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Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown

2016-17

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Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXXI No. 23 Dated: December 06, 2016

PROGRAMME

Starting a start up

Chief Guest:

JD Ghai, Founder & CEO SantaBanta.com

Date: **December 09, 2016 (Friday)** Time: **6.30 p.m.** Venue: **Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh**

Disability – Law and Society

In our regular meeting on December 02, 2016 President Rtn. Amarjit Singh welcomed our chief guest Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal, Chairman, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The President also acknowledged the presence of members of our Special Rotary Community Corps (RCC) and other disabled persons.



Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal

Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal was formally introduced by Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua, who explained the importance of World Disabled Day which is celebrated on 3rd of December every year to look into the rights of persons with disabilities and create sensitivity towards them. In this context we decided to have a chief guest who is a saga in terms of struggle and how he excelled in his life to reach his present position. Born in 1957 without both legs, Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal belongs to Abohar where he did his matriculation and stood first in the district (Ferozepur), and again first in pre-university. He did LL.B, LL.M and Ph.D from Panjab University, where he joined as a lecturer in 1983, and today he is the Chairperson of Department of Laws in the Panjab University, Chandigarh. He is also the author of two books. His wife is Head of Department of Psychology in Government College in Chandigarh, and daughter is a lawyer in the High Court.

After respectfully greeting his 'Guru' / teacher PP Rtn. Prof. Dr. Balram K. Gupta, Prof. Dr. Nagpal spoke about the topic, 'Disability – Law and Society'. He took us back to the year 1981 which was proclaimed as the International Year of Disabled Persons by the United Nations. It called for a plan of action with an emphasis on equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities.

In India in 1981 there was opposition when Indira Gandhi was to introduce the Persons with Disabilities Act on the plea that India cannot afford to give facilities to the disabled and that it may come into force subject to the economic resources. Dr. Nagpal said, "So the legislation which was proposed in 1981, took 14 years when it came in the form of law as Persons with Disability Act in 1995." He added, "This shows the insensitivity of our members of parliament who were not aware of the potentials of disabled persons. They thought that it is a charity, concessions, or some financial benefits to the disabled persons. But this was not the case."

Prof. Nagpal very candidly also referred to insensitiveness on the part bureaucrats. A commissioner of disability having an office on

the 6th floor, without a lift, refused to come down to ground floor unless an office of his choice was set up on the ground floor, that too out of the disability funds!

He also talked about the insensitivity on account of giving jobs to the disabled persons, who can handle the jobs much better and much more sincerely than the normal persons, because once the disabled persons are in their work place they would not unnecessarily leave or ignore their work but would complete their job.

Prof. Nagpal also discussed the insensitivity of government officials in filling up the 3 percent quota reserved for disabled persons. They are not given jobs on the plea that a person with one arm cannot lift a file or a person with one leg will fall in the washroom. It is shocking to learn how these officials twist their arguments and ignore the facts to deprive the disabled persons of their right to employment. They even go to the extent of presenting the disabled persons as a liability on their department. Prof. Nagpal explained, "I am not criticizing them. The only thing is that they are not sensitized to the problems and the potentials of the disabled. They think that the disabled cannot do it."

There is sheer insensitivity on the part of persons who interview the disabled persons, and they may not be aware of the fact that disabled persons can prove their worth and go to any extent to accomplish the tasks given to them.

Prof. Dr. Nagpal also shared his personal life with us. He is from a business family in Abohar. Being born without both legs, everybody addressed him as 'bechara', to which he revolted. He says, "I decided not to be dependent on anybody, but would like others to be dependent on me." He took it as a challenge and has reached his present position due to his own efforts, hard work, courage and determination.

Prof. Nagpal pointed out, "Most of the disabled persons belong to poor families. The ones who can really afford it, they would never ask for government concessions. To rehabilitate a disabled person in a rich family, whatever is required, whether Indian material or foreign one, they would be able to get these."

He also discussed the concessions for purchasing new cars for disabled persons, which has been discontinued as the companies found



*Greetings from
President Amarjit Singh*

it not to be viable financially. He also pointed out a flaw in the railway concession given to disabled persons, which can be availed only if the person is travelling with an escort, and cannot get this facility if he has to travel alone!

Prof. Nagpal also talked about artificial limbs. He said, "For these Dr. V.J.S. Vohra is the leader in this region." He recalled getting his first pair of prosthesis from his father over three decades ago. He said after that he heard of government subsidized prosthesis being available very cheap.... Rs. 100/- only. But these never worked. Then he was told to go to the other room and get imported prosthesis, for which Prof. Nagpal was asked to pay Rs. four lakh each...! According to Dr. Vohra, presently a below knee imported artificial leg can be provided for as low as Rs. 21000/-, though expensive ones are also available.

Dr. Nagpal was rightly very critical about the way government departments are insensitive towards the disabled persons. He concluded his talk by saying, "If I can make a weeping child happy, that is more than going to a mandir or a masjid."

Disability – Self Empowerment

A ten minutes audio visual presentation on 'Disability – Self Empowerment' was given by PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra in which he elaborated what Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal said about sensitivity or insensitivity towards the disabled persons.

Dr. Vohra went down the memory lane when over 30 years ago a young law student came to him for fitting of bilateral below knee prostheses. Today, he is Chairman of Department of Laws. What could be better example of self empowerment than Prof. Nagpal himself...!

