it's face. We celebrate the togetherness of being – a Sankalp Volunteer.

The choice to act that was made on that summer night as taken us to new dimensions. Even as you read this, never forget, there are some men and women on this planet who are ready to help you with blood the minute they hear about the need. We are not helpless anymore. We are not there to blame. We took it upon ourselves to act and then the universe corroborated to grant us the necessary skill and energy to carve the slow way to our destination.

The road has just begun! Even as we write the word celebrate here, we are fully aware of the magnitude of the challenge that lies before us. In the past five years we have learnt to live a peculiar way. Greater difficulties have opened up greater avenues. They have brought to us greater skill and confidence. Even today, we are the small flimsy fighters for this land. In a way poised to fight the cause of our motherland.

It is sort of simple at one level. The air that we breathe is our own. And we do try to care for it. The soil that we walk in has the ashes of our forefathers and we do value it. The life that we live is a blessing and we do try to make good use of it. This land is ours and we belong to it. All it's problems and all it's strengths. All our ours. While we are the cream of this nation, the children best kept, the more loved sons and daughters of our mother – the Mother India – we are also the ones who serve it.

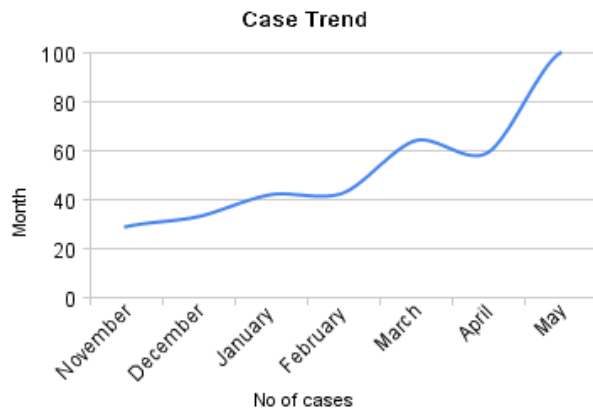
God be with us, the blessings of our teachers parents and well wishers be with us we will continue to work for the cause of our motherland and it's people. Dream! They happen!



Work @ Sankalp

Blood Donation Organization

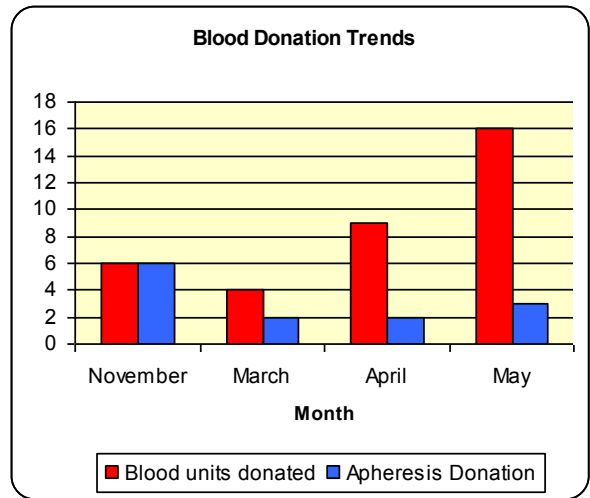
The emergency wing of Sankalp Blood donation organization was formed to cater to the emergency or urgent requirement of the blood in Bangalore city. Since then it has been working to widen its scope of work and improving on the methods so that each and every blood requirement if not fulfilled reach us and get satisfied on time.



Last year we saw an immense growth in our span of work in terms of number of blood requests, coverage area, number of volunteers etc.

Development in number cases and apheresis requests

- Average 30-40 cases per month to average 60-70 cases per month after CTC Disha publicity campaigning in the month of February and March.
- Average 2-3 apheresis case per month to 6-7 case per month. In the month of March we received 4 cases and in April 8 cases.
- Average 1 apheresis donation per month to 2-3 donations per month. We had 3 donations in March and 2 donations in April.



As every year the summer shortage of blood has hit everyone very hard. The above graph clearly indicates the increased number of cases during summer months. To top it all colleges go for exams and vacations and it becomes extremely difficult to get emergency donors. It is now that RK Companies and CTC Disha comes into the picture and ensures that blood is available to the patient.

Development in coverage area Hospitals

Earlier most of the cases approximately 50% that Sankalp used to handle were from MS Ramaiah Hospital. Now with the more publicity of 1062, we are able to get cases from more number of Hospitals. Most of these hospitals are government hospitals. To list down few of Hospitals from where we received blood requests last year are as follows:

Imagination is more important than Knowledge.

Blood Donation Organization

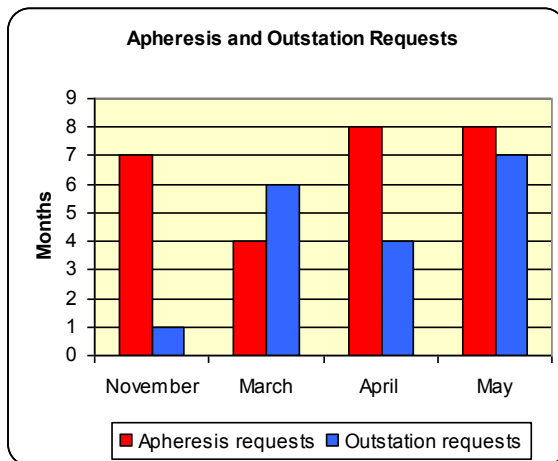
- Victoria Hospital
- Vani Vilas Hospital
- Kidwai
- Bangalore Institute of Oncology
- Jayadeva
- Mahavir Jain Hospital
- St Johns
- Mangalore
- Mysore
- Davengeere
- Kolkata
- Hyderabad
- Shimoga
- Chennai
- Delhi
- Vellore

Ramaiah Hospital (this constitutes only 20-25% of the requests.)

Other hospitals are Wochard Hospital, St Marthas, Command Hospital, Narayan Hrudalaya, Sagar Apollo Hospital, Vaydehi Hospital, Sathya Sai Hospital, Manipal, Bowring Hospital, Columbia Asia and Mallya Hospital.

Apart for these, small nursing homes and maternity centers of the city also contact us for emergency blood requirement.

Cities



Sankalpindia.net opens our scope of reach to the entire world. And because of this we have been getting blood requests from different part of India. Last year, other than Bangalore we have taken blood requests form cities like

Rare group requests

We have also been able to develop a much better understanding of the rare blood groups other than negative groups. This helped us to take up rare blood group like Bombay Blood Group, A1 Positive cases in a better way last year.

Volunteers

Every year fresh volunteers join Sankalp and this year too we had many new faces in Emergency wing of Blood Donation Organization. The number grew from 6 to 20 and therefore team was split into many small teams with specialized work like Karnataka wide Blood search, database management, research etc.

Projects

Emergency wing took up many other tasks along with the emergency blood requests. These tasks are:

Karnataka wide Blood search

With the spreading of the emergency helpline number 1062 through out Karnataka, the number of cases from places other than Bangalore was anticipated. To make sure that these requests are fulfilled on time we started to work on Karnataka Wide Blood Search project. Under this project we are trying to connect to every district of Karnataka and build up contacts and database of blood donors.

Size of a Man Is Measured By The Size Of The Problem That Makes Him Angry

Blood Donation Organization

Negative Blood Donors Registration

We came across a patient who died because AB negative blood unit was not made available for her on time. This incident set the start point for this project under which we have planned to strengthen our database of negative blood donors.

Research

Everyday we come across several queries related to blood donation. To quench all these queries we set up a research team whose sole work is to find out the correct facts and keep themselves and other Sankalp Volunteers up-to-date with the emerging technologies and new finding in the field of Blood donation. Till date this team has worked on topics are Health Benefits of blood donation, Blood Components- Right choice etc

Database management

With the growth of organization, the donors' database and the interaction with blood banks and hospitals are also increasing. To keep a track of all the donations and updates from donors, also to maintain the case report forms we have set up a database management team. This team is also responsible for maintaining emergency donors list, Apheresis donors' lists.

The emergency wing is the backbone of our organization. Each minute, even as you read these lines, we are on a standby to help the people who are unable to find help elsewhere. We are putting in our efforts to keep the promise of helping the most helpless at the time of greatest need. You can be a part of the promise, and the assurance. Register as a donor with us. Contribute when the need is the greatest.

Note for those who have trusted us:

This one word is the biggest support that you have given us through these years is your support and your trust. We stand here to thank each one of you who has at any point in time kept your trust in us.

But for all of you who have actually stood by us, we have the deepest respect in our heart. Your faith in us empowers us. It helps us take an extra step. And on dark moments when we combat our weaknesses, this support from you pumps in a fresh supply of energy in our body and soul.

This is your organization as much as it is ours. Pardon us for not being able to keep you informed all the while. Please do not mistake our silence at times as our arrogance. At the end of the day, we have immense respect for each donor in our heart.

- Volunteers

Disappointment can come to those who make an appointment with the future

CTC Disha Report:

The second anniversary is yet to come and CTC Disha has already started to usher a change in the blood banking system. Today anyone in Bangalore who requires blood needs to call just a single number (080)1062. Gone are the days of calling numerous blood banks to find blood. Just dial (080)1062 and you will find the blood statistics in the 12 standard blood banks in Bangalore.

CTC Disha was started almost 2 years to bring in Centralized Blood Management in Bangalore. Starting from the March 2007, CTC Disha has undergone lots of changes.

Quality of Service: After the campaign **Walk for Life** in Nov 2006 for CTC Disha publicity, we expected the number of calls to increase. It did show a certain peak for some days but it drowned. Two major reasons were

Quality of service from CTC

Ineffectiveness of the campaign.

We started taking the service quality aggressively. Today we are confident to tell you that the quality has definitely improved. Each blood query gets resolved in 2 minutes today! However, as we are collaborating with another organization which also uses the same number to provide free ambulance services, you may sometime expect some delay in response.

Inclusion of Blood Banks: 5 new blood banks got included with CTC Disha bringing to a total of 12 standard blood banks which also includes three government hospitals.

Transparency of Blood Stocks: A new idea takes time for people to understand its importance. We had this problem of Blood Banks not providing correct blood statistics. However, as Rakta Kranti started expanding its wings, blood banks benefited. This resulted in more than 60% of the blood banks providing correct statistics till date.

Number of Calls: We started CTC Disha publicity campaign starting Feb, 2008 and the results have been amazing. From an average of 3-4 calls per day, CTC Disha today boasts over **10 calls** per day on an average.

Need Blood?
Dial (080)1062

A helpline that
helps you find
blood in Bangalore

Please spread the
message and help
save lives

Positive picture come out of negatives developed in a dark room .So if you find yourself lonely and in dark, understand that God is working a beautiful picture for you.

The CTC Milestone



A helpline number is formed to help the people of Bangalore in search of blood by giving them available blood statistics of the best blood banks of the city.

Walk for life, a 40 k.m. walk, is organised where the message of 1062 is spread throughout the city by shouting slogans, "Looking for Blood? Dial 080-1062".

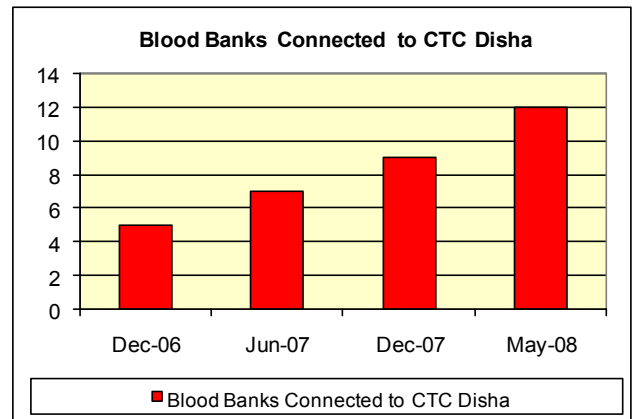
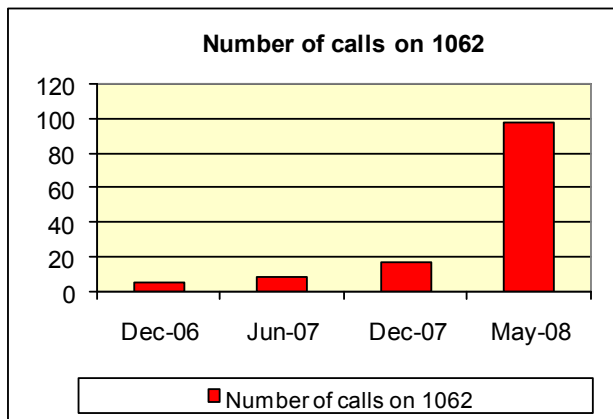


This number got a new lease when volunteers started visiting different hospitals for publicity. Blood bank chiefs, technicians were made aware of this number so that any person in need of blood is guided to this number. As a result the number of calls increased dramatically.

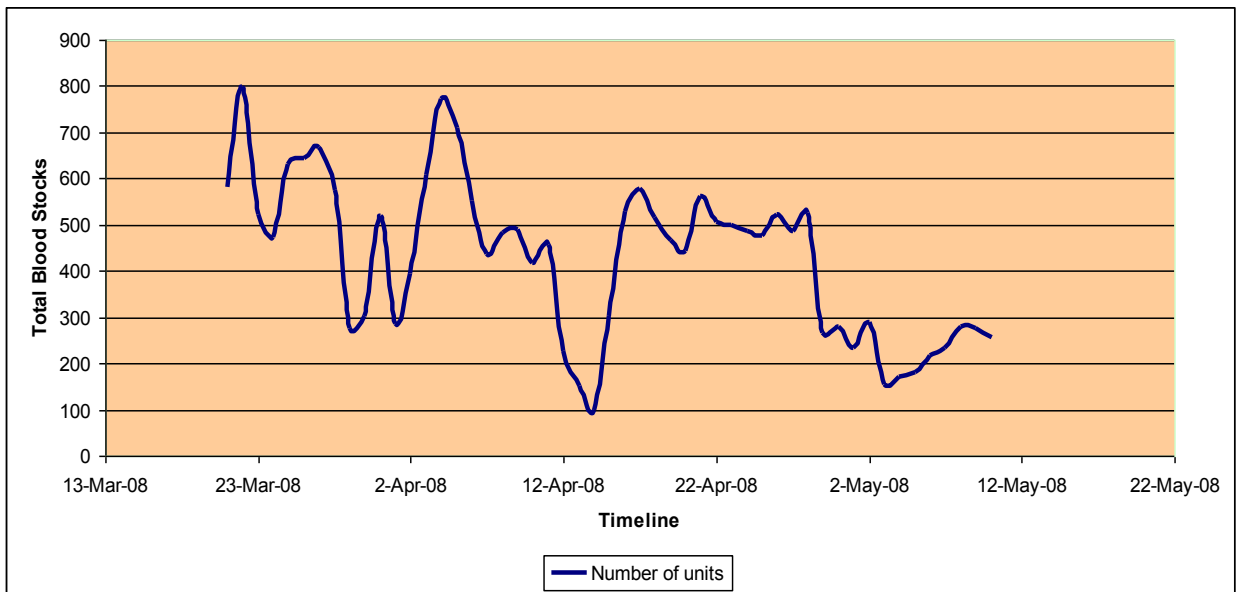
Publicity team reached yet another milestone when they got the permission of putting stickers in BMTC buses so that this message reaches the common man.



The effort of CTC Disha volunteers bore fruit over a period of time in the number of blood banks being increased and a phenomenal increase in the number of calls to this helpline number.



CTC Disha Report:



Documentation of calls (Call Logs): We faced crisis when we wanted to prepare an annual report on CTC Disha. We realized that there was no documentation for the number of calls received by CTC Disha. This led to an immediate correction of the problem. Today, each call is properly documented which helps us to see the change more clearly.

What's Next?

Better Visibility: So far CTC Disha has started to show a definitive change in the blood banking process. But the goal has not been reached. We require better visibility and participation from all fronts to make this dream a reality. As we start working more, we begin to realize that the scope of the work actually increases.

Blood Banks Interaction: The second year primarily has been spent in improving the basic functionality and publicizing the number. The participation of the blood banks involved has been minimal. This requires attention as their cooperation is important to keep the helpline running. Increased collaboration from the blood banks is next agenda.

Moving up the Ladder: All of us are learning all the time. Seniors learn newer things and take additional responsibilities, and their opportunities find place with junior volunteers. So was it with CTC Disha. Henceforward CTC Disha will have a new in charge and the current in charge will move on to explore more tasks.

Increased no of Calls: Bangalore requires blood every 2 minutes. Expected number of calls is at least 100 calls per day. The number of calls that we get is far from what we expect as a part of our goal. We have more work to do and the quality of service that CTC Disha will provide.

The basic idea of Citizen Participation still holds good. If each of us works to ensure that this life saving helpline is known by the masses, it can go on along way to help someone undergoing one of their worst crises in life.

Helping a man in his way to hell is diplomacy.

Rakta Kranti- Companies

"**Rakta Kranti**" is a campaign initiated by Sankalp India Foundation. Having been established in March 2007, the unit aims to achieve 100% Voluntary Blood Donation in Bangalore. Under this project we conduct well-organized camps at colleges, companies, apartments and any other place where a large number of people gather on a regular basis.

CONDUCTING A BLOOD DONATION DRIVE IN A COMPANY:

During camps organized in companies, emphasis is laid on the employees of the company to be part of the volunteer team that organizes the camp. This group of volunteers from the company is named as "**Team Red**". These volunteers are trained by Sankalp Volunteers on all aspects related to blood donation. These volunteers are also asked to visit each and every employee at his/her desk and explain the significance of blood donation.

The Team Red rigs up an excellent awareness programme before the blood camp. Crisp and Eye Catching Posters and Blood Donor Guide attached are the resources used to motivate and educate the prospective donors. This donor guide answers all questions related to blood donation and the statistics mentioned here are well in sync with the national prescribed standards (by NACO). Informative, well designed mails are also sent to the employees. Our brochure also has proved to be a very effective tool in donor motivation. Our brochures are scientifically designed to re-in force the confidence among donors in the blood donation process. They ensure that the person can check for himself that quality is maintained during the camps.

SANKALP'S PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

Within the organization we follow a very strong quality policy. Each camp is carefully monitored and evaluated. Mandatory guidelines to be followed during camps are insisted to the Blood Banks feedback from all stakeholders is taken and the action plan is refined accordingly for the future camps. Emphasis has been laid to document all relevant information, and the process is undergoing refinement time and again. All volunteers who participate in the camp are well trained and are made aware of the situations within the company under focus. During the camp, the donors are registered and our volunteers constantly speak to the donors to motivate and keep them in a relaxed frame of mind before the camp. DONOR SAFETY was, is and will forever be our topmost priority. No

compromise of any sorts is made here. The donor feedback is taken, and it helps us prepare better and make the process more meaningful to the donors. Mails to thank the management and the donors are also sent at the end of the camp.

The choice of blood banks is made on the basis of blood requirement and shortage. Statistical values of updates received from 1062 and the CTC team have been the major driving force. We have ensured a more equal and justified distribution of blood within Bangalore city. The benefiting blood banks are Victoria, Lions, Rashtrottana, Rotary TTK, Nimhans and Manipal. Other blood banks are being evaluated for quality standards, should they satisfy all, we will be pleased to work with them.



A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him.

Rakta Kranti- Companies

THE COMPANIES AND THE STATISTICS

Over the past year this campaign has resulted in more than 2200 donations spread across 15 Blood Camps in various companies which include Capgemini, Trianz, ITPB Tech Park, GCI, Ilantus, SSS India, Lucent. Some apartments that include Skyline apartments in Vijayanagar have also contributed to the cause. We are in contact with few other companies and this list is bound to have new names, same time next year Out of the 2200 donations, more than 450 donations are from first time donors and this number is increasing gradually. Slowly but surely we are heading towards the 100% voluntary donation mark.



THE WAY FORWARD:

The volunteers in the project will continue in their endeavor to reach 100% voluntary Blood Donation by organizing regular camps throughout the next year with the help of already existing companies and increasing the Blood Awareness to the masses through Brochures, posters etc. Emphasis will be given to increase the participation from newer companies and apartments to organize regular blood donation drives.

The Project has managed to get a sponsorship of more than 20000 brochures from BMTC, which will be used, judiciously in taking the message of blood donation among the masses.

There is a focus to also build a dedicated website for the RK activities of Sankalp. The aim is to make this site a one stop reference for all activities that are involved in holding a successful blood donation drive in a company.

I never did a day's work in my life. It was all fun

Rakta Kranti Colleges

Rakta Kranti (Blood revolution) aims at bringing about 100% Voluntary Blood Donation in Bangalore by taking the message of blood donation to the educational institutions. By organizing Blood Awareness Week in different colleges, where great emphasis is given to educating and motivating donors, we are slowly increasing the confidence of the people in the blood donation services.

Our creative and well organized awareness campaigns have shown a dramatic increase in the number of blood donors in each of the places we have organized the blood donation drive. But that is not all. We provide camps only to the best of the best blood banks in Bangalore who are willing to participate in the process of making things better.

The current process of having BLOOD AWARENESS WEEK is an evolution of several strategies and ideas which failed but helped us in analyzing and come up with new effective ideas.

Enthusiastic and motivated, we quickly started visiting the colleges in an attempt to convince them for blood donation drives. After approaching about 10 colleges things were clear. This approach was not working. The age-old practices being followed and the dogmas was too much for us to overcome in the meetings with the principals. Even after they were convinced with the idea, they were non-committal to any action. Reviewing the situation, we realized that our target could be achieved if and only if the message of blood reached out to the students. If we could explain to them the need of donating blood, remove their mis-conceptions about blood donation and motivate them to participate, then sooner or later, other factors would align. And this gave birth to the idea of blood awareness weeks.

So we had to come up with a new strategy to kick start this movement. We thought that making students aware of the blood scenario in Bangalore, removing mis-conceptions and building confidence to prepare regular blood donors was more important than having a camp itself in the college. Also we felt that approaching the principal via the students of that college itself is a better and more effective option, for such a movement, than we approaching them directly.

Hence we eventually came up with a plan of having a BLOOD AWARENESS WEEK in the different colleges to spread this message and make students aware of the importance of donating blood regularly which could eventually end up in a camp in that college. For this first we decided to start finding student links in differ-

ent colleges who could work with us on this. Then talk to them and make them clear about what we intend to do. Later ask them to talk the principal or concerned staff themselves and take permission to hold such an event in their college.

The BLOOD AWARENESS WEEK mainly involves sticking of posters around the college which talk about importance of voluntary blood donation, formation of TEAM RED -a team of life savers- by tying red bands to students, making announcements and giving motivational speeches in classes, performing skit and many other things.

