

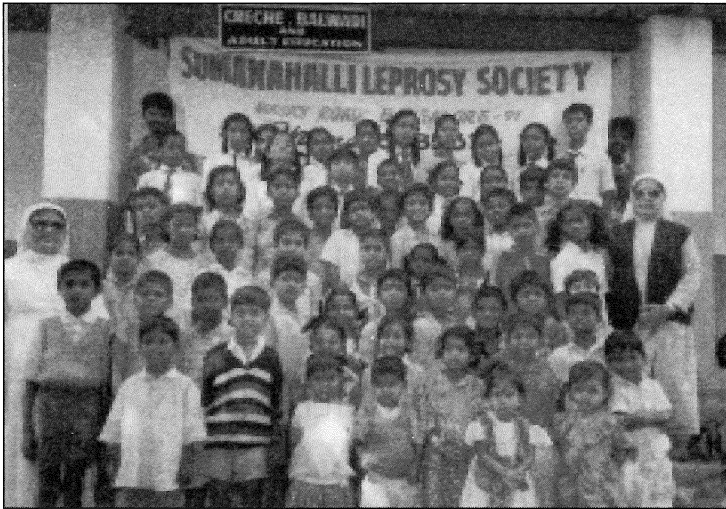
SUMANAHALLI: SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE AND REHABILITATION OF THE LEPROSY PATIENTS

'Sumanahalli' means 'the Village Of People Of Good Will' [Sumana = 'Good Will' and Halli = 'Village']. Sumanahalli was started in 1978. It was started at the request of the then Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Devaraj Urs to the Archbishop of Bangalore His Grace Arokiaswamy, due to the growth in the number of leprosy patients in Bangalore.

The government gave on lease 63.2 acres of land on the Magadi Road. The first batch of patients was received in March 1978 after a detailed Medico-social Evaluation Survey. In 1979 the Survey, Education and Treatment [SET] center was started by allotting 5 five corporation wards to Sumanahalli to carryout the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Educational programme for children and the adults started in 1979. Clinics were opened in four places for offering treatment in the same locality as the patients live. SET programme were later extended to 23 corporation wards. Training sections were opened to offer training to cured persons in 1985. Ave Maria Home for the residential programme was constructed in 1995. Mushroom cultivation and candle making unit were started in 2002. Dermatology clinic was opened in 2003.

LEPROSY: THE CURSE OF HUMANITY

Leprosy has afflicted humanity since time immemorial. It once affected every continent and it has left behind a terrifying image in history and human memory - of mutilation, rejection and exclusion from society.



Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by microbacterium leprae. It mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, and the eyes. It is also known as Hansen's disease since the bacteria was identified by G.A. Hansen in 1873. Due to the introduction of the Multi Drug Treatment in 1981, leprosy has become completely curable and the social picture of leprosy also is beginning to change.

About 6 lacs new cases have been reported in the world last year. India accounts for 70% of world's leprosy. World Health Organization has declared leprosy as eliminated since the prevalence rate of leprosy has come below one per 10000. India is yet to achieve this target.

THE MISSION OF SUMANAHALLI

The Mission for which the Society is established is:

'Without distinction of Color, Caste, Creed or Religion to carry out such activities for the welfare and education of leprosy patients and persons either related or dependent upon such persons and to rehabilitate them with this object in view'

ACTIVITIES

- Identifying new cases of leprosy through household, school and community surveys.

- Creating awareness about leprosy through educational programmes based in schools, community and institutions.
- Training of medical and para medical workers on strategies to work with the leprosy patients.
- Offering treatment both in the residence as well as in the four clinics in the city.
- Providing residential care for longer term treatment and rehabilitation.
- Training the treated cases in differed trades.
- Rehabilitating those who complete the treatment.
- Offering educational assistance for the patients, relatives and neighbours.
- Caring of the arrested leprosy cases.
- Providing training and learning opportunities.
- Organising women and youth for better awareness and more productive social involvement.

THE MANAGEMENT

Sumanahalli is a registered society with the Government of Karnataka. The project is managed by a governing body consisting of 12 persons drawn from different walks of life. The chairman of the society is the Archbishop of Bangalore, the present one being His Grace Ignatius Pinto.

THE BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries are those suffering from leprosy without any distinction of age, sex, religion, caste or social status. Priority is given to those from the project area allotted to it. Their children and other family members can benefit at least from certain aspects of the project like education and job opportunities. People suffering from other disabilities also are given vocational training.

HUMAN RESOURCES

A good team of people from different regions, religions and professions work for the success of the work of the society. Professionals from the medical and social fields take up the leadership for the project. A total of about 30 persons are involved in the work as Director, Administrator, Medical officers, Nurses, community health workers, teachers, clerks, etc.

