

Vishwa-Manava Swami Vivekananda Prathima Prathistapana Samiti Trust

C/o Ramakrishna Math, Bangalore – 560 019

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Swami Vivekananda has been recognized as the Patriot-Prophet Saint of India. His life and message has been like a beacon light of inspiration to all our national and international leaders, both past and present. His message of man-making and character-building has been a guiding spirit to all youth. This is amply reflected in the fact that the Government of India declared the birthday of Swami Vivekananda as the 'National Youth Day' in 1985.



An artist's impression of the proposed Statue and madapam

We, the members of the 'Vishwa-Manava Swami Vivekananda Prathima Prathistapana Samiti Trust' under the guidance of Ramakrishna Math, Bangalore 560019 have taken up the project of installation and consecration of Swami Vivekananda's statue at the Ramakrishna Square, Basavanagudi.

On our fervent appeal, the Government of Karnataka and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike have granted us permission to install the statue and maintain the park. We seek your cooperation and help in making this project a success. We are confident that the installation of the statue of Swami Vivekananda will be a source of inspiration to the thousands of people who pass by this

square daily. It will be the endeavour of the Trust to make this spot a blend of tradition and modernity. A venture of this nature calls for substantial funds. The expenses have been estimated at Rs.25 lakhs and the details are as follows:

- ♦ Bronze Statue 9.5 feet, weighing approximately 1000 kg
- ♦ Pedestal and mandapam with stone claddings
- ♦ Landscaping of the park and traffic islands including Lighting
- ♦ Maintenance and upkeep of the Statue and Gardens

We request you to kindly contribute generously for this noble venture. All Cheques / Drafts may be made in the name of 'Vishwa-Manava Swami Vivekananda Prathima Prathistapana Samiti Trust', Bangalore. All contributions are exempt from Income tax under Section 80G of the Income Act 1961.

Yours in the Service of the Lord,

Swami Japananda
Swami Japananda

Managing Trustee, VMSVPPS Trust



29-7-2007 - Bhumi Pooja of the proposed Statue and Mandapam – H E Sri T.N.Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka, Srimat Swami Harshanandaji, President, R.K.Math and other dignitaries.



12-1-2008 - National Youth Day organized by the SVPPS Trust – H E Sri Rameshwar Thakur, Governor of Karnataka, Srimat Swami Harshanandaji, President, R.K.Math and other dignitaries.

Under the guidance of :

Srimat Swami Harshanandaji Maharaj, President, Ramakrishna Math

Chief Patrons :

H.E. Sri T.N.Chaturvedi
Former Governor of Karnataka

Justice Sri M.N.Venkatachalaiah
Former Chief Justice of India and Former Chairman
National Human Rights Commission

Justice Dr. M. Rama Jois
Former Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High
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Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre Shree Sharadadevi Eye Hospital & Research Centre Sri Ramakrishna Heart Care Clinic

(units of Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama)

Co-sponsored by : Damien Foundation India Trust

Swami Vivekananda Nagar, Pavagada - 561 202

December - 2007 (Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec 2007)



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Spiritual activities



4-5th Sep: The Janmashtami and Sri Krishna Jayanti were celebrated on the two days at the Sevashrama in an atmosphere of devotion and gaiety. Beautiful decorations and singing of Shyamanama Sankeertan were among the special features.

Satsang at Shree Ma Sharada Seva Trust

'Service of God through man' is what Swami Vivekananda ordained his followers to take up, which indeed is the mission of our Ramakrishna Sevashrama and its service wing, the SVIRHC. He, however, made it amply clear that spirituality would form the very foundation of their every activity. Swamiji, the driving force of our institution, is a stickler to this ideal. In spite of his hectic schedules, one would seldom find him missing the bhajans or the committed classes at the Ashrama. "If we give a go bye to these, then all our efforts or successes would amount to nothing. We must constantly sublimate our every activity through prayer and self surrender", says Japanandaji. In spite of the numerous projects that he is busy with, he frequently makes time for spiritual retreats at far-flung locations at the request of devotees.