This idea gave immediate results in the form of a BLOOD AWARENESS WEEK in Sapthagiri College of Engineering, from Feb 25th to 1st March, 2008. And the response from the students was so good that it eventually led to a camp on March ___ in that college where around 291 donations happened.

A similar event happened at Ammanni Womens College, Malleshwaram, from 31st March to 5th April, 2008. The event here was a success and the response was good. The authorities of that college have promised for a camp soon.

Since this was the first time we were doing such an activity there were a few minor errors and mistakes on our side which were discussed and rectified and efforts are still on to make this event much more interesting, informative and motivational.

Also talks are going on with students of different colleges, where volunteers have a link, to have this event in their college and in fact a lot of the colleges are in the pipeline for such an event to be organized.

Talking about our camps, we ensure that our blood donation drives are well planned in advance. We also make sure that the distribution of blood to various parts of the city is just, by inviting multiple blood banks for each of these camps.

For us Keeping donor's safety at the top, we are insisting on the Blood Bank to follow procedure which is at par with the best in the world and thereby assuring the donor quality and safe blood donation process.

With the aim of having 100% voluntary blood donation in the city, we dream to bring this activity of having a BLOOD AWARENESS WEEK to a platform wherein all the colleges in the city will impart this as a part of their curriculum and that of making each and every student educated about the importance of donating blood regularly, a revolution, a kranti, a RAKTA KRANTI has taken birth but has a long way to go...

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit!

Project Tiranga 2008

When it comes to direct action for the sake of the nation and its interests, we call it Project Tiranga. It's an attempt to bring in participation of people in National Festivals, prevent disrespect to the National Flag and ensure that the Martyrs are not forgotten.

2007-2008 was a very happening year in Project Tiranga. Four full missions were accomplished in this period. Project Tiranga infuses the Sankalp Volunteers with energy and life.

The past year saw new activities flourishing under the Project Tiranga umbrella. The Vivekananda School came very close to the hearts of the Sankalp Volunteers and we started Project Shiksha to help them in a variety of ways.

Let us see the Missions as accomplished!

Kargil Vijay Diwas



26th July was Vijay Diwas. That day marked the end of the Operation Vijay in 1999. We remember

those young men who died on the lofty peaks of the Himalayas to keep us safe and to uphold the honour of our Tiranga.

Shaheedon Ki Mazaaron Par Lagengay Har Baras Melay

Watan Par Mitne Walon Ka Yahee Bakee Nishan Hoga

The Memorial Service was held at MG Road on the evening of 28th July, 2007. The feeling and the cause brought together 6 of us to celebrate their sacrifice. Throughout the evening the feeble and the weak voice that we have, did it's best to fight the Bangalore traffic to let the sky hear- *Jai Hind. Vande Mataram. Kargil Shaheed Amar Rahein.* We lit candles. we saluted them. we at some moment had a little tear in our eyes.. "We will not Forget You"



I salute from the bottom of my heart to all the heroes whose sacrifice means that today we are able to safely live in harmony at our homes They are great souls who

have dedicated their entire life for the safety of the nation and us.

Today being Vijay divas I salute these great souls who fought valiantly towards achieving the common goal, the goal which they achieved.

Vande Mataram Jai Hind – Lalith Parmar



From Darkness to Light

The Independence Day festivity at Sankalp on 15th August 2007 promised to bring in colours and lights to hundreds of lives. Sankalp celebrated the Independence day by organising a drive encourage people to pledge their eyes. There are about 1.5 million people who today are unnecessarily blind. The only way their vision can be restored is by corneal transplant. But eye banks across the country are facing acute shortage of eyes. Much of this is due to lack of awareness among the people hence



In dreams begins responsibility.

Project Tiranga 2008

the day we celebrate our freedom, we thought to promise freedom to these people from darkness.

Eye donation awareness and registration drives were organized for ARM Embedded technologies and Applied Materials. Many students from MSRIT also came forward to pledge their eyes. Many visitors of sankalpindia.net



from all parts of the country too joined in the cause by pledging their eyes online.

After the Independence Day, Sankalp has provided

for eye donation registration though sankalpindia.net. Please spread the word and register online to further the cause.

Mission Siachen

While we prosper and grow in the safety and comforts



of the cities, there are some men who brave the worst conditions on the planet to keep our land safe in Siachen. Guarding our land even at the cost

of their life, there is a little appreciation they ever receive for the great task that they do for our Nation.

Gross apathy and disregard from the masses is all they get from the country of a billion people they guard. On Republic Day 2008 we sent 3340 handmade postcards with message of care and appreciation to the soldiers posted in Siachen. We wanted to remind them that the people of this Nation care for them and pray for their well being as they serve the cause of the motherland at 22000 feet above sea level. The cards are being distributed to the soldiers right now. Col A of the Karnataka and Kerala Sub-Area of the Army says – “They will keep these postcards next to the images of their Gods and their family. They will be very happy to note that people care for them. Surely this will help boost their morale”.

Project Shiksha



Swami Vivekananda Shishu Vihar and Kannanda Hiriya Prathamik School.

When for the first time we visited this small school in Banshankri, we knew that there was something every special about this place that will bring us back. And indeed it happened. Our National Festivals are now usually celebrated with the young bright future that is nurtured and educated in this school.

When for the first time we visited this small school in Banshankri, we knew that there was something every special about this place that will bring us back. And indeed it happened. Our National Festivals are now usually celebrated with the young bright future that is nurtured and educated in this school.



Ship is safe at harbor but it is not made for that.

Project Tiranga 2008

Out of all the schools that we have been to in the past, this place came exceptionally close to Sankalp Volunteers. Indeed it is a special place. We found teachers in this school who did not ask us to teach the children. Rather they wanted us to teach them so that they can discharge their job in a better way. We found, that every little piece of equipment we gave to this school was being used by the poorest of poor students. To us, this school looked like a place where there were enthusiastic students, dedicated teachers and high hopes for a better future. The only thing that was lacking sometimes was resources to keep things going. It is here that we decided to pitch in.

Since then, our relationship with the school is flourishing. Time and again we have tried to help them out and the outcome of our little help has left us spellbound. Here is a small timeline of events.

26th Jan '07: It started with a day visit in a school to celebrate and share joy of National Festival on 26th Jan 2007. For the first time we came face to face with the young energetic students of the school. Some sports equipment was all that we could provide them.

3rd Feb '07: We arranged for copies and pencils for the young children.

23rd June '07: We received a request for 700 copies for the children for new session. Sankalp provided the helping hand.

15th Aug '07: We got an invitation to join them on occasion of Independence Day during their cultural celebration. We were amazed to see the dedication of children and commitment of teacher for the function.

15th Feb '08: The bonding didn't stop here and now we receive the request from teacher to help them in learning Spoken English. For next three month we make sure one of the volunteer is there every Saturday to teach them spoken English and it bears the fruit hen today teacher are much more confident and fluent in speaking English then few months back.

We have received the best of education and that is what has helped us rise in society to a level when we have enough for ourselves and more. Now, it is time for us to give back to the same system that gave us such a special place. These young kids are the future of



our nation. And if there is anything that we can do in our small capacities to usher their growth, we are more than ready to help.

The current plan for the school includes getting the school the much needed whitewash. We are also in the process of arranging for two computers for them to ensure that they enter the e-age on the right foot.

Keep Walking...

Block: Please visit the school at *Koramara Colony Ramakrishna Block, Thyagrajnagar, Bangalore-560028.*

Project Shaheed

Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev gave their lives for a dream in 23rd March, 1931. They dreamt of a truly free nation where there was no place for exploitation of man by man. They died with a firm belief that the generations to come will get inspired and work towards building a free and just society for all. After independence, slowly these ideas took a back seat. Many years later, now when we look back at these great men, we know that the Independence they dreamt of is far from achieved. On Shaheed Diwas, 23rd March, each year we organized a small introspective programme to remind us of our duty and responsibility.

Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value.

Project Tiranga 2008

One with Bhopal

Bhopal survivors, are among the poorest people on the earth, sick, living on the edge of starvation, illiterate, without funds, powerful friends or political influence, are willing to risk what remains of their health and livelihood by walking 850kms to Delhi to confront the Prime Minis-



ter of India. All they want is what they were promised two years ago. They are rights most of us take for granted: water free of poison; medical care; a clean envi-



ronment and social support. Justice for those who stole their health, their dreams, and the lives of their loved ones. On Shaheed Diwas this year, we stood in solidarity for the March for Justice. On the 77th Anniversary of the Supreme sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, we join in to extend our support to the victims of Bhopal

Gas Disaster by organizing the event "One with Bhopal". About 80 young people got together to ask the Prime Minister to Walk his talk and to demand justice for Bhopal. A candle light vigil followed. As we remembered the martyrs, getting to know the story of Bhopal was a reminder that the dreams of the martyrs are not fulfilled and that we the youth bear the responsibility of fulfilling them.

"It has been 24 years and the people are still suffering due to absolutely no fault of theirs. The people who died are not the only victims, but the people who lived and the generations which came after the incident still suffer. It is high time that the Government provide them Justice.

By being a part of the event Shaheed Diwas



2008, "One With Bhopal", it was one way I could show my solidarity with the victims of the Bhopal Gas Disaster. I certainly hope and pray for the Bhopalis. I will support them and stand by them till Justice is attained." -Lisha

Discontent is the first necessity of progress

MSR Memorial Blood donation Services

M S Ramaiah Group of Institutions contributes hundreds of units of blood each year to the city. With about 10000 students studying in various courses the group has immense blood donor potential. But the home blood bank of this group had a very poor ratio of Voluntary Donations. This paradoxical situation was all set to change when MSR Memorial Blood Donation Service was launched. All the colleges in Ramaiah Group of Institutions were brought under a common Blood Transfusion service that makes sure that Ramaiah Blood Bank never faces a terrible shortage of blood.



Donors waiting for their turn to donate blood at the MSR College of Pharmacy.

Small weekly blood donation camps are being organized where the blood that is running out of stock is selectively collected. Students from Indian Institute of Sciences have joined in to ensure that the blood bank never runs out of blood and thereby the city is always prepared for emergencies. Hence MSR Memorial Blood donation Services (MSRMBDS) was initiated. The primary aim of it was to cater the needs of blood by having regular camps, aimed at collecting only 35 units of blood which could satisfy a week's need of the blood bank.

In the last one year the institutions of MSR Group have come forward wholeheartedly to support this revolutionary concept of holding small and efficient camps, solving the problem that persisted and also providing an opportunity to the students to participate proactively in Blood Banking.

The following the college wise details from 7th April, 2007 to 19th April 2008

S N o	College	No. of camps	Number of donors	No. of units collected
1	MSR Institution of Technology	7	220	180
2	MSR College Medical	3	54	49
3	MSR Dental College	2	57	53
4	MSR Hotel Management	3	89	79
5	MSR Inst. of Management	1	44	31
6	MSR College of Pharmacy	1	37	31
	Total	17	501	423

This Service is not only trying to ensure continuous supply of blood to the blood bank but also ushering in a new era when students are aware about the need for voluntary donation and they volunteer for this program. Not only do they donate this time but they make up their minds to donate whenever there is a need, they are determined to donate regularly.

The Service would not have taken off so well had it not been for the proactive support from the Principals and the staff of the various colleges. They have been our biggest critics as well as our motivators, leading the service to better itself day after day.

Inspiration can spark from the slightest instance but can lead to a cascading effect.

MSR Memorial Blood donation Services

The M S R Memorial Blood Donation service was very well received by the students. The overwhelming support and encouragement has been communicated to us by the persistent contribution of blood and the words that have filled up in the feedback sheets from the camps. The knowledge packed talks cleared their doubts and left them confident and keen about blood donation.

Dr. Uma Bai, one of the most experienced blood transfusion experts in the city has taken note of the promise and potential that this service holds. She has requested our team to help her in setting up of a similar unit elsewhere in the city. The wheel has started turning.

This was a new experiment done in the field of blood donation. And we are glad that at the end of a full year of work, we feel it is paying rich dividends. The roadmap is set for the years to come. The Service is slowly gearing up, getting as many as institutions contributing to the service, giving the students a chance to save lives.

Best day:

12th April 2008. For the first time I attended a blood donation camp in Management college. I had seen many blood donations earlier, but I had no idea about the camp. I was given the task of a buffer, but I had no idea what a buffer had actually to do. My seniors helped me and then I had a hazy idea of what I am going to do. But once the camp started, everything became clear to me. I was simply enjoying every moment there. I was so happy to interact with so many donors at a time and the best thing I liked about them was that they all really wanted to help people in need. Another thing that made me feel happy was that the girls were especially excited about donating blood. I had no idea when time passed and finally the camp came to an end. I was so happy and delighted that I wish to attend camps in future too.

- Shyam

Donor experience:

I am a regular blood donor and I 'thought' that I knew all the details of a blood donation camp until I donated once in the MSR Blood donation services.

Donating in a camp like this is really an out of the world experience. The camp starts with a pre donation camp where emphasis is laid on the standard guidelines which is to be followed for a person to be eligible to donate blood. I was amazed to see such a high number of rejections because of smoking, low haemoglobin level, not having proper food or sleep. Then the whole donation process was very informative. All the minor details of why we do certain things was made clear to us.

The post donation care simply rocked. For the first time I felt that these people really care for the donors after the donation is over. I mean where will you find people who will emphasise on not smoking or drinking till a certain period of time after donation and then tell you the reason for it.

This blood donation camp inspired me to donate blood regularly and also tell my friends the same thing. Thank you for such a nice experience.

The ideas that have lighted my way have been kindness, beauty and truth.

Public Relations Team

Public Relations Team of Sankalp was in a very poor shape last year. We were making sure Sankalpindia.net is up and running with interesting material but we had lots of complaints from our well wishers about *not being informed*. At the end of yet another year, we feel the things have improved in a huge way.

Newsletter delivery was ensured and regularized in 2007-08. We made sure that we tell you in advance about the things that we plan to do. At the end of the event we came back to you to tell you the impact of the work done. And, all through we made sure that you had some very good reading to do. Now you can subscribe to the newsletter by submitting your email on sankalpindia.net.

SankalpIndia.Net has grown in a big way with the addition of many regular sections. We work hard to kill out the negativity that creeps in and ensure that you have more reasons to love and know your nation. The following are the few things that have been added to the site.

India After independence

Most of us are plagued with the lack of understanding of our own nation in a larger sense. Though we are born in a free nation, we hardly know anything about its evolution since 15th August, 1947. How many of us are aware of Op



Blue Star, the 4 major wars, the famines after independence and the major social changes? Sankalpindia.net wishes to pick up a topic of great National Importance each month and present to its readers an un-biased and clear dealing of the issue. This we hope will build up better leaders for the society who on one hand are equipped with the most modern knowledge and on the other, who have learnt and who fully understand the problems and strengths of this great Nation.

Know India

Know India is an attempt to bring to you some amazing facts about our country. Every second day we post something that tells you more about our land. Starting from issues to history, from culture to literature and fine arts, this is a magic box of small write-ups that you will fall in love with soon.

Food For Soul

Life is the greatest gift by god. He has gifted every human being with something special. Very few realize their specialty on time, few others realize it late, there is another category who never realize. This is because of your



thinking "you are whatever you think". Food for soul strives to takeout the negativity and filling with positive thinking, which in turn helps in self growth and growth of the society around us which has given us so many things in our life.

Event Updates

We have included features to keep you posted about what is coming up. Just hit the site and choose what event you will like to be a part of.

News

With the increased diversification there was an urgent need to prepare a consolidated page to tell you what we are doing. So, we have the news section on site. Every week get to see the summary of what's happening in Sankalp.

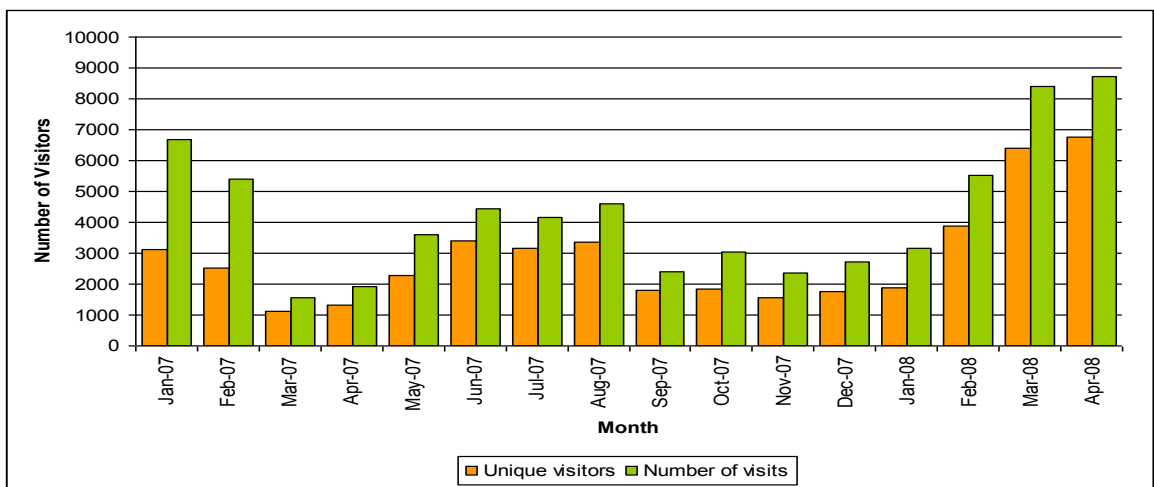
It is like the seed put in the soil - the more one sows, the greater the harvest. -- Orison Swett Marden.

Public Relations Team

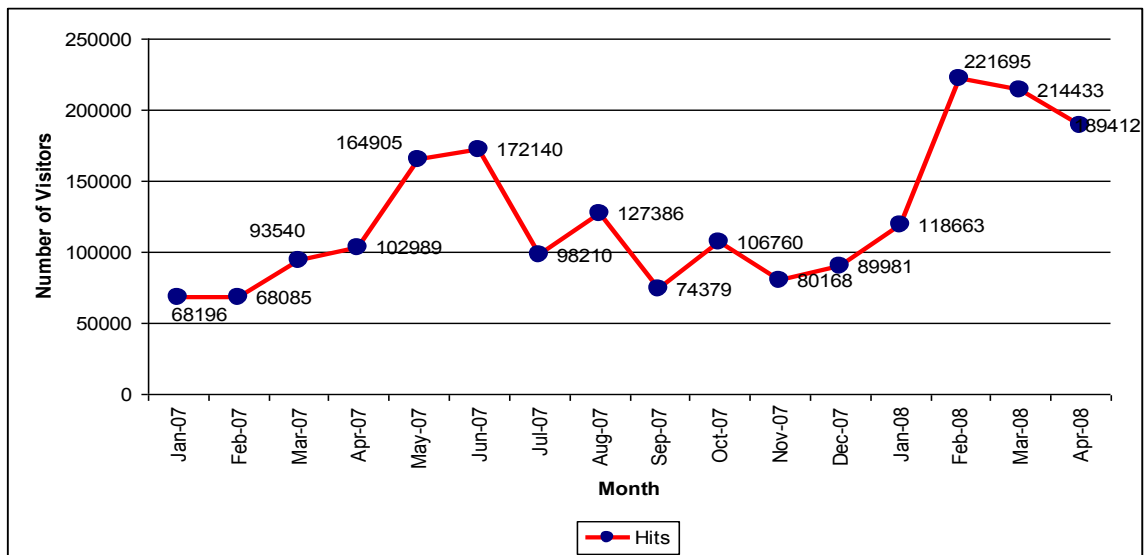
Interaction with the media

A phenomenal change in the past year was the participation and support extended by media to Sankalp. It took time for the city to develop faith in our services and when they took note, it was for good. Be it CTC Disha, One With Bhopal, Mission Siachen or World Blood Donation Day, the media came forward readily to help spread the message of life. A special thanks goes to all our friends in the media who have ensured that the word about our services reaches to the people who need it the most.

Finally at the end of this year we can proudly say that the promise made last year has been kept. We are working towards informing and involving more and more people with our work. At the same time, the PR team bears on its shoulders to secure the basic principals of the organization.



Over past one year we have seen a steady increase in the hits on our website. With a host of new features and sections our site has become a must read for hundreds of people nationwide.



Obstacles cannot crush me. Every obstacle yields to stern resolve. He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind

Disaster Mitigation and Management

Disaster mitigation and Management wing of Sankalp thankfully got to wait in the background for most part of 2007-08. After many subsequent disasters, finally the nation saw a little peace. The new type of emergency that is rapidly gaining the reputation of a disaster is the 'terror attacks'. In last one year, Sankalp had just two operations for disaster relief – the Hyderabad Blasts and Jaipur Blasts.

Hyderabad Terrorist Attack



25th August 2007: At least 40 people were killed and scores injured in two powerful blasts in Hyderabad, one at an amusement park packed with weekend holidayers and another at a landmark eatery in the heart of the city on Saturday evening.

Two very young Sankalp volunteers were there in Hyderabad when the event happened. Within a few minutes, the Bangalore wing of Sankalp was actively working to assess the situation. The magnitude and the damage of the blasts were such that the local administration was able to provide immediate relief. But, there were news-reports of blood shortage.

In about two hours we had 40 donors including rare groups ready to donate blood in any of the three hospitals where the victims were taken. The hospitals were reassured about the backup supply of blood.

Though short in nature, this incidence make the Sankalp Volunteers brush up their skills at emergency response. Yet again the need was preparedness was re-emphasized.

The Safe Diwali Campaign



The first year volunteers of Sankalp got their first chance to serve the nation by spreading the message of Safe Diwali in the schools of Bangalore. They divided themselves in 5 groups and set out to motivate and educate the students to enjoy the festival of lights safely.

Morning Assembly talks were organized where the young children were told the do's and don'ts. Information brochures were distributed and posters put up. The young minds took the information being provided very enthusiastically and soon we had a brigade of thousands of Safe Diwali Volunteers taking the message to their own localities. About 15 schools were covered in the project.

Within the organization, the primary focus has shifted to Blood Donation Organization and this has led to a decline in the skills to handle emergencies. This problem has been identified and the steps to improve the situation identified. We hope to be in a better shape to handle emergencies in the time to come.

Jaipur Blasts

The Jaipur blasts on 13th May created blood requirements in that city. By around 11:30 pm, there were blood requirements aired on News channels. Throughout the night, there were messages being sent to all the people to be forwarded to people in and around Jaipur, to donate blood. Indianblooddonors.com was contacted to spread the message of blood donation in Jaipur to fulfill the requirements. Most of the requirements were fulfilled except for a few negative group requests.

