

# VASAVYA

*The service that speaks...*



*Theme*

**“MARCHING AHEAD WITH  
PRO - ACTIVE HUMANISM AND PROFESSIONALISM”**

**40 years Celebrations**

*of*

**VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI**

Benz circle, Vijayawada - 520 010. A.P. INDIA

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Memo

**FOUNDERS OF VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI**



**SARASWATHI GORA & GORA**

**ARCHITECTS OF VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI**



**CHENNUPATI SESHAGIRI RAO & VIDYA**

# VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI

## FOUNDER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Mrs. Chennupati Vidya**  
Founder President



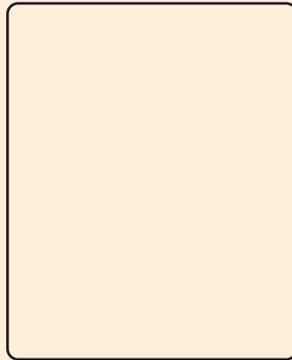
**Dr. Yarlagadda Seetha Ratnam**  
Vice President



**Mrs. N. Lakshmi Chari**  
Secretary



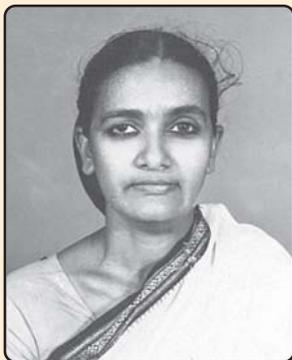
**Mrs. J. Mythri**  
Treasurer



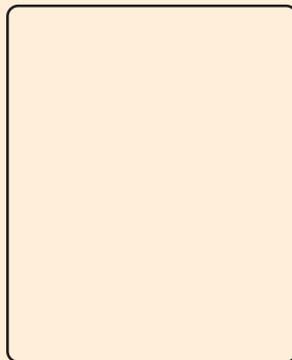
**Mrs. Leela Ram Murthy**  
Member



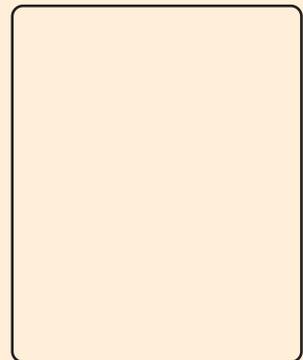
**Mrs. Kommareddy Mani**  
Member



**Mrs. Hemalatha Lavanam**  
Member



**Mrs. Praphulla Patel**  
Member



**Mrs. Borra Narayanamma**  
Member

**VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010 - 11**



**Mrs. Chennupati Vidya**  
Founder President



**Mrs. Nadipalli Premalatha**  
Vice President



**Mrs. Goparaju Rashmi**  
Secretary



**Mrs. J. Mythri**  
Treasurer



**Mrs. Prayagha Vedavathi**  
Member



**Mrs. Motukuri Kasiswaramma**  
Member



**Mrs. Koneru Udaya Lakshmi**  
Member



**Mrs. Yedla Nirmala**  
Member



**Mrs. Bollineni Keerthi**  
Member

## FOREWORD

The Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) is celebrating 40 years of service to humanity. My heart is filled with gratitude towards all the people who built this organization. It reminds me of thousands and thousands of people who came to the VMM with critical problems and with full of tears in their eyes. The sole aim is to wipe the tears, comfort, and counsel and instill confidence into their lives. Then they leave VMM stepping into the world with self reliance and our hearts filled with joy.

Gora and Sarswathi Gora, social reformers served the society with Gandhian ideals of non violence, service to humanity, equality and dedication. During the freedom movement they were inspiration to many contemporaries.

I am very proud that I am their daughter. My brothers and sisters, all the nine of us, grew up in the lap of truthfulness and service to humanity, the ideals practiced by my parents. The training I had at "Gandhiji Sevagram Ashram" gave me a comprehensive idea about service, social development and management of service and progress.

My marriage with Sri. Chennupati Seshagiri Rao gave a new life and vision. He was a philanthropist, a man of practical planning and dynamic implementation. My life partner is also a true life support to the life of social service. In 1955 he was the inspiration and support when we started Kasturba Mahila Mandal in Patamatalanka. The progress of the women through Mahila Mandal prompted me to start Vasavya Mahila Mandali along with my sister Mythri and sister in law Hemalatha Lavanam. The vision of Mahila Mandali is to empower women with education, self reliance and groom them into respectable and responsible individuals. As we delved deep into the society in serving the distrusted, the emergency needs of these people drove us to implement more and more new projects to support these lives. This expanded the horizons of service of the VMM into this gigantic organization.

On this happy occasion I proudly remember the family of the VMM volunteers who are serving the society relentlessly and incessantly under the professional and dynamic guidance of Mrs.Rashmi, Dr.Keerthi and Dr.Deeksha, my daughters who have taken up the torch of service and continuing the mission of Vasavya Mahila Mandali. The executive committee is of immense guidance and support to the Mahila Mandal throughout this period. VMM is able to adapt to the changing world with the creative and innovative suggestions by the executive committee and community.

The VMM is able to serve the humanity all these years only with the help of a number of philanthropists and service organizations of national and international level and government. Words fail to explain the warmth and gratitude I owe to all these individuals, organizations and donors who supported this mission. We are confident that with the continued and assured support of all these humanists, administrators and the community, we can march forward with proactive humanism and professionalism in the world of service to society.

We humbly submit that the service of the VMM speaks through the change we brought in the lives of women and children. The progress of women and society and in one word; our service speaks through our success in the world of realm of social service.



**Chennupati Vidya**

Founder President, VMM

Former Member of Parliament

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VMM Executive Committee - Then and Now

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The Expressions

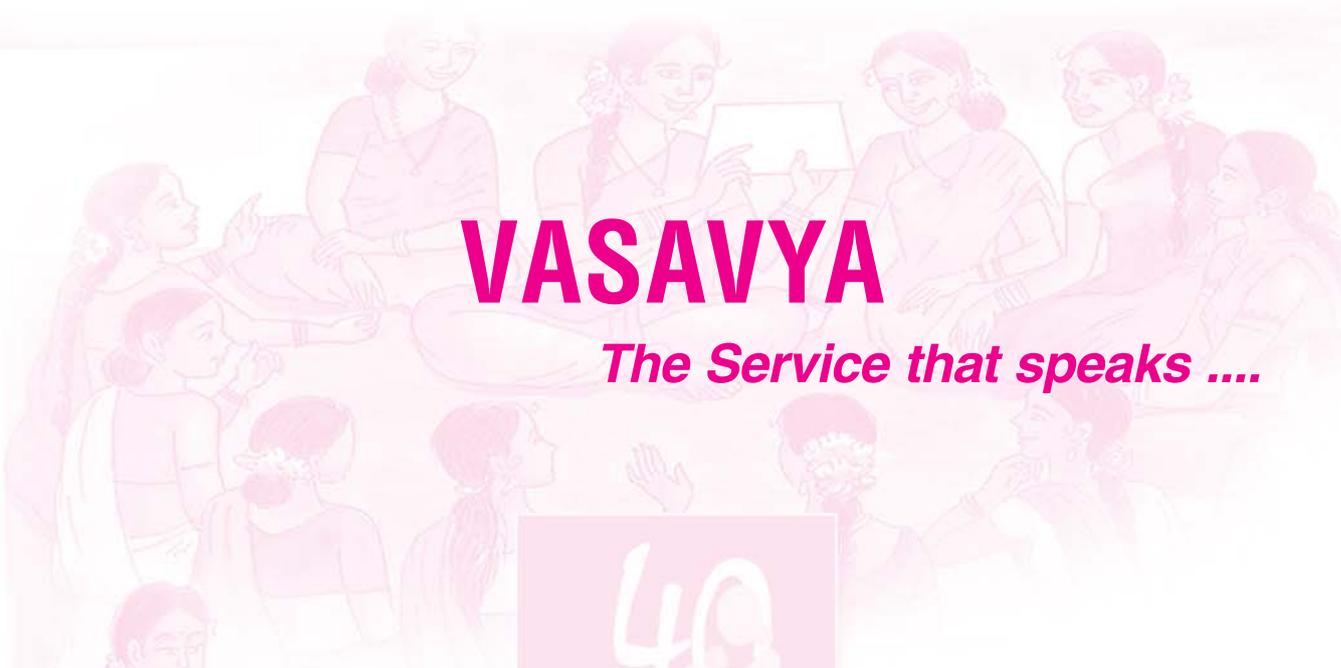
Contributions

## *Our sincere acknowledgments to*

- ❖ **Smt. Prayaga Vedavathi and Sri S. Kumara Swamy** for compilation and documenting the 40 years of VMM's legacy.
- ❖ **Dr. Ramanarao, M.D, MIC Electronics Ltd.,** for digital screens.
- ❖ **Prakash Arts** for back drop and entrance gates
- ❖ **Menda Mohan (MEMO)** for the art and illustrations
- ❖ **Byword Consultants** for designing forty years logo
- ❖ **Mr. Sk. Basha, City Tent House,** for stage decorations
- ❖ **My Mind Creations** for making the documentary film
- ❖ **Viswa Type Institute** for designing the souvenir
- ❖ **Mr. J. Raghupathi Rao** for the script of the dance

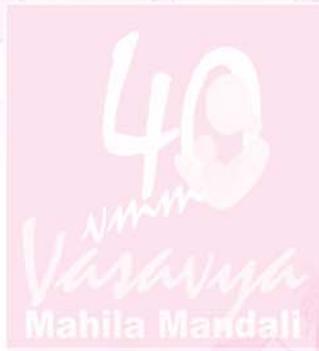
## *Our fond memories of*

***Mrs. Hemalatha Lavanam for giving the lyrics to the work of 'VASAVYA'***

An illustration of a group of women sitting in a circle, engaged in conversation. One woman in the center is holding a book or a document. The scene is set outdoors with a simple background.

# VASAVYA

*The Service that speaks ....*



## *Messages*

An illustration of a woman sitting at a sewing machine. She is wearing a dark sari and is looking towards the right. The sewing machine is on a wooden table.

Speakup, Stop Discrimination  
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 2010

We are all one

We be one

be one

अर्चना दत्ता ( मुखोपाध्याय )  
राष्ट्रपति के विशेष कार्याधिकारी ( जन सम्पर्क )

*Archana Datta*  
*(Mukhopadhyay)*  
*OSD (PR) to the President*



राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय,  
राष्ट्रपति भवन,  
नई दिल्ली - 110004

*President's Secretariat,*  
*Rashtrapati Bhavan,*  
*New Delhi - 110004*



### MESSAGE

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, is happy to know that the Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Vijayawada is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Years on December 15, 2010.

The President extends her warm greetings and felicitations to all those associated with the Mandali and wishes the Celebrations all success.

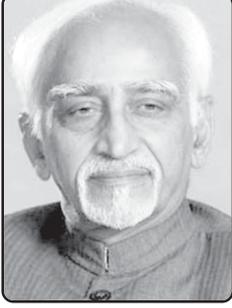
*A. Datta*

Officer on Special Duty (PR)



निदेशक  
DIRECTOR

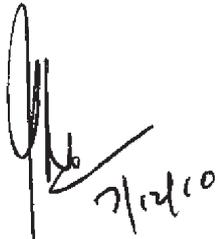
उप-राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय  
VICE-PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT  
नई दिल्ली / NEW DELHI - 110011  
TEL.: 23793478 FAX : 23018124



**MESSAGE**

Hon'ble Vice President of India is happy to know that Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM), – A voluntary organization established with a vision to empower the women and vulnerable children is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 at Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

Vice President of India extends his good wishes to all those associated with the VMM and wishes it all success in its endeavours.

  
(ASHOK DEWAN)

New Delhi  
7<sup>th</sup> December, 2010



**Dr. Girija Vyas**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (Lok Sabha)

CHAIRPERSON

Phone : 23236204, 23230785 (O)

23383887 (R)

Telefax : 23236154

Udaipur: 0294-2525356



भारत सरकार  
राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग  
4, दीन दयाल उपाध्याय मार्ग  
नई दिल्ली-110 002

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
4, DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA MARG  
NEW DELHI-110 002  
Website : www.ncw.nic.in



D.O.No. 325/CP/NCW/N.FP/2010

December 3, 2010.

*Dear Vidya ji,*

*I thank you very much for your kind invitation to the 40 years of celebrations of Vasavya Mahila Mandali and also for the theme event "Marching ahead with Pro-active Humanism and Professionalism" on 15th December, 2010 at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh..*

*Much as I would like to attend the above celebrations, I very much regret that I would not be able to do so due to my other committed engagements and meetings in Delhi & also in my constituency at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. However, I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the above celebrations to be a grand success.*

*With regards.*

*Yours sincerely*

  
(Girija Vyas)

*Smt. Chennupati Vidya Ji,  
Former Member of Parliament & President,  
Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Athiest Centre,  
Benz Circle, Vijayawada-520 010,  
Andhra Pradesh.*

प्रेमा करियप्पा, पूर्व सांसद  
अध्यक्ष

PREMA CARIAPPA, Ex. M.P.  
Chairperson



केंद्रीय समाज कल्याण बोर्ड

डा. दुर्गाबाई देशमुख समाज कल्याण भवन  
बी-12, कुतुब इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली -110603

**CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD**

Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh Samaj Kalyan Bhavan  
B-12, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi-110603



File. No. F.CMS/4/2010

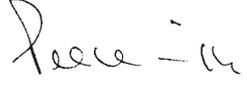
Dated: 06.12.2010 /165

**MESSAGE**

Welfare of the society in all its possible facets has been in focus of the developmental process and every Government pays special attention to this concern. It is indeed a matter of joy that Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Andhra Pradesh has completed 40 years of existence and to mark this auspicious occasion, the institution is organizing celebrations on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 and is bringing out a souvenir on this occasion.

I am very happy to see that the Institution is working with a vision to promote comprehensive social, economic and political development for women & children with an aim to build a better civil society in India. I am certain that the Institution will continue to serve the society for many more years to come and will grow from strength to strength.

I wish the programme all success.

  
(PREMA CARIAPPA)  
CHAIRPERSON

**The President,  
Vasavya Mahila Mandali,  
Benz Circle,  
Vijayawada – 520 010  
Andhra Pradesh**



सत्यमेव जयते

# FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HIV & AIDS

(Reg. No.S/67371/2009)

35, North Avenue, New Delhi - 110 001, India

Telefax: +91 (0) 11 2309 2333 Email: fpacoordinator@gmail.com Web: www.pfaindia.in



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Shri Dheeraj Prasad Sahu, MP

## Secretary General

Shri J.D. Seelam, MP

## MESSAGE



I am happy to learn that **Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM)** is organising the march of vulnerable communities, “**Marching ahead with Pro-active Humanism and Professionalism**, to pave a way for better future.

I congratulate VMM for their remarkable contribution to society, with special focus on children and women. On the occasion of celebration of four decades of VMM, I extend my greetings and felicitations to VMM & all those associated, and wish their noble endeavors every success.

(OSCAR FERNANDES)

New Delhi  
27 November 2010



Ph. : 23010366  
23019080 Extn. : 419  
Fax : 23017047  
Website : [www.aicc.org.in](http://www.aicc.org.in)

## **ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE**

24, Akbar Road, New Delhi-110011

**MOHSINA KIDWAI M.P.**  
*General Secretary*

11<sup>th</sup> December 2010

### **MESSAGE**

It gives me an immense pleasure that Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) a forty years old non profit voluntary organization of Andhra Pradesh is celebrating its 40 years by taking up year long programmes with a focus on children and women with a vision to promote comprehensive social, economic and political development for women and children in vulnerable situations, thereby empowering the communities to improve their quality of life and build a better civil society in India.

I wish the Vasavya Mahila Mandali's year long programme a grand success and achieve its desired goal.

  
**(MOHSINA KIDWAI)**



*V L Indira Dutt*  
Joint Managing Director



THE K C P LIMITED

December 7, 2010

Dear Mrs Chennupati Vidyagaru

It is indeed heartening and gratifying to note that the Vasavya Mahila Madali is completing 40 years of service. The spread of activities that the Mandali is involved in shows its deep commitment to the cause of Women and Children in vulnerable situations and the steps taken to improve their quality of life and stature in Society.

The empowerment of women is one of the most crucial steps to be achieved in furthering such causes and it has been my strong belief that a Society comprised of truly empowered women who stand on their own and contribute to its growth will be better enabled to meet these challenges.

The concept of programmes, seminars and workshops to disseminate information and impart training to Women is the best way to reach out to them and get them on the way to empowerment and the wide range of such programmes by Vasavya is in itself an indicator to the right direction it has taken.

In the recent past, we see more organizations getting involved and active in the field of Women Empowerment which in itself is an pointer to the importance of this objective. While this is quite welcome, we must also be aware that a lot more remains to be done in the cause of Women Empowerment and every organization should strive to achieve this objective through well thought out and constructive measures which will identify, educate and train women in the necessary skills that give them the strength and courage to take on responsibilities and contribute equally in nation building.

The message of the urgent need for women's empowerment and the huge benefits that it brings to Society and to the nation by economic contribution and addition to the Gross Domestic Product should be brought home by every active women entrepreneur and the involved organizations. It is necessary that the world-at-large is continually reminded that every woman has the right to choose to make a contribution and be part of the nation's mainstream of activity.

The younger women entrepreneurs should take on more responsibilities by not remaining satisfied by results in their own selected sphere but ensure that they make efforts to bring in more women within the scope of empowerment. They should trigger a chain action so that the numbers multiply with geometric progression and we are well and truly on the way to achieving the ultimate goal.

On this occasion, let me congratulate Vasavya Mahila Mandali on the services it has rendered to community of women over the last 40 years and wish the Mandali continuing successes through redoubled efforts and committed service to the chosen cause.

I am sure the celebrations with the very aptly selected theme of "Marching ahead with Proactive Humanism and Professionalism" will be successful and further encourage the Mandali to reach greater heights in the years to come.

Thank you

V L INDIRA DUTT  
JT. MANAGING DIRECTOR  
THE K C P LTD.



**K. Chandramouli**

*Secretary & Director General*

*Department of AIDS Control, NACO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India*

26<sup>th</sup> November, 2010

### **Message**

It gives me immense pleasure in felicitating Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) on their 40 years of remarkable work among vulnerable women and children in Andhra Pradesh. The VMM, which began its work in 1969 as a not for profit voluntary organisation, today reaches out to vulnerable communities all across Andhra Pradesh. Its work has empowered communities and helped in mainstreaming marginalized communities in the development process.

I commend VMM for their valuable work in the field of HIV/AIDS at the grassroots level to reduce stigma and discrimination faced by People living with HIV and improve the lives of orphans and vulnerable children.

I am happy to note that to celebrate the spirit of their work, VMM's year long programme in 2010 has specially focused on women and children, through the event – 'Marching ahead with Pro-active Humanism and Professionalism'.

I wish them all the success. I congratulate each and every member of the organization for their resolve to enhance the lives of the poor and the vulnerable communities and help them realize a better future.

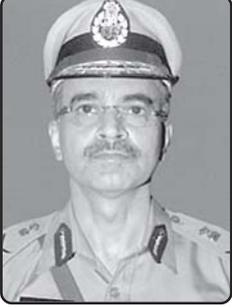
  
(K Chandramouli)  
26/11/10

**K. ARAVINDA RAO, IPS**  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,  
Andhra Pradesh - INDIA



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(O) 040-23235170  
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Fax : 040-23296565  
E-mail : dgp@appolice.gov.in

HYDERABAD - 500 004



Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Respected Mrs Vidya,

I am very happy to note that the **Vasavya Mahila Mandali, (VMM) Benz Circle, Vijayawada,** is completing four decades of social service. As Commissioner of Police, Vijayawada and also during my subsequent visits there, I had an opportunity of closely knowing the Gora family members and their humanitarian tradition. They are known for their dedication and service to the poorest of the poor and lowliest of the low. I wish the celebrations all the best and I wish all success to the organization in all its future endeavours.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

(K. Aravinda Rao)

Mrs. Chennupati Vidya,  
Former Member of Parliament,  
President, Vasavya Mahila Mandali,  
Atheist Centre, Benz Circle,  
Vijayawada-520 010.

**Smt. CHANDANA KHAN, IAS**

Principal Secretary to Government (Primary Education)  
Educational Department

“J” BLOCK, IIIrd floor  
AP Secretariat  
Hyderabad.

## **Message**

10 November 2010

I congratulate Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) on its completing 40 years of existence. This institution has relentlessly worked for the social, economic and political development of women and children in exploitative and vulnerable situations. Completion of 40 years indeed requires celebration.

However, though much has been achieved, there are still challenges to be met in the field of women & children. On this occasion I want to flag the point that Andhra Pradesh, despite its growth and development in many areas, still remain below the National Average in female literacy and also is very high in the number of out of school girl children. Therefore, a great task ahead lies for all of us.

I am sure VMM will march forward towards making an equitable society.

**Smt. CHANDANA KHAN, IAS**

**R.V. Chandravadan, I.A.S**  
PROJECT DIRECTOR



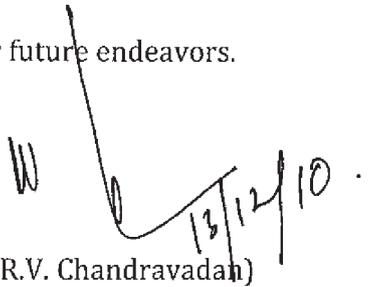
  
**A.P. State AIDS Control Society**  
DM & HS Campus, Sultan Bazar,  
Koti, Hyderabad-500 095.  
Phone : (O) : 24657221, 24650776  
Fax : 040-24742833

## MESSAGE

Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) based at Vijayawada, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh is well known for its self less services to the downtrodden sections of the society, especially women and children. Since 1969 VMM under the leadership of Mrs. Ch. Vidya, has promoted comprehensive social, economic and political development for women and children in vulnerable situations, thereby empowering communities in Andhra Pradesh to improve their quality of life, and build a better India.

During the 40years of service VMM has grownup as a resource hub in building the capacities of NGOs. VMM has the strong capacity in strengthening the communities to fight against stigma and discrimination against HIV/AIDS. Especially the grannies clubs and support groups, which are unique for VMM's innovation in community driven model in supporting orphans for adherence to treatment of Children Living with HIV and impact mitigation. VMM strong linkages and referral system with the existing service providers both in Government and private is able to support the children for education and livelihood and mainstreaming with Government programmes.

My best wishes for VMM and wish them a great success in all their future endeavors.

  
(R.V. Chandravadan)

*Peeyush Kumar*, I.A.S.,  
Collector & District Magistrate  
Krishna District



Machilipatnam (08672) { 252668, 252882 (Off.)  
252000, 252222 (Res)  
252401 (Fax)

Vijayawada (0866) { Tel. & Fax  
Camp Off. { 2478090, 2481555

E-Mail : Collector\_Krsn@ap.gov.in  
kricol@apstate.nic.in

Date : ..11..12..10

## MESSAGE

Hearty congratulations to Vasavya Mahila Mandali which has completed fruitful 40 years in serving the society. The Society of Women is the basis for a good society. The impact of Vasavya Mahila Mandali on the people is indelible. The service horizon is so vast that it covers all aspects of life and progress. The trainings imparted to women, children and youth are so essential that the governments from district to national are implementing number of development projects with VMM with the sole aim of reaching each and every distressed person.

Protection of women and children is at the forefront of VMM with a focus on mainstreaming HIV services with District Administration for children and their families affected by HIV/AIDS through CABA one of the ten pilot interventions in India and the services implemented by VMM in coordination with various departments and NGOs is highly commendable. VMM services of Mobile Integrated Counseling and Testing for HIV is covering the entire district by reaching to remote rural areas, migrant population and in particular the women and children.

I wish Vasavya Mahila Mandali celebrates its Diamond Jubilee with renewed vigor and dedication.

  
(PEEYUSH) KUMAR)



## **MESSAGE**

I wish to congratulate Vasavya Mahila Mandali celebrating four decades of work in development activities. VMM has been doing extensive work in developing linkages in mainstreaming care and support services for HIV affected children through 'Children Affected By AIDS (CABA) project' as district coordination action agency, VMM has been extending great service to the Children Affected by AIDS with commitment and inspiring leadership.

It is good to be associated with such committed organization for the welfare of the communities in Krishna District.

I forward my best compliments on this occasion.

**D. MURALIDHAR REDDY**  
Addl. Joint Collector, Krishna



## **MESSAGE**

I want to extend my congratulations to Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) on the occasion of 40 years celebrations. It is inspiring to note that the institutions has been serving all sections of the society all these years under the guidance of noted Parliamentarian and social worker, Mrs. Chennupati Vidya. She is a leader for all the people in extending notable services in the society.

Over the years, the activities of Vasavya Mahila Mandali(VMM) has covered many areas like street children, AIDs Victims, destitute women, aged persons and the number of beneficiaries has increased manifold.

Best compliments to the team of Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) and I wish the organization many anniversaries and serve more people in future.

**Dr. K.N. Rao**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Zilla Praja Parishad, Krishna**  
**Machilipatnam**

To  
The President,  
Vasvya Mahila Mandali,  
Vijayawada.

**L. RAJAGOPAL**

Member of Parliament  
(Lok Sabha)



Door No. 32-2-10C,  
Madhu Nagar,  
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Vijayawada - 520 010.  
Phones : 0866 - 2474500  
          0866 - 2492345  
Fax : 0866 - 2496622

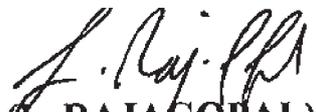
### **MESSAGE**

I am glad to learn that the **Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Vijayawada** is celebrating **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

This organization commenced in the year 1969 by Mrs. Saraswathi Gora, Recipient of Jaman Lal Bajaj Award, is rendering excellent services to women & children in the fields of social, economical & for political development. This organization has instilled moral strength and confidence in women of different communities to face the adverse situation & improve the quality of life & better living societies. This institution strived to empower communities since last four decades to boldly face vulnerable situations.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Smt. Chennupati Vidya garu for continuing the legacy inspite of various odds, in empowering the women of weaker sections.

I wish to congratulate one & all who are associated with the celebrations and wish the function a grand success.

  
(L. RAJAGOPAL)



**Malladi Vishnu**  
M.L.A  
Vijayawada Central



**Off. & Fax : 0866 - 2576233**  
e-mail : malladivishnu199@in.com  
# 39-8-30, LABBIPET,  
VIJAYAWADA - 520 010.

Lr.No.793/MVV/GEN/2010.

Dt. 04.12.2010.

To  
Smt Chennupati Vidya,  
President,  
M/s Vasavya Mahila Mandali,  
Benz Circle,  
Vijayawada.

Most Respected Madam,

నమస్కారములు,

I thank you very much for your letter dated:04-12-2010 inviting me for the celebrations of four decades of services of Vasavya Mahila Mandali scheduled to take place at Vijayawada on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

On this happy occasion of celebrating 40 years of services to the society specifically your focus on children & women is of high human values. I heartily welcome your goal and wish the deliberations a grand success.

Thanking you

With Regards

Yours sincerely

  
(MALLADI VISHNU)  
4/12



**Ravi Yalamanchili**

M.L.A.

*Vijayawada East  
Krishna District, A.P.*



*D.No. 70-1-1,  
Koneruvari Street,  
Patamata,  
Vijayawada - 520 010.  
Ph. : 0866 - 2476228*

**To:**

The President,

Vasavya Mahila Mandali,

VIJAYAWADA.

Heartly congratulations to Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) for completing 40 years in the service of various sections of the society under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Chennupati Vidya. VMM has been with the people in distress at right time giving valuable advice and service in the need of the hour.

It is apt to mention here that several thousands of people has benefitted through the relentless service of VMM all these 40 years. VMM has been proactive to help the street children, HIV-affected and the destitute.

May the organization celebrate many more anniversaries and help millions of people in future.

Thanking you,

Date: 06.12.2010.

  
[YALAMANCHILI RAVI]



**VELAMPALLI SRINIVASA RAO**  
M.L.A.  
(198) VIJAYAWADA (WEST)



# 11-19-18,  
Poolabhavi Street, 1st Lane,  
**VIJAYAWADA - 520 001**

*Date : ..06-12-2010...*

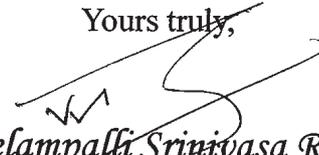
To  
The President,  
Vasavya Mahila Mandali,  
Vijayawada.

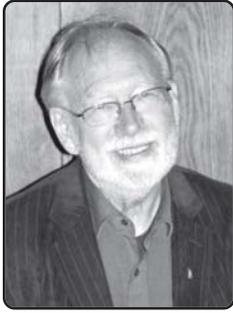
Respected Madam,

Congratulations to Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) on the occasion of celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. I know Smt. Chennupati Vidya, Former Member of Parliament and President, Vasavya Mahila Mandali and Sri Chennupati Seshagiri Rao since my childhood. Their contributions to the development of the auto mobile field and for the welfare of women and children in Vijayawada are commendable and have shown a way for youth like me.

My hearty congratulations to Mrs. Chennupati Vidya and her team and wish to see many more such celebrations and oblige.

Yours truly,

  
(Velampalli Srinivasa Rao)



Dear Vidya,

India has taught me what Humanism is about. Some of the most enlightening lessons I have learnt in Vasavya Mahila Mandali. When VMM is celebrating its 40 years anniversary, I am proud to have visited this organisation regularly through 20 of these years. Your focus on human dignity for all, independent of cast, class, sex and age and your efforts to heal the wounded, support the weak, feed the hungry, raise the fallen, comfort the mourning and encourage hopes and talents - have deeply impressed and moved me. My best wishes for everybody in your care and network!

**Levi Fragell**

Former president of International Humanist and Ethical Union.  
Founder of HAMU - Humanist Action for Human Rights



Dear Mrs. Vidya:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Vasavya Mahila Mandali for your remarkable 40 years of service to those who are marginalized and vulnerable and for enabling the positive transformation of thousands of lives.

Quite simply, VMM's vision and leadership honor human dignity. VMM's work has created opportunities for people to develop their own talents, become productive and contribute to the wellbeing of their families and communities. Whether it is working with young people living on the street or enabling women to acquire new skills and achieve economic independence, VMM has demonstrated its understanding of communities, seeking first to listen and understand the marginalized and then working to create solutions together.

On a personal note, my mother and I were especially inspired by the Amma program. It is a beautiful example of how VMM enables women of all ages to realize their potential and, thereby open up new options for their economic and social inclusion.

It has been a privilege for me to have the opportunity to get to know your own remarkable family and, the larger VMM family of staff, supporters and volunteers. And, it has been highly motivating to get to know the families and young people who have benefitted from the programs delivered by VMM.

Thank you for your leadership by example. Your work has provided us with so many inspiring stories of what an unflinching belief in humanity can achieve. As a result, all of us are able to be optimistic that we have the potential to change lives for the better, our own and that of others.

Congratulations on your 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I wish you many, many more years of service and achievements.

With great admiration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reeta Roy". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name being the most prominent.

Reeta Roy



Deutsche Bank



Deutsche Bank AG  
Asia Pacific Head Office  
Communications, Asia  
One Raffles Quay #13-00  
South Tower  
Singapore 048583  
Tel: 65 6423 8207  
Fax: 65 6534 7468

November 22, 2010

Mrs Chennupati Vidya  
Former Member of Parliament  
President  
Vasavya Mahila Mandali  
Atheist Centre, Benz Circle  
Vijayawada 520010  
Andhra Pradesh, India

Dear Mrs Vidya,

Warm greetings from Singapore and Heartiest Congratulations to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VMM!

This is indeed a significant milestone for VMM and a tremendous achievement for you to reap the fruits of your labour after a long and tumultuous journey to empower girls and women in a hugely patriarchal and traditional society.

Deutsche Bank is indeed privileged to have partnered with VMM since 2004 in supporting children and families affected or living with HIV Aids in Andhra Pradesh. Through this partnership, we are humbled and pleased to have touched some lives in the community.

Congratulations on the many achievements and activities that VMM has launched especially in uplifting and sustaining the livelihoods and enabling girls and women an equal opportunity in India. I wish you and your team even more success in the years ahead.

Best regards.

Annie Yeo  
Director, Communications Asia

**Mike Mandelbaum,**  
Chief Executive, TB Alert



Community Base,  
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Brighton, BN1 3XG  
+44 (0)1273 234865  
+44 (0)7855 741855  
E-mail : [ceo@tbalert.org](mailto:ceo@tbalert.org)  
Website : [www.tbalert.org](http://www.tbalert.org)  
[www.thetruthabouttb.org](http://www.thetruthabouttb.org)

November 12, 2010

I send warmest greetings and congratulations from TB Alert to VMM on this auspicious occasion. This is a milestone in VMM's history which allows partners in India and overseas to be grateful for the vision, commitment, talent and hard work of the VMM team, which has benefitted so many thousands of individuals and families, allowing them to lead healthier, happier and more productive lives. We look forward to many more years working with you to achieve your noble aims.

**Mike Mandelbaum**



Nov 4, 2010

Dear Vidya

As a representative of HAMU (Norwegian Humanists), I have for many years had the pleasure of visiting VMM and become familiar with the staff and residents. All the work that is going on here is imbued with great powers, willingness to help - all with great respect for women who have been lucky to get help here.

I have heard about many fates, I have heard stories and have learned a lot about Indian culture, tradition and religion.

I am very impressed with what you've achieved through these years! There are many thousands of women who have received help and support from you.

I congratulate you with the 40 years and hope you will continue to help many women out of their difficult situation.

I hope to visit you many times in the future.

Best regards to you all!

**Kristin Bryhni**

Former chair person, HAMU



November 30, 2010

VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI  
Benz Circle, Vijayawada - 520 010  
Andhra Pradesh, India.

Dear Vasavya Mahila Mandali,

The Coady International Institute sends greetings and congratulations to Vasavya Mahila Mandali on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. We at the Coady Institute are proud of our graduate at VMM and the difference they have made and continue to make in the lives of those served through VMM programs. We commend VMM on its long standing commitment to improving the social and economic wellbeing of community members, protecting and advocating for the rights of those who are most vulnerable and supporting the education and capacity building of individuals .

As an education institution that has been supporting community leaders for over 50 years, the Coady Institute understands the sort of impact and powerful legacy VMM has had at the local, regional, national and international level. VMM's innovative programs and support have changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals for the better.

We at the Coady Institute wish VMM continued success and strength in achieving your many goals now and in the future.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gord Cunningham'.

Gord Cunningham  
Director, Coady International Institute

## VMM MAKES US A STRONGER ALLIANCE

India HIV/AIDS Alliance has had the pleasure of working closely with Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) for the past ten years. VMM was one of the first organisations to join the Alliance's network of Linking Organisations in India back in 2000. With its philosophy deeply rooted in community mobilisation, it was an obvious choice for this partnership as it aligned well with our mission of supporting community action on HIV/AIDS.

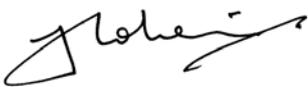
When we approached VMM, it was already a mature and well-established organisation with a relatively large funding base. Alliance supported VMM in the integration of HIV/AIDS programming into their existing portfolio. Their willingness to step up to the challenge of HIV and their subsequent commitment to addressing the epidemic cemented our relationship.

The connection between VMM and Alliance India has been mutually rewarding and symbiotic. Our relationship is not simply the consequence of a programmatic partnership nor is it dependent on this alone. It is a relationship that leverages each other's capacities in enhancing local responses to HIV. With purposeful focus, VMM has been able to support effective HIV interventions in its home state of Andhra Pradesh and influence activities throughout India with its policy work, including its service on India's Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism.

For the past decade, VMM has been a leader in efforts to strengthen care and support programmes for children affected by AIDS and their families, most recently through the successful CHAHA programme, supported by the Global Fund. VMM's responsiveness and vision is the cornerstone of the relationship it has with the communities where it works. We have seen firsthand the regard community members, civil society, policy makers and donors have for VMM as an organisation, and this affirms our pride in having VMM as part of the Alliance and as a key partner in the Indian response to HIV.

We congratulate VMM on the completion of their 40 years of exemplary service in Andhra Pradesh. We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the leadership and staff of VMM for their tireless efforts to improve the quality of life of people in need.

With best regards,



**James Robertson**  
Country Director  
India HIV/AIDS Alliance

December 2010

FHI's association with Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) dates back to the year 2003 when FHI was implementing the USAID-funded IMPACT program in India including Andhra Pradesh state. VMM at that time was implementing the Abbott Foundation and India -HIV AIDS Alliance supported home-based care and support program. Both these programs were among the first HIV care and support programs for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Andhra Pradesh state that learnt from each other and served as models for similar programs across the country. FHI entered into a partnership with VMM in 2008 when VMM became the Lead Partner for the coastal districts in FHI's Balasahyoga program being implemented in 11 of the 23 districts of the state. VMM's past experience of working on HIV care and support contributed significantly towards supporting other Balasahyoga partners in rapidly grounding the Balasahyoga program at the district level.

FHI's partnership with VMM goes beyond implementation of HIV programs to joint advocacy on the needs of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (CABA) and PLHIV at the state and national levels. Together the two agencies have also been actively pushing the HIV care, support and treatment agenda with the Government to ensure adequate attention to it in HIV/AIDS policy and programming particularly for CABA. It has been a rewarding experience for FHI to work along side VMM in all such endeavors. FHI values the commitment of VMM to the development of communities affected by HIV, poverty and other inequities.