One such satsang that he graced was convened at Bangalore on the 27th October by the ardent inmates of Shree Ma Sharada Seva Trust. Addressing an enthusiastic gathering of devotees, Rev. Swamiji spoke passionately on Mother Sharadadevi as the embodiment of Divine Love. This was followed by a beautiful bhajan session, lead by him. The atmosphere was so charged with devotional vibrations that the Swamiji confided that he himself felt elevated and blessed.

Special arrivals and Service activities

23, 24 Nov: RNTCP Training

Its constant endeavour at excellence in every aspect of its activity has helped SVIRHC evolve into a reputed training centre, recognized by the government of Karnataka. Thus we are able to host a number of programmes on health education and reorientation and scientific seminars for medical officers and other personnel. On the 23rd & 24th November, training in various aspects of TB treatment was organized for the field supervisors and pharmacists of Madhugiri and Pavagada taluks, under the leadership of Dr. K. R. Govinda, assisted by the STs and STLs. Dr. Rangaswami, DTO, visited and reviewed the training programme.



Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre
Revised National TB Control Programme, Pavagada TB Unit
Training Programme on 23rd & 24th November 2007

27 Nov: Dr.E.N.Iyengar, UK

Dr. Iyengar, a reputed physician settled in the UK, has been one of our well-wishers there, lending valuable support to our projects. It was our privilege that he came down to Pavagada with his wife, though on a short visit, to witness the goings on here. The couple spent some time with us, exchanging views, and appreciating the developments.



29 Nov: Dr. Balaji Naik, WHO Consultant and Dr.H.V.Rangaswami, District Tuberculosis Officer, Tumkur district.

Such has been our amiable and fruitful relationship with government health officials that any of them passing by our area invariably pay us a call. Thus it was that Dr. Balaji Naik, a senior official in charge of several districts for RNTCP, made time to visit us on the 29th, and hold a review. Apparently, Dr. Naik was quite pleased with the findings.

1 Dec: Arogya Raksha training

A new health insurance initiative "Arogya Raksha Yojana," providing an umbrella of protection to the vast rural population catered to by us, was to be launched at our institution, by the end of December. Envisioned to make first-rate health services affordable for the masses, this plan is the brainchild of Dr. Devi Shetty of Narayana Hrudayalaya and Mrs. Kiran Mazumdar of Biocon. To prepare ground for this grand project, Mr. Umesh Gowda and team from Biocon conducted a day-long pre-launch training for our staff. It was indeed a very good experience for all to learn the concepts of micro-level health insurance and its practical aspects.

2 Dec: Dr. Suryanarayana Setty speaks out on Responsible Citizenship

Our friend and supporter, nay, a core member of our institution, Dr. R. S. Suryanarayana Setty was recently in India, and despite his busy schedule, was kind enough to be with us a few days. He went around with our health camp



personnel to many interior villages, involving himself actively. Having acceded to our request to address us, Dr. Setty, a fountainhead of inspiration, spoke to an assembly of devotees and volunteers. The subject he chose was "How citizens can involve in social services." Coming from a man who has been a living example of the theme, the talk was a practical elucidation of Swamiji's ideal of 'Renunciation and Service'.

3 Dec: Smt. Nagamma Keshavamurthy

A renowned philanthropist, social worker and former State minister, Smt. Nagamma Keshavamurthy arrived at our institution, accompanied by a group including Sri R. Bheemanand. She was here to acquaint herself with the silent revolution being brought about by Swami Japananda through the Ramakrishna Sevashrama and its sister organizations in this corner of Karnataka. Staying as our honoured guests for about two days, they went to the project sites and witnessed the progress. They were pleasantly surprised to see the scale and quality of services. Smt. Nagamma Keshavamurthy participated in the distribution of woolen rugs for the poor at our hospital as well as in the field.



