

Nandini

ISSUE 1

MARCH 2007

Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

VOL XII

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**Farmers Commit Suicide
due to Poverty**

**Prime Minister
and**

**Finance Minister
lecture about**

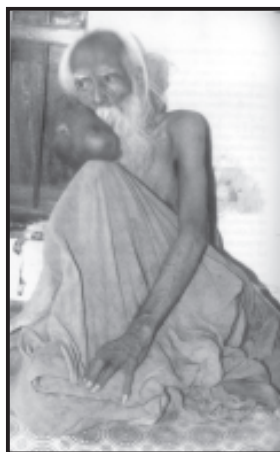
“Impressive GDP Growth”

STORY OF SRI THINNAI SWAMY

Courtesy: The Mountain Path, Aradhana 2004

Early in the morning on Deepam Day, 7th December 2003, a little known devotee left his physical body in Thiruvannamalai, in TamilNadu where he had lived for more than 54 years in the supreme state of atma-jnana bestowed upon him by the grace of Sri Bhagavan Ramana Maharishi.

The devotee (original name Ramaswami) for more than forty years was known as Thinnai Swami, because he lived on and seldom moved away from the thinnai (masonry bench) in the verandah of a house.



Sri Thinnai Swami was born in Coimbatore on the 12th December 1912, in a family of lawyers and doctors belonging to the small Telugu Brahmin community of that town. As a young man, he was employed for many years as a biochemist in Madras Medical College, during which time he married and had four sons. Until his mid thirties, there was no indication in his outward life of the great inner and outer transformation that was to happen later.

In the mid-1940s, he came to Thiruvannamalai on three occasions to have darshan of Sri Bhagavan Ramana Maharishi, each time staying for just a brief while, but these first three visits appear to have caused no immediate change in his outward life. The first hint of an outward change in his life occurred later, possibly sometime around the end of 1948. At that time, an opportunity had arisen in his department for a biochemist to be selected to go to America for higher studies or research and at first he was the candidate selected. Soon, however, his selection was reversed and a junior colleague was selected in his place. Knowing that this change had happened unjustly through some political influence, he resigned his job in Madras Medical College as a matter of principle. Before seeking another job, he told his wife that he would take this opportunity to spend some more time in Sri Bhagavan's presence.

Thus he came to Thiruvannamalai for the fourth time and soon he wrote to his wife saying that he planned to stay longer and would bring her and their children there after the forthcoming kumbhabishekam of Matrubhuteswara temple, at which time he hoped to find suitable accommodation for them. Accordingly, his family soon joined him and stayed with him in Thiruvannamalai until about July of that year. By that time his wife was about to give birth to their fourth son, so he sent her and their children to stay with his father in law in Kolar. Before she left, he told her that he intended to go soon to Pondicherry, where a suitable job vacancy was available.

During those months that he lived with his family in Thiruvannamalai, he spent most of his time either in Sri Bhagavan's presence or doing giri-pradakshina.

After his family had left, he one day approached Sri Bhagavan and asked for permission to leave for Pondicherry to apply for a job, to which Sri Bhagavan replied, "Iru". Iru is a Tamil word that literally means 'Be', but in such a context it would normally be taken to mean 'Stay' or 'Wait'.

Sri Thinnai Swami obeyed both the colloquial and the literal meaning of the word 'iru' uttered by Sri Bhagavan. From that moment, he never left Thiruvannamalai and he also remained fixed firmly in the eternal state of Self-abidance.

Sri Thinnai Swami's inward transformation was reflected in a complete transformation in his outward life. From that day on, his outward behaviour changed radically. He seldom spoke and when he did, his words were usually enigmatic, often allegorical and at times even appeared quite meaningless. He neglected his appearance, allowing his hair to grow long and matted and he lived by begging for his food, usually just one meal a day and sometimes not even that. He was known sometimes to remain so absorbed in his inward state for several days that he did not stir outwardly even to eat or fulfill any other bodily function.

When his family finally found that he had changed so completely and when he showed no sign of response when requested to come home, his brother in law concluded that he had become mad.

His wife, however, refused to believe this and she said to her father, "If he wishes to live in this way, I do not wish to stand in his way. But as his wife I have the right and duty to serve him. So please allow me to remain here to take care of him."

Her father therefore rented a cottage in the compound of Kittu Aiyer, the Ashram priest, for her to stay. When his wife and father in law requested Sri Thinnai Swami to accept her service, he consented and lived for a while in an adjacent hut. During that time, he would spend most of his time in deep Self-absorption, from which he would rise only to accept food or to do giri pradakshina.

After some time, Sri Thinnai Swami told her to go, saying her duty was to look after her sons.

When she returned with her father to Kolar, Sri Thinnai Swami returned to live in Virupaksha cave. As had become usual, he spent most of his time there in Self-absorption and would on most days get up only once to go for giri pradakshina and to beg his meal on the way.

As time went on, he slowly stopped begging from other houses and came on most days to the house of Sri C.P. Nathan to eat his only meal. Finally one day in the late 1950s, when he came to their house as usual, he said to Mrs.C.P.Nathan, "Amma, it is raining outside. May I take shelter here?" She replied, "Swami, this is your house. You are welcome to stay here." He therefore sat on the thinnai in their varandah and remained there.

