

DHARMALACTUS

1996 - 97



**SHRI DHARMASTHALA
MANJUNATHESHWARA LAW COLLEGE
MANGALORE - 575 003**



Justice Mr. P. Vishwanatha Shetty, Judge, High Court of Karnataka addressing the audience on College Day.



**Shree Dharmasthala
Manjunatheshwara Law College
Mangalore - 575 003**

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

1996 - 97

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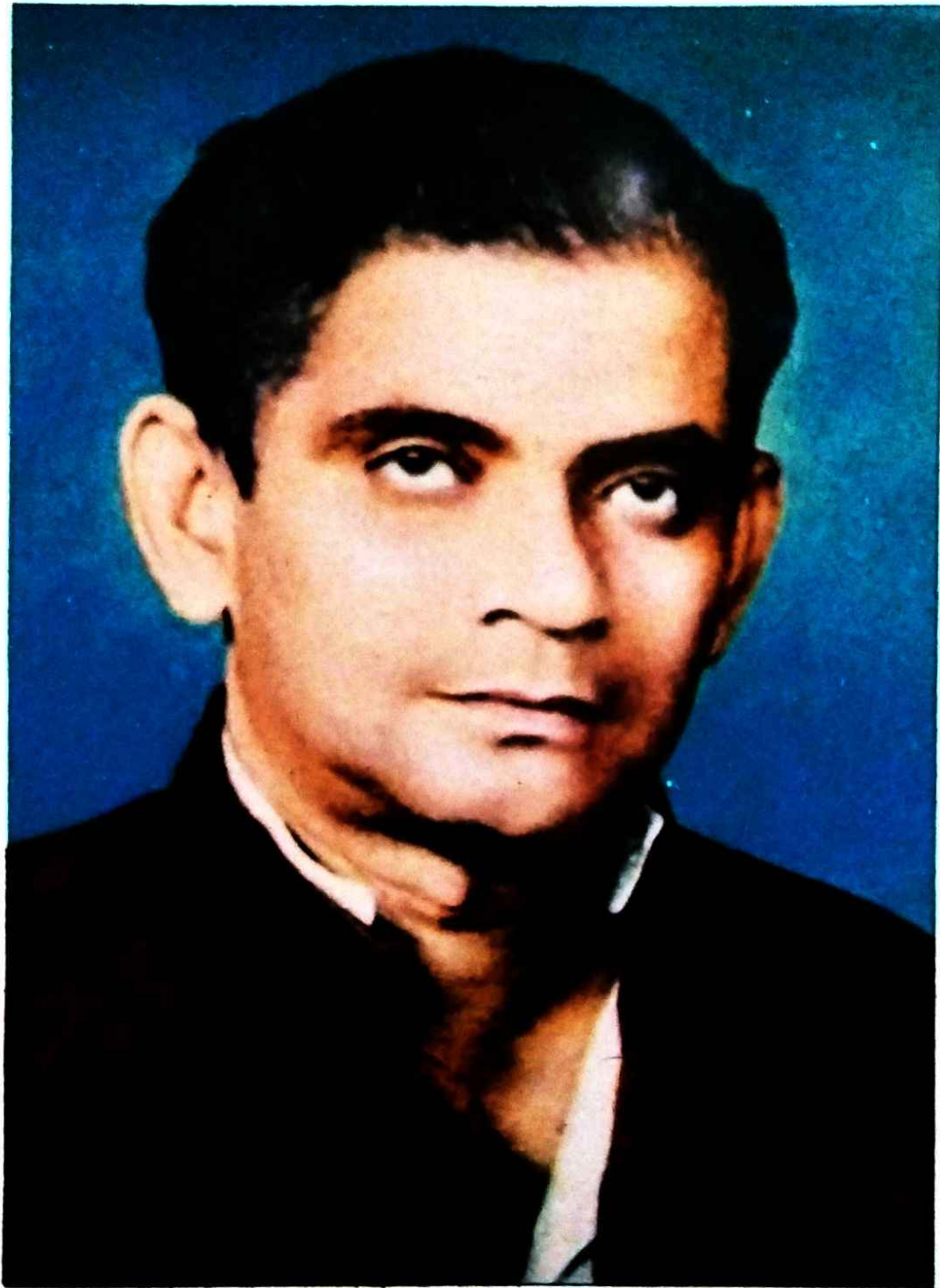
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10. ನಿಸರ್ಗ

READING HISTORY IS GOOD. HOWEVER, IT IS BETTER TO HELP MAKE HISTORY
- JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



LATE SRI D. RATHNAVARMA HEGGADE

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Farewell function to Prof. N.J. Kadamba
Former Principal of the College.



Prof. A. RAJENDRA SHETTY, PRINCIPAL

Our endeavour as a nation for the last 50 years was to march from political freedom to economic freedom and equity. At this juncture every institution has a duty to observe its growth and participation in this experiment. Education should be considered as one of the most important instruments of progress. It is a link between the cultural heritage and dynamic civilization with all its modern revelations.

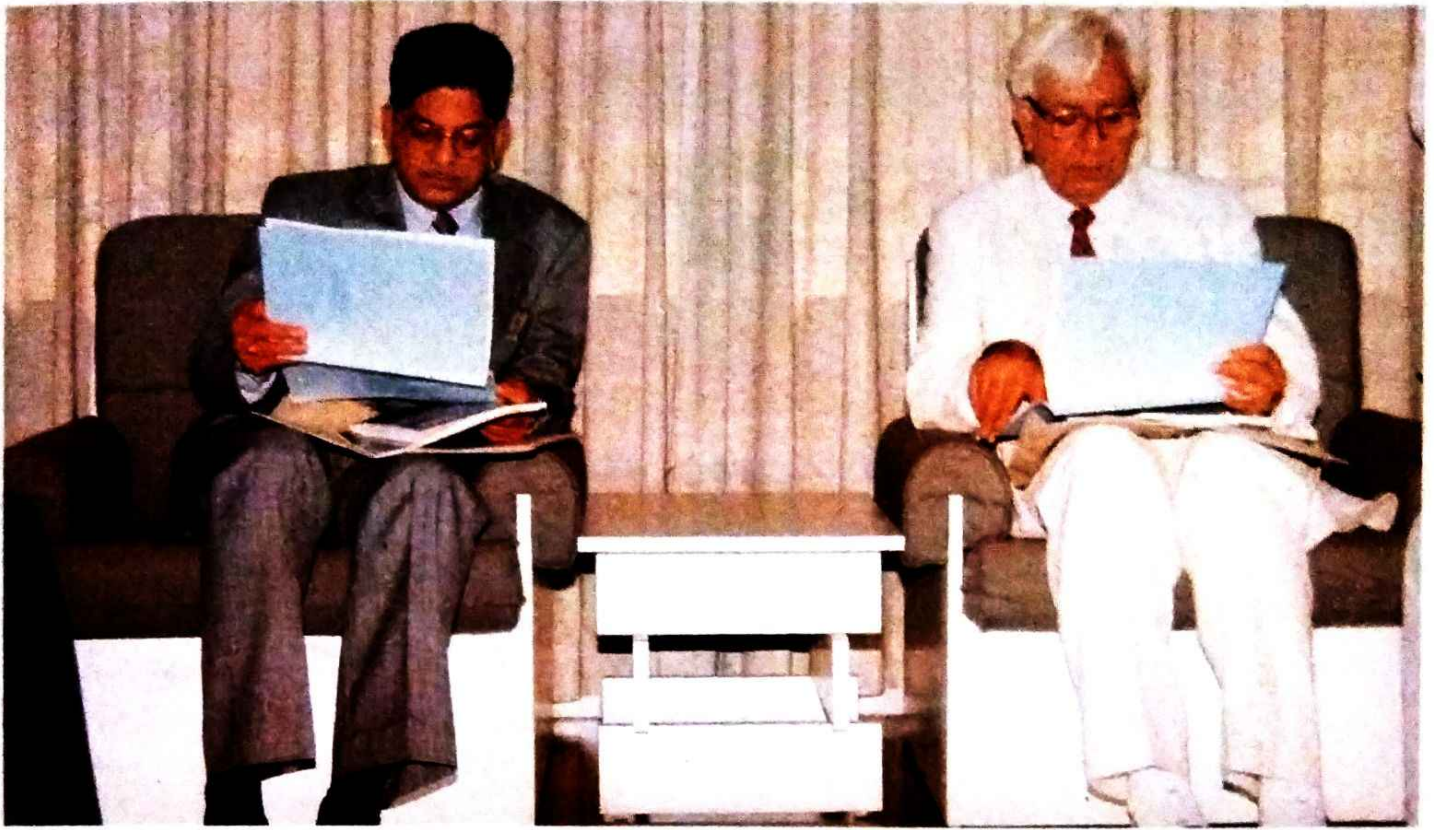
"We have been kept apart, it is our duty to find each other." These prophetic words uttered in the constituent assembly debate, continues to bother us in our journey towards cultural autonomy. The rich variety in our religion, language and culture has unfortunately created narrow lanes with reactionary and fundamentalist bottlenecks. It is the primary duty of all educational institutions to create an awareness regarding our need to operate in harmony.

The role played by law and the institutions imparting legal education becomes an integral part of this process. We, in this great institution, have tried to make use of the opportunity to the best of our capacity. The management under the benevolent leadership of Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade has helped us to grow in a healthy way. The teachers, students and non-teaching staff provides a picture of perfect harmony. So I am placing before you our magazine for the year 1996 - 97 with a hope of providing an idea about our academic and other activities.

We are extremely grateful to all our wellwishers for their continuous concern for the dignity of this institution and welfare of our students.

"Since Gandhi regarded nations not as abstract legal entities but as agglomerations of human beings with names, noses, aches and smiles, he believed that international relationships should be founded on interdependence and love."

- Louis Fischer.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Vishwanath Shetty,
Judge,
High Court of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

I had the privilege of visiting this centre of legal education in connection with the College Day function. The Staff, the College building, Library and the entire academic surrounding is highly conducive for legal education of high standard. This institution will turn to be one of the best Institution in the country by the end of this century.

Date : 25.1.1997.

Sd/-
(P. Vishwanath Shetty)

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.P. Sethi,
Chief Justice,
High Court of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Visited the Law college managed by Dharmasthala Trust in connection with the function of holding of the Lok Adalat. I was briefed about the activities of the institution being carried in connection with the administration of Justice. The law college has rightly earned its name, fame and reputation for their services in the field of law. The education imparted to the students has been proving to be of great help to them in their profession. The moot court hall and the seminar hall are well maintained and organised. The library is well equipped. The staff is efficient, committed, co-operative and helpful. I wish the college and its students all success.

Sd/-
(R.P. Sethi)

Date: 23.12.96

ANNUAL REPORT

We are glad to present the Annual Report of our college and its performance which reflects our efforts and aspirations. Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwa Law College was established in 1974 under the Management of S.D.M. Educational Society (Regd.) Ujire. This Law College is one among the several esteemed Educational Institutions run by this Society throughout the State. All these years this college has made an earnest effort in providing meaningful legal education and succeeded in finding a place of pride in this field.

The successful performance of this Institution is due to the blessings of Lord Shri Manjunatha Swamy and untiring efforts of a visionary like Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, who is our President. The continuous guidance given by the Society under the Leadership of Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade is a source of inspiration for all of us here.

STAFF MEMBERS :

1.	Prof. A. Rajendra Shetty	-	Prof. Cum Principal
2.	Sri B.K. Ravindra	-	Reader in Law
3.	Sri P.D. Sebastian	-	Lecturer
4.	Sri Udaya Kumar	-	- do -
5.	Mrs. Vinoda Rai	-	- do -
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15.	Sri Dayananda Konchady	-	- do -
16.	Sri Chandrashekara Holla	-	- do -
17.	Sri Jayarama Padakannaya	-	- do -
18.	Ms. Elizabeth J. Pereira	-	- do -
19.	Sri Mohammad Ali U.	-	- do -
20.	Sri Vishnu Bhat	-	- do -
21.	Sri P.M.J. Bhandary	-	- do -
22.	Sri Narayana Bhat	-	- do -

23.	Sri Premanath	-	- do -
24.	Sri K. Mahabala Shetty	-	- do -
25.	Sri K. Prithviraj Rai	-	- do -
26.	Sri S.P. Chengappa	-	- do -
27.	Sri Premananda Kini	-	- do -
28.	Sri Melwyn Prakash Noronha	-	- do -
29.	Sri M. Naresh	-	- do -
30.	Ms. Vijayalakshmi	-	- do -
31.	Sri Vittal Bhandarkar	-	- do -
32.	Sri Oliver D'Souza	-	- do -

STUDENTS STRENGTH 1996 - 97 :

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
3 YEARS COURSE :	291	130	421
5 YEARS COURSE :	331	404	734
TOTAL STRENGTH :	620	534	1154

RESULTS :

The college records with appreciation the good results secured by our students in April 1996 examinations. We congratulate the following students for having bagged the following Ranks shown against their names.

FINAL LLB (3 YEARS):

I Rank - Mr. Prashanth R. - Passed in First class.

FINAL LLB (5 YEARS) :

I Rank - Ms. Namita Pratap - Passed in First class with distinction.

B.A. (LAW) 5 YEARS COUSE:

I Rank - Ms. Mahima U. Bhat - Passed with First class with distinction.

II Rank - Ms. Sindu K. Baby - Passed with First class with distinction.

III Rank - Ms. Sumangala - Passed in First class.

DETAILED RESULTS 1995 -96

CLASS	No. of students appeared	No. of students Passed	Percentage of Result
I LL.B (3 YEARS)	75	12	16
II LL.B (- do -)	57	21	36
III LL.B (- do -)	52	25	48
I yr. LL.B (5 years)	137	70	51
II yr. LL.B (- do -)	129	68	53
III yr. LL.B (- do -)	120	61	51
IV yr. LL.B (- do -)	97	50	51
V yr. LL.B (- do -)	107	59	56

ACADEMIC PRIZES :

The following prizes are awarded for academic excellence.

PRIZE INSTITUTED BY :

Vth year students of 1988 - 89 batch Students securing highest marks in the final year LL.B (5 years course) examinations.

III LL.B (3 years) students of 1994 - 95 batch The student securing highest marks in the final LL.B (3 years course) examinations.

Mr. Rajan Thomas and family, Canada (Therukkattil family endowment prize) For the students securing highest marks in the final LL.B (3 yrs. and 5 yrs.) examinations.

Sri M.P. Shenoy, Advocate, Mangalore. For the student securing highest marks in the final LL.B (3 yrs.) examinations

Mrs. Anitha Shenoy, Advocate, Mangalore. For the students securing highest marks in the final LL.B (5 yrs.) examinations.

Sri Shivaji Shetty, Senior Advocate, Udupi For the student securing second highest marks in the final LL.B (both 3 yrs. and 5 yrs.) examinations.

Sri Gopalan Nair, Vice Principal,
Canara Jr. College, Mangalore.

Sri J. Puthabba, Advocate, Hon.
Faculty member.

Sri K.P. Vasudeva Rao, Advocate and
and Hon. faculty member (in memory
of his Senior Sri Harady Ramnath Pai)

Sri Jayarama Padakannaya, Advocate
and Hon. Faculty member.

Sri Vittal Bhandarkar, Advocate and
Hon. faculty member.

Sri B.K. Ravindra, Reader in Law

Mr. Rojo Joseph, Advocate, Cochin

For the students securing highest
marks in English I of I year LL.B
examination.

For the student securing highest
marks in Law of Evidence of final
year LL.B examination.

For the student securing highest
marks in Property Law 3 yr. and 5 yr.
LL.B examination.

For the student securing highest
marks in Cr. Proc. Code. of IV yr
LL.B examination.

For the student securing highest
marks in Hindu law of II LL.B
(3 yrs.) examination.

For the students securing highest
marks in Indian Constitution law of
III yr. LL.B and Administrative law
of IV yr. LL.B examination.

For the student securing highest
marks in III yr. LL.B (B.A. Law)
examination.

LIBRARY :

Over the years we have tried to build our library in a unique way, and today we have a total No. of 13,040 volumes, apart from Journals and Dailies. The main library reference section and the reading room are functioning smoothly with most of the students and staff making the best use of it. In the academic year 1996 - 97 we have invested approximately Rs. 70,000/- for the purchase of law books and Journals, both Indian and foreign.

SPORTS AND GAMES :

Students have been provided with all opportunities and facilities to participate and compete in sports and games. This year the following students have been selected to represent Mangalore University.