As VMM celebrates four decades of its service and dedication to the underprivileged communities of Andhra Pradesh, on behalf of FHI family I wish Ms. Rashmi Samaram and her committed team the very best, and look forward to many more opportunities of collaborating with VMM in the short and long-run.

Best wishes and regards.



Dr. Bitra George  
Country Director  
FHI/India Country Office



December 8, 2010

Ch. Vidya  
President  
Vasavya Mahila Mandali  
Vijaywada

Dear Vidya,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) on its 40<sup>th</sup> year of service to vulnerable women and children.

VMM's contribution to the HIV/AIDS sector, in particular, has been noteworthy with your pioneering services to patients living with HIV/AIDS even before there was a national program. The subsequent partnership with NACO and APSACS and your positive collaboration, knowledge sharing, piloting and implementation of the government-led initiatives has resulted in significant impact for these patients.

VMM's knowledge base, dedication and expertise in dealing with HIV/AIDS infected and affected men, women and children and demonstrated experience in comprehensive care and support services prompted the partnership with CHAI - India. I would like to highlight that VMM was among CHAI-India's first partners in the country. Our partnership since 2006 on the National Pediatric program has successfully reached more than 2,400 children on care and support. VMM's outreach and organisational capability in doing so is much appreciated. CHAI-VMM's continued partnership in the Balasahyoga programme and specifically VMM's expertise in pediatric counselling has played an important role in improving the quality of care provided by counsellors through the ART centres.

I am delighted to share in the joy of celebrating VMM's four decades of service and commitment to vulnerable women and children in AP and wish you good luck for the future.

Thank you,

Amita Chebbi  
Country Director  
Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) – India

**William J. Clinton Foundation**

A-25 Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, India Tel.: +91 11 43050000 Fax: +91 11 43050001

[www.clintonfoundation.org](http://www.clintonfoundation.org)

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS**

Mr. M. M. Sabharwal

**GOVERNING BODY**

Mr. Amal Ganguli  
*President*

Mr. P.C. Sen  
*Vice President*

Mrs. Shanta Chatterji  
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Mr. K. S. B Sanyal

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Mrs. Justice (Retd)  
Leila Seth

Mr. T. S. Krishna Murthy

Mr. Mark Gorman

Mr. Arun Seth

Mr. Mathew Cherian  
*Chief Executive*

**Mathew Cherian**

*Chief Executive*

Email id: [Mathew.Cherian@helpageindia.org](mailto:Mathew.Cherian@helpageindia.org)



Dated : 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov., 2010

**Message**

It gives me an immense pleasure to know that Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) is releasing a souvenir during the celebrations of 40 years of its work with communities, civil society donors and workers. I am also happy to note that Vasavya Mahila Mandali is taking up yearly programmes with a focus on children and women on remarkable changes ushered, challenges addressed, lessons learnt and innovations articulated.

I extend my good wishes to you and wish that the programme is a resounding success.

~~Mathew Cherian~~

**"Working nationwide for the cause & care of the elderly"**

Registered as a secular social service society No. S/9270 Under the Societies Registration Act XXI (1860)  
**Donations to HelpAge India are 100% tax exempt under Section 35AC & 80GGA of I.T. Act, 1961**



## **My Salutation to Vasavya Mahila Mandali**

The indomitable spirit of VMM personifies service before self. Through a seamless amalgamation of selfless service to the society and impeccable ethics, over the last four decades, VMM has established standard that are second to none.

Over the years, the steadfast determination of its functionaries has blend harmoniously to the visions of its founder and resulted in long lasting positive positional changes for the most vulnerable sections of the society. While being the voice of the downtrodden, VMM has strengthened mainstream services for that 'last person in the last village' to be able to access it.

On this joyous occasion I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the extended VMM family and wish for them many more decades of fruitful service to the society.

**Pritam Kumar Nanda**  
Project Manager  
CARE-India

December 1, 2010

# **MESSAGE**

Mr. Gora and Saraswathi Gora who devoted their lives for the cause of humanity, atheism and comprehensive development. Both, the Gandhians and social reformers, work for the most disadvantaged and excluded sections of the populations through founding Vasavya Mahila Mandali and working for TB, HIV affected populations, trafficked women, disabled, migrants, torture victims, orphans and the aged.

Chennupati Seshagiri Rao and Vidya, and their entire family dedicated their lives to the cause of humanity and disadvantaged segments of the society. Their services for humanity, atheism towards mis believes, peace, social and economic equity in Andhra Pradesh are well recognized by the Govt. of India and other developmental agencies through conferring coveted awards of National stature.

Vasavya Mahila Mandali understood deep rooted belief systems obstructing development and well being in the society planned and implemented various systems and comprehensive developmental programs for the excluded and striving for excellence in creating long lasting impact for its target populations. With the Gandhian Philosophy and longer service the organization created deep channels in the developmental sector and became a role model for voluntary sector.

The services since 1969 are earmarked for its commitment and concern towards those fewer opportunities. With the vision of Gora with their family members, the Vasavya Mahila Mandali will pave stronger roads towards long lasting services. I hope Vasavya Mahila Mandali will serve longer and longer for those, who are looking for support.

With best compliments

**Dr. G.Muniratnam**  
President, ABRS  
General Secretary, RASS

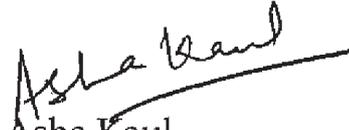


भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान वस्त्रपुर, अहमदाबाद 380 015  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015



It has been a pleasure to be associated with Vasavya Mahila Mandali. Their contribution to the case writing competition on Gender Inclusivity organised by Gender Resource Centre, IIMA has been exemplary. They rank as one of the strong proponents of women empowerment and education as is reflected in their best practices, interactions and contributions to the literature on gender inclusivity.

On their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I would like to wish them success in all future ventures.

  
Asha Kaul  
Ahmedabad

13 December 2010



# RAMAKRISHNA MISSION

RAMAKRISHNA ASHRAMA MARG, NEW DELHI -110 055

(A branch centre of Ramakrishna Mission, P.O. Belur Math, Dist. Howrah, West Bengal-711202)



No. M-2  
13<sup>th</sup> November, 2010

## MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF COMPLETION OF 40 YEARS

**Dear Ms. Chennupati Vidya,**

Very glad to know that Vasavya Mahila Mandali is completing 40 years of dedicated service to humanity. The main theme of the occasion 'Marching ahead with Pro-active Humanism and Professionalism' is bound to provoke deep thinking and insightful response from the participants. So many small institutions are doing laudable work in this country quite away from public glare and advertisement. Vasavya Mahila Mandali undoubtedly belongs to that category. We wish the celebration all success and that may the Lord give all of you strength and courage to carry on with your noble work is my earnest prayer.

Yours in service,

*Shantatmananda*  
(Swami Shantatmananda)  
Secretary

**Ms. Chennupati Vidya**  
President  
Vasavya Mahila Mandali  
Atheist Centre, Benz Circle  
Vijayawada – 520 010  
Andhra Pradesh



## **Yumnam Shasikumar Singh**

General Secretary

### **Social Awareness Service Organisation (SASO)**

Uripok Sinam Leikai,  
opp. Common School,  
Imphal West, Manipur, India  
Tel : +91 385 2411408  
Mob : +91 9862027259  
Fax : +91 385 2411409  
e-mail : saso.imp@gmail.com  
website : www.sasoimphal.org

### **MESSAGE**

I have great pleasure in writing a few lines of appreciation for bringing out a souvenir highlighting the contributions , achievements of the VMM on the occasion of the inauguration of 40 years celebration of Vasavya Mahila Mandali with the theme “ Marching ahead with Pro-active Humanism and Professionalism”. to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The success of an organization depends on the collective hard work, determination and devotion of the individuals in the organization to achieve the set goal, wisdom, vision dynamisms and tireless effort of the leadership are the sole foundations.

I extend my heartiest happiness to the Vasavya Mahila Mandali for bringing out such a souvenir as a part of issues on a comprehensive social, economic and political development for women and children in vulnerable situations thereby empowering communities in AP to improve their quality of life and build a better civil society in India.

On this auspicious moment, I send my sincerest best wishes to everyone in the Vasavya Mahila Mandali.

19<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
Imphal, Manipur

(Y. Shasikumar Singh)



Phone : 0471 2723455  
0471 2312266 - 20  
Fax : 0471 2720629  
Web : [kpcc.org.in](http://kpcc.org.in)  
E-mail : [kpccpresident@kpcc.org.in](mailto:kpccpresident@kpcc.org.in)

## KERALA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE (I)

**RAMESH CHENNITHALA**  
President

Indira Bhavan  
Thiruvananthapuram - 10

05<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

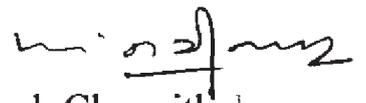
*Dear Vidya ji*

I am happy to know that 'Vasavya Mahila Mandali' has completed 40 years of glorious service to the society and is celebrating the four decades with a focus on women and children.

My best wishes and prayers for every success to the Vasavya Mahila Mandali.

With regards

Yours sincerely

  
Ramesh Chennithala

Smt.Chennupati Vidya  
Former Member of Parliament  
President, Vasavya Mahila Mandali  
Atheist Centre, Benz Circle  
Vijayawada – 520 010.



## అభినందన సందేశం

అవకాశాలకు నోచుకోని మహిళలు, బాలల సామాజిక, ఆర్థిక, రాజకీయ సమగ్రాభివృద్ధికి గాంధేయవాద పునాది మీద లౌకిక, జాతీయతా దృక్పథంతో నాలుగు దశాబ్దాలుగా వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి (వి.ఎం.ఎం) విజయవాడ కేంద్రంగా చేస్తున్న కృషి మనదేశ పౌరసమాజానికి ఆశాకిరణం.

వివక్షకు, అణచివేతకు గురవుతున్నవారిని ఆదుకునేందుకు చేసే ఏ ప్రయత్నమైనా తొలుత నాణ్యమైన విద్య మీద కేంద్రీకరించాలి. అందరికీ ఎదిగే అవకాశాలను అందించేందుకు మనం స్వాతంత్ర్యం వచ్చిన ఇన్నేళ్ల తర్వాత కూడా సరైన దిశగా కృషి చేయటం లేదు. ఇప్పటికీ మనదేశంలో కోట్లాదిమంది పిల్లల భవిష్యత్తు కేవలం ఫలానా తల్లిగర్భాన పుట్టిన కారణంగానే పుట్టిన క్షణంలోనే నిర్ణయమైపోతున్నాయి. సమాజంలో పేదరికాన్ని తొలగించి పుట్టుకతో వివక్ష లేకుండా అందరికీ ఎదిగే అవకాశాలు కల్పించాలంటే ఇప్పుడు మన పాలకులు చేస్తున్న రీతిలో నినాదాలు, రాయితీలు, ఉచితాలతో లాభంలేదు. ఆ మార్పురావాలంటే ఒకే ఒక్క మంత్రం ద్వారా సాధ్యం. అది-విద్య...విద్య...విద్య! మనదేశంలో అందరికీ విద్యను అందించలేకపోవటానికి పేదరికం కారణం కాదు, కేవలం రాజకీయ సంకల్పం లేకపోవటమే కారణం. మనకంటే నిరుపేదదేశాలైన టాంజానియా, రువాండాల స్థాయిలో కూడా మనం విద్య కోసం కృషి చేయటం లేదు. అవకాశాలు లేనివారిని ఆదుకునే క్రమంలో వారికి నాణ్యమైన విద్యను అందించేందుకు పౌరసంస్థగా వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి తనవంతు కృషి చేస్తూనే... విద్యను రాజకీయానికి కేంద్రబిందువు చేసేలా పార్టీల మీద ఒత్తిడి తేవాలి.

మహిళలకు రాజకీయ సాధికారతను సాధించటాన్ని కూడా లక్ష్యంగా ఏర్పరుచుకున్న వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి... సరైన రాజకీయం కోసం నిబద్ధతతో పోరాడగలిగే మహిళానేతర్ని పెద్దసంఖ్యలో తయారు చేయాలి. అన్ని సమస్యలకూ మూలమైన రాజకీయాన్ని ప్రక్షాళన చేయకుండా బైట నుంచి ఎన్ని మాట్లాడుకున్నా ప్రయోజనం లేదు. పౌరసమాజం నుంచి చిత్తశుద్ధి, స్వావలంబన గలవారు పెద్దసంఖ్యలో రాజకీయాల్లోకి రావాలి, సామాన్య ప్రజల్లో కూడా నాయకత్వ లక్షణాల్ని పెంపొందించి రాజకీయాల్లోకి ప్రోత్సహించేందుకు ఆయా సంస్థలు కృషి చేయాలి. ఈ దిశగా వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి మరింత చురుగ్గా పనిచేయాలని, అలాగే ఈవేళ రాష్ట్రాన్ని కబళిస్తున్న మద్యం మహమ్మారిని కఠినంగా నియంత్రించేందుకు పెద్దఎత్తున కార్యక్రమాలను చేపట్టాలని కోరుతున్నాను.

వి.ఎం.ఎం ద్వారా 1969లో శ్రీమతి సరస్వతీ గౌరా చేపట్టిన కృషిని అంతే చిత్తశుద్ధితో ముందుకు తీసుకెళ్తున్న చెన్నుపాటి విద్యగారికి, జి. రమ్మిగారికి, వారి సహచరులకు, అందులో పాలుపంచుకుటున్న అందరికీ మనసారా అభినందనలు తెలియచేస్తూ, వారి కృషికి సమాజంలోని అన్నివర్గాలూ తోడ్పాటునివ్వాలని ఆకాంక్షిస్తూ 40 ఏళ్ల కృషి సావనీర్ సందర్భంగా శుభాకాంక్షలు...

అభినందనలతో,



**డా॥ జయప్రకాష్ నారాయణ్**

అధ్యక్షుడు, లోక్ సత్తా పార్టీ

(హైదరాబాద్, డిసెంబర్ 02, 2010)



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**Prof. S.V. Sudhakar**

Vice-Chancellor

## *MESSAGE*

My Warm greetings to Vasavya Mahila Mandali Members on the eve of their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. As a Social work Educator and Practitioner, I have been associated with the functions of Vasavya Mahila Mandali for the past two decades and more. I am glad that in the last 40 years Vasavya Mahila Mandali has been significantly at the forefront of developing networks, focusing on challenges and responses of HIV/AIDS and Gender.

Vasavya Mahila Mandali has done commendable work with orphan and vulnerable children, Home/Community based HIV care, Youth in vulnerable situations etc. Its strong point lies in Networking, Advocacy, Documentation and Intervention. 40 years of commitment and involvement in Development sector indeed is a good moment for reflection and celebration.

I wish the organizers of Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Vijayawada, all success, providing inspiration and encouragement in its endeavour.

With Best Wishes,

**Prof. S.V. Sudhakar,**

*Vice-Chancellor*

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Srikakulam**

Brussels, 8 December 2010

Dear VMM,

Am delighted you are celebrating 40 years of existence, and you can certainly be very proud of the achievements over all these years.

Happy and grateful to be associated with VMM - thanks to the PEPAL /INSEAD executive development program - I had the chance to visit the local programs and to meet many of the beneficiaries. It was a humbling experience to play with the children, get to know them, and to show that I genuinely cared about them. Although these days were some of the hardest, they were also some of my favourite – VMM brings smiles to the faces of those who suffer most.

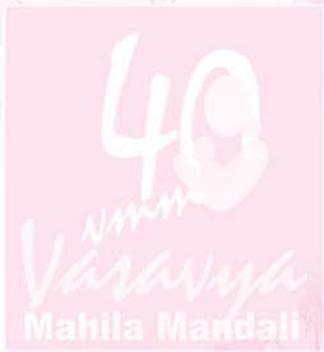
Keerthi, Rashmi, and the whole family showed me that it is possible to make a difference to the local community by being very focused, organised, ambitious, and mainly human and good-hearted. I was (and still am) impressed by the ethics, professionalism and humanitarian motivation of the family and staff.

Whether at home in Europe or travelling, the memories from my stay in Vijayawada come with me – it was one of these eye-opening experiences that left a lasting impression on my life.

Thank you VMM. Am looking forward to working with you for many more years to come,

With best wishes for your future endeavour!

**Julie Verstraete**



# VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI

*Four Decades of Service that Speaks*

Speakup, Stop Discrimination  
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 2010

are  
all one

We  
be  
one

Memo

# Chapter 1

## THE FIRST STEP OF VASAVYA

Women have been the unacknowledged centre and source of security and progress of human society at several levels - from family unit to the level of international human relations. No child – be it a man or a woman - grows up in strength, health, intelligence and virtue, without the proper upbringing of a mother. Thus the progress of women is indispensable for the progress of humanity.

*“If we change a woman, we can change the family and the entire society”*, observed Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.

Inspired by the ideas of equality, liberty and secularism upheld by our great national leaders Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Ambedkar, a few enterprising and dynamic women came together and started an organization called Vasavya Mahila Mandali in 1969 with the active support and encouragement of the great humanist atheists Gora and Saraswati Gora.

The Vasavya Mahila Mandali is the brainchild of Chennupati.Vidya, Mythri and Hemalatha Lavanam. Vidya and Mythri, daughters of Gora, grew up in the inspiring ambience of equality, secularism, humanism and atheism, practiced by their parents Gora and Saraswati Gora.

Hemalatha was the daughter of Gurram Jashuva, a famous modern Telugu poet whose poetry inspired millions of people with the perennial values of universal equality and humanism. After marrying Lavanam, eldest son of Gora, Hemalatha Lavanam joined Vidya and Mythri in leading social movements geared up to promote equality and humanism. Their minds ignited by action oriented idealism, the three women along with some like minded women started this Mahila Mandali. The founder members were,

1. **Chennupati Vidya**, Founder President
2. **Dr.Yarlagadda Seetha Ratnam**, Vice President
3. **N.Lakshmi Chari**, Secretary
4. **J. Mythri**, Treasurer
5. **Leela Ram Murthy**, Member
6. **Kommareddy Mani**, Member
7. **Hemalatha Lavanam**, Member
8. **Praphulla Patel**, Member
9. **Borra Narayanamma**, Member

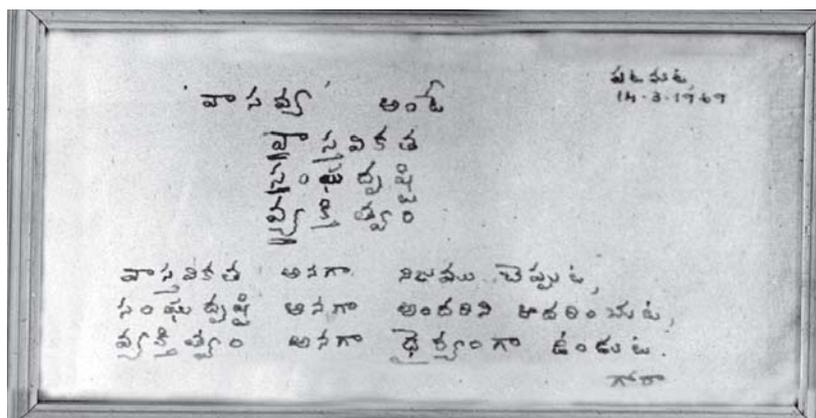
The vision of V.M.M. is to bring about a progressive transformation in the lives of women through dissemination of knowledge, promotion of education, implementation of health programmes, improvement of their skills and, on the whole, empowerment of women by means of imparting them knowledge and according them a positive role in decision making. The VMM is committed to elevate the status of women at every level at home, in the society, in the nation and in life at large.

*To an enlightened woman the world becomes her home where she hopes to bring about order and universal happiness.*

As the idea of women welfare can never really be dissociated from the welfare of children, VMM has also extended its activities in the direction of children’s health, education and welfare. Moreover the welfare, security, health and happiness of women are tied up with their relationship with men. Education of society at large about man-woman relationship in all aspects is also a priority for VMM.

At the time of the inception of this organization, the famous social reformer and atheist Gora, named it “Vasavya” (Va – Sa – Vya). In a way the name of the organization is an acronym, each part of it or syllable of it, representing its outstanding ideas.

### FACSIMILE OF ACRONYM VASAVYA AS IT WAS WRITTEN DOWN BY GORA



**Va** - stands for VASTHAVIKATA which means realism that implies taking only realities or facts of life into consideration when analyzing and solving any human problem. There is no place for superstitions and prejudices in their approach to problems.

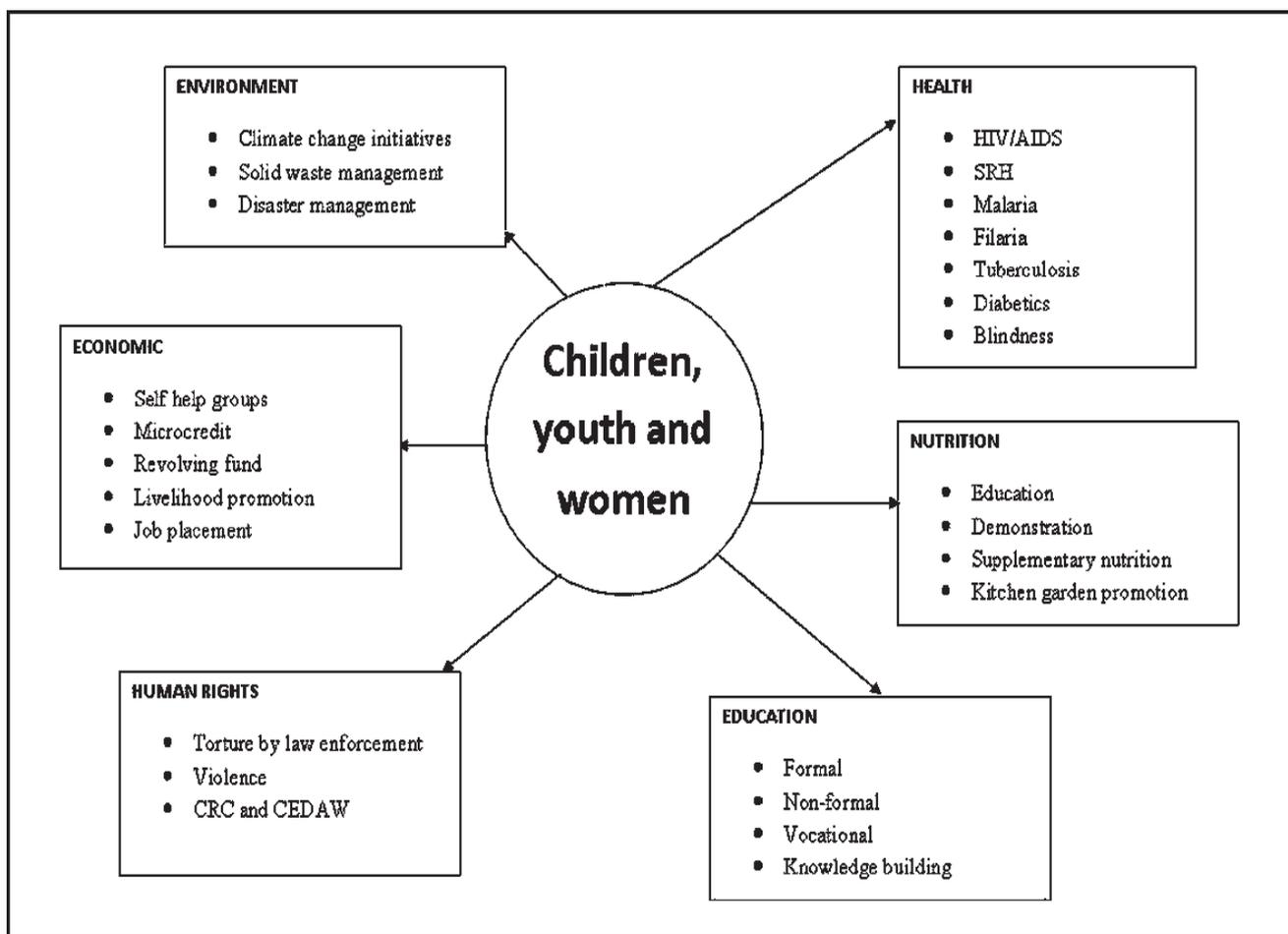
**Sa**, the second syllable, - represents SANGHA DRUSTI which means social consciousness. VMM believes in the contribution of each individual to the all-round development of the society. It does not advocate the linear and unrelated progress of the individual leaving the society behind in the darkness of ignorance, backwardness and misery.

**Vya**, the third syllable, – indicates VYAKTITHVAM which means individuality. While the individual is rightly expected to contribute to the peace, welfare and progress of the society, the society in return has to recognize the inherent worth of the individual. Society must respect his or her freedom of choice and expression without which the individual cannot contribute to society or to himself or herself. Education of men and women is essential for the blossoming of individuality. Thus the name of the organization, “VASAVYA Mahila Mandali” epitomizes the principal ideals for which the organization firmly stands.

No organization can function without a concrete infrastructure. The foundation of ideas, values and ideals laid by Mrs. Vidya and her associates were supported by Gora and Saraswati Gora, while the material foundation for the organization became possible by the unstinting assistance and generosity of Sri Chennupati Seshagiri Rao (1921 - 2008). Husband of Chennupati Vidya. Mr.Seshagiri Rao was a man of progressive ideas, pragmatic wisdom and constructive action. He donated 1200 square yards of land to Vasavya Mahila Mandali for raising buildings necessary for the functioning of the organization. For about four decades, he was standing by VMM by his wise counselling as well as material assistance, all the while preferring to be in the background.

The organization also affirms that woman as an individual must develop individuality and should not forego individual uniqueness. Unless a woman grows in physical, mental and intellectual aspects in a healthy way, retaining independence to preserve her individuality even in adversity, she cannot become a source of new healthy society.

### VMM FOCUS



## Chapter 2

### THE FIRST UNWAVERING STRIDE TOWARDS WOMEN'S UPLIFTMENT

#### 1. Training in Crafts

At the initial stages around 1969, VMM trained women, who were in dire need of financial support and encouraged them to achieve self reliance and self confidence, through some simple and yet useful crafts and arts like Tailoring, Embroidery work, basket making, type writing and Ambarcharka. Each woman was also encouraged to impart her skill to many other women who were sailing in the same situation. Thus VMM laid the foundation for awareness in women to develop a spirit of cooperation and sharing.

#### 2. Cultivation of Thrift

Driven by poverty, women used to borrow money at high rate of interest to meet emergency situations and they were never able to clear the principal. Money earned through toil could only clear a part of interest accruing on loans. They had no sense of planning domestic economy. VMM ventured to coach them in the art of saving small amounts, say Five rupees per month. These amounts set aside as savings, used to come to their rescue in emergency situations. VMM provided these women with right motivation and the necessary determination and faith in the possibility of betterment of their lives.

As early as in 1969, VMM had practiced "Women's Thrift Group". Sowing the idea of women's self help groups and thrift groups which are later taken up by all Mahila Mandals.

#### 3. Education

VMM has never been a mere charity organization as charity alone cannot solve the basic issues like diffidence, quiet desperation and lack of sense of direction and motivation. Education is necessary to bring out the best from each individual and society, the will and vitality to seek, to struggle, to fight, to serve, and to overcome - all these are the gifts or boons of education. VMM started giving positive education about what to do to solve women's problems. VMM considered propagation of the necessity of education as a measure for transformation of the society.

The members of VMM were educated women capable of communicating their ideas to very common people as well as educated people. Vidya, Mythri and Hemalatha Lavanam used to take up educating the people living around the area. Women were taught to improve their life skills and education that really enriched their day to day life. Here we cite a small incident which had made VMM to expand its service not only to women but also to their spouses.

Once a couple (the woman attending VMM classes) is standing in the bus stop. She clarified her husband standing by her side that the particular bus was not going in the way they wanted to go. The man felt humiliated that his illiteracy was exposed in the bus stand. So he attacked her with an axe. The woman immediately rushed to VMM for rescue. They treated her wound and counselled her and her husband. The social situation warranted them to take up educating the men also. This helped in kindling hope among the illiterate and enthusiasm to help among the idealistic and educated persons. So they received cooperation from teachers, doctors, lawyers and social workers. An individual may want to do a lot to society and may have useful ideas, but he or she needs a forum to express and interact with other likeminded idealists and pragmatic social activists. VMM emerged as such a forum. They considered education as a basic need for all age groups – Children – Adolescents – Middle age and also aged people.



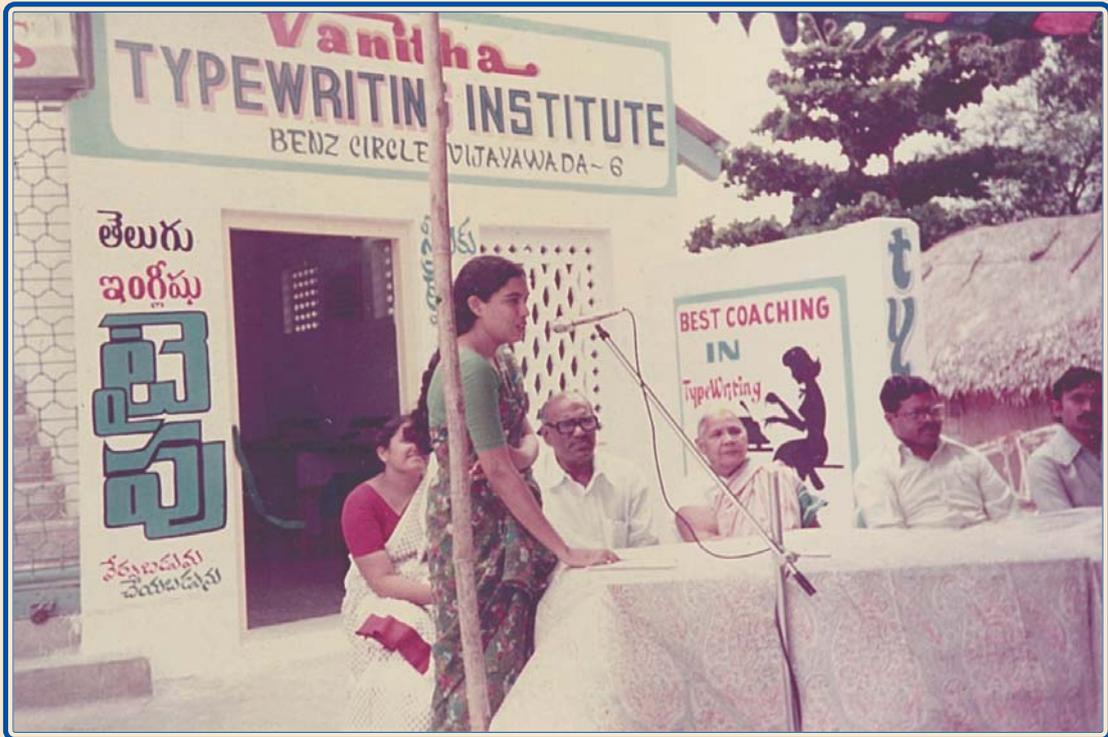
1963: Inauguration of the Kasturiba Mahila Mandali Library hall by Dr. N. Sada Lakshmi , Hon'ble Minister for Endowments, Government of Andhra Pradesh. (from right to left) Vazeer (son of Vidya), Chennupati Seshagiri Rao, Hemalatha Lavanam, Rashmi, Dr. N. Sada lakshmi, Brunda (Secretary, Kasturiba Mahila Mandali), Gram (son of Mythri), Vidya, Mythri and Jaya Lakshmi (Village Development Officer).



1977 October: Smt. Sarada Mukherjee, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh, arriving for distribution of 200 sewing machines to women from economically backward families. (from right to left) Lavanam, Smt Sarada Mukherjee, Vidya, Dr Sitaratnam, K. Manemma, Nageswaramma and Hemalatha Lavanam.



1969 onwards: Women Empowerment through Skill development for women in Tailoring, press composing and book binding.



1982: Early childhood care for Balawadi children through play way methods - Skill development through Vanita Type writing Institute exclusively for women supported by Andhra bank, Patamata branch. (Right to left) Mr. Gopinath, branch Manager Andhra bank, Mr. Jagannadha Rao Special Officer KRISHI, Saraswathi Gora, Chennupati Seshagiri Rao, Rashmi and Keerthi

#### **4. Income generation through self employment**

VMM offered loans to the poor for buying cattle and for the development of Dairy farms. For the first time, many women began to enjoy importance and respect in the family itself as hard working and earning members. Their opinions carried some value in the eyes of men. Hence what appears for superficial observers to be a mere financial progress of a family, the actual result of these efforts is a slow and sure transformation of attitudes and relationships. *The seeds for women empowerment were quietly sown in the mind of the society.*

#### **5. Growing vegetables**

Another fruitful activity taken up by VMM is encouraging people to grow vegetables in their back yards and sell them to earn some money which further strengthened their economy. VMM has always shared Gora's view that what is useful is to be identified, produced and supplied. What is fanciful must be pushed to the rear of priorities.

#### **6. Cooperative system**

VMM also introduced a cooperative system of procuring and distributing among the women. As part of this programme, they used to buy food grains, pulses and many other grocery items from wholesale market in large quantities and distributed among themselves to reduce expenditure. Women from the poor and the middle class sections of society used to benefit from this method because it ensured provisions for a month or few months which is indeed a great source of solace and security.

VMM has an impressive record of service in educating women in matters of health and hygiene. It has taken the assistance of doctors to advice women regarding malnutrition and effects, about unhygienic personal and social habits and the common problems of women health. One of the members of VMM at the time of inception was Dr. Yarlagadda Seeta Ratnam, a famous gynaecologist, who took active part in health education. Later Dr.Samaram, Dr.Maru and Dr.Deeksha rendered yeomen service to the cause of women's health and education.

#### **7. Counselling**

Counselling by psychiatrists, lawyers, social workers and experienced people from different sections of society, has become a modern trend, in settling the problems in the family unit. Mr. TV. Purushothama Rao, Advocate in Vijayawada extended his legal services to deal with women issues for VMM. He empowered women with legal education. However as far back in 1969 VMM took up the task of strengthening family unit by counselling helpless women and their partners to resolve domestic problems arising out of vices of men, lack of prudence, education and awareness on the part of women.. On many occasions, VMM even extended support monetarily to settle the family through self employment.

VMM did not allow caste and economic distinctions to creep in among the members of the organization or among the people who approached them for assistance. To set an example to others they used to organize community cosmopolitan lunches, each family contributing an item. This practice used to forge a strong sense of sister hood.

## Chapter 3

### EXPANDING THE HORIZONS OF SERVICE

During the initial years, VMM catered to the people living in the area of Patamatalanka. In 1970, the life style of Sugalis, a tribe, which has a distinct way of life, drew their attention. They live in separate settlements away from the society. Their attire is special, stitched with a number of small colourful pieces of cloth, decorated with mirrors and beads. They are not habituated to bathe daily. Educated women, children and youth IS very rare.

Vasavya Mahila Mandali as an initial gesture to change their lifestyle, distributed sarees and blouses to Sugali women. The tribe follows the strict instructions of their leader. VMM counselled the leaders. Explained them how the women's health affected by the unhygienic practice of not maintaining personal cleanliness. They conducted health education classes. Got the children of these tribes admitted in the nearby schools. The children easily mingled with other students and this helped them change their life style and come into main stream society.

The youth (boy and girls) were given training in crafts and vocational skills. Many young men were given training in Auto Rikshaw, car, and heavy vehicle driving. All of them settled happily with their earnings. VMM has started several training courses for women which helped the women of this Sugali community to elevate to a respectable position along with men.

The life of Sugali in separate settlement areas focused how several communities were living in segregation. VMM, working for the cause of eradication of all types of discrimination, implemented the idea of mixed colonies from 1970. There used to be separate colonies for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes. Government used to give them house sites. Vasavya Mahila Mandali used to pool up the sites and requested the members of all these different communities to take the sites by lottery. By this, the house sites were jumbled and they started living as neighbours as one community, forgetting the differences of caste and creed. From 1970 till today the colonies are continuing their co-existence. Ms. Urmila Subbarao, IAS, Sub collector of Vijayawada helped VMM in achieving the goal of this colony.



1977: Saraswathi Gora, Mrs. Urmila Subba Rao, Sub Collector Vijayawada (sitting in the middle) and Vidya with Sugalis (tribal women) on the occasion of mainstreaming in habitat and skill development.



1985: Baby Swetcha Gora welcoming Hon'ble Vice President of India to VMM  
Mrs. Maragatham Chandra Sekhar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Women welfare, GOI  
announcing the launching of Short Stay Home for women in distress supported by Government of India.



1985: Priyadarshini Working Women's Hostel for women building at Benz Circle, Vijayawada constructed in the site donated by Chennupati Seshagiri Rao and Vidya - Inaugurated by Sri R. Venkat Raman, Hon'ble Vice President of India on 09 August 1985. ( from right to left) Mrs. Janaki Venkat Raman, Mrs. Maragatham Chandra Sekhar, Union Minister of State for Women welfare, Vidya and Mr.Vasantha Nageswar Rao, Minister for Home, Government of Andhra Pradesh.