That day was actually a very hot sunny day in the Tamil month Purattasi (September - October) and there was no sign of any rain. After a short while, however, a small black cloud appeared and a few drops of rain fell. Nevertheless, it appears that what he really meant when he said, "It is raining outside", was that living in a public place like Virupaksha cave, he was exposed to all sorts of unwanted attention. That is, because from his outward appearance and behaviour it was clear even to worldly minded people that he was no ordinary sadhu, He naturally attracted public attention and adulation, which he wished to avoid.

Sri Thinnai Swami lived on that thinnai and only on a very few occasions did he ever leave that compound in the twenty years.

From the day that Sri Bhagavan told him, "Iru", Sri Thinnai Swami remained completely indifferent to all forms of physical discomfort and inconvenience.

Towards the end of 1985, Sri Thinnai Swami lost his eyesight, apparently due to cataract, but he never allowed

any doctor to check his eyes. After this, his few physical activities became even less. He ate food from a plate placed on a table beside his thinnai, continuing to recline even as he ate and he got off his thinnai only to answer the calls of nature. Other than that, he remained unaffected by and totally unconcerned with the failing strength and health of his body. His state remained unshakable as ever.

Finally, a few days before his 91st birthday, he left his body as quietly as he had lived in it, in the early hours of the morning when everyone in the compound was asleep.

In the eyes of the world, which attaches importance only to doing, overlooking the true importance of mere being, there may appear to be little greatness in the extraordinary life of Sri Thinnai Swami. He did not speak, write or teach anything, nor did he perform any other "useful" function. But whether we are able to recognise it or not, his mere being was a great blessing bestowed upon the whole world by Sri Bhagavan, the effect of which cannot be known or measured by our finite intellects.

As Sri Bhagavan says in verse 303 of Guru Vachaka Kovai:

"They [the wise] say that the ucchistha [the leftover of food] consumed by God is the supreme purifier that removes all sin. Take to heart that the life of sat-aachara [abidance in the state of being] lived by a jnani in this material world is itself that ucchistha."

That is, the mere existence of a jivanmukta, whose physical form continues to live in this world after God has consumed his ego, is itself the sacred ucchistha that purifies the world of all evil. When this supreme good is done by his mere being, what need is there for the jnani to do anything - whether to speak, write, teach or perform any other kind of "good deed"?

FORM IV

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I, N.S.VENKATARAMAN, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date : 18.02.2007

N.S.VENKATARAMAN,
Signature of Publisher.

Desperate Calls

*You can enjoy your prosperity
only if you share your income with the Deprived
and thus discover the satisfaction that it provides*

Student suffering from Cancer

Sri.S.Vigneshwaran, B.Tech student of Anna University is suffering from complicated and rare form of cancer. At present, he is undergoing treatment at Mt.Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore. The expected cost of the treatment would be approximately Rs.90 lakhs.

He has successfully undergone chemotherapy treatment and he has to undergo bone marrow transplant.

The cheque should be drawn in favour of Vigneshwaran Medical Relief Fund-A/C No.30060449430, State Bank of India, Anna University and sent to Prof.Dr.P.Narayanaswamy, Head of the Department, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College of Engineering, Anna University, Guindy, Chennai-600 025.

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Disabled Persons need job



Sri.A.Elumalai lost his both legs due to polio attack. He hails from poor family. He has obtained Bachelor of Commerce Degree. Sri.A.Elumalai requests for a suitable job

Contact address:

Sri.A.Elumalai, S/o.Sri.Angamuthu,
19, Mariamman Koil Street
Sithhapattinam, Manaloorpettai (PO)

Thirukoviloor (Tk) Villupuram District,
Tamil Nadu, Pin:605 753

◆◆◆◆



Sri.C.Murugan lost his left leg due to polio attack. He belongs to lower income group. He has studied upto plus 2, Sri Murugan requests for a job.

Contact address:

Sri.C.Murugan, S/o.Sri.Chinathambi,
East Street, Jampadai (Via)
Thiruvarangam (PO), Sankarapuram (Tk)
Villupuram District, Pin:605 801.

◆◆◆◆

Ms. P. Machagandhi is a disabled girl. She hails from poor family. She has obtained Bachelor of Arts degree.

Ms.Machagandhi requests for a suitable job

Contact address:

Ms.P.Machagandhi, D/o.Sri.Periannan,
Main Road, Veedoor & (Post)
Tindivanam (Tk), Villupuram District,
Pin:605 652.



Disabled Person Needs Financial Support for Self Employment

Mr. S.M.Mohammed Ali, age 54 years, is a disabled man. His wife, daughter and daughter in law are also disabled persons.

Mr.Mohammed Ali requests financial help for a sum of Rs.5000/- towards setting up a petty shop in front of his house.

Contact address:

Sri.S M Mohammed Ali, No.43, (Old No.78) Periyar Street (Nagar) Moolakadai, Chennai-600 110.

◆◆◆◆

Needs Sewing Machine



Ms.Susila is a disabled lady. She hails from poor family. She has undergone 6 months training in tailoring course

Ms.Susila requests for donation of a sewing machine

Contact address:

Ms.S.Susila
D/o.Sri.N.Sathgurunathan,
Vazhapattu, Veeramoor (PO)
Villupuram Tk, Pin: 605 402 Tamil Nadu.

◆◆◆◆

Suffering from Cancer

Mrs.Sushama Tillu is suffering from tongue cancer since June 2006. She has undergone almost 40 radiations and chemotherapy via intravenous injections.