3-7 Dec: Evaluation programme: Dr. Prabhakara Reddy and Mr. Naresh Kumar

Damien Foundation, our major sponsor-partner, keeps conducting appraisals of its ongoing projects from a pool of experts serving at various centres. Such a review at SVIRHC was recently carried out by Dr. B. Prabhakara Reddy, a senior medical officer in-charge of DFIT's Technical Support Team, Nellore, assisted by supervisor Mr. Naresh Kumar. The team undertook a meticulous review of the entire project, and came up with its recommendations and report. On the final day, putting forth his findings and views before our team, Dr. Reddy commended them for their dedicated and relentless efforts.



10 Dec: Bellur Gadadhar, Scotland

Mr. Bellur Gadadhar and family, our longtime friends from Scotland, UK, sprang a pleasant surprise on us by

Mrs. Rajyashree with SVIRHC should prove to be even more fruitful for all of us. Her contribution towards building a rehabilitation centre for blind children will certainly go for a long way in achieving our objectives.

Smt. Rajyashree accompanied by her very supportive husband Mr. Satish—a scientist at ISRO—came on a visit to our Centre at Pavagada. The couple also went with the health workers to the interior villages to acquaint themselves of the realities.

Dr. Ravi Krishna and Swamiji at the Third National Conference of Telemedicine Society of India

A telemedicine/teleconference facility is a prized asset, presently available only at elite hospitals. However, through the good offices of Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, and special consideration shown by ISRO—who valued our candidature highly—we have obtained one which can be run at very moderate costs. There is no doubt that this facility will raise the quality and dependability of our vital services by several notches, and makes the lives of the rural people that much more secure and livable.

In order to obtain more expertise in the use of this technology, SJ and chief medical consultant Dr. Ravi Krishna went, on invitation, to the National Conference of the Telemedicine Society of India, during 1-3 Nov 2007 at IIT, Chennai.

Mr. Wannas De Loore from Belgium

We have been fortunate to receive many goodwill visitors and volunteers from abroad, particularly the UK and Belgium. Recently (between Nov 07 and Jan 08), it was the turn of a young Belgian, Mr. Wannas De Loore, to be inspired enough to live with us for almost three months, fully engaged in the service of God in man. Loore is the grandson of our Belgian devotee-friends Mr. Rik Vanmechelen and Mrs. Marie Louise, who have been our close associates for over a decade. Mr. Rik was here way back in 1996 as a team leader and rendered invaluable service when the hospital building was coming up. He has not only kept touch with us ever since, but continues to



inspire others into the same path of devotion and service. It was following in his grandfather's footsteps that Loore, the young computer engineer, came to be with us. This was his maiden visit to India, but his sincerity and dedication were outstanding. Loore served in different wings of the hospital as well as in our PHC. He became so much a part of us, it was unbearable to let him leave when he had to. He has, however, promised to come back at the earliest opportunity of a long vacation. We are sure that he will keep his word, and even better, inspire many other youngsters to come and work for poor and neglected ones in this land of Swami Vivekananda.

Inauguration of Library and community hall at V. Agraharam

Dr. Hanumantharayappa, or Rayappa as he is known to his friends, from Andhra Pradesh, was a scientist in the Indian Statistical Institute during his earlier days. He was married to Smt. Jayamma from the remote village of V. Agraharam in the Amarapuram Madal. He lived in the US after his doctoral studies and came back to India to work as Professor & Head, Population Research Centre, Institute for Social and Economic Change. After the untimely demise of his dear wife, Dr. Rayappa was inspired to do something substantial for the society in her memory. Then he came out with a plan to build a community hall with library at his wife's hometown. It is indeed a tremendous service for the village, bereft of basic amenities, not even good connecting road. At the wish of Dr. Rayappa and the villagers, on 2 December 2007 Swamiji with his holy presence sanctified the place, and consecrated the impressive structure. Over 5000 devout men and women took part in the function and expressed their solidarity.

