











ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE










Name & Profile of the Organisation working on the project	SOCIETY'S CARE FOR INDIGENT (SOCARE IND); Registered Trust : Running 'Home' for orphaned boys (Free) Details as per Annexure.
Date of Establishment Registration Number & Date	JUNE 25, 1999 Bk 72/99-2000 'SOCARE IND' Dated June 25, 1999
Tax Exemption Certificate No.	Exemption under Section 80G of IT Act valid upto 31-10-2005 (No. DIT(E)/80G/Vol. II/304/W-2/02-03)
How the organization was created and what are the type of activities the Trust deed provides	Mr. V. Mani & Mrs. Saroji Mani, the First Trustees wished to serve the poorest of the poor in the society (as a mark of their gratitude in the human society for what all they blessed them with); The Trust Deed provides for the welfare of the poor irrespective of age, sex, caste, creed, religion including their free lodging, boarding, education, health, etc.
Name & background of the Trustees of "SOCARE IND"	7 Trustee; all belong to middle class, either in service or retired from service (Details as per Annexure)
Secretary	Venkatragavachari Mani (V. Mani) : Founder & Secretary Phone 3321864 / 3520329
President	Mr. Anandagopalan : Business (Service sector) Phone : 5240055
Joint Secretary	Mrs. Asha Narasimhan, Phone 3320059 M. M. R. A. 91-80-23407373
TRUSTEE	
Contact persons/address/phone numbers	(i) V. Mani, 26-42, "Desik", 12th Main, 'E' Rajajinagar II Stage, (Subramanyanagar), Bangalore-560 010. Tele Nos 3321864 / 3520329. (ii) Mrs. Saroji Mani -do- (iii) Mr. Anandagopalan, 82, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar P.O. Bangalore -560 093. Ph. : (R) 5240055. (iv) Mrs. Asha Narasimhan, Ph: 3320059.
Number of administrative staff/field staff	10 (Wardens/Cook/Administrator/Part-Time Teachers/Assistants)
Long-term objectives of SOCARE IND (a brief description)	(i) Render assistance to as many as 200 families life convicts (1200 life convicts various jails of Karnataka) as possible, directly taking their children (boys) in the "Home" of Socare Ind or render outside support, particularly for their education. (ii) Free health care running dispensary with laboratory attached to it for construction related workers & their families, free of cost. (iii) Running Creche for industrial workwomen in all industrial estates (Peenya Industrial Estate & Jigni Industrial Estate, Bangalore); free of cost. (iv) Old age home (free of cost), especially for the released life convicts beyond 60 years of age.
Financial Aspects (presently)	70 Children (2 to 10 years) plus 4 full time/4part time staff : Rs. 12,96,000/- per annum minimum including educational and medical attentions.

Funding sources (previous)	<p>Founder Secretary & Chief Patron V. Mani & Mrs. Saroji Main donated a residential building to house the hostel : V. Mani & Saroji Mani also donated Rs. 3.00 lakh initially; SOCARE IND issued a Souvenir and the advertisement revenue fetched for the "Home" Rs. 90,000/- . Socare Ind issued Greeting Cards : Rs. 80,000/- . SOCARE IND gets sponsorship for food by well-wishing public for about 15 days on monthly average. The donation amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh plus the advertisement revenue & return from greeting cards have been invested in fixed deposit and SOCARE IND gets decent return to part finance the monthly recurring expenditure.</p>
9. Description of the project presently being run by SOCARE IND	<p>SOCARE IND as part of its social activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) runs and maintains a hostel "Home" for children born of life convicts in Karnataka jails; SOCARE IND takes a comprehensive care of these boys like boarding, lodging, health, education, training, etc. free of cost, at present 53 Children of the age group between 2 and 10 years are housed in SOCARE IND "Home"; all the children have been put in a decent school (East-West) and receiving education. (ii) Sponsors education for 6 boys (children of life convicts) while the boarding/lodging are taken care of by their relations; (iii) Admitted two girls in a women's hostel and their general welfare are being supervised and ensured by SOCARE IND ; a woman, being wife of a life convict, has been put in a women's hostel for her welfare. (iv) Maintains a quest house (retiring room) for life convicts (on parole) and their families. (v) Maintains a meeting hall (900 sq. ft.) as a free of cost public utility service. (vi) Run 2 computer centres imparting computer education to poor kids
10. Goal of the present project (background of children and the change the present orphanage project aims to bring about in the conditions)	<p>To offer education to the children (boys) of life convicts who are the poorest of the poor; these boys belong to socially disadvantaged section of society; impart training to improve the skill in a profession to render them fit to take up jobs/develop entrepreneurship for self employment, enough to support themselves and support their family besides providing, employment to one two hands; prepare the children to shoulder responsibilities when they obtain majority; help them grow as a responsible citizens doing their duties as citizens; above all train & prepare the children in a manner that they grow educationally, culturally strong enough to remove the BLOT that had be fallen on their family (Profile of boys as per Annexure.)</p>
11. Beneficiaries of the present project SOCARE IND's "Home"	<p>70 Children of the age group between 2 and 10 years receive free boarding / lodging / education / health care etc, 6 boys receive help from SOCARE IND by way of school fees, etc. 2 girls were put in a women's hostel and 3 women have been put in as self-employment; rehabilitation programme are undergoing training. Arrange for parole for life convicts (4 convicts received such help). Families of life convicts provided guest room facilities when they visit the city.</p>
12. Will any trust/foundation be able to specify where the donated funds should be applied ?	<p>Present : Estimate of Annual Expenditure for 70 Children in SOCARE IND "Home" and Indirect Support for 6 boys for their education : Rs. 12,96,000/- p.a.</p> <p>Request : 50% matching support, i.e., Rs.6,48,000/- p.a.</p> <p>Future : Onetime Financial Aid of Rs. 6,00,000/- (for expansion of hostel) : for lease premises as advance.</p>











Rajajinagar Branch

Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
1	Manjunath. L.		9½	V Std	Father Lingaraj, Life Convict at Bangalore Central Prison Mother Chikkamma (Late) C/o. Jayalakshmi, (Step Mother) Dhanjakkannahalli, Thattianahalli Post, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya Dist.
2	Shashi Kumar. B.		11	V Std	Father Byrappa Life Convict at Bangalore Central Prison Mother Late Anjanamma Father released on restricted amnesty Byrappa C/o. Gopamma, Sathanur Village, Begur Post, Chickjala Hobli, Bangalore North Tq.
3	Parashuram		9½	IV Std	Father Mahadevappa, Life Convict at Bangalore Open Central Prison Mother : Sharada, Dorannahalli Muddebahal Taluk, Bijapur Dist.
4	Suresh Kumar		11½	VI Std	Father Late Srinivas Mother Shakuntala at Mysore Central Jail Hosur Village, Gundlupet Taluk, Mysore Dist. (Bail)
5	Stephen		10½	IV Std	Father Francis Xavier Central Prison (Now on bail) Mother Gayathri C/o. Mrs. A. Mary 10, 16th Cross, Old Bagalur Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore-84.
6	Devaraj		10	V Std	Father Nagaraj, Life Convict at New Central Prison Mother Saroja, Coolie in a factory at Bangalore. C/o. Kunte Papanna, Holemane, M. Kodihalli, Honnenahalli Post, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya Dist.
7	Manjunath. C.		13	IX Std	Father Chandrappa Life Convict at Bangalore Central Prison, Mother Parvathamma, Coolie, C/o. Parvathamma, AK Colony, Dhadamakatte, Bhadravathi Taluk, Shimoga District.
8	Lokesh		13	IX Std	Father Nagaraj Bhovi Life Convict at Bangalore Central Prison, Mother Gangamma, Coolie, C/o. Lokesh Bhovi, Ravi Bhovi, Jalpat Nagara, Koppa, Chickamagalur Dist.