Hinduja Hospital has recommended further treatment consisting of chemotherapy costing Rs.1.5 lakhs per cycle ; 4 cycles Rs.6 lakhs.

Mr. Pramod Tillu, her husband is working in a private company.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of P.D.Hinduja National Hospital & Medical Research Centre, Mumbai and sent to . Mr.Pramod Tillu, Futura Polyesters Ltd., Paragon Centre, 3rd Floor, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Parel, Mumbai - 400 013.

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Suffering from Cancer

Mr. Ashim Adhikari is suffering from cancer of the chest wall. Estimated cost of treatment is Rs.50,000/- in Tata Memorial Hospital.

Mr.Ashim Adhikari is leading life below poverty line. He has a wife and 5 year old daughter who are completely dependent on him.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Ashim Adhikari and sent to C/o Mr.Subir Ray, Railway Quarter No.23/21, M M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400 013.



Child Suffering from Heart Disease

Baby Tamilarasan, age 5 years is suffering from congenital heart disease with double outlet right ventricle and VSD. He requires to undergo closed heart surgery. Estimated cost of surgery is Rs.60,000/-

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Sri Ramachandra Hospital, Chennai A/c. Baby Tamilarasan and sent to the following address:

Women's Welfare Syndicate,
8/2, Avenue Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 034



Man Suffering from Heart Ailment

Mr.S.Ravi, age 36 years is suffering from rheumatic, aortic and mitral valve disease. He has to undergo double valve replacement surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.2,75,000/-

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Vijaya Heart Foundation, Chennai A/c. Mr.S.Ravi and sent to the following address:

Women's Welfare Syndicate, 8/2, Avenue Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 034.



Needs help for surgery

17 Years old Mr. R.Arun, a resident of Kilveeranam village Kaveripakkam, Son of Mrs. Sundari, fell unconscious on 15.3.2006 and was rushed to local hospital where a team of doctors diagnosed him to be suffering from Cardiac arrest and recommended him to undergo double valve surgery immediately. The cost for his surgery is estimated to be Rs. 2,10,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- from Prime minister's fund and Rs.25,000/- from Chief minister of Tamil Nadu has already been sanctioned, but he still falls short of Rs. 1,35,000/-

So kindly donate as much as you can and save the life of Mr. Arun, who is fighting between life and death.

The cheque should be drawn in favour of
Christian Medical College, Vellore.
and sent to the following address:
Snehithan, 99, T.P. Chatham, 1st Street,
Shenoy Nagar, Chennai - 600030.

Ms. DEVI APPAJI

DIFFERENTLY ABLED LADY AND ROLE MODEL



Often we come across persons with enough wealth and good job and other advantages in life but who complain about conditions around them and express frustration with life. At the same time, there are persons with considerable disadvantages but still have positive outlook and maintain cheer in life.

Ms. Devi Appaji, severely disabled lady is a role model for not only differently abled persons but for everyone in the society as to how one should approach life and its contents.

Devi Appaji, age 35 years can move only in sitting posture or in wheel chair. In spite of this difficult condition,

she remains self employed by making food articles and snacks and selling them in nearby places. Her husband is also differently abled person and he helps Devi Appaji in marketing the products by distributing them.

Apart from such self employment activity, Devi Appaji spends her time and efforts in helping other differently abled persons around her. She recently formed an Association to help the poor differently abled men and women and find solution for their problems.

A casual talk with Devi Appaji would reveal the extent of her confidence and cheerful attitude to life and the hopes that she creates amongst those around her.

Contact Address :

Joys Chips

(Appalams and Agarbathis)
9/5, Anna Salai, Kodungaiyur, Chennai - 600 118.

Readers' forum

Readers' forum provides space for the enlightened readers to give expression to their views on a variety of socio economic issues that is of relevance to the society.

Further enrichment of the journal with your thoughtful inputs would certainly go a long way in promoting the cause that the journal seeks to espouse.



All of us are Astronauts

Dear Sir,

I read Sri.GEM Manoharan's letter (Nandini, Feb.07. issue) with considerable interest.

The technological excellence and mathematical precision of man-made space crafts cannot be compared and gainsaid vis a vis a natural planet like Earth.

While the true astronauts venture into real space sans air and gravity, we on Earth are moved round carrying atmospheric air and fully under gravitational pull. Our journey is also hazardous.

This is not to down play the infinite imagery and poetic license with which respected reader Manoharan has penned the thoughtful letter.

Chennai.

N.Dharmeshwaran

Dear Sir,

Sri.G.E. Manoharan has really stolen our hearts when he says that we are all astronauts and the entire article is true in every word of it.

Yes. I have completed 75 years in this beautiful planet enjoying God's choicest gifts for all the human beings with all the essentials like oxygen, water, fruits, leaves, span, space, earth, sunlight, air etc.

The article is food for thought for all of us and to think that I too have travelled 5000 crore miles in this is exciting. God make spaceship with all its plenty and opulence.

Let us not make this world dirty but let us make it a paradise and let us leave the world without pollution etc leaving room for our younger generation to come and enjoy it.

Trichy

S.Aravamudhan,

Publicity for politicians at the cost of Public Funds

Dear Sir,

February 2007 edition of Nandini Voice For The Deprived is brimming with soul stirring appeals, thanks to every noble heart behind such a mission and vision.

Look at the huge cutouts, wall posters, costly advertisements floated in media to trump up the egoism

of ministers and politicians at all levels.. The media has now a passion for publishing photos of political persons and film stars.