1985 : Vasavya Nrutya Vihar, dance school of VMM, presenting a dance ballet on 'Priyadarshini' on the eve of inauguration of working women's hostel named after "Indira Priyadarshini" (Indira Gandhi)

1986: Rajatha Gora and team from vasavya Nrutya Vihar performed Indian classical dances on the invitation from Sri. R. Venkat Raman, Hon'ble President of India.



1986: Garment making training for 50 women  
1986: Sri. Uttambhai Patel, Hon'ble Union Minister visiting the Television assembling training for women supported by Women and child welfare department, Government of India under NORAD programme.



1988 : On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Vasavya Nrutyia Vihar presenting 'Saptaswaralu', a dance ballet on national integration in 'Harivillu' a children programme organized by All India Radio, Vijayawada.



- 1987 : Myhtri speaking on “The role of women in promoting secularism and social reforms”
- 1992 : Mrs. Margaret Alva Union Minister arriving to inaugurate the seminar on National integration accompanied by Rajath Bhargava Sub Collector Vijayawada, Lavanam, Rashmi and Vidya
- 1993 : Science Rally in one hundred villages to dispel myths and superstitions by volunteers of VMM.
- 1990 : Inauguration of a seminar by Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, Mrs. Saraswathi Gora addressing the gathering.



**బెటి స్వేచ్ఛా గోరా**



She closed her Eyes  
to Give Sight to Blind

**లేదు కళ్ళకు మరణం  
కారాదు చీకటి ఆవరణం  
చిన్నారి స్వేచ్ఛా దానం మనకాదర్శం**

**స్వేచ్ఛా గోరా ఐ బ్యాంక్**

వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి, బెంజి సర్కిల్, విజయవాడ - 520 010.

ఫోన్ : 2472370, 2470966, 2472330

ఫ్యాక్స్ : 91-866-2484850

**మరణించిన వారి నేత్రాలను బుద్ధిపాలు చేయకండి**

**నేత్రదానంతో అంధులకి వెలుగునివ్వండి**

1989: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, The vision of Swetha Gora seen through Mr. JaganMohan Reddy and Mr. Prasad (middle), Keerthi, mother of Swetha Gora and Dr. Velagapudi Sambasiva Rao are also seen.



1990: On 5<sup>th</sup> November, Saraswathi Gora received 'outstanding social worker' awarded by Challagalla Charities, Hyderabad. Sir Hermann Bondi, Scientist and humanist, UK is also seen.

1992: Ms. Kumudben Joshi, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, inaugurating a seminar on 'women and Social Change'.

## Chapter 4

### **PIONEERING EFFORTS OF CHENNUPATI VIDYA BEFORE 1969 INITIATING THE ORIGIN OF VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI**

In the year 1948, Vidya underwent training for two years in Gandhiji Sevagram Ashram in hospital management, rural development, Khadi propagation and self help. Sri Prabhakarji, disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, moulded her mind to social service during those two years. This training has helped her immensely to understand society more comprehensively. This gave an opportunity and an integrated outlook in planning service activities in Mahila Mandal.

Though VMM was established in 1969, and registered in 1975, it actually evolved out of the social idealism and pragmatic dynamism of number of likeminded women who started social work unostentatiously in their individual capacity. When they came together, they formed the nucleus of the VMM. Hence the process of social welfare activity had its beginning in about 1955.

Mrs. Chennupati Vidya started “Kasturba Mahila Mandal” (KMM) in 1955 at her residence in Patamatalanka. The first floor of Mahatma Gandhi library became the venue for the Mahila Mandal meetings and educational activities. Sri Karumanchi Venkata Subbaiah, philanthropist, donated Rupees 3000/- for building Mahila Mandal on the first floor of library. Mrs. T.Sadalakshmi, the then Endowment Minister of A.P inaugurated the building. They inculcated the habit of reading useful books or listening to good books when it was read out.

Women who gathered in the first floor of M.G.Library, used to circulate among themselves their personal copies of books and magazines also.

Skills of useful crafts like embroidery, tailoring, basket making with bamboo and cooking were shared and taught to each other by women who benefitted from those crafts financially.

Providing financial assistance to poor students was another concern of the Kasturba Mahila Mandal. In those days, hostels were almost unknown and unavailable to the poor. Members of Mandali used to provide food to school/college going children in turns at their own homes met the educational needs of these children.

Mandali had no sound financial foundation, yet, the support extended by Sri Chennupati Seshagiri Rao to was indeed immeasurable.

He was deeply interested in the health and strength of body and mind. He gathered boys and men and trained them in gymnastic exercises and athletic activities. He dissuaded boys and men from vices and moulded them into useful members of their families and society at large. The constructive activities of Mandali attracted many women and the membership increased from strength to strength in course of time.

Even in 1955, when women were not accustomed or rather not allowed to come out of their homes, KMM educated them regularly about the need for women’s education, personal and environmental cleanliness. Whenever there was a problem in any family, Mahila Mandali used to come to the rescue and settle the matter amicably. Family counselling was successfully implemented for the welfare of women. In the initial stages of 1955, the women members used to strictly observe thrift and save a meagre amount every month. This amount used to save them from falling to debts.

Purchase of household commodities on wholesale basis at a cheaper rate and thereby saving money was common to all the members of KMM. This idea of cooperative purchase and its execution was by Smt. Chennupati Rangamma, mother in law of Smt. Chennupati Vidya.

Another innovative activity of development was in 1955; Kasturba Mahila Mandal motivated and inspired the villagers to help in laying roads in Patamatalanka through self help or “Sramadan” (voluntarism).

## **Acquisition of Managerial skills**

Chennupati Vidya became the co-opted women member of Gollapudi Panchayat Samiti (local self governance at village level) in the year 1962. The experience of running Kasturba Mahila Mandali from 1955 gave her new impetus to her motto of Women's welfare. She, in her tenure, started 22 Mahila Mandals in the single Panchayat. These Mahila Mandals took up the cause of education, employment and self help. Along with usual trainings like tailoring and embroidery, women started cooperative milk procuring centres hither to unknown for them. Mahila Mandals even conducted a three day women's camp. As they did not have financial resources, women shared the entire burden by contributing food materials and made the camp successful.

In the year 1967 Chennupati Vidya was nominated as women co-opted member to Zillaparishad (local self governance at district level). This elevation from Village level to district level enabled her to implement dynamic programmes. A number of Mahila Mandals were started at district level

Every Mahila Mandal took up training classes in dress making, handicrafts and the village heads were made responsible to ensure availability of accessories needed for these trainings.

They started thrift programme Self employment and income generating programs like dairy, poultry, rearing of goat and sheep, mat and basket weaving were taken up Non formal education centres were run by these Mahila Mandals at each village. They educated not only women but those who needed education. Adults as well as children were benefitted along with women.

Here the women took leap in the welfare activity. With the thrift amount, Women used to meet the needs of youth and farmers the needs of local area. Some Mahila Mandals purchased oil motors, manual agriculture tools and bullock carts were also given to their family members. To help the youth settle. This helped the village to prosper by the relentless efforts of Mahila Mandals.

Balwadis were run that enabled the pregnant women and children to have nutritious food. Vidya, as a woman co-opted member she understood the rules and regulations, the funding and financial aid given to women as part of district development. From the government funds allotted to the development of district, five percent of funds are for development of women. She was all vigilant that the earmarked amount was totally utilized for the cause and development of women only. She encouraged every Mahila Mandal to construct its own building for their activities. Along with the funds given by the government, the people used to assist women by "Sramadaan" (voluntarism). The people of the village realised the need for Mahila Mandal for the welfare activities of not only women but also youth and children. The experience of Vidya in initiating and strengthening Kasturba Mahila Mandal at her residence from 1955, and working as co-opted women member at Panchayat and Zilla Parishad paved a way to establish Vasavya Mahila Mandali as a pioneer in women's welfare.

## **Vidya as a Parliamentarian- *A leaping step from voluntary service to The House of Indian Parliament***

The dedicated and dynamic service of Vidya rendered in different capacities established her leadership as a synonym to innovative social service. This attracted the attention of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She selected the candidature of Vidya for Vijayawada Parliamentary constituency as an outstanding social worker in 1979. She was elected to parliament twice; for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Loksabha, and served the cause of women and rural development. She was a member in many Parliamentary committees that concentrated in planning the projects.



1995: On 12<sup>th</sup> November, Sri. S.B. Chavan, Union Minister for Home Affairs, inaugurating Vasavya Silver Jubilee hall and Swetcha Gora Education and cultural Center.

1995: On 27<sup>th</sup> July, Sri Krishnakanth, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, inaugurating the Rural health center for promotion of small family- norm at Vemavaram village, Vijayawada Rural Mandal.



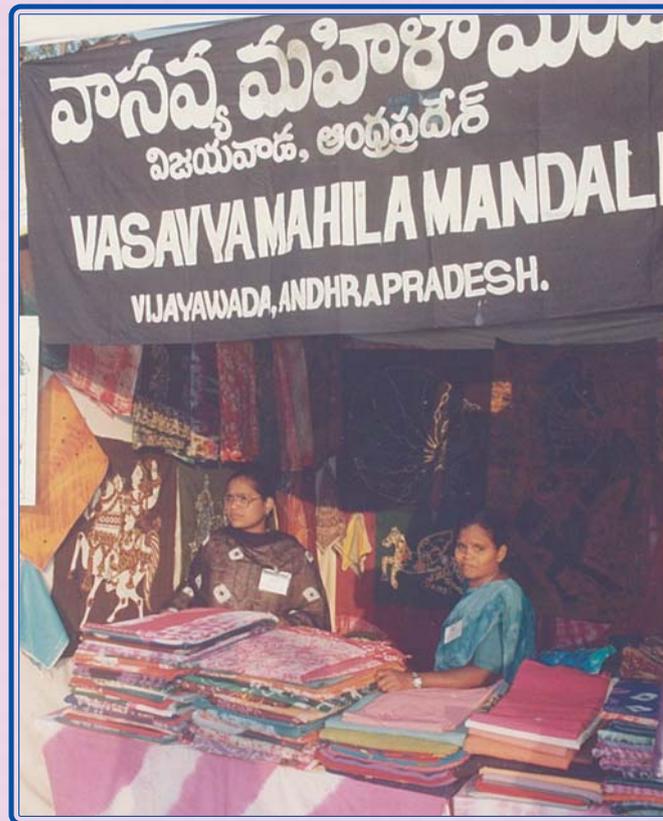
1996: Chennupati Vidya Colony at Gollamudi village, Nandigama Mandal, Krishna District, VMM constructed 81 houses with the participation of Grama Panchayath (local government) supported by CAPART, New Delhi.

1994: Rashmi laying foundation stone for construction of 27 houses in Kudapa village by Venkateswara Mahila Mandali, a partner of VMM. Mrs. Patibandla Ananthamma, President of the Mandali with Keerthi and villagers.



1994: The officials from Ministry of Food, Government of India, studying the impact of community based nutrition food production units.

1994: On 25<sup>th</sup> August, Dr. Samyukta Bullaiah, Chairperson, AP State Social Welfare Advisory Board, visiting the crèche center, Tummalpalem village, Ibrahim Patnam Mandal, Krishna District, along with Keerthi, Member, A.P. State Board



1996: On 17<sup>th</sup> August, a village woman launching the bore well for public utility, installed by VMM with the support of CAPART, New Delhi.

1997: Gramasree Mela, Organised by VMM with the support of CAPART, New Delhi.



1997: On 9<sup>th</sup> August, VMM organized the golden jubilee celebrations of Quit India Movement by honoring 50 Freedom Fighters.



2009: Rashmi and Vidya with children in Children's Village,  
a transit home for orphan and vulnerable children.

## Chapter 5

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR – A LAND MARK IN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

The year 1975, the international women's year, was a land mark in the history of Vasavya Mahila Mandali. The social service and women's welfare activities took a new leap.

VMM Organized an exhibition for three days displaying the works like handicrafts and dresses other works and snacks and savoury produced by women entrepreneurs. Vijayawada Municipality distributed prizes to best products. Sri.G.P.Rao, IAS, then Municipal officer steer headed the women's Exhibition by extending financial support. **May be this is the inspiration behind the Mahila Utsav (women's Festival as an exhibition of women entrepreneurs) organized every year for women entrepreneurs these days.**

In connection with international women's day in 1975, 400 new Mahila Mandals were registered. These Mahila Mandals formed into "Krishna District Federation of Mahila Mandals" (Krishna Zilla Mahila Mandals Samakhya).

The then Chief Minister Sri Jalagam Vengala Rao started "the state federation of Mahila Mandals". The President and Secretary of 400 Mahila Mandals were representatives in the state federation. The women's finance corporation used to extend financial assistance to this state federation of Mandals for income generation programmes. The outstanding achievement was in connection with international women's year, the state government had distributed loans to women

### VASAVYA – REGD. 1975

#### VMM – ALWAYS IN THE VANGUARD OF WOMEN'S WELFARE

Under the Indian Societies act 1860, VASAVYA Mahila Mandali registered itself on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1975. The registration was done at the District Administrative centre, Machilipatnam.

Mrs. Surydevara Rajyalakshamma, M.L.A of Jaggayyapeta constituency and Mrs. Surydevara Annapuramma, Vice President, Zilla Parishad signed as witnesses to the registration.

From 1975 from the day it registered itself as service organisation; VMM zoomed up to great altitudes of success in development work. Its approach was practical, community driven and comprehensive.

From 1955 to 1975 the experience of running Mahila Mandals and closely observing the changes and needs of society, Vasavya Mahila Mandali has set its goals and mission. Since inception the organisation is service oriented without any profit motive.

VMM is a voluntary service organisation based on Gandhian ideology, a secular organisation working for the development of women, children and youth in rural as well as urban areas of Andhra Pradesh.

**Vision of VMM** is to promote comprehensive social economic, political development of women and children especially in vulnerable situations, thereby empowering communities in AP to improve their quality of life and build a better civil society in India.

## Mission statement

To achieve the vision of empowering communities in Andhra Pradesh, VMM has charted out its aims and aspirations.

- ❖ Increase community awareness on the value of education, allow other Vulnerable Children to access educational opportunities, and sensitize educational institutions on OVC and gender issues.
- ❖ Promote the physical and psychosocial health of communities by building Knowledge on prevention/care/treatment and thereby increasing demand for services; building capacity of government services; and delivering quality outreach services.
- ❖ Ensure the rights of women and children by promoting their community based care and protection.
- ❖ Promote entrepreneurship and financial sustainability of vulnerable families by educating them on their economic rights and available services, building their vocational skills, providing them with employment opportunities or access to credit, and developing community support structures.
- ❖ Facilitate the implementation of progressive government policies, and build the capacity of women and children to meaningfully participate in multi level political processes and to advocate for changes in regressive policies.



Chennupati Vidya & Suresh Kumar, IAS, Joint Collector, Krishna with Children

## Chapter 6

### ACTIVITIES TOWARDS REALISING THE VISION

#### Skill Development trainings

To achieve these goals Vasavya Mahila Mandali has adopted a comprehensive methodology through locally accepted cultural activities; executed rights based participatory approaches; and engaged hundreds of civil society, government, funding agency and corporate stakeholders to maximize impact.

Penetrating into the society and working with the vulnerable society, VMM has realized that there are many people who need the support of government and service agencies. Interacting with government departments Mahila Mandal started enlisting the needs in the society, the different types of vocational trainings that can help the women. Gradually VMM has gained the confidence of local, district and state administrations. They started looking to VMM for suggestions on new projects, for implementation of existing projects and for technical support. VMM has become role model for many service organizations.

From the year 1969, gradually VMM has coordinated with a number of government departments and regularly conducted multifarious vocational training courses for a large number of women.

It is not an exaggeration if VMM humbly submits that more than 246032 people received training in different courses for the last four decades. The training includes Ambar Charka, Tailoring and Embroidery, Type Writing and Short Hand, Hand Composing and Book Binding, carpet weaving, Cane and Bamboo, handicrafts, Crochet Lace Making, Knitting, Multi Purpose Health Workers, Anganwadi Workers, Driving, food processing, nutrition demonstration, TV Assembling, Garment Making, House Keeping in hotels, Computers, TV and Radio repairing, motor rewinding, soft toys making, drawing and painting, Arya work, mobile repairing, Kalankari, Bathik, tie & dye and screen printing trainings. These trainings were supported by government and non Government agencies and international donors.

One commendable feature of these training and trainers is that each one who is trained in one trade will go back to their place and in turn train hundreds of people. Thus lakhs of people were trained during these four decades. These people are living happily with their families earning their livelihood at home. Many of them are working as craft teachers in different organisations.



1969 onwards: Women Empowerment through Skill development for women in Tailoring.

*Lanke Kamala Devi resident of Patamata Lanka, Vijayawada approached Vasavya Mahila Mandali in the year 1982 to learn the skills in Tailoring and hand Embroidery. She hails from an Orthodox family and about three decades ago there were many restrictions for women to come out of home. But it is inevitable for Kamala, an illiterate young widow with infant son to eke out her livelihood due to the sudden change in the family dynamics. Owing to lack of exposure in the community she is timid and fearful to socialize with others. With the consistent counseling by VMM management and instructors, she was able to cope with the situation and face the realities of life by getting skills. Mythri, a psychologist on the board of VMM conducted sensitization meetings monthly once for women and their family members but in the initial interactions Kamala used to tremble to express her issues and concerns. Gradually she socialized with the emotional support provided by VMM family. By the time Kamala completed her ten months of tailoring course, she became more courageous. In 1983 she joined VMM as Instructor of tailoring section for the adolescent girls and women in destitution, then from 2000 onwards provided skills to the secondary victims at Sitanagaram, ex-criminal settlement area in Guntur district as rehabilitation process and from 2005 in Government Observation Home for boys at Vijayawada as VMM is a co-management agency.*

*She is a grief counselor for Swetcha Gora Eye Bank, motivates the families for eye donation and promotion for filling pledge forms. Through her efforts she was able to facilitate eye donation from three persons and six were able to see the World.*

*She became a change agent by referring sick persons for HIV testing and able to improve their quality of life with appropriate referrals. She is a motivator for secular society and promoted inter caste marriages. Kamala stressed "it is a boon for me to be associated with VMM for about three decades and able to see a smile on the faces many marginalized women".*

### **Creche - Helping hand for working mothers**

When woman becomes the financial support to the family, she has to constantly take care of the children dependent on her. Unless there is a helping hand, they cannot concentrate and put their best at work. Realizing the need of child care centres in the changing society, the social welfare board funded the project of crèches from the year 1989 to 2001. VMM maintained creche centres for children below five years in thirteen villages. This enabled the working mothers to leave their very small babies in the safe custody of crèche and earn their living with peace and confidence.

### **Balwadis**

Balwadis take care of children below seven years. Here children were taught good morals, healthy habits, social etiquette and behaviour through small poems, rhymes and songs. The children are provided with nutritious food. Regular medical checkups were done to children to monitor their health.

Surprisingly, during the initial stages the attendance of children to these centres was very low. VMM took initiative and counselled the parents. The Mahila Mandal entrusted the responsibility of supervising the Balwadis to these parents' committees. This made the parents aware of the benefits of the project and constantly monitored the Balwadis and saw that their children got the best service through the centre.

The Creches and Balwadis were merged in the Integrated Child Development Scheme of The Department of Women and Children Welfare.

## Anganwadi Training Centre

Anganwadi centres through their close association with women and children have become the mobilizing or motivating force of the area. The teacher and assistants were trained in child care, preschool education, supplementary nutrition food, pregnant women and lactating mother care and adolescent girls care, communication skills, immunisation, HIV and AIDS, rights of women and children, laws and linkages. Nearly 750 Anganwadi teachers attended 18 refresher courses conducted by VMM. Five workshops for 523 assistants were organized.

## Short Stay Homes

When women are encountered with problems at home, under unavoidable circumstances they had to leave their home. After they step out of their house, they are encountered with problems of their security. To protect women from such vulnerable situations, VMM has started shelter homes for women

- ❖ Gora Abhaya Nivas from 1985 to 1999 with the support of Department of women and child welfare, Government of India. From 1999 to till date (2010) the home is supported by Humanist Association of Norway.
- ❖ From 2005 to 2007, the Women and Child welfare department, Human Resource Development, Government of India supported Swaadhar project to cater the needs of victims of trafficking and HIV and AIDS at Women Empowerment centre, Vemavaram village, Vijayawada Rural Mandal.
- ❖ 2008 to 2010, a women shelter home was supported by Humanist Association of Norway to reach the vulnerable women/adolescent girls in rural areas at Women Empowerment centre, Vemavaram village, Vijayawada Rural Mandal.

These homes provide women with immediate shelter meeting the basic needs, psychosocial support, health care, vocational skills, legal aid, legal counselling and family reunion

The reach of the homes is 2130 women and children admitted in the four homes, 393 continued with higher education, 550 secured jobs, 258 reunion with families, 903 self employed and 26 children.

### **Entering man's world of driving by challenging the barriers of gender**

*Vijaya was a timid housewife from rural area. She got differences with her husband and came to Vijayawada in distress. She contemplated suicide and she was admitted in a hospital for Medical termination of Pregnancy. The doctor in the hospital tried to counsel her and fearing her fragile psychological status, the doctor referred her to VMM for care. She was admitted in Gora Abhay Nivas, a home for women in difficult situations. She was counseled and found that she was a dynamic and enterprising woman who did not realize her potential. She soon became a leader in the home and with the counseling she got, she experimented with her skills. Later she went on to live on her own and she arranged a marriage for her husband also. Then she got trained in driving and started a driving school. She started to learn heavy vehicle driving in the Lorry owners driving school with the support of Mr. Chennupati Seshagiri Rao, the chief Patron of VMM and an important person in the association of Lorry Owners. She was the only one woman driver with heavy vehicle driving license in the state of Andhra Pradesh. She is a successful instructor in her own driving school and many women preferred her to men instructors. Now she started a marriage bureau and is successful in this enterprise too. She crossed the barriers of gender in her adventurous life.*

## **HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAMMES**

### **Polio corrective surgeries**

Maintenance of crèche, Balwadis and Angnawadis in the rural and urban slums had given an opportunity to study and understand the lives of vulnerable people. This gave inspiration and impetus to new projects and programmes.

A boy used to come regularly to one of the Anganwadis. He was unable to walk as both his legs were affected by polio. But he was so much interested in the activities that he used to climb up the small pendal in front of the Anganwadi to see clearly. Once, Dr.Samaram saw his enthusiasm and examined him. A corrective surgery to his legs was done that enabled him to do his own work and to walk on his legs. This incident lead to the project of polio corrective surgeries. VMM had conducted nearly 150 operations on polio affected people and gave strength to their lives. Under the leadership of Dr. Maru, Executive member of VMM, and the philanthropic doctors of Vijayawada, joined their hands and supported VMM in this project. Vijayawada Municipal Corporation had financially supported this programme. The success of this programme taken up by a Mahila Mandal speaks of its dedication and perseverance.

### **Hospital for Small Family Norm**

Rural India is lacking in medical facilities and identifying this gap in rural Vijayawada, Hospital for small family norm was initiated from 1994 to 2000, supported by government of India ministry of health and district health administration. This facilitated medical aid where there is no government hospital. This hospital was equipped with operation theatre, one doctor, two nurses and ten beds. The main purpose of this project is to educate rural population about the benefits of small families. They motivated people and persuaded them to observe small family. The family planning operations; vasectomy or tubectomy were performed in the hospital along with regular antenatal and postnatal checkups, immunisation and knowledge building on health issues.. Rotary and Lions clubs distributed incentives in cash and kind to the persons undergoing family planning operations. 2500 people underwent family planning operations during this time. Out of 2500 operations, only 10 men came forward for vasectomy operation. This speaks the adaptability of women to the changing society.

### **Swetcha Gora Eye Bank**

Another ideal medical service Vasavya Mahila Mandali has taken up is Swetcha Gora Eye Bank. In 1989, Swetcha Gora, grand-daughter of Chennupati Vidya died after pledging her eyes, in a eye donation drive by Indian Medical Association, at the age of seven years. Her eyes were donated to two blind people. This is the inspiration for setting up of the eye bank. Vasavya Mahila Mandali under the dynamic leadership of Dr. G. Samaram has educated and motivated the urban and rural people on eye donation, collected family pledge forms, documented the donor and recipient list, conducted Keratoplasty surgeries and collaborated with government and non government agencies. This eye bank is life member in Eye Bank Association of India and is the only eye bank successfully run by a women organisation.

Through Swetcha Gora eye bank, 600 people received their vision. More than one lakh people, pledged to donate their eyes. This is possible to Mahila Mandali only by its realistic and practical approach to social work and social problems.

### **How beautiful is the world**

*Jaganmohan was blind since childhood and was ridiculed and harassed by the children in his village. He was depending on his family for support. When he was losing hope, he learned about the chance to get his vision. When Baby Swetcha Gora died and donated her eyes, that was a boon for him and corneal transplantation was done. After he gained vision, he was amazed with the sky, different colours and everything in the nature thrilled him. Now he is working as a librarian in Nagarjuna University, and is supporting his family. He is a motivator of pledging eyes and is very productive.*

### **Multipurpose Health Workers training**

From 2000, Vasavya Mahila Mandali has successfully taken up multipurpose health workers training recognized by government of Andhra Pradesh. It is a 18 months course. They attend health camps like pulse polio, eradication of Filarial and mobile health camps conducted by VMM, Rotary club of Vijayawada and Government of Andhra Pradesh. This helped in primary health care of community during natural disasters.

From the year 2000 till date VMM has successfully trained 240 women. The orphan girls from HIV affected families were given priority in admission with the support of UNNITI Foundation. Most of them had settled in government or private hospitals.

### **Urban Health Centres**

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has appointed Vasavya Mahila Mandali as Co-management agency for urban health centres in Vijayawada. VMM is managing four urban health centres. Each urban health centre is provided with medical team of one Doctor, one community organizer, two auxiliary nurses and midwives and two helpers. The focus of these health centres is on maternal and child care. They provide medical treatment and counselling, identification and follow up of pregnant women, promotion of institutional deliveries, immunization etc.

Health Forums were formed at community level for every 50 households. They conduct meetings every month. They monitor the health of the people and track the diseases.

### **Health on wheels**

Another commendable service taking up by Vasavya Mahila Mandali is maintaining a mobile health unit, "Health on Wheels" from 2008 to 2010 with the support of Abbott fund, USA. Every day the trained team visit urban slums, screening them to identify different ailments prevalent in the area. HIV/AIDS screening is also done and the affected people are taken to the hospitals for further treatment. The school and college children of different areas are educated at regular intervals through interaction with health workers. Regular treatment for opportunistic infections was provided to people living with HIV and the impact is seen through their improved quality of life. In the evenings the health on wheels organises film shows on good habits, health, TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria and counselling to educate the people.

From 2008 till date, mobile clinic through film shows reached 223970 people. Among them 8486 people living with HIV treated for opportunistic infections and 289 pregnant women were referred for PPTCT services.

### **Awareness on Swine flu**

VMM with its well trained health workers extended a supporting hand to government and people during all emergencies. During the year 2009 -2010 swine flu was spreading. During the period, VMM trained 90 multipurpose health workers and outreach staff of NGOs regarding swine flu. They were trained to bring awareness to the public about the symptoms, prevention, spread of disease, and treatment services available.

## Housing and Sanitation and Drinking Water Projects

Another important aspect of health is environment cleanliness. May be due to financial crunch or attitudes, many rural people are in the habit of going out into the fields for their nature's call.

VMM developed a network of women organisations in the villages to initiate the housing and sanitation projects with the support of CAPART. VMM supported these grass root organisations in monitoring, accounting and procuring the raw material for construction. VMM volunteered to support the women organisations without any expecting financial aid neither from CAPART nor from the women organisations.

Besides surroundings becoming unhygienic, the women are subjected to insinuation and abuse. As a solution to this social problem, **CAPART** and Rastriya Mahila Kosh have entrusted the responsibility of constructing 3000 toilets in the villages from 1991 to 1998. Each toilet was constructed with 2000 rupees grant and the beneficiary is responsible for construction and to bear additional expenses. The scheme helped the people immensely in developing good habits. VMM found that the people were not utilising the toilets after construction, so awareness campaign was undertaken to increase the utilisation of the toilets by imparting knowledge on the diseases due to the unhygienic habits.

VMM with the experience in sanitation programme found that the houses are thatched ones and the people were facing problems during floods and fire accidents were common. So VMM planned to implement the housing project in the villages, with the support of CAPART. 1000 houses were constructed with 15,500 rupees from VMM as a grant and the remaining was self supported by the beneficiary.

## Safe Drinking Water Project

- ❖ **Defluorination of water:** VMM noted the impact of high Fluoride content in water in West Krishna and the people were withered with arthritis and looking old for their age. This problem needed to be addressed and in collaboration with University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, awareness programmes on Defluorination were conducted. Dr. KN Rao, then Vice Chancellor of Health University was instrumental for the success of this programme. Many local resources were utilised in Defluorination and information packs were distributed in all educational institutes and community at large in these areas. All villages affected by fluorine were reached by VMM. Visibility to the issue was given and government reacted to the issue and constructed Defluorination tanks later.
- ❖ **Installation of Bore Wells:** VMM witnessed deaths and sickness in rural areas due to unsafe drinking water. Many villages were not having accessible drinking water resource and the women were facing difficulty in procuring water for daily usage. They used to get water from a distance of 2-5 kilometres. So 57 bore wells were provided in 57 villages in collaboration with CAPART. Water committees were formed at village level, to maintain the bore wells. The bore wells were handed over to Panchayat Raj department, as a sustainable strategy.
- ❖ **Desilting of the tank:** Govindarajulu tank in Vemavaram village, K Tadepalli Panchayat, Vijayawada rural Mandal in Krishna district was the only water resource for hundreds of acres for agriculture. The tank was silted and water was not available for agriculture. So farmers lost crops and their economic status reduced. So VMM had taken up the task of desilting the tank and constructed bunds. The mud was used for pottery and many families used the mud and settled in the area.

## **Priyadarsini Working Women's Hostel**

Women's education and emancipation of women made them stand on their own. In this process women have to come out of their houses and stay at far off places at the place of work. Even for short term and long term trainings women need a secured shelter. The then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi suggested Chennupati Vidya to start a working women's hostel. Chennupati Seshagiri Rao, chief patron of VMM had donated 1200 square yards of land near Benz circle for the construction of working women's hostel. The hostel was inaugurated by the then Vice President of India Sri.R.Venkat Raman.

This is s hostel with 49 sharing or single rooms with security, nutritious food recreation facilities and with an ambience to make them understand life through the activities that are conducted at the campus.

## **Women and youth Empowerment in Governance**

India is progressing scientifically and technologically, but the progress is not reaching all. There is a gulf between urban and rural life. The educated youth and women in urban areas are well informed of the support and facilities available in government and social welfare sectors. Rural women and youth do not have as much information as the urban youth have. With focused attention Vasavya Mahila Mandali has started "Capacity Building for Women in Governance". This training is to educate women in human rights, health, attitudes and services utilisation.

1575 women were trained for "Capacity building for women in governance".

From 1985 till 2001 this training for women was supported by a number of service organizations like Central Board of Worker's Education, National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Women and Child Development government of India.

100 representatives from government and non government organizations selected by Ministry of Rural development, government of India participated in these seminars and discussions. These programmes enabled these representatives to list out the vocational and employment training facilities necessary for their community. They were also trained in the administrative procedures involved in getting these courses sanctioned.

To realize the vision of empowering women and society, VMM has started coordinating and working with the registered cooperative organization from 1970 at the village level. They conducted a number of seminars, conferences and trainings on Rural Development.

In the year 1988 VMM has taken up the women empowerment training to the elected members of local, regional and state level bodies.

The women became aware of the working of local, regional bodies, their responsibility in developing the area they are in charge of and the Rights and responsibilities of people's representatives.

The methods and techniques VMM followed in this women empowerment training has gained recognition and popularity and soon a large number of service organizations supported the training.

In 1995, CAPART and Harijan Sevak Sangh selected Vasavya Mahila Mandali to train 3000 women on "Capacity Building for Women in Governance".

### **Self managed with a textile printing training center**

*Nalini, an expert in textile printing is providing skills in self managed unit, to other adolescent girls and women. She is a renowned trainer in the district. She is now able to take care of her daughter who is doing hotel management and planning to go for Masters in Business Management.*

*Nalini came to VMM at the tender age of sixteen with economic problems. She was good at Hindi but do not have any other skill. She was joined in the Gora Abhay Nivas, a home for women in difficult situations, and was trained in textile printing along with counseling. She became a staff member of VMM and was a caretaker of working women's hostel. Later she got married and had a daughter. Her husband died and Nalini was left on the streets with an infant girl. VMM immediately provided her with shelter and supported her and her daughter. Then a textile unit was initiated by VMM and she took charge of the unit. Many women were trained and the production unit gave livelihood for many women. Then Nalini, started her own unit with the encouragement of VMM and flourished by having a training and production unit. She is a satisfied woman with a beautiful life that is all her own. She is a name to remember in the history of VMM and her courage became an inspiration for many women.*

### **Self Help Groups**

Women Empowerment is the pillar for the development of society and the nation when they stand united. So women formed into self help groups at every village and urban slums. Central and state governments planned the financial support for women in self help groups. These groups get loans from the banks and improve social and economic status. Women were taught the administrative procedure to be followed in such activities and linkages and networking through advocacy.

District Rural development authority of Krishna District facilitated SHGs and VMM to form mutually aided cooperative society.



1996: women Economic Development through Micro Enterprises; village women supported for loans for basket making supported by Rastriya Mahila Kosh, New Delhi.

## EDUCATION

### Non Formal Education

In 50 villages 50 non formal education centres were conducted. 1250 school drop outs were benefited and most of them were absorbed into regular schools. Many of the children had to work in the agriculture fields to assist their parents. In the evenings they attended the non formal centres and passed exams conducted by the government of Andhra Pradesh.

### Improving the Education and Health of Children and Community

The main focus of the project is to support the vulnerable children who are poor, orphans, semi orphans, HIV infected children and children from HIV affected families.

Educational support was provided to children studying in 22 public schools in urban Vijayawada. To improve the quality of their education, supplementary education centres were organised by VMM for two hours in the evenings after school hours. Children were trained in extracurricular activities to improve their communication skills, leadership and life skills. The community is also educated about personal and community health and hygiene. The children were regularly under the care of the medical team and treatment was given at public health centres. Children formed mock parliaments in the schools and worked for the development of their schools. They did advocacy with officials for construction of toilets, water tanks and compound wall with the help of mothers committees. Community mobilisation was undertaken to help the needy children to inculcate the habit of service to others.

### Innovative method of educating women

#### Mother school – Ammabadi

The changing society is focusing more on children's education. It is part of a mother's duty to monitor the child's education regularly and assists the child to cope with the competition. At a study cum recreation centre for children at Vambay colony, a relocated slum in Vijayawada, VMM conducted quiz competitions for adolescent girls and women. Some women expressed their eagerness to study. Taking this as a lead, VMM started mother's school. Though they started 5 centres initially now 100 centres are running successfully across the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. They learnt basic education needed in day to day life. Now the women are able to read the scrolling news on T.V, and monitor the progress cards of their children, they are able to transact on their own in self help groups and banks. Out of 208 women who got education, 25% were people living with HIV and 35% are family members affected by AIDS. These centres play a major role in educating the community about HIV/AIDS, nutrition, and self care and care giving. These are motivating people to get tested for HIV.



Women learning vocational education in mother school

## Chapter 7

# MOULDING SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE MILLENNIUM

Around the turn of the new millennium (2000) the prevalence of HIV/AIDS was noticed and a lot of well meaning and action oriented research began in the direction of identifying the circumstances of the emergence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world and especially in India. VMM is working in the areas of prevention linked care, support, treatment, impact mitigation among street children, migrants, pregnant women, children living with HIV, children affected by AIDS, families affected by HIV and general community with a gender inclusive participatory strategy.