Rajajinagar Branch









Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
9	A. Sadashiv		8	IV Std	Father Aswath Reddy Life Convict at New Central Prison Bangalore Grand Father : Chickkanarayana Reddy Nagaragere, Guaribidanur Taluk, Kolar Dist.
10	L. Vinod Kumar		7	II Std	Father Lingaraj, Life Convict at Bangalore Central Prison Mother : Jayalakshmi Dhanjakkanahalli, Thattanahalli Post, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya Dist.
11	Mahesh Babu		8	II Std	Father Chitti Babu (on Bail-Murder Charges) Mother : Vijayalaxmi (Maid Servant) # 34, "Anugraha", II Main Road, Chola Nagar, R. T. Nagar, Bangalore-32.
12	D. Dilip Kumar		14	VIII Std	Father Damodara Belchada Life Convict at Bangalore Central Jail LC No. 9847 Mother No More (killed by Fr) Baringodi Mane Aduke P.O., Bantawal Tq. D. K. Dist.
13	D. Dhanaraj		12	VII Std	As at 12 above
14	K. R. Rajesh		14	VIII Std	Father S. Ramesh (L.C. 54) Bangalore Central Jail Guard : Kattemane Lokanathapura Post Koppa Taluk Chikkamagalur Dist
15	S. Revathi		10	VI Std	Father Subba Rao (under trail, Bangalore Central Jail on charge of murder of wife S. Parvathi - Second wife) Step Mother : 1874, Sanjeevinagar, Hebbal P.O., Bangalore-24.
16	S. Varalaxmi		8	IV Std	Father Subba Rao (under trail, Bangalore Central Jail on charge of murder of wife S. Parvathi - Second wife) Step Mother : 1874, Sanjeevinagar, Hebbal P.O., Bangalore-24.
17	G. Ajith		8	II Std	Father Govindswamy (L. C. No. 435) Bangalore Central Jail Mother : Shashikala, Mangalam Village, Yelagiri Hills, Tiruppattur Tq. Vellore Dist. Tamil Nadu

Rajajinagar Branch









Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
18	K. Thimmaraju		8	VI Std	Father Late Krishnappa Mother Kamalamma Veerasandra Village, Near Vinayaka Hotel, Electronic City, Hosur Road, Bangalore - 560 100.
19	K. Jagadeesha		7	I Std	Father Kempegowda (Late) Mother Laxmamma C/o. Sannamma Dasanadoddi Village Malavalli Tq., Mandya Dist C/o. Ramu, No. 10, Raghavanagar, Timber Yard Layout, Mysore Road Bangalore - 560 026.
20	C. S. Sanjay		8	IV Std	Father C. S. Suresh (Life Convict) Mysore Central Jail Mother : C. S. Rekha C/o. Abbiganda Mane, Cheerichinnahally, Valala Hally, Helhur Hobli, Sakaleshpura Tq. Hassan Dist.
21	Sohan V.		11	V Std	Father Vishwanath H. Varnekar (Late) Mother : Archana V. Varnekar Sohan Ladies Tailoring Centre, Guddadahally, Cholanayakana Hally, R. T. Nagar, Bangalore-560 093 Ph. : 22924278
22	Swathi		7	II Std	Father (Late) Siddaraju Mother : Renuka So care Ind
23	R. Suman		8	III Std	Father : Ramu (Divorced) Mother : Narayanamma No. 96, 4th Cross, Gangamma Temple, Tavarekere Main Road, Bovi Colony, Bangalore-29.
24	N. Santhosh		13	IX Std	Father Narayan Rao (absconding) Mother : Jayashree (Factory Helper) # 1057, IV Main, 'D' Block, II Stage Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010
25	S. Sandeep		7	I Std	Father : Saravana, Bangalore Central Jail Mother : Prema "Sneha Jyothi" RB Centre, Ghattahalli Village, Haskur Post Ph. 57662229
26	S. Divya		10	VI Std	Father : Siddaraju (Late) Mother : Chickathayamma B'lore Central Jail Grand Mother : Chowdamma, Malgad, Akkur Post, Channapatna Tq. B'lore Rural Dist.

Rajajinagar Branch









Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
27	Oneikkup Kom		7	II Std	HAOPU KOM Mr. : KHUPRENGHOIKOM Samulamlak Village, Mairang P.O. N. Tampak, Churachandpur Dist. Manipur - 795133 (Local : R-2, "Apsara Lodge, Shivajinagar, B'lore-51 Ph. : 25910392 M. : 9844500603
28	V. S. Subashchandra		12½	VIII Std	Father : Sujendra V. N. (Bangalore Central Jail) Mother : Papamma, Channangi Village Channayanakote, Pollibetta, Virajpet Tq. (South Coorg) Ph. : 08274 - 251635
29	S. Jayashree		6	I Std	Father Subba Rao (under trail, Bangalore Central Jail on charge of murder of wife S. Parvathi - Second wife) Step Mother : 1874, Sanjeevinagar, Hebbal P.O., Bangalore-24.
30	R. Priyanka		4	LKG	Father : Rangappa (Deserter) Mother : Savitha Alias Baby Rajanahalli, Paranaahalli, Gallarehatty K. Chatnahatty Post, Tharikere Taluk, Chickmagalur District
31	S. Murali		8	I Std	Father : Shivappa (Absconder) Mother : Saraswathi (Raichur Dist Jail - Bail) D/o. Kariappa, No. 4-849/27/A Ramalingeshwara Layout, I B Road (Opp. Mr. Theresa School) Raichur
32	M. Sumanth		5	LKG	Father : Manjunath (in Bangalore Jail) Mother : Manjula C/o. Hiregowda, Manimikki Village Kelagur P.O. Hosathre Tq. Chickmagalur Dist.








Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
33	H. Thibbe Gowda		7	I Std	Father Hanumaiah (Absconding) C/o. Kariammar Marconahally Amruthur Hobli Kunigal Taluk
34	C. Suresh		7	I Std	Father Channe Gowda Life Convict at Bangalore Central Jail Mother : Sakamma (House Wife and Coolie) C/o. Narasimha Reddy, Rayappanahally Village, Ambajidurga Hobli, Chintamani Tq. Kolar Dist.
35	K. Munirathna		9	VII Std	Father Late Krishnappa Mother Kamalamma Veerasandra Village, Near Vinayaka Hotel, Electronic City, Hosur Road, Bangalore - 560 100.
36	K. Hamsaveni		7	II Std	Father T. Kumar Mother :Pramila Temporary Address : Janodaya Public Trust
37	K. Supritha		9	V Std	Father T. Kumar Mother :Pramila Temporary Address : Janodaya Public Trust
38	R. Deepika		10	V Std	Father : Ravan Indulkar Mother : Late Malatha Alias Malan 1) Nagaraja Devakar Yavagai Post Gokul Road, Hosur, Hubli-580021 2) Sunitha W/o. Anilkumar Bope, Jeeja Matha Chowk, Nippani, Chikkodi Taluk
39	R. Vishal		9	IV Std	Father : Ravan Indulkar Mother : Late Malatha Alias Malan 1) Nagaraja Devakar Yavagai Post Gokul Road, Hosur, Hubli-580021 2) Sunitha W/o. Anilkumar Bope, Jeeja Matha Chowk, Nippani, Chikkodi Taluk
40	S. Madan		9	VII Std	Father : Soundrajan (Divorced) Mother : Mrs. Padma, C/o. Velu (brother) Leo Tailors, Gollahally P.O., Anjanapura, Kanakapura Main, Bangalore-560 062

Chamarajpet Branch

Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
41	Pradeep Naik		9	IV Std	Father : Hanumantha Naik Mother : Sarada Bai C/o. Heera Naik Rami Bai, Elavatti, Harihara Taluk Davanagere Dist. 577 530
42	S. Manjunath		11	VII Std	Father : Soundrajan (Divorced) Mother : Mrs. Padma, C/o. Velu (brother) Leo Tailors, Gollahally P.O., Anjanapura, Kanakapura Main, Bangalore-560 062
43	C. Manohar		9	III Std	Father Subba Rao (under trail, Bangalore Central Jail on charge of murder of wife S. Parvathi - Second wife) Step Mother : 1874, Sanjeevinagar, Hebbal P.O., Bangalore-24.
44	Rakshit Kumar		12	VIII Std	Biological Parents : No more Adoptive Parents : Father : Gurumurthy Mother : Chaya Devi J. 131, 10 'A' Cross Laxminarayanapuram Bangalore-560 021
45	Tejaswini		7	II Std	Father : Vishwanatha (under trail) Mother : Sukanya C/o. Annaiah Shetty Vatara, Raghavendra Nagar Sakleshpur Hassan Dist.
46	R. Manju		9	III Std	Father : R. Ravi (absending Deserter) Mother : Sathya Temporary Address : C/o. Tara Women's Centre, Arasinakunte, Nelamangala Tq. Bangalore Rural Dist.
47	R. Lakshmi		6	U.K.G.	Father : R. Ravi (absending Deserter) Mother : Sathya Temporary Address : C/o. Tara Women's Centre, Arasinakunte, Nelamangala Tq. Bangalore Rural Dist.
48	Manoj Kumar		8	III Std	Father : Satish Mother : Mamatha C/o. Anthony Swamy # 30, 'C' Street, Vivekanagar, Jayarajanagar, Bangalore.