Not a single lawyer in our nation has shown so far the courage and conviction to file a petition in High Courts or Supreme Court to arrest the wastage of Government funds in advertisements and publicity for ruling politicians, which money should be spent for the welfare of our masses reeling in miseries.

Chennai

K.N.Narayana Pillai

Skyrocketing land costs and rentals

Dear Sir,

Presently, a matter of great concern for the citizens in middle and lower income group all over India is the prohibitive price of land and escalating rates of rentals.

A one ground plot in an area required by middle class people cannot be purchased for less than Rs.30 lakhs in cities and major towns. In prime and posh locations, the prices range from Rs.1 to 2 crores. An apartment flat of 400 sft is sold at Rs.7 lakhs. The monthly rent for the same is about Rs.3000/- If we obtain bank loan of Rs.7 lakhs, the EMI payable for 15 years will come to Rs.7000.

Can any middle or lower class family with a total income of less than Rs. 20,000/- afford such expense? In the light of above fact, such families can forget about owning a house and be life long tenants.

It is the real estate agents, builders, brokers, banks and IT concerns that are responsible for things to reach such condition. The governments cannot absolve themselves of the responsibility by remaining silent over the developments. It is time that rigorous action should be taken to curb the price of real estates to save people of low income groups.

Chennai

M.R.Pillai

Bring back respect to Judiciary

Dear Sir,

The matters concerning the present state of Indian judiciary have been placed very well in the article "Put judiciary under the scanner" (Feb.07 issue)

While welcoming the national judicial council bill proposed to be introduced in Parliament, the article has rightly exposed the reasons for the judiciary falling into disrepute of late due to debatable verdicts. Some of the judges were also found guilty of corrupt acts.

It is imperative that an advocate elevated to the status of a judge should have excellent credentials like brilliant academic career and distinguished track record as a lawyer. He should not be a member of any political party nor one who has a personal leaning towards any party or have criminal associates. Such judges should have full freedom to deal with cases without fear or favour.

The rule that guilty judges can be removed only by impeachment in Parliament should be scrapped.

Chennai M.R.Pillai

The evils affecting the world

Dear Sir,

I refer to M.R.Pillai's article in the February issue of 'Nandini'.

The usually well known model of comparing the developed world and the underdeveloped world is that 20% of the world uses 80% of the world's resources, leaving the balance 80% of the population to manage with 20% of its resources. In other words, while the under developed world uses 1 unit of resource, the developed world uses up 16 units. If the undeveloped world also acts similarly, as it is trying, five years resources of the world will be used in one year.

Similarly, when one calculates the present data given by UN of 1% of people using 40% of the resources and 99% using the balance 60% of resources, it works out to 40 units vs 0.606 units or the rich are using 66 times more than the poor.

Technically, the gap between rich and poor increased from 1:16 to 1:66. The gap is far more than what the statistics given by UN reveals.

Does the United Nations give guidelines on how to reduce the gap? Obviously, UN have become impotent and is controlled by vested interests.

Chennai KVS Krishna

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Dear Sir,

It has been a rude shock for the millions of Sai Baba devotees that Baba should have called on Karuna Nidhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister who is a self confessed atheist .

It was Baba's magnanimity that he tried to quench thirst of water for the people of Chennai city for which he spent crores of rupees. It was the duty of M.Karunanidhi to have called on him and offered his grateful thanks.

Chennai S.Sivaraman

Gas and Gas Stove

Dear Sir,

I went to book a gas for me and I was told that gas can be given only when I buy gas stove.

I pleaded that I want only the gas as I am having the stove. I was flatly denied and all my pleading fell on deaf ears.

Will the government prohibit this practice?

Chennai V.Kesavalu

Dismiss Assam Government

Dear Sir,

President of India should dismiss Congress Government of Assam immediately for its failure to stop attack on poor Bihari labourers working in two districts of Assam by anti national ULFA's extremists. About 70 labourers were gunned down by them in a span of three days. Death toll may go up, since many of them sustained serious injuries.

Security forces have been instructed not to kill ULFA activists but catch them alive. Consequently, hands of security agencies are tied by the state government.

If ULFA militants were to be found indulging in subversive activities, they should be gunned down on the spot.

Mumbai Sridhar V Kulkarni

Increasing number of murders and scandals

Dear Sir,

A casual survey of public incidents in a calender month in Tamil Nadu based on press reports in reputed national dailies would reveal that, public crimes such as looting, murder and sex scandals are on the increase by twenty five percent corresponding to the same month of the previous year.

Free distribution of money and materials can never be considered as a big achievement of government but on the other hand, the competence of a government can only be judged by its ability to maintain law and order impartially and to ensure public security and welfare.

Chennai Prof.P Jagadeesan

Now it is the turn of Suryanamaskar

Dear Sir,

Suryanamaskar is so simple and best exercise among rest of the exercises in which each and every part of human body will become muscular.

The order of the Madhya Pradesh government making Suryanamaskar compulsory which was challenged by some opponents, has been quashed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which has said that it should not be made as mandatory and it exempted Muslim students.

As for as Pranayam (yogas) are concerned, western scientists and medical experts have admitted that major diseases can be cured by performing yogas and it will stabilise blood pressure. It is also good medicine for personality development. Westerners are taking much interest to learn yogan.

Mumbai

Sridhar V Kulkarni

Gandhiji's desire for prohibition

Dear Sir,

Rajaji was the first to launch prohibition in composite Madras state in Indian subcontinent.