1. Mr. Devaprashanth - II LL.B - Weight lifting and Power lifting.
2. Mr. Suraj Rai - II LL.B - Kabbadi.
3. Mr. Sridhar Shenoy - III LL.B - Tennis.
4. Mr. Amith Shetty - I LL.B - Kabbadi.

A special mention has to be made about our Shuttle Badminton (Womens) which has won the shield continuously for the last 3 years in the Intercollegiate tournament conducted by Mangalore University.

YAKSHOTHSAVA :

This year also as a continuing effort of ours to promote the rich cultural heritage of South Kanara, The intercollegiate Yakshagana competition was held. 10 different colleges of Mangalore Universty Participated in the competition. This year Yakshothsava competition was inaugurated on 29.11.96 by Sri Kumble Sundar Rao, M.L.A., and Vidwan Perla Krishna Bhat was in the Chair. The Validictory function was held on 1st Dec. 1996 presided over by Sri G. Shankar Shetty, Principal, Canara Jr. College, Mangalore.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES :

It is my pleasure to place before you the best academic performance of our students. We, in accordance with the direction of the Bar Council of India, have implemented 5 year law course from the year 1984 - 85. By now seven batches have passed out of the college. Most of the students have secured very high marks bringing laurels and name to the institution. We are receiving very good response to the five year law course not only from other parts of this country but also from abroad and the students are actively participating in both curricular and extra curricular activities. The students are widely exposed to the practical field they are made to attend the courts and observe the proceedings and visit the chambers of their respective Advocates daily. The students are also made to visit and study the functioning of the Jails, Police station, factories in order to know and understand the rules and regulations operating and the conditions prevailing.

SEMINARS :

We strongly believe that conducting of seminars is an integral part of any academic activity. Seminars and discussion are indispensible for moulding and shaping the career of law students. Hence, keeping this object in view we have helped the students to present the papers on various topics of law. Besides a legal dialogue forum, is actively involved inarranging lectures by experts.

GUEST LECTURERS :

Guest lecturers were arranged for the benefit of law students. Sri M.V. Shankar Bhat, Advocate, "Court Manners and Professional ethics." Sri Vishnu Bhat, Advocate, Mock trials, Mr. K.K. Patil on Jail rules, Mr. Vincent D'Souza, Deputy Labour commissioner, Mangalore. Liability of employer under workman compensation Act, Prof. S.S. Vishweshwarayya, Head of Dept. of Law, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Conciliation process, Prof. M.K. Ramesh, Senior Asst. Prof. National law school of India University, Bangalore, Doctor and Consumer law.

LEGAL AID CAMP :

The students of 5 year Law course as a part of their curriculum have been conducting legal aid camps from the year 1984 - 85, for the benefit of poor and needy. Students are exposed to different types of problems and legal intricacies that the villages are facing. These free Legal Aid Camps are organised mostly in remote villages, between the years 1984 - 85 and 1996 - 97. For the academic year 1996 - 97 Jokatte village, was surveyed by our students for a week collecting 225 cases and other relevant informations by going from door to door. On the day of camp 76 Revenue cases, 36 Civil cases and 8 Criminal cases were registered. The Camp was held on 17.11.96 at Jokatte. The Camp was inaugurated by Sri Arali Nagraj, Addl. District and Sessions Judge, Mangalore, and Presided over by M.V. Shankar, Advocate and President, Mangalore Bar Association. Mr. Virupanna A.D.P. Sri H.M. Nagappa Dy. Tashildar, Mangalore, Sri Dayananda Konchady, Govt. Pleader, Sri K.P. Vasudeva Rao, Sri Vittal Bhandarkar, Sri Jayarama Padakannaya, Sri Premananda Kini, Sri K. Premanath, the advocates have assisted for the success of our Legal Aid Camp. The validictory function was presided over by Sri T.A. Khader, Vice president, Jokatte Panchayat. A followup camp was held on 29.11.1996. Sri H.N. Nagappa, Asst. Commissioner, disposed of all the Revenue matter (matters relating to Patta, Ration Card, Oldage Pension and widow pension etc.) We thank the Revenue Department for their co-operation for the success of the camp.

N. S. S. :

The N.S.S. Unit of our College is fulfilling its objective very well by doing a tremendous service to the College and also to the Public. This year 195 students were enrolled in N.S.S. and this Unit of our College is working under the guidance of Sri Sainath Malligemadu as N.S.S. Programme Officer. Our Unit has carried out its regular activities like Shramadan, Orientation etc. very

satisfactorily. It gives me immense pleasure to inform that the N.S.S. Unit organised Health Education Programme, Aids awareness Week under U.T.A. Programme for the benefit of N.S.S. Volunteers. Our N.S.S. Unit also conducted Blood Donation Camp, and collected 118 Bottles of Blood. For these all special activities eminent Doctors from various departments K.M.C. extended their valuable service for the benefit of our students in general and N.S.S. volunteers in particular. Our special thanks to all of them.

Above all our college N.S.S. Unit has bagged Second place in the Blood donation programme. We are extremely happy that our N.S.S. Unit Leader Mr. Ramesh K.G. Vth Year LL.B has secured State Level Best N.S.S. volunteer Award for the year 1996 - 97.

MOCK TRIALS AND MOOT COURTS :

The students of Law will be in a position to develop art of advocacy by actively involving in Mock Trials and Moot Courts. So far we have conducted Moot Courts for the Vth year Law students.

The Mock Trials were directed by Sri Vishnu Bhat, Sri Jayarama Padakannaya, Sri K. Premanath and Sri Mahabala Shetty, Advocates and Hon. faculty of our college. The Civil and Criminal Mock Trials were presided over by senior advocates like Sri Purushothama Poojary, Sri Raghuvier Shetty, Sri K.N. Bhat, Sri Nanda Kishore, and Sri K. Govinda Bhat.

The following students have participated in All India Inter University Moot Court competition.

1. Mr. Jayamohan C.V. and Mr. Shiva Kumar Bhat : Pondicherry
2. Ms. Anjali Thomas and Ms. Dhanya R. : Trivendrum
3. Ms. Poornima Katpady and Ms. Seema : Bangalore

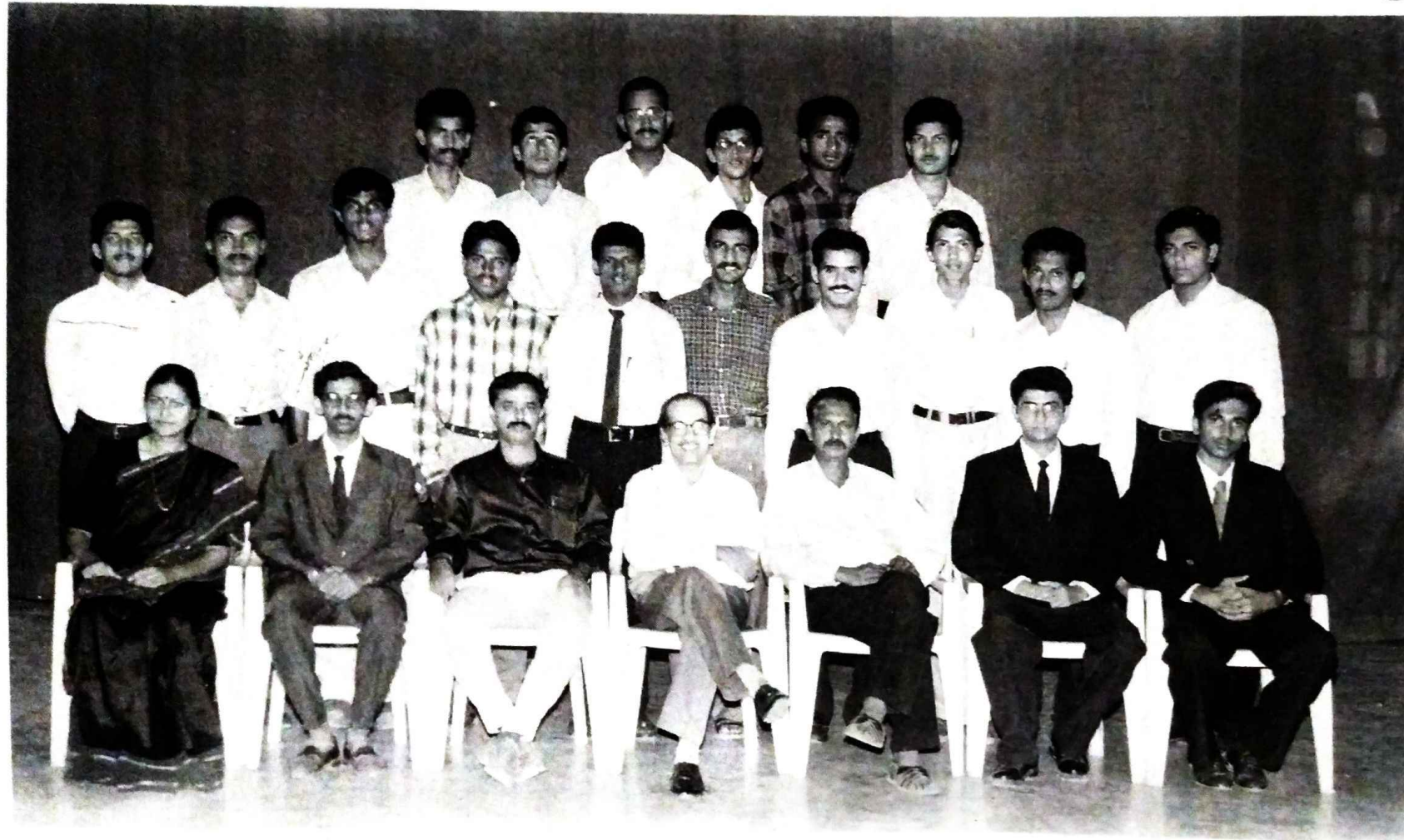
and also our College Team participated in Inter University Law Fest competition held at Cochin University.

CONCLUSION :

We are not swept away by our achievements ignoring our short falls and limitations. We pray Lord Manjunatha Swamy to give us the strength and courage to overcome the hurdles to in all humility we acknowledge the continuous inspiration given by our esteemed President, members of governing council, Teaching and Non teaching members of the Staff, students and wellwishers.

(PROF. A. RAJENDRA SHETTY)
Principal

STUDENTS' COUNCIL - 1996-97



Sitting (L to R) :

Rajyalakshmi V. Sharma, III LL.B.; Raghavendra Pai, III LL.B.; Sri B.K. Ravindra, Reader in Law; Prof. A. Rajendra Shetty, Principal; Sri P.D. Sebastian, Lecturer; Ravishankar K. GollaraKeri, V LL.B.; Harish, K.P. III LL.B.

Standing I Raw (L to R) :

Murali B.N. IV LL.B.; Afrose, IV LL.B.; Amith Kumar Shetty, I LL.B.; Rethesh IV LL.B.; K. Srinivas Rai III LL.B.; Abijith, III LL.B.; Ramesh K.G., V LL.B.; Raghavendra H.V., V LL.B.; William, II LL.B.; Sathish Kumar, I LL.B.

Standing II Raw (L to R) :

Sridhara Suvarna, I LL.B.; Sumesh, III LL.B.; Prashanth, II LL.B.; Dinesh Kumar, III LL.B.; Johnson, II LL.B.; Raghavendra Prasad M.S., I LL.B.

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE STUDENT'S
COUNCIL 1996 - 97



Ravishankar K. Gollarakere V yr. LL.B
President



Raghavendra Pai III yr. LL.B
Secretary

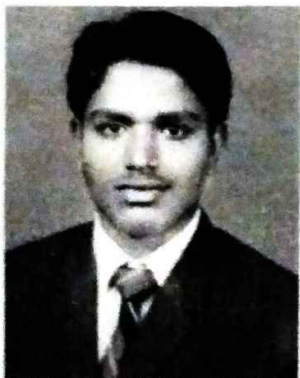


Harish K.P. III yr. LL.B



Miss Rajya Lakshmi Sharma III yr. LL.B.

Joint Secretaries



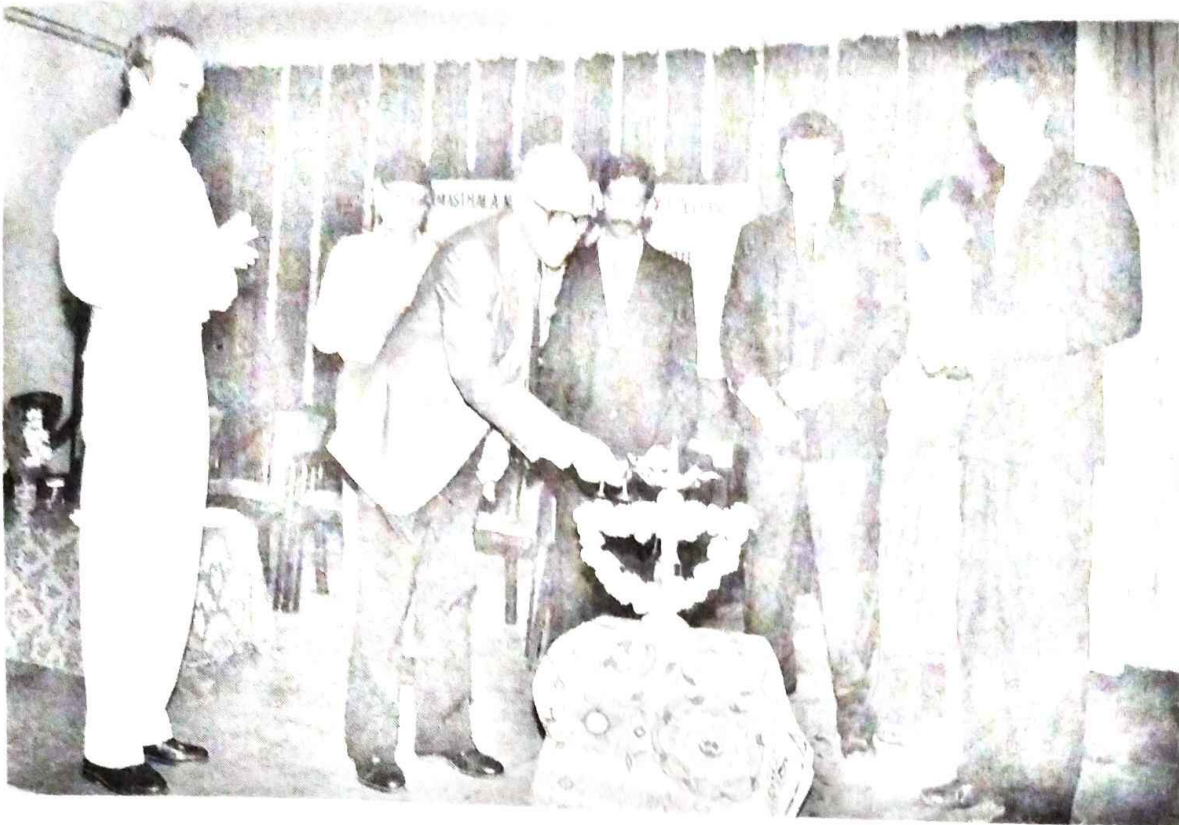
Rithesh Bangera IV yr. LL.B



Devanandini Marla V yr. LL.B

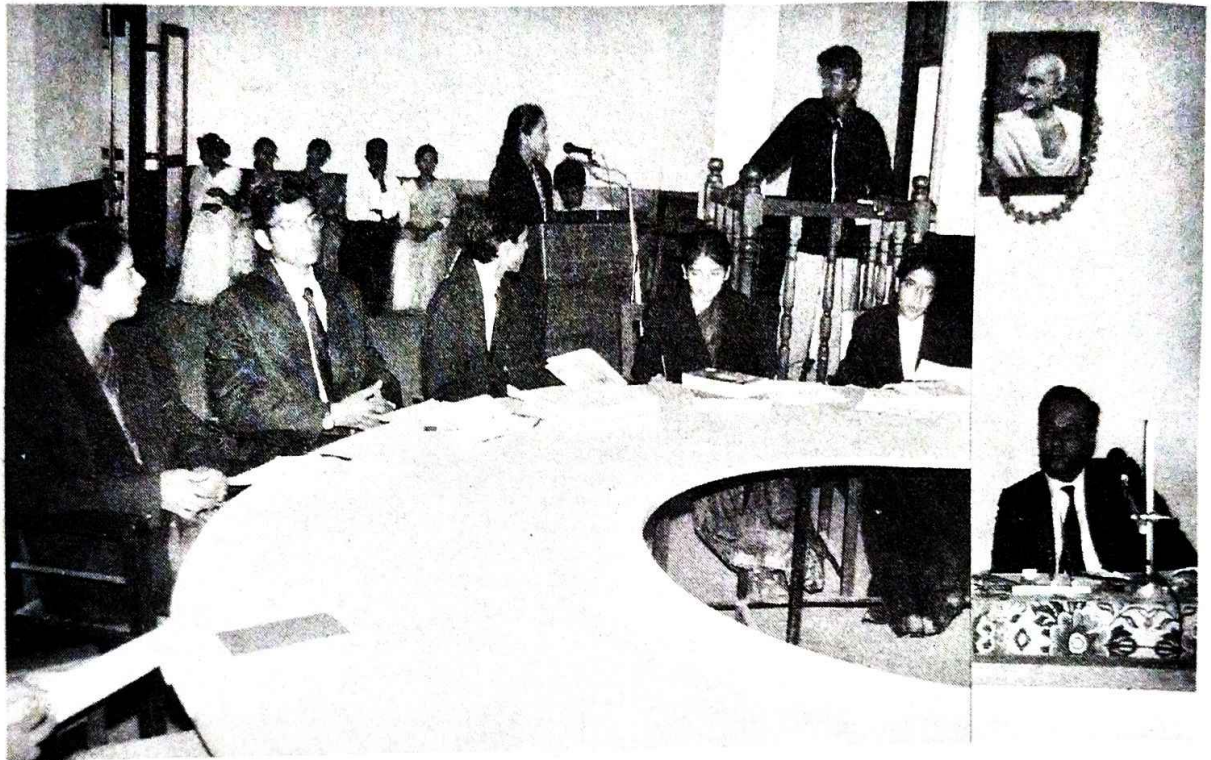
Senate Representatives

INAUGURATION OF STUDENTS COUNCIL



Dr. B.M. Hegde, Dean, KMC Mangalore addressing the Audience.

