

Rotary Blood Banks in India

Rotary's involvement in voluntary blood banking in India has long history. It cannot be determined as to which place and when this movement was first taken up by Rotary in India. However, blood donation was an activity that Rotary has been involved as an ongoing programme for almost four decades. In the international level Rotary has been very active in promoting blood donations. But in most of the advanced countries such activity is more directed for collection camps recognizing that voluntary donation of blood is part of the social obligation of every individual.

By now every district in the country has number of clubs that are actively working towards promoting voluntary blood donations. We find that Rotary has now been instrumental in setting up blood banks. Perhaps the first stand-alone major Rotary Blood Bank came up in Bangalore. This was a big step and gave a new dimension to Rotary's march in this humanitarian service. Thereafter, many Rotary Blood Banks have come up in the country, some of them being major cities such as Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Vizag. In fact, Rotary Blood Bank in Delhi can be said to be the finest in the country amongst all private and public sector blood banks.

It is suggested that each district should prepare a list of Rotary Blood Banks that are already functioning and / or are being commissioned. This will give a comprehensive view of the magnitude to which Rotary is involved in blood banking within the country.

Considering that Government of India is laying great stress on blood banking that can provide wholesome blood as a support to the medical facilities as also a way to fight the HIV (AIDS) menace, Rotary's think tank should consider whether blood banking is a subject that Rotary should expand in a big way.

A networking between the Rotary Blood Banks within the country will be a desirable step. After a list of these Blood Banks is available together with the people responsible in their functioning, it may be worthwhile to hold a Conference of such Blood Banks and to consider steps on how through mutual cooperation, coordination and networking, better services, could be rendered to the medical fraternity and to society. Such an activity could also be a resource forum to help expand the movement within the country.

Rotary International has already been recognized by the organization of blood banks in America for its involvement in promotion of voluntary blood donation. There is also now a special interest group known as "Action Group" within Rotary that deals with blood banking. This shows that the interest is growing bringing Rotary in focus.



Rotary in India with its already deep involvement in blood banking can become a major player.

Therefore to promote this activity Nationally, a committee has been formulated with following details:

Advisors to the Committee are

RID Ashok Mahajan
 PRIP Raja Saboo
 HE PRID Sudarshan Agarwal
 TRF Trustee PDG K R Ravindran
 PRID Panduranga Setty

Chairman

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Members

PDG Sajjan Goenka – R I District 3140
 PDG Sanjeev Khanna – R I District 3010
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