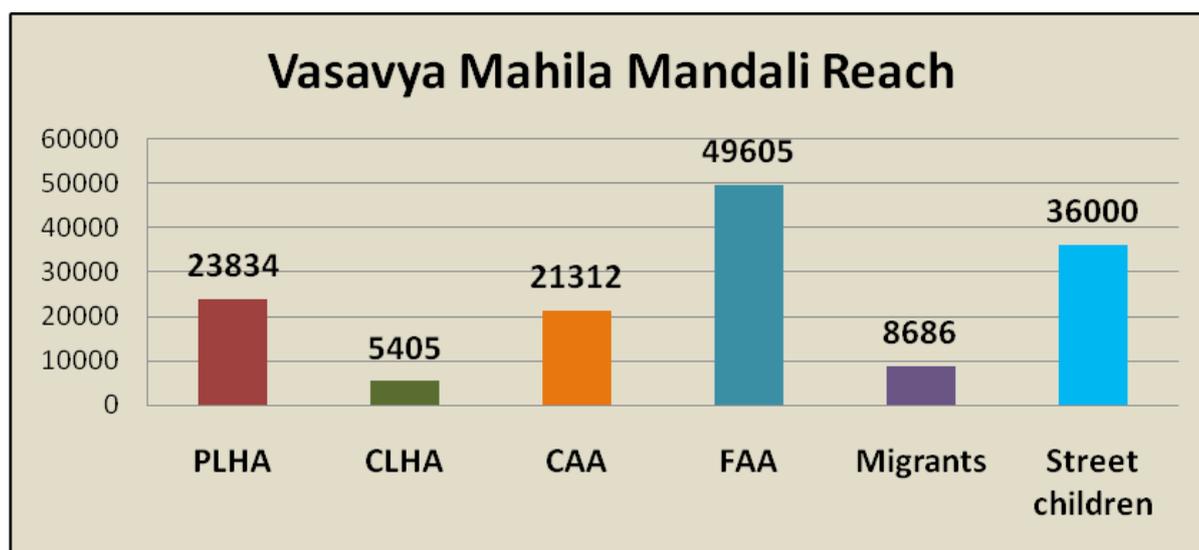
### Programmes to mitigate the effects of HIV

1. AIDS awareness- Role of NGOs- workshop: (1995)
2. Partnership Sexual Health among Street children in Vijayawada (1999-2007)
3. Home and Community Based HIV/AIDS care and support programme: Lead Partner with a network of 17 NGOs (2000-2010)
4. Community Based HIV/AIDS care and support programme: (2002-2008)
5. Krishna community Health Intervention for prevention of HIV, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Leprosy and Filaria: (2004-2007)
6. Education and Knowledge Building programme: Lead Partner with 16 NGO partners (2005-2012)
7. Community Driven approaches for Feminisation of HIV AIDS: Lead partner with network of six NGOs (2006-2007)
8. Care and support for children living with HIV: Lead partner with network of 43 partners (24 NGOs/ 19 CBOs) (2006-2010)
9. Saraswathi Gora Centre for Street youth (2007)
10. Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission outreach programme: (2007-continuing)
11. Children Healthy and Happy Programme- Community based HIV/AIDS care and support programme with child centric approach: Lead partner with network of 6 NGOs (2007-2011)
12. Trafficking and HIV/AIDS programme: (2007-08)
13. Rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking and women living with HIV: (2008)
14. Health on Wheels: a mobile clinic for HIV Positives (2008 – continuing)
15. Children's village: a transit home for orphans (2008 – continuing)
16. HIV-TB co-infection Pilot Programme (2008-2010)
17. Mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Facility-two units (2008 - continuing)
18. Balasahayoga Programme: Lead partner with network of 3 NGOs/CBO (2008-2013)
19. Targeted intervention for Migrants: (2008- continuing)
20. HIV/AIDS Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Programme : Lead Partner network with 3 NGOs/CBO(2009-2010)
21. Children Affected By AIDS Project (CABA): (2010-2011)

**Technical and Financial Resources:** VMM is managing the programmes with the support of Abbot fund, Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, Big Lottery Fund/Lepra Society, Care India, Catholic Relief Services, Clinton Foundation, Deutsche Bank AG, Education Development center inc, Family Health International (FHI), Government of Andhra Pradesh: Department of Health, Women and Child Development, IL&FS Education & Technology Services Limited, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, India HIV/AIDS Alliance, National AIDS Control Organisation, UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, The World Bank.

**Geographical coverage:** VMM initiated in 1995 with HIV awareness programme in Vijayawada city. By 2010 the scale of operation has increased to all 23 districts in certain operational areas.

### Reach of VMM in ten years (1999-2009)



### Evolution of HIV focused Programmes

During the year 1998, the VMM conducted a survey on the girl child prostitution- rehabilitation and female sex workers rehabilitation.

A study on the prevalence of STI and HIV was conducted in late 1990s by VMM in collaboration with Indian Medical Association, Rotary Club of Vijayawada and Dolphin Medical Services. The findings were, among street children between 14 to 18 years: STI was 27% and HIV was 7%. The alarming facts had paved the way to initiate Partnership Sexual health project among street children in Vijayawada from 1999 supported by Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS). Number of medical doctors in private and public sector had extended their services in capacity building to project team and also medical aid to street children. Medical panel of VMM Samaram, Deeksha, Maru and Meher Prasad became role models for other medical fraternity in reaching out to the most marginalized group of street children as there was no discrimination in their private clinics or public sector hospitals. Until 2007 VMM had reached to 36000 street children in Vijayawada by impacting their lives in reducing the STI prevalence from 27% to 11%, increased condom usage, reduction of sexual partners, increased treatment completion and change in occupations. Enabling environment was created by lobbying with government departments: sensitized police

and reduced torture that led to less mobility, plans for temporary shelter; with Municipal Corporation for permission for street vending, with transport department for issue of driving licenses in the absence of identity and with nationalized banks opening of savings accounts. 76 street children those who were rag pickers and doing menial jobs were rehabilitated as rickshaw owners and mobile vendors on carts. 365 street youth were provided with placement services in Jawahar Auto Nagar, 425 youth became light vehicle motor drivers now plying auto rickshaws. Due to the change in their behaviour, attitudes and occupations, there was a spark of HOPE that has paved the way for savings. Then VMM initiated “one rupee a day” savings from street youth and maintained single bank account for the programme and issued individual pass books to each street youth.

Suresh left home at the age of 12 years as his parents commanded him to do cattle rearing in a remote village in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. Since then he was on streets doing menial jobs, with one meal a day, faced abuse by older children and reached to 16 years living on the streets. He was treated for Gonorrhoea (a form of STI) and consistent counseling has impacted Suresh to be a change agent by 18 years by becoming a peer educator. Driving an auto earning INR 200 per day, married and setting his own family. VMM's saving programme has made him to save INR 30 a month that lead to his total savings of INR 2800. Then he wanted to prove himself to his parents that he is also productive. By taking INR 2500 from his savings he visited his home and his contribution has made his parents to have tears on their face with smiling hug.

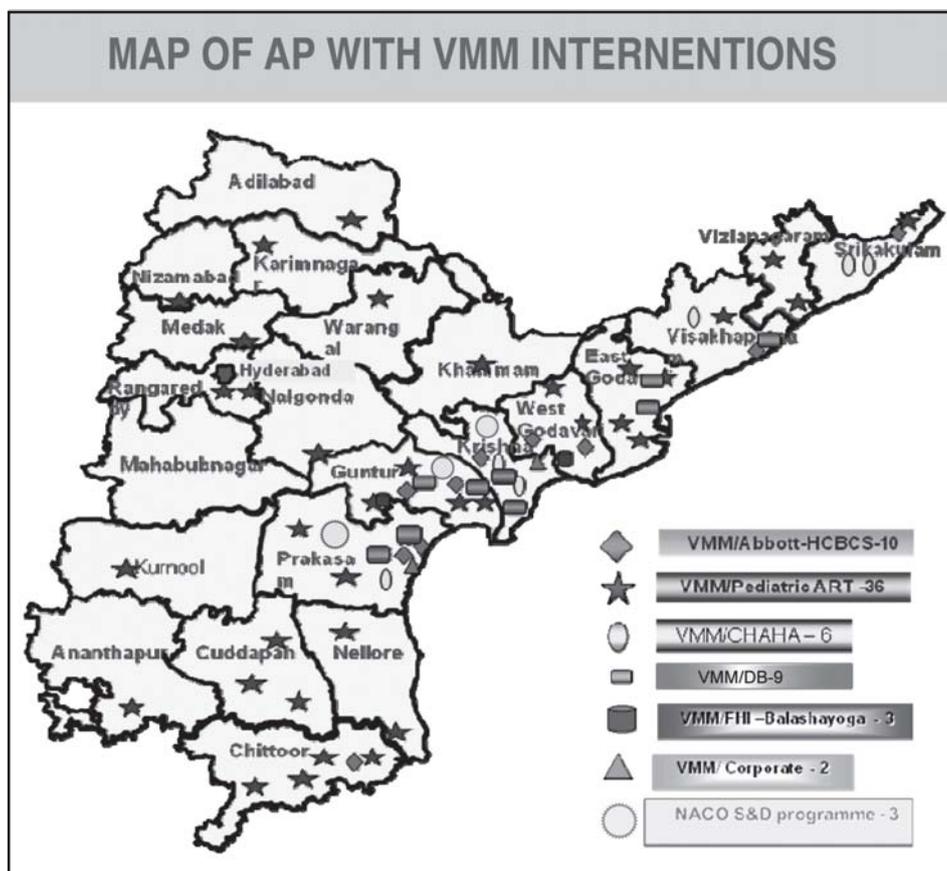
Peer education system was successful with street children. The peer educators were trained and given knowledge about STIs, basics of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (T.B) and also information about available health services in public health, importance of early initiation with completion of treatment and healthy sexual practices to be followed. Two peer educators became state level trainers. The successful peer education had led to formation of two community based organisations with street youth to raise their voice and a platform for mutual sharing and learning.

This HIV and STI prevention project had set in motion a large movement in combating HIV/AIDS and was taken up by VMM that HIV/AIDS not only a health dilemma but a socio-economic crisis. An interview with street youth and organizers of VMM in STAR news was an eye opener for many stakeholders including donors on facts of high incidence of STI and HIV among youth.

The world community and NGOs in particular have noticed the latent spread of HIV. The visible impact of HIV and AIDS on the lives of the people which affected the country alarmed the civil society organisations. So, new strategies were needed to support these families to lead a stigma free quality life.

At this juncture, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK, has come forward with a novel idea of Home and Community Based HIV/ AIDS Care and Support (HCBCS) programme. They initiated HCBCS in three states; Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Tamilnadu. In Andhra Pradesh, they have chosen VMM as a lead partner to implement this project with a network of NGOs. The VMM started working with a network of seven NGOs in five coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh in 2001 and increased to 87 NGOs and Community Based Organisations in 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh with many donors.

## The Network of VMM Partners



**Anathapur:** Anantha Network of Positives, **Chittoor:** Serve Train Educate People's Society, People's Action for Social Service, Gramodaya Samithi, Nehru Yuvajana Seva Sangham, **East Godavari:** Coastal Network Positive people, St. Pauls trust, Sarvodaya Abhudaya Seva Samiti, Jeevana Jyothi Canossa Health Centre, **Guntur:** Action for Integrated Rural and Tribal social service society, NEEDS Serving Society, Society for Welfare HIV Infected People, Hope Arpana Positive People Effective Network **Hyderabad:** HIV of Positive people Efficiency society, **Kadapa:** Raja Foundation, Telugu Network of People living with HIV/AIDS, People's Action in Development, **Karimnagar:** Karimnagar Asha Jyothi Positive People Network, **Khammam:** Aasha Positive People Association, **Krishna:** Sangamitra Service Society, Deepti Educational Society, Rural Environment and Educational Development society, Rotary Community Service Trust, Annamma school for Hearing and Physically Handicapped and Baby care centre, **Kurnool:** Vimala Women Charitable Society, **Medak:** Medak District Positive Network, **Nalgonda:** Nalgonda Youth Positive Society, **Nellore:** Development of Under –Privileged Through Integrated Economical Service, Nellore Network of Positive People, **Nizamabad:** Nizam Abhaya Positive People Network Society, **Prakasam:** Gramasiri Rural Activity in National Development Society, Mahila Mandali, Positive People's Network , Rakshana, SHADOWS, St. Vincent, **Rangareddy:** Network of HIV Positive People, **Srikakulam:** Swamy babu Vajramma Charitable Trust, Youth Club of Bejjipuram, Association for Rural Development and Action Research, Srikakulam Network of Positive people Society, **Vijayanagaram:** Circar Benevolent Mission, Community Development and Welfare society, Lions Family Welfare Planning Trust, Nature, Vijaya Network of Positive People Social Service, **Visakhapatnam:** Green vision, Nippon Care-Fit Service association – India, Peace Educational & Rural Developments, Society of Visakha Network of Positive Members, **Warangal:** KARUNA Mythri Network of Positive People, SNEHA, **West Godavari:** Association of positive people for living excellence, Byrraju Foundation, College Community Network Center DNR College, Damien Leprosy Center, Kolleru Rural Development Service Organisation.

## **The Challenging Issues**

The HCBCS ensures comprehensive development of HIV/AIDS affected persons and their families. HCBCS addresses issues and strives to bring social protection and security to the HIV affected in their own communities by neutralizing the factors of instability. The major issues and challenges the programme addressed successfully are,

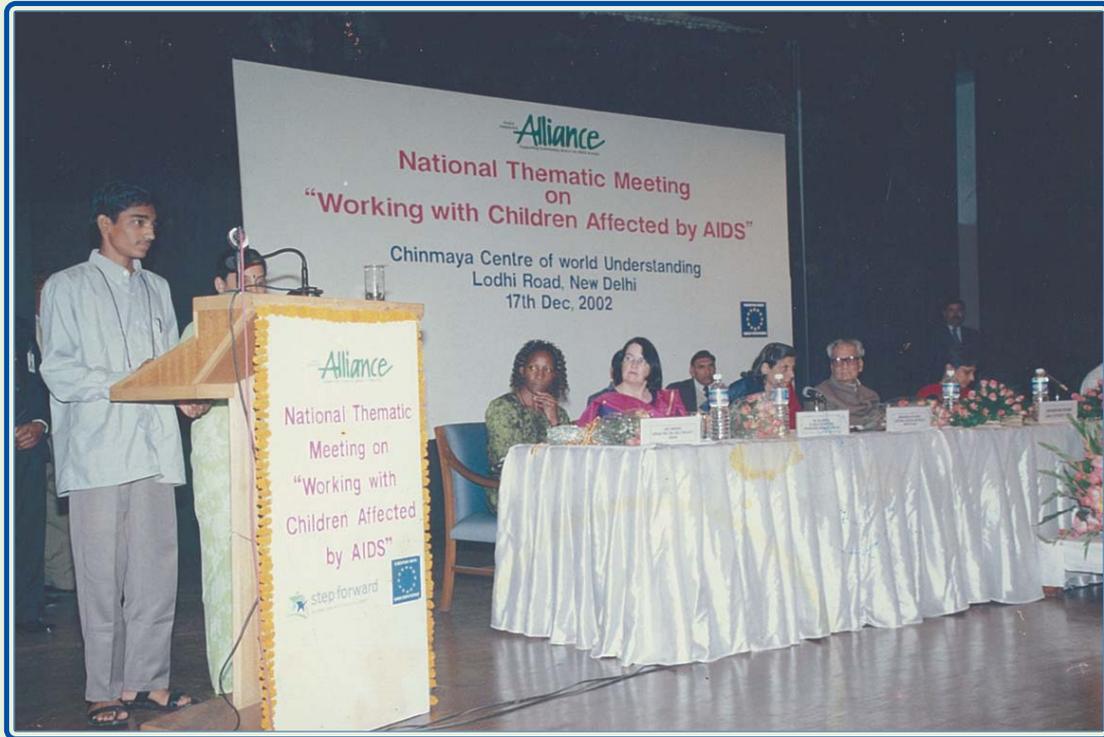
- ◆ High levels of stigma and discrimination at family, community and service provider levels.
- ◆ Changes in family dynamics due to sickness and death of adults / children in the family leading to disruption and separation.
- ◆ Physical inability due to sickness of HIV affected persons face the problem of reduced economic position and losing social status.
- ◆ Medical expenditure increased due to non availability of treatment at public health sector resulting in the financial collapse of the family.
- ◆ The affects of HIV on the families is very visible in health, nutrition, education and livelihood.
- ◆ Orphaning of children leading to migration, sibling separation, dropping out of the school, trauma, and lack of care in the extended families, identity crisis, and child labour increased along with abuse and child marriages.
- ◆ In early 2000, there is lack of services in public sector to address the needs of HIV affected families.

### **Values of working with Children affected by AIDS**

Women and children are most vulnerable to the impact of HIV due to gender inequality and socio cultural factors. As a part of HCBCS programme, VMM with network of NGOs had conducted a State level workshop on children affected by AIDS in March 2002 on CAA rights versus value based approach. 10 Values of working with Children affected by AIDS had been developed and followed.

#### **Ten Values of Working with Children Affected by HIV and AIDS**

1. Children have the right to “confidentiality” and hence it needs to be protected and respected.
2. Children have “likes and dislikes” and hence they need to be understood and respected.
3. Children should not be “discriminated” based on age, sex; behavioural, socio-economic, psychological and health background, and hence should be treated equally.
4. Children have “curiosity and aspirations” that differ from child to child and hence they need to be inspired and guided.
5. All children have “potential, abilities and skills” and hence they need to be developed.
6. Children’s “self-esteem” is very fragile and hence they need to be handled with care and respect to be built-up.
7. Children have “right to freedom” and hence should not be suppressed and they should be guided as to what is good and what is bad.
8. Children have “emotional needs and feelings” and hence they need to be understood and rightly interpreted and provided.
9. The needs of children affected by AIDS such as love and affection need to be “responded to within the community” rather than through institutions for sustainability.
10. Children are having the ability to “take decisions” hence they need to be given opportunities.



2002: On 17<sup>th</sup> December, Madusudan, a child affected by AIDS, delivering a key note address on issues and concerns of children at National thematic meeting on working with children affected by AIDS at New Delhi.

2010: On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Prabhakar, Secretary, Children Leadership Development Association (promoted by VMM), presenting on reducing stigma and discrimination through child centric community driven approaches



2010: Sri Peeyush Kumar, IAS, Collector inaugurating Children Affected By AIDS (CABA) pilot scheme in Krishna District with other Government Departments and District AIDS Prevention Control Unit.

2010: Sensitisation of police personnel on the issues of women and children and strategies of VMM in dealing with the challenges as a curriculum in the Police Academy.



2005: On 1<sup>st</sup> December, Sri. Jawahar Reddy, IAS, District Magistrate and Collector, East Godavari, with other district officials in a breakfast meet with people living with HIV including children to reduce the stigma and discrimination organized by St. Pauls Trust, VMM partner.

2010: On 8<sup>th</sup> February, Sri. K. Chandramouli, IAS, Secretary & Director General, National AIDS Control Organisation interacting with children support group during visit to VMM



2003: Children learning care giving and self care from Master Meroz, child mentor, showing successful child to child learning.

2008: November, The mobile Integrated Counseling and Testing Center conducting HIV counseling and testing for women and children at Urban Health center, Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada

## BEST PRACTICES

### Support Groups

‘Support group’ is an innovative community led intervention since 2003. This has impacted the communities by sustaining the programme through owning. The community structures and the reach are:

Community structures	# of groups	Members in Groups		Total
		Male	Female	
Adult support group	289	1185	2593	4067
Grannies clubs	76	217	725	942
Children support group	261	2604	2660	5264
School support groups	116	960	962	1922
Prerana Friends clubs	17	146	109	255
<b>Total</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>5112</b>	<b>7049</b>	<b>12920</b>

#### Adult support groups

These groups were initiated in 2003 by VMM implementation programme. These groups involve people from the neighbourhood communities like opinion forming leaders, women leaders and other key persons along with people living with HIV and affected with HIV. They meet fortnightly once; discuss the issues and strategies to address. The group maintains minutes of the proceedings. The support groups mobilize the communities, provide emotional support, bereavement counseling, referral to appropriate facility centres, promote HIV testing, work as a pressure group for reduction of stigma and discrimination within their own community. This model is being replicated throughout Andhra Pradesh in the network of VMM at community level. Even after exit of the programme since 2008 the support groups are continuing to address the needs of the people living with HIV and their families in 375 villages and 125 urban slums.

#### Grannies clubs

The issue of orphaning and mutual dependency of grandparents and their grandchildren, demanded for an innovative approach to cope with the circumstances. So implementation programme of VMM in Vijayawada initiated Grannies clubs in 2004 as a pilot intervention with 30 grannies. This club is providing them a platform to ventilate their feelings and discuss the difficulties in taking care of small children, their sickness and share their life experiences. They are DOTS providers and ambassadors of HIV and TB in the community. Referrals to facility centers increased from grannies clubs and they have a productive and positive role in the programme.

#### Children support groups

These groups are formed with children from HIV affected families and children from non HIV families in the neighbourhood in the year 2003 by VMM implementation programme in Vijayawada. These groups are initially promoted for peer support in helping the child to reduce psychological trauma and isolation. Gradually these groups became source of knowledge and have taken up referrals to health facility, community resource mobilization and sharing their knowledge on HIV to the community to reduce the myths on HIV transmission. In the phase over communities these children support groups are vibrant and work for their own communities in addressing the issues of children.

## **School Support Groups**

To reduce stigma in schools and to increase the retention of children living with / affected by HIV, 'school support groups' were formed since 2005. Each school support group is formed with 20 students (of 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> class) from HIV affected and non HIV affected families and two school teachers. They meet monthly once. This is a platform for advocacy and knowledge building. If a CLHA could not attend to school due to sickness the support group members represent school management and support the child in education once he/she is back to school. In 2002 VMM represented to APSACS on stigma at schools that is addressed by government of AP by issuing an order 'allowing CAA and CLHA to study in schools without discrimination'. The support groups have brought visibility for Government order for execution in schools. The empathy of the classmates has created a stigma free environment for CLHA and CAA in the schools that increased retention and better performance in academics. The members of school support groups are sparing their vacations by going to unreached villages and giving knowledge on HIV. This has impact in reducing stigma and increased HIV testing and institutional deliveries.

## **Prerana Friends Clubs**

VMM has initiated a pilot intervention, "Prerana Friends Club" with CLHA and their caregivers at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, in January 2007. The VMM HCBCS programme organised a picnic for CLHA. One child reflected "Why don't we meet every month like this?" This question was inspiration for VMM to facilitate "Prerana". PRERANA means inspiration. It aims at improving the quality of life of children living with HIV and AIDS by providing preventive, promotive, therapeutic, rehabilitative, long-term maintenance and palliative care through HCBCS in the urban slums of Vijayawada that increases the adherence to treatment. Through Prerana clubs there is increased adherence from 67% to 98% that led to the wellbeing of the child. This model was replicated by formation of Prerana adherence groups across AP.

## **Community based organisations (CBO)**

VMM facilitated five community based organisations: two with people living with HIV: Coastal Network of HIV Positives (CNP+) in collaboration with St Paul's Trust in East Godavari District (2002), Alambana Positive network in collaboration with AIRTDS in Tenali mandal of Guntur district (2003); two CBOs with street youth in Vijayawada: 'Samatha' and 'Ikyatha' (2004-05); one CBO with orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)- Children Leadership Development Association (2007).

## **Children Leadership Development Association (CLDA) - OVC network**

CLDA provides social protection, improves quality of life of children affected by AIDS, Children living on streets, Children of trafficking and other vulnerable children by creating an enabling environment within their own communities. During the participatory community review, children support groups in VMM HCBCS programme expressed the importance of a network for vulnerable children in 2005. It was registered in October 2007 with five vulnerable children on the board and another 17 OVC as associate members (those who are below 18 years). The main activities of CLDA are to train children in life skills, child rights and property rights, advocacy with different stake holders on children's issues for social protection, to take up programs to address the needs of children.



2005: Participatory cultural show by children in disseminating the knowledge on issues of HIV and children.

2005: Launching of AASHA Programme (AIDS Awareness, Sustainable and Holistic Action) by a child living with HIV at Vijayawada



2003: Programme Advisory Committee meeting of Home/Community Based HIV/AIDS Care and Support programme, organized by VMM at Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) presided by Mrs. K. Damayanthi, Project Director, APSACS. The mainstreaming of HIV services by involving the representatives from donors, international NGOs, government functionaries and partner NGOs.

2004: Dr. Deeksha, Medical Director, VMM, interacting with women from adult support groups at Urban Health Center, Prakash Nagar, Vijayawada, on availability and accessibility of services for people living with HIV



2002: On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, VMM reinstated 'sarvodaya' attitude among the women from self help groups by contributing fistful of rice for the needy that became a community driven model.

2003: In August, VMM with AIRTDS, partner NGO, initiated innovative intervention of foster care in Home/Community Based HIV/AIDS Care and Support programme at Tenali.

2003 : Nutrition Education through demonstration with low cost locally available resources.



### **Chennupati Vidya with**

1979 : Smt Indira Gandhi

1980 : Mother Theresa

1989 : Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao - Minister of HRD, Government of India

1995 : Sri Krishnakanth - Governor of Andhra Pradesh

2005 : Sri Sushil Kumar Shinde - Governor of Andhra Pradesh

2005 : Kum. Nirmala Deshpande - National President, Harijan Sevak Sangh

## **Foster Care for Social Protection**

Foster care is one of the best approaches to provide social protection to AIDS Orphans in a family atmosphere. In 2003, VMM with the support of Alambana positive network, supported by AIRTDS, Tenali, interacted with women's self help groups, community key persons, faith based leaders and adult support groups and initiated the idea of community foster care for orphans. After series of discussions, the community agreed to provide the foster care to 47 orphan children irrespective of caste, creed, colour and religion by the community. Initially it was started by one family and extended by 26 families in Tenali monitored by AIRTDS. Many children completed their 12<sup>th</sup> standard, professional courses and settled in their lives. Simultaneously VMM advocated with government for formalisation of foster care and support to the foster families.

## **Children's Village**

Children's Village is a transit home for children in Jeopardy in a homely atmosphere. During the Child Centric HCBCS programme review meet, in 2004, children expressed that they require a transit home that reduces their insecurity. Hence the concerns of the children were taken and shaped into a model as Children's village that is a pilot project taken up by VMM initiated in April 2008. This concept is shared with Abbott Fund and supported 25 children with five foster mothers. Children's Village provides temporary shelter to children, with social protection, food, and recreation, education to formal government schools and life skill education. VMM team sensitizes the relatives, communities to mainstream the children with their own families.

## **Community Advisory Boards (CABs)**

Currently HIV/AIDS programmes are focusing on testing/treatment cascades, but there are certain issues in communities that need to be addressed. The issues are nutrition, education, social protection, alternative care and rights of children. CABs are strong community structures in Balasahyoga Programme of VMM supported by FHI, Care India and Clinton Foundation in Andhra Pradesh. VMM promoted and strengthened 127 CABs as bridge between communities and other stakeholders. The aim is to create social protection for Children affected by AIDS, by acting as pressure group. The CAB consists of 8-10 Key influencers from different walks of life; religious leaders, community leaders, representatives of government and non government organisations. CAB acts as Mandal welfare committee to ensure basic services like legal rights, education, health, social protection, government schemes and Create demand for services and improve social acceptance, to address issues of Children living with HIV and involvement in policy making, advocacy initiatives at state level.

## **Child mentoring**

The child to child approach is very successful in dealing with the trauma of the child. And the qualities of the child mentor is setting an appropriate example, dedicating quality time for listening, and developing a fundamental sense of trust. Hence in HCBCS programme, VMM has developed about 10-15 child mentors who made a difference in the lives of the vulnerable children. Three sisters are sparing a couple of hours every day evening hearing to the problems of children in their vicinity and providing supplementary education to 30 CAA. These sisters are motivated by VMM's study cum recreation center where they are accessing the services like skill development, library and life skills. They are providing the needed guidance and support to the vulnerable children and mentoring their lives. Another Three children studying in an affluent school have been motivated by HCBCS activities and started sensitizing their own classmates and mobilizing the articles like used watches, pens, books and guides and giving it to VMM. VMM involved these child mentors in conducting various competitions for children at the community level. One child mentor became a trainer in peer education and life skills. These are only a few examples, which have inspired one of the TV channels, and they have recorded and telecast the exemplary work of children as mentors in HIV/AIDS programmes.

## **Initiatives of VMM in addressing Corporate Social responsibility (CSR)**

VMM is providing technical support on inclusion of HIV/AIDS into the existing activities in corporate offices as corporate social responsibility. The reasons for inclusion of working with corporate are the high prevalence of HIV in the state among general population and the impact of HIV on skilled manpower and on the National economy. Hence VMM has initiated working with corporate to include HIV programme in designing projects and educating supplier and customer channel. Indian Tobacco Leaf Company (ITC & ILTD) based at Chirala of Prakasam district and Ramco cements, Jayanthipuram, Jaggaiahpet mandal of Krishna district directly initiated community-based activities where some employees of the particular corporate are actively involved in planning, community outreach and monitoring. VMM provided support by participating in strategic planning, developing information, education and communication material, review and redesigning.

VMM has initiated a project with KCP Ltd, a sugar manufacturing unit at Vuyyuru of Krishna district. With the joint initiative of VMM and KCP a HIV testing centre was established in 2004 and was mainstreamed with APSACS in 2007. This is the first testing unit promoted under Public private partnership rolled out by APSACS, with the advocacy of VMM, as combined units of voluntary counselling and testing unit (VCTC) and Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT). KCP has initiated home and community based care and support programme by involving the employees and community persons. Even after the project with VMM in 2007, the corporate continue to support the children living with HIV and adults by providing nutritious food.

### **Picturing Hope**

Vasavya Mahila Mandali undertook a new initiative with the support from Abbott Laboratories, USA through which 14 Orphan and vulnerable Children (OVC) are trained in photography. A photo safari project, for the children affected by HIV/AIDS is launched in 5 countries Romania, Tanzania, Bokinafaso, Mexico and India. This project is aimed to provide a photographic story of the lives of orphans and vulnerable children as seen through their eyes.

The pictures taken by the children were exhibited in Delhi, Chicago and New York and four children attended the exhibitions in USA thrice. It has given them a chance to understand the opportunities they have. The children have expressed and documented their desires, hopes, dreams, pains and impressions in the Journals provided which are exhibited at International AIDS conference held at Bangkok in 2004. Revathi, Ramu and Manjula participated in the National and international media conferences held in 2004, 2005 and 2006 at New Delhi, Washington DC, Chicago and New York. Meroz, child mentor has provided interpretation.

*“These children live with hope...hope for another day, hope for another chance. What they can tell us is powerful. What they can see is amazing. What they can share with us will touch us.”*

### **Community Mobilisation**

**Sarvodaya:** Women self Help Groups (SHGs) are strengthened and networked in Andhra Pradesh since last one decade and empowered women in thrift and micro credit for economic development. Sanghamitra Service Society, partner of VMM is working with the SHGs. Keeping in view the strengths of SHGs in addressing socio economic issues; VMM provided technical and financial support for inclusion of HIV into the agenda of SHGs. The initiative of Self Help Groups led to “Sarvodaya”, since 02 October 2002. Each member contributes a handful of rice everyday and the rice is collected and distributed to the HIV affected families fortnightly. This lead to reduced stigma for the families and the health of the affected families improved. The community learned to accept the HIV affected families.



2009 : In October, the disaster management medical and paramedical team reaching to flood affected areas by Health on Wheels and by army boat



2004: School Support Group, a good initiative of VMM's community driven approach for reduction of stigma and discrimination in schools.

2008: Learning center for children in the communities supporting their education.

2008: Promotion of scientific temper among children support group members through participation in science fair by exhibiting 'hanging bridge'

2008: VMM organising Birthday celebrations of children every month to reduce their trauma.

### **“My confidence increased with the support of SHGs”**

Bhadramma 45, widow, resides in Chillakallu village and her meager earnings through fruit vending are not enough to meet her needs. So she increased her income by adopting to sex work. She is living with HIV and sickness. She shared this with one SHG member and the women group provided her with peer counseling, food from the Sarvodaya initiative and accompanied her to hospital for treatment. Bhadramma’s health improved and she feels very hopeful of her future life.

Sarvodaya has been replicated in all other areas of NGOs. The food and materials collected from the community are valued. NGOs are informing the materials provided from them to whom it is benefited so social accountability is also seen in the process.

### **Sponsorship of Lecturers of Siddhartha women’s College**

A leading autonomous college in Vijayawada has been sensitized by VMM. 20 staff came forward to support 20 orphan children till they complete their 10<sup>th</sup> Standard. One girl is studying eleventh standard in the same college with the support of Mrs. Himabindu, a lecturer. This has given a scope for expanding VMM initiatives in educational institutions across coastal A.P, through the replication of this model by all partners.

### **Taking the responsibility of HIV families in their slum**

To address the food insecurity in HIV affected families, 200 households in Vambay colony, a relocated slum of Vijayawada, donated one kilo of rice and fifty grams of dal every month and distributed the same to needy in the community after discussion in the adult support groups meetings.

### **Milk Bank**

VMM facilitated, in collaboration with REEDS INDIA, Kanchikacharla, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, the concept of ‘Milk Bank’ to address food insecurity in Children living with HIV in CHAHA programme. Milk collection centers were mobilized in villages. Each center procures 450-500 liters per day. To measure fat in milk, sample is taken and that sample milk is around 4-5 liters. CHAHA team interacted with 48 milk collection centers and enlightened them on malnourishment among children living with HIV. After a series of meetings, 65% accepted to provide 200 to 250 milliliters’ milk per child every day from samples collected. Child or caregivers are linked to centers to collect milk daily. Caregivers are able to provide milk to children. After boiling, they enrich the milk with *raagi* flour (millet), prepare a sweet dish and many more delicacies were prepared to make the child take milk. Now six liters of milk is being distributed to 28 children every day.

### **Increased Accessibility to HIV Testing through Mobile ICTC**

Mobile HIV Integrated counseling and testing facility of VMM increased accessibility to testing in unreached areas like tribal/ remote rural areas, migrants, women and children in Krishna and West Godavari districts. The mobile unit reaches the area during their convenient time and sensitises the local self-governance members for visibility and to reduce stigma and discrimination. Local self-governments promote the testing by announcing with drums. In 22 months MICTCs tested 19340 men, 5774 women, 2723 antenatal women and 504 children. The testing and reporting on the same day reduced trauma and referrals during post test counseling are linked with the local resources. HIV positive women linked to sensitized village leaders for services; widow pensions, food security, housing and livelihoods.

## **Life Skills Education**

VMM identified the gap of lack of life skills among the children due to sickness / death of parents in HIV affected families. So life skills education was initiated from 2001, the beginning of the HIV programmes on Peer pressure, Leadership, Communication skills, Reproductive health , Learning about their own body, Coping skills, Drug abuse, Child abuse and Sexual abuse. This training is imparted to all children/school support groups and non school going adolescent girls and boys separately. The impact of the trainings was that the children aimed high with the goal setting, planning, aware of abuse, became leaders in the school and community, able to deal with the problems in their families, and were aware of themselves by resisting peer pressure.

## **Inclusion of HIV in Local self governments**

As part of VMM's community capacity-building efforts, two of VMM's implementing NGO partners, AIRTDS and SHADOWS, in 2003 have been challenging the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS. SHADOWS increased the awareness in a number of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in Solomon Village, Prakasam District Andhra Pradesh, who then became volunteer advocates themselves. These volunteers relentlessly went on to convince the Solomon Gram Panchayat of the seriousness of HIV/AIDS discrimination, and they responded by discussing the issue in their regular meetings. As a result, the whole village has become more informed about HIV/AIDS and has passed an anti-discrimination resolution.

This community action for PLHIV was replicated in fourteen village panchayats and one urban municipality in Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh with advocacy of YCB in VMM – CHAHA programme in the year 2010. *Village Panchayat passed the resolution unanimously: "PLHIV identified at present and in future will be given priority in accessing the government services to provide social security. It is resolved not to show stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV and their families. People of this village should respect this resolution".*

## **Community Vigilance Committees addressing Trafficking**

VMM initiated the formation and strengthening of 'Vigilance Committees' to curb trafficking of girls and women in East Godavari district through SASS, a partner to VMM, as per the circular issued by the Andhra Pradesh State Government in 2003. The members are ward member/ MPTC / ZPTC, teacher, Anganwadi worker, SHG, Mothers, Youth, Adolescent girls, police, media, advocate, victim, Ashamitra and Education volunteer. Vigilance committee meets every month with all members. Strategies are developed and the phone numbers of key persons are available with all the members for immediate action. The minutes of the meeting are maintained. The names and photographs of known traffickers are displayed at the village panchayat office. The committee is responsible for addressing trafficking. The vulnerable people are informed about the perils of trafficking. The vigilance committees were instrumental for reduction of trafficking in those villages. And so, after the programme phased out of the area, the District Collector has given instructions to district authorities to continue supporting the vigilance committees. The VMM, in collaboration with district Women development and Child welfare department, printed a booklet on vigilance committees and the same was distributed throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh.

## **Mainstreaming of Children Affected By AIDS at District level**

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) initiated pilot scheme for mainstreaming of Children Affected By AIDS (CABA). This is chaired by the District Magistrate and Collector, Krishna with District AIDS Prevention and Care Unit and VMM as District Coordination Action Agency. The aim of accessing different services by Children affected by HIV/AIDS through coordinating and establishing linkages within Government and Non-government sectors is achieved. 495 children



2007 : Dr. Maru, medical team of VMM, promoting Rubella vaccine for adolescent girls in the communities and government schools

2009 : Multi Purpose Health Worker trainees of VMM promoting Polio Immunisation during polio week at Pandit Nehru bus station, Vijayawada



2007 : Grandmothers with the children in children's village  
2010 : Adult support group members sharing a light moment

included in double ration in Integrated Child Development Scheme, prevention with Cotrimoxazole for 125; SAHARA cards were issued to 42 children living with HIV accessing Ante Retro Viral therapy at ART center. For livelihoods support; SC Corporation supported 112; BC Corporation 80, ST Corporation 32 CABA families are supported. It is a role model for other programmes and many other state representatives are visiting the project. It is challenging to link various departments and to develop data of Children Affected by AIDS at district level.

### **Sustainable Model for Addressing Food Security**

VMM through Balasahyoga programme is addressing the food security by providing support to kitchen gardens, grain banks, and microenterprises. The intervention is implemented by the partners of VMM; APPLE network of positives, a CBO, DLC, a NGO in West Godavari and NATURE, a NGO in Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh. By October, 2010, 1466 households were supported for kitchen gardens, 790 households are linked with grain banks, 1043 households are provided support to take up micro enterprise, 125 households were supported to take up agriculture demo-plots and 6300 households are accessible to public food security facility.

