

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

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**Can terrorists be eliminated
without eliminating corruption?**

THOUGHTS OF KANCHI PARAMACHARYA

HOW TO CULTIVATE CHARACTER AND GOOD CONDUCT?

Good conduct springs from a good mind. So the mind must be free from evil.

Everybody does not possess a good mind. Look at your child. It is all the time up to some mischief or other. It cuts paper with scissors or cuts down little plants and shrubs. It is naughty all the time. When the same child is sent to school, it is brought under a discipline. It has fixed timings to go to school and return home, to read its lessons, etc. It is no longer found to be wayward.

In the same way, if we have no opportunity of being involved in evil thoughts and activities, we will also come under a certain discipline. That is why the sastras lay down rules to keep us involved in good works.

Even a little ego sense would be ruinous because it is capable of taking many disguises and of sizing us at an unwary moment.

Are we able to see ourselves in a soiled mirror? If we dust it and clean it well, we can see our reflection clearly. Even a clean mirror cannot produce a proper image if it keeps shaking. The mirror must both be clean and steady; only



then will the reflection be true and clear. The mind, the consciousness is like a mirror. The Supreme Being is the only Truth. When there are no evil thoughts in us, the mind mirror will also be clean. If it is fixed on a single object, it will remain steady like a mirror that does not shake. Only then will the Paramathma be reflected in it.

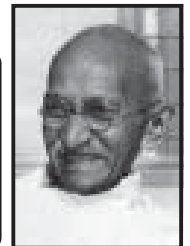
Who created this world? Who gives us food, clothing and comforts? Who is an ocean of grace? If we wish to know it, we must keep our mind steady and free from impurities.

Suppose a copper pot has remained immersed in a well for ten years or so. How much rubbing will it have to take before it becomes clean? The more we rub it the cleaner and brighter it will be. If our mind has been made impure with evil actions over many years, it can be made chaste only by the performance of many a good deed, many a good-work.

Is it enough to keep the copper vessel clean for today? What will happen to it tomorrow or the day after? It will become dirty again if it is not rubbed. Similarly, we must keep our mind ever pure by the daily performance of good work.

* * * *

BACK TO GANDHIJI – SANITY & TRUTH



“Hatred ever kills, Love never dies. Such is the vast difference between the two.

What is obtained by love is retained for all time. What is obtained by hatred proves a burden in reality, for it increases hatred.

Do not return madness with madness, but return madness with sanity and the whole situation will be yours” – Mahatma Gandhi.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi Day on 2nd October 2011, we have to introspect about Mahatma Gandhi’s dream of disciplined India with high ethical and moral standards that he described as “Rama Rajya” and about the conditions that are existing in India today.

It is sad that acquisition of money, comforts and pleasure at all costs and by whatever means is fast becoming the goal of Indians today.

Many people in the country are concerned about the rapidly spreading rampant corruption and dishonest dealings in public and private life as a result of which, the wealth of the nation is being cornered and even stashed abroad by unscrupulous businessmen and politicians and leaving the common man high and dry.

The overall impact of such scenario is that the average Indian today is losing faith in the strength and power of truth and value systems and therefore many people readily

compromise in their day to day activities and indulge themselves in dishonest, selfish activities and dealings for the immediate gains.

While nation wide campaign has been launched against corruption, the anti corruption movement itself is bogged with controversies. One of Gandhiji’s cardinal principles is that the means should justify the ends and non violence should be practiced both in thoughts and actions.

The Nation is hailing Mahatma Gandhi as the father of the nation, without thinking about the path laid down for us by “the little man of poor physique, quiet and low voice, mild and deep eyes, who led us, un impoverished and unarmed people, from bondage of freedom”.

We need to usher in a new dawn for the effective use of the matchless weapon of Satyagraha bequeathed to us by Gandhiji in it’s letter and spirit and strive for value systems in public and private life.

Desperate Calls

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



Needs support for eye camps

Ramakrishna Math, Ulsoor, Bangalore is rendering social services in the field of education, medical, cultural and religious activities with the spirit of "Service to man is service to God".

As a part of medical service, Math conducts free Cataract Eye Camps followed by cataract surgery with IOL plants free of cost since 1999.

At present the Math is not able to do eye operations due to financial constraints.

Ramakrishna Math requests kind hearted persons and philanthropists for financial support for the noble cause.

For further details, please contact
Swami Veetabhananda, Adhyaksha,
Ramakrishna Math
Swami Vivekananda Road,
Halasuru, Bangalore-560 008
Phone: 080-2536 7878, 2557 8900
E-mail: rkmathulsoor@dataone.in

Needs motor fixed sewing machine

Differently Abled Welfare Trust, Dindigul is rendering services to the poor differently abled persons.

Sewing machines are donated to the differently abled persons by the Government of Tamil Nadu, if they have undergone certificate course for tailoring for six months.

The trust requests kind hearted persons for donation of motor fixed sewing machine to provide training to the differently abled persons.

Contact address:
Mr.R.Ramalingam,
Differently Abled Welfare Trust
45, M S P Teachers Colony,
Balakrishnapuram, Dindigul-624 005

Needs support for heart surgery

* Mrs.Soma Das, age 32 years, is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.2,14,000/-

* Baby Tanaya Majumdar, 7 months old, is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,50,000/-

* Master Reyan Pasha, 9 months old, is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,50,000/-

The cheque may be drawn in favour of 'Needy Heart Foundation' Fortis Hospital, Bangalore and sent to the following address:

Secretary,
Save Poor Lives, No.3, Perumal Koil Street,
Aminjikarai, Chennai-600 029

Visually impaired student needs guide for Ph.D programme

Nandini Voice for the Deprived has received an appeal from a visually impaired student, which is described below.