Mahatma Gandhi the father of the nation, supported the movement, which wiped out the tears of unfortunate women folk whose lives were endangered by their drunken husbands. The act also reduced poverty to a certain extent, preventing the birth of evils to give rise to the birth of tranquility and the path to prosperity .

The congress has now woken up to great Gandhiji's Satyagraha. But not single desire of the Mahatma is emulated by present regime. The cause of prohibition is dearest to the heart of Mahatma Gandhi. Let the Congress fulfill his desire now.

Chennai

K..N.Narayana Pillai

Criminals In Uniforms

Dear Sir,

Early last year, a group of army men from Rajputana Rifles threw away six passengers out of a speeding train in Uttar Pradesh killing five of them instantly.

In the recent past, the army looted a police station at Kolkata at gunpoint inorder to free two army officers arrested on charge of molestation; They assaulted the policemen, damaged government furniture and even freed some civilian criminals in the same lock up. The operation was commanded by three army officers.

Now, the Rashtriya Rifles along with civil police at Ganderbal, Jammu & Kashmir mercilessly killed innocent unarmed common people and labeled them as terrorists and buried them deep in their own soil. The family members of those killed were searching their loved ones, their fathers, brothers and sons and giving police complaints.

The army and police conducted this cruel operation for getting promotions and prestigious postings.

Let us review Justice Sadasivam Commission report which speaks with sadness about the shameful sexual atrocities on the women folks and killing of both men and women by the police during the operation for searching and capturing of late Veerappan. Such policemen were awarded honours by the past Tamil Nadu Government. Now, the present Tamil Nadu Government is planning to give compensation to the victims on the lines recommended by the Sadasivam Commission

All these incidents are only tips of the ice berg.

The Himalayan shame is that central ministers and MPs are getting life sentence by Apex Courts.

All these show that the entire land is dominated by unscrupulous elements and the poor common people are the worst victims as they have no money or political power. The victims are invariably the working poor masses.

Chennai.

D.Vedamuthu

WEALTH GAP WIDENING IN INDIA

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The wealth gap in India is widening as the economy of the country grows, the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Haruhiko Kuroda warned .

“The poor people’s income is increasing and absolute poverty is being reduced, but the income of the rich people is increasing much faster. Although absolute poverty is being significantly reduced, the gap between the poor and the rich is rising,” he said at the end of a

four day conference of the World Bank, ADB and UN and other development agencies and banks.

The ADB president also warned that “with all the rapid growth, the environment is negatively affected in many developing Asian countries, including China and India.”

Air and water pollution, soil damage, biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions are on the rise in the region, he said, warning that economies and societies will be seriously affected. The environment is crucial.

“MORAL POLICING - IS IT NECESSARY “? RESULTS OF ALL INDIA ESSAY CONTEST FOR WOMEN COLLEGE STUDENTS

Nandini Voice for The Deprived conducted an All India essay competition for women college students on “Moral Policing - Is It Necessary “?

Objective :

Media has been largely critical of the so called moral policing ,giving an impression as if large segment of society disapprove the methods of police in dealing with the youth who have permissive life style. There is need to know as to what the women students think about the developments as they are the stake holders.

The essay contest was organised with the objective of providing an opportunity to the women college students all over India to express their views on “Moral Policing” and ascertain as to what the women student community think on the subject.

Participation :

Women students from all over India participated in the contest and expressed their views on the subject.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VIEWS OF THE STUDENTS :

Microscopic minority : Large percentage of women students appear to think that. permissive life style is undesirable for the society as well as the individual whether it is a man or woman.

This refutes the general impression spread by some section of the media that the youth in the country enjoy permissive life style in large number. It was pointed out by several students that those young women who go to night clubs and dance or involve themselves in physical relationships with casual friends constitute microscopic minority.

Connivance of police : Many students said that rules and regulations with regard to public behaviour are quite clear and violations take place only because the police force at various levels connive with the violators like the hotels and night clubs. Most of the night clubs and dance bars in hotels operate beyond the stipulated time and allow teenagers to enter the area and they sell liquor to minors in violation of the rules only with the connivance of the police in several cases. If police were to enforce the rules in a routine manner, such violations would not take place .. It was even pointed out that the police conducting raids in a few night clubs is an image building exercise . to conceal their connivance

Misnomer : Students said that there can be only legal policing and not moral policing and moral policing is a misnomer.

Role of Government : Many students feel that the Government should keep itself away from moral issues and has only legal jurisdiction. Across societies, individuals or collectives thereof attach importance to alternate moral issues with varying degree of intensity. What seems innocuous or of little consequence to an entity may be of utmost importance to another. How then is the state to choose from myriad of issues and to what extent must the chosen list be administered ?

Importance of family bondage: The falling parental influence and perhaps the permissive life style of the parents themselves could be the reason for some youth going astray .

This problem can be solved only by strengthening the family bond in the society true to the Indian traditions. Moral norms must be capable of integration into a coherent human life. Morality is an article of faith. It cannot be enforced by fiat.

Perhaps, parents and teachers as role models can bring about progressive attitudinal change amongst the youth to a great extent.

Prize:

The entries of the following seven students were selected for providing awards.