If you are not a part of solution, you are a problem itself

Sankalp Tech

As the organization grew in size, the requirements of IT within the working teams in Sankalp grew very rapidly. The earlier tentative way of getting the technical issues fixed and proceeding in the organization gave way to the creation of an expert team of volunteers dedicated to building up the technical aspects of the organization.

What do we do?

We provide the right tools, platforms and technical know-how for the various Sankalp teams to work efficiently.

Goals

- To empower the organization with state of the art technologies that lead to automation, efficiency and quality.
- To develop within the organization a scientific temperament that enables people to find technical solutions to common problems.
- To explore new arenas of technology that can contribute to the organization's growth.

Objectives

- To keep the Sankalp Information-Technology tools and methodologies running and in good shape
- To regularly update and improvise the current technologies and keep abreast the best in the world
- To carry out feasibility analysis of newer technical requests and to support the people who are taking them forward
- Bug search and fix regularly.

Since May, 07 we have been able to reinforce the organization with the following tools/technologies:

Karmabhoomi

Sankalp runs more than 5 projects at the same time. There are about 35 volunteers contributing

on a daily basis to these projects. The organization always has some people coming in and going out but still things remain intact. Ever wondered how we are able to manage and control this complex process flow and still maintain efficiency and high performance?

With the increase in the number of projects and independent working areas, last year, we anticipated a need of a common platform for volunteer's interaction. This platform was to serve the need of organizing the information related to each of the working areas and make it seamlessly available to all the working members. We required process flow to be formalized and organized so that the performance penalties could be identified and subsequently eliminated.

We came up with a 100% indigenously built and designed Project management System for Sankalp. Karmabhoomi as we call it now is the Sankalp portal to handle all the information exchange between the volunteers. Customized and designed for our needs, it has emerged into a powerful tool for us to keep track of our internal activity.

Some of the features of the site include:

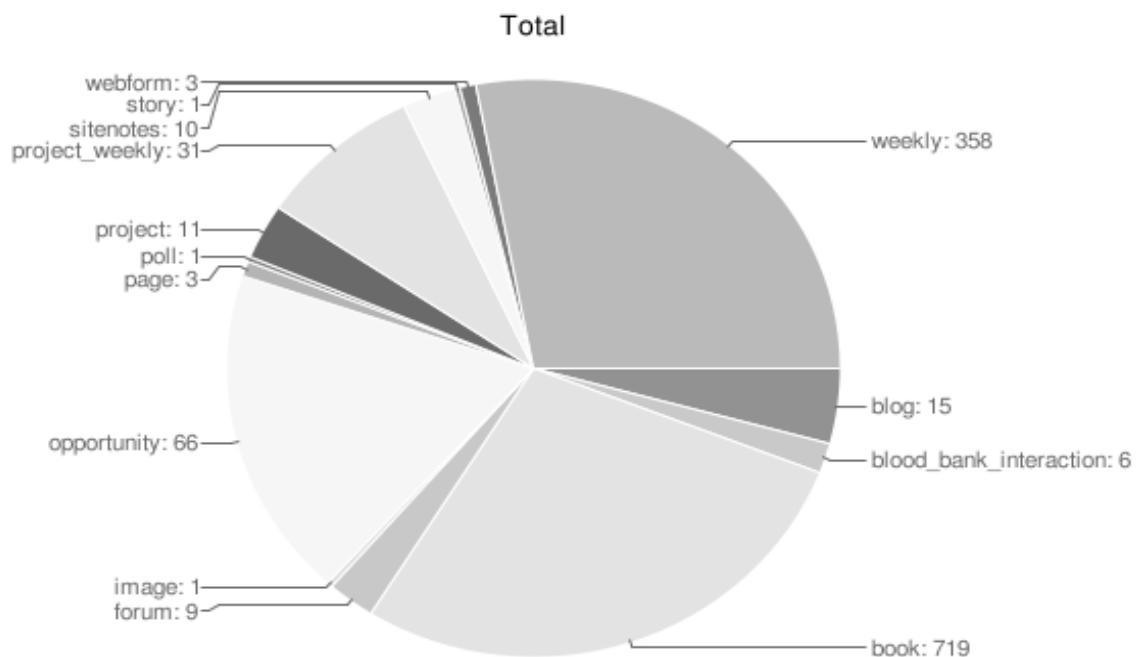
- Weekly reports – Every week the volunteer's post what they had planned in the past week, what actually happened and what they are planning for next week. This improves clarity of work and ensures synchronization with other team members.
- Opportunity management system – This is a tool to access the progress of individual tasks/opportunities in each of the projects.
- File Sharing – Warehouse – This enables the doc sharing between Sankalp Volunteers and helps maintain a central repository for all important docs.

To get profit without risk, experience without danger, and reward without work, is as impossible as it is to live without being born

Sankalp Tech

- Discussion Boards – These allow discussion between Sankalp volunteers.
- External Interaction Trackers – Each one of us is interacting with various people outside the organization. These interactions are logged in by the volunteers so that all the volunteers are informed about the latest updates from everyone.

News: Serves as categorical news-boards for the volunteers.



CiviCRM

Last year during the anniversary programme we promised that we will improve the way we let our friends and well-wishers know about the organization. I am happy to announce that we have been able to fulfill this promise in full. We have been delivering the newsletters to all the friends and well-wishers of the organization each month since March 2007. Since last June we have been able to integrate a elegant contact management system – “CiviCRM” into our drupal installations which allows us to keep you informed in a very good way.

Information and Statistics Management

Be it the number of blood requests that we are taking up daily, or the number of camps being helped, or the number of volunteers submitting the weekly reports, we have learnt to harness the immense sea of information that is available with us into highly manageable form and share it across geographies. Online document sharing tools like Zoho and Google Docs and Spreadsheets have been integrated in the work flow. As a consequence the visibility and the performance of the teams, both are improving rapidly.

Dream no small dreams, for they have no power to move the hearts of men.

Sankalp Tech

SankalpIndia.Net

Sankalpindia.net has a whole new interface. Since last year, we have been able to provide you tools to do a lot many more things on the site. You can share the content with your friends, bookmark pages easily, and rate the articles, syndicate content to your favorite aggregators and much more on SnakalpIndia.Net. The user interface has been improved and the bugs that had found their way into the system, eliminated. Maintaining and improving Sankalpindia.net is an integral part of our activity.

There is at least one technical frontier on which Sankalpindia.net had been performing exceptionally well. The site has been very well received by Google. Currently about 2400 pages our website are being indexed by google.

Google indexing has helped us a lot in reaching out to people and publicizing our website. Type in any blood related keyword and you are likely to be linked to our homepage. This is a result of constant effort by us to keep our technology updated. Our website has become a must visit for many people who want to make this world a better place.

Looking Ahead

Besides maintaining our current IT setups, we have a well drafted and debated plan to upgrade our IT infrastructure to help us operate smoothly across the increasing number of geographies that we have started catering to. With projects like Karnataka Wide Blood Search network, www.teamred.in and www.blooddeindia.org we will be required to push in a lot more Information technology into the organization. More members for the team have been identified and their training has begun. Next year when we write this report, we hope to tell you about the way the above mentioned projects are shaping a revolution.

We put together technology that creates revolutions!

Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding. Albert Einstein

Administrative Team

Introduction of Administrative Team:

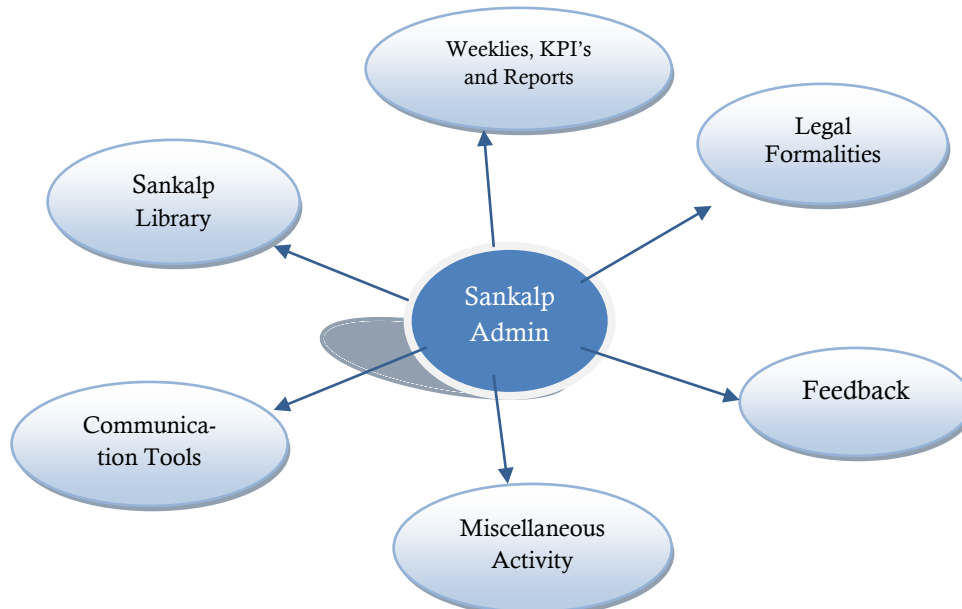
"If I had six hour to cut down a tree, I'd spend four hours sharpening the ax."

-Abraham Lincoln



With organizational growth, we observed that it became more and more difficult to get the right thing done at the right time and in the right way. With volunteers with diverse interests and capabilities and tasks that demanded a wide spectrum of skill, it was a challenge to ensure quality work at a good pace. Sankalp set up an administrative team to ensure that this challenge was well addressed and overcome. After a year of work, the streamlined structure of the organization that ensures multiple parallel wings working seamlessly and optimally is testimony to the performance and the delivery of this team.

Goal and Responsibility of Admin Team:



The law of nature always ensures that when one door closes the other opens...

Administrative Team

The challenge that lay ahead of us had required a thorough information exchange and maintenance process throughout the organization. The first thing we did was to identify and document all the requirements and the available resources. Once this was done, the delicate task of assigning the right people to the right jobs was done. The emphasis was on setting up processes rather than one time activities.

Transparency and visibly becomes a major issue as people indulge in their working domains. We put mechanisms like weekly reports in place to ensure that we had a central record of who's doing what and how.

For communication between the volunteers we setup the time tested techniques of mailing lists and groups.

Making use of more contemporary and trendy technologies, we setup sms newsgroups.

Taking good care of volunteer growth, satisfaction and development was another important task on the admin list. We setup and utilised feedback processes and other related tools to enable early detection and resolution of possible problems. Ensuring that the volunteers develop

the required skills and are inline with what they are doing is an ongoing process at the administrative wing.

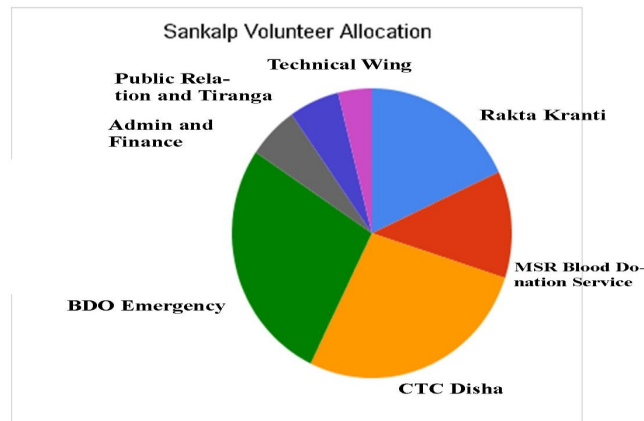
Starting from this semester Sankalp has started Sankalp Library for volunteers.

Conclusion of work done till this semester:

Since the start of our team in mid December we have been constantly working to remove the ad-hoc nature of working and help push in robust methodologies. As we grow, a greater emphasis is required on sustainability and procedure. The establishment of the Admin Team has ushered in these changes. As it always is, setting up procedures is met with little resistance initially and the admin team has gained the reputation of pushing people into fighting this resistance. Sankalp is moving towards becoming a highly structured organization.

Sankalp Admin team is a new team which was born as a need for a proper management as the organization grows. Admin will continue to work for the realization of its goal and objective.

Jai Hind...Jai Bharat...



Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.

Sankalp Chennai

Introduction

Sankalp Chennai was started in September 2007. Strange as it may sound, all three members came from the same company but had not known about the presence of the others in the group until they actually joined 😊

Team Responsibilities

For the reasons that we were fresh to Sankalp, and that we do not have any seniors here at Chennai, our activities were restricted to BDO.

As part of this, our tasks were:

1. Adding emergency donors
2. Handling blood requests from Chennai region

Learning by interacting with Bangalore team

Adding emergency donors

This task began with registering donors from our company – MindTree – and from our friends circles.

Handling blood requests from Chennai region

Our activities for Sankalp were largely related to this task. To date we have received and handled more than 33 requests of different types, with one of them being for platelets (apheresis procedure).

Learning by interacting with Bangalore team

Being in a different location, we were unable to interact face-to-face on a regular basis with senior Sankalp members and volunteers. Our interactions were largely through mails and newsletters, and sometimes through chat on need basis. On a few occasions, there have been some face-to-face meetings when there was inter city travel by members of either group (Bangalore / Chennai), the most significant of them being in the first week of February, when Barani and Jacob

visited Bangalore to take part in Sankalp's Sunday meeting.

Analysis:

What went well?

- From being newbies, Sankalp Chennai team is now steadily gaining more and more knowledge on all matters related to blood donation
- With experience, the team has started learning to judge request severity and offer appropriate help
- The team has gained a sense of responsibility to the society, so that when someone has any sudden discomfort in a public area, we do not hesitate to help; we feel in-charge and responsible for the well being of all

What could have been done better?

- The team should have focused on getting newer emergency donors registered, consistently. The current count is 19, which is too small a number to quote after nearly 8 months in operation
- Reporting of cases on pr.sankalpindia.net was earlier sporadic. However, of late, this has been regularized

The road ahead:

Having found little traction in taking BDO activities ahead here at Chennai, now the path ahead has been charted this way, with guidance from Sankalp seniors:

Sankalp Chennai wing shall now start conducting blood donation camps, and use those opportunities to source volunteers and donors. Moreover, these camps shall also be used to educate people on blood donation.



forums



Should we boycott Multi National Company products?

In today's world of globalization does the concept of using Indian product hold its value?

Is globalization helping Indian economy or hammering its growth? Should we adopt the idea of Swadeshi Product or it's not required?

There is no end to it...

Mohitag

Well, being an India I feel survival of an Indian without using any foreign products is impossible. Everyone is an Indian at heart and wants to really take their country to a new height but the efforts which are needed are missing somewhere.

I am sure that the content of this comment may be viewed as objectionable by most of those who read it but I still want to discuss what I feel.

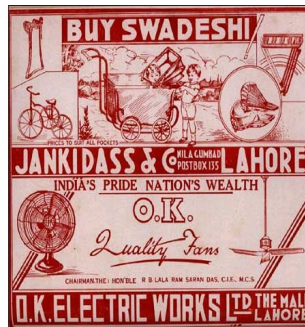
When we talk about Boycotting foreign goods and using only Swadeshi products have we ever thought about its feasibility? Just by providing a list of products of daily needs like tooth paste, soap, clothes etc cannot actually put a stop to our dependency of foreign made products. It is not just

dependence but also our competence. Indians are extremely intelligent but have they been able to design even one computer without importing software, or other things? How many of you who are reading this mail are planning to resign from your MNC's as a gesture of loyalty towards your country, how many of you can stop using Rolex, Tag Heur and switch to HMT watches, how many of you will take an oath not to use mobile phones manufactured in other countries, how many of you can pledge not to fly in an aero plane built by a

foreign company and There is simply no end to it. If we raise topics of such importance we should be cautious while expressing our views as what we speak is what we are. If we just say we must boycott then we must be able to boycott everything and in true spirit, else I would consider that we are hypocrites. Why can we not first learn our national language start a forum in Hindi and then think of achieving bigger goals towards our national pride?

What is important is not what we want to be but what we are doing to become what we want to be...

Sorry if I have hurt anyone's emotions, that was not my intention :-)



A quick response

Rajat

Some of us may already be trying to MINIMIZE the use of these goods. They may be doing it for YEARS now. They still may be using NOKIA mobiles, but they may be opting for PROMISE tooth paste.

They MAY BE branded as hypocrites and their intentions to boycott VOID.. but people may already be doing part of what is really considered impossible in modern life and YET live on.

Why are we, as a nation so obsessed with foreign things? Is it a legacy of our colonial years? We want foreign television sets. We want foreign shirts. We want foreign technology. Why this obsession with everything imported?

Forums

Try Indian Brands at least once....

Ankita

Hi Mohit

I agree to what you said but my understanding of boycotting MNC product is not to stop using it. Since childhood I have been using Lux soap but recently since some 2-3 years I have started using Santoor. I always used Ponds Cold cream but this time I thought to give a try to Himalays cold cream and I found it to be really good.

Point is we Indians don't even give a try to Indian products because we never get to see its promos. It's highly impossible to stop using MNC products but it's not so difficult to at least give a try to Indian Brands which gives you quality.

At least I can say about myself that wherever possible. I have started using Indian products. Soap, Shampoo, toothpaste, Toothbrush, salt, chips, ice-cream etc. I still could not get alternative for Washing soap, chocolates (Amul is not easily available), jeans (I don't get the latest one in Indian brands). But every time whenever I go to buy something I make an honest attempt to comeback with all Indian products.

Only this honest attempt is required from all of us. It is not possible for a country to be able to manufacture or grow everything under the sun and so this dependency will always be there. But when you have an option to help your brother or a stranger, I am sure you will first opt to help your brother though you may be sure that you won't get anything in return from him and that stranger may give you whatever you want.

I appreciate the spirit.

Mohitag

Dear Ankita,

It is always nice to get a prompt reply to your thoughts. Am glad that you spared time to go through my comment. First of all I would like to clarify that I am not one against India, I am an Indian and I questioned the sincerity in efforts made by people just to provoke them and instill them with a spirit to take the country to new heights. But I really do not feel that using Santoor soap or searching for Amul chocolates is a way to prove one's strong ties to Indianness.

-

It has to come from within...

You are right Mohit

Rajat

Nothing can question or prove anyone's ties with their motherland. If anything suggests so, it is only a very short-sighted and unacceptable thing.

But, I feel we need to break the discussion into two halves.

1. Are multinational companies actually causing a severe damage to India? This question we must find answer for ourselves and come to some conclusion.

2. Once we have actually found the answer to the question 1, we can think of asking ourselves - "If I think that multinational companies are actually causing a severe damage to India, then is there something that I can do about it?" The scope of what you can quit using and what you can't and the related issues arises only when you are sure that the damage is being done and that ways to prevent damage are to be found. If someone is not clear about the first point, then, I guess, discussion over the products etc is irrelevant.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood. -- Teddy Roosevelt

Forums

It reminds me of a few "Lines"

Lisha

"It sleeps deep within us but it must come out, feelings alone don't make a difference, action does". These were the first lines I got to read about Sankalp.

Personally speaking, I feel this is a looped issue (if we try to boycott all MNCs, then we will have large-scale unemployment to deal with and many other issues). So, it's really difficult to decide what to do on a very large scale. But we have to start somewhere, and that can be by starting to use Indian Products. And since this is just the beginning, one cannot call them hypocrites, for using a few other products as well.

We should certainly boycott.....

Amit

We should certainly boycott multinational companies which have eaten our Indian economy like cold drinks. We should certainly boycott those which we can easily afford but there are certain multinational companies which is a benefit to the Indian society. As a result people still support it because there are no choices in India for them. Once India gets equally developed the people will start believing in Swadeshi to Pardesi.

Be Indian Buy Indian

Try to buy Indian products it creates wealth to India. Even we cannot avoid importing products but these are the deals which should be done. As if we think of a deal of exporting mangoes and importing bike of \$5000 bike. It is worthwhile because there are only a few people who buy/own \$5000 bike and which cannot be driven on Indian roads. That is good. And the most important thing is the trade b/w nations cannot be stopped; but people should think of what we are buying. Buy to create wealth for the nation.

Just wanna add..

Tejasvi Adiga

I agree about the employment problem and i also think that these companies bring in competition thus increasing the quality and the services being provided.. The idea of slow progress is also interesting..

I believe we have to keep in mind that we shouldn't allow multinational companies to take over the Indian market. There should be scope for Indian goods too..

Not really convinced.....

Shweta

Well....

I m still not sure how it affects Indian Economy.....

I am still not convinced with it....

And when it comes to buying MNC products....

I don't find anything wrong in that....

By stopping buying the MNC products I really don't think we will do any good....

These companies provide a lot of employment in our country...

And there is a lot of difference between Videocon products and Samsung products....a lot of difference between Maaza and Fanta....

It's like I want to drink Sprite and i don't want to drink Fanta....I have stopped both....which seems to make no sense at all....

And Indian products are also sold outside India....

Then even they should stop buying our products...

It would be smarter if we could make or produce products of the international quality....

Like the way Himalaya cosmetic company...

Let's compete....

Let's make ourselves better....which sounds very ideal....

But the MNCs are not my enemies....

I don't have any problem with them....

They have the quality and I buy it....

Whatever you can conceive and believe, you can achieve

One year of CTC Disha

It has been one year of our fight to revolutionize the blood banking system in Bangalore. One year to make a system which helps people find blood information at ease. It's the first Anniversary of CTC Disha. It's time

Good work!!

Tejasvi

I was mesmerised when i first understood what CTC-Disha(1062) was all about.. When i find my seniors working on it and trying to solve the problems they face in this project it really makes me happy that such a nice project is handled so well by such nice people. I wish CTC Disha to prosper in the same manner and as Amit sir said a day should come when 1062 is known for Blood rather than ambulances.

We will.

Amitsedai

One year has passed since we started fighting this static system. When you are true and uncompromising God certainly hears you. After a year, I see a change in the system we had been trying to change for long. This year the anniversary of Disha is passing without much fuss. But next year will be different. Next year there will be a different story, I promise.

Fight the Dogmas

Rajat

CTC Disha is a step in the direction of bringing in transparency in Blood Banking. A person donates blood for the needy. But the blood banks impose hundreds of definitions on this word needy.

For some blood banks needy means the per-

son who belongs to a particular hospital. For some other, the need is function of wealth and recommendations. Some have gone ahead and approved a sort of blood insurance. Give now and take when you want approach. Needy. A grossly misleading and false concept in blood banking.

What problem should a Blood Bank have in letting everyone know what blood they have? After all they say that they issue blood without bias! After all the donor who gave them blood wanted them to do this. But no! In last one year of working of Disha we have seen the most famous and reputed blood banks also provide false stock information day after day. Shamelessly the same people approach the companies and HRs and assure world class service and transparency of operation.