Sri. P.Venkatesan is a visually impaired student from a poor family. He has passed M.A .in Tamil from Madras Christian College and has also passed the tests conducted by UGC to get eligibility for doing Ph.D programme. He needs the support of a Professor who would guide him for doing his Ph.D.programme.

Sri. Venkatesan approached a few professors for this purpose but they have expressed inability due to pre occupation. He is in dire straits now as he cannot take up the Ph.D programme without the support of a professor as a guide.

The contact number of Sri. P.Venkatesan is 9952966933

For further details, please contact
Trustee, Nandini Voice for The Deprived
Tele No. 24916037
Email:- nsvenkatchennai@gmail.com

Kidney patient needs support

Sri. M. Rangasamy is suffering from renal failure and has to undergo renal transplantation. He needs financial support.

The cheque should drawn in favour of Kaliappa Renal Centre Private Limited, payable at Chennai and sent to the following address:-

Sri. M. Rangasamy, 7/329, Poonthottam, Kadambadi
(P.O.), Kangayanpalayam (Via), Coimbatore-641401
Phone:-9842529644

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.



Dealing with the police

Dear Sir,

I live in a remote village and sometime back, some gold jewels were stolen away from our house when all of us have locked the house and went for a marriage function.

On coming to know about the theft on my return, I lodged a complaint with the local police station. The police men came and started enquiring and interrogated all members of the family for a few hours. Then, a sniffer dog was brought and we were asked to pay towards the cost of the milk for the dog.

Then, I was asked to accompany the police man to my work place which is around 40 kilometres away. They searched in my work place and found nothing. Then I was asked to pay towards the cost of travel, for the petrol and for the snacks and coffee for the police man. Finally, I ended up spending around Rs. 2000/-. I only hope that the jewels will be recovered.

Name withheld on request

A.K.Antony

Dear Sir,

The present Government of India appears to be full of corruption within and around and beyond.

The only Gandhian in the ministry is A.K.Antony, so simple, silent and stern. Earlier, he was the Chief Minister of Kerala. He delivered goods. He never had bodyguards. Someone asked him why? The response was quick "The people are my bodyguards".

A.K.Antony is a role model. The Chief Ministers of all states should emulate his noble example.

Chennai

K.N.Narayana Pillai

Political vendetta

Dear Sir,

It was reported that the wealth (assets) of Y.S.Jaganmohan Reddy, son of late Chief Minister Y.S.Rajsekhar Reddy of Andhra Pradesh baffled CBI team during its raid on his majestic building and on other properties situated in posh locality of Hyderabad city.

What is striking is that the existence of posh structure came to CBI's notice only a few days ago! Obviously, such vast building can not come up overnight.

CBI's raids are now increasingly linked to political development. Since Jaganmohan Reddy has become formidable opponent to Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh and posed big challenge, this has created the situation for CBI to conduct the raid. It would not have done so, if Jaganmohan Reddy were to continue as member of the Congress Party .

Thane, Maharashtra

Sridhar V Kulkarni

Dear Sir,

Non detention of students in primary classes

The article "Education has now become beyond the reach of the poor families in Tamil Nadu" published in Nandini, Issue 4, July'2011 is revealing.

I wish to bring to your attention Government of India's policy on non detention of students at the elementary education level, as part of it's policy towards the right of the children to free and Compulsory Education Act , 2009, which allow students to be promoted without examination up to Class-VIII std.

The withdrawal of Pass and Fail system in school is nothing but a hoax and will do no good to the students.

In the interest of quality and equitable education to all, I suggest the following

* 'Admission fees in Government or Semi Government and private educational Institutions should be fixed based on earning of the parents of the concerned students.

* A commission /committee should be set up to fix up the norms for the admission fees.

* No private entrepreneurs should be allowed to run schools and colleges without government participation

Kolkata

Satyendra Nath Das Sarma

HIGHLIGHTS OF OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE STUDENTS ON LOKPAL BILL

Nandini Voice For The Deprived organized a debate competition at Chennai on 13th August, 2011 for college students on "How to make Lokpal Bill effective?"

Number of college students from several Chennai city colleges participated in the debate competition.

The objective of organizing the debate was to encourage the college students to think on the subject and provide an opportunity to them to express their views.

The following persons were in the panel of judges

Mr. N.L.Rajah, senior advocate

Mr. Syed Ali Mujtaba, senior journalist

Mr. P.K.N.Panicker, President,
Chemical Industries Association and educationist

Prof. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor of Economics

Mr. S.M.Arasu, Founder, Anti Corruption Movement

Mr. Kris Dev, Social activist

The highlights of the observations made by the college students during the debate are given below :



Is Lokpal Bill needed ?

Quite a few students argued that Lokpal Bill may not be necessary, since enough laws and regulations are in the country already to root out corruption. The problem is that those in power including politicians and bureaucrats circumvent the existing rules and regulations to indulge in corruption and prevent punishment for the corrupt persons. Students wondered that Lokpal Bill if enacted into law, may also end up with the same fate as the several of the existing anti corruption regulations and institutions.

At best, Lokpal may function like Central Vigilance Commission, the students said. Instead of enacting a new law, Central Vigilance Commission can be strengthened in variety of ways, which would produce quick results and avoid protracted arguments and delay.

Role of judiciary:

Lokpal is only likely to function as an advisory body, with no powers to punish the corrupt. Therefore, the Lokpal's report has to be substantiated in the court of law and judiciary would ultimately decide the case. Therefore, there may not be really any change in the ground realities, as Lokpal may function just like Central Vigilance Commission, referring its conclusions to the court.