Ms. Gitanjali, SVNIT, Surat, Gujarat

Ms. Arifa Begum, Thasim Beevi Abdul Khader College For Women, Kilakarai

Ms. D. Vidhya, Anna University, Chennai

Ms. Ida Mathew, Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore

Ms.Christine Ann Thomas, Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore

Ms. B. Manisha, Meenakshi College For Women, Chennai

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MORAL POLICING - IS IT NECESSARY?

Excerpt from prize winning essays from the Women Students are provided

**Ms.D.Vidhya, B.E. Geo-Informatics,
Anna University,Chennai**



The concept of young boys and girls socialising late at night in the company of drugs, alcohol, fast music, etc is an unIndian act. These are not form of artistic expression.

Some section of youth, particularly belonging to the families of politicians and rich businessmen and senior bureaucrats who do not know what to do with their plentiful money, spend their time in night clubs with little or no control from their parents. With plentiful money in the hands and with all availability of liquor and drugs, these youngsters tend to go astray.

Obviously, such persons think that they can do any unlawful things such as rape, murder etc and get away with it, as they believe that money can silence or erase anything.

In the near future, the sense of moral values will disappear completely, if necessary measures are not taken against such culture.

Parental control is the only solution. If parents would also be the products of the same culture, where the future generations will go?

**Ms. IDA Mathew, II B.A. Literature,
Nirmala College,Coimbatore**

Even if moral policing is introduced with good intention, it is misused by largely targeting women. It would further discriminate women from her male counterpart and she would be constantly reminded that she is the weaker sex. Under such conditions, it is difficult to bring equality in the society and specially in working place.

Instead of moral policing now largely directed against women, adequate security should be provided for women, so that they would enjoy freedom along with safety and would not be exploited by the male dominated society.

But this alone will not solve the various problems that women go through. The attitude of the society towards women should change

**Ms.Manjusha M.P., II B.A. English Literature,
Holy Cross College, Trichy**



As a corner stone of state hood, it is always held that the rights of an individual is subservient to the national interest.

From the evolution of city states till today, it was implied and accepted though with certain murmurs that state has got the power and responsibility to exercise reasonable control on the behaviour of the people, for the sake of common good and social harmony.

If everybody thinks that in democracy they can do whatever they like irrespective of the irreversible harm that would be done to the society and the community, only anarchy will rule the world with all its attendant death and destruction.

Morality cannot be legalised beyond a level, but behaviour can be regulated. Judicial awards may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless. The very purpose of this moral policing is to restrain such anti socials, both men and women, who lead permissive life style.

**Ms. Manisha B, II B.A. Economics,
Meenakshi College for Women, Chennai**



Looking at the incidents taking place all around, one can only gather one definition for morality. It seems it is related purely with the role of women. Read any newspapers or switch on any TV channel and it is only about women wearing such and such clothes or women going to discos and so on.

Of all the things that can be said against moral policing, one aspect which is conspicuous is its double standards and hypocrisy.

While it is all right for men to stand in line before the liquor shops and pass out on roads at mid nights, it is not correct for women to drink even within the four walls of a hotel.

Where are these moral people when infants and women are being raped, in some case by drunken policemen themselves? Why we don't hear of moral

policing for such policemen? These so called protectors of laws should be targeted for their wayward behaviour as much as any other criminal, since not only the policemen break the laws but they also destroy the trust of the people.

Moral policing should not be only about how women lead their lives. Every individual in the society need a check on his or her activities.

**Ms. Christine Ann Thomas, II B A Literature,
Nirmala College, Coimbatore**

Women have been dominated over the centuries under the guise of moral policing. It is a weapon forged by men for their selfish benefits.

Moral policing has penetrated a woman's life so deep that it has changed the way she lives, walks, behaves and mixes with the opposite sex. She has become an object of ridicule. Moral policing has put women behind closed doors in the past..

Women now have started penetrating into careers and profession in the society.

Cutting across all the barriers and restrictions,we now have women who work in night shifts at BPOs.They need to be protected without curbing their freedom.

It is agreed that women going overboard could lead to disaster but at the same time women need to be let loose to grow.

Ms. Gitanjali Maria, SVNIT, Surat



Do we need religious leaders and panchayats trashing out lovers and chasing them like street dogs and finally sentencing one or both of them to gallows or other harsh punishments? Do we need this moral police that curtails the freedom of individuals?

Moral policing does not mean that anyone or any organisation can dictate terms on individuals and their decisions and curb their freedom. It also does not empower political parties like Bajrang Dal, Sangh Parivar or Shiv Sena, who like to call themselves moral brigades, to vandalise and burn down greeting card shops and gift shops on every Valentine's Day and to terrorise and threaten lovers/ couples. It also does not authorise the Ullemas to issue dress code for women or decide whose wife the woman must be.

But at the same time, do we want to see girls wearing micro mini skirts walking down the streets or in a free market for flesh trade? Surely not.

Moral policing is necessary to a certain extent to protect the heritage and values for which India stands.

More than moral policing, what we need is moral teaching, so that our culture and tradition is not lost completely in the fast track of changing world.

The true moral police is not the baton wielding, lathi charging khaki clad policemen of the police department or the saffron clad activists of political parties but the teacher and parents. The true moral education can be achieved by value based education. Teachers and parents can instill character, values and essence of social norms in the hearts of children from very tender age. They are the ones who can teach the children (the youth of tomorrow) what is right and what is wrong.

If children are brought up on sound value based education, read books on moral stories and spend sweet time with parents and teachers in the formative years, then there is little chance that they will go astray when they grow up.