MOCK TRIAL IN PROGRESS



EMINENT PERSONS AS GUEST SPEAKERS



Prof. M.K. Ramesh, Sr. Asst. Prof. National Law School of India University, Bangalore,
Sri Vicent D'Souza, Asst. Labour Commissioner, Mangalore,
Sri M.V. Shankar Bhat, Advocate and President, Mangalore Bar Association,
Prof. S.S. Vishweshwarayya, Head of the Dept. of Law, University Law College, Dharwad.

YAKSHOTSAVA - 96



Inauguration - Sri Kumble Sundar Rao M.L.A.
President of the function - Vidwan Sri Perla Krishna Bhat

CLOSING CEREMONY OF YAKSHOTSAVA - 96



Sri G. Shankar Shetty, Principal Canara Junior College Handing over the
Yakshotsava Trophy to winners (Govindas College, Surathkal)



Dr. Ganesh Pai, Speaking on Aids awareness programme.

Blood Donation in NSS Volunteers.

Shramadana at Kuttarpadav, Mangalore

Jayamohan C.V.
V year LL.B

Introduction

Often regarded as the oldest profession in the world, having distinct roots, extending, as far as to the ancient Roman and Greek civilizations, law was always considered with great respect and dignity by all men alike.

Legal education, which is the basis of such an elite profession, must therefore be of the highest standard and quality. But unfortunately, the scenario in India is not so promising.

Mr. C.G. Weeramantry, a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, opined generally, that it is a matter of great regret, that students pass out, qualified as law graduates and practitioners, who may never have heard of Bentham or Pound'.¹

The common man is left with illequipped and poorly trained legal practitioners who enjoy a monopoly, without commensurate social accountability.²

Compared with science, technology and medical sciences, the legal education is less technical and professional.³

As one of the steps to improve the state of affairs in legal education, the Bar Council of India, introduced, 'The Training Rules 1995', which came into effect on 2nd of April 1996.

In this paper, I would like to discuss the various provisions of the Training Rules and whether it is practicable to implement such a scheme under the present conditions. Further I would like to touch upon the reasons and cases for the downfall of standards in legal education, which necessitated the Bar Council, to take drastic steps, such as the implementation of the Training Rules.

Historical Background

Tracing the history of legal education in India, one may stumble upon a few Acts, Rules and Regulations from the British Era.

1. C.G. Weeramantry - An Invitation to the Law, 1982, Butterworths Australia.
2. Radhakrishnan C.K. - 'When practitioners of law depart from ethics' - The Hindu, August 1, 1995.
3. Kulshrestha V.D. - 'Landmarks in Indian Legal and constitutional History.'

Though the Legal Practitioners Act of 1879 and the Indian Bar Councils Act of 1926, speaks about the provisions for practising as an advocate, Vakil or pleader, in the Indian Courts, They are mostly silent about legal education. The Advocates Act of 1961 is also not much different

Noted author Kailasan Rai, says, "Unfortunately, the legal education was not paid, due attention during the British period and even after independence. It has been the most neglected branch of the education". 4

After independence and especially after the enactment of the Advocates Act of 1961, several law colleges mushroomed all over the country, without having regard to the quality of legal education, imparted by them.

In the mid - fifties, there were only 43 law colleges, all over the country, with a student strength of a little over 20,000. By now the colleges have risen over 425 in number, with a student strength exceeding 2.5 lakhs.

In 1962, the then existing, 2 year law courses, were converted into 3 year duration.

The legal education, started to touch its lowest level, when in 1966, the compulsory apprenticeship and the Bar Exam on procedural subjects for every ne entrant was removed. 5

As a major step towards the improvement in legal education, the Bar Council of India, introduced in 1982 - 83, the five year integrated course in law after 10 + 2 level of schooling. The course was expected to adequately equip the students to join the legal profession, on the successful completion of the course. The idea was to discontinue the old pattern of the three year course gradually, and encourage and promote the five year professional integrated course, for the purpose of enrolment as an advocate.

However, all the Universities, have not switched over to the new pattern and there was resistance from certain quarters, against the discontinance of the three year course. Ultimately the Bar Council had to succumb to the pressure and allow the universities to continue the three year course also, simultaneously. Therefore no significant improvement could be brought about by the introduction of the five year course. 6

4. Kailash Rai - History of Courts, Legislature and Legal Profession in India - First Edn. 1995.

5. N.R. Madhava Menon - 'Legal Education for Professional Responsibility - An appraisal' - Indian Bar Review XIII (3 & 4).

6. O.P. Sharma, Chairman, Bar Council of India in Chairman's page, Indian Bar Review Vol XXII (4), 1995.

A Committee of Judges under the chairmanship of the present Chief Justice of India, Justice A.M. Ahmadi, recommended in 1994 that entry to the legal profession must be only after completing 12 to 18 months of apprenticeship under an advocate, with at least 15 years standing at the bar.

The Judges Committee desired that the apprentices should spend 3 months in civil court, at the grassroot level, another 3 months in a Magistrate Court and at least 6 months in a District Court under the guidance of a senior lawyer.

The Committee further recommended that after such training, the prospective lawyers must be asked to take a rigorous examination on procedural subjects and ethics and only those who pass such tests should be allowed to enrol as advocates obviously the committee did not favour young advocates practicing straight away in the High Court and without having any idea of trial court work, as is happening today.

The state of legal education and the declining standards in the Profession also attracted the attention of the Loksabha Committee on subordinate legislation (1994) which, again recommended compulsory apprenticeship before enrolment. It further desired to take continuing legal education at periodic intervals and to renew registration with the Bar Council after every five years.

Analysis

'Bar Council of India Training Rules 1995', which consists of 15 sections, was made by the Bar Council of India, in exercise of its rule-making powers under section 24(3) (d) of the Advocates Act, 1961. It contains the rules for enrolment, as an advocate on the roll of a state Bar Council. It came into effect on 2.4.1996

Section 2 of the Rules, says that, no person shall be entitled to be enrolled as an advocate unless he is eligible to be enrolled as such under section 24 of the Advocates Act, 1961 and has undergone training as prescribed under these Rules.

Section 4 stipulates that, the period of training shall commence from the date of certificate of the guide that a candidate has started training with him.

'Guide', as is mentioned in the rules, has to fulfil certain qualifications. Section 5 says that, only an advocate having 15 years of practice at Bar or

designated as Senior Advocate, who is in continuous active practice, in a court established by law, shall be eligible to impart training and be called 'guide', and his name shall be approved by the State Bar Council.

A restriction is put on the number of candidates, who can receive training under a guide Section 6 says that, no candidate shall receive training with a guide, who has at the time of commencement of receiving training, more than two other candidates, except with the previous permission, in writing of the State Bar Council.

Section 8, says that, during the period of training, the candidate shall regularly attend the chamber or office of the guide, study case papers, correspondence, draft pleadings, attend courts and in particular study cases, with a view to getting acquainted with the practice in courts and minimum attendance for 225 days in a calendar year, shall be a condition precedent, for the completion of successful training.

Further, every candidate is requested to maintain, two diaries, one for work done in chambers and the other for work in courts. Section 9 (e) adds that, such diaries duly signed by the candidate and the guide after the completion of the training, must be sent to the State Bar Council, for scrutiny by the Enrolment Committee. If the Committee is of the opinion that, the candidate has not undergone full and proper training, in compliance with the rules, the State Bar Council may extend the period of training as it may deem fit in the interest of legal profession.

Other two important provisions, worth mentioning are sections 10 and 13 where as Section 10 forbids, a candidate from engaging himself in any employment, profession, business, trade or calling, during the course of training in any manner, section 13 entrusts the State Bar Council, to provide lectures on professional ethics and other topics, to be delivered by its members, legal luminaries, jurists etc. to the trainees.

Critical Evaluation

The first stage in this part consists of a search into the reasons and causes for the downfall in legal education, the second stage looks into the short - comings of the Training Rules and the third stage, gives the specific reasons, for saying no to the implementation of the Training Rules, under the existing circumstances.

Why the decline in standard of legal education?

The causes that retard the development of our legal education have been noted by Meher K. Master,⁷ The noted legal educationist of Canada, as

- (1) Lack of financial resources
- (2) Lack of adequate books
- (3) Lack of teaching materials
- (4) Deterioration of teaching standards
- (5) Lack of teaching staff incentives
- (6) Discrepancies in the goals of legal training, and
- (7) the general desire for uniformity, which led to a tendency, to emphasize, the importance of memorized learning of substantive laws.

Little attempt is made to inculcate in students an awareness of the kinds of legal problems, encountered in the Indian racial, cultural and political text, through the comparative method.⁸

Legal education consists of at least five different streams,⁹ namely

- (a) Professional (Practicing and Judicial) legal Education.
- (b) Academic / Liberal legal Education.
- (c) Continuing Legal Education
- (d) Public Legal Education and
- (e) Para Legal Education.

Each of these streams, requires separate organization and management systems as their goals, methods and materials vary in significant details. The problem with the present system of legal education is that, it mixes up and confuses these varied needs and programmes, thereby diluting standards and compromising quality at professional level.

The Bar Council of India, which ought to have acted as a watch dog in keeping up the standards of legal education, has its own share in degrading it. It is evident from the chairman's words, as he says, "Lack of co - ordination among the concerned agencies and the absence of concerted efforts, have contributed to the fall in standards. The mushroom growth of ill - equipped

7. Meher. K. Master - Reflections on legal education and teaching p. 452.

8. Ibid.

9. Dr. N.R. Madhava Menon - 'Few Thoughts on Reforming Legal Education' - Indian Bar Review Vol.22(4), 1995

law colleges in the country, has added a new dimension to the existing gloomy scenario." 10

The Council itself is responsible for this astronomical growth in the number of law colleges, as they used to give recognition to such colleges, without proper enquiry. And it is a standing to know that, students, who pass out of a law college, which is not yet recognized by the Bar Council of India, but only affiliated to a university, is still able to practice anywhere in India. For instance, a college in our neighbourhood, which is in existence for many years, and from where, already a number of batches had finished their studies, and many of whom are practicing is not eligible to impart professional Legal Education, as per India Bar Review, Vol XXII (4), 1995, which in turn is the official publication of the Bar Council of India Trust.

Moreover the Council was not strict in introducing the 5 year integrated law course, or a uniform syllabus and it was a total failure, in its effort to phase out the under rated 3 year course.

What are the Shortcomings of the Training Rules?

The training rules do not stipulate the standards to be attained, through such training. 11

It does not envisage an examination at the end of the training as demanded by the Judges Committee.

The legal profession in this country is organized like a pyramid with concentration of work in a few hands at the top, who show scant respect to the rules regarding free training of juniors. The busy seniors, who are always in a hurry to boast their image and fortune, find no time to guide, or vouchsafe the calibre of the humbling Juniors. 12

In this context, putting the entire faith on the competency, integrity and commitment of the Senior Lawyer, who is designated as 'guide' to the trainee, may not auger well for the trainee. In fact part of the opposition, to the earlier Apprenticeship Scheme, abrogated by the Govt. in 1966, arose out of the indifferent, exploitative attitudes and practices employed against the apprentices, by some of the so called senior advocates. There is no guarantee that, such practices will not be reported.

10. O.P. Sharma, Chairman, bar Council of India - From Chairman's Page - Indian Bar Review - Vol XXII (4), 1995

11. Dr. N. R. Madhava Menon - 'Law graduates - hump on the road to destination' - The Hindu, March 26, 1996

12. Radhakrishnan C.K. - 'When Practitioners of Law depart from ethics' - The Hindu, Aug1, 1995

The young law graduate is to search out his guide, who has the prescribed qualifications and who is willing to take him, in his office for an year.

The Bar Council seeks one year in advance, the enrolment fee and an additional Rs.200/- for organizing the training, though it does not commit itself on training programmes.

The provision to limit the number of apprentices, under a given guide to two, is unlikely to ensure that, 'guides' will behave in the spirit of the training rules.

Provisions regarding to the minimum attendance, keeping of the diaries etc. are unnecessary, if the guide performs his duties to the junior conscientiously. On the other hand, if he is not so disposed, none of these requirements will make a difference to the quality of training expected and imparted.¹³

The only obligation imposed by the rules on the guide is to inform the Bar - Council of the non - attendance of a trainee working with him.

The satisfaction of the Enrolment Committee, which scrutinizes the diaries of the candidates, may act detrimental to the interests of candidates, as the rules, does not prescribe any standard norm to measure the performance of the candidates from such dairies.

Why training rules must not be implemented in the present circumstances?

1) Existence of two forms / streams of courses in legal education, which produces, two different kinds of law graduates, who differ markedly in form, calibre and practical knowledge. The application of the training rules, to these two different streams, simultaneously is like feeding an overfed body and an emaciated, hungry, one together. '

2) Three year law students, will be at a disadvantageous end, when competing with the five year law students, to get appointed under a guide for practical training.

3) It is exasperating and humiliating for the five year law students, to undergo the apprenticeship, as what they have to do, during the training period, in just a portion of their previous year's practical training.

13. Dr. N. R. Madhava Menon - 'Law graduates - hump on the road to destination' - The Hindu, March 26, 1996

4) Practical training outside the college, will definitely end up in a disaster, if the so called guides, do not go according to the rule book. The only proof of the training, that is, the diaries has to be submitted only at the end of the year. This gives the chance and scope for malpractices.

5) By making the training rules, compulsory, the total duration of the law course in the code of the integrated course, will become 6 years. This is too long a period, when compared to other professional courses, which are more technical in nature, than the legal profession.

6) The candidates, who are undergoing training will not be having, any option, but to continue to work under, the same guide, for the whole period, even if he feels neglected, threatened or harassed.

7) I totally agree with Dr. Madhava Menon's remarks, that the fall in standards in legal education was aggregated, after the cancellation of apprenticeship in 1966.¹⁴ But that does not mean re - introduction of the apprenticeship, in a modified manner in 1996, will suddenly lift the legal education from its abysmal standards. Much water has flown down the ganges in these 30 years. The so called 'guides of today, who feel threatened, by the sheer increase in the number of law graduates will not be having, the same outlook and helping behaviour, as of the seniors of the 60's.

8) Finally, the training may partake the character of 'bonded labour', or degenerate into a ritual, with little meaningful learning to the young apprentice, if the rules are implemented, as it is now, since it lacks a proper supervision mechanism. One year is too long frustration and resentment.