Clauses in the Lokpal Bill

Most students said that the Lokpal Bill should cover all sections of the country irrespective of age and position including judiciary, defence etc. The present move of the government to restrict it to certain sections of bureaucracy alone will mean nothing. Most students insisted that Prime Minister should be included in the Lokpal Bill. They dismissed the argument that the inclusion of Prime Minister will lead to vested interests, paving way

for false charges against the Prime Minister to destabilize the Government. The students said that instead of excluding the Prime Minister, Lokpal Bill can have certain built in safeguards to ensure that vague and false charges against the Prime minister would not be entertained.

Bring all vigilance organizations under one head

There are multiple vigilance organizations today like CBI, CVC and others which sometimes work at cross purposes. Such organizations should be brought under Lokpal to ensure coordinated approach and transparency. This aspect should be examined by the government for its administrative feasibility.

How to constitute Lokpal ?

Now, CVC is being headed by bureaucrat by a process of selection by the politicians who are Prime Minister, Home Minister and Leader of Opposition. There may be many deserving persons in the country, who are not bureaucrats, but their names are not being considered for top position in CVC. The last CVC was judged as corrupt by Supreme Court.

As the Lokpal should also target the politicians, bureaucrats and judiciary, the selection process for Lokpal Chairman and members should be broad based. Students suggested that nomination should be invited from public for Lokpal Committee members, just like nominations being invited for Nobel prize award and selection must be very strict and should not be left into the hands of politicians and judges.

The campaign should go on

The ultimate solution for the corruption problem in India is the change in the mind set of the people as many

HIGHLIGHTS OF OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE STUDENTS ON LOKPAL BILL



people in India are involved in corrupt practices either as a giver or taker and it is not restricted to politicians and bureaucrats alone. Many people even seem to think that the act of small corruption is not immoral.

In India, traditionally we measure success only by the money accumulated by the individuals irrespective of the means adopted. This has resulted in the situation where corruption remains at all levels in all sorts of activities. The public campaign against corruption should

continue just like the anti liquor campaign and anti tobacco campaign. The country should learn to hate the corrupt people which will happen only by millions of Indians not being corrupt in private and public life. The battle against the corruption must be fought in the minds and hearts of people and NGOs have a big role to play in this.

Anna Hazare's Movement

While the students greatly applauded the initiatives of Anna Hazare and his team members, they pointed out that Anna Hazare is only aiming at forming some regulations at the government level by seeking to introduce one more law.

Anna Hazare has not looked into the option of strengthening the existing anti corruption institutions by closing the loopholes in them which would produce quicker results.

It was pointed out by the students that when Mahatma Gandhi led the freedom movement against the British, simultaneously he fought against several social evils such

as casteism, liquor habit etc. and strove to reform the individual Indians and their mind set. This is the essential difference between the movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and the movement initiated by Anna Hazare. Even now, it is not late and Anna Hazare should look back into his activities during the last one year and redirect the movement in appropriate direction, without giving an impression that mere change of laws will make India corruption free.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

I prize :-

Mr. Sharath P. Nair - School of Excellence in Law
Ms. Indu Priya . K. - School of Excellence in Law

II Prize :-

Mr. Varun Thamba - Loyola Institute of Business Administration
Ms. Madhumitha - JBS College for women
Ms. Sanjana Devi - School of Excellence in Law

III Prize :-

Mr. Yusuf - School of Excellence in Law
Mr. M. Periasamy - Loyola College
Ms. Shwetha Vasudevan- School of Excellence in Law

Consolation Prize

Mr. Joe Britto - Loyola College
Mr. Sandeep Singh - IIT Madras
Ms. Aiswarya Mohan - SSN Engineering College
Mr. R. Dhiyanesh - Loyola College
Mr. V.K. Imtiaz Ahmed - School of Excellence in Law

OBSERVATIONS ON THE VIEWS OF THE STUDENTS

The views of the students on Lokpal Bill, expressed during the debate competition, were circulated and a few observations are hereunder

P. Deivamuthu, Mumbai

I fully agree with the students' view that one more law - The Jan Lokpal - is not necessary. The existing laws are sufficient to deal with corruption, although they are time consuming. A. Raja and Kanimozhi and many others are in jail, not due to any new law, but within the existing laws, although they should have been put behind bars long back.

Anna Hazare is adamant on bringing one law, as though one more law will bring miracles.

What we need is honest people at the helm of affairs, and not new laws. Laws, however good and effective they may be, can be bent by unscrupulous politicians to his advantage.

Therefore, our aim should be to opt for good and honest politicians and dump cheats, criminals and bad characters. People should realise that politics is not bad; it is a necessary evil. But our present politicians, barring a few honourable exceptions, are bad. Therefore, we should elect our MPs and MLAs judiciously.

Law itself does not solve the problems, but proper and judicious implementation by honest executives will.

* * * * *

T.S. Krishnamurthy, Chennai

I generally agree that we have adequate laws to deal with corruption but neither the Government nor the citizens seem to be serious about making use of these laws, partly

HIGHLIGHTS OF OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE STUDENTS ON LOKPAL BILL

because of judicial delay and indifference partly because human beings have become too selfish/narrow minded.

In the circumstances, we need to tackle it more seriously now.

Lokpal movement has no doubt awakened the people to fight this malaise. I support the need for an independent Ombudsman to tackle corruption at high levels with the right to prosecute the persons who are prima facie guilty. Such an agency should be free from Governmental interference as most (if not all) of the current day politicians are selfish corrupt and devoid of national outlook. This agency should have jurisdiction over any major corruption case. The CBI/CVC should be functioning under this agency but they should be free to deal with lower level corruption. The new Ombudsman should monitor CBI/CVC but not interfere with its day to day administration.