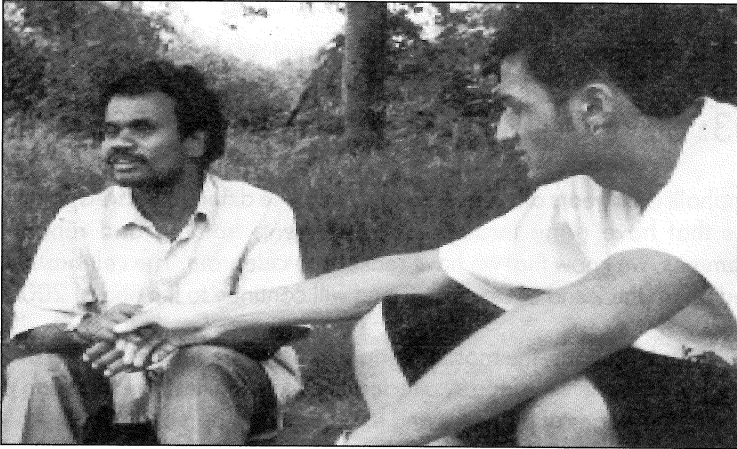
Sumanahalli is a good example of the different religious congregations in the Catholic Church working together in one project. There are five congregations directly involved in the working of the society: The St. Joseph's of Tarbes, the Franciscan sisters of the Immaculate, the Claretians, the Montfort Sisters and the Daughters of Wisdom. Several other congregations and groups contribute to fulfill the objectives of Sumanahalli.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The annual expenditure of Sumanahalli is about 40-50 lakhs. 20% of this comes through the local contributions, from families, organizations and business houses. 35 percent is raised from internal sources, through the different production units and training. 40% is contributed from different funding agencies, the main one being AIFO, Italy. The Government of Karnataka offers the grant-in-aid and the matching grant, which accounts for 3% of the total expenditure.

A CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF PAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS ACTIVITIES (1977 - 2002)

Name of activity	Area of operation	Number of beneficiaries
Survey and awareness	Urban & urban slums	24,68,153
Education of children creche & adult education	Urban & urban slums	2120
Training in leather craft, tailoring, printing, knitting	Rural, urban & urban slums	814
Treatment	Urban & urban slums	3913
Surgical rehabilitation	Rural, urban & urban slums	130
Job placement	Urban & rural	444
Community marriages	Urban & rural	12
Site and house	Urban & rural	58



AWARDS AND HONOURS

Our efforts have been appreciated and acknowledged in the state as well as nationally. The following awards have been granted to Sumanahalli over the years.

- National Award for the Most Efficient handicapped employee.
- National Award for the Most efficient handicapped employee National Award for the Best Self Employee
- 1986- National Award for the Best Self Employee
- 1986- National Award for the Best Self Employee
- 1989 - National Award for the Most Efficient handicapped employee
- 1989 - National Award for the Best Placement Officer
- 1990 - Sree Seva Samithi honour for Social Work
- 1990 - National Award for the Best Self Employee
- 1990 - National Award for the most efficient handicapped employee
- 1991 - Kalsha Award for community Health
- 1992 - Rajothsava Award -Karnataka
- 1994- National Award for the Best Self Employee
- 2000- National Award for the Best Self Employee

- 2001 - Best Worker for the Disabled in Karnataka
- 2002 - National Award for the Best Self Employee

2003: SILVER JUBILEE YEAR AND THE PROJECTS

Sumanahalli is 25 years old. Looking around at the different persons, families and groups that have gone through our treatment, training and rehabilitation programmes, we know that we have reasons to celebrate. The celebrations were flagged off on the 22nd of December and will continue to the end of 2003.

Apart from celebrations, the most important thrust of the Jubilee is to set off certain projects that will benefit the leprosy affected and their families. The following projects are at different stages of planning and execution as a part of the jubilee.

1. Housing project for 100 families as the first phase is planned for this year. The beneficiaries are being identified. Houses costing Rs. 60,000/- with 50% assistance from the government and the other half to be raised by Sumanahalli from generous donors is being planned. The land will be provided in the Sumanahalli campus.
2. School with special care for the handicapped.
3. Center for the HIV/AIDS affected.
4. Center for the destitute.
5. Garments unit to provide employment to about 200 disabled persons.
6. Community hall for prayer, marriages and other common programmes.

Visit our site for further information: www.Sumanahalli.org. Our address; Sumanahalli, Viswanedam Post, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 091. Phone: 3485317, 3580228. E-mail: georgekannan@hotmail.com