Suggestions

1) For curing the disease, that has afflicted the legal education, the treatment must begin from the grassroot levels. Stop - gap mechanisms like apprenticeship, must, therefore be avoided.

2) Bar Council of India, must implement strictly, its earlier decision, to make the five year integrated law course, the basic qualification, for practicing as a lawyer. The three year law course must either be phased out, or it must be retained for academic purposes only. The British model of legal education is applicable in this context.

3) A unified syllabus, which immediately absorbs, the changes in the sphere of law, is a must for the upgradation of the legal education.

14. Dr. N.R. Madhava Menon - 'Legal Education for Professional Responsibility - An appraisal' - Indian Bar Review XIII (3 & 4), 1986, PP 436, 437.

4) A moratorium must be declared, in the establishment of new law colleges, anywhere in the country, for the next five years. This time must be utilized to weed out bogus institutions.

Inspection and disaffiliation are welcome methods to weed out teaching shops set up purely for commercial purposes. ¹⁵

5) As developed in medical education, clinical legal education, with emphasis on legal aid to poor can occupy a legitimate place in the scheme of professional legal education for enriching social relevance and moral content. ¹⁶

6) Legal education must take a turn for good, and concentrate more on the practical aspects of law. In the changed context, it is no more sufficient for the student of law to pour his energies over classical text books of codes and procedures and the manuals of Acts passed by parliament from time to time. The student of law is supposed to make fresh adjustments in his mental outlook. He must have awareness that problems will cross his path which did not bother the earlier generations of legal experts. ¹⁷

7) Finally, The Bar Council of India must take a more active role in legal education and if needed set up proper monitoring committees at the central and State levels.

Conclusion

Though disagreement may stem from the manner and method in which the training rules are implemented, to the extent of saying no to such rules, still we have to open our eyes and decipher the truth in its right perspective. The standards of legal education has reached an abysmal low and the profession is losing its status and dignity, as a direct result. As such a viable organizational arrangement with a great deal of freedom and flexibility in curriculum design and teaching methods at the operational level is required.

Thereby, let us hope that, we the members of a privileged class, who got the opportunity to understand the law, will be able to fulfill, the dreams and ambitions of the crores of Indians, who look upon us as to help them, to guide them and above all make them happy, in a peaceful society, the creation of which is the primary target of law.

15. Dr. N.R. Madhava Menon - 'Few Thoughts on Reforming Legal Education' - Indian Bar Review - Vol XXII (4) 1995.

16 Ibid.

17. Ralph Fuchs, "Legal Education and Public Interest" - Quoted by syed Iqbal Hadi Rizvi - 'Aims of Legal Education and fresh imperatives' - Indian Bar Review Vol XXII (4) 1995.

Introduction

Intolerance does not exist just in our society or our times. It has plagued other societies and other ages too. Only the thresholds of tolerance have varied. Powerful new settlers have persecuted indigenous people. Ethnic minorities have been decimated. Prejudice has run bloodily along racial lines. Women have customarily been oppressed for centuries. Unspeakable crimes have been committed in the name of religion. Human arrogance takes many forms. If it thrives, it is often because it is not challenged strongly enough or in time and because defences against it are not built where they should be built - in the minds of people. *1

One of the significant aspect of contemporary international relations is the importance now being attached to the promotion and protection of human rights. There is indeed a greater and growing sensitivity to the miseries and indignities suffered by fellow human beings in a distant lands which were but a few decades ago simply shrugged off.

The subject of human rights and their violations is today mentioned almost daily in the media. This is not only because human rights violations have increased in the recent past as a global phenomena but because governments and people are much more sensitive to the issue than in the past.

Human rights are meant to make man freer and to break the chains which fetter him and whole mankind.

Historical Background

"Freedom has always been the aspiration, if not the inevitable destiny of mankind. In an idealistic sense the quest for freedom the noblest human pursuit represents the central theme of human history." ¹

With the emergence of nation states and the establishment of despotic regions towards the close of middle ages, the struggle for the rights of man started, originally within the national boundaries. As a reaction to the authoritarian and repressive governments, history witnessed the great political revolutions of the late 17th and 18th centuries. The phase of human rights had at that time been abused were formulated into declaration and Bill of Rights and written subsequently in national constitutions.

*1) Asma Jahangir on 'Human Rights Tolerance' (April 27, 1995)

1) L.M. Singhvi (ed) Herizons of Freedom (1969)

The pace of history has since been greatly accelerated with the incredible advance in science and technology. Mass media and lightening means of transport have levelled the national barriers transforming the onetime unknown and mysterious tracts into the close and familiar habitat of mankind. The resulting man to man contact has changed the very ecology of international life and everyday shrinking distance has brought the human miseries in distant lands close to our doors.

The increasing inter dependence of modern world, economically, strategically, culturally, politically and technologically has made concern for human rights 'a major international fact.'

The League of Nations failed to prevent World War II and systematic atrocities of that war inspired the United Nations to adopt United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (UNDHR) in 1948.

UN charter sets forth in unequivocal and unabubigious terms the tasks for the UN to achieve international co - operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race sex, language or religion. Since the protection and promotion of human rights is listed as one of the important purpose of the organisation. All the principal organs have an obligation to assist the UN in accomplishment of this task.

Analysis

Human Rights has been examined and defined by legal luminaries, discussed by politicians and citizens, violated by militants, police and military, denied to the weak, poor and the dispossessed and condemned by self - appointed guardians of human rights.

"Human right is a 20th century name for what has been traditionally known as the natural rights and may be termed as 'common rights' which every human being, everywhere, at all times, ought to have simply because of the fact that he is rational. Everyone, everywhere is entitled to this right to life, liberty and property. These are basics of human right which has been incorporated in UNDHR and other instruments of human rights such as; 1

- 1) Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966
- 2) The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights 1966
- 3) Universal Declaration of the Rights of People (1976)
- 4) Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979 (CEDAW) ... etc.

1) S.K. Singh - Preachers the real violates : Human Rights

United Nations Human rights Declaration is founded on 4 freedoms propounded by President Roosevelt of USA, - 1) Freedom from fear 2) Freedom from hunger and want 3) Freedom of worship 4) and Freedom of speech and expression.

In the last 48 years human rights has become a live issue, throughout the world. Today it has become a subject of hot discussion everywhere. Every country is pointing finger towards other for violations of human rights, without counting their own violations. Western countries are giving threats to suspend trade from the countries which do not respect the basic rights of their citizen.

Human rights to the common man mean nothing more than status without means in a developing country. What they mean to an affluent society is not the same as it would to an impoverished society.

The Civil and Political rights ironically discribed as 'cosmetic rights' are indeed different from the social, economic rights, which are grmane and relevant to the basic aspirations of the common man all over the world.

These rights are recognised by UNDHR and identified by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. The rights include right to food, clothing, housing, education, right to work, leisure, fair wages, decent working conditions, social security right to physical and mental health, protecting the family and right to participate in cultural life.

The main function of human right is to protect the individual from the leviathan of state, since they are the very rights which the individual has against the state, if that could be regarded as normative claim.

As the government expands its activities, grows in size and power intentionally or otherwise the potential mischief and harm capable of being caused, by the government machinery increases too and consequently the matter of human rights assumes greater importance and concern.

According to one perception the idea of human rights involves rights against government. Postwar liberalism has purposefully expanded the concept of human rights to include a whole spectrum of 'enfittements', identifiable as rights that are to be respected and satisfied by the government.

Recognised by the UN, the list of human rights include vacation with pay, maternity leave, full employment and free medicine.

The implementation of human rights in national and international law has been one of the most important developments in law and government of this century. Although largely divorced from particular religion - it still represents a form of law which is higher than ordinary law. Human rights are both limits on government in specifying what may not be done and goals towards which laws should be directed.

Social and economic rights are primary, while civil and political rights are the results. If the former constitute the foundation of the building, latter provide the elevation.

The concept of human rights has begun to encompass the 3rd generation or 'Solidarity rights' these are

- 1) Right to peace
- 2) Right to development
- 3) Right to healthy environment.

Now more and more emphasis is being laid on the right to development. It is now accepted that the right to development is a basic human right without the realisation of which it is not possible to enjoy any other human right.

The right to clean environment is also considered the most important these days of rapid industrialisation. The health hazards caused by the environmental pollution is to be considered seriously and if not checked it would prove fatal to mankind.

Human Rights Violations :

The negation of human rights is evident in countries with totalitarian and Authoritarian regimes, though to some extent less in latter.

Human rights vanish into thin air when they are in the vortex of international power politics when principles are compromised and the champions of human rights are confined to the wheel - chair helplessly, watching a murder being committed on the other side of the street. The cause of human rights has streaked across the international political scene like a shooting star, bright, amazing and fleeting. The motley crowd of human rights exponents are engaged in the endless struggle to think neck of themselves in the words of T.S. Eliot. The jargon it is said, is a 20th century novelty, a relatively low cost enterprise. 1

Human rights is the single most important subject in a world in which violence is not only growing but is getting institutionalised both intra - nationally and internationally.

1) J.P.N. Bhagawathi - New Dimensions of Law and Justice

Genocide, arbitrary killing, terrorism, massacre of civilian population, militarisation, apartheid, untouchability, .. etc. are the many forms of violation of human rights, which goes on in the society without any check.

Extra judicial executions, arbitrary detention violate the very fundamental right of personal life and liberty.

It is worth noting the words of Antonio, Cassese, President of International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, while addressing United Nations General Assembly, - "Massacre, rape, ethnic cleansing and wanton killing of civilians affect each and everyone of us. Whatever our nationality and wherever we live. They affect each and everyone of us, because they imperil the great principles of civilizations enshrined in International legal standards on human rights."

Racial discrimination is also inhuman and an ugly reality, but there does not seem to be a full realisation of this menace by countries proudly called the first world viz. Europe and America. They preach the lessons of non-discrimination, whereas their past and present is full of exploitation and discrimination.

Owners refuse to meet flaks to the African and Arabs in France and UK, in particular. There is a tendency to concentrate immigrants and ethnic minorities to certain areas. In Germany racism has taken an ugliest form.

Another nation which is a worrying factor for human rights violation is Pakistan. Pakistan is making hue and cry before United Nations and Amnesty International about Indian human rights violations in Kashmir, but failed to take its care of its own people. The Amnesty International Report on Pakistan, observes - "Torture including rape, in the custody of police, the paramilitary and armed forces, is endemic, widespread and systematic in Pakistan. Extra-judicial executions, the deliberate and unlawful killing by or with the approval of the authorities are also reported to have taken place."

There are other areas where developed countries are violating human rights by adopting other means while everyone has a right to clean environment, it is also important to recognise that the industrial countries have been responsible for depleting the globe of its natural resources and dumping toxic wastes and scrap of all kind in the third world's new toxic wastebin.

Institutions and Procedures :

Institutions and Procedures to achieve the human rights declared in United Charter may be divided into

- 1) Governmental method
- 2) Non - Governmental method.

The governmental method often include establishment of international bodies such as Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Committee of UN.

The procedures used by these bodies are particularly by the Committee, are to consider the reports, from nations about the developement of human rights in those countires and to investigate the reports of violations. Traditionally it was not allowed complaints by the individuals about the human rights violations. But, the European Convention is the first organ to allow individuals to complain directly to an international body.

Special procedures of UN is the range of rapporteurs and they collect the information about the promotion and violation of human rights in different parts of the world and UNHC counsiders them.

Non - Governmental Organisations :

The Role of non - governmental organisation has been particularly important in the history of human rights and in their promotion in 20th century. Although organisation such as Red Cross, Amnety International may be consulted by International governmental bodies much of their influence is because they are independent of governments.

The object of Amnesty international shall be to secure throughout the world the observance of Universal Declaration of human rights.

Amnesty International opposes torture and death penalty in all cases and without reservation. It advocates fair and early trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of persons detained without charge or without trial and those detained after expiry of their sentence.

Capital Punishment and Human Rights :

Today the movement for abolision of death penalty is gaining ground everywhere in the world. Never before in history, nations have started abolishing capital punishment at a rapid rate as it conflicts with the very concept of human rights. By renouncing its power to take a prisoners life as a legally sanctioned punishment, a nation affirms its belief in respect for human life and human dignity as enshrined in the ethos of international human rights instruments.

UN declaration of human rights recognise each persons valuable right to life. It further states that, - "No one shall be subjected to torture, or to cruel, in human or degrading treatment or punishment.

In the opinion of Amnesty International the death sentence violates these rights. Nevertheless death penalty may also encompass other human rights violations.

A 6 of International convention on Civil, and Political rights are cited which provides :

1) Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

In countries which have not abolished the death penalty sentence, sentence of death may be imposed only for most serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime.

Most of the leaders of the world now stress the need for the establishment of International criminal court to prosecute serious violations of humanitarian law. It is suggested that crimes committed during armed conflict shall also be brought within its jurisdiction.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights :

The proposal to establish a High Commissioner for human rights is one which has long been debated at the UN and its origine is considerably preceded not only the development of special procedures, but also adoption of the extensive frame work of human rights Treaties and Standards which now exists.

The idea of establishing a H.C was present in 1970's only. But it could not take effort due to the strong protests by the states.

The revival of the idea of High Commissioner in context of World Conference on Human Rights was largely promoted by NGO's was not enthusiastically embraced by many governments. Some governments were seeking to avoid any new measures which might turn a stronger spotlight on their own short comings in human rights protection whereas, others feared that any attempts to reform and improve the existing system would only open if up and render it vuluerable to attack.

Resolution to establish a High Commissioner was finally adopted by General Assembly on 20th December 1993. This historic decision establishes the High Commissioner for human rights at the rank of under - secretary General to be the official with principal authority and responsibility for all the UN's human rights activities and protection, of the full range of rights, civil,

political, economic, social and cultural. The secretary General's appointment of a Commissioner who is to be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity with expertise in human rights and an understanding of diverse cultures is to be approved by General Assembly. His term is 4 years and is also provided with staff.

Commissioner should play an active role throughout the world in meeting the challenge of the violations and his mandate includes engaging in dialogue with the government enhancing international co-operation, co-ordination of all human right activities throughout UN system.

Women's Human Rights :- A challenge to UNHR.

The consequence of national and international systems which ignore the plight of slightly over the 1/2 the population of the world can be seen from the Statistics, such as, 1

- 1) 5,00,000 women die every year from pregnancy related diseases.
- 2) In Bangladeah killings of women by their husband accounts for 50% of all murders.
- 3) In USA, a woman reports rape to the police every 5 - 6 minutes. 2

These statistics are just tip in the iceberg. There are few reliable studies to provide statistical evidence and support in relation to complaints of discrimination against women in many spheres. For instance the majority of women in Africa and Asia do not have access to property, credit and other economic resources Male children enjoy greater access to education and leisure and employment.

But there is a claim that human rights law is gender neutral and meant for the entire humanity.

Right to be free from discrimination :

Women human rights should not be seen as a new breed of human rights. The UN Charter has as one of the purpose of organisation the promotion and encouragement of a respect for human rights and for fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to religion, nationality and sex. (A 1 & 3)

Many of the rights which are denied to women whether in relation to marriage, child, custody, access to property, in employment, or any other fields are the evidence of discrimination against them solely on the basis of their sex.

1) WHO Report 1985

2) Federal Bureau of Investigation 1990

There are other rights not based on freedom from discrimination, which women from around the world are demanding. Indeed among them is the right to be freed from all forms of violence directed at them as women.

Systematic violation is a violation of a number of fundamental rights and freedom including those of personal integrity and security, freedom from cruel and inhuman treatment and the right to life. The human right of a women are an integral part of fundamental right and freedom.

Human Rights and the Child :

One of the most tragic situation for which humanity as a whole should feel both hurt and shame, is that we have built a world in which majority of the poor are children and what is even worse that majority of children are poor.

The State parties to the convention on Rights of the Child 1989, shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in this connection to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind. ¹

It is stated that family is the natural and fundamental unit of the society and is entitled to protection by society and state (A 16 & 3) adding specifically that, "motherhood, and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance and that all children whether born in or out of wedlock shall enjoy the same social protection (A 25)

A 3 deserves special mention. It states - "In all actions concerning children.. the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration. That is to say that whenever the child's rights is in the process of being affected the focus must be on the child's welfare and not on its parents or guardian's will.

National Human Rights Commission

India has been severely criticised for violation of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country. With a view to meet the criticism of western countries especially the USA, India decided to set up a National Commission on human rights. On September 29, 1993 President of India promulgated an ordinance. Setting up a five member National Commission. Similar Commissions at state level for better protection of life, liberty, equality and dignity of individual are provided in the ordinance.