Heart surgeries

During the last four months, we were able to rescue two lives threatened by heart disease, through the services of Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty and his team of Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bangalore. The fortunate two—both from Pavagada taluk—are 2-year old Chi. Bhanu Prasad, S/o Thippeswami, Y.N. Hosakote, and young Kariyanna, 18, S/o Narasappa, T.N. Pet., Pavagada Taluk.



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Dr. K. Ravi Krishna DO
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Edited by :
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Dr. Ananth Rao, and Mrs. Rajyashree Satish of the Canara Bank Foundation. Dr. Chandrashekhar Shetty and Dr. Maiya in their speeches pointed out several issues of importance and credited the institutions and the personalities who conceived and facilitated this project. In her presidential remarks Smt. Usha Ganesh gave her perspectives on the issue, and said the government would stand solidly behind such efforts. The programme ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Bhattu, Sr. Consultant, Narayana Nethralaya.

Pediatric Eye Care Camps

Many of infants' and children's eye problems can be quite complex to treat. They fall under an exclusive branch of medicine, and must be handled by experts specializing in the subject, who are—unfortunately—not easy to find or enlist! We at SVIRHC are extremely fortunate to have one such specialist surgeon Dr. Mrs. Vasudha, MS, of Narayana Nethralaya, who has put her services at our disposal for the sake of Pavagada's children. Making the most of this offer, we have been utilizing her services regularly. In September (7th) and October (26th) she conducted two special pediatric eye camps at our eye hospital, when a large number of children came from far and near. As many as 12 children who needed surgical help were picked up and operated?. Dr Vasudha was supported by our own team of doctors headed by K. Ravi Krishna.



10-12 Sept. 07: DFIT officials in Bangalore

With regard to the newly started RNTCP (Bangalore Urban) plans, Dr. P. Krishnamurthy, Secretary, and Dr. P. Vijayakumar, Director, DFIT arrived at Bangalore for a meeting with Swamiji (10 September), in the presence of DTO of Tumkur and DMA. On the following two days, Rev. Swamiji also exchanged views with Dr.P.Vijayakumar, Director and Sri Kodandapani, Field investigator of DFIT, who conducted a field study. Many new ideas came up for discussion with these experts.

Gandhians at Venkatapura PHC

A micro-level village development programme was organized on 7th September in Venkatapura, in association with the Sarvodaya Sangha—an old movement that aims at the rejuvenation of Gandhian values and principles. All-round development of villages is one of its goals. Venerable Sri H. S. Doreswami, a nonagenarian Gandhian and close associate of this Sangha, came all the way from Bangalore

to take part in the inaugural function. He was accompanied by another respected statesman Sri M. Chandrashekhar, a former minister. The function was organized in the premises of our Swami Vivekananda PHC, and Sri V. Ugrappa, Hon'ble MLC, presided. Rev. Swamiji, who spoke in his role as the Chief Guest, highlighted the importance of addressing the poor man's health needs, who is deprived of even basic facility. The audience had an opportunity to interact closely with the dignitaries.

Earlier, the visitors went round the PHC and appreciated the sea-change brought about by Swamiji's team of dedicated souls.

Rations distributed at Amaravathi Leprosy Colony

The readers will remember that two years back we adopted a desolate leprosy colony near Davanagere, 250 kms from Pavagada. There were some 30 families, living in subhuman conditions, for whom beggary was the sole occupation. After our intervention, however, the picture has changed vastly, and the curse of begging erased. Help has poured in from the Kirpalani Foundation, South America and Progress Health World Wide, USA, and much has been done to improve the quality of their life. Our volunteers regularly visit this colony every month with adequate supply of food, clothes etc and ensure that the patients' day-to-day life is secured. Our recent visits for this purpose were on 6 Sept. and 18 Oct. 2007. The Damien Foundation too is playing its role by arranging to treat the wounds and ulcers of the patients, and deputed its Physiotherapist under the POD programme to help in rehabilitation. Though most of them continue to live in broken sheds and huts, some have advanced to the level of livestock rearing. Our next priority is to provide them basic dwelling units, for which we are also seeking the help of the local govt. authorities.