A visible positive impact was seen in their economic status with improved status of living and food intake that reflected on their health. They are enjoying the vegetables and also getting income by marketing them. The support for microenterprises improved not only their economic status but also their social status with reduced stigma. The demo plots with different multiple crops are an effective model to reinstate the people in the community.

### **Job placement for Street Youth**

Saraswathi Gora Youth Centre is a platform for street and vulnerable youth giving shelter and job placements. As the youth center is located in Autonagar, the largest automotive hub, was established in Vijayawada in 2008 by Vasavya Mahila Mandali with the support of Abbott fund, USA. The outreach staff placed 43 youth in jobs through linkages. Many youth are unskilled and so driving training is provided and many are self supported through driving. The earnings range from rupees 2500 to 3500 per month. Y.Nagaraju, 19 years, joined in VMM Mobile ICTC (Mee Nestham) as attendant with a salary of 3500 per month and Mr. Suresh 19 years, joined the VMM Mobile ICTC (Mee Nestham) as Lab technician with a salary of 6500 per month. One person is working as a security person in an industry and the success stories goes on.

Strong linkages with Kranthi Transport Office, Autonagar shed owners , Lanco I- Lead, LG Godown, Kanuru , Navata Road Transport, Kanuru, LINERS INDIA (Venkateswara Engineering works) , Better Casting works; are creating avenues for youth to settle in their lives.

### **Mother and In-laws groups for increasing treatment seeking behaviour among girls / women**

VMM developed strategies to sensitise the mothers and mothers-in-law on girl child birth, sexual reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, importance of institutional deliveries, and antenatal and postnatal care. The usual practice of blaming daughter-in-law for HIV or girl child birth was dealt in the sessions. The sensitised mothers-in-law started to take care of their daughter in laws. As police, faith based leaders and political leaders were involved in the meetings domestic violence reduced. They also felt the need for open discussions on inequalities in the communities like gender, caste and religion. The group worked vigorously to reduce domestic violence in their slums/villages.

### **Community Participation in promotion of Mosquito Nets**

VMM implemented Krishna Community Health Interventions Programme (KRISCHIP) on five diseases; HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Leprosy and Filaria. To reduce the prevalence of Malaria in 2,07,844 population in Vijayawada, 58,000 impregnated mosquito nets were distributed in slums.

Priority was given to antenatal and postnatal women, children/adults living with HIV and people with any sickness. 20 households were identified and one pool leader was selected to impregnate their nets during distribution. Each person contributed twenty five rupees for the net, so care was taken to protect the nets. The incidence of Malaria reduced considerably and occurrence of fevers also reduced. This reduced the medical expenses of the family. District Malaria department and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation extended their support in the distribution to VMM and Lepa Society.

### **Increased Institutional Deliveries through outreach**

VMM identifies antenatal and postnatal women in 'Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV' and counsel them to attend the antenatal clinics regularly. Immunization, iron supplementation and HIV screening for all antenatal women is promoted. Counseling on institutional deliveries for all and Nevirapine protection is being promoted to all. This reduced parent to child transmission of HIV to 0.8% from 2.2%

### **Health on Wheels – a Comprehensive Mobile Health Care Unit**

VMM is organizing a mobile health care unit – 'Health on Wheels' that reaches people living with HIV, STI and tuberculosis in their own communities to improve their standard of life with quality medical care. The medicines for opportunistic infections are provided with supplementary medicines like vitamins and preventive medicines like Cotrimoxazole. In the mornings the medical unit works and in the afternoons children in the schools are reached through film shows and meetings. In the evenings film shows are organized in the community to disseminate the knowledge on HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria and other communicable diseases. This mobile unit is equipped with laboratory facilities and basic investigations are done. The mobile unit is identified as ninth Malaria Testing unit of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. The mobile unit reached the remote areas during natural disasters like floods in Krishna district and the services are appreciated by the district authorities and Army personnel who helped during disaster. A comprehensive health care is provided with the mobile health care unit of VMM.

### **Human Resource Development**

VMM gives priority to Human Resource Development across all programmes and also is a resource unit for NGOs and government of Andhra Pradesh in the state.

- ❖ VMM has '**Knowledge Management Club**' that meets every Saturday afternoon to enrich the knowledge of the staff of VMM apart from regular trainings at programme level.
- ❖ VMM capacitated the outreach workers and coordinators of PPTCT programmes of APSACS as a nodal Agency. Information, Education and communication material was distributed to all the staff of PPTCT.
- ❖ VMM trained the outreach staff of Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative programme and counsellors of Balasahyog Programmes in counselling and management of children living with HIV and AIDS.
- ❖ VMM initiated a '**Technical Resource unit**' that takes up capacity building, proposal development, strategic planning, documentation and research. The resource persons are highly qualified and experienced who are drawn from different fields like medical, social, technical , outreach and beneficiaries.



2002: Imparting life skills education for adolescent girls at communities.

2002: Children prioritising their needs during participatory community review for Home/Community Based HIV/AIDS Care and Support programme in Chilakaluripeta, facilitated by NEEDS serving society, VMM partner.

2004: Baby Manjula, Child affected by AIDS with Keerthi, attended the Picturing Hope exhibition, a project to capture the issues through the eyes of children by photos at Abbott Park, Chicago, USA.

2010: Signature campaign for reducing stigma and discrimination at schools during the implementation of right to education, organised by VMM and Center for Advocacy and Research.



2003: Economic rehabilitation of HIV affected family through microenterprises in Chirala, supported by Mahila Mandali, VMM partner.

2004: Ms. Kristin Bryhni, Chairman, HAMU, interacting with secondary victims of torture at Sitanagaram village, a ex criminal settlement area, Guntur district on the socio-economic situation of the families.

2005: Kalamkari (vegetable dye printing) textile printing by women in Vasavya Rural Women Empowerment Center, Vemavaram, Vijayawada Rural Mandal that scaled up at Kattevaram village, Tenali managed by AIRTDS, VMM partner.

2008: Fabric Painting training to rural women supported by HAMU, Norway

## **Presentations in International and National Forums**

VMM's best practices and innovations were presented in various national and international forums such as: National HIV/AIDS Conference, Mumbai in November 2004, National consultation on nutritional security and the prevention, treatment and mitigation of HIV and AIDS and TB by UN World Food Programme November 2004, Global Health International conference, Washington DC in May 2005, National Pediatric AIDS Conference New Delhi December 2010,

## **VMM Participation in National and International conferences, Seminars and workshops**

1. Presentation in Global Health Council International Conference in May 2005 at Washington DC on "Home and Community Based care and support with child centric Approach: India a case study".
2. Participated in Global health Council International Conference in May 2008 at Washington DC.
3. Presented on "Gender Friendly Work Place Policies in South Central Railway, Vijayawada Division. Help to Attract and Retain Women Employees: a case study" at Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmadabad, India, International case study competition on gender Inclusivity and New paradigms November 14-15, 2009.
4. "Women, Girls, Gender- HIV in Andhra Pradesh (AP) compilation of the articles presented in the National seminar on Gender and Development 10-11 August 2009, published by Dr.B.R.Ambedkar University, Srikakulam and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, India.
5. International PRA workshop, September 2002 organized by PRAXIS India at Hyderabad (15 days course)
6. Training in Organizational Development (Asia Region), IRCT, Denmark in 2002 and 2003 held in Nepal and Sri Lanka
7. Participated in Asia Regional Consultation on NGO support program in HIV/AIDS held at Manila Philippines, organized by International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK
8. Trained on Technical Support to Global Funded programmes, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK in February 2009
9. Executive Development Programme: Public Private Partnership at INSEAD, International Business School, France in March 2009 (First Module) and April 2010 (Second Module)
10. Participated in "Regional strengthening" –Asia region workshop on Documentation skills-Hurodo system of documentation at Kathmandu, NEPAL 2002
11. Participated in regional strengthening –Asia region workshop on Rehabilitation and Advocacy at Colombo, Sri Lanka.2003
12. Presented a paper on "Success of support groups in home based care for people living with HIV/AIDS" in International conference on HIV/AIDS at Mumbai.2003
13. Presented a paper on Human Rights in the Asia regional workshop at Bangladesh, 2008
14. Trained on Financial management at India HIV/AIDS Alliance at New Delhi July 2007
15. Counselling training program conducted by Technical Resource Unit, APSACS 2003
16. Peer education Training conducted by Technical Resouce Unit, APSACS, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh 2005

17. Behaviour Change and Communication training conducted by Technical Resource Unit, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh 2004
18. Documentation and Communication skills in HIV/AIDS, conducted by Jyothi Welfare Society and SAATHI, Vijayawada in 2003.
19. National Workshop on CAT (Capacities Analysis Tool), conducted by international HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK and Vasavya Mahila Mandali in 2003
20. National TOT on Advocacy, conducted by Essential Advocacy Project, Futures Group, New Delhi 2006
21. State level TOT on Life Skills Education conducted by Plan India at Araku 2008
22. State TOT on "School AIDS Education Programme for school children" conducted by Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), Hyderabad with collaboration of APSACS in 2004
23. Presentation given in National conference on role of social work institutions organizations in present scenario. And presented a paper on "Need of Support groups in Home / Community based HIV/AIDS Care and support program, Conducted by College of Social Work, Maris Stella College, Vijayawada 2005
24. International AIDS Conference, Focal Theme: Strategies and Challenges for AIDS Management conducted by Academic Committee, M.G. Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi, INDIA. 2007
25. National workshop on Psycho social support and Counseling at NIMHANS, Bangalore
26. National training programme on Stepping Stones organised by Action AID at Bangalore in October 2009
27. Participated in state level workshop conducted by HLPPT on proposal development for Migrants in 2008
28. Participated in Byrraju Foundation National Seminar on Community Involvement 2008
29. Participated in survey conducted NACO on Evaluation of Multi Media Campaign by department of Communication Research.
30. Participated in National level documentation workshop at Mettupalem, TN organized by India HIV/AIDS Alliance June 2009
31. Participated in National level Software training on MIS of CHAHA programme at Hyderabad, organized by India HIV/AIDS Alliance in 2009.
32. Participated and documented the National level workshop on Prevention, Care and rehabilitation of victims of custodial torture, organized by Vasavya Mahila Mandali and SOSRAC January 2010
33. National Consultation on gender Based violence in Public Places organised by CEQUIN, UNDP, National commission for Women January 19th, 2010
34. National workshop on Child Counselling organised by Engender Health, KHPT and Clinton Foundation, April 2010.
35. Participated in the state level ToT for facilitators of Integrated Child Protection scheme. May 24-25, 2010
36. Presented a paper in National conference on "Women and Legal rights" on 01 May 2010 at Rajghat, New Delhi organized by Akhila Bharat Rachanatmak Samaj.

37. National consultation on Universal access organised by UNAIDS June 29th, 2010 at New Delhi
38. National workshop on Techniques of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) organised by NIPCCID at Bangalore in March 2008
39. Participated in State Level Consultation on Right to Food organised by CARE Andhra Pradesh, Inter-Agency Group – A.P., and Sphere India on July 15, 2010.

## **RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION**

### **Technical Support / Publications**

1. Prevention of Parent to child transmission (PPTCT): a booklet for community outreach workers (2002)
2. Nutrition in Home and community based HIV/AIDS care and support in Andhra Pradesh, Nutrition in the Fight against HIV and AIDS, selected papers from the National consultation on nutritional security and the prevention, treatment and mitigation of HIV and AIDS and TB publication by UN World Food Programme (2004)
3. Study conducted for The World Bank on AIDS Orphans in Andhra Pradesh. Published titled “Moving Forward” published by Vasavya Mahila Mandali and International HIV/AIDS Alliance UK (2004)
4. HIV/AIDS- counseling- A book on counseling skills (2005)
5. HIV/AIDS- Confidentiality- A booklet for providing information to NGOs, community volunteers and other stakeholders.(2005)
6. Good food for good health- Nutrition education with 100 recipes- A book on nutrition with values and recipes.(2005)
7. Chigurinche Ashalu- voices of children- A publication of Children voices (2005)
8. Psychosocial support to children (CAA) of 6-12 years- A training manual on psychosocial support to children affected by HIV/AIDS, developed with the technical support of NIMHANS (2005)
9. Document of Krishna community health interventions- Includes the information on awareness programmes for enhancing the community health on TB, HIV/AIDS, Leprosy, Malaria, Filaria (2006)
10. HIV and child: A Leaflet developed by VMM and WHO Country office for NACO (2006)
11. ART and Child: A Leaflet developed by VMM and WHO Country office for NACO (2006)
12. “Voices of Women: Stories of women in vulnerability” published by Vasavya Mahila Mandali / International HIV/AIDS Alliance in India supported by DFID under Challenge Fund (2007)
13. “An Empirical Study of Street Children in Vijayawada Andhra Pradesh, India” Published by Vasavya Mahila Mandali supported by Education Development Centre Inc /Deutsche Bank (2007)
14. A Book let on Vigilance committees- Which includes the information on the Members of Vigilance committee, roles and responsibilities and the importance of Vigilance Committees

for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and trafficking. Developed by VMM and Women and Child welfare Department of Government of Andhra Pradesh(2007)

15. "Second Innings: A Pioneering Responses to Grannies affected by HIV/AIDS in Andhra Pradesh, India" Published by Vasavya Mahila Mandali supported by Abbott Fund, US. (2009)
16. "Women, Girls, Gender- HIV in Andhra Pradesh (AP)" National seminar on Gender and Development, published by Dr.B.R.Ambedkar University, Srikakulam and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, India. (2009)
17. HIV-TB confection: A booklet for providing information to NGOs, community volunteers and other stakeholders (2009)

## **Research Projects**

1. Study conducted on "Care and support for AIDS Orphans in Andhra Pradesh" commissioned by The World Bank, DC (2003).
2. Mapping of Health Care services for STI and HIV in coastal Andhra Pradesh (2003)
3. Improving the quality of Medical Services in coastal AP (2004)
4. Inclusion of home and community Based Care and support into the agenda of Women Self Help Groups (2004)
5. Study conducted titled "Positive Living: the impact of HIV/AIDS on women" published by Vasavya Mahila Mandali and International HIV/AIDS Alliance in India (2006)
6. "Situational analysis of injecting / oral drug users in Vijayawada" commissioned by UNODC (2006)
7. An empirical study of street children in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh- The impact of the various interventions and the improved life of the street children in Vijayawada (2007)
8. Study on "Assessment of double nutrition to Children Living with HIV and AIDS by the order issued by Government of Andhra Pradesh through Integrated Child Development Scheme by Government" (October 2009) for International HIV/AIDS alliance in India.
9. Evolution of Community Driven Approaches for care and support of Children Living with HIV/AIDS in Andhra Pradesh (2010)
10. "Assessing the vulnerabilities of children issues of inclusion in Krishna district" supported by UNICEF (2010)
11. Female Migrants: Situational analysis of migrants to Vijayawada: destination city" (2010)
12. Follow-up of community profiling of Guntur and Prakasam districts of A.P and social mapping of services and Facilities focussing on HIV and trafficking (2007).

## **Training Modules**

1. '**Stay Fit and feel good**'- a health guide for caregivers and volunteers: A community manual for psychosocial and physical care for PLHAs (2004)
2. '**Chitti Chilakamma**'- A guide for increasing children's participation through play way methods: A guide for people starting to work with orphans and vulnerable children with different energizers (2006)

3. **Child to child approaches-** A training manual for the child leaders in Public health issues (2006)
4. **Advocacy in Action:** A skills building tool kit (2006)
5. **Resource Mobilization:** A training manual for programme Managers (2006)
6. **Documentation and Communication:** A skills building tool kit (2006)
7. **“Paediatric Counselling Module”:** Facilitator and Participant manuals to train counsellors in facility centres in public health sector published by NACO with the technical support from World Health Organisation Country Office (2007)
8. **“Children support group Manual”:** Facilitator and Participant manuals to train community outreach workers, teachers and community level health workers (2009)
9. **Vasavya Cartoons-** Publication on cartoons designed by children on HIV/AIDS Stigma discrimination and Environment (2010)

### Play way Materials

1. **Snake and ladder board games** on Nutrition, Sanitation and Hygiene for children, Knowledge on HIV, Knowledge on HIV-TB Paediatric co infection, Adherence among children Living with HIV (2007)
2. **Child Friendly Adherence Calendar:** to use for children living with HIV on treatment to track adherence (2007)
3. **Bam Bam Virus** a story book for children living with HIV for disclosure (2007)
4. **Snake and Ladder board game** for migrant population on Knowledge on HIV-TB co infection (2010)



K. Chandra Mouli, IAS, Secretary and Director General, NACO releasing the publication ‘Second Innings’ and R.V. Chandravadan, IAS, Project Director, APSACS is seen

## **VMM Membership**

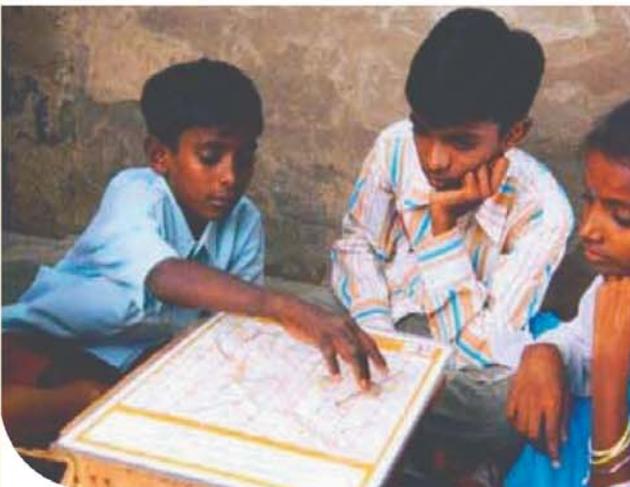
### **VMM is a Member of the following networks/ committees/associations**

1. VMM is a civil society member for the child rights and development constituency on the board of Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) of Global Fund, India.
2. Life Member, Women Power Connect and Focal Organisation for Andhra Pradesh.
3. Life Member, Eye Bank Association of India.
4. Accredited to international Rehabilitation center for torture (IRCT), Denmark.
5. Accredited to International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK.
6. Member, Voluntary Action Network in India (VANI).
7. Member, state level Women and Children Empowerment Society.
8. Member, Andhra Pradesh Child rights advocacy forum (APCRAF).
9. Member Voluntary Health Association of India, A.P.
10. Member steering committee of APSACS.
11. Member, State level trafficking committee for women and child development.
12. Member, Krishna forum for Women Rights.
13. Member, Red Cross Krishna District.
14. Member, District Tuberculosis Control Programme.
15. Co management agency for Juvenile Home, Vijayawada.
16. Member All India Radio Vijayawada.
17. Member, Committee for Prevention of sexual harassment against women, South Central Railway, Vijayawada Division.
18. Technical support agency to REAPS, railway women empowerment project.
19. Steering Committee Member, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) Department of Women Development and child Welfare, Krishna District.
20. District Coordination action agency, Krishna district to implement CABA programme.
21. Member NGO, District AIDS Prevention Control Unit (DAPCU), Krishna District.
22. Member, Krishna District trafficking committee.
23. Member, Ayurvedic college advisory board, Vijayawada.
24. Member, Traffic Advisory Committee, Vijayawada Police District.

## Key Highlights

- Improved HIV testing among children exposed to positive mothers from 137 to 2048 within 3 years (2006- 2009 ) in Andhra Pradesh-piloted a model in India.
- Reduced mortality among children living with HIV from 2.08 to 0.97% within 3 years.
- 104 social safety nets increased adherence to treatment among orphan children living HIV from 30 % to 98 % within three years evident in reduced morbidity with increased CD4 levels from 230 to 679 (on ART) and 320 to 428 (not on ART).
- Scaled up from 7 sites to 22 sites in Andhra Pradesh within three years.
- Evidence of child mortality among infants (below 18 months) born to HIV positive mothers led to advocacy for HIV testing through PCR.
- Increased compliance and adherence among parents living with HIV with improved treatment access behaviour.
- VMM experience in paediatric care and support were translated into development of a Paediatric Counselling module for National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) to train counsellors in child-friendly counselling.
- Advocacy with state government led to provision of concession to travel to ART centres in public transport.

- Children living with HIV being educated on self care and treatment adherence through Snake and Ladder board game.



## Basic Facts about the Initiative

- Country: India, Andhra Pradesh
- Title of the initiative: Paediatric AIDS Community-based Care and support Programme
- Implementing agency: Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM)
- Intended outcome and relevant MDG Goals: Improved life span among children living with HIV on treatment with 100% adherence. MDG goal 4 target 1: Reduce child mortality from 120 to 42 per 1000 live births.
- Target groups : Children Living with HIV and AIDS

## The Development Context

- The estimated number of children living with HIV and AIDS in India is 202,000 as per UNAIDS estimates. About 56,700 HIV infected children are born every year. Half of HIV positive children die undiagnosed before their second birthday as they are not tested by PCR test, which are expensive in private sector and just initiated in public health sector.
- HIV is multi folding vulnerability to poverty hence caregivers could not bear cost of medicines, travel and trauma due to morbidity and mortality of parents and reduced adherence levels leading to increased opportunistic infections. In 2006 HIV prevalence among Ante natal clinic attendees in Andhra Pradesh was around two per cent. With the 'political will' Asia's first paediatric HIV and AIDS treatment initiative spearheaded in India by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) with support of Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative that provided free child specific dosages of lifesaving antiretroviral (ARV) drugs.
- Under-Five mortality, going by the present trend, can come down to nearly 70 per 1000 live births by 2015 against the target of 26.67 per 1000 live births. Currently the status in Andhra Pradesh state is 63.2 in 2005-06 from 91.2 in 1992-93. However, the rate of decline is more pronounced in case of male as compared to female.
- Girl children are given less care for health, nutrition and education by families in a patriarchal society in India. Due to increased morbidity among the mothers living with HIV, they cannot take care of their children. Clinton Foundation through VMM has withdrawn the support for travel, nutrition and follow-up for treatment of children that made the poverty stricken families to invest on the health of the child living with HIV.

## Analysis of Success Factors

### What has worked and why?

- VMM outreach workers provided education, treatment and treatment adherence to community based support groups working with children living with HIV, children from HIV affected families and caregivers. This led to peer support for taking medicines and it also helped reduce stigma and discrimination.
- VMM workers accompanied orphan children and sick caregivers to ART centre for refilling of medication and bereavement counseling. They also promoted deliveries in institutions.
- Improved adherence with culturally acceptable age specific take home messages among low literate population in resource poor setting.
- Improved nutrition food habits led to reduced opportunistic infections in addition to medication.
- Improved supply of medicines at public ART centres led to continuity in medication.
- Sensitized health care professionals who provide timely services at testing and ART centres.
- VMM with communities developed nutrition recipes book in vernacular became popular.
- VMM has developed a close link of HIV and TB treatment as the co infection is about 40-60%.

### Challenges faced and overcome

- Stigma and discrimination at family and community level.
- PCR test for infants below 18 months is not available in the public sector for early identification of HIV to reduce deaths below 18 months.
- Lack of travel concessions by government for public road transport for child with caregivers.
- Intervention among children is different and rather difficult compared to the intervention methods among adults.

## Key Recommendations for Scaling Up

- Multiple levels of interventions involving all key actors in HIV/AIDS care, treatment, and counseling, with emphasis on child-friendly means of communications can yield visible impact.
- National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) needs to design child centric community-based care and support programmes to ensure continuity of adherence levels in existing five states and to scale up them across India.
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test for children below 18 months to be available at primary health centre (PHC) level in par with the existing scale up of ICTCs in India.
- Pediatric AIDS care should be mainstreamed into reproductive health and child care (RCH) so that child benefits from other health services as well.
- Pediatric HIV testing should be integrated into the existing Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) services where the mothers will be counseled for testing of their children below 5 years.
- All families should be provided with support to access Public Distribution System by availing ration cards and where eligible, Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards.
- Double nutrition provision for sick children needs to be strictly implemented through ICDS programme where the children living with HIV will get supplementary nutrition.
- Institutional deliveries need to be promoted from 53.6 per cent to above 90 per cent so that the children born to HIV positive mothers can be protected to reduce child mortality from HIV/AIDS.
- Travel concessions on public transport for people living with HIV (including children) and caregivers to travel to ART centres in Andhra Pradesh to be replicated in all states.

## Source

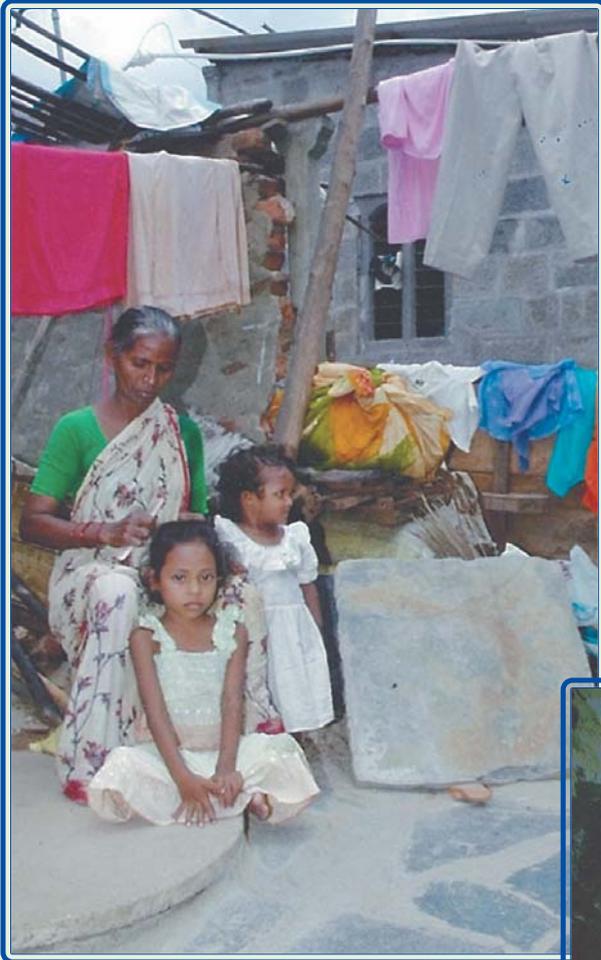


Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) is a women managed secular NGO established 40 years ago with the vision to promote comprehensive social, economic and political development for women and children in vulnerable situations, thereby empowering communities in Andhra Pradesh to improve their quality of life, and build a better India. VMM works for reduction of stigma and improving the quality of life through community mobilisation and reached to about 75000 children affected/living with HIV and 'gender' is cross cutting among all the interventions. Empowerment of the women in vulnerability is at forefront of VMM by improving their socio, economic status with dignity and self reliance. VMM has promoted Technical Resource unit to capacitate human resources on mother and child care.



2010: Ms Annie yeo, CSR, Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore, observing the 'happy memories' of a child living with HIV during the home visit. Dr. P. Deeksha, project Director, and caregiver are seen with the child.

2009: External evaluation of Education and knowledge building programme supported by DB. Dr. Gangaiah, interviewing the caregiver and child care guide of the programme.



2007: Grandmother taking care of orphaned grandchildren in the community  
Grannies club members enjoying the slide and ladder in their second innings.



1999: Car Driving training to street youth to provide alternate livelihood.

2001: supporting each other among children living on the streets.

2002: Mother's touch of Vidya to street children.

2002: Mrs. Vidya interacting with children on the streets on peer support, community based organisation initiation and the challenges.



1997: Mrs. Chitraramachandran, The District Magistrate and Collector, Krishna, honoring Saraswathi Gora on the eve of international women's day.

2002: People showing solidarity supporting the victims of torture on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 'A day in support of Survivors of Torture'.

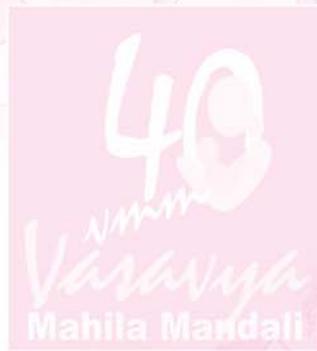
2006: Ms. Keerthi, Technical Support Manager, VMM, nodal agency to APSACS., facilitating training to programme coordinators of Prevention of Parent to Child HIV Transmission outreach programme.

2007: Refresher training for 40 Anganwadi workers from Bantumilli ICDS project at VMM Anganwadi workers Training Center during 15-18 October

An illustration showing a group of women in sarees sitting on the floor in a circle, engaged in a community meeting. One woman in the center is holding a tablet or a book, and others are looking at it or talking to each other. The scene is set in a simple room with a window in the background.

# VASAVYA

*The Service that speaks ....*



*The Expressions ....*

An illustration of a large crowd of people, including men, women, and children, participating in a protest march. They are holding up various signs and banners. In the foreground, a woman is holding a large banner that reads 'Speakup, Stop Discrimination HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 2010'. Other signs in the crowd say 'We are all one' and 'We be one'. The background shows a street with buildings and trees.

Speakup, Stop Discrimination  
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 2010

We are  
all one

We be  
one

## **A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP WITH VMM**

We, at the Alliance Secretariat, wish Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) many heartfelt congratulations on your 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 2000, our longstanding, robust partnership of 10 years has witnessed the tremendous development of VMM, the Alliance in India and our joint contribution to the national response to HIV in India.

VMM helped launch the Alliance care and support programme in India. VMM took the brave step in partnering with us and, through its leadership and support of its partner NGOs, helped break taboos related to the provision of care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in India. This meaningful partnership helped the Alliance and the National AIDS Control Programme learn about home and community based care and support and working with children affected by HIV/AIDS at a time when treatment was less available and there was widespread stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and their families. At the start of the partnership, there was denial about the extent of the epidemic in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and VMM's pioneering home and community based care and support work helped to debunk those myths at the community, district, state and national levels. As services became more available in remote communities of Andhra Pradesh, many affected families came forward to access urgently needed services and exposed the extent of the needs.

At the community level, through the experiences of direct implementation of VMM and its partner NGOs, VMM very effectively mobilised the voices of children affected by AIDS and carried lessons learned to affect policy – culminating in the 2003 state bill to protect the rights of children affected by AIDS from stigma in educational institutions.

VMM's work on child-centred programming and children's support groups have developed models that has been shared and adapted across the Alliance global partnership. Of note, is the innovative model of community-based foster care of children affected by HIV/AIDS which was developed with your partner NGO, AIRTDS. The documentation of these innovative models culminated in the publication of the well acclaimed VMM/Alliance 'Moving Forward' publication. It is no surprise, therefore, that VMM's work has been highlighted in the 'MDGs Success Stories from Asia and the Pacific Accelerating Achievement of the MDGs' report.

Organisationally, VMM has been a very committed and active member of the Alliance and has made a great contribution to the strengthening of the global Alliance partnership. As an organisation, VMM has been very open to learning and sharing lessons at national, regional and international levels. It has made great strides in strengthening its organisational and financial systems, fundraising capacity, good governance and documentation of its experiences.

We are extremely proud of the achievements of VMM, particularly as we hear about children affected by HIV who were homeless and rejected by their families and communities in 2000 who are now young adults training to become nurses, social workers and are emerging leaders of the future.

Congratulations to VMM once again on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have no doubt that VMM will continue to grow from strength to strength and will continue to improve the lives of women and children in India.

Dear VMM Family

Congratulations to VMM on 40 remarkable years of serving children and families in need and providing them with real skills to enable them to lead full and productive lives. Your program is a model for others to follow – not only in India but worldwide.

It has been an honor for the Abbott Fund to be a VMM donor for the past ten years. The Fund is proud that our grant support of more than \$750,000 has helped VMM reach tens of thousands of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS and with other challenges. We are especially pleased with VMM's empowering children, families, and communities to become fully engaged in their programs – from support groups to the Youth Centre (sheltering and gaining employment for street youth) to mobile health programs.

I have many fond recollections of VMM and I will share just a few of them.

My first visit to VMM in early 2001 included a walk down to the nearby river where hundreds of street children were swimming and bathing. When they saw Rashmi everything stopped for a few seconds and then the children rushed to greet her and thank her for her visit. It became immediately clear how these children were not simply using services provided by VMM but were part of the larger VMM family.

When we came back to VMM from the visit to the river I learned about the “savings account program” from several of these same street children. They may save only a rupee or two a week but it became clear after a few minutes that this program was not just about how much money they could save. Instead, it was about helping the children to actually change their mind set from simply focusing on where they were going to sleep that night or get their next meal to — for the first time — starting to think about tomorrow. It was so uplifting to hear the stories from the children talking about what they wanted to do with their savings from going back to school, to starting a business, to helping others – all planning for their own futures – just the result that VMM intended.

For many years VMM, under Keerthi's guidance, ran a program called Picturing Hope where children learned how to shoot photos and then take pictures of their friends, schools, the street, the river, families and anything else that interested them. They would then have these pictures developed and keep written journals about them. The pictures and journals taught some practical skills and opened the door for many children to tell their life stories for the first time. These stories often described struggles but ultimately described how they had hope for the future. This program was so successful that exhibits were done in Delhi, New York, and Chicago — all well received.

I look forward to the VMM story being told for many years to come in Vijayawada, in all of India, and around the world. It is a story of accomplishment, inspiration and hope. All of us at the Abbott Fund are so grateful to have been part of this incredible program. Thank you for all that you have done — and continue to do — for so many for so long.

## “VMM FROM OUTSIDE”

**Julie Saunders**

Executive Director, Pepal

In 1981, as an economics student at Cambridge University, I arrived in Vijayawada together with a fellow student after a long and bumpy overnight train journey. We came knowing very little, on just a recommendation. We had no address, but were told to ask for “The Atheist Centre” and for “Lavanam” who would look after us.

With trepidation, we saw, from the rickshaw, the big sign “The Atheist Centre” and entered, unannounced and uninvited, the compound. During the following week, we were hosted by Lavanam and his wife who treated us as one of the family. With temperatures soaring above 40°C, we were shown what it meant to live as a Gandhian and to reach out to some of the poorest women and children. During this time, it was not just the projects that we saw that impressed, but the values and way of life of those who lived and worked for the Centre; we attended a mixed caste wedding enabled by Lavanam, memorable not just because it happened at a time when such weddings were rare, but for the ethically sound garlands of vegetables, including carrots instead of marigolds! 20 years later, I returned to Vijayawada to visit an organisation called VMM, this time as Director of Finance and Resources at the international HIV/AIDS Alliance together with my colleague, Bhaskaran, from the India HIV/AIDS Alliance. We came in search of a suitable Lead Partner for the Alliance’s pioneering programme in care and support for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Again, I arrived after an uncomfortable train journey and drove through the town in a rickshaw. And with a sense of déjà vu, I saw the sign “The Atheist Centre” without initially realising that it was the same place that I had visited in 1981. In 20 years, the context had changed, the compound had evolved, the organisation had grown but somehow the spirit remained the same. Once again, I was greeted by the family - this time Lavanam’s nieces - and saw the exciting work that VMM was doing in the community.

Naturally, as I launched a new initiative, Pepal, which was about creating partnerships between the private sector and NGOs, it was to VMM that I turned to take part in our pilot, knowing already the openness of VMM to new initiatives and the warmth with which they would greet any guest. VMM’s private sector counterparts, Julie Verstraete and Verena Bumm, returned to Europe enthused.

VMM for me is a lifelong and innovative partner; it was VMM that showed me what “community responses “ meant in India; it was VMM that became the first Alliance Lead Partner in India introducing care and support programmes to people, especially children, living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Andhra Pradesh. And today, I am proud to say that VMM is a founding Pepal partner.

VMM has come a long way since I first visited, 30 years ago, but its heart and soul remains the same; it is a community organisation run by the community for the community reaching out to women, children and others in need throughout Andhra Pradesh.

## **PARTNERSHIP - VMM AND UNNITI FOUNDATION INDIA**

**Kaval Gulhati,**

President and Chair, Unniti Foundation, New Delhi.

December 4, 2010.

Unniti Foundation's association with VMM dates back to the beginning of the 21st century. It was at a conference of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Brighton, UK, where I met Rashmi and learned about her work. I was impressed with her sincerity and vast experience in the field. A few months later in New Delhi, she introduced me to Keerthi along with their mother and mentor - the adorable Chainapati Vaidya, a soft spoken visionary who keeps the lamp of hope brightly lit for VMM. Her simple persona is enhanced by the fact that for many years she was a member of India's parliament. That encounter was indeed the defining moment which initiated the fruitful partnership between Unniti Foundation and VMM.

A relatively large organization with an extensive out-reach, VMM manages to keep its focus on individual needs. No surprise therefore, that Unniti Foundation's micro-philanthropy model of giving was instantly understood by VMM. In fact, they demonstrated their appreciation of Unniti's philosophy - "start small, think big, act now"- by responding with some innovative proposals.

In this way VMM became one of our early partners at the turn of the century to undertake need based initiatives, focused on vulnerable girls and women, living with HIV/AIDS in the coastal areas of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Unniti, as a small foundation endeavours to work in a flexible manner with its grantees. In our grant giving approach, we focus on their priority needs, encourage local initiatives and facilitate self-sufficiency. With this in view, Unniti Foundation's giving now encompasses multi-purpose grants, based on feedback received from different stakeholders.