The Commission will enquire into the complaints of violation of human rights and while doing so, it will have the powers of a civil court trying a suit under CPC. The Head quarters is situated at New Delhi.

1) A 2 convention on Rights of Child 1989

The Chairperson must be a retired Chief justice of India and other member include, retired judge of Supreme Court, High Court and Government and NGO representatives. At present commission is headed by Justice Dr. Ranganath Misra.

Commission can enquire suo - motu or on petition filed by the victims of violation of human rights or by any person on his behalf. It may visit after intimating state government any jail or other institution under state government where persons are detained or lodged for treatment. The commission may review the factors including the acts of terrorism, that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend appropriate remedial measures. Last but not the least it may study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.

The report on state of Jammu and Kashmir released on May 95, NHRC observed that human rights situation in the state has been primary concern to the commission ever since its establishment in 93.

As a general observation the commission expressed its belief that human rights are best served by being open. In consequence it has urged measures to increase transparency in the affairs of the state. For the same reason it has encouraged the frequent visits of members of diplomatic corps to the state.

Suggestion

1) *The independence of NGO from political influence :*

The independence of human rights organisation must be safeguarded, sustained and exemplified in the daily functions of the organisation through developing appropriate by laws and regulations to prevent the organisation from having membership that is either not dedicated to or has goals against human rights. It is advisable to restrict the role of leaders of political parties within the hierarchy of human rights organisation.

2) *Creating a human rights culture in the society :*

Creating a fertile ground for human rights in a society will certainly ensure their protection in the long run. Thus wide ranging programmes concerning human rights education must be established to reach the whole society. The media can be creatively and effectively used and mobilised for this purpose.

- 3) Special attention must be given to the training of teachers as well as human rights specialists.
- 4) Workshops for general public must be established.
- 5) Human rights organisation must exploit the legal system creatively and strengthen their relationship with advocates and judges.
- 6) Human Rights should be an integral part of UN peace building operation.
- 7) UN must foster the capacity of civil society through democratic institutions and through press.
- 8) Human Rights should be inserted in the curricular of education at all levels.
- 9) Diversify the resources from armaments towards developmental activities as it would contribute to human welfare and well being.
- 10) Steps should be taken to free the humanity from threat of environmental pollution.

The key to preservation and promotion of human rights universally lies in bringing the human being to the path of sanity and by banishing from his mind fear and distrust, greed and hatred intolerance and misunderstanding.

Conclusion

The task now is not to regret the past or deplore the present, but to see what can be done to ensure that there is a future. The difficulties involved should provide a challenge to action and not signal for retreat.

The small voices of conscience whether at the individual or social level is being drowned in the noisy march of industrial progress and the pursuit of profit in the international market place. Never before has humankind as a whole been at a moral cross roads as it is now. The very survival of billions of human will depend more on the qualities of heart than of the head. Human right is the only subject that really matters today and it is being largely ignored.

College Shettle Badminton (Womens) won the First Place
in Mangalore University for the fourth successive year.

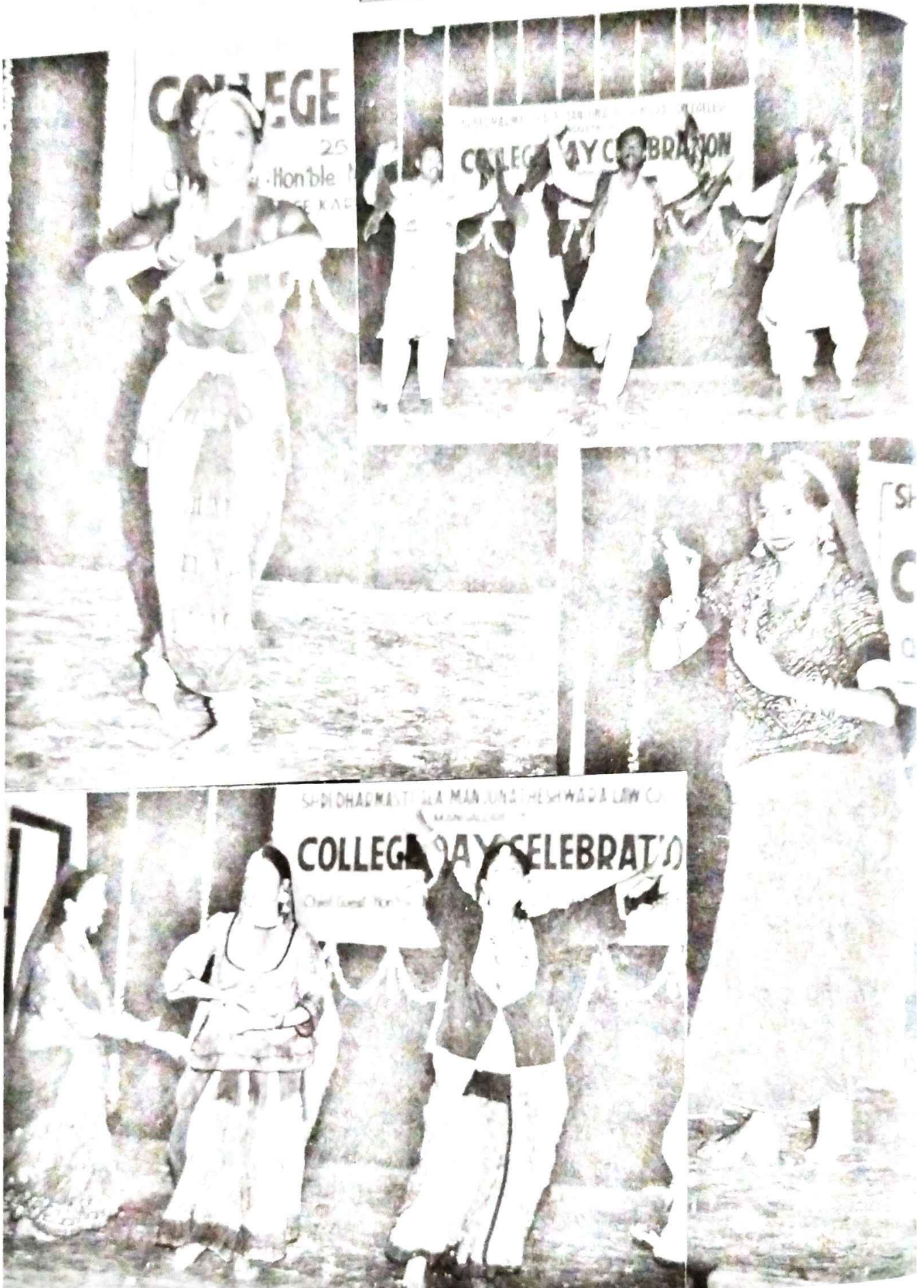


Standing : L to R : Divya Rai, II year LL.B, Vanitha K., V year LL.B, Pallavi B.R., IV year LL.B
Sitting : L to R : Sri Bharath Kumar Jain, Physical Director, Prof. A. Rajendra Shetty, Principal,
Rekha B. Annaji Rao, V year LL.B (Captian)



Mr. Ramesh K.G. V year LL.B.
State Award - Best N.S.S. Volunteer

COLLEGE DAY



Variety Entertainment programme by the Students.

THE MUSIC OF THAT RIVER

Jayamohan C.V.
V year LL.B.

I am on a journey,
A journey down the memory lane,
Through the years in which,
My hairs grew grey and
Wrinkles appeared on my face.

Long, long back; trees wild and gigantic,
Foliages thick and deep
Shubberies green and dark,
Occupied this abode of the wild,
The cradle of mother Earth.

My mind may wander,
A result of the grif and grind,
Of the umpteen seasons which passed by,
But the rainbows of my youth,
Are still fresh as any budding rose flower.

I have reached there,
That anmphitheatre of the nature,
Where appears amidst the din and cacophony
The musician par excellence,
That beautiful river of the wild.

She was thin and wiry,
But fresh and clear,
Who would gurgle in the summer
But roars in thundering measures
With the instruments of nature, come the rains.

She was the solace, whichj I sought
In vain, amongst the concrete jungles,
Of the civilizations of the world.

I heard the story of the wild,
Through her melodious tones,
The story of the passions,
Which engulfs the nature,
From the origin of the creatures

Her lullabies sung for eons,
From time immemorial,
Was the grief of the Almighty
To the tired subjects of the Earth,
Which we enjoyed till now.

But where is she now?
What appears before my eyes,
Evokes a sob from innards,
For I see, a sick river,
Unable to hum even a tune, any more.

Men and his ambitions,
Destroyed that dream voice,
As he build dams and
Cut down the forests,
She stopped singing,
And in dying slowly now.

Brethren, the time has come,
To arise and awake,
To fight her that dream voice,
Lest, we will lose, the charms and gait,
Which our creator wanted us to enjoy.

THE MUSIC OF THAT RIVER

Anjaly Thomas
IV year LL.B.

Like alien thoughts and alien dreams
Sprinkled with faint strains of melodies
Reaching deeper than swear depths
Marked with whisper of the autumn leaves.
Like the beat of the heart that die never
Is the music of "that river".

From mountain tops into untamed wild
Like resounding thunders in the nights,
Fading away into the morning dews,
Like the light of the moon - yet new,
Striking chords unceasing by the hour,
Is the music of "that river".

As soft as the mothers touch,
Healing with its life saving blood,
Unrestrained by the rocks in its belly,
Continous like the thoughts in the head,
Singing with the bloom of a flower.
Is the music of "that river".

Like a theme from the past it is
Harding down morals in succession,
Music for ever, for us left to infer
That joy always follow the pain,
And slowly as life ebbs away,
It goes on, the music of "that river".

THAT BEATIFUL MORNING

Sonia K. Das
V year LL.B.

I am here in Kodaikanal for more than years; to put it exactly ten years and 2 months. I have seen the mornings, noons and Sun - sets of this dream land. But I don't know why today when I got up itself, after so many years, I felt Sun is shining more brightly; the cool breeze is humming some tones. Moreover it was Monday and it is off for me as Sunday. I was having night duty in the hospital. Mr. Dr. Anamika is a spinister and hence often the burden of work on me is very heavy as all other doctors in our clinic are married and they long for Sundays. For me every day is same, same without any speciality!

But today my mind is murmuring - "Anu something is going to happen today"

I told her "Don't be silly. You only gave me so many hints like this and it did not work. So keep quiet".

I went to the town. From there I can see couples enjoying horse riding, boating and some simply hand in hand eyes to eyes last in their own world. The salvia flowers were dancing in the breeze. I felt once I was like this, happy without any botherations, tensions, with full of dreams and hopes ...

Without my knowing my mind is running back to these days which I have tried to erase from my memory. But this time I allowed my mind to grace on these green fields.

I, Anu was the pet daughter of Dr. Malik and Dr. Malini. I had a happy childhood which a daughter of busy parents cannot even imagine. I enjoyed my fathers love and my mother's concern and affection and I stepped into my teenage. Then itself I got engaged to Nishal, my cousin. I was so happy as Nishal was a nice person. The future was planned by our parents.

"Anu I want a wife who can attend to me. So don't go for medicine as your parents are telling be house wife. I will manage your clinic. I studied in America, and I am a good doctor".

My love for Nishal made me nod my head and the dream of wearing white coat and stethoscope slowly ranished from my memory. Even then sometimes it would come keep and go.

Nishal went back to America for higher studies and the arrangement was that after my degree he will come and make our home.

But unexpectedly my parents died in an accident and I was left alone. I didn't know what to do. My grand mother and uncle was the only solace for me.

I longed for Nishal's return. But instead I got a telegram informing about his marriage with his classmate Namratha. I didn't know what to do, Did I think of suicide? Yes, I did. But I don't know how and why I thought, I won't give up God gave me this life. I will make it useful for others.

Thus I joined the medical college to realise my dream of becoming a doctor. All my classmates received me with sympathetic eyes. I hated it. But in the crowd I found different person. It was Suraj.

"Anu why are so moody. Cheer up, each will have some dark chapters in their life. Forget it"

He used to tell and made me cheer up.

I felt him as a shoulder to rest my shoulders. Without my knowing I started to love him.

But I know, we have never spoke about it. I often felt confused whether he knew it or not. But I did not make an attempt to reveal my feelings as I wished and hoped let the first step be from his side. But that day will never come - I feared

He used to tell me about his parents. One day he was so moody. He told

"Anu, my mother had an attack. She is now scared. So she wants me to married after this year".

I could not tell anything I smiled and told.

"So what Suraj, do that, parents are the biggest asset. I know their value, I know their value, I know their loss....."

He did not tell anything.

It was our sent off. When I said good bye to him. I just know that my mind was blank. I wished him good luck and had gone to station to see off him. I just warned by hand till the train disappeared, and Suraj vanished from my sight.

After that - came home. So many proposals came. But nobody wanted Anu. All wanted "Anamika Hospital"

I felt the misery of having much fortune without anybody. My grand mother was there. But she was old and just wanted me to get married. So that she can leave this world with peace. Uncle, after Nishal's marriage did not interfere much in my affairs.

I just packed up the dreams of a 23 year old young lady and kept it apart. I started managing and attending the clinic. Yes, Anu was best somewhere in this journey and I became "Dr. Anamika : M.D. (Cardiology).

The only connection I had this world was my grand mother. When she also left me. I was left all alone. Then came an offer from Kodaikanal Cardial Centre where one of my Professors was working after his retirement.

After a long thought I decided to shift to Kodiakanal after selling the hospital and other assets. Thus, I came to Kodaikanal, a place which knows nothing about me and I enjoyed this Unfamiliarity. It was often a blessing. A blessing which helped me to live.

The sound of phone bell woke me up from my thoughts. It is Dr. Kulkarni, Hospital Director.

"Dr. I had told you about a new doctor coming to take charge. He has come. Please come here and taking him round the hospital".

"Yes, Dr. I'll come within half an hour".

This was became a routine, when any new doctor joins at in my duty to do this.

I wore a cotton saree; usually I wear light colours, But today I am feeling like wearing a red one with green border and I drove my car along the lake Road to Hospital. Just when I stopped there. I recognised I was humming a tune. I locked the car and went inside the room of Director

"Come Dr. This is our new Doctor Pediatrition".

The person in black pants and white full sleve shirt turned back saying Hello.

I was shocked. It was Suraj. I am seeing him after long tweleve years. Did not even contact each other in this span. He was also shocked.

"Anu You are here? I never knew it".

I told the Director that we were classmates in medical college.

I took him for a round in the hospital and I invited him home for a cup of coffee.

He came without any hesitation. Just when I went to kitchen to make coffee and came back he was there at the loan looking to the lake. I brought chairs and started to talk over the cup of coffee.

"Suraj how is your wife?"

"No Anu, I did not get married as my mother expired before it. Moreover she was not willing to marry me. What about you?"

I just gave a plain smile.

But I could see that smile made stars shine in his eyes and I felt its reflection in mine.

My mind murmered,

"I told, no Anu, something will happen today".

I whispered to her

"Keep quiet, I agree it is a beautiful morning when I longed for in my life.