* * * *

Virendra Goel

I would like to look at the Lokpal and Lokayukta as investigation arm of the Judicial System because the present investigation agencies are all controlled by bureaucrats and politicians and they serve the vested interests rather than serving the cause of justice. Even if there are few sincere workers in the government system, they are not allowed to function rather tortured.

Accountability for one's actions and non-actions is possible only when there is transparency and quick dispensation of justice. Unless these two aspects are taken care of, even a Lokpal or Lokayukta will not be able to achieve anything.

I would like to support Anna's movement for simple reason that at least he is boldly facing the arrogance of the government functionaries and ministers.

* * * *

Naresh Gupta

A very good effort. The observations of students show a great deal of understanding of the subject. If possible, you may give a press-release on this (incorporating the suggestions of the students also).

* * * *

D.K.OZA, Chennai

Rural people are not aware of corruption. They do not understand misuse of power etc. They understand power, but take it for granted that it will be used by the powerful for their benefit. They are aware of their own

powerlessness, but know that they cannot alter that situation. I consider this as basic to how corruption is sustained. Next, no politician is serious about ending corruption. Let us understand this. All tigers are non vegetarians.

Politicians have destroyed democratic institutions. They have destroyed the Constitution of India. They will disempower the New Lokpal .

Surprisingly, this massive upsurge has come because of Honble Sri Raja former union Minister. (Honble Sri Sibal says that there has been no loss to exchequer!!) This has somehow led us to believe that it is the union govt which is corrupt. This is only part of the truth.

All govt. machinery is rotten to the core- State Govts, Local bodies, Universities, Health Systems, the entire edu structure. Surprisingly this is not being debated.

Gandhiji referred to corruption within the first few months of Independence. Gandhiji never accused the British Govt in India of corruption . In his two books (Auto and Hist of satyagraha in SA) there is only one

reference to corruption in South Africa which incidentally was indulged in by some Indians. British Govt in India was incorruptible, though oppressive on Indians in many ways.

Quite often, the corrupt people bribe the ministers and also some opposition leaders. I am speaking from personal knowledge. This buys silence. I think Enron did this in Maharashtra but this cannot be proved.

I am glad the young students spoke out. Their understanding is very good. Please keep doing such work and you have my best wishes and prayers.

* * * *

P. Venkatesh, Chennai

The students have shown maturity beyond their years! One wishes the politicians too were like this We would then have more statesmen and the country would go places!

* * * *

Venkatesh Raman, Chennai

Students' thoughts are quite impressive and these are some aspects I don't see in mainstream media.

'We already have enough agencies to deal with corruption, we can try and revive and give them teeth',

'Corruption should be addressed in the minds of millions of Indians, and it is not just with government or MLAs and MPs' are some of the thoughts that stuck me too.

* * * *

HIGHLIGHTS OF OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE STUDENTS ON LOKPAL BILL

D M Mohunta, Chennai

Very good. The students seem to have very good perception.

Much better than those who are indulging in extra constitutional coercion.

* * * *

Krushnun, Chennai

The only way forward will be to treat corruption and the money stored by the politicians and their ilk as an international criminal issue involving the individual in India and the international bank of the country holding such funds abetting such a crime. Thus, both parties should be made equally responsible for perpetrating this crime against the people of India.

Once a link is established on the money trail, a red alert for criminal proceedings should start against the individual and the country or bank storing this money, at the World Court.

It is this power that should be vested in the independent group in the Lok Pal bill. Unless this is done, no matter however stiff, the Lok Pal bill may be drafted and passed into law, it will remain another piece of stationary in the bookshelf.

When a safe haven to store the illgotten money vanishes, money based corruption will reduce. Case in point is the bombardment of the island which served as the slave trading port when US decided to abolish slavery.

* * * *

Swami Muktananda
Anandashram, Kanhangad

It is joy to see how wonderfully our younger generation is thinking on the present state of affairs. Your



taking the initiative to organize such a thrilling and inspiring programme is laudable. This is the need of the hour. Our heartiest congratulations to you and all the winners.

You might be knowing that through VSET, a humble effort is being made to kindle moral and ethical values in the minds of the students for the past few years and the results are encouraging. In all our sessions with the grown up school boys and girls, we ask them to list the challenges faced by the society and most of the students are vociferous in bringing corruption and nepotism also among other pressing problems of the day. They also come out with their answers.

Deepest love and best wishes

Dr.Ponnani, Goa

I am proud of the young people. India's future is in safe hands which have a sound mind attached to them.

They have beautifully brought out the difference between Anna's myopic struggle against Gandhi's bigger vision. Final blow to corruption will only be through social, religious and moral means with sound value system being inculcated at young age. Corruption of mind is more serious than corruption of money.

Thank you for initiating such wonderful programmes and sharing with me the interesting pulses of the people.

Dr.G.Sundaram

It is better that the students give their views in the Parliament Standing Committee, as and when the views of the public on the bill is called for.

Letter from student who participated in the debate competition

First of all, I would like to thank you and your organization for the opportunity which was given to me to take part in the debate competition. This is not a formal thanks but I would really like to share what I have in my mind about the debate which we had on the 13th of August 2011.

It personally gave me a lot of insight into how the Lokpal Bill can be made effective with the different ideas suggested by the participants and the judges apart, from a few ideas which I had. It also gave me a real insight into how the Judicial System of India is actually functioning. The discussion proved to be a very

informative one with the excellent support extended by the judges, patiently answering all the questions which were put forward by me and the other participants.