Sometimes, I feel the vicious marketing guys who provide an excellent offer are better than the blood bank. At least they attach an asterisk (*) and indicate what they truly mean at the bottom. The blood banks, not all but many, just blatantly break the donor's faith in them.

It is agonizing to see this in a civilized society. It is agonizing to see people assert their control and authority over life fluid - blood.

CTC Disha has been and will continue to try to bring to the access of the common man as much safe blood as possible.

Gods be with us - we will bring true transparency in Bangalore Blood Banks!!

In the dark (without vision) we are limited, we can not do anything. But when there is sunlight (vision) we see the sky which has no limits.

How far are medical professional aware about blood transfusion?

Sankalp Volunteers often get to meet doctors while solving blood cases. We often get to hear what the doctors told the patient about arranging for blood.

Please discuss here your experiences in this regard. Share the responses the doctors gave you (or gave someone else).

60 Units!!!!

Rajat

On Sunday, I got a call from a patient who said that they required 60 units of blood. Considering the large number of units, in a flash of a moment I decided to go and personally meet the people.

Only when I read the requisition form did I realize that what was required was 6 pints of blood. Pints are represented by doctors by putting a dot in the centre of a circle.

Obviously, the doctor did not care to explain to the patient's relative what exactly was required. The slip that was given could easily lead to the mistake of considering 6 pints as sixty.

I did not know what to say!!!

Surprised..

Tejasvi

Well even though one who studies dental gets a doctors degree, he/she doesn't know much about blood donation.. I was shocked to find that they even didn't know about the component separation of blood.. It is the same case with other doctors who do not handle cases related to blood.. That day i realized not to assume that doctors know everything:-)

Apheresis

Rajat

On one occasion I met a person who required apheresis to be done for his wife. The poor fellow wanted to know what apheresis is. As he approached the doctor, the only reply the doctor had for him was this-"It is normal blood donation. Get a person about 65 kgs of same blood group and go to blood bank. Get that letter signed by the in charge and it will be done!". The person asked again, why it takes 2 hours and is it dangerous. The doctor repeated the same reply as before.

Five minutes later when I saw the person outside the blood bank, the look on the face said that he did not know what to do. He was nervous because someone had told him 8 units will be taken out in Apheresis. He was imagining that it is like some operation. I cooled him down, explained each detail. And in five minutes, he was smiling, confident of convincing someone to donate platelets.

We often visit blood banks

Amit

We often visit blood banks and the response is good i.e. the doctors insist the patient relative to get the blood from their own side first but they should be more polite. If there is a replacement case the doctors do strictly insist upon the donations from the patient's side. Whenever we handle cases, most of the time the patient relative is found searching for donors among his friends.

Put your heart, mind, intellect and soul even to your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.

Forums

Get Platlets

Rajat

I remember a lard happily walking out of the OT and ordering the patient's illiterate relatives to get 2 Units FFP and 2 units Packed Cells immediately.

She immediately turned back to go in.

I requested her to stop and asked her if she believed that these people understood what she said.

Then, with her standing on the side, I explained what components are and how should they be told what to get from where.

Further suggestions for discussions

Rajat

People may take instances relating to

>> GVHD threat

>> Component awareness

>> Fresh blood in cardiac surgeries

>> Predicting requirements

>> Expectation of speed in delivery of blood

>> Awareness about blood search methodologies

>> Over Confidence and attitude problems

>> Unclarity in counseling patients

.. The list goes on..



Yesterday we had an accident case where a Prof and a Student were badly injured. Both were taken to the ICU. Someone approached Sankalp for blood. One of our Volunteers spoke to the blood bank and instructed them to provide as much blood as required for the two without asking for replacements because both were from organizations that donate very regularly.

But, in spite of all our reassurances the patients family continued the blood search. Reason? The doctor had told them -"It is better if you arrange for Fresh Blood!!!"

Fresh Blood? Obviously the doctor has no idea about hematology. The doctor does not know

that there is no concept like fresh blood in modern sciences. Even though the family got few donors, but it is a sure fact that the blood they donate will also be available for the patient only after about 24 hrs of processing. And then, the doctor wanted red cells. Red cells can be stored easily up to 15 days and more.. The doctor, probably out of ignorance, or out of gut feeling, uttered these words. Since the case re-

quired B+, it was still ok because donors were found easily. What if it was some negative group??

If someone ever asks you to arrange for fresh blood, always ask why.. They may not be able to medically justify their demand.

Fresh Blood!!

Rajat

If two roads diverge into the woods, then take the one less traveled by and that will make all the difference.

Why can we make a difference?

One question for all of us. Why do you feel we can change the blood scenario in Bangalore? What makes you feel we can do it?

We won't stop until we achieve it....

Shweta

We see a problem....

It caught our attention, in fact needed our attention....

We have the solution to the problem....

And most of all we want to change the present blood scenario in Bangalore...

We have the conviction...

We won't stop until we achieve it...

And I believe- WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY.

So I believe we can change it...

Aim and Mission

Chayan

I guess because we have an aim, a mission in life to help people in the city and i guess the hard work and dedication towards the organization shown by our volunteers makes me feel we definitely can do it...

Believe in yourself

Jayesh

I would say better have aim and objective for yourself and work for it. Rest all will fall in line. Believe yourself than believing others.

Mad..

Tejasvi

We are a group of mad people filled with lots of

There is no point in blaming God for evil and the problems in the world. God has shown us the right path to follow and is not responsible for the miseries we create by not following it.

determination. So I believe that we can change the scenario in Bangalore..

Difference

Amitsedai

I do not have a precise answer. Maybe it's our belief that we can do it. Maybe it is a hope that we see things change. Maybe it's the power in all of us who dream to make it happen, the persistence and to fight till we make it. Above all it maybe the sense of responsibility we have towards our society, our country and the innate potential to go beyond limits.

Because I decide to..

Vibha

The only thing which makes me feel confident enough to say I can change the blood scenario in Bangalore is my decision to change it. And this decision is strongly supported by my willingness to go for it.

Because we have a Sankalp...

brij_agrwl

I think the past result Sankalp has given is very good. And looking the way we are going I am sure we are going to set new goals soon. As everyone knows, we will be able to call "MSR Blood Bank" an IDEAL BLOOD BANK very soon. And I see the day when in same way we can have many such blood banks and Bangalore would be identified for the cause.

2 years of Kashmir earthquake

Exactly 2 years ago Sankalp reached out to the people who were affected by the earthquake at Kashmir. As we remember the people who died and were affected in some way or the other by this natural calamity we thought it will be a good idea to ask the volunteers to share their experiences about Project Koshish..

Koshish built people...

Vibha

That was the first project in Sankalp where I worked in a group. The project holds lot of importance for me as it taught me some of the best things in my life.

I was taught how to work as a team, what is the importance of coordination and responsibility in the Team Work by my seniors not by words, but by their involvement in the work. My teammates showed me how nothing else stands in front of that single cause . I was stunned by their dedication to get smallest of the smallest things done in the way it should be. Nothing was lame there. If a single person would miss his job then it is going to be a disaster. And everyone seemed aware of this fact before anybody could tell them. People worked for day and night as if it was a last chance for them to do something.

KOSHISH slowly pulled me into Sankalp before its completion. Those few days of work taught me a lot of things which I missed. I am falling short of words to explain that excitement and satisfaction.

I just have one sentence..

Those few days built me.

Moments to cherish

Amitsedai

Few moments in my life are as great as those when I was involved in the Project Koshish. For the first time, I could see how decisions were made so fast and acted upon. Code Red was issued. Each volunteer giving his best to provide the required resources to the team that went to Kashmir.

For quite some time during the whole process and afterwards, I sensed an immense pride growing in me. Pride to have done my part, pride to be born in such a beautiful country.

Not being a part of this

Rahul Mourya

Not being a part of this project will always disappoint the volunteers who joined Sankalp at a later stage. Knowing that we could have reached out to those people instead of watching them at aaj tak and praying for them makes us more sad. But today we can stand up and say that we have joined the chain and we can at least try to understand what those volunteers went through.....

You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, "Why not?"

Forums

Movie Script

Rajat

The mornings the days and the nights were all like a movie. Passion and enthusiasm seemed to reach out to the heavens above.

At the same time there was an underlying sense of seriousness and intense involvement. We had an opportunity to make the toughest of decisions in a matter of seconds.

There was no scope for relaxing. We new that the task ahead was enormously dangerous and difficult. As we kept each step ahead, the threats increased and so did the responsibility.

Character of a person is put to a true test when situations like these confront them. Each Volunteer involved from Bangalore to Tangdhar got an opportunity to explore the "within".

Most importantly, there was immense pride in the fact that we did what was expected by the people of Kashmir from our Nation. When we reached out there, we knew we are representing the billion people of India, letting the people there know, that we care.

The more I think. the more I will write..

But two years down the line,... I think it is time for action.. more action.. at least for me.!

It was like a dream...

Jayesh

It was like a dream not because every thing happened very fast. I got the news in the evening and within 3 hour we were on the way to Delhi. From Delhi to Jammu to Ludhiyana to Kashmir were our reaction to situation.

Most of the days we were not knowing where we will be the next day. We slept at stations. We ate what ever and when ever we found. We walk the path that came. We were wearing the same cloth while returning which we were wearing while going.

But today looking back to those days i can say those were the one of the best days and experience of my life.

It like a dream for me today...

Keep Walking...

Keep Walking!!!!!!

Lalithgparmar

As I was not part of Sankalp at that time but I can imagine those moments where our volunteers were working seamlessly and helping the victims of the quake. They have sent a benchmark for all in the team. Cheers to them

In future Sankalp will be there every time the need comes....

I would like to say only one thing to volunteers of Sankalp

"Keep Walking".....

Why am I Sankalp Volunteer even though I don't get anything in return?

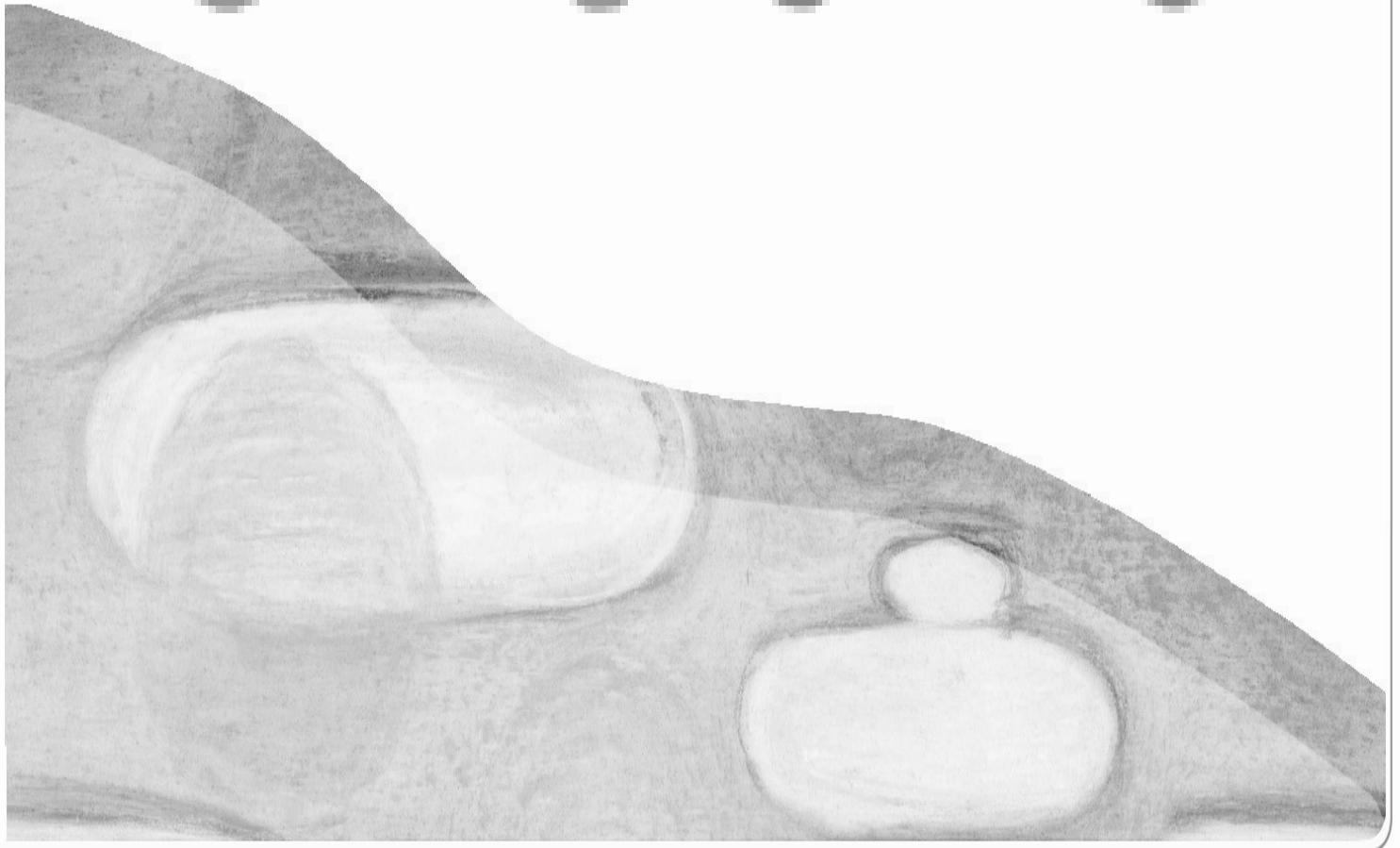
This is the most common question that my friends ask me whenever I tell them that I won't be able to party with them because I have some job to finish. Frankly I don't have an answer to this question either but still I strive to find answers to questions that haunt me. People fail to reason with me but then there isn't an answer to all the questions on this earth. My statement of purpose is always blank- there are so many purpose for the things that we humans do.

If I say that I work because I can't see people die because of the lack of blood then the parameter satisfied is 'I'. It's only because of my selfish needs that I try and do something or the other to satisfy my thirst for answers. And people who fail to understand this are very lucky. They don't have any questions to look answers for :)

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.



I have something to say....



Should a donor be promised blood for free in case of need?

Time and again a debate about this promise of free blood to the patient and his/her primary relatives pops up in the blood donor community. The issue arises from the incentive that few blood banks in the country give in the form of a time bound assurance to provide blood free of cost to the person who donates blood and his/her primary relatives.

I strongly oppose this and it is not without reason. I will share a few with you here.

Consider a scenario when a regular blood donor working in a good IT company is in need of blood. The person calls up a blood bank and reminds them that he/she had donated blood and was promised free blood in case of requirement. There may be 2 possibilities. Either the blood bank does not have stock, (in which case they will simply refuse to provide blood anyways) or the blood bank has blood. In the second case, the blood bank should not hesitate in issuing blood to you whether you are a donor or not (Did they not tell you that they provide the blood they collect from you to the needy without bias?). So effectively, it boils down to an issue of Rs.500/- or something close to it. Any of us who donate in corporate blood donation drives are medically insured and thereby we can anyways refund all the money we spend on treatment. So, is there any logical value addition by promising a unit of blood unless the blood bank is involved in partial and unjust distribution of blood? If a blood bank promises to issue blood on need basis to everyone who approach it and if you are medically insured then the promise of free blood will only put the poor and the suffering that should have benefited from that free unit at loss.

Secondly, this process of promising blood free of cost is actually a twisted form of a genuine practice that existed some years back. It was the time when there were very few voluntary blood donors and so the blood banks took replacement for each unit of blood a person requested for. At that time, the promise was not to ask for the exchange unit of blood in case the relatives or the person him/herself required blood. Makes Sense? Yes! Today, things have changed. When a blood bank approaches you for blood, it also boasts of extraordinarily high (even up to 100%) number of voluntary blood donors. So, the concept of necessary replacements is already dead. What remains is the money part of things. Should the blood donation process be completely voluntary or should it be transformed into some sort of a blood insurance scheme?

Here is how the International Red Cross and WHO define

Voluntary donors: "Voluntary unpaid donation shall mean the donation of blood or blood components by a person of his/her free will and without receiving payment in cash or in kind in return which could be considered a substitute for money. This also includes time off work reasonably required for donation and travel. Small tokens, gratuities, refreshments and the reimbursement of direct costs and direct travel expenses are compatible with the voluntary and unpaid donation of blood." The question is -"With incentives like a promise of free blood, does the donation qualify as voluntary?"

In Sankalp when someone asks us for this guarantee I have just one thing to tell - "Since 23rd May, 2003 we have never refused anyone who was in genuine need of blood. Whether you are a donor or not makes no difference to me. When you need blood, call us. Either we will guide you to a source where you can find blood or arrange for it. This has nothing to do with the blood donation." Please donate blood if you wish to. We are working day and night to stand by the patients in need. For us, all of them are the same and the only criterion is medical urgency.

One last point! This is about the high tech modern and well financed NGO blood banks versus the poor Government Hospitals. Accept it or not, but the truly helpless and suffering come only to the government hospitals. Their only hope is the highly subsidized blood units from the blood bank there. It is close to impossible for such blood banks to have special reservations like free blood for donors. If some blood banks in the city make use of the donor incentives like free blood, it becomes extremely difficult for these government hospitals to convince donors to donate for them.

You need to make a choice. You need to ask yourself where the free units of blood that the blood banks afford should go. You need to ask whether the motive is free and fair distribution of blood to all or whether some special shelves be made for the donors. Yes, the supply is low and we need more donors. But, should we build people's convictions of people in this field of service or should we take some shortcuts? I leave it to you to decide.

- Rajat

(Rajat is a senior Sankalp Volunteer who has been working to arrange blood for the needy. In the short span of five years of his service, he has been exposed to the blood donation and transfusion in a very comprehensive way)

One day I decided to quit..

One day I decided to quit...I quit my job, my relationship, my Spirituality... I wanted to quit my life.

I went to the woods to have one last talk with God. God, I said. Can you give me one good reason not to quit His answer surprised me...

Look around, He said. Do you see the fern and the bamboo?

Yes, I replied.

When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo.

In the second year the Fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo.

He said. In year three there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I would not quit. In year four, again, there was nothing from the bamboo seed. I would not quit.

He said. Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from

the earth. Compared to the fern it was seemingly small and insignificant...But just 6 months later the bamboo rose to over 100 feet tall. It had spent the five years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive. I would not give any of my creations a challenge it could not handle. He said to me.



Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots. I would not quit on the bamboo. I will never quit on you.

Don't compare yourself to others. He said. The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet they both make the forest beautiful. Your time will come, God said to me. You will rise high.

How high should I rise I asked. How high will the bamboo rise He asked in return. As high as it can I

questioned?

Yes. He said, Give me glory by rising as high as you can. I left the forest and bring back this story. I hope these words can help you see that God will never give up on you.

He will never give up on you!

Best day in Sankalp:

The best day in the organisation was during MISSION SIACHEN, when we had to go to schools and get the post cards filled. My visit to Presidency school was something I really enjoyed. The effort to make our soldiers aware that we care was highly appreciated. We got around 300 postcards filled, this gave me immense joy. Actually, not just visit to Presidency , but working in this project has been a memorable one.

-Ramya

It is simplicity that makes the uneducated more effective than the educated when addressing popular audiences.

Should Professional Blood Donors be Jailed?

Professional blood donors may soon find themselves behind bars. According to the National Blood Transfusion Services Act 2007, being prepared by the Union health ministry, those donating blood in exchange for money may face rigorous imprisonment for three months and a hefty fine.

At present, even though buying and selling of blood is banned, thanks to a landmark Supreme Court judgment on January 1, 1996, the business of paid blood donation continues unabated.

According to a recent survey conducted by World Health Organisation, 52.42% of all blood donated in India is through voluntary blood donation camps. The figure was 45% in 2002. This shows that nearly 47.58% of all blood donated is either from paid donors or from family members.

Naco director general K Sujatha Rao, who heads the committee preparing the Act, told TOI, "Finalising the Act, which will look to completely wipe out paid blood donation, will take another 8-12 months. We have recently circulated a draft for comments from all stakeholders."

Speaking to TOI, Manmohan Lal Sarin, legal advisor to the Indian Society of Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology, said this was a genuine lacuna in the law. Even though the SC banned paid donation, it did not stipulate any punishment, he said.

"Those involved in paid donation pose as relatives of the patient. Such people are threatened when caught or beaten up. But they can't be put in jail. According to the new Act coming up, such commercial donors will face a three-month jail term and a Rs 3,000 fine. The licences of blood banks will also be cancelled if found guilty," Sarin said.

According to Dr Debashish Gupta, NACO's national pro-

gramme officer for blood safety, identifying a paid donor is simple. But unfortunately, hardly any blood banks screen volunteers giving blood, which is actually mandatory.

"There are ways to identify paid donors. They will have multiple puncture marks on their arm and low haemoglobin. That's because professionals donate every week while due to the timeframe required for iron replacement, donors are supposed to donate once every three months."

The Act also calls for the setting up of an independent Blood Transfusion Authority, to monitor the collection, storage, distribution and supply of safe blood in the country. At present, the drug controller general of India works as the regulatory body. Union health secretary

Naresh Dayal said, "The legislation to bring blood collection and distribution under a single regulatory umbrella will be in place in a year's time. BTA will be an autonomous body."

Health minister A Ramadoss said BTA would help improve the quantity and quality of blood collected in India through voluntary donation. "The Act will provide punitive measures against those violating blood collection, storage and transfusion rules. Blood collection has to be voluntary. At present, donor screening is not carried out to eliminate paid donors. BTA will be functional in three years time," he said.

Source:http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Professional_blood_donors_may_soon_be_jailed/articleshow/2576804.cms



Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket.

The Uta Aitha Bond

I was walking with a cup of coffee in my hands on the terrace of our office when I heard the words "uta aitha?(Did you have Lunch in Kannada)" Something inside told me that though this was least expected, but the words were aimed at me. I could see no other human soul in audible range.

It took me a second to realize that the man cutting the foam sheets for insulating the newly constructed AC ducts had asked me this question. He was a middle aged man with very shabby looks. His face spoke volumes about the years he has spent in the sun working at construction sites in the past. He was wearing a T-Shirt that had a Tiranga on it, but the T-Shirt was stitched at places to keep it together.



I struggled to find suitable words to reply to him, but the question was so unexpected at that moment, that the little Kannada that I have learnt over past 5 years slipped away quickly and I was standing against him with sheepish looks on my face. "Haan ho gaya (Yes I had)" - came my reply. I was smiling at him and he was smiling back at me. I asked him if he had lunch to which he replied in the affirmative. He resumed his work. I stood there for a moment looking at him meticulously cut the foam sheets and place them on the AC duct. I really don't know why, but I wanted to talk to him a bit more. I tried to grab the sheet of foam but he

immediately took it away. Though words had no meaning, but I could make out that he was saying that I could injure myself with the thin fibers that were covering the form sheet. I gently kept the sheet back. About 30 seconds more and I turned back and waved my hand at him. He gave a big smile and waved back.. The coffee cup was in my hands and I started sipping..