**Ms. Aarifa Begum,
Thassim Beevi Abdul Kadar College For
Women, Kilakarai, Tamil Nadu**



Media, particularly TV Channels are doing great harm to the image and personality of women by projecting them as mere beauty queens and models. With excessive importance being given to the physical attributes and make ups of women, the media is creating an impression as if women are mere pleasure objectives. Some women may fall prey to the image created by the media and involve themselves in permissive life style. Such developments should be discouraged in the larger interests of the quality of social life.

The moral policing is criticised, since the police force today lack credibility and many do not think that the police men have the competence and understanding to deal with such delicate issues .Therefore, any attempts by police to impose moral behaviour are opposed.

Character building of individuals should start from the formative years and this could be effectively done by maintaining harmony and healthy outlook in the families. Value based education in educational institutions should also be given lot of importance.

The prevailing situation due to permissive life styles of some section of the youth is disturbing. Corrective measures should be applied without delay.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES - LACK OF IT

N.S.Venkataraman, Chief Editor of Nandini Voice For The Deprived sent a letter to Supreme Court of India on 10th January 2007 under the Right to Information Act, seeking clarification on the following points:

❖ Are there any guidelines for the judges at various levels about the type of public and private functions that they should participate?

❖ Are there any guidelines that the judges should not participate in public functions where any persons facing trials in any court would also participate?

❖ Are there any guidelines that the judges should not make any observations during such functions and meetings which are unrelated to judiciary function?

A reply was received from the Addl. Registrar (Admn.) & Central Public Information Officer, Supreme Court of India, Delhi stating that no guidelines exist about the conduct of the judges on above matters. Copy of the letter is given below.

Subsequently, N.S.Venkataraman submitted a representation to Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India, New Delhi on the subject.

Text of the submission is provided below..

"This situation causes considerable concern to me, since I believe that the Indian judiciary system should maintain highest standards in all respects.

In recent times, one frequently comes across instances of the judges at the level of Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts attending many public and private functions and freely airing their views on several subjects that do not concern judiciary. Judges are also seen to be taking part

in meetings and sharing positions on platform with politicians, business men, NGOs and bureaucrats, some of whom could be facing trials in the courts at various levels in the past or in future.

Judges often make remarks and express views on various matters during such meetings which are personal opinions. Obviously, by making such remarks, the judges reveal their mindset.

The same judges expressing such views in public or private meetings may have to handle cases on similar subjects and sit on judgement in some judicial proceedings later on. The known opinion of the judge in such matters will certainly prejudice the quality and fairness of the proceedings in the court and create doubts about the fairness of the verdict in the minds of the public.

The judiciary and the judges have a very crucial role to play in India today and common men have great expectations from the judiciary. It is very important that the judges should not only be very honest but should also ensure that no conditions would be created where their utterances or presence in any gathering could be misconstrued or misinterpreted.

I strongly think that the judges who have the responsibility of interpreting the law and protecting the rights and privileges of the citizens and punishing the corrupt, guilty and the law breakers should keep away from public and private functions, except family functions and refrain from expressing their views on any subject.

I request you to kindly look into the matter and provide guidelines to the judges at various levels all over India about their taking part in public and private functions and airing their views in such meetings".

All Communications should be addressed to the Registrar, Supreme Court by designation, NOT by name
Telegraphic address :-
"SUPREMECO"

**SUPREME COURT
INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Dy. No.38/R11/2007
Dated : January 24, 2007

From : S. Chatterjee,
Addl. Registrar (Admn.) &
Central Public Information Officer,
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi.

To Sh. N.S. Venkataraman,
M-60/1, IV Cross Street,
Besant Nagar,
Chennai - 600 090.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 10th January, 2007, I write to inform you that as regards paras 1 to 3 there are no such guidelines.

Yours faithfully

(S. Chatterjee)
Central Public Information Officer

LAW BREAKERS AND CRIMINALS ARE NOW FEARLESS

There is a sense of insecurity amongst the law abiding citizens in the country which is increasingly becoming evident.

Most of the citizens who are not part of politics or bureaucracy feel that their interests and safety may not be protected by a government machinery and administration in the present conditions and therefore they live in great fear all the time. This is the ground reality.

Most of the law abiding citizens only look forward to fair administration and may not even care as to who would be in power if they would be allowed to lead a life in secured conditions where the rule of law prevails. The common man loves to lead a quiet life loving his friends and family, paying his taxes and pursuing his personal ideas about life. All this would be possible only if there would be good administration, where the interests of the law abiding citizens would be protected.

Today, on the other hand, we find conditions where persons with doubtful integrity often get into politics and take the law into their own hands by virtue of being close to those in power or being in power, themselves. When dishonest, corrupt and criminal elements manage to get into positions in government in the so called process of democracy, the breakdown in the rule of law would become inevitable, as those who get into power do so by breaking or circumventing the law themselves.

The most visible arm of the government is the government staff at various levels of government machinery and the police force. When persons with questionable track record occupy positions of power, many of those serving in the government and police force get emboldened and indulge in malpractices themselves. This is what is happening today all over the country.

There are shocking incidents often taking place without being tackled by the corrective measures of the government. The media reports such incidents like a cinema story and citizens read them helplessly fearing as to when they would be the victims next.