I was very happy to be a part of this lively discussion group and I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate you for perfectly organizing the event, which is not an easy task.

Thanks a lot sir, for appreciating my participation in the debate and awarding a prize for the same.

Aiswarya Mohan
Student
SSN Engineering College, Chennai

ANNA HAZARE'S CRUSADE AGAINST CORRUPTION - WILL IT BE A RIPPLE IN THE OCEAN?

While Anna Hazare's fast demanding special Act to curb corruption in India has received wide publicity and has shaken the Government of India, one wonders as to whether Anna Hazare's anti corruption fast will go into the history merely as one more revolt against the government.

Many Indians feel that this crusade is absolutely necessary and timely and hail Anna Hazare for his initiative. At the same time, one cannot be sure as to whether Indians who support Anna Hazare's anti corruption stance would approve in equal measure his coercive utterances such as asking his followers to gherao Prime Minister, MPs and MLAs.

Many people think that Anna Hazare asking his followers to gherao the Prime Minister MPs and MLAs sound like the call of violent revolutionary. Even the pledged admirer of Anna Hazare now finds it difficult to agree that Anna Hazare's methods are Gandhian in spirit.

There is big difference between the approach of Anna Hazare to the present corruption issue and the approach adopted by Mahatma Gandhi in the pre independent days. Mahatma Gandhi while asking the British to quit never adopted such methods that would create hatred. Even while asking the British to quit, Mahatma Gandhi was involving himself in movements to reform Indians by fighting against untouchability, liquor habit, casteism etc. In contrast, Anna Hazare while leading the movement against corruption has not thought it necessary to ask his followers to take a pledge in the name of Bharat Mata that they would not take or give even one rupee of bribe in their life time. Under the circumstances, it is incorrect to compare Gandhian movement and approach to that of Anna Hazare.

While Anna Hazare has certainly brought the corruption issue into the fore and the nation should be grateful to him for this, the question is whether corruption will now be eradicated in India once and for all, even if the Lokpal Bill advocated by Anna Hazare were to be

implemented. This looks unlikely and his present agitation may end up as ripple in the ocean.

What Anna Hazare needs to do is to fight corruption in the minds and hearts of Indians and create a revulsion against the corrupt persons and dishonest dealings in the minds of the average Indian.

The fact is that while selected educated and middle class people are vociferously supporting Anna Hazare, millions of Indians belonging to lower income group (who constitute 35% of Indian population of around 1200 million) have not been brought into the picture since the movement has been made to look like an urban phenomenon. One gets an impression that the poor and rural population may not even be aware of this crusade. Amongst the Anna Hazare's anti corruption gatherings, poor people are seen only as vendors of sweets and ice creams or Gandhi caps and national flags. They remain as curious spectators in the gathering.

On the other hand, the people most affected by corruption in India are the poor people who are vulnerable and there is no occasion when they have been brought into the forefront and given an opportunity to express their feelings at the state of affairs during Anna Hazare's fast.

Now that the fast has been stopped, Anna Hazare should introspect about these twelve days of agitation and assess the extent of work ahead. Unfortunately, he has given an impression that he is represented and influenced by four or five persons handpicked by him in an arbitrary manner for this important crusade but such strength is not adequate for the tasks ahead.

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IMPENDING AFTER SHOCKS OF ANNA HAZARE'S FAST

It appears that while ending his fast, Anna Hazare exaggerated the success level by stating that the battle against corruption has been half won.

The fact is that the battle against corruption has only just begun and has to be fine tuned to a substantial extent without generating bitterness and animosities and by providing dignity to the campaign. The movement still has a long way to go .

While considerable section of the country men have given unstinted support to Anna Hazare's crusade against corruption, the bitter truth is that during the twelve days of fast , Anna Hazare and his small team of hand picked persons have not been able to elevate the quality of the campaign to lofty level, which is required to sustain it in the long run. Anna Hazare and his team are still to learn lessons from Mahatma Gandhi's experiments and methods.

Certainly, Anna Hazare should have avoided the ill advised call to his followers to gherao the Prime Minister, MPs and MLAs. He and some of his spokes persons called MPs as dacoits. These utterances amount to spreading hatred and have lowered the dignity of the movment. It is true that sections of politicians and MPs are dishonest. But, all the NGOs to which category Anna Hazare and his team belong are not corruption free. Quite a number of them have been accused of swindling large amount of money and misusing the NGO portfolio for ulterior purposes. Anna Hazare has missed to point out this disturbing fact for whatever reasons.

Now, that the damage has been done by such undesirable utterances , Anna Hazare should express his regrets to the nation in general and to all his followers in particular about these unsavoury remarks and assure them that he would be more careful in future, while striving to sustain the movement. Anna Hazare should remember that the congress spokes person tendered his apology to Anna Hazare for calling him corrupt earlier

Another matter of extreme concern is the source of funds for sustaining the movement , particularly during the twelve days of fast and earlier. Anna Hazare and his team were flying everywhere and there have been huge shows which need money to organize. Many people visiting Ram Lila grounds are reported to have been fed with snacks and food and all these would not have come without spending money. It is quite possible that such money has been spent by the followers of Anna Hazare but the country need to know as to who are these people who



funded them. Transparency is a very important aspect of quality movements.

Anna Hazare should remember Mahatma Gandhi's saying that the man of truth should also be a man of care. Without losing time, Anna Hazare and his team should publicise clearly about the income and expenses relating to anti corruption crusade in a transparent manner and put it in public domain. Anna Hazare and his team should not imitate politicians like Mayawati to say that all the income were from public donations and from admirers. If he would say that expenses are from unknown people, then it would sound like the claims of the politicians and leave an element of deep suspicion.