Who was he I know not. Next time I meet him, may be I will ask his name. But he was one of the most special person in my office today. If I was a master in English, I may have explained a bit more precisely.. But all I can say for now is that it was a beautiful human feeling..

Walking down the stairs back into the office many thoughts came to my mind.. This communication of smiles is magical. I was reminded of the watchman in my building who asks me if I have had dinner every night before shaking hands with me warmly. I was reminded of the security guard in the lift, whose face lights up and who makes me light up when we see each other. There is a guy in the cafeteria who smiles back when I drop in for a tea.

They make my day so special sometimes!

I am glad I get a chance to be sharing these smiles. Life is beautiful :)

SOP for joining Sankalp:

I was never introduced to Sankalp in my 1st semester. I never knew what it was. One evening one of my friends who was in Sankalp took me to the college canteen to make some pamphlets for activities. Next day I went to IISc for registration of IISc donors and then I never looked back. I took part in maximum activities I could in Sankalp, because I loved to work, I love to take up new tasks and saw it as a challenge. I came to Sankalp on the run and from that day I am here. Sankalp is something which gave me self-satisfaction.

-Amit Kumar

Be determined not to curse anything outside, not to lay the blame upon anyone outside, but stand up, lay the blame on yourself. You will find that is always true. Get hold of yourself.

"LITTLE Things"

Whatever that happens in life, happens for good.....so stop worrying about the future and forget the past.

After Sept. 11th, one company invited the remaining members of other companies who had been decimated by the attack on the Twin Towers to share their available office space. At a morning meeting, the head of security told stories of why these people were alive, and all the stories were just the 'L I T T L E' things .

As you might know, the head of the company survived that day because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts. One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time. One of them missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change. One's car wouldn't start.

One went back to answer the telephone.

One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have. One couldn't get a Taxi.

The one that struck everyone was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. That is why he is alive today.

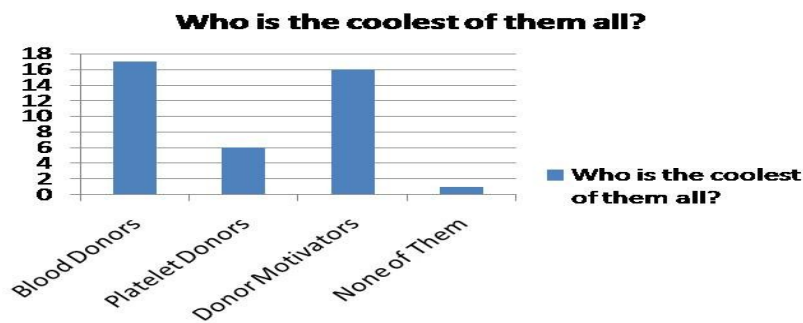
Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone..... all the little things that annoy me. I think to myself, this is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment...

Next time your morning seems to be going wrong, the children are slow getting dressed, you can't seem to find the car keys, you hit every traffic light, don't get mad or frustrated.

God is at work watching over you.



Source: Forward Mail



Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

The Indian Farmer: Where India Does Not Shine!!

I came across this news report that I saw on NDTV today. (<http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv/story.aspx?id=NEWEN20080039334&ch=1/24/2008%208:53:00%20AM>)

I could not resist but comment on the effectiveness of what the government is planning to do. Please note that my opinion about this issue has taken shape after getting a comprehensive understanding of why India farmers are committing suicides as explained by P Sainath in one of his Parliamentary Lectures. Even though I am immature and too far away from village matters and therefore, not exactly the right person to be able to give a very good analysis, the my views expressed here are an understanding of an urban Indian about the vows of his brethren there on the fields.

More than 1.5 lakh farmers have committed suicides since 1997 and the number is still counting. The reasons to opt for it are their mounting debts.

- In the first line itself I will like to highlight the deeper and the more important reason. This reason will help you understand the context better: The reason is 'not debt'. Debt is a symptom of the real reason. The real reason is actually the farmers not getting enough return for the crops they are producing. The other factor is the poor rains in many parts.

Now the government is working out a plan to write off all farmer debts in the suicide-hit districts across the country and this will cost the government some Rs 65,000 crores.

- Oh wow.. What a news.. Government want to waiver the debts now.. For past many years the farmers of the states which were once known for their crop and for the high yields are drinking poisons and hanging themselves. One must understand what brought about this change. I will compare Maharashtra with UP in these matters. The farm suicides that we have heard of are all from Maharashtra. UP rarely shows up in the list. Why is it so? Does it have to

do anything with the crop that these people grow? Yes! There is the answer. Farmers in UP grow food grains. Most of these grains are consumed within the country and their demand and supply does not vary significantly. International changes does not radically alter things for the farmer in UP because he still grows his crop in the age old way and sells it through the age old mechanisms. But talk about Maharashtra and the scene is different. This state does not grow food grains. It grows cash crops. It grows crops like Cotton that have a large international market. It grows oil seeds and other things that are directly exported to other countries. The seeds for these are being procured from international organizations and the marketing is again on an international scale.



What happened in recent years that caused these farmers who were once rich and prosperous to commit suicide? Does it have to do anything with international pricing of cotton? Does it relate to the mammoth sized subsidies that USA is offering to its Corporate farms to grow cotton? Does it relate to the trade agreements that people in New Delhi have happily signed that prevent India from taking steps to secure its farmers? When international prices of cotton plunged to the lowest levels, India should have taken steps to secure the rights of it's farmers by imposing heavy duties on the cotton imports and thus, ensuring a

good price for the farmer. Did it happen? NO! Why? is it because the-big bosses who convert cotton to cloth were powerful enough to ensure that the government did nothing that could hurt there profit margins.

When the farmer came to mandis and sold his crop at a trivial price, the government sat in the AC offices and pretended to be concerned. When he purchased poison to kill himself, there was no one to watch. When he dies, there was some commissions' setup. Now, suddenly one morning the government wakes up ready to shell out Rs. 65000 Crores.

Put your heart, mind, intellect and soul even to your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.

Does it have to do anything with the woes of the farmer? Just a reminder.. Maharashtra elections are due soon!

Sharad Pawar, Union Minister for Agriculture said, "The idea is to provide a one time relief to all debt ridden families across the country."

The finance minister who had been opposing this till now has reportedly agreed and so has the Prime Ministers Office.

-Good! One time relief! One shot and you wash your hands off the responsibility to target the actual problem. Suppress the symptom and get away. Go on Mr Pawar

This change could also be due to prospects of early elections.

There will be a loan waiver to nearly 80% of the small and marginal farmers with landholdings of upto 2 hectares, large landholders will pay back 75% of their total debt and the administration will take care of the rest.

But political parties point out that, the government plan still leaves out those who borrow money from private moneylenders at huge interests and are not part of the formal credit network like banks and cooperatives.

- Instead of throwing the money to the farmer at this stage, if the government had ensure a good minimum support price for shop then all the farmers, irrespective of their background would have earned the fruit of their labor.

They would have prepared kheer at home and happily repaid the loans. Today a few hundred thousands of them who dies, would have been working on the fields. Since the amount sounds good and the timing is right, the government will wash away their hands quickly. But you and I should know what is going on.

Ravi Shanker Prasad, Spokesperson BJP said, "There is no question that it's an election stunt."

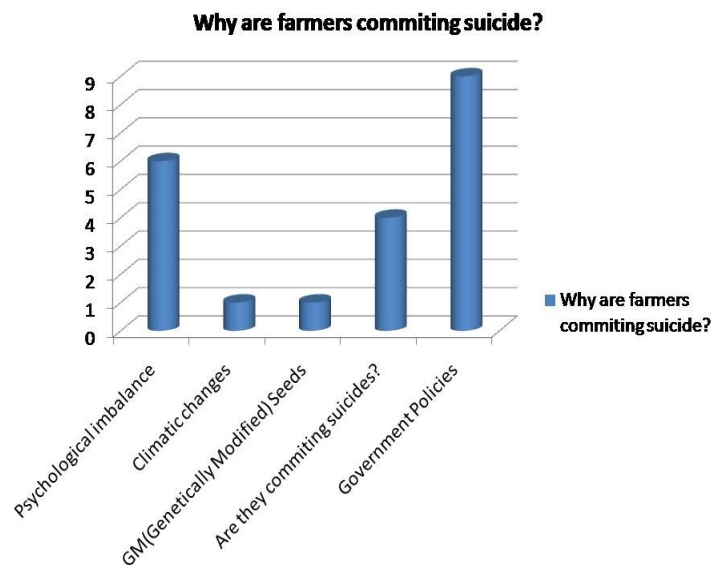
It's a move that may bring in votes in the next elections, but will sure provide relief to those farmers. Yet there is no alternative for farmers going to private money lenders.

- Overall: What a good gimmick. First hurt a person beyond his bearing capacity. Hurt him so bad that he struggles to survive. Let him starve or kill himself with frustration. Still if he survives, reward him with your care.

What a policy? What a government?

Note: My comments on this article are only included to trigger that someone among the readers who will stand and fight work for the cause of the farmers. I write this to see someone stand who will use the skill and the knowledge gained through the best of education to help a few who belong to the 80% of the nation where people still struggle to *survive*.

Bhagat Singh once said-"It takes a loud bang to make the deaf hear". It is sad that we cant hear the "cries".



You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

Azadi Express in town

This Republic day is going to be a very special one for all Bangalore. Azadi Express has arrived in town and this is a wonderful chance for one and all to take a look at the Indian Freedom Struggle in a very beautiful way.

The train is stationed at the Bangalore Cantonment Station and will open for visitors till 27th January 10:00 Am to 6:00 PM.

Independence Day is a great day for any country, and India is no exception. In fact, as the New Year commenced in 2007, people as well as the government started the diamond jubilee celebrations of Indian Independence. However, the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting thought of combining three historic events in Indian history and celebrating it in a unique way and thus was born the idea of Azadi Express — a train with 15 bogies, out of which 11 bogies have been exclusively reserved to depict the rich culture and heritage of India — the past, the present and the future (to some extent). One coach has been exclusively reserved for the sale of books and other products by the Khadi and Village Industries and the Gandhi Smrithi Bhavan. This apart, one coach has many benches in it so that students can seat themselves and learn more about the train and the freedom struggle from the officials concerned.

Perhaps the authorities concerned could not have organized a better exhibition than 'Azadi Express' to commemorate 150 years of India's first freedom struggle, 60 years of Indian Independence and the birth centenary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

In fact, the 'history of Indian freedom struggle on wheels' takes the visitor on a journey from the time when India was one of the richest nations of the world, its subjugation, exploitation by the British, the collective spirit of the people that rekindled the need for freedom, independence and its transformation as a vibrant democracy.

Be determined not to curse anything outside, not to lay the blame upon anyone outside, but stand up, lay the blame on yourself. You will find that is always true. Get hold of yourself.

The exhibition has been mainly categorized into three parts — India's first freedom struggle in 1857 and the related events, the era of Independence and developments in post-independence era.

Uprising

Coaches 1, 2 and 3 (Company Raj and pre-independence struggles) depict how 7th century European traders were attracted to India; how the British East India company managed to take over India; how India's economy was completely ruined, wealth looted and people subjugated; the defiance that started with Mangal Pandey in Barrackpore; spreading of revolt to northern and eastern India; the failure of the British to disrupt communal harmony; the sepoy mutinies and popular revolts in present day Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Utter Pradesh, Bengal, Assam and Manipur.

The depiction of the much-needed spark which came in the form of cartridges greased with forbidden fat (the British Army forcing the Sepoy's of Bengal Army to use the infamous Enfield Rifles that used greased cartridges in March 1857); the clay models of British offending the religious sentiments of the Sepoy's; the early revolts against British domination; and the uprising in the North

and Central India moves every visitor, thus bringing forth the struggle of our ancestors.

The photograph of a tree in which Mangal Pandey was hanged to death on April 8, 1857, attracts many visitors.

Struggle for freedom

Coaches 4 to 7 depict the British takeover, national awakening, Gandhiji's leadership and the Quit India Movement respectively.



While a few incidents have been depicted through paintings, there are many clay models and photographs showing Gandhiji and other leaders' struggle for independence that include the Non-co-operation Movement (1920) and the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) that led to the historic Dandi March to break salt laws.

Wooden cutouts of Indians being hanged by the British, the innumerable atrocities inflicted by the British, photographs relating to the Quit India Movement and the INA soldiers led by Subashchandra Bose move visitors, besides rekindling the spirit of Indian freedom struggle.

Photographs of freedom fighters like Jhansi Rani Laxmibai, Tantya Tope and Shaheed Uddham Singh, reformers Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Iqbal (author of Sare Jahan Se Acchha), Dada Bhai Nauroji, Ravindranath Tagore, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Lal-Bal-Pal (Lala Lajpath Rai, Balgangadhar Tilak and Bipinchandra Pal together), Balgangadhar Tilak addressing his trial in court, the Jallianwalah Bagh massacre and the contemporary photograph of Jallianwalah Bagh, a huge photocopy of proclamation of the Bengal partition on November 1, 1905 with the seal, photograph of Mahatma Gandhi and Gokhale at the latter's reception in Durban, South Africa, the Round Table Conference in London in 1931, Gandhiji instructing Vinobha Bhave on the eve of launching an individual satyagraha and pictures of the biggest famine in history (Bengal famine) in 1943 — refresh the memories of old people while developing curiosity about the past in the younger generation.

Post-independence era

Coaches 8 to 11 display the photographs of Azadi, of a vibrant democracy, depicting how India has progressed in recent years in the fields of education, health and industries. Some rare photographs of all the presidents, prime ministers, first MPs, council of ministers and people celebrating Independence on August 15, 1947, are a cynosure

of all eyes.

However, it is the first 8 coaches that attract visitors to no end and inspire the youth. In fact, the aim and objective of the Azadi Express too is the same.

Interestingly, all the coaches have television sets attached to them, in which events of historical significance such as the first address to the nation by Jawaharlal Nehru on the night of Indian Independence, among others, are displayed. This apart, patriotic songs are continuously played on the train.

According to train in-charge Shailesh Phaye, while the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting came up with the idea, resources for the exhibition were provided by the Ministry of Culture and infrastructure by the Ministry of Railways. Each coach has two volunteers from the Nehru Yuva Kendra.

Train route

This train was flagged off by Union HRD Minister Arjun Singh on September 28, 2007 at Safdarjang Railway Station in Delhi and Mangalore was its 27th destination in India and the first in Karnataka. The train is expected to reach Bangalore on January 23 and Mysore on January 28 after covering Kerala. In fact, the train would cover 70 stations throughout its journey before commencing its last leg from Meerut to Delhi on May 10, 2008 - the day the sepoys and the public went on a Delhi yatra in 1857.

Wait for the train to arrive in your City, as the Azadi Express will help you "witness" the glorious past and the wonderful future of vibrant India.

As a visitor put it: "Less than five minutes after entering Azadi Express, I forgot that it was a train!"

Source: <http://www.deccanherald.com/Content/Jan222008/spectrum2008012147824.asp>

Experience of One With Bhopal:

This was my first Shaheed Diwas, and I did not know what to expect. That day, all of us worked throughout the day to organise the Candle light vigil on M.G. Road. Then, after all the preparations, we went to the place and set up all the things. Then we shouted slogans and showed our support to the Bhopal gas disaster victims and survivors. It was a small satisfaction to know that we made an effort to help those people, who are still suffering for no fault of theirs.

- Lisha

If I want to do it, I will do it. It might take time but I will Do It.

Happy Ugadi to the unborn child!

Happy Ugadi.. Happy Ugadi to the unborn child who is sitting right on the top and smiling at the mere foolish mortals. Happy Ugadi to the mother who bore him for 9 months only to battle for her own life at this present moment. This maybe a mood spoiler for the new year but i just can't stop thinking of the events that took place yesterday. I fail to understand how on earth can a hospital specify the wrong blood group of a pregnant lady who is critical. I remember the time when my cousin was about to be born. Everything all around was so joyous. Everyone was so happy. I shiver to think of the plight of the mother and her family.

Her blood group was O-. Stocks were available in many places in Bangalore and the patient relative could have got blood easily. But that was not to be. They were told that her blood group was AB-. Stocks were not available anywhere in Bangalore so the case came to Sankalp volunteers at the most critical stage. Normally only 1 person is involved in solving a case but this was urgent so we saw a mass participation. People who were not related to

Sankalp also came forward to help because everyone understood the seriousness of the case and everyone knew that AB- donors are rare. Online Donors were called and the response was good. One donor came from Banshankri to donate. Such incidents brings back our faith and belief towards humanity. This donor travelled one hour at 10 in the night to help someone whose name was also unknown to him.

But alas all this effort bore no fruit. While cross matching it was found that the patients blood group was O- and it was available in plenty in Ramaiah Hospital. Disaster. The patient lost valuable time in this whole process. So here we are with the child dead and the mother brain dead. My Ugadi and Navratri is dedicated to them. May god never lead anyone to that hospital and in such disaster. Actually this is not the problem of just that hospital. It's the problem with is human beings. We are incompetent fools. It's time we educate ourselves.

Best day:

The best day was when I was working for CTC Disha awareness campaign and had to turn to Sanjay Gandhi hospital. There I could personally see a parent in search of blood for their daughter and was very happy to see us there spreading awareness about such a useful blood helpline number. I felt satisfied that I was a part of such a useful work for the first time.

And also when I was working for Mission Siachen.

- Rajatha

When you dig another out of trouble, you find a place to bury your own.

Kaviswara - Prompt efforts towards studies..

I had been on a most memorable trip to a small Karnataka town by the name of Shikaripura. Located 50 kms off Shimoga(Sihi-Mogge), I went to attend a programme arranged by a group by the name of Kaviswara. They called it the Kaviswara Day.

600 students have in past 5 years benefited from this institution by the name of Kaviswara. These students have come from the most rural background. Some of their families have barely anything to eat. It will surprise you if I tell you how they have benefited. They are studying in most reputed institutes of higher learning in Karnataka from REC Suratkal to Kasturba Medical College. These students came to Kaviswara when most of them would have quit their studies.. i.e. immediately after Class 10. They came to this institution where they received Chemistry and Zoology tuition's at little or sometimes at no cost. The teacher at Kaviswara went to their far flung villages to talk to their parents about their problems. He helped them take up entrance exams.. He helped them clear by his teachings too.

You know what is behind Kaviswara? It is one man.. Mr Vijay Kumar. Vijay Sir , as I refer to him like his 600 students in one man army who could inspire in his pupil the spirit of education.

From the minute I reached the town of Shikaripura everything was suggesting that this group is no common one. Any ya, at the end of the day, as I boarded the bus to come

back to Banagalore, I cherished every moment of the day. Actually the purity and the simplicity of this small town and it's warm hearted people gave me an experience that I will cherish for my life.

It is not lame book knowledge alone, but it is education in it's true sense that these students have received. They have grown up in class rooms where their teacher has thought them the Love for the Motherland. This is the place where traditions are cherished and culture celebrated.



Let me come to the real relevance of the Kaviswara Day. This Day marked the completion of the study for the current year's PU batch. This was the day when after finishing their exams and getting placed in various institutions of higher learning, all the students of Vijay Sir gathered in Shikaripura to honor the outstanding performers. It was not a list of names that was read out and people come and

go away with their mementos. For each student who Vijay Sir invited on stage, he had some special words. I could not understand it all, but the tears in the eyes of the students said it all. He was touching each one deep in their hearts with his love and his care.

I loved to speak to these students. i loved to share some time with them. I was honored to be invited to their so personal programme. I was overwhelmed by their love and their care.

All i can say now, as I put an end to the expression of these feelings is that I am waiting to see them again soon:)

You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, "Why not?"

Sarfarooshi ki Tamanna

Reading one of the poems in other blog it reminds me of one of my favorite poem. You all must have heard it a lot of time but had rarely heard full poem so just thought to share with you all.

*Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil mein hai
Dekhna hai zor kitna baazu-e-qaatil mein hai*

*aye watan Karta nahin kyun doosra kuch baat-cheet
Dekhna hun main jise woh chup teri mehfil mein hai
Aye shaheed-e-mulk-o-millat main tere
ooper nisaar
Ab teri himmat ka charcha ghair ki
mehfil mein hai
Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil
mein hai*

*Waqf aanay dey bata denge tujhe aye
aasman
Hum abhi se kya batayen kya hamare
dil mein hai
Khainch kar layee hai sab ko qatl hone
ki ummeed
Aashiqon ka aaj jumghat koocha-e-
qaatil mein hai
Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil
mein hai*

*Hai liye hathihaar dushman taak mein baitha udhar
Aur hum taiyyaar hain seena liye apna idhar*

*Khoon se khelenge holi gar vatan muskhal mein hai
Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil mein hai*

*Haath jin mein ho junoon katt te nahi talvaar se
Sar jo uth jaate hain woh jhukte nahi lalkaar se
Aur bhadkega jo shola-sa hamaare dil mein hai
Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil mein hai*

*Hum to ghar se nikle hi the baandhkar sar pe kafan
Jaan hatheli par liye lo barh chale hain ye qadam*

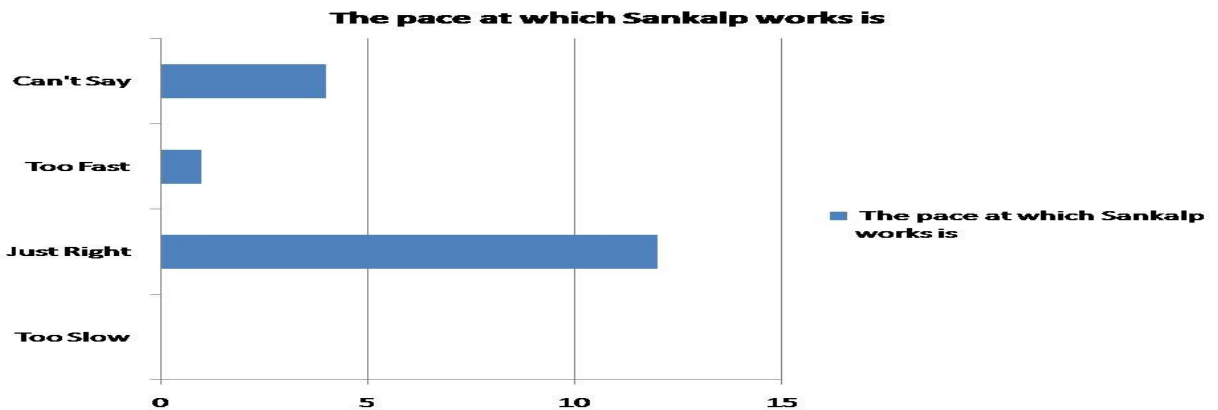
*Zindagi to apni mehmaan maut ki mehfil
mein hai
Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil mein
hai*

*Yuun khadaa maqtaal mein qaatil kah rahaa
hai baar baar
Kya tamanna-e-shahaadat bhi kisee ke dil
mein hai
Dil mein tuufaanon ki toli aur nason mein
inqilaab
Hosh dushman ke udaa denge humein roko
na aaj
Duur reh paaye jo humse dam kahaan
manzil mein hai*



*Wo jism bhi kya jism hai jismein na ho khoon-e-junoon
Toofaanon se kya lade jo kashti-e-saahil mein hai*

*Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil mein hai.
Dekhna hai zor kitna baazuay qaatil mein hai.*



Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

Are you on the DO side?