Chamarjpet Branch

Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
49	S. Suraj		3	LKG	Father : Satish Mother : Mamatha C/o. Anthony Swamy # 30, 'C' Street, Vivekanagar, Jayarajanagar, Bangalore.
50	G. Swetha		5	LKG	Father : Govindaswamy (Bangalore Central Jail) Mother : Sashikala Mangalam P.O., Elagiri Hills Tiruppathur Taluk, Vellore Dist. Tamil Nadu
51	Sanjeev Reddy		6	I Std	Father : Vasudev Reddy (Divorce) Mother : Jayalaxmi C/o. Padmamma/Seenappa, Gunduthop, KTC (Godown backside) Bommanahalli, Hosur Road Bangalore-560 068.
52	Jeeva		7	UKG	Father : Venkatesh Mother : Malar G-23, 322, K. S. Garden, Lalbagh Road Bangalore-560 027.
53	R. Naveen		8	I Std	Father : Raja Mother : Shankaramma 96, 2nd Main Road, Tavarekere Main Rd. Chikka Audugodi, Bhovi Colony, Bangalore-560 029
54	U. Thejas		10	V Std	Father : Unikrishnan (Family Deserter) C/o. Janodaya Women's Hostel, No. 3, 9th Cross, V Main, Jayamahar Bangalore-560 046.
55	Anil Kumar		9	IV Std	Father : T. N. Manjunath Mother : Jyothi, C/o. K. Nanjundappa, No. 2/4, Chunchu Ghatta, Konanakunte Cross, Kanakapura Road Bangalore-560 062.
56	S. Suresh		10	V Std	Father : Govindaraju (absconding) F-451, Behind Floor Mill, Arasma Kunte Nelamangala. Ph. : 27724783

Sl. No.	Name of the Child		Age	Education	Parents
57	S. Manoj		7	III Std	Father : Satish Mother : Mamatha C/o. Anthony'swamy, # 30 'C' Street, Vivkenagar, Jayarajanagar, Bangalore.
58	Jeevanandam Murugan		7	I Std	Father : Murugan (Deserter) Mother : Bhoopathy, C/o. Ahreya Women Centre, Arasinankunte, Nelamangala Tq. H.O. Indiranagar Bangalore-38.
59	Rithik. S.		6	LKG	Father : Shivappa (Divorce) Mother : Saraswathi D/o. Kariappa No. 1-4-849/27/A, Ramalingeshwara Layout, I B Road (Opp. Mr. Theresa School) Raichur
60	A. Joseph		4	LKG	Father : Allan (Absconder) Mother : Ambika (Guardian : Santhana Mary) Rudrappa Garden, Jayaraj Nagar Qrs. Viveknagar, Bangalore-560 047. (51134141 Queeni / 25363675)
61	A. Prema Jyothi		6	I Std	Father : Anandaraj Mother : Martha "Ashreya Women Centre" Arasinakunte (Nelamangala) Tumkur Road M. : 9243192932 (H.O. : 25251929, Indiranagar)
62	S. Girish		8	VI Std	Same as above (Chennapatna)
63	L. Manjunath		7	II Std	Father (absconding) Mother : dead Unice : Nagaraj Doddagula Village & Post, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District

Roof over their heads

V. RAGHAVACHARI MANI, a retired assistant manager of the RBI, creates a home for children of life termers in Bangalore. SHARAD VYAS reports



FATHER FIGURE: Mani hovers around with children

What does a dacoit's son want to be when he grows up? "I want to be a police officer because the Bangalore Central Jail is my home," says six-year-old Surya in the quietness of his classroom. Born in Bangalore Central Jail, Surya is the son of a member of the dreaded Dandupalya gang of Karnataka.

The onus for making their future bright falls on Socare Ind, an institution in Rajajinagar, a Bangalore neighbourhood. Established in 1999, it started with the savings of a retired assistant manager of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Venkata Raghavachari Mani. Fondly known as 'Mani', he has donated his house and converted it into a hostel for the children of jail inmates.

"The purpose of the institute is to make these children excel like any other in society," says Mani.

How did he start this home for the depressed and deprived children of life termers? "One day as I was passing by the Bangalore Central Jail, I saw women along with their children waiting to meet their husbands. I then thought that I should do something for them," Mani says.

Socare Ind houses children between the age of four and 12. Every child has a terrible story to tell. Some have seen their fathers kill their mothers, while some others have seen their mothers turn to prostitution. Nine-year-old

Revathi mutely watched her father set her mother aflame. Revathi who has given a statement in court against her father is currently staying with Mani. "I feel

to become a doctor when I leave this place," said Revathi.

Mani says Socare only takes care of the children of criminals sentenced to life. It has a guesthouse for convicts, who visit their children on parole. The institution provides free lodging, food and education to the children. Value education is also imparted here. Children learn to recite shlokas, and are trained in karate and sports. The institution comprises a doctor and a warden. Among the staff are also seven teachers, who apart from teaching keep a watchful eye on the children.

But how easy is it to run such an institution? "It is very difficult. I am taking care of the children of the most dreaded criminals of Karnataka. If I make even one mistake, I am dead," says Mani.

There are funding concerns too. "I have not approached the government. I don't want to work according to government norms," says Mani assertively. For now, part of the money comes from his pension, and the rest from donations by various organisations.

Mani still has a long way to go. There are nearly 1,200 life termers in various jails across Karnataka. And how many spare a thought for their children? Mani believes it is up to him to help the children rebuild their lives.

To contact Socare Ind call 3321864/3520329. You could also mail at No.26-27, Desik, 12th Main, E. Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560010. E-mail: manisocare



A family for life

In Bangalore, V Mani and his wife Saroja provide convicts' children comprehensive care, hope and a home to wipe the tears away, writes Chitra Ramaswamy

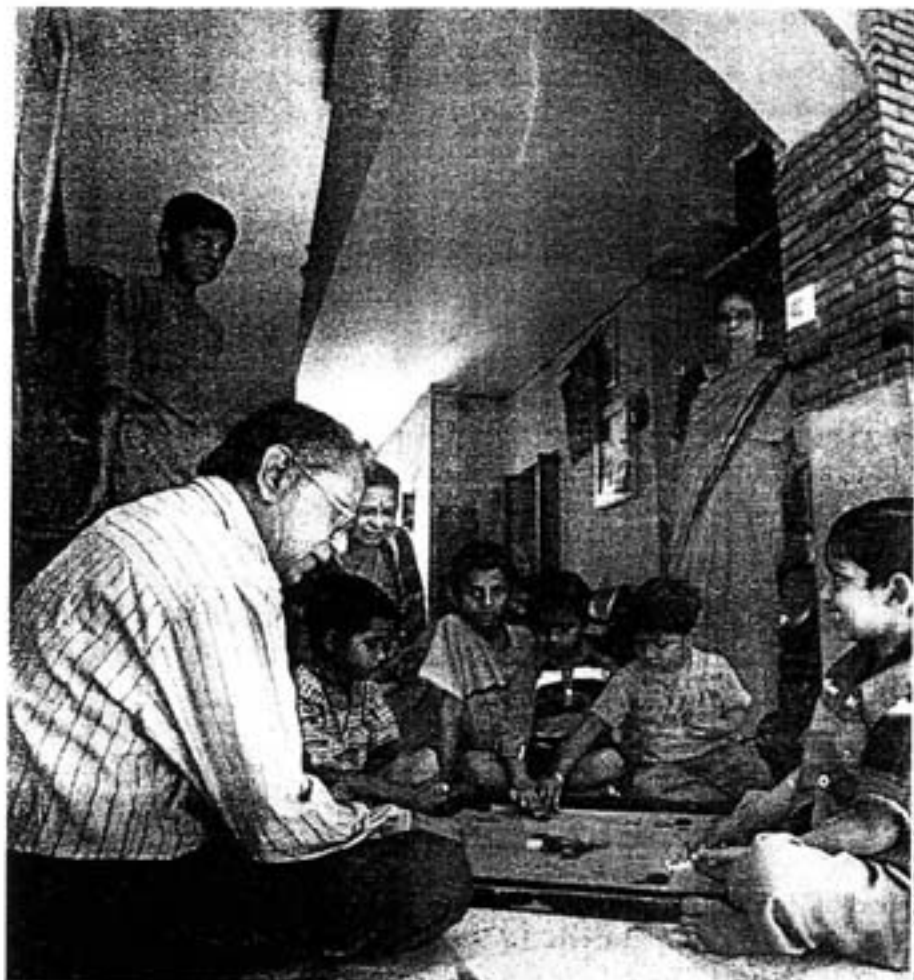
On the face of it, hearing the soulful chant of the *Vishnu Sahasranama* in the morning in a suburban Bangalore home is nothing out of the ordinary. It's special, though, when a group of children, between the ages of four and 14, are singing it. More so when they are the children of convicts.