Recently, there was a news item of set of criminals demolishing a factory building in Chennai overnight in the wake of a land dispute to settle scores. Obviously, the criminals have gained the courage to do so. Often, cases have been reported where the ownership of properties such as land and building have been changed in the documents in the government offices by tampering the records, without the owners being aware of it

immediately and then it become a disputed land with court hearing the cases for several years. Thugs being employed to force the tenants to vacate the residences by the owners is not uncommon. There are many places where the local thugs demand and collect "fees" from the shop owners and even the residents to assure them of peaceful conditions. Those who would not pay are harassed.

The cases of lone women being molested and children being kidnapped and even abused are becoming too frequently heard "events".

Obviously, all such disturbing things and many more similar incidents happen because the rule of law is not adhered to. The ultimate enforcing authority for a government is the police and the police force in the country do not anymore command the confidence of the common men. Police are more feared than respected and entering a police station would be the last choice for a law abiding citizen even in the event of his facing any problems such as theft.

In the rural areas particularly, the police are being looked upon by poor people as a force of terror and oppression and many would like to keep themselves away from coming in contact with the police in any manner. Only those whom the police fear and treat with respect are the politicians both in power and out of power.

While police has a crucial role to play in protecting the lives of citizens, when the police itself become corrupt and an exploitative machinery, what can the honest and law abiding citizens do? Perhaps, many of the citizens think that they should buy peace with the criminals to assure protection for themselves, as they feel that criminals could be less demanding than the police themselves!

These are all highly disturbing conditions which should cause alarm to the people occupying the top positions like that of the President and Prime Minister of the country and Chief Ministers of the states. But, these functionaries are not giving an impression that they are disturbed.

SHAME ON INDIAN MEDIA

Many persons seem to be of the view that media has lost the sense of direction and proportion and is now almost solely guided by sensation and business motives.

This article was forwarded to Nandini Voice For The Deprived by Mr. B.R. Jawaharlal.

When one would read this news, the body of Major Manish Pitambare, who was shot dead at Anantnag in Jammu & Kashmir by militants, would have been cremated with full military honours.

On a Tuesday, the news that Sanjay Dutt relieved by court swept across all the news channels. Although found guilty for possession of armory, Sanjay can breathe sigh of relief as all the TADA charges against him have been withdrawn.

Then many personalities like Salman Khan said 'He is a good person. We knew he will come out `clean'. The so called Big B said "Dutt's family and our family have relation for years; he is a good kid. He is like elder brother to Abhishek".

His sister Priya Dutt said "we can sleep well tonight" It's a great relief".

Most of the emphasis was given in the media on Sanjay Dutt's "phoenix like" comeback from the ashes of terrorist charges.

Surfing through the channels on the same day, one news on BBC would have startled several persons. It read "Hisbul Mujahidin's most wanted terrorist `Sohel Faisal' killed in Anantnag, India. Indian Major leading the operation lost his life in the process. Four others are injured".

It was past midnight, I started visiting the Indian channels, but Sanjay Dutt was still ruling. The channels were telling how Sanjay pleaded to the court saying 'I'm the sole bread earner for my family', 'I have a daughter who is studying in US' and so on. Then they showed how Sanjay was not wearing his lucky blue shirt while he was hearing the verdict and also how he went to every temple and prayed for the last few months. A suspect in Mumbai bomb blasts, convicted under armory act.... was being transformed into a hero.

Sure Sanjay Dutt has a daughter, sure he did not do any terrorist activity. Possessing an AK47 is considered too elementary in terrorist community and also one who possesses an AK47 has a right to possess a pistol; so that it again is not such a big crime; sure Sanjay Dutt went to all the temples; Sure, he did a lot of Gandhigiri but then.....

Major Manish H Pitambare got the information from his sources about the terrorists' whereabouts. Wasting no time he attacked the camp, killed Hisbul Mujahidin's Supremo and in the process lost his life to the bullets from an AK47. He is survived by a wife and daughter (just like Sanjay Dutt) who's only 18 months old.

Major Manish never said 'I have a daughter' before he took the decision to attack the terrorists in the darkest of nights.

For media, Sanjay Dutt is more important than Major Manish Pitambare.

CORRUPT BUREAUCRATS GET GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Government of India has given good news for the bureaucrats and MPs/MLAs facing corruption charges.

The corrupt persons may still get to live in their palatial bungalows and drive cars suspected to have been acquired through ill-gotten money and operate bank accounts alleged to contain bribes or favours. The Government of India is considering a proposal to ensure that "public servants" are not "harassed" till conviction in corruption cases.

In a decision, aimed at buffering public servants from investigating agencies, the Home Ministry headed by Shivraj Patil has given its nod to scrap a section of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) defining "criminal misconduct", which the government felt did not take into account "intent" of corruption.

It has agreed to a proposal to delete Section 13(1)(d)III of the PCA.

Presently, public servants can be evicted from their houses or their cars taken away and bank accounts frozen

if investigating agencies like CBI would lodge a case under Prevention of Corruption Act against them and move the court to attach moveable and immovable property resulting from corruption even when the trial is on. Conviction is not the criteria.

Making conviction in cases of corruption the criteria of attaching "tainted property", the Government of India has argued that the "intent" of Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance of 1944, which operates in PCA cases, was to prevent disposal of illegal wealth during trial. It feels that the intent can be served by merely ensuring that the public servant does not transfer rights of property sought to be attached.

The Ministers argued that "possession of any property should be taken over only after conviction". It felt in case of moveable property, the accused should be allowed to operate bank accounts to meet their subsistence expenses.

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