9 Oct: Smt. Rajyashree and Sri Satish at Pavagada

We are delighted to inform our friends that Smt. Rajyashree Satish, the well-known social worker, would be joining our ranks as the chief consultant for the proposed Blindness Rehabilitation Centre. It is an honour for us to have Smt. Rajyashree, who has strived like a one-woman army for the cause of the blind people, and successfully brought back vision to hundreds of them. We already know her as a person of immense capabilities. It was she who procured for our institution the valuable support of Deepa Foundation of Holland, led by Mrs. Helen. The new and closer association of



their visit. They in turn were as much pleased to watch all the developmental work going on at a rapid pace.



10 Dec: Ramakrishna and Gowri Mudgal



The same day we had another well-wisher couple, Sri Ramakrishna Mudgal and Smt. Gowri as our esteemed guests. The two took part in the distribution of winter wear for underprivileged children. Ramakrishna and family have been among our staunch supporters. And their support is not just verbal: every time they are here, their bags are full of goodies—either in the form of food or clothing—for the deprived patients.

12 Dec: World AIDS Day

Lately, our institution has been taking an active role in the implementation of IEC project with regard to AIDS awareness and prevention. As part of the district-wide initiative, a World AIDS Day function was organized by the district authorities at the Community Hall in Pavagada. Participating as a special invitee, Swamiji, our Chairman, gave an inspired talk calling upon the society to rid itself of the evils leading to and resulting from the dreaded disease. It undoubtedly left an indelible impact on the audience, predominantly youth and students.

12-12-07 – NSS camp at Gudibanda

An NSS camp organized at Swami Vivekananda Hospital, our PHC in Gudibanda, AP, offered some unique lessons for the town's Government Degree College students in the precepts and practise of community service. The camp was



inaugurated by Mr. G. Thippeswami, MLC, with Dr. Shantha and Dr. Jayaram—both UK returned locals—taking part as chief guests. Among the other dignitaries was Mr. Shivakumar, Member, ZP. As part of their project, the students cleaned up the hospital premises in and out, and planted many saplings giving it a fresh and healthy new look. Now the residents of Gudibanda can claim the hospital as their own, with even more justifiable pride!

Arogya Raksha Yojana

This is a health insurance plan designed specially for the poor villagers to provide quality health care at very nominal costs. It is being implemented by the Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre in association with the Biocon Foundation and Narayana Hrudayalaya, the sponsors, and ICICI Lombard Insurance company. For now the scheme will be limited to the taluks of Pavagada and Madhugiri, and is open to one and all.



The premium for an individual will be Rs. 120 per annum; for a family of three Rs. 450; and Rs. 480 for a four-member family. However, in case of those who are too poor to pay even this premium, SVIRHC will bear it. This would make the insured eligible to obtain subsidized treatment for practically any kind of ailment, and the more complicated cases will be taken care of by the Narayana Hrudayalaya, again at nominal rates.

The Launch: The scheme was formally inaugurated at our hospital complex on Friday, the 28th December 2008, at a well attended function in the presence of several dignitaries, including Dr. G. Venkataramaiah, President of SV Educational Institutions, Pavagada, and Sri G. S. Dharmapal, President of SSK Sangha, and Dr. V. K. Shivakumar, MD, our honorary medical officer.

Mrs. Rani Desai, chief of the Biocon Foundation, and one of the three Trustees of the scheme (along with Rev. Swamiji and Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty) presided over. Justice P. Krishna Bhat, Principal and Sessions Judge, Tumkur dt, was our Chief Guest.