Have you donated blood in past 4 months?

It has been a tough road in the past four years. We as a group and I as an individual have spent a lot of time.. Real LOT of time.. Trying to figure out what can be done to solve the blood shortage problem of our country..

Though we have debated a hundred ways by which we can achieve 100% Voluntary blood donation, but the ground basic remains unchanged. Blood from humans comes only from humans.

You and I the people who are reading this blog, are the people who actually care for some people. We come up and discuss solutions. We want to be a part of the change that makes this country the world leader and restores it's glory. But as the Times people put in their search for the leader... "DO" is the word.

If you have not donated blood in past 4 months, the time is ripe to DO. If you are a platelet donor or a rare group do-

nor then probably you can wait for an emergency, but for all others, now is the chance.

In case even one of you goes ahead to donate blood after reading this post of mine.. Please come back and put in a comment. You will help those hundreds who today are finding it difficult to break free from the static and join in the movement.



Nothing will change if we do not change. Nothing will improve if we do not contribute. Here is your chance. The golden one! Go ahead and donate blood. Give away a chance to survive to 3 people. Indulge in a selfless act and make your land better.

Vande Mataram

P.S. Please get in touch with us at sankalp.admin@gmail.com or call 9880132850 in case you wish to know where and when can you donate blood.

Best day in Sankalp:

Each day when I work for Sankalp, its the best of its own kind. Daily there are some different works to do. And very new task which I take fills me with fascination. I love my work, each and every small work in the organisation. So for me each day is the best in its own way. But I would add, that the activities like World Donor's day, Shaheed Diwas etc are the time when the enthusiasm level has reached its topmost limit with legs still stuck on bare basics.

Any specific instances:

Yes, my first case was with one of my own batchmate. He was on a case and I was accompanying him. We went to patient side to take details and assured him that the blood will be arranged for him. The patient shook hand with me and blessed me. Those light hands of the patient I can still remember, and those blessings were like some special blessing. I cannot really forget that day.

- Amit Kumar

What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.

The Silent Death

Few years back buying vegetables was one of my daily activities. I used to walk down from my home in Mussoorie in the narrow lanes that seem to go crazy with unexpected ups and downs for about a third of a kilometre.

Our small town of Mussoorie has only about 30,000 people spread in more-or-less a linear pattern averred the hill. There is just one road that runs through the town. In this 4 km run there is hardly any place where it is not lined with shops on either side. For a localite there is something more to it. Walking in front of these shops every single day since childhood, you know everyone and everyone knows you. There are people who smile back at you, some of them wave, there are those who you greet with due respect and there are those who occasionally shout out a "Bai Sahib" or a "Jai Ram Ji Ki" in a typical hilly style. Whatever you do, you just can't escape those eyes.



So, every evening when I walked down from my home to the market, as always, there was a lot of nukkad talk and lots of greetings exchanged. The small distance that it was took me about 15 minutes to walk through till I reached the vegetable store.

Ram Swaroop Babaji runs this small store on the corner of the road. He must be in his seventies and the age is taking it's toll on him. But still, each morning, he takes slow steps from his house and walks to the shop. He waits for the Nepali Bahadurs to come so that they can lift the shutter and arrange the vegetables. After saying a small prayer, he sits on his stool in the middle of the shop.

I usually greet him as "Ram Ram" and he replies with the same words. Both of us smile at each other. Before I start thinking about the vegetables I came to buy, we exchange some casual words about health, politics, religion, and all

other types of issues. Standing outside the shop, I kept announcing what I wanted to take that day. Once in a while he used to pick up a seasonal fruit and clean it with his kurta. Meticulously he would cut it and offer to me. With a big smile I took the fruit and enjoyed it while he packaged what I wanted. Sometimes I cribbed over the quality of vegetables and the prices, but he would explain to the problems and the supply chain issues and promise me better deals next time. We bid good-bye to each other and I walked back from his little shop though that crazy road as night fell.

Years later, now in Bangalore I am reminded of those days. Few months back I found my taxable income to be outrageously huge. I am not used to faking bills or make very judicious investments to escape the claws of the tax - collector. In order to bring things in control, I finally decided to say yes to "Food Coupons!". Last week they gave me food coupons worth Rs.3000/-. Before I pulled the first leaflet apart, some thoughts came to mind. I started questioning the sanity of giving paper coupons instead of money when it is a well know fact that a person will not eat more or less because of the presence or absence of coupons? Why cant we be given a tax exemption on our salary for a greater amount rather than force us to avail these coupons? I started thinking about the places where we spend these coupons. I started wondering about the number of times we pay extra just because we wish to utilize our coupons. I started thinking about the reasons that are pulling all big companies into organized retail.

It was then that I was reminded of my home town and those streets. I know now, in the little understanding of the world I have, that the Indian Markets are silently dying a slow death!

Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless

Right To Information Act

- Its Your Right to Ask !!

- Have you ever imagined you can question the MLA of your town to give the status of his MLA development fund ?

- Have you ever imagined you can question, in fact, any govt department and get response within 30 days of your request ?

Now, all these and more, are absolutely possible by RIGHT TO INFORMATION Act. 12th October, 2005 was the day when Government of India took the revolutionary step in democracy by enacting the RIGHT TO INFORMATION Act in all the States of India except J&K.

The RTI Act enables any Indian Citizen to seek information from the public authority by submitting a written application and by paying a minimal fee of Rs.10/-. The citizens can seek any information except those would affect the integrity and sovereignty of India.



The Indian Government has formed a Hierarchical Committee structure to implement this RTI act.

1. A Central Information Commission (CIC) headed by the Prime Minister of India
2. A State Information Commission for each state headed by the Chief Minister of the State.
3. A Public Information Officer (PIO) for each department to handle and process the RTI applications filed against his department.

If you want to file an application under RTI act to seek an information, all you have to do is apply in a State Government prescribed Application form or in a Plain Paper to the concerned PIO. You should deposit Rs 10 application fee either in cash or through DD or postal order.

The PIO should respond within 30 days of reception of the application . If the information is concerned with the Life or Liberty of the person, the PIO should respond within 48 hours . If the applicant dint get the response in the stipu-

lated time, a fine of Rs.250/- per day will be levied on the PIO.

If there is no response within 100 days , then the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission will take appropriate disciplinary action against the PIO.

A Sword is as mightier as the Warrior and it applies the same for RTI too. One can do wonders with the help of this act. Since its inception , this act has turned the sluggish passive govt officials to respond with pace. There are numerous cases in which RTI came into rescue of the common man.

Though the awareness of RTI is less among the people, it is fast catching up and many NGOs are working toward it.

Success Stories :

1. An RTI application exposed misuse of power by Union Minister of State for Food Processing, SubodhKant Sahay , to transfer a government officer during 2006.
2. Street lights and roads in Whitefield area in Hyderabad were made functional by an RTI activist during Dec 2007
3. A residents' welfare activist from Chennai has used the Right to Information Act to settle a 15-year-long dispute with the local Municipality over property tax assessment.

Many Stories tell the unleashed power of Right to Information Act and you can also be the next person to use RTI for the betterment of the common people.

For more information visit <http://righttoinformation.gov.in/>

To know the Public Information Officers of various departments <http://www.rti.gov.in/states>

Few RTI activist organizations

<http://www.rtiindia.org/>

<http://rti.aidindia.org/>

Restlessness is discontent and discontent is the first necessity of progress. Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure

Why I will buy Petrol?

I happened to receive this mail today

Hi everybody,

Petrol in
Pakistan Rs17 per liter
Malaysia Rs 18 per liter
In India it's 48 per liter

Why this difference in Asia itself? World Market CRUDE Oil is not the reason for this. It's all Gain for private owners? As we are the general public, or Common Man as R.K.Laxman would have said, we have to raise our voice, let's raise thru Emails.

Forward this to all Indians who care.

I HAS BEEN CALCULATED THAT IF EVERYONE DID NOT PURCHASE A DROP OF PETROL FOR ONE DAY AND ALL AT THE SAME TIME, THE OIL COMPANIES WOULD CHOKER ON THEIR STOCKPILES. AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD HIT THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY WITH A NET LOSS OVER 4.6 BILLION DOLLARS WHICH AFFECTS THE BOTTOM LINES OF THE OIL COMPANIES.

THEREFORE "24th JANUARY" HAS BEEN FORMALLY DECLARED "STICK IT UP THEIR BEHIND" DAY AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION SHOULD NOT BUY A SINGLE DROP OF PETROL THAT DAY.

THE ONLY WAY THIS CAN BE DONE IS IF YOU FORWARD THIS E-MAIL TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN AND AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN TO GET THE WORD OUT. WAITING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO STEP IN AND CONTROL THE PRICES IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REDUCTION AND CONTROL IN PRICES THAT THE ARAB NATIONS PROMISED TWO WEEKS AGO?

REMEMBER ONE THING, NOT ONLY IS THE PRICE OF PETROL GOING UP BUT AT THE SAME TIME AIRLINES ARE FORCED TO RAISE THEIR PRICES, TRUCKING COMPANIES ARE FORCED TO RAISE THEIR PRICES WHICH AFFECTS PRICES ON EVERYTHING THAT IS SHIPPED. THINGS LIKE FOOD, CLOTHING, BUILDING SUPPLIES MEDICAL SUPPLIES ETC. WHO PAYS IN THE END? WE DO!

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IF THEY DON'T GET THE MESSAGE AFTER ONE DAY, WE WILL DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN. SO DO YOUR PART AND SPREAD THE WORD. FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW. MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE 24 JANUARY A DAY THAT THE CITIZENS SAY "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH"

We forward so many junk email to many of our friends, now let us do it for some useful cause to cut down the price of the petrol

REMEMBER : JANUARY 24, 2008.... NO Petrol Day...!

I have something to say about this:

My apologies to anyone who feels offended by my opinion. Just that the mail I received was too thought provoking and too hurting for me to remain silent and watch. The purpose of this reply is only to reveal the TRUE facts.

Point 1:

The ACTUAL petrol prices compared across the three nations mentioned in the mail are listed below are listed below:

Country	Rs/ ltr
Pakistan	43.98
India	50.20
Malaysia	18.90

Source of this information: <http://www.kshitij.com/research/petrol.shtml>

Facts are in line with the prices indicated in the news report <http://www.dawn.com/2005/09/01/top5.htm>

Though the facts are slightly outdated but I am sure that this makes clear that the numbers cited in the mail are JUNK.

There's a way to do it better - find it.

Point 2:

Malaysia has extremely low fuel prices. Wonderful! Should you not know the reason?

The writer of that mail has very carefully chosen a nation where the fuel prices are the lowest in the world. The country picked up (Malaysia) has huge oil reserves and major portion on the income that the government gets is through the export of petroleum products.

"These costs are in effect being covered by contributions from Petronas, the highly profitable 100 percent Government-owned oil company. In the financial year 2004/05 (ending March 2005), Petronas contributed a total of RM31.2 billion to Government in the form of taxes, dividends, and royalties (equivalent to 53 percent of the company's gross profits). This contribution was 47 percent higher than the previous year's." - This is taken from <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEAPHALFYEARLYUPDATE/Resources/Malaysia-Update-Nov-2005.pdf>

On one hand you have a major oil producer and on the other you have countries (India and Pakistan) who are struggling to find countries to see them oil. Is it fair to compare prices?

Point 3:

Our nation does have higher petrol prices. But do we know why the India companies are still struggling to keep up with the major financial losses they suffer? LPG and Kerosene, the two fuels that drive the kitchens of a billion people are highly subsidized by the state. "India's fuel subsidies might cost as much as \$17.5 billion this year, according to Lombard Street Research, a British firm of economists. That amounts to as much as 2% of the country's GDP.

Cheap kerosene fires the poor man's stove in India's cities and lights his home in the country's villages." - http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=10223622

Point 4:

"It's all Gain for private owners?" - From the mail.

Private Owners?? Since the day I was born I seen fuel being purchased in this country from HP, BP and IOC. How could someone be so ridiculous? Tomorrow I expect to see a mail stating that the India Army is a private enterprise.. Just recently Reliance has entered the market. But the influence of the company of Indian Fuel Price is nothing more than marginal even today.

I AM PROUD OF OUR OIL COMPANIES. I am proud of these public sector units that have performed and ensured regular supply to me in the most extreme cost cutting environments. They are PSUs (Public Sector Units) and so in a way, they are mine.



I will consider any damage does to them a personal damage. I will mark 24th January 2008 in my calendar as a day of protest against this propaganda to increase the dissatisfaction of the people against the government even when there is no valid ground. I was about to get my bike refuelled today. But I guess I will wait till the 24th.

Point 5:

I feel sorry about the fact that all the time I receive some of these mails there are none that speak about what I can do to make things better. I am sick and tired of these negative propogandas and I stand firmly against them. This nation, where people should have been working for

growth continues to suffer from individuals and groups fighting for their selfish benefits with complete disregard to the bigger picture of the national interest.

In my own small self and limited understanding, I request you to give it a clear thought. If you hate me for this, you are welcome to revert back to me with your kind (or not so kind) messages. If you agree, then please forward it back to the person who forwarded it to you.

Come-on People! Let's Stand BY our nation.

Jai Hind!

SOP:

When I came for the introductory meeting, someone mentioned it will be a learning experience. So I thought I should come in. And after that, I can say I have been right and everyday has been a new learning experience.

- Lisha

Reality leaves a lot to the imagination

The 31st Of July

This morning started the usual way. I rubbed the sleep off my eyes and started investigating the possibility of getting a cup of tea. Next thing on agenda was the Times Of India. Although this newspaper does not seem to have the motto of providing anything good to "read", still owing the the choice of the majority, we get this paper at home.

The first page till the last, all you could see on the paper this morning was Sanjay Dutt's Sentence. Frustration immediately mounted. There was some news of a Colonel who dies in Kashmir too. There was some small column for floods. Bus, is Sanjay Dutt such an important person for this country of a billion that he should be given almost all prime space on a reputed Indian newspaper?

Just last night I was talking to one of the Sankalp Volunteers about a blog post that came a few months back.

I was wondering if this space should be given to some other person of great importance to us. While driving to my office the thought of getting into investigative journalism for sankalpindia.net was coming to my-mind. But the slipping time-sheets murdered any possibility of that too.

But then, at around 11:30 AM I found it. I found the true

importance of 31st July for me as an Indian. I will keep you guessing for some more time.

I came to know that 31st July was the Day of Martyrdom for one of the most devoted son of our country. He was a man who shook the roots of British Empire and sent across a message which the British tried their level best to hide for years.

In his last statement before the court which sentenced him to death he said-



'I don't care, I don't mind dying. What Is the use of waiting till you get old? This Is no good. You want to die when you are young. That is good, that Is what I am doing'. After a pause he added:

'I am dying for my country'.

He is a lesser known Revolutionary but one whose contribution was invaluable.

I take this opportunity to humbly salute this great martyr and hope and pray that a minute fraction of his Love and Dedication to

our Nation comes into me.

He was also known as Ram Mohammad Singh Azad symbolizing all three major religions of India. He was Shaheed Uhdam Singh.

Best day in organisation

My best day in the organisation was one of the Sunday meetings. I think it was my 4th meeting. We were supposed to make teams to visit schools for safe diwali campaign. And we had one good activity. The activity was like this. We were given one balloon each and had to blow it and keep it safe from others. Initially it was decided by us that none of us would burst other's balloon and thus keep all our balloons safe. But someone started bursting other's balloon and others followed. This lead to chaos. After this activity, Rajat sir explained to us about the importance of group unity. It was a inspirational talk and was of the best day in the organisation.

- Prabha

We should not give up and we should not allow the problem to defeat us.

The Evening Dedicated to the Heroes

Shaheedon Ki Mazaaron Par Lagengay Har Baras Melay

Watan Par Mitne Walon Ka Yahee Bakee Nishan Hoga

At least three different people enquired the meaning of this one line from the Sankalp Volunteers in recent days. The literal meaning comes from the Indian History and Tradition. A *Mazaar* is the place where some great people who had done good for the society in their lifetime are buried after they die. Because they had lived such a fantastic life and were an example to follow, so each year, in their memory, people from all walks of life held a *Mela* at their burial place. The above line is a comparison of the Shaheeds with those great men.

In one line- It means that "We will not forget you!."

Most of the readers of this post including me were fairly grown up to understand what happened in the Kargil War. The entire Nation stood by the soldiers and their families in the summer of 1999. But as the years have passed, dust accumulated on these feelings.

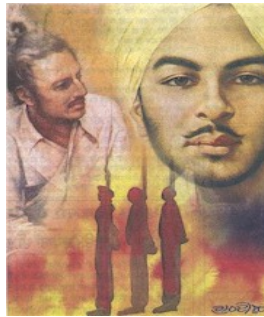
I too forgot this great day of 26th July 2007. A day which I should have remembered religiously. We, as a team, did not want to let the day pass of indifferently.

What we thought a handful of us, weak and selfish (for who else will forget the sacrifice of a person who die for him) people, could do was to organize a small programme to pay tribute to these great souls.

The Memorial Service was held at MG Road on the evening of 28th July, 2007. The feeling and the cause brought together 6 of us to celebrate their sacrifice. Throughout the evening the feeble and the weak voice that we have, did it's best to fight the Bangalore traffic to let the sky hear- Jai Hind. Vande Mataram. Kargil Shaheed Amar Rahein.

The Bangalore Times page 2 of that day must have predicted a very wonderful day for us. We were there, right under the stars, in the midst of a million people, shouting out, the best we could, just to let them know. They will not be forgotten. Six people tied together by the bond of Indianism, remembering those who died yesterday so that we can see our today.

We lit candles. We saluted them. We at some moment had a little tear in our eyes. "We will not Forget You"



The day also gave us an opportunity to ask ourselves a question. "Will I live to be a person who every soldier who dies in Kargil would love to die a hundred times for? Will I prove to be a worthy recipient of the safety and the assurance they gave me by protecting the nation even at the cost of their lives?" The answers are very personal. The soul must answer. The mind must approve. The body must enact.

One last thing. All through the evening, it was not just Kargil Shaheeds, but every single soldier, who gives away their life for us who we lit each small candle for.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh wrote in his diary:

"Ah Not for Idle Hatred

Nor Fame

Nor Self Applause

But for the Glory of the Cause

You Will Not be FORGOT"

You will not be FORGOT..

Vande Mataram.

Jai Hind.

**It sleeps deep within. But it must come out. Thoughts alone don't lead to a change
Action Does**

She died to give eye to her sons

Woman ends life to donate eyes to blind sons

March 20, 2005 18:15 IST

A 37-year-old mother, dejected at being unable to locate eye donors for her two blind sons, ended her life so that her eyes could be given to them.

Tamilselvi was found hanging at her residence in Kodungaiyur in north Chennai on Saturday. The police rushed to the spot and recovered the body, which was later sent for post-mortem.



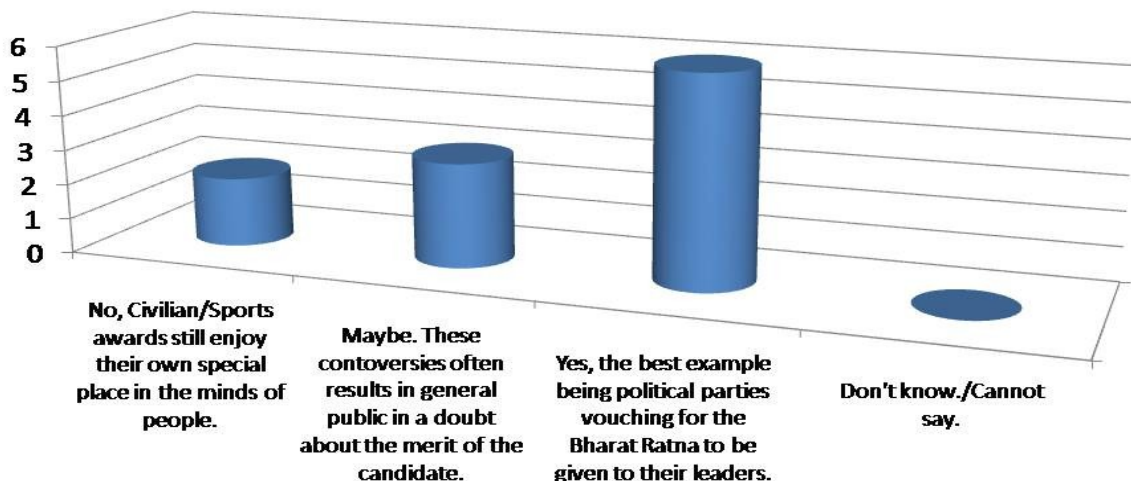
Tamilselvi had got herself registered with an eye bank in Chennai and had stated her wish to donate her eyes to her sons, who are studying in a school for the visually-impaired in the city.

The eye bank authorities removed her eyes as per her instructions. They will conduct the operations on her sons soon.

Source: <http://www.rediff.com/news/2005/mar/20eye.htm>

Wish to donate your eyes? mail sankalp.admin@gmail.com

Most civilian/sports award nominations are subject to numerous controversies. Does this belittle the value of the award/awardee?



Pray as if everything depended upon God and work as if everything depended upon man.

Sankalp's First Platelet Apheresis

The Universe at times conspires in such strange and beautiful ways that it leaves the man wondering in amazement.

Precisely at the time of countdown to the completion of 4 years of Sankalp, we received our very first Apheresis request which actually converted into a donation.

This request was an unusual one. A person has lost both his kidneys and now required blood. The doctor had sent them with a request to find blood immediately. Struggling and searching, they ended up coming to M S Ramaiah Memorial Hospital. Here they got the Sankalp contact.