Welcome to Desik, a 2,800 sq ft, two-storied house in Rajaji Nagar, home to 67-year-old Venka-

taraghavachari Mani, his 65-year-old wife Saroja and around 30 children, all of whose parents are serving life sentences in prisons across Karnataka. At Desik, there are two bedrooms and a living room on the ground floor, with a kitchen, tuition room, three verandas and three bathrooms. The Manis occupy the first floor while the second floor houses a computer room for the children. Thirty more children live in a larger house leased by the Manis

in nearby Chamrajpet with five bedrooms, four bathrooms, and a living room, dining room and prayer room. In a society where children of criminals are ostracised, the Manis provide a haven for these youngsters—their caste, creed, religious or social background is irrelevant.

"During my days as a banker, I would pass the Central Prison in Bangalore while commuting to office," remembers Mani, who retired as assistant general manager, Reserve Bank of India. "I saw women carrying very small children, waiting in queues to meet their husbands or family members. I would wonder about the kind of future these children would have." After his retirement in 1998, he decided to translate his concern into action. In June 1999, he threw open the doors of his home to two boys, aged three and four. Both their fathers had been convicted of murdering their wives. At the same time, he launched SOCARE IND (Society's Care for Indigent), a registered not-for-profit trust to provide comprehensive care for the children of prisoners with former DGP Prisons L Revannasiddaiah as chief patron and seven trustees.



Left, Mani (foreground) and wife Saroja (far right) with the children at Desik; right, Saroja playing with the children; study time

Initially, his own family was sceptical. The response from his son and two daughters, settled overseas—his son and elder daughter live in California, while the younger daughter lives in Sydney, Australia—was far from encouraging. And wife Saroja had her own apprehensions. "It was not the children I feared but their kith and kin," she confesses. "But these fears have dissipated. I am now so confident that I had no qualms bringing my own granddaughter from the US to spend a holiday here with us this June. Now, even our children can see how steadfast we are in our resolve." Their children are so supportive, in fact, that they now raise funds for SOCARE among their own friends overseas. Saroja adds, "The children we look after, their discipline, their enthusiasm to prove themselves have been at the root of the change."

Like 11-year-old Mahesh, who aspires to become a policeman when he grows up. So does six-year-old Shiva, whose father is a member of the notorious Dandakalya criminal gang. This gang, which comes from a village of the same name, 90 km away from Bangalore in Kolar district, is infamous for its criminal activities

but Shiva is clear he wants no part of it. Nine-year-old Vikram was a witness to his alcoholic father being killed by his mother. Seven-year-old Raju tells his own story: "I don't have a mother because my father killed her. I was small when it happened. Yes, I go to see my father in jail. I want to become a policeman when I grow up and catch all those people who do wrong." The newest residents at Desik are three sisters, aged three,

Apart from getting admission to good schools, the children learn dance, martial arts and computers

five and eight—they all witnessed the killing of their mother. "The girls' father set the mother on fire and the testimony of the eight-year-old was responsible for convicting and sentencing him to life," says Mani.

With such traumatic backgrounds, these children need more than concrete-and-mortar buildings that just provide shelter and food. While Saroja ensures the children

get nutritious home food—simple southern Indian meals including rice, sambar, curries and vegetables, and breakfast foods like puri, idli, upma and khichdi—Mani lobbies vigorously to get them admission in good schools in Bangalore. "Initially, Mani had to plead with the schools," says Revannasiddaiah. "But attitudes are slowly changing. In fact, Cluny Convent, a prestigious school, has not only given free admission to some of SOCARE's children but also provides an additional Rs 10,000 a month towards the children's maintenance."

Part-time teachers help the children out with their studies. "The children respond well and want to learn," says Veena Ramakrishnan, a part-time teacher. "It is as if they are walking that extra mile to prove themselves." The activities at Desik include computers, martial arts and Bharatanatyam training, and lessons on mythology. Mani has roped in a priest from a nearby temple who teaches the children *shloka* every morning. The children return the favour by doing odd jobs at the temple every day, including sweeping the premises and making garlands for the idols.



THE HINDU

Care for children of convicts

Inaugurated a month ago, the Socare Ind Home (SIH) for the children of life convicts has already enrolled six, reports
GOVIND BELGAUMKAR.

THOSE WHO commit crime such as murder—be it for any reason—obviously would not know the kind of “treatment” they get when they are caught and jailed. If found guilty the accused faces life imprisonment (at present fixed at 14 years) for murder.

What it means to be in jail for 14 years? Well, only those who are in it can say that.

Certainly some worry no end about the kind of life their loved ones are put to, when they (convicts) are in jail. Their wives and children lead an uncertain life.

With no income or meagre income, the wife ends up earning bread under trying circumstances and bringing up the children. They have to face lack of security on one hand, and the stigma of being a single woman, besides putting up with the social scar of belonging to the family of a person jailed.

This seemed to have bothered constantly Mr. V. Mani, who recently retired as Assistant Manager in Reserve Bank of India. Returning home from office while in service, he would pass by the Central Jail every day and see little children waiting to meet their fathers in jail. What kind of future these children have? This question used to haunt him.

This constant concern for the children “orphaned” by circumstance made him think of something for them. His plan took a final shape only after his retirement and thus the Socare Ind Home (SIH) for the children of life convicts took birth.

Inaugurated about a month ago, SIH has enrolled half a dozen children, two of whom have already moved into it.

“These children and the convicts had a settled life until the commission of crime. Suddenly, everything falls apart. And, this can be pretty bad for the family,” he says. True, most of the children do not get proper education, food and clothing. They can no longer claim them to be their privileges.

One of the inmates of the Home, Shashikumar (6) did not even have regular dwelling place. He was sent to a relative's house in a far place for some time and was then brought back to Bangalore. “The poor fellow was made to move from place to place.”

Why this was happening to him? “My father led my mother,” the little boy says innocently not knowing what it really means. Ask him how he knew it? “My grandmother told me,” he adds without showing any emotion.

Mr. Mani says that the father of the boy—Bairah—now in Bangalore jail was regretting at he had committed the crime. But there is no going back. Bairah was said to be very

happy when the Socare Ind approached him and volunteered to take care of Shashikumar. The boy who had come to see his father was sent to the SIH the very day and without any additional pair of clothes. Subsequently, SIH arranged for a couple of dresses for him.

The boy is finding it difficult to cope with the new situation that he is facing all of a sudden. Since he does not find his grandmother around, he is suffering from home sickness. Sometimes he would cry no end and insist that he meet his grandmother. The Home runners have a difficult time in consoling the boy.

The story of the other inmate of the Home, Murali (9), suggests the kind of problems the families of the jailed ones face. Murali does not accept that Ravi, who has been jailed, is his father. He insists that his father's name is Dhanaraj. Apparently, the family had been telling the boy since his childhood that his father is Dhanaraj, who is a close relative of the boy, fearing the child may undergo parental agony if he were to know the truth. The family did not know to handle the psychological problem.

But Murali is outspoken and it is he who acts as a big brother to Shashikumar, who has recently suffered a fracture. “It is Murali, who bathes Shashikumar,” says, Mrs. Saroji Mani, wife Mr. Mani, who is doing her best to ensure that the children live comfortably in the Home.

The Home follows certain rigid rules. The boys are not allowed to go out alone. Girls are not admitted to the Home. The children have to get admitted to the Home through the Jail Superintendents. The relatives of the children should see them only once in three months.

Mr. Mani explains that if the relatives are allowed to see the children often, the children

may develop a desire to quit the Home and leave the Home.

The Home is making steady progress. It has already found a volunteer, who continuously keeps in touch with the jail authorities in a bid to locate the genuinely affected children. Another volunteer has come forward to take the children to parks every week. And, a doctor has expressed desire to conduct regular check up to them.

Mr. Mani, who has set up a trust to run the Home, has made enough contribution in cash to it. He says he would transfer Rs. 1.4 lakhs when his national saving certificates matures. He is also working to transfer the ground floor of his house to the trust.

Mrs. Saroji Mani says all their children are happily settled in the US and have consented to the couple's desire to help the indigent children.

But running the home for the children of life convicts is only one of the ambitions of the couple. They are planning to open a dispensary for the construction workers and a baby care centre to take care of the children of the industrial workers in and around Jigani. “I hope to get a property in Jigani belonging to my daughter on lease,” Mr. Mani says. “I want get to the baby care unit opened by January 1, 2001,” he adds.

Incidentally, a few years ago the jail authorities themselves tried to rehabilitate the children of the jail inmates. The kids were “adopted” and were sent to school. It was feared that these children were deprived of a natural upbringing and the environ of the jail was perceived as having a negative influence on their tender minds. However, the experiment was given up since it did not get an official institutional framework due to financial constraints.



A TEMPLE OF LOVE: The children of life convicts find the warmth of love in Mr. V. Mani and Mrs. Saroji Mani who run a home for such kids. —Photo: K. Ganinathan

'Who wants to see a father in jail?'