Over the years Unniti has supported VMM for a wide range of need based projects such as - multi-purpose health workers training, skills training for income generating units, facilitating empowerment for self-employment and career advancement of marginalised groups. Another creative initiative with Unniti support is the Library cum Resource Centres. Started in a modest way, VMM has gradually extended their reach to three more districts. These Resource Centres are multi-dimensional providing participants the opportunity for raising awareness on critical issues and, for strengthening the "sharing/caring" networks.

Unniti's partnership with VMM has been a great hands-on learning experience for our young Unniti Fellows from USA. Under a programme structured by Unniti's first Fellow - Indrani de Silva, [ 1997 - 1998 ] who has now been elevated to the position of a Board Member, young volunteers from USA undertake a one year internship with Unniti Foundation, in India to learn and serve the underserved / unserved members of our society. They are assigned both administrative and field duties. Most of our Fellows have spent quality time with VMM which in turn, has enhanced our partnership.

As a small innovative foundation, Unniti has the flexibility and unique capability to respond fast in an emergency. In this context, Unniti responded quickly to VMM's appeal for help in the rehabilitation of the victims of disastrous floods. As always, Unniti's funds are designated mainly for the support of women and girls. Another significant aspect of our relationship with VMM was the cooperation and hospitality extended to a young doctoral student ( Priya Lal) from Oxford University, UK. VMM kindly hosted her and facilitated her field research on coping mechanisms of families towards their HIV/AIDS affected members. May I add that Unniti Foundation is grateful to VMM for its dedicated work which has benefited innumerable vulnerable communities. Its integrity, sincerity and commitment are the hallmarks of an NGO worthy of admiration and emulation.

Unniti Foundation congratulates VMM for 40 years of good work and wishes the organization many more years of success in the future.

## FOUR DECADES OF RELENTLESS SUPPORT OF VMM TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Anand S Kurup  
Geneva

I am happy to join the Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) team in the celebration of four decades of service to the poor, vulnerable and marginalised populations. My association with VMM started in September 2001, when I started working with the India HIV/AIDS Alliance in its Delhi office. For about four years, I had the opportunity to work closely with VMM and understand its philosophy, vision, and the work culture, as part of managing the home and community based care and support programmes for people living with HIV/AIDS, and the children affected by HIV/AIDS supported by the Alliance. I believe that the philosophy of working with the poor and marginalised to address their social realities, conviction that working together is more effective and efficient, and the dedication of the team to support those in need are the key factors that make VMM stand out among several civil society organizations.

I consider my association with VMM and its partners across coastal Andhra Pradesh was one of the most enriching professional experiences I ever have had. It has helped me to understand the sufferings of people living with HIV/AIDS and children affected by HIV/AIDS, and the real issues related to the lack of community and health system response to HIV/AIDS. More over, I learned greatly from the innovative approaches that VMM and its partners initiated in the field, at a time when the treatment for HIV/AIDS was not accessible to socially and economically vulnerable populations in coastal Andhra Pradesh. I was always amazed by the VMM leadership's ever increasing enthusiasm, dedication, perseverance, and their people skills, as well as their empathetic attitude towards the people living with HIV/AIDS and children affected by AIDS.

Some of the innovative approaches initiated by the VMM and its partners were excellent good practices and replicable in resource poor settings. *Child centric programming* to involve children in the planning, monitoring, evaluation and redesigning of HIV/AIDS care and support programmes, *handful of rice* programme to mobilise rice for the poorest of the people living with HIV/AIDS, involving families to adopt children affected by AIDS, working with the ministry of education to reduce stigma and discrimination in schools, initiating *children support groups* involving all children in the community were some of the most important and innovative community based responses in HIV/AIDS treatment and care and support. I strongly believe that these could not have been achieved without learning by doing, making mistakes, and without mobilizing a strong network of dedicated group of people.

Four decades of relentlessly supporting the most vulnerable populations including women in extremely difficult situations is indeed a great achievement in the life of any organization, and I congratulate the VMM team on this auspicious occasion. I wish the team all the success in the future to work for the empowerment of the marginalised populations in Andhra Pradesh and beyond!

# VMM: BRINGING SOCIAL CHANGE IN ANDHRA PRADESH THROUGH COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

**Dr. Sujit Ghosh**

E-mail : sghosh@btinternet.com

This article is dedicated to the committed staff in VMM and the communities they serve. Working with VMM closely over the last 10 years, I have come to greatly appreciate the organisation's value, approach and vision and its important work with communities. In doing so, I have attained great professional and personal regard for Chennupati Vidya, G. Rashmi, Deeksha and Keerthi amongst others in VMM. This article reflects my perspective on the VMM's achievements and lessons learned since 2000. In the article, at first I highlight what I consider the VMM approach to community action, and then describe some of its activities.

## **Building capacity for community action**

The socio-economic and health related impact of AIDS on communities in the districts of coastal Andhra Pradesh in the last two decades has been considerable. By mainly affecting young productive individuals, their children and families, the AIDS epidemic has caused economic devastation and fractured local societies in Andhra Pradesh. Moreover, stigma and discrimination has impeded the ability of communities to act upon and mitigate the impact of AIDS. In this context, VMM has endeavoured to build the capacity of local communities to not only reverse and tackle the immediate problems of HIV and AIDS, but to do so in a broader framework of community development and sustainability.

VMM's belief is that the best way to bring about social change and justice is by working closely with communities. There are several reasons for this. Community members understand the interests of their own communities best; and, when supported, can be effective collectively or as individuals in bringing social change. Individuals should be supported to participate in community related activities, to help build social capital and gain better access to services. And, community members can affect change by drawing upon the skills and abilities they use in their day-to-day personal, family and work lives.

On the basis of this belief, VMM facilitates and catalyses opportunities for social action in communities including its response to HIV and AIDS. Not surprisingly, when implementing initiatives, VMM ensures that the interests of local people and in particular those who are stigmatised, such as, families and children affected by AIDS are included in decisions to help improve their quality of life. To that effect, VMM mobilises community members to engage in designing and implementing activities that aim for such improvement. Significantly, by relying on a 'locally-led solutions' approach, VMM has empowered communities to continually respond to the AIDS epidemic, without relying solely on external resources.

The VMM approach to community action can be captured as follows –

1. VMM believes community leadership underpinned by volunteerism provides the basis for sustained community action.
2. VMM provides finances and practical support to communities to undertake community-led initiatives.
3. VMM organises delivery structures for health and social services in communities.

The next two sections provide a glimpse of how the approach has unfolded in communities of Andhra Pradesh.

## **Volunteering in the community**

In 2000, the AIDS epidemic had begun to take a severe toll in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, and several villages bore a resemblance to the epidemic as in sub-Saharan Africa. However, there had been very little effort to stem the epidemic or address the needs of people living with HIV. Lack of awareness, difficulty in seeking information on HIV, social stigma surrounding AIDS, inadequate HIV related service provision, discrimination against those with HIV and their families, such as refusal of medical treatment and housing were some of the many challenges. Local NGOs were either not interested in the issue or were carrying out little AIDS awareness raising and prevention activities. However, Mrs. Chennupati Vidya, President of VMM, social worker and a Gandhian, grasped the severity of the epidemic and its impact on coastal Andhra Pradesh. As a result, in 2000, VMM initiated its community based care and support programme in partnership with the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, a UK based NGO. Initially, VMM targeted nine districts of the cyclone prone coastal region. VMM staff engaged with a range of non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations, business associations, government and community leaders, and relentlessly worked with these key stakeholders to organise awareness raising events and local 'melas'. Awareness activities included audio-visual presentations and folk entertainment to confront prevailing myths and misinformation. These activities, however, were not one-off events. VMM carried on providing support through advice and mentoring to individuals and groups in the community following the events. The ongoing contact led to trust and confidence especially amongst HIV affected community members, and catalysed community members to volunteer and commit to action on HIV and AIDS. The volunteers who represented different constituencies within the community became advocates for AIDS action and eventually vehicles for social change in their own communities. Besides, by becoming volunteers in the home and community care and support programme, people living with HIV were now legitimate participants in the activities of their communities. Moreover, local political and religious leaders, who were earlier resistant and suspicious, started facilitating access to children and their families affected by AIDS to public amenities and community facilities, and some contributed their personal resources. Indeed, community leaders working hand in hand with volunteers from affected groups strengthened the sense of community and community ownership in the response to AIDS.

## **Community oriented tools and processes**

VMM's approach to building of community capacity is staged and has a long-term perspective. For VMM, the first step is to appreciate and understand diversity within a community, locate problems that need to be closely looked at, and to map existing community assets, skills and capacities. VMM has used the participatory community assessment (PCA) methodology to carry out community mapping, the tools and process of which were introduced by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. This is a low-cost methodology, which relies on community members to take lead in the mapping process and analysis of findings. The process begins with sessions on the basic facts of HIV and sexual health with local volunteers. Following these sessions, those trained on these topics are taught the use of participatory tools, which are mostly interactive activities and small group exercises, and record findings. The volunteers are also coached on how to analyse findings following the use of PCA tools. Significantly, the PCA activities helps build AIDS awareness, increases knowledge of HIV risk reduction strategies in community members, builds solidarity in community groups and helps to reach out to HIV infected and affected community members. Many of the community volunteers who went through the PCA process have emerged as leaders and advocates for the AIDS response in their communities.

The VMM approach is to build capacity in communities and of civil society organisations with professionalism and humanism. In the VMM programme, grants and intensive skills transfer by national and international experts in areas, such as, home and community based care and support, working with children affected by HIV/AIDS, and advocacy, helped the local NGOs and community volunteers to have skills to provide a range of home and community based care and support information and services. Today, local civil society organisations, which were supported by VMM, have leveraged their increased organisational capacity. Most of the NGOs have attracted donors including government and international foundations to support and build upon activities which were initiated through the VMM programme.

The Children's Leadership Development Association (CLDA) and the Coastal Network of Positive People (CNP+) are two examples of VMM's community action in Andhra Pradesh.

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## **VMM IN EVIDENCE BASED DOCUMENTATION**

Maj-Lis Voss  
Executive Director  
NorthSouth Group for Poverty Reduction  
Sacramento, California, USA,  
[www.northsouthgroup.org](http://www.northsouthgroup.org)

Our association with VMM began about a decade ago. The first project was a World Bank funded study of children affected by HIV/AIDS in Andhra Pradesh. VMM delivered a very well designed and comprehensive report on the issue. It contributed greatly to the understanding of HIV/AIDS and how the infection affected children. We disseminated this study to other researchers as we felt that it provides a useful quantitative and qualitative analysis of HIV/AIDS affecting a highly vulnerable population. Recent research carried out with our organization, the NorthSouth Group, includes a study relating to child health indicators. VMM led the work at the community level, providing insight into children's well-being and documenting hard-to-get information.

The NorthSouth Group has been fortunate to continue collaboration with VMM, its leaders and staff on work to alleviate poverty and improve health and well-being. VMM is well-known, not only at the community level but also around the world as I found in my discussions with the international NGO community. During its forty years of supporting the poor and vulnerable, VMM has saved innumerable lives and given hope to those needing it most. The leaders and staff have a deep knowledge of poverty issues and their approach and commitment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable has benefitted us greatly. We have learned many valuable lessons from their work and their mission continues to inspire us.

## VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI (VMM) AS I KNEW IT

**Dr B.Gangaiah, I.E.S**

Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi

My first association with **Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM)** was during my student days when I was studying BA in Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada (1972-75). When I just joined the college I had to pass through the Benz Circle which is also the location of Gora Centre (Atheist centre) which was popularly known those days because it stood for Gandhian values and revolutionary ideas on social change. Those days I used to read about the activities of Gora and centre and VMM only through the news papers and I had little time nor opportunity to interact with them closely.

Next important landmark within this centre was the clinic of Dr Samaram which was very popular those days with our students because it was the only affordable medical facility for students and the poor as the charges used to be very affordable and service was of good quality.

Thus my initial association with VMM and Gora centre was mostly as a spectator and had no opportunity to interact with at personal level as I was busy with studies. But as a student I understood that Gora centre and all the people associated with this centre under different programmes are all committed social workers. So I always used to look at Gora Centre with respect and admiration whenever I saw the centre from outside during my frequent visits to Benz Circle which was a popular evening visit centre for Andhra Loyola College students those days.

My first close interaction with the VMM was during my work with Regional Centre of Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) which funded Rural Development programmes. When we looked at several NGOs in AP for funding we found VMM is one of the best in terms of the eligibility for funding. Hence we funded VMM for a Housing Programme in Krishna District. I was fortunate to inaugurate the construction work and also see the completion of construction in record time. In general housing projects are difficult to complete in time generally because it requires substantial financial contributions from beneficiaries in addition to their labour for completing housing projects. But in the case of VMM Housing project I found due to very high motivation of the staff and follow up and mobilisation of the community entire project was implemented in record time. Thereafter VMM has done several other projects with funding from CAPART benefiting several poor in the rural areas of the Krishna District. The hall mark of their projects was the high level of commitment, passion for the poor and vulnerable sections particularly women and children, skills of community mobilisation and very high rapport with key stakeholders. The next important collaboration done by CAPART with VMM was the Gramshree Mela, again funded by CAPART Delhi. The then adviser Mr.Kaul asked me to suggest a good NGO for entrusting the work of organising Gramshree Mela in AP. I suggested VMM. Though they have no prior experience of organising such Melas I had the confidence that they can do it due to their commitment, organising skills and excellent rapport with Government machinery and the Community at large. The then CAPART Adviser Mr Kaul remarked “can a Mahila Mandali do this task “as it requires lot of coordination, logistics and publicity and mobilisation skills”. I said ‘yes’. As he has confidence in my judgement he has awarded the work to VMM. Later he has come to inaugurate the Mela and was surprised to see the way it was successfully organised and exclaimed “these Ladies have done a great job”. I told Mr Kaul any work can be done if you have motivation and community support which VMM has in abundance. Later on when I left for DFID project I continued to be in touch with VMM and was appreciating their good work from outside.

Subsequently when I joined the Futures Group Project on Advocacy funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation I continued my interaction with VMM, as by then they also started working in the area of HIV/AIDS. I had seen their passionate work in the area of HIV/AIDS particularly with children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS on many occasions.

One important quality of VMM work was their consistent focus on critical issues in which they are passionate about. They have not shifted their focus just because some funding is available. I have seen several NGOs getting into areas which are not related to their core competence purely because of some funding availability. In contrast VMM has always focussed on few core areas of women, children because they are passionate about their cause and also feel this focus is critical to the development of the Society. This kind approach is not seen in many other Voluntary organisations which I interacted with during my work with the development sector.

Towards the end of my association with NGO sector work I also happened to evaluate some of the VMM projects funded by external agencies i.e. EDC-Deutch Bank Asia Foundation and HAMU of Norway. Through these evaluations I could look at the work of VMM in HIV and Social and Economic Empowerment as an outsider. In this context I also looked at the other NGO projects of similar nature where I find the differences in quality of interventions and the impact made on the community. In these evaluations I could observe the higher commitment levels of the VMM staff and their effective skill building which made all the difference to the success of the projects implemented by VMM. Their work of rehabilitation and economic empowerment is also very successful. I find that VMM does not simply implement projects but they follow up with their community members in post implementation phase like parents follow up the progress of their children to make them self sufficient and sustainable. I also witnessed and appreciated VMM action research documents and activism in advocating the cause of Children, Women and HIV infected and affected at the national and international forums.

I wish there are more VMMs in the state and the country to make a better impact on the lives of the poor and supplement Government efforts. Government can offload some of its burden of poverty

# TOUCHING THE LIVES OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE THROUGH VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI (VMM)

**John Kurian George**

CEO & Director  
German Leprosy & TB Relief Association  
Swiss Emmaus Leprosy Relief Work  
CHENNAI

My association with VMM started in 2005 and I'm certain that it's going to be a lasting one. While overlooking the home based care and support programs for people living with HIV/AIDS (HBCS) in the state of Andhra Pradesh, I was introduced to VMM and its partners. It's a pleasure to observe and experience VMM's march ahead with its indomitable spirit and energy to care for vulnerable people and communities in their project area. I was introduced to some of the innovative practices of providing HBCS for people living with HIV/AIDS. The income generation program, the kitchen gardens, identifying foster families for children orphaned as result of HIV/AIDS, granny's club are some of the breath taking activities undertaken by VMM as a part of implementing the HBCS program.

The journey continued while implementing the paediatric HIV/AIDS treatment program for children living with HIV/AIDS in Andhra Pradesh. The confidence and comfort with which VMM was identified as one of the first NGO's in India to link children living with HIV/AIDS to the nearest ART centers has been recorded as a success story in the paediatric program. The ease with which VMM linked its children to the ART centers by adhering to the government protocols is worth mentioning about. The patience, courage, and commitment exhibited by VMM is worth emulating. Linking children to the nearest ART centers is one part of challenge that VMM successfully handled and ensuring that children adhered to treatment regimens was another part of this success story.

While highlighting my association with VMM by eliciting experiences from the abovementioned program implementation, my interactions and meetings became more frequent as a result of VMM assuming leadership position in the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund in India. VMM was elected to represent the constituency for vulnerable children, which clearly put VMM as a champion and advocate for addressing the rights of children in India.

The success VMM continues to experience can be attributed to the 'vision' and 'mission' set by its founder Ms. Saraswathi Gora, the President Ms. Chennupatti Vidyamma, the Secretary Ms. Rashmi Samaram, the family (Ms. Keerthi and Dr. Deeksha), VMM staff, people from the community, well wishers and friends. This is an organization that advocates for the well being of women and children. The dynamism displayed by its board, management, and staff is highly influential, which is reflected in their way of life, their thinking, and approach.

I'm honoured to write this note and join in to celebrate VMM's 40<sup>th</sup> year of existence. I take this opportunity to express my best wishes and perennial success to the management, staff, well wishers, and friends of VMM. I pray that as VMM marches ahead to the next decade it continues to influence and touch the lives of people and communities.

Good luck and best wishes,

## FORTY LONG YEARS OF SERVICE TO MANKIND - PAR EXCELLENCE

Padma Seth

Padma Seth was member of the National Commission for women (1992-1998)  
and advisor and consultant to UNICEF, Delhi(98-2001),  
a champion for child rights and women's empowerment. Served in various NGOs.

For the past forty odd years association with a variety of voluntary non-governmental organisations, Vasavya Mahila Mandali stands apart as a shining example to many an endeavour in the field of social service. The famous Gora couple were bold and progressive. At a time when idolatry on one side and superstition on the other engulfed society, Vasavya emerged as the foremost atheist organisation, challenging the age old; norms and beliefs and faiths. The main aim of their founders has been to focus attention on the underprivileged and the marginalised communities in society. They were Gandhian in philosophy with their own agenda for action. Unmindful of public opinion or criticism, they barged into servicing the humanity. Humanism has been their motto. This unique institution established in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh is one of its kind. Vulnerable people, irrespective of their caste or creed thronged the portals of Vasavya for help. They were sure of attention and help from this institution. Thus Vasavya has become a landmark in Andhra Pradesh.

My association with them started with Chennupati Vidya, a soft spoken personality with modest demeanour and pleasant manners. Affable as she was and is even today carried legacy forward; It is truly to her credit, Vasavya has become a household name in Vijayawada. Vidya as her name stands has become a symbol of education for girls and women who could not pursue education in the normal course of growth. With small beginnings, Vasavya has manifested into serving communities at their doorstep and in attending to their growing needs day by day. Even in days where funds were scarce, Vasavya did not deter from serving the poor.

The third generation emerged even more stronger than the original founders. It is not the divine right theory of family legacy that worked, the younger generation influenced by the selfless service of their predecessors and the ideals for which their organisations stood for, took to human service as fish to water. It is amazing to see the girls of the family including the men got totally involved in the community service. The growing needs of health care, nutrition and food needs of children and women in villages and urban neighbourhoods could surely be assured by Vasavya. Unmindful of the funds coming or not, Vasavya did not take a holiday from social service..

I had the privilege of visiting, staying and addressing the Vasavya members and women of Vijayawada. From the National Commission for Women, where I was a member, I enjoyed interacting with Chennupati Vidya and her daughters. It is an amazing bonding in social service that one can rarely see today. Once an institution is committed to helping the poor and the needy, there is no going back from its ordained path. Old and young can get rejuvenated once you are within the four walls of this reputed institution. The proactive workers and the motivators deserve all praise. I had the opportunity to visit this institution many times, from the All India Women's conference and more times as member from the National Commission for Women. Forty years of dedicated service to humanity that too at people's homestead is a remarkable achievement and self fulfilling. It is almost like a magnet that attracts everyone to focus on service to people, the needy and the poor. I feel privileged to have been associated with this institution and I wish it long many years of service to the people in need.

## **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES**

**Sapy Dinshaw**

I am happy to know that the Vasavya Mahila Mandali is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On behalf of the Canadian Crossroads international, it gives me great pleasure to convey my heartiest congratulations for the occasion and wish the Mandali continued success in its work.

The Canadian Crossroads International is an NGO registered in Toronto and Montreal in Canada devoted to partnership working with developing countries in social welfare programmes. Every year a few Canadian boys and girls come to India and several other developing countries all over the world to live and work with people engaged in development projects. For several years many Canadian girls have been placed in the Vasavya Mahila Mandali for about three to four months to participate in the Mandali's programmes.

While living with local families they also experience the cultural life of the people. As part of the exchange some boys and girls from Indian development projects go to Canada for the same purpose. I am happy to say that all Canadian participants who were placed in the Vasavya Mahila Mandali over the past years have had a very rich and rewarding experience under the care and guidance of Mrs.Keerthi and Mrs.G.Rashmi. A few boys and girls sponsored by the Mandali have participated in the exchange and had a very satisfying experience in Canada. On their return they have been able to successfully employ the good practices they had learnt in that country in their work in the Mandali.

I believe that it is through such people to people contacts that goodwill can be generated between countries. Organizations such as the Vasavya Mahila Mandali have an important part in this partnership. I am sure that the Mandali will continue its good work for many more years.

## **VMM'S ENDEAVOR FOR A BETTER SOCIETY**

**(Men and women are complementary strengths of the society)**

**Mrs. J Mythri**  
Treasurer, VMM

WE are happy to celebrate the successful journey of Vasavya Mahila Mandali for 40 years. Smt. Vidya and myself have been taking active part right from the time of the inception of VMM. Social revolutionaries, reformers, freedom fighters and Atheists, Gora and Saraswathi Gora, are the founders of VMM. We are humbled to be born of such great parents. Our childhood was filled with inspiration of freedom movement and social reform activities of which the fondest is the time we spent with Mahatma Gandhi at Sewagram Ashram. This inspiration paved way for our fervent zest to contribute our share in helping the needy and making this world a better place for everyone. VASAVYA is the acronym for Vasthavikata (reality), Sanghadrusti (social outlook and scientific temper) and Vyaktitvam (individuality). These become core aspects for any individual to evolve as responsible citizens in democracy. This attitudinal change and social change could be brought about only through secular social work. The encouragement and support of Mr. Chennupati Seshagiri Rao is unforgettable in the development of VMM as an organization and contribution of its various services to the society.

The then social conditions, of forty to fifty years ago, were very different from what they are today. Poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, superstitions, inferiority-superiority complexes coupled with age old traditions acted as a bane to the progress of the society. There was no place for freedom of thought, change or for self respect and dignity of labour.

The constitution of India gives every right to all its citizens for freedom of thought and expression and supports people work for the same. Mahatma Gandhi's constructive programmes with secular approach and social responsibility are key instruments in bringing about this attitudinal change in people and help them break the narrow shackles that they are confined to.

Counseling plays a major role in changing attitudes. Women, no matter what caste, class or geographical area they belong to, suffer more than men in any given situation. It is said that if a woman is educated then the whole family is educated and in turn the society as a whole benefits. The same is the case with attitudinal and social change. When women are enlightened and developed, indirectly the whole society develops. Thus women and children have become the focus of VMM's myriad initiatives. We believe that both men and women are equal in all respects and should share equal role and responsibility in family and society. They are different and unique from one another biologically but are one complementing each other. So both they should have equal rights and should be treated with equal respect as human beings. We should always remember that they are both psychological beings.

In the process of solving any problem counselling changes the mindset. Positive and sympathetic approach makes one rethinking. Enmity and negative attitude loses hold and new solutions are found. In counseling we ask the person facing the problem to step out of her/ his position and think unbiased without any prejudices, like a third person and then come up with the solution.

Now-a-days our society is divided in the name of caste, religion, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, rural and urban, orthodox and liberal and the like. In such a condition counseling demands a holistic approach. So when a person, be it a man or a woman, comes for counseling we have to consider several aspects and make them think as humans without any biases or prejudices to solve the problem to build a better society with human dignity. New thinking with free mind upholding human dignity gives new solutions. We should not be slaves to systems. If the present systems are not suitable for progress and prosperity of society we have to change them and evolve new systems. We should be bold and free to rethink, revise and create a better society. We should not forget that it is only the constant urge in human beings for a better life that brings about any change, reform or development. This is possible through improving scientific temper and social awareness.

To inculcate scientific temper and bring social awareness in the common people we organized several programmes. Through adult education programmes we conducted several camps to impart knowledge in on different subjects like medicine, science and general awareness. We used to narrate lives of social reformers and reforms and their efforts and sacrifices for our well being and how constitution guards human rights in democracy. We encourage men and women to question to clear their doubts and express themselves without any inhibition. Inter dining, social mixy pot parties and cultural programmes were organized to bring people from different walks of life together under one roof for collective effort and purpose. Thus men and women become bold, self confident and active thinkers. This change and development also reflects in upbringing of their children.

Separate platforms were created for women to get together for discussing their problems. In this activity women express and share their thoughts freely and pent up emotions are let out. Mental health improves. Depression and hysteria disappear and their inherent talents come out to improve their life.

In Indian society family bonds play a vital role on life as it gives social security. But when oppression takes place women are worst sufferers. They are worried about their children's future and respect of their family members. They are not equal in decision making. In present social structure they are second and not equal with men. Both men and women are physically different but not in their mental capacities. They both equally are capable to fulfill their duties efficiently in any field. This approach to counselling helps both men and women to realize and change their attitude. Work has no gender and problems also have no gender. They are human problems. Be it child rights, women rights or men rights, all fall under the same category of human rights. With new value system based on human dignity we have to develop human culture. That is need of the day. With this ideology and positive thinking VMM tries to solve any problem.

'Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink,' this is the experience of a mariner in troubles in the middle of an ocean. Women in our country are in the same condition as the victim in mist of the miserable troubles created by inhuman social customs, traditions and attitudes. VMM stands by her side and gives support to face the situation following the footsteps of great social revolutionaries and reformers. Double standard for the gender problems causes unhappiness in the families and society. Problems of deserted women, widows, unwed mothers, girls believed to be born in the time of evil star, dowry, lack of freedom in choosing life partner, child marriage, unwillingness to get the girls educated, inter- caste and inter religious marriages, woman having no children, woman having only female children, all are treated as only woman's faults. This outlook and attitude has no place in modern society based on human dignity and equality. Be bold and be human in solving problems. Jai Insaan.

## OF INDIA AND HER CHILDREN - THE STORY OF VULNERABILITY IN DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE AS I SEE

Shantamay Chatterjee

New Delhi

23.11.10

No Indian ever was born adult or aged. It is not destiny. The origin of life for Homo Sapiens initiates with childhood. Yet when we grow up and turn into adults, we never look back at our own childhood. A country boasting of a population of around 1.2 billion & more has near to one fourth of world's children living, but under most unstable social conditions. Plagued by poverty, lack of access to basic rights, India's children are all but destiny's child. Our government is not oblivious to the fact, and over the last decade I have been closely working with the government, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society to address all vulnerability issues that plague child development in this country.

Often I come across people who are very critical of the development indicators being published by the Government or UN on Indian children. Is it true that our IMR is not actually down or number of children going to school is not increasing? Reality that I find is we have improved much in terms of numbers. I am not writing a research article and hence not going into the fathoms of statistics. I always get intrigued by statistics. It hides, as I see, reality with such a coating that often we get mesmerized. I am looking more at understanding what we are really able to see when we take closer look at the most remote areas of country, the dingy slums in our cities and at the small towns that spread across the country. Rural & urban India still has a widening divide in development agenda. Urban India is maximum self reliant, at least the large cities and our metros are. Rural India depends on initiative, subsidies and relief from the government.

The movement of the economy since the mid 80s, from the primary to the tertiary, has not resulted in much growth or self-reliance among the decentralized mechanism in the public sector & governance to address local issues. Our villages remain deprived of planning mechanism to address children's issues at large. Long attachment with district level programmes taught me that political agenda in the decentralized administration is devoid of child & women centric approach. We quote statistics to diverse funds but our executives & people's representative don't approach issues taking women & children in mind. We fail to meet our goals because we suffer from myopia. We look at the entire country, go by statistics drawn on 1,00,000 or 10,00,000 population where as India's misery and most children live in villages with a population of 50-1000.

I feel that it's all but not issues addressed rightfully under welfare schemes and child development programmes. It's more the problem with our approach. Our planning is mostly top down. We rely on statistics and plan from the centre. People who have never visited the Daring village in West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh would devise the programme to address child education there. People who need to adopt the approach fail to understand the basic logic behind and don't show the willingness to approach what could be a solution for the children of their village. Political motivation decides the faith of the people in the world's largest democracy. But alas it is never democratically done. Planning and management is not open for public review at regular intervals in a programme. Right to Information has been awarded but is either seldom used or mostly used to seek prejudiced grievances.

When I visited Vasavya Mahila Mandali in April 2010, just a few hours of visit across the town of Vijaywada exposed me to children affected by HIV. The children spoke so well. They raised their voice, expressed their frustration and exhibited their rationale in such simple yet powerful gestures, that it gave me jolt. I smiled and again there was a no sigh of relief. Do we have mechanisms to ensure that these children could one day be policy makers or Parliamentarians? I am not sure. But we need these children so that our democracy does not remain frail.

The dent left on me was not just impressive but more than that. For some time I have been thinking if we all so called development workers or thinkers been doing enough. Most of us either voice our anguish or quote statistics or write heavy articles; of course all of these doesn't do enough to make a difference in the life of the 10 year or so old boy, whom I cross everybody at the crossing of Janpath, on my way to office. I have been thinking strongly and feeling ever more that our democracy is not strong enough. Most elections do not register votes beyond 60%. Most elections are triggered with people being drawn by political parties through allegiance, influence, motivation or muscle. Where are the wisdom and the confidence in every man to control our country's faith in this electoral process that leaves our coffers half empty at every stage? That remains a missing link to me. What if it all changed? What if women and children from villages could decide every three months whether the panchayat member should continue based on performance & needs addressed, and comment on the appraisal report of the block development officer? This may sound utopian. But I strongly believe that unless our democracy becomes strong, public accountability increases among government officials, NGOs and elected representatives, improvement will remain slow. Development will remain stagnant.

In India resource is not the issue. Population is a stiff challenge I agree but not insurmountable. We are slowed down in our fight to end poverty, our fight to address child mortality, our efforts to educate children because of severe weaknesses in our system that govern us and people, the beneficiaries don't have access to mechanisms to turn, influence or change it. The children I met at VMM exposed me to the idea that yes children could speak and if they could then why not give their voice the entire platform from where their voice will echo out to the Lak Sabha or the Supreme Court. It will reach all corners of the country and shake all systems of its slumber. It all goes to say that I am waiting for all the efforts from VMM and passing on the story every where I go, to hear the voice and see my India with children waking up to a day where there will almost no hunger, no abuse, no burden on their childhood.



**Dr Sai Subhasree Raghavan**  
President

## **VMM : A VALUABLE TECHNICAL RESOURCE FOR INDIA'S HIV/AIDS PROGRAM**

Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) is a pioneering organization working on the issues of women, children and youth in vulnerable situations. With its professional and value-based approach, VMM has established exceptional standards in the development sector, particularly through its commitment to staff, community and stakeholder empowerment. VMM is widely recognized for the culture of integrity, transparency, accountability and responsibility it has inculcated within itself: and this serves as a role model for other civil society organizations.

SAATHII has had the pleasure of associating with VMM and availing of its technical expertise in HIV care and support since 2005. During the initial stages of its programming for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programs in Andhra Pradesh, SAATHII and its implementing partners had an exposure visit to VMM. We were inspired by the dedicated services offered by VMM through home and community based care for people living with HIV, and held up VMM's work as a benchmark for high-quality services. The experiences of child-centred programs of VMM were also shared during the experience sharing and review meeting that enabled SAATHII in building child-centred service component for the children affected by HIV in Tamil Nadu.

The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials developed by VMM are appreciated and widely used by SAATHII programs and partners: these materials are noteworthy for their simplicity and local appropriateness. VMM has also made a national impact in the field of HIV/AIDS through its presence and role in the India Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) established by the Global Fund.

As Stephen Covey says, an empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success. VMM is a classic example of such an empowered organization, and major credit for this goes to the organization's leaders and their mentorship role in nurturing the organization.

Given the natural links that exist between SAATHII's mission of strengthening and scaling up HIV services, and VMM's mission of community empowerment, we look forward to working and growing with VMM in the future to ensure community empowerment as an integral element of HIV service quality improvement and scale up.

On behalf of SAATHII, I congratulate VMM for completing 40 years of its journey in addressing issues of vulnerable communities. We wish a great future to everyone who has contributed to the success of the organization, and hope that the work of VMM will continue to inspire future generations of community development and public health workers.

In Solidarity

## MY EXPERIENCES WITH VMM

**Mrs. Vijayakumari,**

Programme coordinator of HCBCS - LP (2004-2006),

Currently staying in U.S.A

Its my immense pleasure to share my experiences with Vasavya Mahila Mandali on this special occasion and my heart felt gratitude to all for giving me this opportunity. First of all, let me congratulate each and every one by name who is associated with VMM all through their 40 years of hard work and commitment because of whom VMM is what it is today.

As a Program Coordinator for VMM, Alliance Lead Partner Program, I am associated with VMM for just two years, but the knowledge and experience that I gained during those two years has molded my personality both professionally and personally. It's such an impressive organization, where each and every employee is treated with personal care. Unlike other organizations, VMM first tries to resolve even the personal problems that the employees are facing. Especially women employees are treated with utmost care and concern. I believe, a woman at VMM can be assumed as a child in a mothers lap.

Coming to the hard work and commitment of VMM, I myself cannot explain in words. As I still feel I am an insider and don't want to boast about our work. Of course it's visible in the society. We used to work day in and day out to achieve our goals. One unique thing I need to mention here is, in other organizations, the managers dictate certain work to the staff and their job is done. The staff has to complete it on time. It is immaterial for the manager whether the staff is working late nights or none of his hardships. But here, the management stands behind the staff and works along with them till the end of the work. It used to be fun and never regret to do so.

I used to literally wait for the monthly staff meeting. All staff gets an opportunity to learn and share their experiences. Apart from just sharing knowledge, we also have fun during the staff meetings by playing group games, enjoying jokes and refresh ourselves.

Working with partner NGOs is another interesting task. Managing them is little bit challenging but at the same time we used to enjoy working with them. They are very informative and knowledgeable as they work with grassroots. Only thing is they cannot put it on the paper. So we love to spend lot of time with the staff and communities during our field visits and document them. These documents provided by all the staff members, helps in extending the NGO capacities and moving forward for further fund raising opportunities. Assessing the partner NGOs capacities and helping them to strengthen their roots is a wonderful aspect that VMM does.

Apart from all, the dedication of the eminent personalities at VMM, I would rather say, "THE PILLARS OF VMM", Mrs. Rashmi Samaram, Mrs. Keerthi and Dr. Deeksha is extraordinary. Their entire soul and heart is in VMM and the driving force behind them is none other than Mrs. Vidyamma without whom VMM wouldn't have been in its current position.

I wish VMM all the very best for their future endeavors and looking forward to the Golden jubilee occasion of VMM.

## INITIATION OF MAHILA MANDAL WITH THE INSPIRATION OF Mrs. VIDYA

### **Mrs. Patibandla Ananthamma**

Venkateswara Mahila Mandali  
Kudapa village, Reddygudem Mandal  
Krishna district

I met Mrs. Chennupati Vidya in a district level programme in the year 1976. She inspired me with her attitude to work for the development of women and children; with the inspiration we started a NGO, "Venkateswara Mahila Mandali" in 1977-78. We treat her as our mother and get constant guidance from her. She has so many good qualities for us to follow like her team spirit and her motivation to the team to work united. We value our relationship of 35 years with Mrs. Vidya and Vasavya Mahila Mandali. We learned many things from her like how to help the community, how to give employment to needy people and how to identify the people with problems.

With this inspiration, we worked in the community without any difference for Caste, Religion and conducted many development activities. We are associated with VMM in activities like, distribution of loans to needy women in Reddygudem Mandal for cattle from Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK). The women are self employed with this support. We constructed houses with the support of CAPART programme to poor people with the facilitation of VMM.

In RMK programme, we gave loans to buy Cattle and marketing of milk became a problem for them. So VMM guided us to interact with the officers of Vijayawada Milk Powder Factory to start a milk procurement center at village level. They accepted our proposal and gave a centre to women in this area.

We conducted a rural sports meet to women in this village and provided trainings like Tailoring and Embroidery to women. We conducted many awareness camps to women in collaboration with VMM to create awareness on women issues.

VMM is a driving force for many grass root level women organisations to work in our villages and that has improved the confidence and living with increased social respect with gender balancing.