Launching the scheme, Justice Krishna Bhat lauded the widening range of services of the Sevashrama in the State and in Andhra Pradesh.

Among the 350 people—many of them members of various ‘Sthree Shakthi’ self-help groups—who attended, 65 enrolled themselves as beneficiaries soon after inauguration, and received the Arogya Raksha cards.

Expressing her happiness that a worthy scheme was coming into effect, Mrs. Desai said her Foundation would gladly support many more healthcare projects of the Sevashrama.

Dr. G. Venkataramaiah, a leading practitioner, described how the scheme was a boon to the common people.

TB control in Bangalore Metro Region: DFIT and SVIRHC to assist Government

The Damien Foundation India Trust is a veteran in providing technical and material support for health projects in this country. Over the decades, it has rendered yeomen service at various regions including in Bihar, Jharkhand, AP and Karnataka and helped save countless lives. We at SVIRHC have had an extremely satisfying and fruitful relationship with them, which has produced great results in our project areas around Pavagada, especially in the implementation of the Central Government sponsored RNTCP (Revised National Tuberculosis Project). Realizing this, the government (in 2002) roped us (with advisory/supervisory role) in the RNTCP of Bangalore Urban district, where our role again proved highly successful. The result is, now we are asked to shoulder a much bigger responsibility of covering all the three districts of the Capital; i.e. Bangalore Urban, Rural and Metro, which means catering to an 80-lakh population spread over a wide area. This again, consists of a vastly heterogeneous population, with many communities living in dire poverty, far removed from the glitter of the city. Then there are pockets of penury within the Metro region. It’s a challenging task, more so because scaling up our own resources to this size is not easy while delivering on quality and time schedules, but we have gracefully accepted it.

It is reassuring that DFIT is solidly with us. And within DFIT if we must single out one name it is Dr. P. Krishnamurthy, its Secretary. Here we have a man of rare calibre, who can single-handedly raise the spirits of the team and get the best out of every one. His leadership inspires a sense of pride and purpose in all. This is going to be of great practical value, especially since we will be working in close coordination with another agency—the Government machinery and its staff, who have the all-important role.

The RNTC Project at Bangalore, being run by the State health department since inception, has definitely covered a lot of ground. The Government, however, wants to electrify the movement, give it the boost required for the

benefits to reach the intended beneficiaries. This, it believes, can best be done through a not-for-profit organization like ours, fired with missionary zeal. We have no doubt that in association with Damien Foundation we shall realize this belief.

Launch of the Newborn Screening Project

Newborn screening is an idea which promises to take us a long way in our quest for wellness of the masses, by rooting out several maladies in children at the earliest stages. The method, which is widely practised in developed communities, involves taking blood sample from the newborn, and conducting a few tests in a specially equipped laboratory. There are some rare but



serious medical conditions in children which must be preempted for them to grow into healthy adults. An affected baby can look perfectly healthy, but if not detected and treated, these can lead to mental retardation, slow growth, and even death. However, ignorance of these facts and high cost of screening—of over Rs.5000 for every child—are coming in the way of this procedure gaining popularity. And in a perennially backward region like Pavagada, it is not even heard of!

This would have remained out of our purview, too, partly because it was not our focus area, and then the high costs involved. But it was Dr. Devi Prasada Shetty, whose sympathies for the poor is legendary, who urged us to take up this cause with the seriousness it deserved. The offer came, of course, with the assurance of active support from his side, supplementing our role. Most importantly, he came forward to get the test done practically free of charge to the beneficiaries at his hospital. This would be applicable to each and every child born in Pavagada Taluk, at any hospital or nursing home, regardless of any other factor. Now, that’s indeed a large-hearted offer! So, for the test costing over Rs.5000, the parents would be charged just a token amount of Rs. 200, it was agreed. The responsibility of collecting and delivering the blood sample, again totally free, would be on SVIRHC. Apart

from these, if there are issues of post screening treatments—clinical as well as surgical—these would again be our joint obligation, however complex or expensive.