In the interest of sustaining this important and necessary movement against corruption , Anna Hazare should exhibit the quality of statesmanship by revealing the source of money for organizing this campaign.

It is also necessary for Anna Hazare to do his homework and delete the negatives and add the positives to this movement in the coming days. His practice of giving a free hand to his hand picked people should be stopped forthwith. Certainly, there are many knowledgeable people in the country with great credentials and character and Anna should be able to spot them and utilize their commitment and expertise for the larger good of the nation.

VIEWS ON THE ARTICLE

The article on the "Impending after effects of Anna Hazare's fast" was circulated to over 2000 persons across the country, with the object of eliciting their views and assessing the public opinion.

Around 65 % of the respondents broadly supported the views expressed in the article and there were number of dissenting voices also.

What particularly causes concern is that number of those who disagreed and who call themselves as ardent admirers of Anna Hazare have used sharp and in some cases even abusive language.

Highlights of selected views are provided in this article.

M.S

Thanks for your emails about Anna Hazare You have brought out aspects not found in the blaring head lines.

* * * *

Ilanahai

I fully endorse your views and hope wisdom will prevail upon Anna and his team members. It is very important to carry all sections of people including people in politics.

* * * *

Parthasarathy. S.

I am quite impressed and moved by this thoughtful, caring and thought provoking feedback from a member of the civil society.

While all of us admire and adore Anna Hazare, we must all accept his limitations as an intellectual and thinker, a person who is adequately acquainted with the nuances of modern society and governance. He has agitated successfully for causes he is convinced about and won most of them with his devil may care attitude and stubbornly sticking to his point. If he were to morph into a messiah that we all wish him to be, he should be assisted, advised adequately by a good team providing those missing components in thought process.

His present team is good but not good enough. Being young and impetuous, their obstinate passion has led to grave indiscretions you have spoken of. The team needs to be strengthened but carefully.

But the best way for Anna would be to close ranks with other likeminded movements like those of Aruna Roy and J P Narayan, setting aside narrow ambitions and putting the nation first. The NGO movements in India had shown tremendous potential to reform society but had sadly fallen short because of the curse of inability to work together in unison atleast for causes they share.

I hope the present elevated and amazingly widened public awareness and participation would be harnessed wisely by the NGO movements. I appeal to them all to

start the process now before the euphoria drains off.

I fully share your thoughts on the need for Team Anna to bare their resources account with more transparency and responsibility. My scrutiny of what is placed in the public domain does not give me the high level of confidence and trust expected of a movement for bringing probity in public life.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. This needs wider circulation.

* * * *

S.M.Arasu

I am afraid I cannot fully endorse your views.

Being modest in utterances and carefully choosing words is OK. But in the spur of the moment , one cannot avoid letting out steam using unethical language. Obviously, your reference is to Kiran Bedi's calling the parliamentarians "chors". You cannot deny that a substantial section of the House qualify to this adjective. Those who do not need, not worry about this. In any case, Kiran has expressed regret.

You will agree that we have to view the whole thing in the backdrop of the Govt's adamancy in not going the full distance to COMBAT CORRUPTION. Even at this point of time, I dare declare that NO ONE in the Govt. is having a positive intent to fight corruption and some may even be working out how to sabotage the truce reached That is the problem.

In short , my request is that these things should be brushed aside and should not be made to come in the way of working to achieve the ultimate goal.

* * * *

Sundaresa Venkatraman

As I see it, it is not Anna Hazare's movement; it is people's movement against corruption. Anna Hazare, at best, is only a catalyst.

The ocean of support he received from the masses is proof enough that people are fed up with corruption and do not know how to channel their anger and frustration.

IMPENDING AFTER SHOCKS OF ANNA HAZARE'S FAST

Anna is providing them a platform and leadership and people from all echelons and all walks of life are falling in line very quickly. Agreed, the movement has just begun and has a long way to go.

Remember the saying, 'Every long journey begins with but one small step.' It is for us to support and strengthen the movement if we want to realize Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Rama Rajya.

To belittle a man's effort, who fasted for 13 days for our sake and won, with baseless accusations and innuendos is, in my humble opinion, not in good taste.

The storm has just subsided. I am sure the media and the Government Agencies will be publishing the source of funds and their disbursement soon. As with any organization, this movement also started with a handpicked team that is surely subject to change as it evolves. Just because some NGOs are corrupt and just because Anna's organization happens to be an NGO, to conclude that it is also corrupt is flawed.

I am surprised, that you are not lending your whole hearted support to the movement which it deserves. This is the last straw that has demonstrated that it can break the Government's back. Let us not derail it; let us all join to strengthen it to see a corruption free India.

* * * *

D M Mohunta

The Jan Lokpal's decisions and actions can be challenged in the supreme court. At the same time, Jan Lokpal can scrutinize the conduct of supreme court judges. So, either they will go at each other's throat or come to truce that will nullify the intent.

The Jan Lokpal would be the prosecutor and judge.

The Lokayukta as in the Jan Lokpal bill enters the legislative space clearly demarcated for the states.

The Jan Lokpal bill has to be administered and according to Kejriwal will require a minimum of 20,000 persons all over India. So you need 20000 persons of high conduct and probity. An impossible task when even a thousand high court judges are not above suspicion.

* * * *

YP Anand

I agree fully with your statement.

I would also add that wholesale condemnation of the political class is misplaced. Provided we agree that political democracy is the best available form of government for India, we need to understand the inherent problems of the funding of the democratic political process, and suggest

realistic methods of removing its deficiencies. We cannot shun the process and at the same time condemn it.