Children of life term convicts at So Care Ind, visit Central Jail in Hosur

By our staff reporter

It was just another Sunday and time for parents to meet their children in the 'hostel.' But there was a difference. There were no gifts or pleasantries, just a few words of care and hope somewhere in a remote future. These were not 'ordinary' children of 'normal' parents.

These were children of convicts and the parents were behind bars, for life in Central Jail on Hosur rd.

Six-year-old Sunil remembered his mother "operating his father's stomach," and 7-year-old Suresh had vague memories of his father "beating up" his mother.

V Mani of Society's Care for the Indigent (So Care Ind), a voluntary organisation, which runs a shelter for children of prisoners, who is their "legal guardian" took some time off on June 3 to take the boys to meet their fathers.

This correspondent joined the team to have a glimpse of this not-so-usual union.

They were six of them, well dressed and well behaved, anxiously looking out of the car window now and then for a glimpse of the city. The pleasure of seeing the passing double-decker bus or a multi-storeyed building was evident on their faces. They were excited, since they probably did not have so many 'outings' in their curriculum.

"These are not very pleasant outings for the children. Who wants to see a father in a jail? But the parents insist on seeing their children and we have to comply,"

prison the while



one could feel the hopelessness setting in. "What do we offer our children? Once out who will give us an opportunity to work? Sitting in my cell I often worry about Ramesh and Nagaraj," said a desperate Yellappa.

Krishnamurthy was more optimistic and said, "Life is not over for me as yet. After three years I'll be out of the prison. I'll do something for myself and my son."

In between feelings of joy and despair the fathers tried to speak to their sons in the corridors of the prison. "What is the level of

COMMUNITIES

sharing between them? What can the children ask and what can their parents say? Their relationship is not the usual father-son bonding. The distance between them is such that the children are uncomfortable with their touch," said Mani.

Soon, it was time to bid goodbye, to a world they never wanted to visit. It was time to prostrate and touch the parents' feet.

So Care Ind has set up a home in Subramanya Nagar, Rajajinagar,

for the children of life convicts. It provides these children with free board and lodging, education and other basic facilities. Venkataraghavachari Mani, Secretary of So Care Ind has donated his life savings and his house to set up this home, which at present accommodates 15 children and supports a few others from outside. Since it's a voluntary organisation sponsors and volunteers are always welcome.

The home is at 2642, Desik, 12th Main 'E' Rajajinagar, 2nd Stage. Ph: 332-1864.

Lending a helping hand to convicts' kids

DH News Service

BANGALORE, July 16

The very terms prison, convicts, and undertrials instantaneously evoke a sense of aversion, dread, and suspicion. But, not for this couple who are striving hard to help not only the convicts but also their innocent kids to join the mainstream and lead a dignified life.

For Mr and Ms Mani, the founders of Society's Care for Indigent (Socare Ind), today was a great day as one more of their long cherished dreams materialised with the inauguration of the newly constructed retiring room for the life convicts who are released on parole.

Situated right in the middle of a residential locality in Subramanyanagar, Socare Ind is an NGO working for the welfare of convicts and their kids.

For the past one year, the organisation has housed 15 kids in its home for the welfare of kids of life convicts by providing them food, shelter and education.

The newly constructed retiring room provides an opportunity for the life convicts to spend a few days comfortably and feel one with the mainstream when released on parole.

Director General and Inspector of Police (Prisons) L Revannasiddaiah speaking after inaugurating the retiring room, said the government has not thought about the life of convicts or their release.

When the convicts do not have



DG and IGP L Revannasiddaiah speaking to the children of life convicts who are housed at the Society's Care for Indigent, in Bangalore on Sunday. DH photo

a place to go when they are released, there is every chance that they resort to criminal activities. It is the duty of every one of us to help convicts join the mainstream.

The convicts are dreaded by the general public and in this context the contribution of Socare

assumes lot of significance, he noted.

There are no laws as such for the children of the convicts and most of the times their kids also end up living in jails along with their parents for no fault of theirs, he said.

In order to avoid children from

treading the path of their convict parents by getting exposed to jail atmosphere, they should be brought up in the mainstream, he said.

Lauding the efforts of Socare Ind, he said the police department will offer all possible support. For details contact Society on 3321864.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Orphanage inaugurated: Chairman of Karnataka Legislative Council D B Kalmankar on Saturday inaugurated an orphanage in the City for the children of life convicts, ex-convicts, of parents who had been hanged or died in police firing. The orphanage will be run by Society's Care for Indigent (SOCARE Ind) under the initiative of Venkataragavachari Mani, who has donated a building at 2642, 'Desik', 12th main, 'E' Rajajinagar II stage, to house the orphanage.

A transit home for jailbirds on parole

Geetha Rao

LAST year, Socare Ind Home was started - a home away from home for children of convicts serving life sentences. This year, it will soon launch another unique concept - a transit home or "retiring room" for convicts on parole or bail, in a sensitive effort to "make a man" of a convict who's out of jail for a few days. In other words, it is a good deed to help ease the convict into the world outside, and to lessen the trauma of the transition phase from a jailbird to a normal man.

Says V Mani, who started Socare Ind Home (Society's Care for Indigent) and whose brainchild it is, "A convict who is out on parole for a few days may be sent out of the jail, say at 10 in the morning. His bus or train to his native village may be only at 10 in the night. He has to spend a whole 13 hours waiting in discomfort either at the railway or bus station, or roaming around to while away time. As it is, he senses that people are wary about him. He may also be apprehensive about meeting his own people again. Add to that the fact that he may be unshaven, hot and bothered. With a transit room readily available, he can have a shave, a bath, relax for some time, feel like a new human being and go refreshed to his home town."

Also, when the convicts return

to go back to jail, there may be a few hours left which they may want to spend with their immediate family. This is where they can do that. Adds Mani, "When they are on their way to their village, they are very cheerful. On their return journey, their hearts are heavy, and their faces show it. Usually, they are accompanied by their wife or brother. They want to spend up to the last minute with their family."

The retiring room is on the second floor of Mani's house. It is a single room with a wardrobe, an attached bath with tiled walls, no less, and a shower. All free of charge, including lunch and dinner. "But they should not be tempted to overstay," he adds with a laugh.

Incidentally, Mani, who retired from a public sector bank, lives on the first floor with his wife. (His two children are abroad). On the ground floor is Socare Ind Home where the children of convicts are looked after.

According to Mani, the transit home can be used for 24 hours. The convict is expected to approach the home through the jail authorities, and with the parole papers. The convict can also be the father of one of the children already at the home. Only if the convict satisfies these conditions will he be allowed to use the transit room.

PRABHAVANI

ಪರೋಲ್ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಕೈದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಗೃಹ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 16- ಸೋಷಲ್ ವಿದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜೀವಾವಧಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಅನುಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕೈದಿಗಳು ಪರೋಲ್ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಸದಸ್ಯರೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸಮಾಯಕವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಅವರಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿದ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಗೃಹವನ್ನು ಕಾರಾಗೃಹದ ದಿವ್ಯ ಎಲ್.ರೇವಣ್ಣದ್ರಾಯ್ ಅವರು ಇಂದು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿದರು.

ಭಾರತ ಸುಸ್ತುಮಗ್ನ ಭಾರತ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಈ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಗೃಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈದಿಗಳ 15 ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪಮಟ್ಟಿನ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ವಸತಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದ ಜೊತೆ ಲಾಭ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸೋಷಲ್ ವಿದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೈದಿಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿದ್ದವರು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿ ಕೊಡುವ ಜೋಗಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರು ಪುನಃ ಅಪರಾಧಿಗಳಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿವೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇಂತಹ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ರೇವಣ್ಣದ್ರಾಯ್ ಅವರು, ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಆಶ್ವಾಸ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿದ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು "ಸೋಷಲ್ ಕೇರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಇಂಡಿಜೆಂಟ್"ದ ಸುಸ್ತುಮಗ್ನವಾದ ಮಗ್ಗುಲನ್ನು ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಮಗ್ಗುಲ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ.



ಸೋಷಲ್ ಕೇರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಇಂಡಿಜೆಂಟ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿದ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಗೃಹವನ್ನು ಕಾರಾಗೃಹದ ದಿವ್ಯ ಎಲ್ ರೇವಣ್ಣದ್ರಾಯ್ ಅವರು ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿ ಕೈದಿಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

THE HINDU

MAY 27TH 2000

Children of prisoners get school admission

By Govind D. Belgaumkar

BANGALORE, MAY 27. Thursday was a fortunate day for Socare Ind (Society's Care for the Indigent) in Rajajinagar, which has been giving shelter to and bringing up the children of prisoners. All the 14 children given shelter by the society got admission to a school on that day.