ದೇವನಂದಿನಿ ಮಾರ್ಲ್
ಅಂತಿಮ ಯಲ್ಯಲ್. ಬಿ.
(5 ವರ್ಷದ ಕೋರ್ಸ್)

ತಲೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಮತೆಯ ಕೈ ಸ್ಪರ್ಶವಾದಾಗ ಕಣ್ಣೆರೆದು ನೋಡಿದಳು ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ. ಒಡಲ ಕುಡಿಯ ಕಂದಿದ ಮುಖ ಕಂಡು ಹೆತ್ತೊಡಲ ಕಣ್ಣಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರ ಪೊರೆಯಾಡಿದಾಗ ಮಗಳೇ ತಾಯಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಮಾಡಿದಳು “ಏನಿಲ್ಲಮ್ಮ, ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ತಲೆನೋಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಲಗಿದ್ದೆ” ಎಂದು. ಆ ಬರಿಯ ಪಾತು ತಾಯಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನ ತರದು ಎಂಬುದರ ಅರಿವಿದ್ದ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ಮಲಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಎದ್ದು, ಬಚ್ಚಲ ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಮುಖಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರೆರಚಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದು ತಾಯಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಬಿಸಿ ಕಾಫಿ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಡಿದು ಕೂತಳು. ತಮ್ಮ ಬಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂತ ಮುದ್ದು ಮಗಳತ್ತ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಹಾಯಿಸಿದರು ತಾಯಿ ಸೀತಮ್ಮ. ತಮ್ಮ ಮಮತೆಯ ಕುಡಿ ಈಗ ಮಗುವಲ್ಲ, ನಲುವತ್ತರ ಪೌಡೆ. ಬೈತಲೆಯ ಅಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೆರಡು ನರೆ ಕೂದಲು ಹಣಕಿ ನೋಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಆ ಮುಖ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತರ ಚೆಲುವನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಪಕ್ಕನೆ ತಾಯಿ ನೋಟದ ಅರಿವಾಗಿ ತಲೆ ಎತ್ತಿ ನೋಡಿದ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ಮೆಲುನಗೆ ಸೂಸಿ ಹೊರಬಂದು ಮನೆಯ ಗೇಟ್ ಬಳಿ ನಿಂತಳು. ಪಕ್ಕದ ಮನೆಯ ಪುಟ್ಟ ತುಂಟೆ ಸುಶ್ಮಾ ತಾಯಿಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸುತ್ತಾಡಿ ಬರಲೆಂದು ಹೊರಟು ನಿಂತವಳು “ಟಾ ಟಾ ಆಂಟಿ” ಎಂದು ಕೈ ಬೀಸಿ ನಡೆದಾಗ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಚೆನ್ನ ಎಂದು ಅನ್ನಿಸಿತು ಅವಳಿಗೆ. ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ತನ್ನ ಮಗಳು ವಾಸಂತಿ ಈಗ ಎಷ್ಟು ದೊಡ್ಡವಳಾಗಿರಬಹುದು ಅನ್ನುವ ಆಲೋಚನೆ ಉಂಟಾಯಿತು. ಒಡನೆ ಒಡಲೊಳಗೆ ಭಗ್ಗೆಂದು ಹೊತ್ತಿ ಉರಿದ ಅನುಭವ. ನಿಲ್ಲುವುದು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯವೆಂದೆನಿಸಿದಾಗ ಅಲ್ಲೇ ಬಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಒಗೆವ ಕಲ್ಲ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಕ್ಕರಿಸಿದಳು. ಮನಸ್ಸು ಬೇಡ ಬೇಡವೆಂದರೂ ಗತದ ಪುಟಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರುವಿ ಹಾಕ ತೊಡಗಿತು.

ಮಗುವಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ ತಂದೆಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾಳನ್ನು ಮುಚ್ಚುಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಾಕಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಿದ್ದರು ತಾಯಿ ಸೀತಮ್ಮ. ಗಂಡ ಕೂಡಿಟ್ಟ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಉಂಡು ಉಡುವುದಕ್ಕೇನೂ ತೊಂದರೆಯಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಚೈತನ್ಯವೇ ಚೆಲುಮೆಯತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತಹ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ನರ್ಸರಿಯಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಅಚ್ಚುಮೆಚ್ಚು. ಸರಿಯಾದ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ನಾತ್ತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ತಾನು ಕಲಿತ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕಿಯಾದ ಅವಳು ತರುಣ ಸಹೋದ್ಯೋಗಿ ಅರವಿಂದನ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಳು. ಹಿರಿಯರ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ನಡೆದು ಆತನ ಮನ ತುಂಬಿದ ಮನದನ್ನೆ ಒಂದು ಶುಭ ಮುಹೂರ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವನ ಮನೆಯೂ ತುಂಬಿದಳು. ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ಗಂಡನ ಮುದ್ದಿನ “ನೀಹರಿ”ಯಾದಳು. ಕುಳಿತರೆ ನಿಂತರೆ ನೀಹರಿ, ಎದ್ದರೆ ನೀಹರಿ.. ಗಂಡನ ಕರೆಗೆ ಓಗೊಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಳಿಗೂ ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯ ಋಷಿ, ಸಂತೋಷ. ನೋಡನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಳೆದು ವರುಷ ಬಂತು, ವರುಷ ದಾಟಿ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ವರ್ಷ ಕಾಲಿಟ್ಟಿತು. ಅರವಿಂದನ ಮುದ್ದಿನ ನೀಹರಿ ಮುದ್ದು ವಾಸಂತಿಯ ತಾಯಾದಳು. ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡುಗರ ಕಣ್ಣು ಕುಕ್ಕುವ ಸುಮಧುರ ದಾಂಪತ್ಯ ಅವರದು. ಇಂತಹ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರವಿಂದನ “ನೀಹರಿ”ಯ ಬಾಳಲ್ಲಿ ದುರ್ದಿನವೊಂದು ಬಿರುಗಾಳಿಯಂತೆ ಬೀಸಿ ಬಂತು.

ಅದೊಂದು ದಿನ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಹತ್ತರ ಸಮಯ, ಸೋನೆ ಮಳೆ ಹೊರಗೆ ಜಿನುಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹೊತ್ತು. ಅರವಿಂದ ಜ್ವರದಿಂದ ಮುಲುಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ. ಒಂದು ವಾರದಿಂದ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಅಲ್ಪ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಜ್ವರ ಇಂದು ತೀವ್ರ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೇರಿತ್ತು. ಗಂಡನ ಜ್ವರದ ತಾಪವನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಹೆದರಿದ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ಕದ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಒಂದೆರಡು ತಿರುವುಗಳ ಆಚೆ ಇದ್ದ ಡಾಕ್ಟರರ ಬಿಡದಿಗೆ ಹೊರಟಳು, ಅವರನ್ನು ಕರೆತರಲು. ಜಿನುಗು ಮಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಡೆ ಹಿಡಿದು ಹೊರಟ ಅವಳಿಗೆ ಯಾರೋ ಹಿಂಬಾಲಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅನುಭವ. ತಿರುಗಿ ನೋಡಿದರೆ, ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮಂದಿ ದಾಂಡಿಗರು ಅವಳನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾಳ ಮೈಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬೆವೆತು, ಸಾಲದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ನಿರ್ಜನ ಬೀದಿ, ಹೆದರಿ ಓಡು ನಡಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದಳು. ಪಕ್ಕನೆ ಅಲ್ಲೊಂದು ಇಲ್ಲೊಂದರಂತೆ ಮಿಣುಕು ಬೆಳಕು ಬೀದಿದೀಪಗಳು ಆರಿ ಹೋದವು. ಕತ್ತಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾರಿ ತಿಳಿಯದೆ ತಡವರಿಸಿದ ಅವಳನ್ನು ದಪ್ಪಗಿನ ಕೈಯೊಂದು ಬಳಸಿ ಹಿಡಿಯಿತು. ಹೆದರಿ ಕಿರುಚಲೆಂದು ಬಾಯಿ ತೆರೆದ ಅವಳ ಬಾಯನ್ನು ಬಲವಾಗಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಿ ಹಿಡಿಯಿತು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕೈ. ದರದರನೆ ಪಕ್ಕಕ್ಕೆ ಎಳೆದೊಯ್ದು ಏನಾಗುತ್ತದೆಂದು ಅರಿವಾಗುವಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಳನ್ನು ಸೂರೆಮಾಡಿ, ಹಿಂಡಿ ಹಿಪ್ಪೆಮಾಡಿ ತಮ್ಮ ತೃಷೆಯನ್ನು ತಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು ಆ ನಿರ್ದಯಿಗಳು.

ಆ ಕತ್ತಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಡವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಮನೆಸೇರಿದ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ಗಂಡನ ಪಾದದ ಬಳಿ ಕುಸಿದು ಕೂತು ಬಿಕ್ಕತೊಡಗಿದಳು. ಅವಳ ಹರಿದ ರವಿಕೆ, ಸುಕ್ಕಾದ ಸೀರೆ, ಕೆದರಿದ ಕೂದಲು, ಮೈಯಮೇಲಿನ ಪರಚು ಗಾಯ ಇವಿಷ್ಟು ಸಾಕಾಗಿದ್ದವು ಅರವಿಂದನಿಗೆ ಪತ್ನಿಯ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು. ಏನೆಂದೂ ಮಾತಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಬರೀ ಬಿಕ್ಕಳಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ನೀರವತೆಯ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಆ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಯಿತು. ಆ ರಾತ್ರಿಯಿಂದ ಭಿನ್ನವೆಂಬಂತೆ ಉರುಳಿ ಹೋದವು ಮುಂದಿನ ಮತ್ತೂ ಕೆಲವು ದಿನಗಳು. ಅರವಿಂದನ ಬಿಗಿದ ಮುಖ, ಹೊಲಿದ ತುಟಿ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾಳ ವಿವಿಷತೆಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು.

ಅದೊಂದು ದಿನ ಸಂಜೆ ವಿಚ್ಛೇದನದ ಪತ್ರ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟು ಅರವಿಂದ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಇಷ್ಟೆ, “ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ನಾನೆಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಪಟ್ಟರೂ ನಡೆದ ಘಟನೆಯನ್ನು ನನ್ನಿಂದ ಮರೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಡೆದ ಹೃದಯಗಳು ಬೆಸೆದು ಬಾಳುವುದು ಕನಸಿನ ಮಾತು. ವಾಸಂತಿ ನನ್ನ ಮಗಳು, ನನ್ನ ಬಳಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಇರಲಿ”. ಅಷ್ಟೇ, ಮಾತಿನಿಂದ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದರಿತ ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಚ್ಛೇದನ ಪತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ರುಜು ಹಾಕಿದಳು. ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲವೇ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರವಿಂದ ಮಗು ವಾಸಂತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಊರಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿದ್ದ.

ಸಂಜೆಯ ಕುಳಿಗಳ ಮೆಲ್ಲನೆ ಮೈ ತೀಡಿದಾಗ ಭಾವಸಮಾಧಿಯಿಂದ ಎಚ್ಚಿತ್ತಳು ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ. ಬಹುಷಃ ಆ ದುರ್ದಿನದ ರಾತ್ರಿ ತನ್ನ ಬದುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಬಿಡದ ಭೂತ ಅನ್ನುವುದರ ಅರಿವಾಗಿ ವಿಷಾದದ ನಗುವೊಂದು ಅವಳ ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಳಿದು ಹೋಯಿತು. ಗಲ್ಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ಜಾರಿದ್ದ ಕಣ್ಣೀರನ್ನು ಒರೆಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಮನೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾಲಿಟ್ಟಳು ನೀಹಾರಿಕಾ.

ವೀಣಾ ಯಂ.

ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಯಲ್‌ಯಲ್. ಬಿ.

(5 ವರ್ಷದ ಕೋರ್ಸ್)

ಬೆಳಗ್ಗಿನ ಹೊತ್ತು, ಕರೆಗಂಟೆ ಶಬ್ದವಾಗಲು, ಬಾಗಿಲು ತೆಗೆದಾಗ “ಅಮ್ಮಾವ್ರೇ ನೆನ್ನ ಯೋಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲ! ಏನು ಯೋಚ್ಚೆ ಮಾಡೀರಿ?” ಎಂದು ನಿಂಗ ಕೇಳಿದ. “ಏನೋಪ್ಪ ಒಂದೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ! ನಮ್ಮವರಂತೂ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಏನೂ ಹೇಳಿಲ್ಲ! ಸಂಜೀಗ್ ಬಾ ಏನಾರಾ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ ಹೇಳ್ತೀನಿ” ಎಂದು ಅವನನ್ನು ಸಾಗ ಹಾಕಿದೆ. ಒಳ ಬಂದಾಗ ನನ್ನವರು “ಏನೇ, ಸುಮ್ ಸುಮ್ಮೇ ದಾರೀಲಿ ಹೋಗೋ ಮಾರೀನ ಒಳಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸ್ಕೋತೀಯಾ? ನಮಗ್ಯಾಕೆ? ಅವರ ಪಾಡು ಅವರವರಿಗೇನ” ಎಂದರು. ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಗಂಗಿಯ ಮುಖವೇ ಸುಳಿದಾಡುತ್ತಾ ಇತ್ತು! “ಯಾವ ಜನ್ಮದ ಪಾಪದ ಫಲವೋ ಏನೋ!” ಎಂದು ನನ್ನಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೇ ಯೋಚ್ಚೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದ್ದೆ.

ಆ ದಿನ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಮಗುವೊಂದು ಬಂದು ‘ಅಮ್ಮಾ ತಾಯಿ, ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ ನೀಡೀ ...’ ಎಂದು ಯಾಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ - ನನ್ನವರು “ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡು. ನೀನಿಲ್ಲದ ಸಮಯ ನೋಡಿ ಕಳವು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅಷ್ಟೆ! ನೀನುಂಟು ನಿನ್ನ ಈ ಅನಾಥರುಂಟು” ಎಂದು ಬೈದಾಗ ಬಹಳ ಬೇಸರವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಇದಕ್ಕೂ ಕಾರಣವಿದೆ. ಗಂಗಿಯ ತಾಯಿ ನನ್ನ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಮನೆಯ ಕೆಲಸದಾಳು. ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಏನೋ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರಲು ಅಕಸ್ಮಾತ್ ಬೆಂಕಿ ತಗುಲಿದಾಗ ತನ್ನ ಒಂದೇ ಕೂಸು ಗಂಗಿಯನ್ನು ಅನಾಥಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಾವನ್ನಪ್ಪಿದಳು. ಕುಡುಕ ಗಂಡ, ಆ ಮನೆಹಾಳ ಮಗುವನ್ನು ಯಾರಿಗೋ ಮಾರಲೆಂದು ಪಟ್ಟಣಕ್ಕೆ ಒಯ್ಯುವಾಗ, ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯ ತೋಟದ ಕೂಲಿ ನಿಂಗ ನೋಡಿ, ‘ನಾನಾದರೂ ಸಾಕುವೆ’ ಎಂದು ಕರೆತಂದಿದ್ದ. ಎಂಟು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಂದೆ ನಿಂಗನಿಗೆ ತನ್ನ ದನ್ನೇ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಾಕಾಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಿರುವಾಗ ಗಂಗಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವೆಂದರಿತಾಗ, ಅವನ ಪತ್ನಿ “ಗಂಗಿಯನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲಾರೂ ಮನೀಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಕುವಿರಂತೆ!” ಎಂದಳು. ಮುಗ್ಧ ಮಗುವನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸದ ಆತ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇರೇನಾದರೂ ಮಾಡಿ ಒಂದು ನೆಲೆ ಮುಟ್ಟಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದಿದ್ದ. ಆ ಗಂಗಿಯ ಮುಖದ ಕಳೆ, ಆ ಚೂಪು ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ನೋಟ, ಅದರ ಸೆಳೆತದಿಂದ - ಯಾವನಿಗಾದರೂ ಕರುಣೆ ಮೂಡುವುದು ಸಹಜವೇ!

ಅಂದೇ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಗೆ ಗಂಗಿಯ ಜೊತೆ ಬಂದವ “ಏನಾರ ಮಾಡಿ ಒಂದು ಪುಣ್ಯ ಕಟ್ಟೊಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಯಿ ಈ ಕೂಸ, ಅನಾಥಂದು. ಒಂದೆಲ್ಲು ಕೆಲ್ವ ಕಲ್ವಿ. ಆಕಿ ದುಡ್ಡ ಆಕೀಗೇ ಕೊಡಿ, ಸಾಲಿ ಕಲೀತಾದೆ ಪಾಪ!” ಎಂದಾಗ ನಾನು ನನ್ನ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯೋಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಹಾಲು, ಬೆಣ್ಣೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ತಿಂದು ಬೆಳೆದರೂ ಕೂಡಾ ವಿದ್ಯೆ ಹತ್ತುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಬಾಲಕಿಗೆ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಲು ಎಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಇಷ್ಟ ಎಂದೆನ್ನಿಸಿತು!