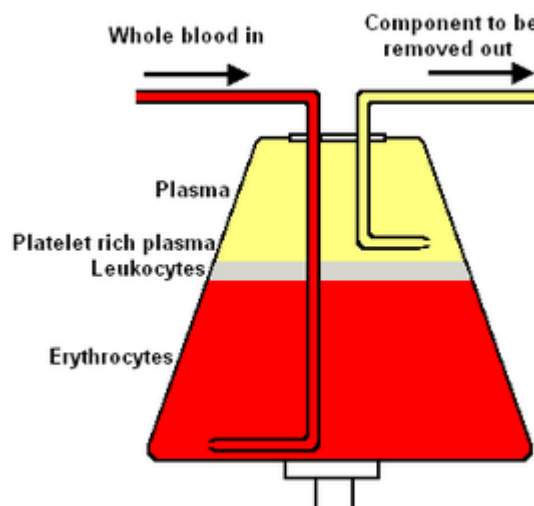
Apheresis is the process of extraction of a particular component of blood from the donor. First blood is drawn. Then it is centrifuge. The platelets separate out and finally the remaining blood is sent back to the body. This entire process is repeated 7-8 times to be able to get one unit of platelets. The entire path that the blood travels from is a disposable kit (one time use). This ensures that the donor is absolutely safe.

First our donor was taken for a comprehensive blood count

test. Only once it was confirmed that with hemoglobin count of 14.7 and platelet count of 238000 the donor was fit to donate did the procedure start.

As this was the first case of Apheresis for Sankalp, so Sankalp Volunteers were both nervous and excited at the same time. But the presence of skilled technicians made the process a cakewalk.

On one hand we were counting minutes to the time when we started 4 years back and on the other front, platelets separated from blood were dropping into the collection bag drop-by-drop. Cycle after cycle the platelets were extracted.



Calcium Sandoz tablets were given to the donor to ensure that there is minimum numbness that may be caused because of the citrate that flows into the body. Citrate flows in because it is the carrier of the anti-coagulants that have to be added to the blood when it comes out of the body.

On one hand, Sankalp completed 4 years and on the other, the first Apheresis donation got over. What could be a better time to donate? What could be a better

way to donate? Hope the patient benefits from this and comes back to his normal self soon.

Cheers

Instance:

When we went to Jayanagar General Hospital as a part of CTC Disha awareness campaign, we found a patient with some neurological disorder. The patient and his wife were very old. They were all alone without any support and he could not walk and since it was lunch time, the person responsible for wheelchair was not available. At that time we could help them get admitted to the hospital.

- Surekha

When you cease to dream, you save to live.

AIIMS mix-up, man given wrong blood

NEW DELHI: This would rate among the most embarrassing slip-ups by the country's premier medical institute, AIIMS. In a horrible mix-up, the institute medics have transfused blood of a wrong blood group into a middle-aged man. The patient is now battling for life.

The 50-year-old patient, RN Tripathi, underwent a knee replacement surgery on October 17 during which he was reportedly given O+ blood instead of B+ after which he suffered acute renal failure. He has already had at least seven dialysis sessions and is still in bed number 4 in CT2 ICU, which is a cardiology intensive care unit of the institute.



pre-operation tests, the patient didn't have any kidney trouble.

Dr Malhotra told TOI: "What has happened to him after that is a transfusion reaction but I cannot comment on whose fault it is. In fact, for a knee replacement, blood is not even transfused during the operation; it is done after that. His treatment is on. You may get an official reaction from Dr Shakti Gupta." AIIMS spokesman, Dr Shakti Gupta, said that it was not possible to get patient details at such "short notice".

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/In-AIIMS-mix-up-man-given-wrong-blood/articleshow/2529697.cms>

The patient was admitted under the care of Dr Rajesh Malhotra, professor in the department of orthopaedics, AIIMS. Malhotra admits having done the surgery and that in the

Experience:

Life is not a bed of roses in Sankalp. This is what we are always told. This was experienced by me practically when we visited FM rainbow in order to spread awareness about 1062. Mr. Raghu, the programme director, blocked us from the start. He asked us many questions but still was not convinced about the idea of 1062. He clearly called it an "advertisement of the (then) 11 blood banks which they were getting done through us freely". He asked us why blood was "sold" and many questions related to it. But he was not convinced that the cost was for processing and storing etc, and asked us to give him some time.

We visited again after two weeks and we were more prepared to answer his question with printed documents. But this time his attitude was different and he immediately accepted to broadcast about 1062. He put us on air and allowed us to speak about 1062 and Sankalp, and regularly tells about CTC Disha (1062).

SOP:

Initially I did not have any SOP for joining Sankalp now I can say "Sankalp gives me an opportunity for performing one good deed everyday which brings happiness and satisfaction to me".

- Prabha

Strength is life Weakness is death- Swami Vivekananda

Fighting terrorism and poverty - without guns!

Over the past five years the Left Front government in Tripura has had significant achievements in the state.

Insurgency is on the downswing and hundreds of schools have been re-opened in remote areas. However, the state still remains underdeveloped.

In an effort to help things, some ordinary citizens are now chipping in to make the difference.

It took Muktomohan Jamatiya seven years to convince people that rubber plantation has a future. His effort in changing the economy of Rayabari has totally transformed the area.

Muktomohan planted his first rubber tree in 1986. Now he has plantations in over 25 villages and owns 280 rubber trees. He even earns up to Rs 25 thousand a month.

People were terribly poor. Militants were all over. Then rubber came, everybody started earning through rubber. Poverty had forced a lot of people towards militancy. They are now out of it completely, said Muktomohan Jamatiya,

entrepreneur.

Today, rubber plantation contributes significantly to Tripura's economy. It's the second rubber capital of the country after Kerala.

We had no idea that the yield is so much. Muktomohan learnt everything about the plantation. There were financial constraints. We now get two square meals a day. We

will ask whoever comes to power for some more help with scientific methods, said Radhamohan Jamatiya, farmer.

Jamatiya started off alone with little money and support. Today he's an icon, yet pretty much rooted to his earlier lifestyle.

It's truly a story of, "be the change that you want to see in others." Though tribal areas are Left Front strongholds, but not everyone

depend on the Red flag for change.

Source:<http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv-national.aspx>



Best Day:

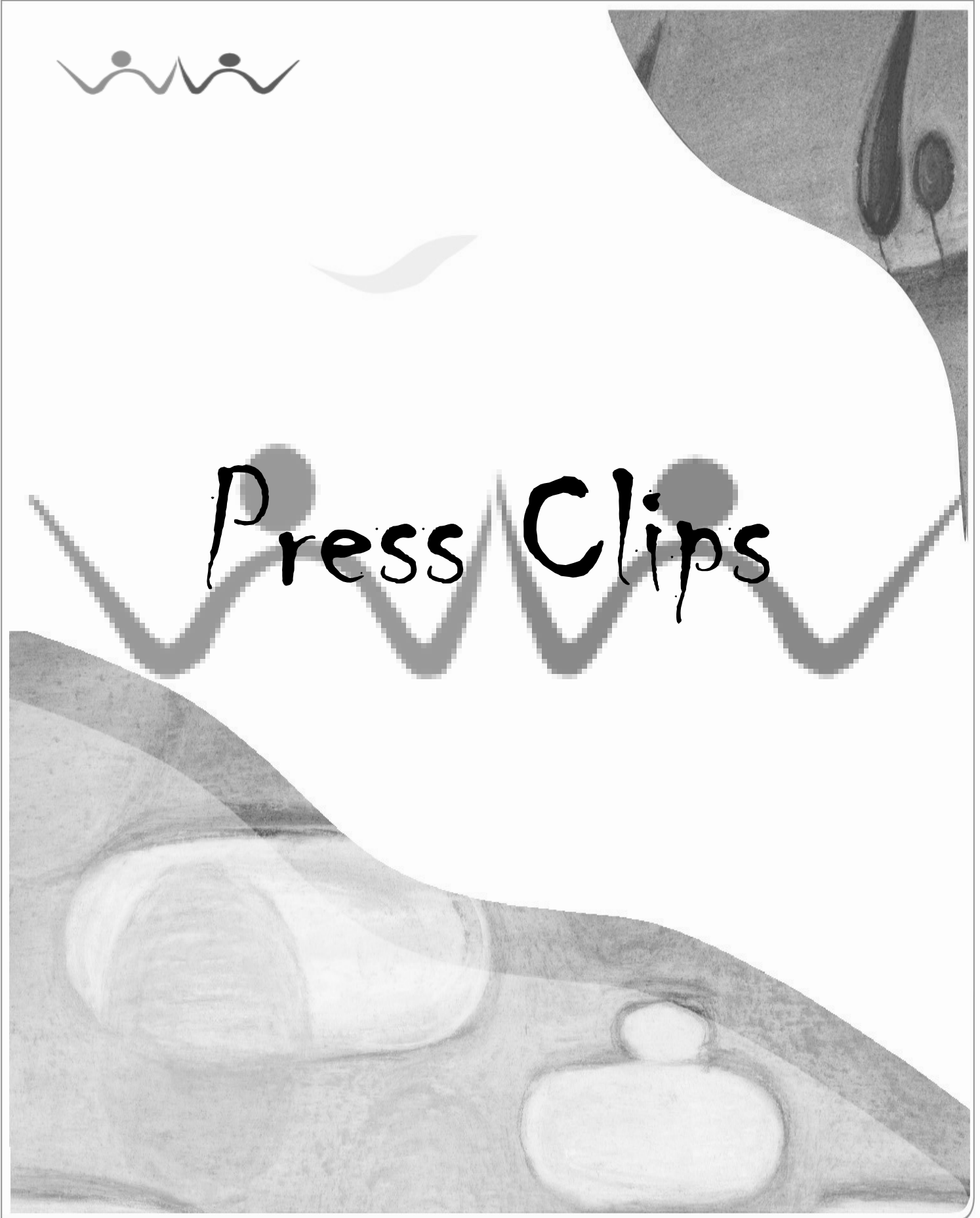
Holi day: I had never seen the volunteers having a great time as such in the meetings. When I came to know that all the volunteers would celebrate Holi together, I never imagined the day to come to would be filled with so much fun. When we reached Rajat sir's flat, the atmosphere was already festive. Then, we went down and started to throw the colours and water on each other. Within five minutes none of us were recognisable. And then we came back and the volunteers danced and sang and threw a great show for others.

- Lisha

You can do anything in the world If you Don't Look For Credit



Press Clips



Vijaya Karnataka - Call Sankalp for Blood

ರಕ್ತ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನೀಗಿಸಲು ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ

ಸಂಚಾರ ಒತ್ತಡದ ನಡುವೆ ಒಂದೆಡೆಯಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆ ರಕ್ತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಲೆಯುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ. ರಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಇದ್ದರೂ, ಬೇಕಿರುವ ರಕ್ತದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಎಷ್ಟಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅನಗತ್ಯ ಓಡಾಟದಿಂದ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಜೀವವೊಂದನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗೊಂದಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕೃತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಜನ್ಮ ತಾಳಿದೆ.

ಜನ ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕೊರತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತವೂ ಒಂದು. ರಕ್ತ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಇದ್ದರೂ, ಕೆಲವು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಈ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಕ್ಕದೇ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೋಜಿಬ್ಬನ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ರಕ್ತ ಸಿಗದ ಕಾರಣ ಸಾವನ್ನಪ್ಪುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಅನುಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಂಡುಕೊಡುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದರೂ ಯಾವುದೂ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿದಿವೆ. ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಗೆಲುವು ಲಭಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಇದೀಗ ರಕ್ತ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯೊಂದು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ. ರಕ್ತ ಒಯಿಸುವವರು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸಾಲ್ವಕಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂವರ್ಧಿಸಿದರೆ ಸಾಕು ಕೊಳ್ಳ 11 ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಅಭ್ಯುದ್ಧಿ, ಸೇವೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸುಖ

ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸಹಾಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಇಂತಿಯಾ ಫೌಂಡೇಷನ್ 'ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಬ್ಲಡ್' ಚೂನೇಷನ್ ಆರ್ಗನೈಜೇಷನ್ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ನೀಡುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ರಕ್ತದ ತುರ್ತು ಆಗುತ್ತ ಉಳ್ಳವರು ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿದರೆ ತಕ್ಷಣ ರಕ್ತದ ಇದು ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತ ಸಿಗದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಕೇವಲ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ. ನಗರದ

ಪ್ರಮುಖ 11 ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಈ ಸಂಘಟನೆ ಬಳಿ ಇದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನೀಡಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಯಾ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗುಂಪುವಾರು ರಕ್ತದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ, ಸಂಗ್ರಹ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಆಗತ್ಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇವಲ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಿ ಸಿಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ತುರ್ತು ಆಗುತ್ತ ಇರುವಾಗಲೇ ಜನರಿಗೆ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳ ನೆನಪಾಗುವುದು. ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಸಂಚಾರ ಒತ್ತಡದ ನಡುವೆ ಒಂದೆಡೆಯಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆ ರಕ್ತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಲೆಯುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ ರಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಇದ್ದರೂ, ಬೇಕಿರುವ ರಕ್ತದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಎಷ್ಟಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅನಗತ್ಯ ಓಡಾಟದ ನಡುವೆ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಜೀವವೊಂದನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗೊಂದಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕೃತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಈ ಸಂಘಟನೆ ಜನ್ಮ ತಾಳಿದೆ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 1062 (ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಿಂದ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ 080 ಸೇರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ) ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಕೇವಲ ಎರಡು ನಿಮಿಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗತ್ಯ ರಕ್ತ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಜತೆ, ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ವಿವರವೂ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಮ್ಮೆ 11 ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಆಗತ್ಯ ರಕ್ತದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಸಿಗದಿದ್ದರೆ, ತಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಘದ ತುರ್ತು ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ನಗರ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಥವಾ ಹೊರರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಲಿ. ಕಳೆದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 900 ಮಂದಿ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬಯಸಿದ್ದು ಯಾರಿಗೂ ನಿರಾಸೆ ಉಂಟಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಷ್ಟಾದರೂ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸ್ವಾಭಾವ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ರಜಾ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಆಗರ್‌ವಾರ್.

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ

ಬ್ಲಡ್ ಡೊನೇಷನ್ ಆರ್ಗನೈಜೇಷನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಫೌಂಡೇಷನ್ ಅಂಗಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕೆಲ ಹಿರಿಯರ ಜತೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಸಹಕಾರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ತಲುಪಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಾಲೇಜು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಾವು ಆರಂಭದ ಕೆಲ ದಿನ ರಕ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ತುರ್ತು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದವು. ನಗರದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂವರ್ಧಿಸಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಅದರ ಇದರಿಂದ ಫಲ ಸಿಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಕೊಸ ಮಾಡಲು ಹುಡುಗರನ್ನು ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾ ಇಂದು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಸಂಘ ನಗರದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಭಾಗದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ದಿನದ 24 ಗಂಟೆ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರ ನೀಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. 'ರಕ್ತ ಬಯಸುವವರ ಕೆಲ ಸಂಘಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸರಾಸರಿ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಕೆಲ ಗಂಭೀರ ಗಾಯಗೊಂಡವರ ಕೆಡಿಯಿಂದ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ದಿನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಲಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ದ್ವಿಗುಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಘವು ಎಲ್ಲಾ 11 ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳ ನಿತ್ಯದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಕುರಿತ ವಿವರ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ನಿಖರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದೊಮ್ಮೆ ಈ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಇತರ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಯ ಸಂವರ್ಧನೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತೇವೆ' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ರಜಾ.

ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ವಿವರ

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತಿ ಎರಡು ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ರಕ್ತದ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಎದುರಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ 50 ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳು ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ರಕ್ತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅವಿಲಂಬಿತರ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂವರ್ಧಿಸುವುದೂ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ದೀರ್ಘ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡುವ 11 ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳೆಂದರೆ, ರಾಮಯ್ಯ, ರೋಟರಿ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ, ಸಾಗರ್ ಅಪೋಲೊ, ಮೆಸೆವಾಲ್, ಅಸ್ತೇಶ್ ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ ಖಾಜೆ, ಮುತ್ತುಕಾ, ಲಯಸ್, ವಿಕ್ಟೋರಿಯಾ, ಇಂದಿರಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಹೈಲ್ಯಾಟ್, ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರೆಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್. ಇವುಗಳ ಜತೆ ಮುಂಬರುವ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳ ಜತೆ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಬ್ಲಡ್ ಡೊನೇಷನ್ ಆರ್ಗನೈಜೇಷನ್ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ.



Saturday, December 29, 2007
Postcard campaign

Siachen Glacier? Yes, the world's highest battlefield is where our men-in-arms stand guard.

If you want to show you care and express your solidarity with our soldiers, join Sankalp India Foundation in 'Mission Siachen' by sending them a token of love and appreciation on Republic Day.

The foundation has prepared hand made postcards where you can pen a message of goodwill or just sign as a goodwill gesture and send your personalised message for the Indian Army.

These postcards will be delivered to about 4000 soldiers posted at the glacier on January 26.

Volunteers of the foundation will be at Garuda Mall, Forum and Big Bazaar (Hebbal) from 1 to 6 pm on December 29 handing out the postcards.

Not just lip service

A lot of us ease our conscience to do the right thing by talking ourselves hoarse. Youngsters at Sankalp put their money where they mouth is; their weekends are spent giving blood to needy patients

SAHANA CHARAN

It was a 'sankalp' (vow) that four friends took, and now the seeds of that decision have flowered into a youth movement that could give a lot of voluntary organisations a run for their money.

You would probably think young engineering students are found more in the malls and pubs, meeting up with friends and having a good time rather than coordinating blood donations, getting youngsters to know more about their country and speaking to college-goers about giving back to society.

But that is exactly what Sankalp India Foundation is all about. It all happened one night in May 2003 - four engineering students of M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology were having a cup of tea outside M S Ramaiah Hospital late at night, when they saw a man literally begging for blood to save a relative's life.

With no donors and lack of stock in the hospital's blood bank, the chances of survival were dismal. Even though the youth managed to get blood for the patient, he died because it was five hours too late.

"That's when we decided that we should come together to form a students' group and create an emergency network so that no one in the city should ever face a shortage of blood. Now, from four we have grown into a strong body of 40 volunteers," said Rajat Agarwal, one of the founders of the movement.

The group has a tie up with Comprehensive Trauma Con-



BLOOD!



PICS: A VEERAMANI



Clockwise from left: A blood donation camp at a private company; the Sankalp logo; a volunteer giving blood and Sankalp volunteers at a gathering on Martyrs' Day. Below: (from left) Shwetha Reddy, Kumari Ankita, Amit Sedaj and Rajat Agarwal

to the movement, leaving them with little time for other things. "On weekdays, we are busy with college or work so we are involved with Sankalp work during the weekend. It is a lot of hard work so those who join with much enthusiasm and little dedication eventually move on. It is only those who really want to do something for society who stay," said Shwetha Reddy, a fourth-year engineering student.

But don't they miss out on all the fun and frolic that other youngsters seem to be having? "I feel that

they are missing out on something special by not being part of Sankalp. Of course, we too go out for movies, get-togethers and generally have fun, but our social initiative is what takes topmost priority. Our lives have changed and we have also learnt how to manage our time," says Kumari Ankita, who just finished her engineering course at M S Ramaiah.

PROJECT TIRANGA

As the Sankalp volun-

teer base grows far and wide, the activities are also increasing.

A few months ago, on a walk on the roads of Mussoorie immediately after the Independence Day celebrations, a volunteer found that national flags were finding their way into garbage bins and roads. Throughout the day, he made attempts to collect the flags because it hurt him to see them in that condition. After washing and drying the paper and plastic flags, he realised that there were around 200 of them.

He made attempts to find out from the government the methods of proper disposal of the used 'Tiranga,' but the response was disappointing. This started a campaign by Sankalp to collect any tricolour that had been thrown or carelessly disposed of. At last count, the group had collected 1,300 flags.

MISSION SIACHEN

To tell the soldiers guarding our borders in difficult conditions that we care, Sankalp

launched this mission. Through this initiative, messages were sent to soldiers posted at the Siachen in the Karakoram range of the Himalayas. Signature campaigns were organised in malls and other public places to get the public to write postcards for soldiers in the freezing borders. In all, 3,500 postcards were sent.

KNOW YOUR INDIA

The Sankalp India Foundation website has become a useful platform for these students to talk about India and important events in the history of the country and landmarks, apart from popularising their campaigns and activities through the site.

Every month, the members take up a topic and give detailed information on it - including the Emergency, the Chipko movement, the different wars that were fought and a piece on the Nalanda University. "It is just our way of educating the youth about our country and its colourful history," says Rajat.

Sankalp

can be contacted on
98801 32850

Website: www.sankalpindia.net





Tragedy... Members of Sankalp India Foundation staging a candle-light demonstration to express their solidarity to the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy in Bangalore on Sunday.

One With Bhopal

THE HINDU

Date:24/03/2008

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2008/03/24/stories/2008032450660200.htm>

Bangalore

In support of Bhopal tragedy survivors

BANGALORE: On the occasion of Shaheed Diwas, over 50 volunteers from Sankalp India Foundation on Sunday held a candle-light vigil in support of the Bhopal Gas tragedy survivors who are marching to Delhi to urge the Government to meet their demands for a dignified life.

“The Bhopal gas tragedy survivors, even after 24 years, have no access to pure water, shelter, proper healthcare and food. We think that the dream of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev has not been fulfilled,” said Rajat Kumar Agarwal, president of the Bangalore chapter of Sankalp India Foundation.

Siachen soldiers hailed

Saturday December 29 2007 08:10 IST

Express News Service

BANGALORE:

Ever wondered how to thank the gutsy soldiers who guard the 80 mile long Siachen glacier on the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas.

These soldiers brave the temperature which is usually around -50' Celsius, sleep in ice caves and breathe air so rare that makes it difficult to even survive. If you wish to say your heartfelt thanks to them, then here is your chance.

Sankalp India Foundation, a registered voluntary youth organisation is organising a massive public campaign to thank the soldiers.

They are planning to send some hand made post cards with personalised messages to each of the estimated 4000 soldiers. Sankalp is organising this 'Mission Siachen' campaign on December 29 at the Garuda Mall near MG Road and Big Bazaar on the Hebbal-BEL ring road.

Interested people can contact them at 9880132850 or visit their website www.sankalpindia.net.