This project was conceived and is being guided by eminent physician and researcher Dr. Anantha Rao, PhD, FRS, FAMIC, NAMS, who heads the Metabolic Diseases & Research division at Narayana Hrudayalaya. It is not just his academic achievements or practical excellence that distinguish him, but his extremely humane and considerate attitude towards the poor rural folk. This project will make a vital facility extremely affordable to them, which otherwise is the preserve of the urban elite. The blood samples are to be tested at Dr. Rao’s lab and the results handed over to the parents, and the necessary instructions, if any, passed on. This gesture of Dr. Devi Prasada Shetty and Dr. Anantha Rao, as we think about its implications, is so heartwarming!

So, this Newborn Screening programme was launched at our hospital on the 2nd October 2007, the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti. Our well-wishers are well aware that it has become a custom with us to celebrate the birthday of the Father of the Nation every year in a befitting manner—usually with the launch of a new welfare project.

In the morning, a colourful ceremony was held in our hospital premises, with hundreds of villagers including women and children in presence. Sri P. Krishna Bhat, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Tumkur, formally launched the project, while Dr. Anantha Rao graced the occasion as our Chief Guest. Several government officers, and Dr. G. Venkataramaiah representing the private practitioners of Pavagada Taluk, were also present.

Coinciding with this momentous event a day-long women’s and children’s camp had been organized. It was managed by experienced doctors and specialists. Apart from our own Dr. V. K. Shivakumar, MD, we availed the special services of Dr. Mahalakshmi, MD, Dr. Bhavani, Dr. H. S. Lalitha and Dr. Rekha for the camp, which saw a large turnout of beneficiaries.

In the evening, the local IMA chapter organized a CME programme on newborn screening for the medical fraternity, including all the private and government doctors at our hospital. It was monitored by Dr. Anantha Rao, and facilitated by our staff doctors K. Ravi Krishna, G. Visveswaraiah, Syed Ali Akbar and S. P. Chandrakanth.

Pavagada Pediatric Eye Disease Study

As described in the previous issue of our Newsletter, this is another ambitious project of far-reaching effects, that would serve not just our target population, but provide a

valuable reference model for the entire country to emulate and develop on. Under this, an extensive survey and study of children’s eye-related problems among the marginalized communities of the perennially backward taluks of Pavagada and Madhugiri is being undertaken by SVIRHC, fully supported by Narayana Hrudayalaya and Narayana Nethralaya. Our heartfelt thanks are due to Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty and Dr. K. Bhujanga Shetty, the chairmen of the two institutions, on behalf of all the beneficiaries for this generous help.

The study was formally launched on the evening of 7th November 2007 at a function in the Narayana Nethralaya auditorium. While the audience consisted of distinguished doctors, researchers and medical faculty, the personalities on the dais were no less illustrious. Smt. Usha Ganesh, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary & Principal Secretary to Govt. of Karnataka, dept. of Health & Family Welfare, was kind enough to be present and preside over the programme. Dr. S. Chandrashekhara Shetty, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education & Research, Kolar, and Dr. M. Maiya, FRCP (Lond), FRCS (Edin), FRCP (Glas) were guests of honour.

Dr. Devi Prasada Shetty, in his introductory talk, spoke on the ‘Role of public-private-NGO partnership in healthcare delivery and medical research’ and credited SVIRHC and its chairman for their path breaking work. Rev. Swamiji enlightened the audience on ‘Our experience with Eye care in the Periphery’. ‘Philanthropy and research by private organizations’ was the subject of Dr. Bhujanga Shetty who declared his institution’s fullest support to the cause. Dr. Kannan M. Narayana gave an introduction to the project and moderated the proceedings, and it was left to Dr. Mrs.

Mrs. Vasudha, a key person in this project, to describe the research aspects. The other speakers included Dr. K. Ravi Krishna,