## MY EXPERIENCES WITH VMM

Reema Shah

11/2010

I came to VMM in July 2007 for three months from the United States as a part of my training to receive my Masters in Public Health. During that time, I was able to gain a deep understanding of the issues facing women and children in India, especially as it relates to HIV/Health, and also gain an appreciation for the type of work that VMM does for the community.

During my eleven weeks in India, I worked on a project entitled, “The Evolution of Community Driven Approaches for the Care and Support of Children Living with HIV: An Empirical Study in Andhra Pradesh.” The goal was to evaluate the services that children living with HIV are receiving, and figure out ways to fill any gaps in services through community driven initiatives. For the first few weeks, I had the opportunity to observe in the field and meet many of the people working for and served by VMM. After that, my main task was to create the data collection tools, including a questionnaire for children living with HIV/AIDS, a questionnaire for NGO and government service providers, and focus group guides for caregivers of children living with HIV. After I created and field tested the tools, I was given the opportunity to accompany staff members on site visits to observe focus groups and one-on-one interviews.

Through this project, I had the opportunity of meeting the many women, children, and families who relied on VMM’s services. Coming from the U.S. where HIV/AIDS among children is quite rare, it was humbling to see what challenges many women and children face on a daily basis due to the disease. It seemed that these individuals, who were most in need of medicine, nutritional food, education, and social support had the least access to these services. However, I realized that VMM was able to help the community immensely through creating support groups, facilitating the provision of anti-retroviral therapies, providing school supplies and even assisting with nutritional support. What I found most amazing is that beyond providing these services, VMM’s commitment to helping these vulnerable populations provided these communities with hope and a source of trust.

Beyond the educational value of my internship at VMM, what I enjoyed most about the experience was the opportunity to see how such a strong commitment to help others had created such a large impact on the lives of individuals who would otherwise have very little. I found this experience invaluable.

## **A FRUITFUL EXPERIMENT OF CHILD MENTORS**

**P. Meroz**

### **Reflections of the first child mentor**

I'm Meroz. I was a child mentor of Vasavya Mahila Mandali when I was twelve years old. As a child mentor I underwent a lot of trainings on peer pressure, leadership and many coping skills. Then I became a trainer for children affected by HIV and conducted training sessions to the children in handling peer pressure. While I was training them, I couldn't believe how innocent they were. As my sessions with them continued, they responded very well. I was amazed at the creative minds which were not given a chance to excel.

The trainings that I underwent and taught helped me in my life. When I entered my 11<sup>th</sup> grade I was able to withstand the peer pressure. I taught my friends how to handle the pressure by learning to say 'NO'. It is difficult to say 'NO' to friends. I have a big friend circle. They always want me to come outside. Because of my training, I stand firm. Many of the children in the slums, undergo tremendous peer pressure from the much older group. They are asked to smoke and drink. These children should learn to say no. that's where I fit in. I train these children.

I, along with some of my friends, conducted children champs with competitions. I collect clothes, shoes, watches, books for children. My parents are very supportive in my endeavor. They too collect clothes, books from their patients by keeping a bag in our clinic for the patients to drop off their old clothes, books, etc. They themselves are actively involved in the rehabilitation work of VMM. They conduct medical camps as well. Out of my interest towards helping the needy, I too attend the camps. It gives me great pleasure to see the poor being treated. This idea of mine turned into an ambition. Now I'm studying in a medical school and am going to follow my parents' footsteps.

### **Insider's view**

**K. Revathy**

My name is Revathy, working as outreach worker in Home and community based HIV/AIDS care and support programme of VMM. I had one younger brother whom I lost to AIDS. He was diagnosed during his appendectomy operation and our pastor talked with Dr. Deeksha, medical director, VMM, about HIV status of my brother. She gave psychosocial support to my parents and advised them to get tested and to our great sorrow they both were reactive to HIV. I was in my eighth standard and my parents wanted to discontinue my education. But VMM supported my parents and provided education support to me. I was kept in a hostel as the atmosphere at home was not convenient for me due to frequent sickness of my brother. In my tenth standard, my brother died of Miliary Tuberculosis and it was a very sad day for me. I could not have continued my education if not for the support of VMM. I got through my tenth exams in first division. And I was given a chance to do Multi Purpose Health workers course at VMM.

I learned photography from Mr. Craig Bender, USA, and exhibited our photos in Delhi, Chicago and New York in the 'Picturing Hope' programme of VMM. I never dreamed of going to America, but I went twice. Now I learned to speak English with the support of VMM. Our child mentor, Meroz, is like a brother to all of us and we learned a lot from him. After completing my nursing, I joined as outreach worker in care and support for children living with HIV as a tribute to my brother. I am executive member of Children Leadership Development association and feel happy to help many more children. VMM motivated us to help others who are vulnerable.

## The young and strong mentor

**Alekhya**

My name is Alekhya. I am now in my eleventh year and studying seventh grade. I know Vasavya Mahila Mandali since my early childhood. I got treatment for my diseases from Deeksha Madam, a doctor from VMM. She gave me a lot of support to live. She is like Tiger uncle in BAM BAM story book that helps all the children. I read that story book on HIV to all my friends. All the children having HIV formed as a support group called 'Prerana Children's Club', along with our grandparents, parents, sisters and brothers. I and my grandmother are part of the support group. I got good support from all of them. VMM staff talks with my family members, so, nobody show difference between me and other children in the family. I love to play the snake and ladder game on HIV, ART and nutrition with my friends.

Our Prerana club members were taken for a picnic to 'Manasarovaram', a theme park, and we went to Hyderabad and met the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasekhar Reddy uncle and I gave a flower bouquet to him. I felt very happy to meet such people. Now I am taking Anti Retroviral medicines from government hospital and became healthy. I am going to school regularly and am getting good marks in the class. I wish to be a doctor and help others in future.

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## A RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR PARTNER IN INDIA

**Elliott Prasse-Freeman**

MPA-ID '11

& Associate Fellow - Carr Center for Human Rights Policy  
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In a way I grew up with VMM. Not in the way that many of the children and young people they support have grown up with them. I did not play in their courtyard, or was supported by their community-based development, or took an internship and worked in the office, or anything that interesting. Rather, I was a young (very young) project manager, meant to go develop a relationship with our partner in India. I had no idea what I was doing, although working in Burma and southern Thailand, I had at least seen some very *ineffective* NGOs before! VMM was different: mission driven, resource conscious, savvy, hard-working. When we in the office for planning and data analysis, there were always other project managers staying late into the evening. This was part of the institutional culture at VMM. When we went into the field, we were discussing the political situation, the cultural variables, the economic constraints that led to the social phenomena the projects were meant to address. If the VMM staff didn't have the answers, we would think together about how to get them. In this way, they represent (and are!) everything I hoped a community-driven development model might be: organized, but with flexibility to respond to local realities. Most of all, VMM *weren't* perfect – and they weren't afraid to discuss this with me, just as I was not afraid to discuss my own callow self with them.

As a result, we were able to learn together: we designed a strategic plan and a capacity building platform – all of which were structured to help VMM craft new projects that would make their work higher impact, more sustainable, and even broader reaching. We brainstormed new projects, and thought of ways to enhance the existing ones, by leveraging local resources, enhancing staff capacity, and improving logistical and communications systems.

I am happy to have grown up with VMM. They demonstrated in their hard work and selflessness the tenets of a commitment to the poor; they demonstrated in their willingness to work to improve systems, how development as a model might actually work. And can say that a big reason I continue to work in development today is that they showed me how it can really be done.

## VMM - OPEN FOR ACADEMIC AVENUES

**Dr. ABSV Ranga Rao**

HOD, Dept. of Social work,  
Coordinator Gandhian Studies Centre and  
Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

Goparaju Ramachandra Rao garu (“GORA”) an atheist to the core established Gora Centre near Benz Circle, Bezawada in 1969 living true to the concept of atheism. ‘Gora’ was the embodiment of Gandhian values and revolutionary in his ideas and put them in practice for a social change of unparalleled proportion. Gora stood and strived for secularist, casteless and egalitarian society. This spirit of ‘Gora’ attracted me to commence my path in life and while doing my MA in Social Work, Kirti the present chairperson of Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) was my senior. This enabled me to interact very closely with ‘Gora’ family getting closely acquainted with all of them especially with sri. Lavanam garu. His lectures on atheism in my MA class developed in us a scientific temper. The Department has been actively associated for more than 3 decades in various activities and VMM provided placement agency, for students where they have been given training, inculcating values of social service and take up social work with a missionary zeal. Many were given placements and had an excellent start in life in establishing some NGOs and such other social/welfare organizations doing commendable service to the society and social causes making an indelible mark in their own chosen field. In 2009, three major workshops under the auspices of VMM on Social Advocacy and Documentation skills, were conducted, which were a resounding success, and, while reflecting on these workshops it gives me immense pleasure and satisfaction of knowing that these workshops metamorphosed the participants.

VMM in their 40 years of service having grown to a huge institution brought a noticeable social change and continue to make their presence felt in the society reflecting their passion, focus on various critical issues relating to women, children and the suffering humans in general toward the healthy development of the society we live in – an approach unseen in many voluntary organizations with which I interacted as the Head of the Department of Social work. As Coordinator of Gandhian Studies Centre – I must make a special mention here – my acquaintance grew deep roots with sri. Lavanam garu benefiting immensely to develop the Gandhian centre which now is in prime focus as the leading institution for social change, attracting persons from various walks and across all cross sections of our society as students of Gandhian Philosophy, Thoughts and Life.

My close association and interaction with VMM, I found the high motivation and commitment of their staff, the impeccable follow up to mobilize and make any community project to reach its logical end by accomplishing the goal of the project – A hallmark of high level of commitment, passion, motivation for poor and vulnerable sections of our great society. The skills, high rapport and motivation they infuse in the key stakeholders is deeply appreciable and commendable.

Such NGOs like VMM are needed more in number so that it eases the government of their enormous burden and supplement in their responsibility for poverty eradication, social, educational development and economic growth towards self-sufficiency and better social order.

I congratulate VMM on celebrating 40 years since inception in the service to various social, community and economic issues. The VMM must be emulated by other organizations on their missionary fervor for Gandhian values.

## MENTORING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN VIDEOGRAPHY

**Ms. Haley McCaig**

Volunteer to VMM from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010

When invited to share some words about my experience working with VMM, I again felt a sense of honor. Originally, I was honored with a chance to get to know, learn from, and be inspired by a dedicated group of individuals. Now, on such a noteworthy occasion, the experience comes full circle. I am able to venerate those who treated me with great respect and instilled the confidence in me to be a part of a small portion of VMM's considerable work.

Upon my arrival in Vijayawada, I was unsure in what way I would be able to lend support to the many programs that Vasavya Mahila Mandali was undertaking at the time. I was immediately energized by the new setting and the courageous and passionate individuals I found myself surrounded by. One powerful moment that stands out to me almost a year after the fact, took place at a support meeting for elderly women living together in a home built and supported by VMM. Although I could not understand the auditory language being used at the time, as I do not speak Telugu, I could see the love and gratitude on the faces of these beautifully aged women with whom Keerthi Madam has been working for thirteen years. Many of the women could barely stand, but all stood up as soon as Keerthi walked into the room, and did not sit until she herself was seated comfortably. It was an incredible sight and a testament to the work being done.

Another aspect of the work that VMM is doing that struck me from day one, is housing female college students and working women within the VMM compound, itself. I could not help but take note of this fact, as I was living among these women. At night, as I sat on the rooftop, I heard countless stories of women doing helpful and honorable things for their families, and communities. These women were brought together and supported by VMM and in turn, the women were able to cherish and support each other.

The culmination of the events to which I was bearing witness, and of the emotions I was feeling, came with the realization that I could share my experience and skill set working with videography with a group of young individuals in the form of a workshop. It became clear to me that the lives that VMM has touched, and undoubtedly will continue to touch, are spreading out across the Andhra Pradesh, India, and the world, like ripples on a body of water. By putting on documentary film-making workshops, it was my aspiration to share the gift of sharing. In my eyes, the more stories that can be documented, the more issues addressed, and more people put in touch with one another, will all be further steps in the march toward proactive humanism and professionalism.

## **VMM'S AROMA OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT @ PLACES OF HIGHER LEARNING**

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A number of NGOs may be contributing for human capital development but VMM stands aloft with its quite a laudable contribution of human capital development for the generation of quality human resources by having an astute institutionalized interface with Universities and Colleges, the places of higher learning that produce graduates and postgraduates to the country to handle complex tasks of building the nation.

While so many NGOs, even the larger ones, are found to be rather shunning from academic institutions like Universities and Colleges to work in union with them through institutionalized forms of collaborations, VMM has always been in the forefront of such initiatives, of having formal collaborations of working together with the Academia. Its collaborations with Andhra University, Visakhapatnam and Post-Graduate Courses and Research Centre, DNR College, Bhimavaram for Skill Development Workshops and Field Action Projects-the social labs to Universities- needs a special mentioning, apart from its association with scores of other institutions like Acharya Nagarguna University and Stella Marry's College.

VMM's contribution in organizing Skill Development Workshops to University students and partnering Field Action Projects, with financial and technical support, on the most vexing current social issues confronting the human societies and of vast masses of people in dire circumstances is unparalleled in the history of NGO-University interface in the state of Andhra Pradesh. What is so unique of this interface is that VMM brought with its fore the most contemporary applied knowledge in the area of unraveling the social reality and articulating pragmatic interventions to improve the quality of life of people, which is otherwise quite unavailable in any standard books of reference, as the availability of standard reference books is scant due to budgetary constraints and subject to time lag from the time of generating new theoretical frameworks and their availability in print form

This brought a cutting edge to the students of the Universities, with which VMM has had collaborations, in acquiring the most needed skills of employability in Quasi-Governmental or Non-Governmental Organizations, the principal source of employment for professional social workers, which is otherwise not possible through the regular class room learning from the Universities, because quite often even the senior faculty in the departments of the University campuses were not having updated knowledge and that kind of skill sets readily with them. Even for the faculty, the sessions conducted by VMM's technical staff were of pretty new revelations to reckon with to integrate theory with practice.

To conclude, VMM's collaborations with Universities and Colleges contributed for the generation of human capital of the most appropriate one, by knowledge management of the faculty and students, improved the skill sets by involving them in field action projects on current issues of human wellbeing, thus enlarging scope for application of theoretical models to the practical circumstances, fine-tuned their attitudes by imparting values in action and heralded action research to search the simple, yet culturally appropriate practical solutions for the promotion of social wellbeing and thus contributed for the expansion of quality human resources in Universities and Colleges wherever it has treaded with its collaborations. So, shouldn't the University Grants Commission, the highest policy making body that fosters higher education in the country, recommend this kind of interface on much a wider and larger scale in the interest of the nation?

## PARTNERSHIP OF VMM-AIRTDS

**Y. Sambasiva Rao**

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The Home/Community Based Care and Support (HCBCS) programme for the People living with HIV/AIDS started in 2002 by AIRTDS (Action for Integrated Rural and Tribal Development Social Service Society) with the support of Vasavya Mahila Mandali. HCBCS was initiated as a follow-up programme for the Netherlands-supported HIV/AIDS prevention project of AIRTDS. The People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) who were identified during the implementation of prevention project were provided support services in HCBCS programme.

A number of PLHA were benefited through this programme since services were not available in 2002 for them. In the initial stages, stigma and discrimination was high and lack of services for the vulnerable groups made it very challenging. The issues were reviewed periodically by VMM and its partners and were addressed through programmes supported by other donors like DFID for feminisation of HIV programmes, Education Development incorporation for education support of children affected and living with HIV and Clinton Foundation for care, support and treatment of children living with HIV.

Under the guidance of VMM, we initiated community foster care for orphans of HIV/AIDS and this initiative lead to USAID PACT research project's Foster Mother Programme. Foster Mother Programme was a strategically got the attention of world community. AIRTDS brought out a document on the research programme.

Under VMM education programme, education material, books, school bags, stationery were provided to about 600 students and school support groups were formed. Under this programme, Children Living with HIV and children affected by HIV were given an opportunity to continue their education.

The VMM-Clinton Foundation programme was initiated in 2006 and 300 children living with HIV were provided with ART medicine, adherence counseling and nutrition. A pilot programme on stigma reduction with children involvement was initiated with the support of VMM, NACO and UNDP. Massive campaign started in schools educating students, parents and teachers regarding HIV/AIDS. The different stakeholders were involved in the programme and it helped in reduction of stigma.

In addition to these programmes several other government programmes like RGF, ND, CAPART were also implemented. Vocational training has been given to many villagers for creating self-employment in villages. With the help of VMM partnership, linkages were established with NGOs for the benefit of people. The volunteers of AIRTDS acquired additional skills with the help of VMM/Alliance.

People of several villages would be grateful to VMM for the support and help in implementing several programmes for the betterment of their lives.

We congratulate Vasavya Mahila Mandali for successfully completing 40 years in the service of people and we extend compliments on this occasion.

## FOCUS ON VMM

**Donna M. Guenther, M.D.**

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As a physician, activist and photographer documenting stories of HIV/AIDS in India, I welcomed the opportunity, in April 2007, to document HIV/AIDS projects of Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM), including the first Clinton Foundation Pediatric Screening Camp. Little did I know what was in store!...

I was given a calendar of assignments that seemed to fill every single moment of every single day of my stay. As we traveled from village to village, project to project and family to family; the list seemed endless! The reason the list seemed endless is because the work of VMM is endless!...

Focusing on VMM, I would like to share some “action shots” – panoramas, groups and family portraits - which together reflect the big picture of Vasavya Mahila Mandali and the difference it has made in the lives of so many...

### 2007

The Clinton Pediatric Screening Camp was only the beginning!: HIV+ children were examined, tested to determine whether they were candidates for ART (anti-retroviral therapy) and referred to local ART Centers for therapy with follow-up by VMM outreach workers.

I visited the ART Center at Guntur Clinic where children and adults from nearby rural villages receive treatment. I was introduced to community HIV support groups in Guntur, Tenali and the SHIP program where HIV education, support and food staples were provided for needy families.

I met foster grannies and attended PLHA and children support groups, supplemental education classes and a non-formal education center for child heads of household who work during the day to support their families.

I interviewed street children, along the Krishna River and near the railway station, all at high risk for HIV, who receive counseling and support from peer outreach workers trained by VMM.

I visited several families where surviving parents and children are HIV+ or where children are being raised by grandparents because both parents died of AIDS. Some children are infected; all are affected by HIV.

*The doctor said 3years **Yesubabu**, HIV+, frail, barely speaking and unable to walk, was supposed to die. Because VMM outreach workers urged that he be treated, **Yesubabu**, now 7, is normal for his age, healthy, active and doing well in school. He receives ART, good nutrition and loving care from grandparents with continued support from VMM.*

### 2008

I discovered that existing VMM programs had expanded, including a bimonthly health clinic at Tenali, nutrition education for PLHA support groups, IGP's, kitchen garden and village rice distribution projects and a supplemented Foster Grannies program.

The Saraswati Gora youth centre was providing shelter, education, counseling and vocational training, including heavy vehicle driving, for 60 street children (boys) with space for 120. The Children's Village, in a rural setting not far from Vijayawada, is home for up to 30 AIDS orphans who have no close relatives to care for them. Children attend community schools and older girls receive training in sewing skills, computer and typing.

**Durga** learned stitching and embroidery skills at the Children's Village women's vocational training program. At age 18, she is now self-supporting, making and selling saris for women in her village. The quality of care and educational opportunities provided by VMM staff at the night shelter and Children's Village has been and continues to be life transforming for these youngsters.

## 2009

I was introduced to Mobile HIV testing and counseling, DNR College social work college and community service programs, legal counseling for PLHA property rights and NEEDS, a VMM partner in Chilakaluripet, which provided support groups, condom distribution, home based care, education and sewing skills training for sex workers. Because of the influence of NEEDS staff, several women stopped doing sex work, some have married and/or found other sources of income.

**35years Vijaya**, a former sex worker, used a micro loan (IGP) to rent a stand (which she now owns) and start a small business selling milk and sweets.

Health on Wheels, a Mobile Medical Van, provides medical support, education and counseling to families in slum colonies.

As I focused my camera on the que waiting to be seen in the mobile medical van, a familiar face stood out. Now 19, **Padma** was one of the street children I interviewed and photographed 2 years back! She proudly introduced me to her 6months daughter and husband, a construction worker. All are HIV negative ! ...

## 2010

I attended a meeting of the Grannies' Club which not only supports elder women raising orphaned grandchildren, but has given rise to strong voices which have cut through barriers of stigma and discrimination against those infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS in their communities.

As I walked through the Vombay Colony, **Subramanyamma** and 2 other women from the Grannies Club call to me, wave and invite me into their homes. I am privileged not only to be a part of the VMM family, but also to be welcomed into the families that they serve...

In coordination with the ICTC mobile testing van, Street Plays performed by VMM staff create a safe, comfortable space for men to come in off the street to receive HIV testing and counseling...Families were revisited as were women from the NEEDS program. Several more have stopped doing sex work... The vocational training and sewing skills programs at the night shelter and Children's Village had expanded and turned out more self supporting teens

Through VMM staff, I have had the opportunity to return annually to re-visit villages, projects, families and children whom I originally met and photographed in 2007.

when first we met, **Venu**, a CLHA on ART, was being raised by his paternal grandmother whose health has been failing. Now 14, **Venu**, helps support his grandmother by doing bookbinding while supplementing his education through VMM's Learning for Life program.

Each year, along with the familiar, there are new projects, new families, new faces, all supported through the outstanding community outreach work of VMM...To paraphrase, "A picture is worth a thousand words.", it could be said that a picture of VMM transforms a thousand lives.

Vasavya Mahila Mandali is indeed providing life transforming opportunities for hundreds of families affected or infected by HIV in urban and rural villages of the Krishna District and beyond. HIV is currently accepted and managed as a chronic treatable disease and VMM is playing a crucial role in delivering that message to the people of Andhra Pradesh... A small but well organized, dedicated staff has been trained to include and motivate members of each community to support and care for their own, and the results are truly amazing! VMM deserves to be recognized as the leading example for India of HIV/AIDS community education, prevention, home-based care, treatment, and follow-up.

Congratulations to Chennupati Vidya, Rashmi, Keerthi and Dr. Deeksha on celebration of 40 years of VMM...

## VMM-A UNIVERSITY FOR SERVICE

**Dr.G. Prabhakar**

Director, Green Vision, Visakhapatnam

It is a historic moment for the NGO sector, VMM completing 40 years of Service for the Humanity. It has been my great privilege and honour to be associated with VMM as partner and friend for more than 30 years. Entering the campus of VMM as a visitor, one gets the feeling that one has entered a Deemed University, with several departments welcoming you. One can take an exposure visit to educate himself on various issues of Development to see the Programmes on Women and Child Health, Women Empowerment, Protection of Child Rights, Programmes for Adolescent girls, HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support, Rehabilitation, Protection cells for Destitutes, Children, Orphans, Widows and Senior Citizens, a working Womens Hostel, a Vocational Training Center, an institute for Health Workers and many more learning centers. For a beginner in Social Work., it will be a great learning experience and training visiting the campus of VMM.

My association with VMM started way back in 1977. I was a final year student of Madras Medical College, Chennai, and was deputed as Medical Volunteer to work in the cyclone devastated areas of Krishna district during the devastating Cyclone of 1977 (Uppena). During my posting, I had the opportunity of meeting the stalwarts in the Social Service Sector. Prabhakar ji, Sri. D. Kondal Rao, Sri Vijayam, Dr. Samaram, Sri Niyantha, Dr.K.V Desikan and Smt Vidya. My association with them and the experience, has prompted me to enter the NGO Sector. The experience at Diviseema has laid the foundation for my careerr in NGO sector. Sri Gora garu and Smt Sarswathi Gora garu has gifted the Country with a great team of Social Workers and dedicated themselves to the cause of mankind and now the legacy continues.

My long association with VMM has given me an opportunity to meet several luminaries in the International field like Captain Chater, Ms Derry, Sir Robert Flockes, Smt Minte Panday, Smt .Kumkum Ghosh, Dr. Jeff Richardson, Ms Rita Roy, Ms. Kate Harrison and many more. It has been a great pleasure to work with Smt. Vidya garu who has always bestowed her love and affection on me as a mother . I remember one of the great moments when Smt. Vidya arranged a meeting with Sri P.V Narshima Rao, the then Prime Minister of India during Oct 1992. The amount of respect and affection showered by Sri P.V Narasimha Rao garu, not only on Smt Vidya garu but also on all of us, is memorable. The zeal with which she continues her work even today is amazing. I have no sisters and always feel that God has compensated me by giving 3 wonderful sisters in Smt Rashmi, Smt Keerthi and Dr.Deeksha. It has been wonderful working with them as a strong team in the Development Sector. Smt. Rashmi was the Chairperson of the Inner Wheel Club in RI Dist. 3020 and she had done her best for Rotary during her tenure. As a Partner, we have worked together implementing the Care and Support Programme for People Living with HIV/AIDS for 10 years. Her commitment and dedication for the welfare of the People Living with HIV/AIDS elevated her to be a member of CCM at National level. I still remember the day when she shed tears when we lost the first HIV positive child of our Programme, Master. Ramdas. She has great love for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the Community.

Smt. Keerthi has been my friend from her student days in Andhra University as a PG student of Department of Social Work. Prof. K.V. Ramana garu, the then Vice Chancellor of Andhra University introduced her as one of the best students from his Department. She has been always best as a student, as an Administrator and as a Technical Resource person. She has thorough knowledge about various Development Issues at grassroot level. Her experience has prompted her to go for her PhD. Dr. Deeksha, the youngest of the Trio has been a great source of strength for Medical Programmes of VMM. As a Dermatologist, we both have done several Programmes in the field of HIV/AIDS. The uniqueness of the sisters is that they make themselves available for their partner NGOs all through, 24 hours X 365 days, which makes it very convenient for the Partners to work with VMM.

Dr.Samaram is another great pillar of strength for VMM as an Advisor. At a time, when there was acute shortage of Telugu Translations for Medical Books and Journals in the field of HIV/AIDS, Dr.Samaram has brought several books on STIs, HIV/AIDS, Pregnancy, Family Life Skill Education. He was instrumental in bringing out several Training manuals and IEC material by VMM. It has been another feather in the cap of VMM, Dr.Samaram becoming National President of IMA.

VMM has been a trendsetter in the field of Care and Support Programme for People Living with HIV/AIDS. VMM brought several NGOs and CBOs together by Networking. Some of the unique Programmes introduced by VMM like the Experience Sharing and Learning Meet, Study cum Recreation Centers, Community Structures have brought good recognition for the NGOs in Andhra Pradesh. VMM completing 40 years in Service is a great laudable achievement and I wish VMM all success in its further journey in Social Service. I always look forward to be associated with VMM in serving the Humanity.

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## MULTI SECTORAL EXPERTISE OF VMM

**Bh. R.S. Bhavani Sankar**  
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It is an immense pleasure to share my experiences of associating with Vasavya Mahila Mandali. I got to know about Vasavya Mahila Mandali as Women headed NGO while I was in the Targeted Intervention division of Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS). My early interactions as a Monitoring Officer for the HIV prevention project among Street children in Vijayawada were very informative and inspiring.

Later I also worked (2002-2004) at Vasavya Mahila Mandali as a Coordinator for the first-ever Home and Community Based HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program in Andhra Pradesh. It was highly enriching and learning experience, given the nature of work and scale of operations. I could actually learn as well as contribute to the cause of addressing HIV epidemic in the State.

One can clearly see a multi-sectoral expertise and highly inclusive approaches in terms of projects and program management; apart from very cordial and conducive environment for the staff to express their views, learn, contribute and grow. Vasavya Mahila Mandali has been proactive in taking up new challenges in the field of social development and for the upliftment of poor and needy.

Inspired by the ideologies of late Smt & Sri GORA and the dynamic leadership of Vidyaji, I am sure that the Women-trio [Ms. Rashmi, Ms. Keerthi and Dr. Deeksha] will make a telling impact in the arena of Civil Society contributions for Human development.

I am deeply touched by the love and affection shared by Vidyaji [*Vidyamma*, as we all call her] apart from the warmth and friendliness of Ms. Rashmi, Ms. Keerthi and Dr. Deeksha, professionally as well as personally during my tenure at Vasavya Mahila Mandali.

Even after moving ahead, I still enjoy my association with the Vasavya family. I wish the Vasavya family a very bright future and convey best wishes on eve of 40 years celebrations with the theme “**Marching ahead with Pro-active Humanism and Professionalism**”.

## **SAILING WITH VMM TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

**Smt. Jagarlamudi Padmavathi**

Founder Mahila Mandali, Chirala  
Ex. Member of Legislative assembly, AP  
Receipt of national awardee

Mahila Mandali, Chirala was established in the year 1961 with the aim work for the empowerment of women and children through institutional and community based services with all vigour and tenacity.

Initially we have started to provide counselling and support the people in distress. I personally came to know that Smt. Chennupati. Vidya is also running a Mahila Mandali in Vijayawada, providing training skills to the poor and needy in the communities. In the year 1972, first time I met Smt. CH. Vidya garu to know the implementation of skill building programmes at VMM. Even though I had heard about Smt. Vidya long back, I was not aware of the Vasavya Mahila Mandali, until I visit the organisation. It was a good experience for me, with her guidance we have started vocational training especially tailoring programme in Chirala. It was very successful, women in the community has shown interest to learn, all the success has came only with the suggestions and advises of Ch. Vidya. From then onwards I have decided, Smt. Vidya as my best advisor in empowering women in communities.

Mrs. Vidya along with her daughter Dr. Deeksha has visited our organisation on weeklong meetings with Mahila Mandali's in state on the occasion of International women's day in 1975. She has given good idea of starting a Super Bazaar in chirala, first I was not interested, she has motivated me to start with women, she told, "Women should always be in front to face challenges and be a role models for others". These words inspired me to start Super Bazaar in chirala in 1977, which totally managed by women and it was inaugurated by my mentor Vidya. In the same year we got the opportunity to supply provisions to fare shops under public distribution system, we were little hesitate to take, with Vidya's advise we have taken and stood best in supplying the provisions.

Later on we have continued our activities with her suggestion, in the year 1983, we got the opportunity to provide mid-day meals in thirty schools for 4000 thousand children, it was successful went for two years. Later the then Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh ordered to provide uniforms to school children, we have given chance to provide uniforms to 4000 children in thirty schools with the trained trainees of tailoring. With inspiration by Vidya, I was able to implement different programme with different donors.

Our thirty years of journey was only taking suggestion and implementing programmes, during the year 2001, we got the chance to work together for Care and Support programme. It was a really nice and unforgettable experience for Mahila Mandali. We are proud to say that Vasavya Mahila Mandali is the best lead partner NGO which will guide the NGOs in a better way for reaching the goals of the designed programmes basing on the strengthening's of the NGO. I feel that the working strategy VMM is really a dynamic which is always useful for the organisation to show their voices in the community.

## **AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE IN VAMBAY COLONY, VIJAYAWADA, AP**

**Swetha Desai**

Volunteer from US

This summer I spent six weeks in Vijayawada interning as a Research Assistant at Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM). Prior to this experience, I had no knowledge of the area or of the impact VMM had on the community. During the course of my internship I gained valuable knowledge, skills, and experience that helped me to further understand the complexities surrounding education and health in urban and rural areas of India. One incident in particular completely transformed the way I viewed life and instilled a deep sense of humility and compassion for those around me.

One afternoon, a VMM social worker, a counselor, and I went to Vambay Colony, a relocated slum in Vijayawada. I was just getting acquainted with my surroundings and it was my first time walking through the slums. I will never forget a small girl of 15 and her brother of 14 who both run a household by themselves since their parents died of AIDS. The girl is HIV-positive, but has a beautiful bright smile; her brother is a shy boy who wants to become a police officer. The girl runs a chakuli business while the boy attends school during the day and then works at a local food shop until late at night. Their total daily income is a meager amount and most of it goes to food and medicines. It broke my heart to see these children in pain; however, it is solely because of VMM and other partnering organizations that these HIV-positive individuals have been able to remain so strong. VMM reaches out to them to offer psycho-social, nutritional, and educational support, thereby providing a pillar on which these people can lean.

The six-weeks went by too quickly, but it was a beautiful and rich experience that I will carry with me forever. I am truly humbled and grateful to have had this opportunity and can only credit the wonderful staff of VMM. I wish them plenty of success in this important and life-changing work.

## A REMARKABLE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION IN INDIA

**Reeta Roy**

President and CEO

The MasterCard Foundation, Toronto

This week, a remarkable grassroots organization in India, Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM), celebrated 40 years of achievement and service. Founded by two social reformers, Saraswathi Gora and Goparaju Ramachandra Rao, VMM is an inspirational social development NGO in Andhra Pradesh that empowers vulnerable women and families to develop their talents, become productive, and change lives—their own, and those of others in their communities.

VMM's comprehensive programs provide access to education, health, life and trade skills, as well as protect the human rights of families who are marginalized. Quite simply, its approach honors human dignity by enabling individuals and families to confront challenges they face, define their own solutions and access skills and resources to transform their situations.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to witness VMM's "empowerment in practice". Although the groups varied—from children living on the streets of Vijayawada and families ostracized because of HIV, to women seeking escape from abusive homes or the sex trade—VMM applied consistent principles. The process began by listening carefully as people described their lives. There was no sugar-coating of tough realities. People were asked about what they could and were willing to do to improve their circumstances with support and resources. In effect, VMM asked them if they would take ownership of change. For many, particularly children and young people, it was the first time they realized they had a voice and the power to change their lives.

The next step involved flexible and customized responses. Programs were designed, implemented and measured by the participants themselves. The solutions were practical as well as innovative. For example, based on input from street youth, a night shelter was established to offer them a safe place to sleep and where they could acquire literacy and other skills. These young people ran the facility, kept it clean and were mentors to each other. VMM established a savings program for each child who contributed 2 or 3 rupees a week from their day jobs. Far more powerful than the value of individual accounts, the practice of savings oriented these young people to think about their futures.

VMM also created forums to elevate the voices of these families and young people to policy makers and enable direct learning. By giving them a voice and platform to express their ideas, VMM has instilled a sense of identity, confidence and purpose in thousands of "lost children" in Andhra Pradesh whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Many entered VMM with the trauma of losing family members and humiliation of being ostracized. After participating in VMM's programs, they are now earning a living and giving back as volunteer mentors, trainers and advocates of VMM's initiatives.

For me, VMM embodies leadership by example. As we reflect on the past year and plan for the new year, let's draw from the inspiring work of the many organizations we know. And, as we innovate and evolve, let's continue to listen to the voices of the people we serve.

[http://www.ssireview.org/opinion/entry/the\\_power\\_of\\_voices/](http://www.ssireview.org/opinion/entry/the_power_of_voices/)

## GROOMING SECOND AND THIRD GENERATIONS....

**G. Rashmi**, Secretary, VMM

**Dr. B. Keerthi**, Technical Support Manager, VMM

**Dr. P. Deeksha**, Medical Director, VMM

Holding our hands with mother, Vidya led our lives committing for social responsibility. Although we are from humanities, sciences and medical professions, our Journey in the evolution of the VMM all through the four decades is memorable. When we three are very young at the age of 3-7 years, we remember well the women in Patamata Lank used to assemble, sharing their issues and concerns. We used to wait for the cooking classes to taste the variety of delicacies prepared by the village women. That's how we became very good cooks in our lives and enjoy spending our free time in kitchen.

It is unusual to spend our holidays by playing, reading comics, chit chatting with neighbours, BUT we three with our brother visited villages and slums with mother observing the hardships of the people. Those are the heart touching moments that has a permanent mark on us... responding to the needs of those who are in need as we can, even today. During vacations we attended meetings with mother Vidya, aunts Mythri and Hemalatha. We learnt patience to sit through the meetings (a length of 60-120 minutes) and the beginning and ending is by us singing *Vandemataram* and *Janaganaman*, India's national Anthem. Even though we are not professional singers, we became bold singers of National Anthem be it a Weight Lifting competition organised by father or a women's meeting in the village organised by mother. This has taken roots to the patriotic spirit in us.

Sitting by the side of mother and aunts, we have seen the problems women face in our free India.... That made us bold when we faced problems in life to cope and able to help women in crisis. In our childhood we heard from our grandfather Gora, "do you want to be a 'bogie' (compartment) in the train or an 'engine'?" That made us to think hundred.. no thousand times... then we three decided to be leaders for the community train. The experience of meetings, visits to communities, counselling sessions, donor interactions, participation in community works with mother are the stepping stones for our humanitarian work.

The environment we are grown in a joint family with about 60-70 members of three generations with cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents instilled the spirit of social reform and nationalism has groomed us to be productive citizens by following the footsteps of the previous generations. Although we had an opportunity to get education in India and abroad, but the spirit to work for the 'Mother Land' has motivated us to continue the legacy of our elders in taking ahead Vasavya Mahila Mandali with professionalism and humanism. We three are committed for taking this movement forward with a band of committed and dedicated team of VMM volunteers.