Links:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2007/12/29/stories/2007122961110300.htm>

<http://www.deccanherald.com/Content/Dec292007/city2007122943685.asp>

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE120071228214858&Title=Bangalore&rLink=0>



Of tribute and travails

On *Shaheed Diwas*, city youth held a candlelight vigil and a signature campaign for Bhopal gas tragedy victims

BANGALORE MIRROR BUREAU

Did you know that Bhagat Singh and his comrades Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged on March 23, 1931, for killing a police officer to avenge the death of veteran leader Lala Lajpat Rai? Paying tributes to their martyrdom, a few Bangalore youths got together on the occasion of *Shaheed Diwas* and used the platform to seek the rights of the

Bhopal gas tragedy victims.

The bunch of students assembled at M G Road and held a candlelight vigil for the Bhopal gas tragedy victims. They also undertook a signature campaign. These signatures along with a petition will be forwarded to the Prime Minister.

An engineering student, Lisha Murthy, said, "Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev died fighting for a secular, socialistic India. All the values seem like a joke when we see

the Bhopal gas tragedy victims fighting for their rights for the past 24 years." Two years ago, the victims had walked from Bhopal to Delhi to raise their demands with the Prime Minister. Though much was promised, none of their demands have been fulfilled till date.

The event organiser, Rajat Kumar Agarwal, said, "We have never visited the victims. But, we wanted to express our solidarity and we will support them wholeheartedly."

THE HINDU

Saturday, Dec 29, 2007

[Karnataka](#)

Bangalore

'Mission Siachen' by youth

Staff Reporter

Bangalore: It is a befitting way to tell the soldiers guarding our borders in difficult conditions that we care.

And for that reason Sankalp India Foundation, a voluntary youth organisation have decided to launch "Mission Siachen," through which messages would be sent to soldiers posted at the Siachen in the eastern Karakoram range of the Himalayas.

"We want to show them that people in our country really care for the soldiers. We will send postcards which will be signed by people and we want to plan it in such a way that each soldier will receive a postcard," said Maya and Jayanti, students of M.S. MSRIT and volunteers with Sankalp India. As part of this, Sankalp India Foundation, is organising signature campaigns in Garuda Mall and Big Bazaar, Hebbal on BEL Ring Road between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. "We want people to come and sign the postcards and show their solidarity," the girls said.

For details call 9880132850.

Young blood on a crusade

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: Four years ago when five youngsters saw a patient die for want of blood, they decided to make a difference. With over 10,000 volunteers, Sankalp India, an NGO, interlinks blood banks and promotes voluntary blood donations.

The NGO has been aiming at promoting voluntary blood donations among students and IT professionals. In the last one year, the volunteers have been crusading for blood safety apart from donor safety.

"It's been quite a long journey in a short period. But the tragedy is that we have a long way to go, says Rajat Agarwal, an engineer who passed out of the MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology.

"Ever since we founded this organisation we have been working tirelessly. Our first step was to unite blood banks. Earlier, no one knew what the other banks stocked. Now, we know where and what the shortage is, he said.

The team, which had five members initially, now has swelled. "Most of our volunteers are students above 16. We hold weekly meetings to design strategies, chalk out plans and review our work. We counsel people to clear myths and misconceptions about donation, he said.

Ironically, Bangalore has just 55% voluntary blood donors against West Bengal which has 95%. The organisation has worked out on simple calculations. The city needs at least 1.30 lakh units of blood. "Even if at least 15% of students and 3.5 lakh IT professionals contribute, we would have an excess of 30,000 units every year, he said.

WORLD BLOOD DONATION DAY

Md Azad



Nursing students take out a procession to mark World Blood Donation Day on Thursday. It was organised by Indian Red Cross Society

Why students and IT professionals? The group said they are expected to be low on risk factors and relatively safe. Nevertheless, they warn that all donors should be screened for infectious diseases like hepatitis and HIV apart from haemoglobin before drawing blood.

On World Blood Donation Day, the volunteers conducted free camps. Many hospitals and NGOs like Indian Red Cross Hospital, Lions and Rotary organised series of lectures and blood donation camps.

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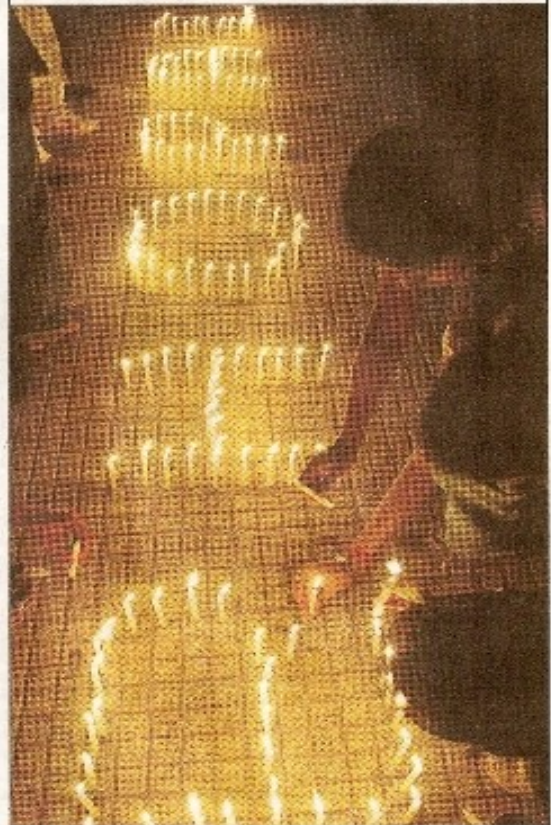
Syndicate cries foul



Members of Sankalp at their weekly meet .

LENDING SUPPORT

Vidya Anand



STANDING UP FOR VICTIMS: Students held a candlelight vigil near the Gandhi statue on MG Road on Sunday to express solidarity with the Bhopal gas tragedy victims. The event was organized on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas, the death anniversary of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. The students slammed Union Carbide and organized a signature campaign against its owner, Dow Chemical Company

Heal The World : Hyderabad Times

Heal the World

They're young, suave and ambitious professionals. But they have a humanitarian side to them that is truly inspiring. Hyderabad Times finds out how they intend to 'make it a better place'

MADHURI KALYAN Times News Network

A bird with a broken wing lying helplessly, bleeding to death on the side of the road, a scruffy street kid begging at the traffic signal – moving images of helplessness, that evokes a deep sense of sadness and compassion. But most of us choose to ignore that uncomfortable feeling that would urge us to step outside our cocooned environment and face the reality that lies beyond our rose-tinted view of the world. In an age where they say 'bad is the new good' and being self-centered is considered cool, this brigade of young people, cool in every sense of the word, are here to prove otherwise.

Says Rajat Kumar Agarwal, who started the Sankalp foundation as result of a personal experience says, "One night during our college days, when some of us were at the hospital, we noticed a person desperately searching for blood donors for almost 3 hours. We did donate blood, but later found out that the patient had died as we had dilly dallied and not made ourselves available for the donation immediately. It was then that we decided to never say no to a blood donation request, and started 1062 helpline"

But however good your intentions maybe, starting an NGO is not exactly a bed of roses, opines Vishal Taneja, of Dream a Dream NGO. He says, "Our age, in fact, worked against us when we approached people for funds. No one would take us seriously!" We started with something as small as spending time with HIV positive kids and slowly we realised that kids need a platform to express themselves, and so we developed various activities, including sports, arts and adventure workshop where these kids could express themselves. Moreover, we got the best people, like trainers from the Dhanraj Pillay Hockey Academy, to teach them. We never compromised on quality, as their being poor didn't mean we give them poor quality." For Rajesh Golani, a software engineer, volunteering means a lot of fun and immense learning, "Its an enormous learning experience, it makes your everyday life richer, and you appreciate the mundane things in life you took for granted earlier. True, we don't get to see as many movies, or party, but we don't miss it because everyone here is so full of life, this kind of fun is more wholesome than anything I did in my life!" And it's not just fun and learning that comes out of reaching out to those in need, it also works like the best anti-depressant, says Tapan Vaidya, who takes youth empowerment workshops run by WAYE (World Alliance for Youth Empowerment) "Most young people today get totally involved and consumed by competition at work and relationships, and forget about being human. Hence, we fall prey to depression, which either comes out of the feeling of "I am useless," or "nobody cares about me," but when we take a step to serve, we feel worthy, and cared for in return, making us strong from within".

But what is it that drives these youngsters to take the road less traveled, that requires much focus and commitment? Rajat answers, "It's realising the power that we have within that gives immense satisfaction." He adds, "When the tsunami happened, we saw that one person at the Red Cross was handling about 3000 dead bodies. We started our relief work immediately. In an environment of chaos and confusion, one has to be prompt."

And Rajat's words again sum up how these guys stand for everything that symbolizes the true spirit of the country's youth-"We don't just stand and watch when something happens, We act. Only weak people complain and blame. We know that we're making the nation what it is...we are its driving force."

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ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆ >>>

ರಕ್ತ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಸಂಕಲನ

ಶೀಲಾ ಸಿ. ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ

ಮಧ್ಯರಾತ್ರಿಯ ಸಮಯ. ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಆವರಣದ ಬಳಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಅಳುತ್ತಾ ಅಲೆದಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಕಂಡಕಂಡವರ ಮುಂದೆ ನಿಂತು, 'ಸರ್, ಪ್ಲೀಸ್... ರಕ್ತದಾನ ಮಾಡಿ ನಮ್ಮವರ ಪ್ರಾಣ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಡಿ' ಎಂದು ಪರಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಇವರ ಗೋಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಲಾರದೆ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದ್ದಷ್ಟು ದಾನ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

ಮರುದಿನ, ಆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೋದಾಗ, ಮನ ಕರಗುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು. 'ಹತ್ತು ನಿಮಿಷ ಮುಂಚೆ ರೋಗಿಗೆ ರಕ್ತ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕಿಸಬಹುದಿತ್ತು' ಎಂಬ ವೈದ್ಯರ ನುಡಿ ರಕ್ತಕಿರುವ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯ ಎತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿಯಿತು. ಕೆಲವು ಯುನಿಟ್ ರಕ್ತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಪರದಾಡುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಿಂದ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಜೀವಕ್ಕೆ ಕುತ್ತಾಗುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭ ಇವರಂತೆ ಮತ್ತಾರಿಗೂ ಬರಬಾರದು ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ತಂಡ, ಅಂದಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಗುಂಪೊಂದನ್ನು ಹುಟ್ಟು ಹಾಕಿ, ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ತುರ್ತು ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಹಾಕಿತು.

ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂತಹ ವಿಪತ್ತಿನ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಳು ಎದುರಾಗುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂದರೆ, ಹಣವಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಅಗತ್ಯ ರಕ್ತವನ್ನು ಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ? ಹೇಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು? ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ? ಎಂಬ ಗೊಂದಲದೊಳಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ವೇಳೆ ಮುಗಿದು ರೋಗಿ ಸಾವನ್ನಪ್ಪಬಹುದು. ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಿಲ್ಲದ ನಿಧಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಸಮಯ ಹಾಳಾಗಬಹುದು. ಇಂತಹ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮಂದಿ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಆರಂಭಗೊಂಡ ಉಚಿತ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಮಾಹಿತಿ



ಸೇವೆಗೆ ತೆರಳುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ಮಾತುಕತೆ.

ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಇಂದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗರಿಗೆ ವರದಾನವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರೂ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಲಾರದು.

ಬಹುತೇಕ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ರಕ್ತ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು ರೂಢಿ. ಕೆಲವು ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಗಿಯ ಜತೆ ಇರುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇರುವ ರೋಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತದ ಅಭಾವ ಎದುರಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಗ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು ನೀಡಲು ಮುಂದಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಿದ 'ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ' ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇಂದು 45ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸದಸ್ಯರನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು, ಬಡವರು, ಶ್ರೀಮಂತರನ್ನೆದೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕಾರ್ಯಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳು

ಪ್ರತಿ ಭಾನುವಾರದಂದು ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಂಡದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸಭೆ ಸೇರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದಿನ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ, ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ, ಆಗು-ಹೋಗುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಜನೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೇನು ಮಾಡಬಹುದು? ಎಂಬುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತುಕತೆ

ನಡೆಸಿ ಆಯಾ ವಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ರಕ್ತದಾನ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಐಟಿ ಕಂಪನಿ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಶಿಬಿರಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೂ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಇವುಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ.

ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಶಿಬಿರ

ಇದೀಗ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಜಂಟಿ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮುಂಬರುವ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತದಾನ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಶಿಬಿರ ನಡೆಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶವನ್ನು ತಂಡ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು, ಐದು ಸಾವಿರ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಲಿಡ್‌ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಚಿತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ. 'ನಮ್ಮ ಈ ಸೇವೆಯ ಹೊಣೆಯನ್ನು ನಾವೇ ವಹಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸರಕಾರದಿಂದಾಗಿ, ಸಂಘ-ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಹಾಯ ದೊರಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಸೇವಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉಳಿದೆಡೆಗೂ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಕರಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಬಯಸುವವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಜತೆಯಾಗಬಹುದು' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತದೆ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ತಂಡ.

ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಹಕಾರ

ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ನಗರದ ಯಾವ್ಯಾವ ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಿದೆ? ಯಾವ್ಯಾವ ಗುಂಪಿನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಿದೆ? ಇದೀಗ ಯಾವುದು ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ? ಎಷ್ಟು ದೊರೆಯಬಹುದು? ಎಂಬಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 1062ಗೆ ಕಿರು ಸಂದೇಶ ಮಾಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಸಿ.ಟಿ.ಯು. ದಿಶಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯೊಡನೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಈ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಾಲಾಸಂಚಾರ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇಷ್ಟಾದರೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ದೊರಕಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದಾದರೆ ಈ ತಂಡದ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 9880132850ಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಕ ಲಲಿತ. ತುರ್ತು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಬಳಿ ಸ್ವಯಂ ದಾನಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲಿಸಿ, ಸಹಾಯ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅವರು.



[‘We told the blood bank the next time you have to say “No” to someone asking for blood, please send the person to us’](#)

October 28, 2007 – 11:46 am

We got the chance to interact with a [Sankalp](#) Volunteer. This article is essentially our conversation with him. Though it is rather long, we recommend you get through it some time. You will not regret it...

How was the Sankalp Blood Donation Organization born?

One night we jumped out of the engineering college hostel to have a cup of coffee at around 11.30 at night, and we ended up at the emergency section of the hospital. Apparently, that is the only place where you get coffee at night in this area. A person from Kolar had come there. This person was begging people for blood. He was saying “*raktha kodi raktha kodi*”. We asked for a translation. People told us that he had been hunting for blood donors since 8. The patient was brought in at 8.

Nearly 4 hours?

Yeah. We went into the blood bank and tried to figure out. They said “We do have blood but we cannot give him because he cannot arrange for replacement”. Three of us were there. We called a senior from the hostel and the four of us donated. After finishing the donation, we visited him and found out that he was no more.

The question was that if there is blood in the blood bank and if so many people donate blood, then when a person requires blood why doesn't he get it?

So that night itself we started Sankalp. Next morning we put up a poster on the wall saying that those who want to donate blood in emergencies can register with us. We told the blood bank the next time you have to say “No” to someone asking for blood, please send the person to us. That is how it started.

What else does Sankalp do?

Most people think that Sankalp is only about blood donation. On the top level, it is not. It is about people contributing to build up a better society. And they are doing it by themselves. Not telling anyone else “do it”.

On the evening after the Tsunami, we got to know about it, we were told that there is a Tsunami in Nagapattinam. Now first question came... Will there be a blood requirement there? Some people thought that it was too hypothetical to sit here and imagine. By 3 a.m. the same night, one volunteer left to Nagapattinam. When that volunteer reached Nagapattinam, the next evening at 5.30, he found out that there was just 1 person managing 3500 dead bodies. That was the Chief of Red Cross South Zone. With 6000 rupees we carried out a relief operation, where 3 volunteers were involved, 2 days were spent, and we came back with 1500 rupees unspent. It revealed one thing: It was not about money. It was about the first 48 hours when people really required help. We thought we will set up a small wing, and Disaster Mitigation Management team of Sankalp was born.

The Disaster Mitigation Management wing is all about what we do in the first few hours after the disaster. What do we do, if there is a disaster in some part of the country? When earthquake struck Kashmir, we thought we won't be able to do much. Eventually, we landed up 3 km away from the LOC with few blankets. When we reached there, we realized that everyone else had decided that they couldn't do anything.

Similarly, when there were TN floods, when we reached there we realized that the packets of Parle-G biscuits we had taken there mattered. Two hours after the recent Hyderabad blasts, our volunteers had contacted every single blood bank which was associated with the hospitals in which the patients were admitted and told them that in case they found a shortage, they should let us know. There was a class 12 student from Hyderabad, an active volunteer, who was calling her friends in Hyderabad, and making sure that if there is a requirement, blood will be available.

The third wing is Project Tiranga. It started when a volunteer found a plastic national flag thrown on the street. There was a question... “Do I leave my national flag, lying on the road like that?” So again, in line with what we do here, it was not about people throwing it, it was about we lifting it. We started picking up flags, and collected some 1800 flags.

You mean there were 1800 flags lying thrown around the city?

Yes. They were picked from drains, dustbins, everywhere. When we approached the management, i.e. the administration of the district and asked them, what do we do about this? They said there is a code of conduct for cloth flags, there is a method to destroy the cloth flags, you can destroy the paper flags, but we do not know what to do with the plastic flags. We have washed them, dried them and kept them in books. They are still there. That's about the birth of Project Tiranga. Project Tiranga is about celebrating patriotism, celebrating national heroes and bringing about a self-change.

You also started Disha some time back?

Disha started on 13th September, 2006.

The problem was that none of the blood banks wanted to share the information they have. We thought why not construct some common platform where information from all blood banks goes and anyone who wants blood can ping this and get the information they want. Initially the concept was IVRS. Then we came on to SMS based network. Finally we found CTC. Now, CTC is the organization that runs the operation Sanjeevani (the free ambulance care). They had a dedicated call center manned 24 hours. We spoke to them and said "Will it be a good idea if we can add a blood helpline"? So eventually it took two years to convince the blood banks and convince the mechanism to start contributing. Even today we are struggling to get stats from blood banks. None of them want to reveal the information they have. But whoever is revealing, now that comes to the central helpline 1062. Any person can call toll free 1062 and find out where blood is available.

You mentioned that you had a lot of problems getting the blood banks together and so on. How exactly did you manage to overcome that?

The rule that we follow in Sankalp since day one is persistence. I will give you a classic example.

First time we went into this blood bank where we had this first night's incidence, we said we want you to tell us who requires blood. They said we won't. They said it's our business, we give blood to everyone, we don't send anyone away and so we don't want to tell you. People tend to look for donors outside the hospital so we started sitting outside the hospital every evening. Slowly we found people who required blood. We took them back to the same blood bank and said "We found him, he requires blood. Please accept." Then that changed into other things. They said that we will let you know when there is a request, but when we give you a call, you should satisfy it. And we realized that when a minister or a VVIP is admitted or a friend of a director is admitted, we get a call. And we refused. And the relationship got bad. But after another 6 months, there was another case. They realized that in this entire duration, we were still coming for genuine people. All of us inside are good. Slowly people melt, and we get to do the things we want to do.

Apart from that, I think because our emergency wing was doing a good job - as in, everytime the bloodbanks required blood, they could call us and bank upon us - it helped to build credibility. CTC brand name was also one factor which helped in this.

What do you do when you are sitting in office and cannot do much about a blood request?

There is never a condition when we can't do anything about it. If that condition comes, we will rework whatever we are doing now.

There never has been a situation since 23rd May, 2003 that we have refused a blood request. In a day we get about 10 to 12 blood requests. Out of every 2 people who approach a blood bank in Bangalore, one is sent back. I think that the number of donations that we have taken for emergency requests is somewhere around 450 to 500. Each one of these is an emergency request. Now, every week we have two or three emergency requests.

How many people are there in Sankalp now?

As of now, speaking of active volunteers, we have 15 members.

That is a lot of work for 10-15 people. Are all these people are from MSRIT?

No, no... We have people from Chennai and Hyderabad. Sankalp has an open door policy to people joining in. Anyone can join in. Most people are from MSRIT because we were working actively in MSRIT. For 3 years people know us and there is a credibility factor. Apart from that because we keep publicity on the lowest key.

Why is that?

There are two factors involved. First factor is that, volunteers don't have time, when they know that they have emergency jobs to be done. The second thing is we are very patient in terms of growth. We will not inflate what we are telling. The site is there, it is running. All the information is there for anyone to find it. But visitors are few. And actually that is expected. You cannot accelerate social change.

How do you organize the funding of the organization?

Zero percent external funding. We don't accept even a single rupee for any of our activities apart from disaster relief. We are not a charitable organization. We don't consider ourselves as a charitable society where people can come and give a part of their extra. We manage everything in our organization only because we feel it is our responsibility. If you want to build your house, do you expect people to give you charity? You don't. That's why, we don't.

What about the future plans for Sankalp?

On the top level, if you consider, we plan to prepare some more volunteers. Second thing that we need to do right now is to develop an absolute understanding of the problems that Bangalore is facing in terms of blood donation. Once we identify these problems, and we have sufficient reasoning behind them, we can work on a roadmap to solve it. The third thing which is due is a blood mobile. We are planning to get a vehicle for Bangalore, some sort of a bus, for blood donation, a mobile blood collection unit. Today, if you ask someone to donate blood you take him to a hospital where he sees pain and sorrow. We plan to make blood donation a very happening activity. For that this vehicle is the answer. But, it will cost a small amount of money, i.e. around 50 lacs. Like CTC Disha, we are creating a proposal which answers anything anyone would like to know, and we will give it away to anyone who has the money.

What about volunteers who can devote smaller portions of their time to Sankalp?

Wonderful... That we are always encouraging. We have something called Sankalp friends. We understand and appreciate the fact that most people cannot contribute to Sankalp the way the volunteers are doing, and we do not want any person to miss out on an opportunity which they think is good. Let's say a person is good at poster designing. Please join in and design that poster. We are welcoming all such things. There are many people in that friends group. When required, those people come together.

In Walk for Life, we decided to walk for 41 km from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and tell people about 1062. In this one effort, there were many friends who joined in to make sure that those few voices which shouted "rakthake aagi 1062" were reinforced.

Coming to Sankalp friends, it's not just about work. We need a lot of support, emotional support to continue work. When a person joins Sankalp he is alienated from a lot of things. It is at this time that these people matter the most.