ಏನೋ ಸಪ್ಪಳವಾದಂತಾಗಲು, ಯೋಚನೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ನಾನು ತಿರುಗಿ ನೋಡಿದರೆ ನಿಂಗ ಗಂಗಿಯ ಜೊತೆಗಿದ್ದ. ವಿಶಾಲವಾದ ಹಣೆ, ಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾರಾಡುವ ಮುಂಗುರುಳು, ಆ ಕಣ್ಣು ನೋಡಿ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ಚುಳ್ಳೆಂದಿತು. ಒಂದು ಕಡೆ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆಯುರಿಯೂ ಆಯಿತು. ನನ್ನ ದೀಪಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ದಿವ್ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಅವರೇ ಇವಳ ಮುಂದೆ ಸಪ್ಪೆ ಎನಿಸಿತು.

ಅದೇ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಇವರ ಜೊತೆ ಈ ವಿಷಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದಾಗ ಇವರದೋ ನೇರ ಉತ್ತರ “ಬೇಡವೇ ಬೇಡ, ಇರುವ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಮನೆ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಜನ ಯಾಕೆ? ಹಾಗೇನಿದ್ದರೂ ಈ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಹುಡುಗಿ ಅದೇನು ಮಾಡಿತು? ಬೇರೆ ಯಾರನ್ನಾದರೂ ನೋಡೋಣ” ಎಂದು ಪಕ್ಕಕ್ಕೆ ತಿರುಗಿ ನಿದ್ರೆ ಮಾಡಿದಾಗ ನಾನು ನಾಳೆ ನಿಂಗನಿಗೆ ಏನು ಉತ್ತರ ಹೇಳಲಿ ಎಂದು ಯೋಚಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸೂರನ್ನೇ ನೋಡುತ್ತಾ ಇದ್ದೆ.

ಅಂತೆಯೇ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ನಿಂಗ ಬಂದ. ಏನೂ ಕೇಳಲಿಲ್ಲ! ನನ್ನ ಮುಖ ನೋಡಿಯೇ ತಿಳಿಯಿತೇನೋ? ಅವನ ಪಾಡಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಂಬಳ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದ. ಸಂಜೆ 7.30ರ ಸಮಯ ಕರೆಗಂಟಿ ಶಬ್ದವಾಗಲು ಯಾರಿರಬಹುದೆಂದು ನೋಡಿದಾಗ ನಿಂಗ ಭಯದಿಂದಲೋ, ಓಡಿ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರಿಂದಲೋ ಏನೋ ಬೇಗ ಬೇಗನೇ ಉಸಿರಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ, ತೇಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದ. ಏನೆಂದು ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿದಾಗ “ನಾನು ಪಾಪಿ ಅಮ್ಮೋರೆ! ಏನೂ ತಿಳಿದ ಆ ಹಸುಕಂದನ್ನ ಸಾಯಿಸ್ಪಟ್ಟೆ ಕಣಮ್ಮಾ!” ಎಂದ. ಏನೊಂದೂ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗದ ನಾನು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಯ್ಯಾ! ಎಂದೆ. ಆಗ ಆತ ಬಿಕ್ಕಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು “ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆನ ತಾವ ನಿಮ್ ಮುಖ ನೋಡಿನೇ ನೀವು ಒಪ್ಪಾಕಿಲ್ಲ ಅಂತ ತಿಳೊಂಡೆ. ಅದನ್ನ ಮನೀಗ್ ಓಗಿ ನನ್ ಎಂಡ್ರಿಗೆ ಯೋಳ್ತೆ. ಅದನ್ನ ಗಂಗಿ ಕೇಳಿಸೊಂಡ್ರು. ಆಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳ್ ತಾವ ಆಟ ಆಡೋತಿದ್ವೊಳು, ಎದ್ದು ಎಲ್ಲೋ ಓದ್ರು. ಉಡ್ಯಾಡಿದ್ರೆ ನಾಗಪ್ಪನ ಕೇರಿ ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಎಣಾ ಆಗಿದ್ದು! ಎಲ್ಲಾ ನನ್ನಿಂದಾನೇ” ಎಂದು ಜೋರಾಗಿ ಅಳಹತ್ತಿದ.

ಸಿಡಿಲೆರಗಿದಂತಾಯಿತು. “ಇಲ್ಲ ನಿಂಗ ನೀನಲ್ಲ ಪಾಪಿ, ನಾನು ಪಾಪಿ. ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸು ನೋಡು, ನನ್ನ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಯೋಚ್ಚಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ, ಮನುಷ್ಯತ್ವ ಇಲ್ಲದೋಳು” ಎಂದೆ. ತಡೆಯಲಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ ಬಿಕ್ಕಿ ಬಿಕ್ಕಿ ಅಳಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. ನಿಂಗ ಹೋದ. ನಂತರವೂ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಎಂದಿನಂತೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಲು ಆಗಲೇ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ಸಂಜೆ ಇವರು ಬಂದವರೇ “ವಸೂ, ಏ ವಸೂ ಎಲ್ಲಿದ್ದೀಯೆ ನೋಡೂ, ಗಂಗೀಗಂತಾ ಒಂದು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಕೊಡಿಸಿದ್ದೆ” ಎಂದರು. ಏನದು ಎಂದು ನೋಡುವ ಮೊದಲೇ “ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಿಯ ಗಂಗಿ” ಎಂದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಃ ಬಿಕ್ಕಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ - ನನ್ನವರು “ಏನಾಯ್ತೇಗ? ಅಲೋದ್ಯಾಕೆ? ಯಾರಾದ್ರೂ ಮನೆ ಕೆಲ್ಸ ಮಾಡಿಸೊಂಡು, ಸ್ಕೂಲಿಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಕಳಿಸೋರಿದ್ರೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ. ಹುಡುಗಿ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಹನ್ನೆರಡು ವರುಷ ಎಂದೆಲ್ಲ ಬರಿಸಿದ್ದೆ. ಹಲವಾರು ಪತ್ರ ಬಂದಿದೆ ನೋಡು” ಎಂದು ನನ್ನ ಮುಂದೆ ಹರಡಿದರು.

ಕೋಪದಿಂದ ಎದ್ದು ಒಳ ಹೋದವಳು ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ಒತ್ತಡಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಬದಿಗಿಟ್ಟು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ತೊಡಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಆ ದುರ್ದಿನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಘಟನೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮನದಲ್ಲೇ ಇದೆ. ಒಂದಲ್ಲ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ನನ್ನ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೂ ಇದೇ ಗತಿ ಬಂದರೆ? “ಅದೇ ದುರ್ದಿನ” ಅದೇ ಘಟನೆ ಘಟಿಸಿದರೆ? ಎಂದೆಣಿಸಿದಾಗ ಗಂಗಿಯ ಆ ಮುಗ್ಧ ಮುಖವೇ ಎದುರು ಬಂದು ನಿಂತು ಗಹಗಹಿಸಿದಂತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕಾನೂನಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ?

ಜ್ಯೂಜ್ ಜೋಸೆಫ್. ಯನ್.ಜಿ.

ತೃತೀಯ ಯಲ್‌ಯಲ್. ಬಿ.

(5 ವರ್ಷದ ಕೋರ್ಸ್)

ಮಾನವ ಸಮಾಜ ಜೀವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಜೀವಿ. ಪರಿಸರ ಜೀವಿಯಾದ ಮಾನವನು ತನಗೆ ದೊರೆತ ಅಥವಾ ತಾನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡು ಇತರರೊಡನೆ ಬೆರೆತು ಜೀವಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಪರಿಸರವು ಮಾನವ ಜೀವನದ ಅವಿಭಾಜ್ಯ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿದೆ. ಪರಿಸರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನವ ಇವೆರಡನ್ನೂ ಬೇರ್ಪಡಿಸುವುದು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ಲಿಷ್ಟಕರ. ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವು ಮಾನವನ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯಯುತವನ್ನಾಗಿಯೂ ಅಹಿತಕರವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವು ಮಾನವನ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಹಾನಿಕಾರಕವನ್ನಾಗಿಯೂ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಮಾನವನು ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕರವಾದ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಅವನು ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು. ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದುವುದಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಮಾನವನೇ ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಈಗ ಉತ್ತಮ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡುವುದರ ಬದಲು, ಅಹಿತಕರವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಮಾಡಿ, ಪರಿಸರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯವನ್ನುಂಟು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಉತ್ತಮವಾಗಿಟ್ಟು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯಪೂರ್ಣವಾದ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸ ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಪರಿಸರದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

“ಪರಿಸರ ಎಂಬ ಪದದ ಅರ್ಥವೇನು? ಅದರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಎಂದರೇನು? ಅದನ್ನು ಏಕೆ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಬೇಕು? ಹಾಗೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂಬುದಾದ ಕೆಲವು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳ ಉತ್ತರವನ್ನು ನಾವು ಕಂಡು ಕೊಂಡರೆ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದೆನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

“ಪರಿಸರ” ಅಂದರೆ ಮಾನವನು ಜೀವಿಸುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಥವಾ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಭೂಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಲ ಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಪರಿಸರ ಎಂದು ಕರೆಯಬಹುದು. ಪರಿಸರವು ಮಾನವನ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯದ ಜೀವನದ ಮೇಲೆ ತುಂಬಾ ಪ್ರಭಾವವನ್ನು ಬೀರಿದೆ. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಪೂರ್ಣವಾದ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸುವುದೇ ಪರಿಸರ. ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ, ಶುಚಿಯಾದ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ಮಲವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವು ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಹಿತಕರವಾದ ಅಥವಾ ಮಲಿನಗೊಂಡ ಪರಿಸರವು ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯವನ್ನಾಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ತನ್ನ ನಿಲುವಿಗೋಸ್ಕರ ಅಥವಾ ತನ್ನ ಆಯುಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೋಸ್ಕರ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನ ನಿರ್ಮಲವಾಗಿರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಮನುಷ್ಯನು, ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ನೀಡಿದ ಸುಂದರವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು, ಅದೇ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ತನ್ನ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಕ್ಕೋಸ್ಕರ, ತನ್ನ ಸಂಪತ್ತಿಗೋಸ್ಕರ ಹಾಳು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾನೆ ಎಂದರೆ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯವಾಗಬಹುದಲ್ಲವೇ? ಆದರೆ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯಪಡಬೇಕಾದ ಅಗತ್ಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಯಾಕೆಂದರೆ ಇದು ಸತ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನ ನಿತ್ಯ ನಮಗೆ ಗೋಚರಿಸುವಂತದ್ದು.

ಪರಿಸರ ಹೇಗೆ ಮಲಿನಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದರೆ ನಮಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಹೇಗೆ ಅದು ಮಲಿನವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು. ಮೊದಲನೆಯದಾಗಿ, ಅರಣ್ಯಗಳ ನಾಶ, ನಗರಗಳ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವಂತಹ ಅಥವಾ ದೇಶವನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೀಕರಣ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹಲವು ವಿಧಾನಗಳಿಂದ ಪರಿಸರವು ಮಲಿನಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಮಲಿನೀಕರಣವು ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಆಯುಷ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಶಯವಿಲ್ಲ.

ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗೀಗ ತುಂಬಾ ಮರಣಗಳು ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಹೇಗೆ? ಮೊದಲನೆಯದಾಗಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಪಘಾತಗಳಿಂದ, ಎರಡನೆಯದಾಗಿ ರೋಗ ರುಜಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವೇನು? ಒಂದೇ ಉತ್ತರ “ಪರಿಸರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ” ಹೇಗೆ? ವಾಹನಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಓಡಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಅಪಘಾತಗಳು ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಾಹನಗಳಿಂದ ಬರುವ ‘ಹೊಗೆ’ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಮಲಿನಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇರೆ ಆಧಾರ ಬೇಕಾಗಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ತೋರುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರುಷ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಜನ “ಮಲೇರಿಯಾ” ಜ್ವರದಿಂದ ಸಾಯುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಕಾರಣವೇನು? ‘ಪರಿಸರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ’, ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ, ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ದೆಹಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಂಭವಾಗಿ ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಹರಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅನೇಕರ ಸಾವಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾದ “ಡೆಂಗ್ಯೂ ಜ್ವರ” ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವೇನು? ಆಲೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡದೆಯೇ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಬಹುದು ‘ಪರಿಸರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ’ ಅಂತ, ಅಮೇರಿಕಾ, ಜಪಾನ್, ರಶ್ಯದಂತ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಜೀವನ ಮಟ್ಟವು ಭಾರತಕ್ಕಿಂತ ತುಂಬಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ, ಭಾರತದ ಜನ ಜೀವನ ಮಟ್ಟವು (ಆಯುಷ್ಯ) ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರಲು ಕಾರಣವೇನು? ಒಂದೇ ಉತ್ತರ “ಪರಿಸರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ” ಸರಿ, ಹಾಗಾದರೆ, ಈ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸಬೇಡವೇ? ಬೇಕು. ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕು. ಹೇಗೆ?

ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಬೇಕು? ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಮೂಡುವಾಗ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಜನರ ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಆಶಯವೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಅದು ಸರಕಾರದ ಕೆಲಸ, ಅದು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಕೆಲಸ. ಸರಿ ಹಾಗಾದರೇ, ಸರಕಾರ ಯಾವುದು? ಯಾರದು? ಕಾನೂನು ಯಾವುದು? ಹೇಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ? ಅದು ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ? ಇದಕ್ಕೆಲ್ಲ ಉತ್ತರ “ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರು” ಅಂತ ತಾನೇ? ಅಥವಾ “ಭಾರತೀಯ ಪ್ರಜೆಗೆ” ಅಂತ ತಾನೇ ಅಥವಾ “ನಮಗೆ” ಅಂತ ಅಲ್ಲವೇ? ಹೌದು ಖಂಡಿತ ಹೌದು. ಸರಕಾರ ನಾವು, ಕಾನೂನು ನಮ್ಮದು ಹಾಗೂ ನಮಗೆ ಇರುವಂತದ್ದು ಅಲ್ಲವೇ?

ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡುವುದು ಜನರ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ. ಜನರು ಅದನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸರಕಾರದ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಕೆಲಸ. ಅಂದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಬಹುದು. ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಸರಕಾರದ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕೆಲಸವಲ್ಲ ಅಥವಾ ಅದು ಕಾನೂನಿನಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವ ಕೆಲಸವಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದುದು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ಅಂದರೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಪ್ರಜೆಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ. ಸರಿ, ಹಾಗಾದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಪರಿಸರದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು?

ತನ್ನ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಪೂರ್ಣವನ್ನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ತನ್ನ ಪರಿಸರದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅವನು ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕು, ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ತನ್ನ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯವೆಂದು ತಿಳಿದು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

ಮೊದಲನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಅವನು ತನ್ನ ಮನೆಯ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಯಾಗಿಟ್ಟು, ಕೊಳಚೆ ಕೇರಿಗಳು ಉಂಟಾಗದಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಇದು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಅಥವಾ ಸರಕಾರದ ಕೆಲಸವೇ? ಅಲ್ಲಾ ಖಂಡಿತಾ ಅಲ್ಲ. ಅದು ಜನರ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಪರಿಸರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ತಡೆಯಬಹುದಲ್ಲವೇ? ಅದರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಲ್ಲವೇ?

ಎರಡನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾನೂನಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗಬೇಕು. ಅಂದರೆ ತುಂಬಾ ಜನ ನಿಬಿಡವಾದ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವ ಜನರು (ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) ಕಸಕಡ್ಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಅನಗತ್ಯ, ಕೊಳೆಯುವಂತಹ ವಸ್ತುಗಳು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಖರಿಸಿ, ಅದನ್ನು ನಾಶಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಅಂತಹ 'ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ' ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವುದು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಲಸ, ಆದರೆ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕರಿಸಬೇಕಾದುದು, ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಬೇಕಾದುದು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ, ಹಾಗಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸರ ಮಲಿನವಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯೇ? ಇಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮೂರನೆಯದಾಗಿ ದಿನದಿಂದ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೀಕರಣದ ಕಡೆ ನೋಡೋಣ. ಈ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡದಿರಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ? ಇಲ್ಲ, ಖಂಡಿತಾ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಯಾಕೆಂದರೆ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯು ದೇಶವನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯತ್ತ ಸಾಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ, ಜನರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುತ್ತದೆ, ಬಡತನ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನೆಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಪರಿಸರದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯ. ಆದರೆ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಜನವಾಸವಿಲ್ಲದ ದೂರದ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ, ಅದರಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಹೊಗೆ, ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಶ್ಮಲಗಳು ಜನವಾಸವಿರುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾರದಂತೆ, ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಇದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಲಸವೂ ಹೌದು. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನೆರವಾಗಬೇಕಾದುದು ಜನರ ಕೆಲಸ, ಅಂದರೆ ಜನರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ, ಕಾನೂನಿಗೆ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು, ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾನೂನನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಬದಲು 'ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ' ಪರಿಹಾರವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕೆಲಸವಲ್ಲ, ಅದು "ನಮ್ಮ ದೂ ಕೂಡಾ" ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದು, ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಪ್ರಜೆಯು ಪರಿಸರದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಾಗಿ ದುಡಿಯಬೇಕು, ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಹಾಗೂ ನೆರವಾಗಬೇಕು, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ತನ್ನ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ ಲಾಭಕ್ಕೋಸ್ಕರ, ಗಲಾಟೆ, ಗಲಭೆ (ಬಂದ್) ಮುಂತಾದವುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವುದಲ್ಲ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯರಾದ ನಾವು ನಮ್ಮ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಯಾಗಿಟ್ಟು, ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಜೊತೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಜೊತೆ ಕೈಗೂಡಿಸಿ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡೋಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯುತವಾದ "ನವ ಭಾರತದ" ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡೋಣ, ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಪೂರ್ಣವಾದ ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯಯುತವಾದ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸೋಣ, ಇದಕ್ಕೋಸ್ಕರ "ಪರಿಸರ ಜೀವಿಯಾದ" ನಾವು ಅವಿರತ ದುಡಿಯೋಣ.

“ಮಂಗಳಂ”

ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕನೂನಿನಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ?

ದೇವನಂದಿನಿ ಮೂರ್ತಿ

ಅಂತಿಮ ಯಲ್‌ಯಲ್. ಬಿ. (5 ವರ್ಷದ ಕೋರ್ಸ್)

“ಈ ಭೂಮಿಯು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬನ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ, ಆದರೆ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥವನ್ನು.”

- ಮಹಾತ್ಮಾ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿ

ಇಂದು ನಾವು ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈ ಭೂಮಿಯ ನೆಲ, ಜಲ, ವಾಯು ಮಂಡಲ, ಪಶು, ಪಕ್ಷಿ, ಮಾನವರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ತೀರಾ ಹದಗೆಟ್ಟು ಹೋಗಿ ಹಾಳು ಸುರಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ನಮ್ಮ ಪರಿಸರಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂಕ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿಗಳಾಗಿ ನಿಂತಿರುವ ಈ ಸಂದಿಗ್ಧ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ಮಹಾತ್ಮಾ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿಯವರ ಮಾತು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯ ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿ ಅನುಕರಣಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರೆ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ತಪ್ಪೇನಿಲ್ಲ.

ಅನಾದಿಕಾಲದಿಂದಲೂ ಮರಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ದೇವತಾ ಸ್ವರೂಪಿಗಳೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿ, ಪೂಜಿಸಿದ ನಾಡು ನಮ್ಮ ಭಾರತ. ಅಂತಹ ನಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದು ಸಮೃದ್ಧ ಕಾನನಗಳು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಡ ಸಮೇತ ಉರುಳಿಬಿದ್ದು ಬೋಳು ಬೋಳಾಗಿರುವುದು ಒಂದು ವಿಪರಾಸ! ಈ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸರದ ಸಮತೋಲನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾದಂತಹ ಮರಗಿಡಗಳ ನಾಶ ಪರಿಸರ ನಾಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯಾಯಿತು. ಮುಂದಿನ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿನ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಶಾಹಿಗಳ ಜೇಬು ತುಂಬಿಸಲು, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲರಾದಂತಹ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ತುಂಬಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾಬಿಟ್ಟಿಯಾಗಿ ತಲೆ ಎತ್ತಿ ನಿಂತಂತಹ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಬೃಹತ್ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು ಪರಿಸರ ನಾಶದ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಿಂಹಪಾಲನ್ನು ನ್ಯಾಯಯುತವಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ತಪ್ಪೇನಿಲ್ಲ!

ನಮ್ಮ ಇಡೀ ಭಾರತವನ್ನು ಸಮಗ್ರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಸಮಷ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಮುಷ್ಟಿಯ ಗಾತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದು ಹೇಳಬೇಕೆಂದರೆ, ಕಾಶ್ಮೀರದಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು, ಕನ್ಯಾಕುಮಾರಿಯವರೆಗೂ ಪರಿಸರ ತೀರಾ ಹಾಳಾಗಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ವಿಹಾರಸ್ಥಳಗಳು ನಾಶದ ಗುಂಡಿಯಾಗಿವೆ, ಪುಣ್ಯ ತೀರ್ಥ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳು ಹೊಲಸಿನ ಕೊಂಪೆಯಾಗಿವೆ!

“ಊರು ತಿಳಿಯದವನು ದೇಶ ಕಾಣೆಯಾನೇ” ಅನ್ನುವ ಒಂದು ಗಾದೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಅಂದರೆ ತಾನಿರುವ ಊರಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೇ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಯದವನು ದೇಶದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅದೇನು ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ ಎಂದು. ಅದರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿಯೋ ಅಲೆದಾಡುವ, ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸುವ ಮೊದಲು, ನಾವು ವಾಸಿಸುವ, ನಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದ ಈ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪರಿಸರದ ಕುರಿತು ಒಂದು ತರ್ಕಪೂರ್ಣ, ಕೂಲಂಕುಶ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಬೀರುವುದು ಅಗತ್ಯವೆಂದು ನನ್ನ ಭಾವನೆ. ಯಾಕೆಂದರೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯೂ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬ ತಾನೇ?

ನಮ್ಮ ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪರಿಸರ ತೀರಾ ಹಾಳಾಗಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆಯೆನ್ನುವುದು ನಂಬಲಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದರೂ ನಂಬಲೇಬೇಕಾದಂತಹ ಒಂದು ವಾಸ್ತವಿಕ ಕಟು ಸತ್ಯ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣಗಳೂ ಹಲವಾರು.

ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಸರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕಾಳಜಿ ಇರದೇ ಇರುವುದು. ನಮ್ಮ ಇಡೀ ದೇಶದ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಜನರು ಮಾಡುವ ಹಾಗೇ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಜನರೂ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಊರ ತೀರಾ ಹೊರಗೆ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ದು ನಾಶಪಡಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಊರ ಸೀಮೆಯ ಒಳಗೆ ಗುಡ್ಡ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸಮೀಪದ ವಾಮಂಜೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ “ಪಿಲಿಕುಳ ನಿಸರ್ಗಧಾಮ” ಇದಕ್ಕೊಂದು ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮ ಉದಾಹರಣೆ, ಆ ನಿಸರ್ಗಧಾಮದ ಬಳಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಇಡೀ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗುಡ್ಡಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹುಡುಕಿ ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಇಂತಹ ವಸ್ತುಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ಕೈಗನ್ನಡಿ ಹಿಡಿಯುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಇನ್ನೂ ಅದೆಷ್ಟು ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬರಬಹುದೋ ಏನೋ?

ಇನ್ನು ಪರಿಸರ ನಾಶಕ್ಕೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಿಂಹಪಾಲು ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು. ಈ ಮಿತಿಮೀರಿದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರಿನ ಬೀಡಾಗಿದ್ದ ಈ ನಮ್ಮ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇಂದು ಬೋಳು ಬೋಳಾಗಿ ಸ್ಮಶಾನಸದೃಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಬೃಹತ್ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು ಹೊರ ಹಾಕುವ ವಿಷಯುಕ್ತ ಹೊಗೆ ಮತ್ತು

ಮಲಿನ ನೀರಿನಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಇಡೀ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಗಾಳಿ, ನೀರು, ಭೂಮಿ, ಪ್ರಾಣಿ, ಪಕ್ಷಿ, ಜನ ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಡೀ ಪರಿಸರ ಮಲಿನತೆಯ ಮುಸುಕಿನೊಳಗೆ ಮುಚ್ಚಿಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಜನರ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಸೋಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈ ಮಿತಿಮೀರಿದ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು ನಿಜ ಅರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನರ ಕೊರಳಿಗೆ ಉರುಳಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ದುಷ್ಪರಿಣಾಮದ ತೀವ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಮನಗಂಡು ಅದರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಧ್ವನಿ ಎತ್ತಿ ಜನಾಂಗದೋಲನೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸತೊಡಗಿದ ಪರಿಸರವಾದಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ದ್ವೇಷಿಗಳೆಂದು ಕರೆಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದಂತಹ ವಿಡಂಬನಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಮ್ಮದು.

ಇಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮಗೆದುರಾಗುವ, ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಚಿಂತನೆಗೀಡುಮಾಡುವ ಒಂದು ಅತಿ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ನಿರಂತರ ಪರಿಸರ ನಾಶಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊನೆ ಇಲ್ಲವೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಪರಿಸರದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೆ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಲೋಚಿಸಿದಾಗ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಎರಡು ಬಗೆಯದು. ಒಂದು, ಜನರ ಸಹಕಾರ. ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ನೆರವು.

ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜನರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಯ ಸೊಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ದೃಢವಾದ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಬರುವುದು ಅದು ಇತರರಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ. ನಮ್ಮ ಪರಿಸರ ಉಳಿದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಾವು ಉಳಿಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ ಅನ್ನುವ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಬೇಕು. ಪರಿಸರವಾದಿಗಳು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹೋರಾಡುವುದು ಅವರ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲು ನಮ್ಮ ಒಳಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಅರಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಭಾರತದ ಹೆಸರಾಂತ ದಾರ್ಶನಿಕ ಜಿಡ್ಡು ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿಯವರು ಹೇಳುವಂತೆ “ಈ ಭೂಮಿ ನಮಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಹಿರಿಯರಿಂದ ಬಂದ ಬಳುವಳಿ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ ಅದು ನಾವು ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿನ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸಾಲವೂ ಹೌದು” ಅನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥೈಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅದನ್ನು ಇರುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಇರಿಸಿ, ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದರೆ ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಉತ್ತಮ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾದಂತಹ ಗುರುತರ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೆ ಇದೆ ಅನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಮರೆಯದೆ ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯವೆಸಗಿದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪರಿಸರ ಉಳಿದೀತು, ಜನರೂ ಬದುಕಿಯಾರು.

ಆದರೆ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜನರ ಪಾತ್ರ ಗುರುತರವಾದದ್ದು ಎಂದ ಮಾತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾನೂನಿನಿಂದ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಅನ್ನುವ ಸಿನಿಕತನ ಕೂಡಾ ಸಲ್ಲದು. ನಮ್ಮ ಈ ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ ದೇಶದ ಸುಲಲಿತ ನಡೆಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾದಂತಹ ಅವಿಭಾಜ್ಯ ಅಂಗ ನಮ್ಮ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ. ತೀರಾ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನವರೆಗೂ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪುಡಾರಿಗಳ ಕೈಗೊಂಬೆಯಾಗಿ ನಿಷ್ಕ್ರಿಯಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ನಮ್ಮ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಇಂದು ಮೈಕೊಡವಿ ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತಿದೆ. ತನ್ನ ದುರ್ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಸಿ ಮುಟ್ಟಿಸುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ ತನ್ನ ಇರುವನ್ನು ಸಾಬೀತುಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ತನ್ನೊಲಕ ಸುತ್ತ ಕವಿದಿರುವ ಈ ಕರಿ ಕಾರ್ಮೋಡದ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಒಂದು ಭರವಸೆಯ ಬೆಳ್ಳಿ ಕಿರಣವಾಗಿ ಗೋಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾನೂನು ಬಂಡವಾಳಶಾಹಿಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರಾದಂತಹ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಿಂದ ಪರಿಸರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕಷ್ಟಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಅನ್ನುವುದರ ಅರ್ಥ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯು ಎಲ್ಲಿಯೋ ತನ್ನ ಹಿಡಿತ ತಪ್ಪಿದೆ ಅನ್ನುವುದು. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಜನತೆಯ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಬಿಗಿ ಕಾನೂನಿನ ನೆರವೂ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಮ್ಮ ಪರಿಸರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಗಿ ಬರಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಕಾನೂನು ನೆರವು ನೀಡುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಉಂಟಾದೀತು

“ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ತಂಗಳಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲೂ ತಂಪು
ಕಳ್ಳಿಗಳ ನಡುವೆಯೇ ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಪು”

ಎಂದು ಆಶಾವಾದಿಗಳಾದ ನಾವು ಆಶಿಸೋಣವೇ?

ನಿಸರ್ಗ

ಸೈಮನ್ ಸಿ. ಎ.
ತ್ಯತೀಯ ಯಲ್‌ಯಲ್. ಬಿ.
(5 ವರ್ಷದ ಕೋರ್ಸ್)

ಕಾನನ ಸಮುದ್ರವಿರೆ
ಹೆಬ್ಬಂಡೆ ಜಲವಾರಿಯೆಡೆ
ಬೀಸುವ ಗಾಳಿ, ಸಂಗೀತ ಸುಧೆ
ಜಲಚರ, ವನಚರ ಸಂಗವಿರೆ
ಹಿಮರಾಶಿ, ವರ್ಷಧಾರೆ
ಕೊನೆಯಿಲ್ಲದ ಸೂರ್ಯರಾಶಿಯ ಸ್ಪರ್ಶವಿರೆ
ನಿಸರ್ಗ ಮಾತೆಯ ಸಂಗ ಎನಗಿರೆ

ಮರೆವೆನು ನನ್ನ ನಾನಾರೆಂದು
ಬರೆವೆನು ಕವಿತೆ ನಿಸರ್ಗವೇನೆಂದು
ಅನುಭವಿಸುವೆ ನಿನ್ನ ಮಮತೆ
ರುದ್ರ ರಮಣೀಯತೆ
ಆಸ್ವಾದಿಸುವೆ ನಿನ್ನ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ ವಿಶಾಲತೆ
ನಿಸರ್ಗಮಾತೆ

ಮೋಡರಾಶಿಗಳ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ಸಿಡಿಲಂಚಿನ ಬೆಳಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ
ತೆರೆಗಳಬ್ಬರದಲ್ಲಿ
ಜಲಪಾತಗಳ ಧುಮುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ
ಹಕ್ಕಿ ಪಕ್ಷಿಗಳ ಉಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ
ಸುಂಟರಗಾಳಿಯ ಬೀಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ
ವನಸುಮಗಳ ಸುವಾಸನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ಹಣ್ಣು ಹಂಪಲುಗಳ ಸುರುಚಿಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲೂ ನೀನೇ
ನಿಸರ್ಗ ಮಾತೆ
ನೀ ನಮ್ಮಯ ಜೀವಧಾತೆ
ಕನಸು ಮನಸ್ಸುಗಳ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಕರ್ತೆ
ಸಕಲ ಕಲೆ ಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಉಗಮಕರ್ತೆ

ವಂದಿಸುವೆ ನಿನಗೆ ಶಿರಬಾಗಿ
ಮಾತೇ, ಮುತ್ತಿಕ್ಕುವೆ ನಿನಗೆ ಮನಸಾರೆ
ವಂದನೆ ವಂದನೆ
ನಿಸರ್ಗ ಮಾತೆ



- Photo I - Addressing the gathering by Sri M. V. Shankar Bhat President, Mangalore Bar Association at FREE LEGAL AID Camp, Jokatte.
- Photo II - Sri B.M. Anil Kumar Dy. Commissioner, Mangalore Inauguarating the Aids Awareness Programme.
- Photo III - Mock Trial In Progress



Mrs. Vandana Rao, National Athlet inaugurating the Meet.



Hindustani Classical music by Ms. Tripti Mukharji under Mangalore SPIC Makay Chapter



A view of Yakshotsava - 96



Cycle Rally by NSS Volunteer under Aids awareness programme.