It is also necessary to analyze the class character of the Anna movement and its support structure and its correlation with both the government and the market structures.

* * * *

Prof. Susheela Kaushik

The credit for saving democracy, preventing a repetition of Egypt/ Tunisian situation and bringing the democratic institutions like parliament and political parties to the centre stage, belonged to the Prime Minister. Not losing the patience in the prolonged negotiations and overruling his own ministers, replacing them with young MPs wherever necessary, Manmohan Singh emerged as more of a statesman than the so called members of Anna Team though they were either former DIG of Police, eminent lawyer, former Law Minister, and even a former judge—all of whom had sworn to protect the constitution.

For Gandhiji, means were as important as end. He never violated the colonial rules; he protested against them. As Socrates preached. He knew how to lead and when to withdraw.

He used fast as a method of personal purification, and not exhorted every one to fast, not to go to offices or colleges, not to demonstrate in front of ministers and MPs' houses and not to hold a huge tamasha .

It was disgusting to see the young and old doing Bangra, cheap dances, and eating sumptuously.

Gandhi's fast and political movement did not involve religious and sectarian leaders, nor feasts like religious feasts langars, nor donations from doubtful quarters. It sounded more like election campaigns of corrupt cheap candidates rather than of a serious minded, committed lobbyists of a cause.

It was ironical to see politicians, industrialists, film personalities known for black money, media persons known for cash-for-news practices, sharing the platform or eulogising on the electronic media about the agitation and calling it as a revolution.

A case of wily leaders, seeking publicity, at the cost of genuine victims of corruption. Definitely, the popularity of the movement reflected on the people's disgust and suffering with the widespread corruption in every day life and not merely the corruption and nepotism at high places.

* * * *

U.S. Pandey

I am sorry to say that your article is in bad taste and contains many frivolous and undesirable points.

* * * *

T.M. Rajagopal

Please let me know what is your contribution so far to the deprived class before pointing Anna Hazare.

* * * *

Aruna Roy

Thanks for adding your sane and balanced voice to the debate.

Please do let us know your phone numbers so that we may be able to contact you when we come to Chennai. Please do keep in touch.

* * * *

Desikan

Thanks for a very sensible letter. What I can do, I am doing right away. Your letter will reach a few thousand persons in our list.

* * * *

Mani Janardhanan

It is so easy to tell so many things....

It is very difficult to raise such a huge tirade against these politicians who have got the guts to tell that there is no loss in 2 G scam.

Sometimes, such dramatic things are required to create such a mass movement

In such a campaign, definitely there are some lose ends but these are compared to what these politicians are doing is nothing.

* * * *

N.Dharmeshwaran

Wearing the proverbial "Gandhi cap" which Gandhi did not wear or gave up shortly, Anna Hazare appears to have heralded the Second Freedom struggle, against our own rulers for freedom from corruption, poverty lack of basic amenities, lack of ambient hygiene et al.

Perhaps, his next target would be the hidden money in Swiss Bank.

* * * *

A Subramani

I strongly agree with your views. People are being misled with the message that the battle is half won. It is a wrong notion that the corruption will be rooted out if Jan Lokpal is enacted. We have enough acts already, only problem is implementation.

In many states Lokayukta is already there, but only in Karnataka it is functioning well may be because of justice Santosh Hegde. The civil society should not behave like political parties and should guide the people in right direction.

* * * *

S Chandra Mouli

Yes, You are very right.

* * * *

Aurobindo Banerjee

I entirely endorse your views. I am afraid, that time is not very distant when we will hear a lot of unsavoury truths about the media-crazy front runners of this show.

One point that comes to my mind is as to why must the hunger strike be held in Delhi and not in Anna's own village? Because his upper-class, ex-bureaucrat, rich lawyer advisers, etc., would not get the same 24-hour mileage in the media?

* * * *

G.Subramanian

I salute you for the well balanced, mature, sincere and well meaning mail. May I request you to somehow see that this message reaches the persons concerned including Anna Hazare. I feel that a true anti corruption movement need not bother about Lokpal.

The expected end is achievable even by simply strengthening CVC, CBI etc. What is lacking is implementation. If you had noticed in media coverage, most participants are middle and upper middle class youth. If the movement has to succeed, the participation of all sections and particularly poor sections need good representation.

As I had writ4 * I0 0Deecra te I ng Anty should in

"He/she should not do that which he/she knows to be wrong, and suffer the consequence whatever it may be, this is the key to the use of soul-force." (Hind Swaraj , p. 69).

* * * *

Brig RK Kukreja

Well said but I regret to say that you are apparently in the dark - have not been to Ramlila grounds, have not even seen/read what has occurred.

* * * *

N.L.Rajah

This is a free country and everyone is entitled to his own opinion about public events and issues that touch us in common. One thing however is distressing.

While all forces which are out to ruin this country have no problem in coming together, the people who want to do good seldom see eye to eye. This is the greatest strength of the anti national forces.

Again, no movement or system is perfect. Read Indian history carefully to appreciate the several monumental errors committed including calling off the civil disobedience movement on account of cahuri chaura incident and if there are glitches, we must work from within to resolve these minor aberrations.

Team Anna is a band of reasonable people with a tremendous record of public service and I feel we should all lend our support to the movement instead of trying to locate wounds.

Again, I may not agree with everything that the Jan lokpal bill states. That does not in any way diminish my respect for the bonafides of the movement and the tremendous work and effort that has gone into it.