Started by Mr. V. Mani, a philanthropist, with two children a year ago, Socare Ind has come a long way. It has now a good number of children to look after and the organisation has come to stay. All the inmates are children of parents who are serving life terms in the Bangalore Central jail.

Socare Ind acknowledges the gesture of East West School in admitting the children with concessions in the admission fee. The school will charge a nominal tuition fee for these children.

It has admitted them knowing that they are the children of prisoners. However, the school authorities have requested Socare Ind to be "discreet" in revealing their identity, for the parents of other children in the school may not appreciate it and might even raise objections. However, Socare Ind is convinced that the children would have to live the reality.

Besides those from the City and outskirts, some of the children are from Bijapur and Chikmagalur districts. While one student has been admitted to the sixth standard, four of them have been admitted to the fourth standard. One each has been admitted to second and third standards, while the rest have got admission in LKG. Barring five children, all of them are studying in English medium. Five children were admitted to Kannada medium, for they were studying in that medium till now.

Manjunath and Sashidharan have got readmission in the school. Both were "well-behaved" students, and the latter has even won certificate of excellence for studies and sports activities.

The children will be given uniforms, school bags, lunch boxes and other things required by them, according to Mr. Mani.

Mr. Mani is thinking on ways to improve the learn-

ing skills of the children, who are new to the urban environment and competition. "That is the major challenge for me. We must bring them on par with other children," he says. While he is exploring the ways of achieving this, the organisation has already appointed a teacher, Ms. Daisy, to monitor their academic activities and help them with their homework.

The children, most of whom were admitted into the shelter, have learnt discipline. They keep the environment clean and respect others, Mr. Mani says.

Socare Ind (Ph: 3321864) is looking for sponsors for better care of the children.

Home for convicts' kids

Society's Care for Indigent (SOCARE IND) has set up a home for children of life convicts at 2642, DESIK, 12th E Main, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010.

The home will also be open to children of those who have been killed in police firing. Besides providing education, boarding and lodging, the home will mould the children's future. To start with, the home has proposed to admit 10 children.

Socare Ind has plans to establish a dispensary for construction and household workers. The home was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, Mr. D.B. Kalmankar on Saturday. Further details could be obtained on Ph: 3321864, according to a release.

ASIAN AGE - Sept 22nd, 2000

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Prisoners of fate given refuge by city couple

By MADHU PRASAD N.

Bangalore, Sept. 22: Their parents are convicted for murder or dacoity and are serving time in prison. Some have been witness to one parent killing the other, while still others have lost their parents to other crimes which put them behind bars. Had they been left to their own devices, these children could have taken to lives of crime themselves. But giving them a new lease of life is a retired couple in Rajajinagar who care for children of prisoners lodged in different jails in the state.

Mr V. Mani, a retired employee of the Reserve Bank of India and his wife Saroji have thrown open

their home to the children, who are anywhere between the ages of three and eight, at Socare Ind., or Society's care for the Indigent.

Mr Mani says, "As I had fulfilled all my personal obligations and responsibilities, I felt the need to do something for society. I wanted to set up a foster home and decided to open it for these children who are usually ostracised by society."

He approached authorities for help and the home was finally set up in June 1999. It began with just three children. But with the active support of the present director general and inspector general of prisons L. Revannasiddaiah, who facilitated identification of the

children who desperately needed a foster home, the number of children in his care have grown to sixteen. "My dream is to make the children good citizens, who will grow up to be police officers, doctors or lawyers. These children have been abandoned by society for no fault of theirs," Mr Mani regrets.

The couple use their pension to take care of the basic needs of the children including their schooling, food and clothing. The children are accommodated in the couple's home. Lodging has been given for two girls at a women's hostel.

All 16 children under the couple's care, study at reputed

Turn to Page 10



LIVING ON A PRAYER: Children of prisoners who have been given refuge at Socare Ind, in a prayer session with V. Mani, a retired RBI employee, who runs the foster home in Bangalore. A photograph by Satish B.

Never too old to help

GRETA CHAWAN

ONE always despises the cruelty of the Dandupalya gang or any such group. But how many spare a thought for their children? The innocence in the children's eyes isn't different from that of the average kid on the street — the sullied faces would make you want to love them, and their pranks would bring a smile on your face. These are 30 children under the roof of an institution called Socare, which shelters

them. Socare Ind was established in 1990 and is a home for orphans and children whose parents are convicted or single. Sixty six-year-old Venkataragachari Mani and wife Saroj are the sculptors of this organisation.

Venkatragachari, popularly known as V Mani, is a retired assistant manager from the Reserve Bank of India. What made him start this organisation rather than spending his days of retirement in peace? "I wonder what stops others from doing this? I am a normal human being but I think those who are sitting idle at home after retirement, in front of a

TV, must be abnormal," he smiles. Mani donated his home, which is now the hostel.

The Socare Ind inmates are boys aged between two and 11 years. It provides free hostel, boarding and education to deprived children in prominent schools. A number of children from Socare are toppers in academics and in extra-curricular activities.

Legend has it that Krishna behind bars. Socare has many Krishnas who have seen the environs of jail at first sight. It tries to ensure they grow away from there

Legend has it that Lord Krishna was born behind bars. Socare has many Krishnas who have seen the environs of jail at first sight. It tries to ensure they grow away from there

ty and a feeling of love and togetherness.

Once every three months, the children are taken to their parents or relatives for a day. The institute also provides the guest room or transit home for parents of inmates for a day as they can spend time with their children.

Apart from this, Socare also places daughters of convicts in various hostels, rehabilitation

Children at Socare Ind perform a drill.



centres and takes care of them.

Your trash, their treasure
Socare plans to start a new hostel at Chamrajpet to adopt more underprivileged children.

V Mani started Socare with only two infants but today, there are nearly 30 boys.

The organisation is in need of resources. So, old home appliances and other things like chairs and carpet would be useful to Socare.

V Mani is an angel for children, and has a dream of building his residential school to train children and make them strong enough to live independently. Mani has his fingers crossed.

Socare can be contacted at
2642, DESIK, 12 Main E,
Rajajinagar, II Stage,
Phone: 3321864.



Venkatragachari Mani with wife Saroj.

ಸಂಜೆ ವಾಣಿ

ದಿನಾಂಕ - 27-6-2003



ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರದ ಸೋಕೇರ್ ಇಂಟರ್ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿಕ್ಸ್, ಇಂದು ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತ ಅಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೇಮಮಾಲಿನಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಹಂಚಿ ಸಂತೋಷಪಟ್ಟರು. ಚಿತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾಜಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಯುಕ್ತರಾದ ಎಲ್. ರೇವಣ್ಣಸಿದ್ಧಯ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಈಸ್ಟ್ ಬೆಸ್ಟ್ ಪಾಲೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ರವಿಕಿರಣ್ ಮುಕ್ತರರಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮನೆ

ಮಂದಿ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಈ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು.

ಒಬ್ಬ ಕೈದಿ ಬಂದಿಖಾತೆ ಸೇರಿ ಧ್ವನಿ ಎಂಬ ತೀವರ ಸಾಹು. ಆದರೆ ಮನೆ ಹಾಕದಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೈದಿಯ ಅಪರಾಧದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆತನ ಅಧೀನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥೈಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೈದಿ ಕುಟುಂಬದವರಾದ್ದು, ಆತನ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬಂದಿ ಪಾಲಕರಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಕೈದಿಯ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಂದಿಖಾತೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಆಳ್ವಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಮನೆಗೆ ಕರೆತರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ 'ಸೋಕರ್' ಇಂಥ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಆದಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೈದಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಗುವಿದ್ದರೆ ಆಕೆಯನ್ನು 'ಒಸೋದಯ' ಎಂಬ ಸರಕಾರೀತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಂಶವೆಂದರೆ ಈ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಗುವಿನ ಪೋಷಕೀಯ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯೊಂದು ಮನೆ ಆದರಲ್ಲೇ. ಹೀಗೆ ಅನಾಥರಾಗಿ ಹೀನಾಯವಾಗಿ ಕೊಂಚ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಾದ್ದು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಪಕ್ಕ ಸಂಸಾರದ ಸಮರ್ಥನಾಗಿ ಸಾಕುತ್ತಾರೆ, ವಾಕ್ಯವು ಹುಡುಗರು.

ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಸಂಪದಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಂಶವೆಂದರೆ ಲಾಭಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಆದಾರಾಧ ಎಂಬುವ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ಮನೆಗೆ ಇದೆ.