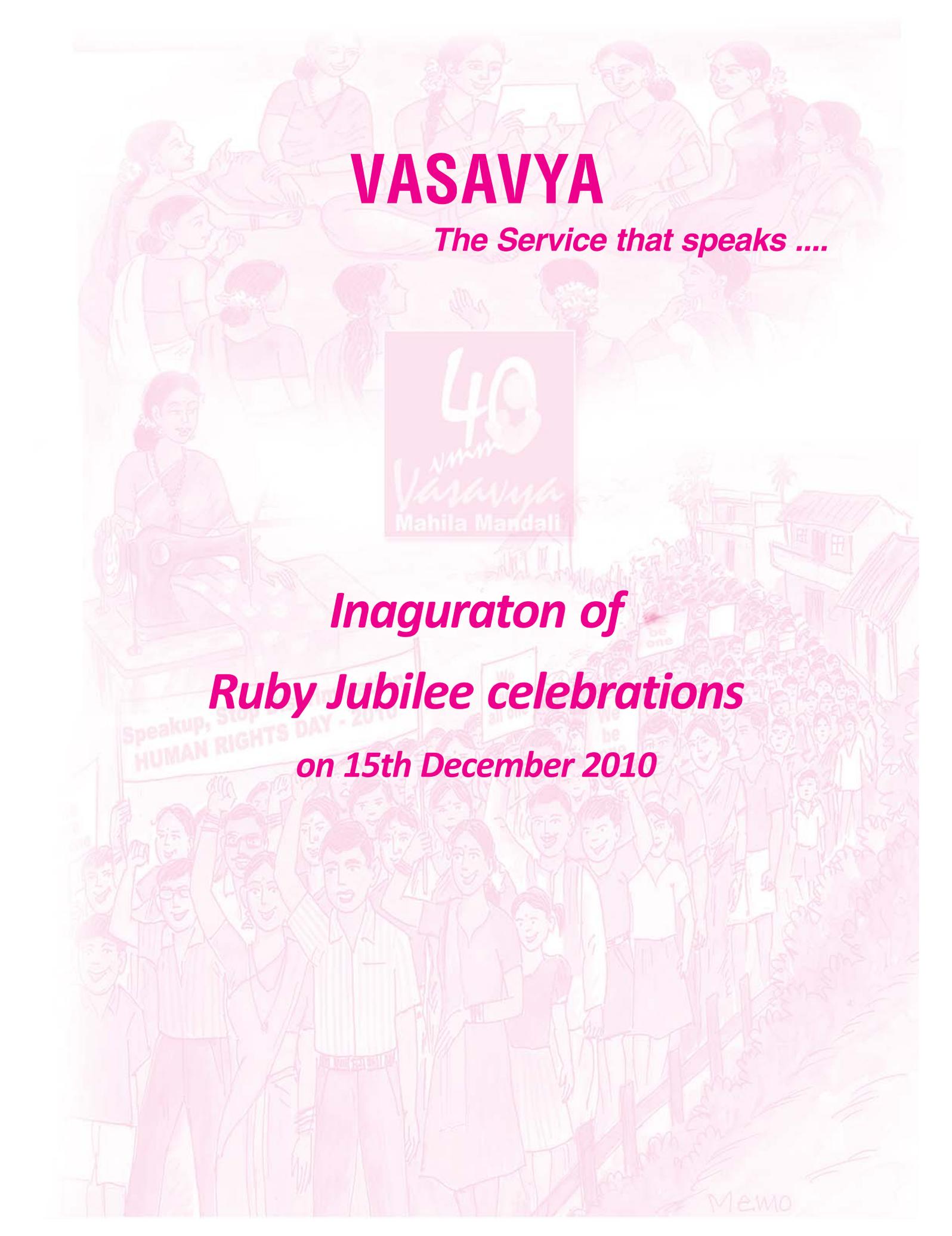
Our father, Chennupati Seshagiri Rao has gifted us with life-long cherished qualities of discipline, time management and multi tasking that imbibed qualities made us committed volunteers for social development and the smile on the faces of most vulnerable gives us utmost satisfaction. Our elders have groomed us to work with dignity of labour and valuing others' views. At VMM we with other volunteers share and enjoy the team work. We always inspire our team that institution is permanent and individuals should add value to build civil society organisations to reach millions of families.

As one of our well wishers Dr. K.V. Ramana, Former Vice Chancellor of Andhra University, reflected "Now a days there is high levels of mortality among NGOs and I really appreciate VMM continuing the work with visible strategic growth in four decades."

As a third generation it is our bounded responsibility to continue the legacy of VMM and train fourth generation of volunteers to manage and to implement to reach communities.



2003 : Inauguration of Sri Vidya Biotech, a Community Based Organisation of youth living on the streets for making bio-manure

A large, light-colored illustration serves as the background. It depicts a group of women in traditional Indian attire (sarees) sitting on the ground, engaged in conversation. One woman in the center is holding a tablet or a book. To the left, another woman is seated at a sewing machine. In the lower half of the image, a large crowd of people, including men, women, and children, is shown in a celebratory mood, with many raising their hands. Some are holding signs, and there are buildings in the background. The entire illustration is rendered in a soft, pinkish-purple hue.

# VASAVYA

*The Service that speaks ....*

40  
Ninth  
Varavya  
Mahila Mandali

## *Inaguraton of Ruby Jubilee celebrations*

*on 15th December 2010*



# INVITATION



*Theme*

**“MARCHING AHEAD WITH  
PRO - ACTIVE HUMANISM AND PROFESSIONALISM”**

*Inauguration of*

**40 years Celebrations**

*of*

**VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI**

**on 15th December, 2010**

[www.vasavya.com](http://www.vasavya.com)



# Programme

- 12.30 noon - Welcoming Guests
- 12.40 to 1.00 PM - Walking with “**Vasavya - path of progress**” - a Photo Exhibition
- 1.00 to 1.15PM - Welcome Dance - By Vasavya Nrutya Vihar
- 1.15 to 1.20PM - Song by VMM team
- 1.20 to 1.25PM - Inviting the dignitaries on to the dais
- 1.25 to 1.35PM - President's opening remarks
- 1.35 to 1.45PM - Secretary's report on the achievements of VMM
- 1.45 to 2.05PM - Launching of Profile of VMM “**SPOORTHY 'the mission continues'**” a short documentary film - by Hon'ble Minister Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister for HRD, Government of India
- 2.05 to 2.20PM - Honouring VMM Founder Members of Executive Committee
- 2.20 to 2.50PM - Inauguration of 40 years celebrations by Chief Guest  
Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari, Minister of state for Human Resource Development, Government of India.  
Keynote Address on “The Role of Women in Promoting Pro-active Humanism and Professionalism”
- 2.50 to 2.55PM - Release of Souvenir “**VASAVYA the service that speaks**” and address by Smt.V.L. Indira Dutt, Joint Managing Director, KCPLtd.and Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council

## Guests of Honour

: **Dr. WOLFGANG SCHNORR**

Regional Manager, Deutsche Bank, Germany

**Dr. B. GANGAIAH**

Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India

**Dr. G. SAMARAM**

National President, Indian Medical Association

**Mr. RAJAN MANI**

Director, Finance & Admin., India HIV/AIDS Alliance, New Delhi

**Smt. TATINENI PADMAVATHI**

Vice-Chairperson, Zilla Praja Prishad, Krishna District



Welcoming Dr. DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI  
Minister of State for Human Resource Development,  
Government of India by VMM Management



Welcome to "Vasaya - Path of Progress" - Photo Exhibition



Dr. DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI, keenly observing 'FACIFIMILE of Acronym Vasavya, written down by Gora



Mrs. Vidya explaining to Smt. V.L. Indira Dutt - the Photo of Inaguration of the Building for Priyadarshini working women's hostel of VMM in 9th August, 1985 by Sri. R. Venkatraman, Hon'ble Vice President of India



Welcome dance of Vasavya Nrutya Vihar by Dr. Demos Gora and team



Invities for VMM Ruby Jubilee celebrations



Dignitaries for the VMM Ruby Jubilee Celebrations - Presidential Address by Mrs. Vidya



A song by Vasavya volunteers



Release of documentary film " SPOORTHY - the mission continues"



Release of souvenir " VASAVYA - the service that speaks"



Keynote Address by Dr. DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI  
Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India



Secretary's report by Mrs. G. Rashmi



Message by Smt. V.L. Indira Dutt, Joint Managing Director, KCP Ltd and Chairperson, SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneur Council



Vote of thanks by Mrs. P. Vedavathi, Executive Member, VMM



Trio of inspirational women



Trio of working women



VMM management with NGO partners



VMM management with staff

# Felicitation to Founder Members & Dignitaries



Dr. D. Purandeswari

Smt. V.L. Indra Dutt



Inauguration of 40 Years Celebrations



Dr. Yarlagadda Sitaratnam  
VMM Founder Vice President

Smt. Chennupati Vidya  
VMM Founder President

Smt. J. Mythini  
VMM Founder Treasurer



Inauguration of 40 Years Celebrations of VASA MAHILA MANDALI

Dr. Samaram



Inauguration of 40 Years Celebrations of VASA MAHILA MANDALI

Smt. T. Padmavathi



40 Years Celebrations of VASA MAHILA MANDALI

Dr. Gangaiah

Mr. Rajan Mani



40 Years Celebrations of VASA MAHILA MANDALI

Dr. Wolfgang Schnorr

**Report**  
**Inauguration of Ruby Jubilee Celebrations of**  
**Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM)**  
**Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India**

Vasavya Mahila Mandali launched the inauguration of the year long events on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 at Vasavya Mahila Mandali campus, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India. Donor representatives, government functionaries, civil society organizations, philanthropists, Vasavya family members and community added value to the celebrations with their presence.

A team from Deutsche Bank AG, Germany lead by Dr Wolfgang Schnorr, Mr. Rajan Mani, India HIV/AIDS Alliance, Dr. B. Gangaiah, Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Mrs. T. Padmavathi, Vice Chairperson, Krishna Zilla Parishad, Dr. G. Samaram National President Indian Medical Association, Team from Family Health India and Clinton Foundation gave significance to the celebrations. Many representatives of VMM partner NGOs impacted the celebrations through their meaningful participation.

Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India, and Mrs. V.L. Indira Dutt, Joint Managing Director, KCP Ltd, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council, were welcomed by the management, volunteers and children of VMM. The guests were taken around by Dr. Keerthi for a photo exhibition cherished, '**Vasavya – Path of Progress**' that depicted the evolution of the organisation during its 40-year-long journey.

Vasavya Nrutya Vihar team, Dr. Demos Gora and the volunteers of VMM, welcomed with a dance. The staff of VMM presented a song written by the demised founder member Dr. Hemalatha Lavanam.

Dr. D. Purandeswari, the chief guest released a documentary film on VMM's 40 years of work: '**Spoorthi-The Mission Continues**'. All the dignitaries and invitees appreciated the flow, the theme and the community reflected in the film.

Mrs. Vidya in her presidential speech appreciated the coordinated efforts of VMM with public and private donors that impacted the communities. She shared an incident of illiterate tribal woman reaching VMM adult education centre, beaten by her husband as she was able to read the name and number of the city transport services where he was unable to do so. He could not tolerate her advancement in literacy in patriarchal society that led to violence. Since early 1970s VMM has adopted the inclusive approach for gender acceptance. She cautioned every civilian to support the education and care of the vulnerable children. She expressed her concern towards the under-skilled manpower vs. India's growth.

Mrs. Rashmi Secretary of VMM presented 40 years report highlighting the areas of work in health, nutrition, education, human rights, disaster management and livelihoods by giving light to many lives especially women and children.

VMM paid tribute and recognized the three founder members Mrs. Chennupati Vidya Founder President, Dr. Yarlagadda Sitaratnam Founder Vice President and Mrs. J. Mythri Founder Treasurer.

Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development Dr.D. Purandeswari said empowerment of women in its true sense was possible through bringing about a positive change in the mindset of men. Delivering the key-note address on 'role of women in promoting pro-active humanism and professionalism' the Minister said the string of welfare schemes launched by the government for the upliftment of women notwithstanding, a large population of the fairer sex continued to remain outside the ambit of their benefits. "NGOs must play an active role in taking the benefits of the government programmes to the grass-root level," she suggested. Drawing a contrasting picture of the 'shining' India and 'whining' Bharat, she tried to portray the rich-poor divide that paralysed the development process at its root. "We take pride in the rapid advancement of science and technology in the urban sector on the one side on the other we have serious concerns over the issues of poverty and illiteracy glaring in our face on the rural front", she said. Referring to the many welfare initiatives aimed at development of women, she said self-help groups in the rural sector were the finest example of women empowerment. The Domestic Violence Act was yet another powerful tool given to women to fight injustice against them on the domestic front.

The Minister expressed serious concern over the 'dismal' educational scenario. "The literacy rate of a country determines the development proportion of that nation. We still have a major chunk of children outside schools. I was informed here that Krishna district alone has over 3000 HIV-affected kids. It is essential to provide educational facility to these children to prevent them from turning into anti-social elements," she cautioned. Lauding the role of NGOs in the development process, which, she maintained, was 'indisputable', she said voluntary organizations were 'extension' of the government.

Mrs. V.L.Indira Dutt, joint Managing Director of KCP Ltd and Chairperson SAARC Chamber, Women Entrepreneur Council released a souvenir '**Vasavya-Service That Speaks**' brought out on the occasion by the VMM.

Mrs. Indira Dutt appreciated the dedicated services of Mrs. Vidya and building number of volunteers to serve for the cause of women. "The era needs socio-economic empowerment of women that can be possible through entrepreneurship and it is need of the hour that many institutions should make an effort like VMM" she said. She expressed that corporate should come forward to support the vulnerable communities to improve their lives.

Dr Purandeswari and Mrs. Indira Dutt were honoured with Kalamkari shawls made by orphan youth covered under welfare schemes of the VMM. Other dignitaries Dr. B. Gangaiah, Mrs. Padmavathi, Dr. Samaram, Mr. Rajan Mani and Dr Wolfgang Schnorr were also honoured by Mrs. Vidya.

Dr.Deeksha and Ms. Rajatha Gora anchored the programme. Ms. Vedavathi welcomed the invitees and Ms. Udaya Lakshmi, Ms. Kaseeswaramma and Ms. Premalatha introduced the founder Directors to gathering.

# Fruits of welfare schemes yet to reach women: Minister

## Non-governmental organisations urged to play a key role in the development of society

Special Correspondent

**VIJAYAWADA:** Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development D. Purandeswari on Wednesday said empowerment of women in its true sense was possible through bringing about a positive change in the mindset of men.

Delivering a key-note address on 'role of women in promoting pro-active humanism and professionalism' at a meeting organised in connection with the 40th anniversary of the city-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), Vasavya Mahila Mandali, the Minister said the string of welfare schemes launched by the government for the uplift of women notwithstanding, a large population of the fairer sex continued to remain outside the ambit of their benefits. "NGOs must play an active role in taking the benefits of the government programmes to the grass-root level," she suggested.

Drawing a contrasting picture of the 'shining' India and 'whining' Bharat, she tried to portray the rich-poor divide that paralysed the development process at its root. "We take pride in the rapid advancement of science and tech-

nology in the urban sector on the one side and on the other we have serious concerns over the issues of poverty and illiteracy glaring in our face on the rural front," she said.

The Minister suggested that NGOs could turn into an effective machinery to take the fruits of development to the needy at the lowest strata of society.

Referring to the many welfare initiatives aimed at development of women, she said self-help groups in the rural sector were the finest example of women empowerment.

The Domestic Violence Act was yet another powerful tool given to women to fight injustice against them on the domestic front.

### Dismal scenario

The Minister expressed serious concern over the 'dismal' educational scenario. "The literacy rate of a country determines the development proportion of that nation. We still have a major chunk of children outside schools. I was informed here that Krishna district alone has over 3,000 HIV-affected kids. It is essential to provide educational facility to these children to prevent them from turning into anti-social ele-



Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development Daggubati Purandeswari (extreme left), VMM president Chennupati Vidya (centre) and SAARC Chairperson V. L. Indira Dutt (extreme right) participating in the 40th anniversary of Vasavya Mahila Mandali in Vijayawada on Wednesday.

- PHOTO: CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

- Meet held on the 'role of women in promoting pro-active humanism and professionalism'
- Domestic Violence Act is a powerful tool given to women to fight injustice against them: Minister

ments," she cautioned.

### Pat for NGOs

Lauding the role of NGOs in the development process, which, she maintained, was 'indisputable', she said volun-

tary organisations were 'extension' of the government. The Minister was then draped in a Kalamkari shawl made by orphan children covered under welfare schemes of the VMM. Ms. Purandes-

wari also released a souvenir 'Vasavya - The Service That Speaks' brought out on the occasion by the VMM. Earlier, she was taken around a photo exhibition christened 'Vasavya - Path of Progress' that depicted the evolution of the organisation during its 40-year-long journey. V.L. Indira Dutt, joint managing director of KCP Ltd. and chairperson, SAARC Chamber, Women Entrepreneur Council, graced the occasion.



# 'స్వచ్ఛంద' చైతన్యం భేష్: పురంధేశ్వరి

**అటోనగర్, న్యూనటుడే** దేశ ప్రగతిలో స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల పాత్ర విస్తరించలేనిదని, ప్రభుత్వ ఫలాలు అందరికీ అందేలా చైతన్యాత్మక పాత్ర దోషించాలి అంటున్న కేంద్ర మానవ వనరులశాఖ మంత్రి డాక్టర్ దగ్గుబాటి పురంధేశ్వరి అన్నారు. వాసవ్య మహిళామండలి 40వ వార్షికోత్సవాన్ని పురస్కరించుకొని బుధవారం నిర్వహించిన కార్యక్రమంలో ఆమె ముఖ్యఅతిథిగా పాల్గొన్నారు. మండలి 40 ఏళ్ల కాలంలో చేసిన సేవా కార్యక్రమాలకు సంబంధించి ఏర్పాటు చేసిన ప్రదర్శనను తిలకించారు. 'స్మార్ట్' పేరుతో మండలి రూపొందించినడాక్యుమెంటరీ ఫిల్మ్ను పురంధేశ్వరి ఆవిష్కరించారు.



డాక్యుమెంటరీ సీడీని ఆవిష్కరించిన మంత్రి పురంధేశ్వరి



మంత్రి పురంధేశ్వరికి చెన్నుపాటి విద్య సత్కారం

40 ఏళ్లకూ సేవా కార్యక్రమాలు చేస్తున్న చెన్నుపాటి విద్య, యార్లగడ్డ సీతారత్నమ్మ, మైత్రీలను సన్మానించారు. వాసవ్య సాహసీర్ను వీఎల్.ఇందిరాదత్ ఆవిష్కరించారు.

అనంతరం పురంధేశ్వరి మాట్లాడుతూ 21వ శతాబ్దంలో భారతదేశం ఎదుగుతున్న శక్తిగా, ప్రపంచదేశాల్లో మహాశక్తిగా ఆవిర్భవిస్తోందన్నారు. దేశం ఓ పక్క అభివృద్ధితో దూసుకుపోతుంటే మరోవైపు నిరక్షరాస్యత, పేదరికంతో ప్రజలు మగ్గుతున్నారన్నారు. ఈ అగాధాన్ని తొలగించాల్సిన అవసరం ఉందని చెప్పారు. ప్రభుత్వం చేపట్టి అభివృద్ధి, సంక్షేమ కార్యక్రమాలను పేదల వద్దకు సమర్థంగా తీసుకువెళ్లే పనిని

స్వచ్ఛందసంస్థలు చేయగలవని చెప్పారు. కేసీపీ లిమిటెడ్ జాయింట్ మేనేజింగ్ డైరెక్టర్ వీఎల్. ఇందిరాదత్ మాట్లాడుతూ మహిళలు విద్యావంతులైతేనే కుటుంబం, సమాజం అభివృద్ధి చెందుతుందన్నారు. మహిళలను విద్యావంతులను చేయడం, స్వయం ఉపాధి పొందేలా ఆత్మస్థైర్యాన్ని కల్పిస్తూ వాసవ్య చేస్తున్న సేవలు అభినందనీయమన్నారు. వాసవ్య మహిళామండలి డైరెక్టర్, మాజీ ఎంపీ చెన్నుపాటి విద్య మాట్లాడుతూ పటమటలక నుంచి మొదటగా తమ సేవలు ప్రారంభించామని, వయోజన విద్యతో మొదలెట్టి వివిధ కార్యక్రమాలు చేపట్టారన్నారు. హెచ్ఐవీ/ఎయిడ్స్ బాధితులు, వీధి బాలలను

చేరదీయకుంటే అసాంఘిక శక్తులుగా మారే అవకాశం ఉందన్నారు. సామాజిక మార్పులో అందరూ భాగస్వాములు కావాలని కోరారు. అనంతరం పురంధేశ్వరి, ఇందిరాదత్ను మండలి తరఫున సత్కరించారు. కార్యక్రమంలో డిప్యూటీ హెడ్ ఆఫ్ ఇన్వెస్టర్ రిలేషన్స్ ఎంపీ వోల్స్ గాంగ్స్వార్, డైరెక్టర్ ఆఫ్ ఫైనాన్స్ అండ్ అడ్మినిస్ట్రేషన్ ఆఫ్ ఇండియా రాజామణి, ఐఎంఎ అధ్యక్షులు డాక్టర్ సమరం, జిల్లా పరిషత్ వైస్ చైర్మన్ తాతినేని పద్మావతి, మినిస్ట్రీ ఆఫ్ అగ్రికల్చర్ ప్రానింగ్ కమిషన్ అడ్మినిస్ట్రేటర్ డాక్టర్ బి.గంగయ్య, మండలి సభ్యులు, నగర ప్రముఖులు, వలంటీర్లు పాల్గొన్నారు.

**ANDHRAJYOTHI** **ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి** Vijayawada **విజయవాడ**  
గురువారం 16-12-2010 16 పేజీలు

**16** గురువారం, 16 డిసెంబర్ 2010 **విజయవాడ**



ఫోటో ఎగ్జిబిషన్ను తిలకిస్తున్న పురంధేశ్వరి



సంస్థ వ్యవస్థాపకురాలు చెన్నుపాటి విద్యకు సత్కారం



డిమోనెగోగా నృత్య ప్రదర్శన

## స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల సేవలు ప్రశంసనీయం కేంద్ర మంత్రి పురంధేశ్వరి

**బెంజనర్సిల్, డిసెంబర్ 15 (ఆన్లైన్):** దేశ ప్రగతిలో స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల భూమిక ఎవరూ విస్మరించలేనిదని కేంద్ర మానవ వనరుల అభివృద్ధిశాఖ మంత్రి పురంధేశ్వరి అన్నారు. వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి 40వ వార్షికోత్సవంలో భాగంగా బుధవారం జరిగిన కార్యక్రమానికి ఆమె ముఖ్య అతిథిగా పాల్గొన్నారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా

మాట్లాడుతూ కేంద్ర, రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వాలు అట్టడుగునున్న ప్రజల అభివృద్ధికి ఎన్నో పథకాలు, కార్యక్రమాలు రూపొందించినా వాటిని సమర్థవంతంగా ఆ వరాలకు చేరాలంటే స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థల పాత్ర కీలకమైనదన్నారు. భవిష్యత్లో ఒక శక్తివంతమైన దేశంగా భారతదేశం ఎదుగుతుందని ప్రపంచ దేశాలన్నీ గుర్తిస్తున్నాయని మరోవైపు ఇంకా పేదరికం, నిరక్షరా

స్యతతో ఉన్న ప్రజలు ఎందరో ఉన్నారున్నారు. 40 ఏళ్లకూ మహిళా సాధికారత కోసం, హెచ్ఐవీతో జీవిస్తున్న వారి కోసం ఎన్నో కార్యక్రమాలు చేపట్టి వాటిని సమర్థవంతంగా అమలు చేస్తున్న వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి సేవలు ప్రశంసనీయమన్నారు. సంస్థ మరో వందేళ్ళ కోసం గాలని ఆకాంక్షించారు. మహిళలు కోసం రూపొందించిన గృహ హింస

చట్టాలు దుర్వినియోగంపై వస్తున్న ఆలోచనలను రాకుండా చూడాలన్నారు. కార్యక్రమంలో ప్రముఖ పారిశ్రామికవేత్త ఇందిరా దత్తు, వాసవ్య మహిళా మండలి వ్యవస్థాపకులు, మాజీ ఎంపీ చెన్నుపాటి విద్య, మండలి వ్యవస్థాపక చిరు మైత్రీ, యార్లగడ్డ సీతారత్నం, రాజన్మణి, డాక్టర్ సమరం, జిల్లాపరిషత్ వైస్ చైర్మన్ తాతినేని పద్మావతి, బి.గం



# Vasavya Mahila Mandali

## Film Song Lyrics

పల్లవి

నవతరాన యువతరంగమై ఎగరవేద్దాం పతాకం..  
సమసమాజ స్థాపనే సదా ధ్యేయమై ఉందాం..  
గతయుగాల చేదు చెరలనే దాటివచ్చే ప్రవాహం..  
ఆడదంటే అబలకాదనే కొత్త నిర్వచనం...  
చెప్పే..... వాసవ్య మహిళా..

చరణం-1

చీకటినే చేదిస్తూ.. ఉదయించే వెలుగవుదాం..  
కలతలనే కరిగిస్తూ.. కలకోసంకృషి చేద్దాం..  
వుంటే దృఢసంకల్పం, గెలుపేగా తుది ఫలితం  
ఆశే మన దేహంగా... ఆశయమే ప్రాణంగా..  
ముందడుగే వేసేద్దాం..., మన ప్రతిభను చాటాలని  
చెప్పే..... వాసవ్య మహిళా..

అనుపల్లవి

నవతరాన యువతరంగమై ఎగరవేద్దాం పతాకం..  
సమసమాజ స్థాపనే సదా ధ్యేయమై ఉందాం..  
గతయుగాల చేదు చెరలనే దాటివచ్చే ప్రవాహం..  
ఆడదంటే అబలకాదనే కొత్త నిర్వచనం...  
చెప్పే..... వాసవ్య మహిళా..

చరణం-2

బాల్యం ఒక భారమని భావించకు ఓ నేస్తం..  
బుడి బుడి తొలి అడుగులదే రేపటి మలి భవితవ్యం..  
మనలో ఒకరై ఉంటు మునుముందుకు నడిపిస్తూ..  
కులమతాలు లేవంటు, మనమంతా ఒకటంటూ..  
ముందుడుగే వేసేద్దాం... మన ప్రతిభను చాటాలని  
చెప్పే..... వాసవ్య మహిళా..

అనుపల్లవి

నవతరాన యువతరంగమై ఎగరవేద్దాం పతాకం..  
సమసమాజ స్థాపనే సదా ధ్యేయమై ఉందాం..  
గతయుగాల చేదు చెరలనే దాటివచ్చే ప్రవాహం..  
ఆడదంటే అబలకాదనే కొత్త నిర్వచనం..  
చెప్పే..... వాసవ్య మహిళా..

రచన : వనజ మరియు వేణు, మై మైండ్ క్రియేషన్స్

# వాసవ్య నృత్య గీతం

పల్లవి :- అంజలిదే ..... హృదయాంజలిదే..... - 2

వాస్తవికత - సంఘదృష్టి - వ్యక్తిత్వం మనది  
వాసవ్య మహిళా జన హృదయోత్సవమే ఇది



అంజలిదే ..... హృదయాంజలిదే..... - 2

- జతి - (తోం తక్కిట - తిశ్రం)

సంస్కృతికి సారధులు 1 music - } 1

సంప్రదాయ నీరధులం 1 music -

సంస్కృతి నిత్యం మార్చే విప్లవ ప్రవంతులం 1 music 1

సంప్రదాయ తరగలపై తేలియాడు హంసలం .....

హంసలం..... - 2

|| అంజలిదే ..... హృదయాంజలిదే ..... || - 2

- జతి - (తాతాజం తతజం

తకతాజం తతజం) - 2

తకిట తకతరికిట తకత - 3)

సౌకుమార్యమున శుకశాబకములా } 2

సౌందర్యమున సుధాప్రతిమలా

సహనములోన మహీధరములా } 2

క్షాత్రమున శార్దూల శౌరిలా

సరస - సురుచిర - స్వర రస - రాగధునీ మహిళ } - 2

లయల హోయల - నడకలొలుకలధీరాణీ మహిళ

నడుయాడునదే నాగరికనారి - 2

కడలి పొంగులా కరుణాలహరి - 2

|| అంజలిదే ..... హృదయాంజలిదే..... - 2

- జతి - (తజం తక్కిట)

సహ జీవనమనెడి సరోవరమున } 2

సమదర్శన దిక్కుచీ జూసి

సద్భావన తెరచాపనెత్తి } 2

సహకారం చుక్కాని బట్టి

సంఘమనే నౌకను నడిపిద్దాం - నడిపిద్దాం } 2

సుఖ సంతోషపు తీరం చేరుదాం - చేరుదాం

మతం కాదు మమత మనకు హితం ప్రజావ్రతం } 2

కులం కాదు గుణం మనకు నెలవు జనబలం

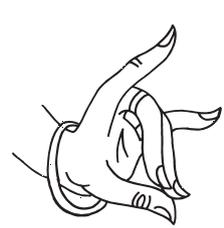
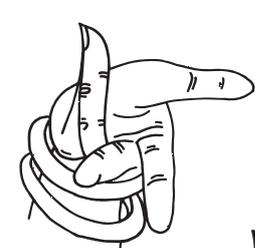
జాతి కాదు మానవతా తత్వం మనకు నిత్యం - 2

నిత్యస్ఫూర్తి ..... చైతన్య దీప్తి .....

సమైక్య జ్యోతి ..... ప్రశాంత గీతి .....

భావం - భాష - బాట ఒక్కటైన ప్రగతి } - 2

వాస్తవికత సంఘదృష్టి వ్యక్తిత్వం మనది



|| పల్లవి - ||

రచన :- శ్రీ జె. రఘుపతిరావు

అంజలిదే ..... హృదయాంజలిదే ..... - 2

Pallavi :- పాటనా నాసవ్య జగతి  
గళమైత్ర మహిళా ప్రగతి || 2 ||

CH. 1 యాస్తవకవ సంఘద్రష్ట - సంఘద్రష్ట, సంఘద్రష్ట  
మానవవ్యక్తి మంచస్రష్ట - మంచస్రష్ట, మంచస్రష్ట  
పాంచుకుమారు మూడు ద్రష్ట  
కురిసిపోతుము మమల వ్రష్ట || 2 ||  
|| పాటనా ||

CH. 2 సంఘమంటి వ్రక్తికక్తి - వ్రక్తికక్తి, వ్రక్తికక్తి  
సంఘశ్రీయము వ్రక్తికక్తి - వ్రక్తికక్తి, వ్రక్తికక్తి  
సంఘ శక్తి ప్ర, ప్రకుఘ వగళ  
కట్టుగా నడిపివారి జగతి. || 2 ||  
|| పాటనా ||

CH. 3 వ్రక్తిగౌరవం దేశభూగ్రం - దేశభూగ్రం, దేశభూగ్రం  
దేశవగళ వ్రక్తిమల్క్తిగ్రం - వ్రక్తిమల్క్తిగ్రం, వ్రక్తిమల్క్తిగ్రం  
యాస్తవకవ - సంఘద్రష్ట  
వ్రక్తికక్తి మంచ స్రష్ట || 2 ||  
|| పాటనా ||

రచన : హిమలయ లవణం

Pallavi :- మూ సంస్థ వాసివ్ర  
 డుజల సంస్థ వాసివ్ర  
 వాసివ్రకర, సంఘవృష్టి వ్రక్తివ్రకంబ  
 వ్రనాడి వ్రసిన డుజల సంస్థ  
 వలర్తి ఎఱ్ఱగా ఏమంజ సేవల్ మందులు వ్రల్కొ  
 డుజల సంస్థ  
 || మంసంస్థ ||

04. 1.

గోణ గాలచి గ్రామకరణమ  
 అధ్యమర్తచి స్థాపించడము || 2 ||  
 గాంధీబాటల్ ముందుకడుగులు || 2 ||  
 సంఘసభ్యురతి వెన్నెముకంబ  
 వరకంక్ స్వాప్తి క్షులర్పండ్  
 || మంసంస్థ ||

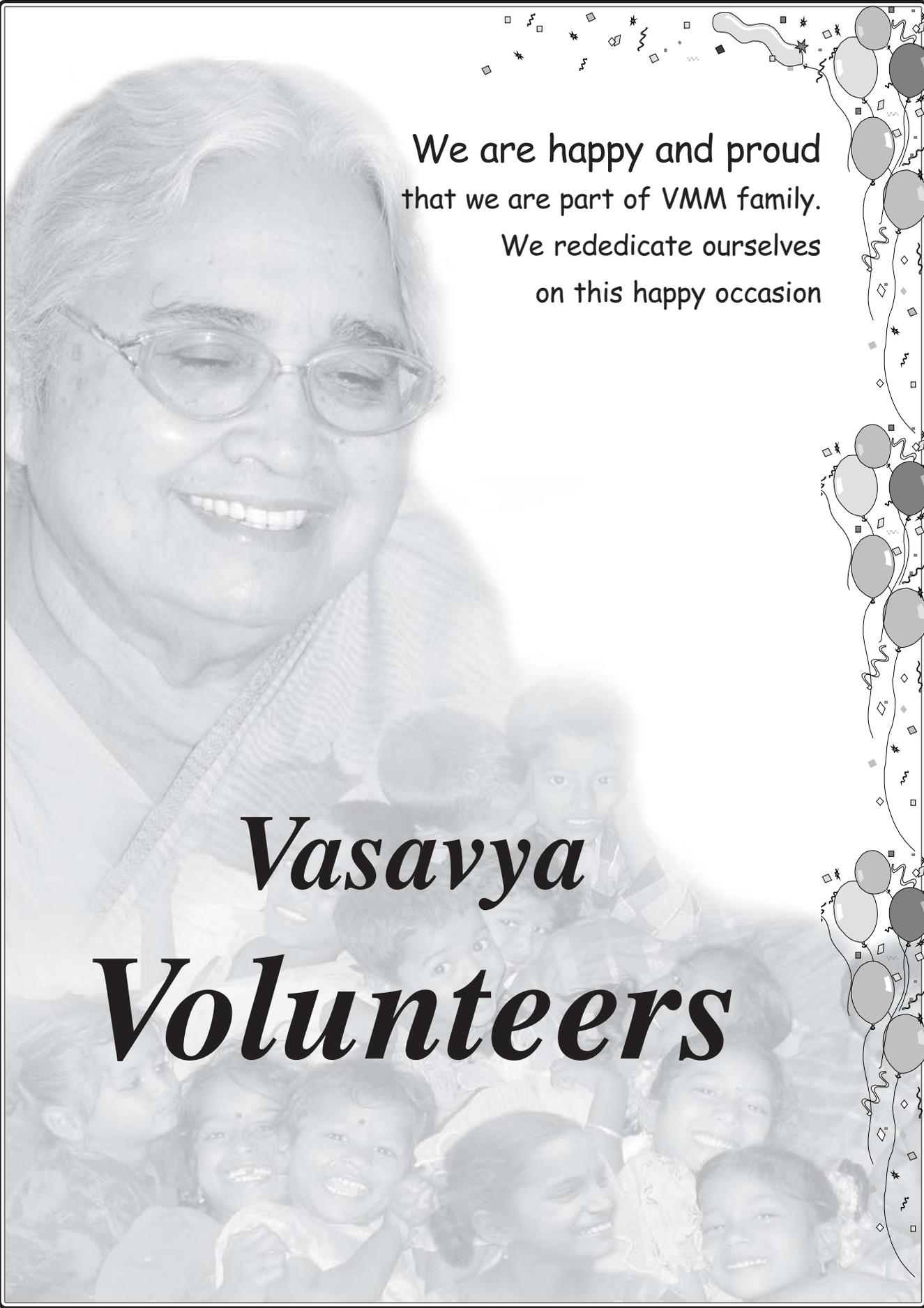
05. 1.

పేదపల్లలకు అడుగడా  
 వాధబాలలకు త్రండాతందా || 2 ||  
 AIDS వారికి సర్వం నావో || 2 ||  
 చదువు అంగ్రం మం సంస్థ డ్రోయం  
 డుజల క్రోయస్సే మం సంస్థ లక్ష్మం  
 || మంసంస్థ ||

06. 1.

కులమచబాధం లేని లేదు  
 డుశవమయం లాని లావ్య || 2 ||  
 వ్రక్తికి వ్రక్తిగా ముక్తి సంస్థ || 2 ||  
 భూతవవేనని ప్రవేశింజి సంస్థ  
 || మంసంస్థ ||

రచన : వాసివ్ర కార్యక్రమ



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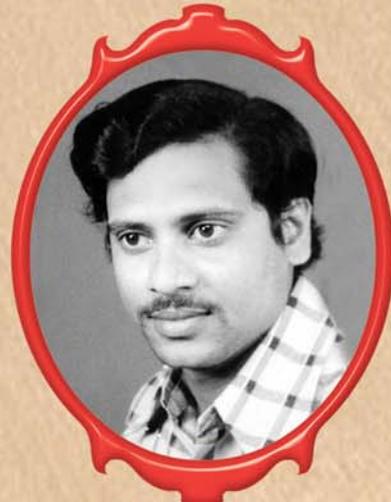
**Hemalatha Lavanam**

Founder Executive Member VMM & Secretary, SAMSKAR



**M. Veeraiah**

Secretary, Arthik Samatha Mandal



**Y. Vidya Sagar**

Managing Director, Delta Vision Pvt Ltd