As regards funding and expenses, do go in into the India Against Corruption website. It has made public all receipts and expenses. What else can we expect? That they should call each one of us personally and inform us about their receipts and expenses?

* * * *

S.Seetharaman

I am not a member of Anna's Group or joined the agitations physically. I observed every happening on the Idiot Box

First of all, Anna's statement " Battle has been Half Won" is a simple English phrase that we all use, to indicate some movement towards the ultimate goal of a fight.

You say Anna has to apologise for statement made by his team members. Wow! You seem to be a lot more liberal preacher in public moral than morality itself. Since when have we started to own up responsibilities for others' utterances, including that of our own progenies or life partners? Have you done it ever in your personal life?.

Did you not hear their declaration in Ramlila Grounds that the collected donation of Rs.50 Lakhs from assembled public is more than sufficient and that they have stopped collecting any more donations?. Did you not hear on the Idiot Box the statement of Mr.Kejriwal that all their account statements are in the PUBLIC DOMAIN, called the internet?

I am frankly at a loss to understand, what you say, when you say they have not been able to lift the campaign to "Lofty Levels". Sir, the topic of corruption has been discussed at the Village level to Metro level due to this campaign. What else do you think is required to be done to lift it to lofty levels? Why don't you make suggestions, on how it should be done, instead of your bland, thoughtless criticisms?

* * * *

Hemalatha

Thank you for sending me this information. I agree with your views. All of us are interested in a corrupt free society. Are you sending these views to Anna Hazare & his team?. In that case, I would like to join your campaign.

* * * *

Kit Miller

Thank you for this message and for the careful critique of the campaign being run by Anna Hazare and associates. Unfortunately, I am not in direct contact with Mr. Hazare. Do you have a means of conveying this feedback to him directly?

* * * *

T.U.Mehta

I am not against Anna or any of his critics as I am concerned more for Gandhian values, which are not observed throughout the movement in Gandhi's name.

I therefore, appreciate the value of the points raised by you in this letter. I would like that Anna's personal attention should be drawn to this letter.

* * * *

What College Students Think On Widespread Liquor Habit in Tamil Nadu ?

In the context of the forthcoming Gandhi Jayanthi Day, Nandini Voice for The Deprived, a Chennai based NGO conducted an essay competition for college students in Tamil Nadu on "Impact of widespread liquor habit in Tamil Nadu and how to retrieve the situation?".

642 college students from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the essay competition. 72% of the entries were from women students.

Not even a single student approved the present conditions of widespread liquor habit in Tamil Nadu and most of them used strong language to criticise and even condemn the present scenario. Particularly, several women students wrote with great anguish and pointed out several unsavoury happenings amongst the youth due to this widespread liquor habit in the state.

Highlights of the views expressed by the students are given below

The students overwhelmingly pointed out the severe and huge damage that is presently being done to the fibre and fabric of Tamil Nadu because of the rapidly spreading liquor habit.

Many students vehemently disapproved government of Tamil Nadu selling liquor for the sake of multiplying income, unmindful of the consequences to the economics and social well being of lakhs of families in the state, particularly those belonging to the lower income group. It was pointed out that government of Tamil Nadu has provided sort of legitimacy to the unhealthy practice of drinking by providing the sanction of law for this practice. The great work done by stalwarts like Rajaji, Kalki Krishnamurthy and others towards the cause of prohibition

have been wiped out in one stroke by the successive governments in Tamil Nadu, the students pointed out.

The students refused to accept the argument that imposition of prohibition will lead to loss of income for the government and may also result in sale of illicit liquor. The students refuted the argument saying that only a government without commitment and sense of pride would advance such arguments.

The students said that the price that we are paying in Tamil Nadu for the rapid spread of liquor habit is very high and will certainly affect the progress and betterment of Tamil Nadu in the years to come. One would realize the gravity of the situation by the fact, that even boys in the age group of 12 and 13 have taken to drinking habit and some students are reported to be attending schools in drunken state, as published in the media.

The students further said that it is tragic that women are taking to liquor habit in a bigger way and even educated and well employed women increasingly consume liquor in parties as a matter of routine.

In college hostels, it is now a common practice to see some students keeping liquor bottles in the shelves in their room, which are meant for keeping text books and note books.

In many cases, whether it is a death ceremony or birth day /marriage function or religious congregation, liquor has become a must.

Many students pragmatically pointed out that extending freebies on the one hand to the poor people and selling liquor to the poor people by the government amount to cheating the poor people, which a welfare government is not supposed to do.



LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

S.No.	Name of the Student	Name of the Institution
1.	M.Vellaipandian,	American College, Madurai
2.	K.R.Ramanan	3rd Yr. Post Modern Dev. Administration, Anna Centre for Public Affairs, University of Madras
3.	G. Krithi	3 rd Yr. B.E. (C.S.E)Jeppiar Engg. College, Chennai
4.	Aastha Sekhri	B.Des.(Accessory Design)National Institute of Fashion Technology, Chennai
5.	R. Nandhini	2 nd .Yr. B.Sc. (Statistics)Shri. DNB Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai
6.	K. Arun	3 rd . Yr. B.A.(Sociology)The New College, Chennai
7.	A. Saravanakumar	1st Yr. B.Sc. (Maths)Thiyagarajar Arts & Science College, Madurai.
8.	Ishwarya Bhaskaran	4 th Yr. B.Tech.(Electronics & Instrumentation)Sastra University, Thanjavur
9.	S. Fathima Khatoon	2 nd .Yr. B.com , Justice Basheer Ahmed College for Women ,Chennai
10.	S.Sankaravadivu	I yr.B.Sc. (Chemistry)G. Venkatasamy Naidu College, Kovilpatti

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