ಸಿಬ್ಬರ ಅಪರಾಧಗಳಾದವರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಗಾಢೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಆಶ್ರಯ. 'ಅಪರಾಧ' ಎನ್ನುವ ಪದದ ಅರ್ಥವನ್ನೇ ಆರಿಯದ ಈ ಮುಗ್ಧರಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ತಂದೆ, ತಾಯಿ ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಯಾವ ಆದಿಪ್ರಾಂತ ಎನ್ನುವುದು. ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿದಿಲ್ಲ. ವಿವೇಕ ಮತ್ತು ರಮಾತ್ (ಹಣದು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ) ತಮ್ಮ ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ತಂದೆ ಅಪರಾಧವಾಗುವುದನ್ನು ಕಂಡವರು. ಆ ಆಘಾತದಿಂದ ಹೊರಬರಲಿಕ್ಕಿರುವ ಈ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏಗೆ ಮನೆ ಆದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮುಂದೆ ಬರುವುದರ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಆತ್ಮಗತ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಬಲವಾಗಿ ನಂಬುವ ಮನೆ ಆದರೆ ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ರಾಜ ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗಲೇ-ಮಗ್ಗ ಹಾಲಾ ಸಮೂಹದ ವಿವಿಧ ತರಗತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸಗಳ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯನ್ನು ಮನೆ ಆದರೆ ತಿಳಿದು ಕಾಳಜಿಯಿಂದ ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಪಿಡ್ಡಿಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕಡಾಚೆ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನೂ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಡಾಚೆಯನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆತ್ಮರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಗಾಢೆ ಕಲಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕಡಾಚೆ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹತ್ತು ಹಲವು ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು

ಒಬ್ಬಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡುವ ಮನೆ ಆದರೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪ್ರತಿ ಚಲನಚಲನಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮವಾಗಿ ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ತನ್ನ ಮಾದಿವ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬುದ್ಧಿಮಾತಿನ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಸರಿ ದಾರಿಗೆ ಬರುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಮ್ಮ ವಾಸ್ತವವನ್ನು ಅರಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರತಿ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು ಮುಂದೆ ಆದರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಗಾಢ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಹಕರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಥಾ ಅಪರಾಧಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆರ್. ಗೋಪಿನಾಥರಾಜ್, ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬೇಟೆಗೆ ರವಾನಿಸಿ ಆದರೆ ಉಂಟಾಗಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ ಕೊಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಒಂದಲ್ಲ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ತಮ್ಮ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸೇರಲೇಬೇಕು. ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಇವರು ಸಮಾಜದ ಉತ್ತಮ ಪ್ರತೀಕವಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೆತ್ತವರಿಗೆ ಆಸರೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಇಷ್ಟಾದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸಾರ್ಥಕವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮನೆ. ಇಷ್ಟು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪಾಲನೆ-ಪೋಷಣೆಗೆ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಹಣ ಎಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ? ಇವರಿಗೆ ದಾನಿಗಳೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಬೆನ್ನೆ ಲಾಭ. ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿ ದಾನಿಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಧಿ

ಮಾಡಿ ಆದರಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪೋಷಣೆಗೆ ವ್ಯಯಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಷ್ಟಾದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಊಟ ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಕೆಲವು ಸೋಕರ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಫಿಡ್, ಕಡಾಚೆನಂತಹ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಧ್ಯಮ ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಏಳು ಮಂದಿ ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರು ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೈಜೋಡಿಸಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಏಳಿಗೆ ಕಂಕಾಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ದಾಖಲೆನಗರದ ಎರಡನೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಥ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಆಕಾಶರಂಗ. ನೋಂದ ಪೆನ ಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಂತ್ವನ ಬೇಕುವ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಭರವಸೆ ಕಳೆಕೊಂಡವರ ಪಾಲನೆ ಭರವಸೆ. ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಗ್ಗಲಾದವರ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಆಸರೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮನೆ ದಂಪತಿಗಳ ಕೊನೆ ಕೊನು. ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಥಾಗೆ ದಾನಿಗಳ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬೇಕು, ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಬೇಕು.

ನಾಳೆ ಕಾಣದವರಿಗೆ

ಇವರು ಇಂದಿಗೆ ಸಾಂತ್ವನ

ತೆವರೂರ ಮನೆ ನೋಡಿ ಬಂದ ತಾಯಿ ನೆನಪಾಗಿ ಕಣ್ಣೀರ ತಂದ ಪತ್ನಿ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಮಾಡುವ...

ಪಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಒಂಭತ್ತರ ಪರೆಯದ ರಫಾವಿನ (ಪೆಸರು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ) ಕಣ್ಣುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಯುಕ್ತವೆ. ಕೈಗಳು ಕುಟುಂಬವೆ. ಗಂಟು ಒಗ್ಗುಲುತ್ತವೆ. ತಾಯಿಯ ನೆನಪುಮೈ ಆವರಿಸಿ ಮನವಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಈ ರೀತಿ ಅದೆಷ್ಟೋ ಬಾರಿ ಮನವಾಗಿ ಕಣ್ಣು ಸುರಿಸಿದ ರಫಾವಿಗೆ ತಾಯಿಯಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಆದರೆ ತವರಿಲ್ಲ, ತವರಿದ್ದರೂ ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಈಗ ಹೋಗುವ ಹಾಗಿಲ್ಲ, ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಅದು ಆತನಾಧಿಗಳ ತಾಣ.

ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಒತ್ತಡಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ಮಾದರವಾದ ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೆಗಿ ಜೈಲು ಸೇರಿದ ಅದೆಷ್ಟೋ ಹೆತ್ತವರ ಪೈಕಿ ರಫಾವಿನ ತಾಯಿಯೂ ಒಬ್ಬರು. ಬಡತನದ ಬೆಗೆಯನ್ನು ಸಮೀಪದಿಂದ, ಕ್ಷಣ ಕಾಲದ ಕೋಪಕ್ಕೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗಿ ಕೊರೆಯಂತಹ ಕ್ಷಿಪ್ರ ಆಪರಾಧ ಎಸಗಿದ ರಫಾವಿನ ತಾಯಿಗೆ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಿಂದ ಜಾಮಾದಾರಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯ ಘೋಷಣೆ.

ಒಂದೆ ಮುಂದೆ ಆರಿಯದ ಮುಗ್ಧ ರಫಾವಿಗೆ ಅಣ್ಣನವೇ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಅನುಭವ. ಐದು ವರ್ಷದವರೆಗೂ ರಫಾವಿಗೆ ಬಂಧು ಇಲ್ಲ, ಬಳಗ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಇದ್ದರೂ ಆತನನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಸದ್ಭಾವೆ ಅವರಿಗಿಲ್ಲ, ಮುಂದೆ...

ರಫಾ ಬದುಕು ಪಾಡುಗರಲ್ಲ, ಭಕ್ತಿ ಬೇಡಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಅದ್ಭುತವಾಗಿ ಮನೆ ದಂಪತಿಗಳ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಬಾಹುಗಳನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಸಿ, ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಕ್ಷಿಪ್ರ ಹೊರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಲಿಯಾದ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಶ್ರಯ ತಾಣವಾದ 'ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಡ'ನ ಸದಸ್ಯನಾದ. ತಂದೆ ಅಥವಾ ತಾಯಿ ಆಪರಾಧವಾಗಿ ಜೈಲು ಸೇರಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ತಪ್ಪಂತ ಅಣ್ಣ ಅಥವಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಾಳುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಪಡೆದ.

ಈಗ ರಫಾ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ತರಗತಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ. ಕಳೆದ ದಿನಗಳ

ಕ್ಷಿಪ್ರತೆಯ ಮರೆತು 'ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಡ' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆಶ್ರಯ ಆತರ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಫಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಜೀವಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಆತನ ಕಣ್ಣಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ ಸುಗಂಧ ಹೊಳೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಆಗಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯಾಗಿ ಬಲಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬಾಡುಪಾಡಾಗಿ ಭಕ್ತಿ ಬೇಡಿ ಬುರ್ಜು ವಾಸ ಸುಗಂಧವನ್ನು ರಫಾವಿನಂತಹ ಸುಮಾರು 24 ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಗೆ ತಂದು ಆವರಿಸಿ ಉಣ್ಣು, ಪಾಕಿ, ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ದಂಪತಿ ಸಹ ಸುಖಪಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿ. ಮನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರೋಜಿ ಮನೆ ದಂಪತಿಗಳು ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಿರುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬೇರೆ 'ಸೋಕರ್

ಇಂಡ' (Society care for indigent). ಪೋಷಕರಿದ್ದು ಅಣ್ಣನವರಿಂದ ಕೈದಿಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಅಂತೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ 'ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಡ' ಒಂದು ವಿಶೇಷ ಮನೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪರಾಧಿ ಮನೋಭಾವವಿಲ್ಲ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಪ್ರೀತಿ, ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಿಷ್ಟತೆ. ಬೇಕಾದ ಉಪಕರಣ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ವಿದೆ.

ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದವರೂ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟವಾದುದನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ತಂದೆ ತಂದೆ ಕೈದಿಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಬೆಂಕಿಯ ರಾಧಾಪಾಡಿ ಮನೆ ಆವರಣ ಭಾರತೀಯ ರಿವರ್ಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಂಟನ್ ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಅರಿತಾರೆ. 1998ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ಕೊನೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿ ಆರು

ಮೊಂದಿನ ಇವರು ಸಮಾಜ ಸೇವೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಜವರಾಗಿವೆ ಕೈಕೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇವರ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಪತ್ನಿ ಸರೋಜಿ ಮನೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಹೋದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ಪತಿಯ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಪೆಚ್ಚೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ನೆರಳಾಗಿ ಸಹಕರಿಸಿದರು. ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ನಂತರ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಸುಮಾರು ಮೂರು ಅಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮನೆ ಈ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟರು. ತಮ್ಮ 2016 ವರದಿ ಆದಿ ಮನೆಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪಾಠ್ಯ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಪರಿ ಪರಿಗಾಡಿದರು. ಎರಡು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಮಾಜ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಬಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು 'ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಡ' ಈಗ 24 ಮಕ್ಕಳ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕುಟುಂಬ.

ಒಂದೊಂದು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಹನ್ನೆರಡು ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಂದ 'ಸೋಕರ್ ಇಂಡ' ಸಂಪಾದದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯೊಂದೇ ತುಂಬ ಮಂತ್ರ. ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಲ್ಲದಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಮನವರಿಕೆಯ ಮನೆ ದಂಪತಿಗಳು ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪೋಷಣೆ, ಮಾನವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ. ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಬೇಕೆ ಕೊಡಲು, ಪುರೆಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಆರು ಈಗ ಮಾಡಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿ ಆರು



ಮನೆ ದಂಪತಿಗಳು



அம்மா சொந்தரஸ் ரஜயஸ்! அம்மா ஷீமாக்கா ரஜயஸ்!

“அம்மா வை எங்கப்பா, கொன் னுட்டாரு. அதனால் ஜெயில்லதான் அப்பா இருப்பாராம். வீட்டுக்கு வரமாட்டாருன்னு எங்க பாட்டி சொல்லுச்சு.”

மனம் கனத்துப் போகும் செயறியை படு கேஷுவலாகச் சொல்லும் சசிசுமார் என்ற பிஞ்சுக்கு வயது ஆறு!

நெஞ்சுக்குள் நெருப்பையும், கண்களில் கவலையையும் வளர்த்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் இந்தப் பிஞ்சைப் போல, நார்பத் தைத்து தளிர்கள் ஸோகேர் இன்ட் ஹோமில் (Socare Ind Home) இருக்கிறார்கள்.

“ஆயுள் தண்டனைக் கைதிகளோட குடும்பத்தை நினைச்சா கண்ணீர்தான் கொட்டுது. அவங்க குழந்தைகளுக்கு உணவு, உடை, கல்வி... இதுக்கெல்லாம் யாரிட்ட கையேந்தி நிற்பா ஒரு தாய்? சில வருடங் களாவே என் நெஞ்சை இது குத்திக் கொண்டிருந்த விஷயம். தவிர என் ஆபீசுக்குப் போகும் போது சென்ட்ரல் ஜெயிலைக் கடத்துதான் போகணும் தினமும் அங்க கவலை அப்பிவிருக்கும் முகங்களைப் பார்ப்பேன். ஜெயிலுக்கு உள்ளேயிருக்கும் அப்பாணைப் பார்க்க, கூட்டமாக நிற்கும் குழந்தைகளுட முகத்தைப் பார்த்து வேதனைப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். இவங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது செய்வனுங்கற வெறி எனக்கும். அதனால் ரிடையர் ஆவடிட்டேயே இந்த அமைப்பை ஆரம்பித்து விட்டேன்” என்றிருக்கிற மணி.

இந்தியாவிலேயே ஆயுள் தண்டனைக் கைதிகளின் குழந்தைகளுக்கென இயங்கும் அமைப்பு, பெங்களூர் ராஜாஜி நகரில் இருக்கும் இந்த அமைப்பு தான்.

இங்கு இவர்களுக்குப் பாதுகாப்பான இடம், உணவு மற்றும் கல்வி எல்லாமே கிடைக்கிறது. இங்கிருக்கும் ஒவ்வொரு குழந்தையின் பின்னாலிலும் ஒரு மெகா சிரியல் அளவிற்குக் கதை கண்ணீர்க் கதை!

“தந்தையோ, தாயோ ஆயுட் கைதி. சிலருக்குப் பெற்றோர்



• ஆயுள் தண்டனைக் கைதிகளின் குழந்தைகளுடன் மணி

• மணியும், சோனியும்

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இருவருமே சினைநிலை இக்குழந்தைகளுக்கு எந்தவித தயக்கமோ, மானப் பிரச்சனையோ ஏற்படுவதில்லையாம் "எங்கப்பா சொன்ட்ரல் ஜெயில், எங்கம்மா ஹிமோனா ஜெயில்" என்று ஆனந்தமாக மனம் விட்டுப் பேசிக் கொள்வார்கள். தண்டனை, குற்றம், கொலை, இது போன்ற வார்த்தைகளையும் அவ்வளவு களையும் அவர்கள் புரிந்து கொள்ளும் வயதில்லையே" என்கிறார் மணி.

ரி ஸர்வ வங்கியில் பொறுப்பான பதவியிலிருந்து ஓய்வு பெற்ற இந்த மணிக்கு 'யாதும் உரரே, யாவரும் கேளிர்' என்பதில் ரொம்ப நம்பிக்கை. "எம்மதமும் சம்மதம் தான். எல்லா சாதிடும் மனித ஜாதிதான். ஜாதி மத பாகுபாடு, வேறுபாடு, என்னைச் சித்திரவதை செட்பும் மனிதர்களின் நிற இன வேறுபாடுகளை வெறுக்கிறேன். எல்லோரும் சமம் என்பதே என் ஜபம்" என்கிறார் மணி.

ரோகேர் ஹோமில் ஆண் குழந்தைகளுக்கு மட்டுமே அனுமதி இவர்களை நல்ல ஸ்டாண்டாட் உள்ள ஆங்கில மீடியம் பள்ளிக் கூடத்தில் சேர்த்திருக்கிறார் மணி.

மணியின் மனைவி சீரோஜிபுர இந்தக் கிறிஸ்தவர்களுக்கெனப் பாடுபடுகிறார். சிவடயர் ஆனவுடன் கிடைத்த பணத்தைப் பேசட்டு, இந்த ஹோனம் சமார் தான்னு வருடங்களுக்கு முன் ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறார் மணி.

செவ்விற்கு என்ன செய்கிறார்?

"ஒய்வொரு மாதமும் முதல் தேதி நெருக்க நெருக்க டென்ஷன் உச்சத்திற்குப் போய் விடும். சனமயங்காரர், வார்டங்கள், டிபுஷன் உச்சர்கள், ஸ்டாஃப் ஆஃபிஸ்களுக்கு சம்பளம் கொடுத்தாகணும். தவிர, பிசன்கள்களுக்குச் சாப்பாடு, சுகல் கிபீஸ் என்று செலவு பெரும்பாலும் எம் வயிச்சிக்குள்ளான் மனம் போடுகிறேன். ஒரு சில நல்லிதயம் களும் உதவறாம்க இது விடுதிவல்லு வீடு தகப்பல் விதானத்தின் இருந்து கண்டிப்பார். ராசமும் சமமாகக் கொடுக்கிறேன்."

மணி வெயிப்படைவாக்கச் சொல்கிறார்.

ரோகேர் இன்ட் அமைப்புக் குழுவில் முக்கியப் பொறுப்பு வகிப்பவர் காநாடக முன் னாள் டி.ஜி.ஜி. ஐ.ஜி சினை எல். ரேவண சித்தையா. மணி தம்படியின் சேவையை மனம் விட்டுப் பாராட்டிவிடுகிறார்.

- லதா சேகர்