In spite of Persons with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Council of India Act and other disability related laws enacted over 20 years ago, disabled persons are even deprived of their right to be served by professional persons. A prosthesis should not be prescribed by unscrupulous, unqualified and unprofessional persons who exploit the disabled persons to create false glory and undue gains for themselves by posing as 'experts'.



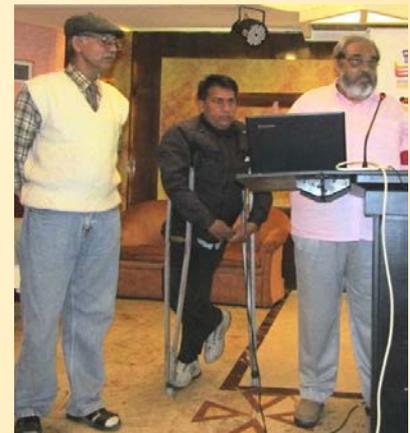
PP Dr. Balram Gupta presents a memento to Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal. Looking on are President Amarjit Singh and Secretary Rtn. Sundeep Singh Sawhney



With his both below elbow artificial arms Dr. V.J.S. Vohra's peon at Nevedac Prosthetic Centre, Modhan Singh is carrying a file and before that gave a glass of water



Dr. Vohra introduces disabled staff of Nevedac: Narinder Singh (left below elbow artificial arm), Modhan Singh (both artificial arms) and Mohd Israil (below knee artificial leg)



Dr. Vohra introducing members of our special RCCs - S.P. Bhandoria (below knee artificial leg) and polio victim Harmesh Kumar (on crutches)

PP Rtn. Er. R. K. Luther
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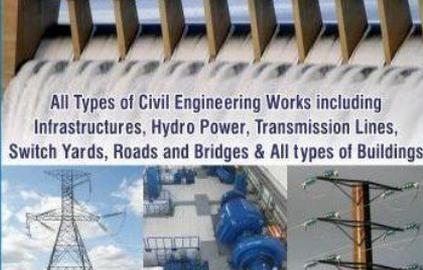


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The blatant violation of disability laws should be stopped immediately and disability laws should be enforced and duly implemented in the interest of justice for disabled persons.

In his presentation Dr. Vohra showed inspiring slides and videos in which disabled persons are fully self empowered. Disabled persons live in the glory of their own empowerment. With their artificial limbs and special prosthetic devices they are able to drive motor bikes, drive cars, operate computers/laptops, eat & drink, do heavy jobs, play golf, play cricket, play football, go for shopping, run fast, operate tabla & other musical instruments and become head ragi. Through our RCCs the disabled persons actively participate in our club projects, including Swachh abhiyan.

On behalf of our club PP Dr. Balram Gupta was pleased to thank his dear student Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal for sharing his experiences with disability which he has converted into ability. Dr. Balram Gupta said, "He even swims everyday, and I never felt that he is a disabled person." He added, "On the disability laws having no sensitivity at all we really need to meet across the country." He also announced that

on the eve of Disabled Day the government has raised the job reservation for disabled persons from 3 percent to 4 percent.

PP Dr. Balram Gupta also thanked PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra for his presentation on 'Disability – Self Empowerment'. One of the best compliments that Dr. Vohra got, came from young R'ann Dipali Adokar who said, "Sir, today I have seen your presentation. I really admire you for that!"



Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua introducing chief guest



Rtn. Dr. I.S. Virdi treated a visual challenged person and now employing him as his driver



S.P. Bhandoria Member special RCC - reciting a poem 'Mein ek chalti hui train hun'



PP Dr. Balram Gupta Vote of Thanks



Prof. Dr. Vijay Nagpal presents punctuality award to Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua. Looking on is President Amarjit



Dr. Uma Joshi thanks our club for donating hearing aid to a deaf and dumb boy from Nepal

Job Fair for Disabled Persons



Job Fair inaugurated by Director NITTTR Dr. M.P. Poonia

On the World Disabled Day on December 03, 2016 a Job Fair for Disabled Persons was held by our club at National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Sector 26, Chandigarh, in collaboration with SARTHAK Educational Trust and NITTTR, who provided us a top class venue. Our sincere thanks to Director NITTTR Dr. M.P. Poonia and Dr. J.S. Saini, Head, Centre for Physically Challenged Persons, NITTTR, who gave us all the facilities.

Harmesh Kumar of RCC, Dadumajra worked very sincerely due to which over 100 disabled persons participated in this event. 60 persons appeared for interview conducted by SARTHAK, Dr Reddy Company and President Amarjit Singh. The successful candidates would be called later. 12 to 15 are expected to be selected.

Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia

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Job Fair for Disabled Persons

(Contd from page 03)



President Amarjit interviews a candidate for IT sector

Participating in this very satisfying event were President Amarjit Singh, Vice President Salil Bali and Director Community Service Ashok Puri. Counselor Disability Empowerment PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra and Dr. Rajinder Sharma examined about 10 disabled persons for fitting of prosthetic aids which will be sponsored by our club.

Those who were not up to the mark were referred for skill development courses at SARTHAK and CCET.

Lunch was served to all disabled persons by our club through kind courtesy of our senior most Past President Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria.

Acknowledged with thanks

Donations for Club Projects

PP B.L. Ramsisaria Rs. 5000/- (Job Fair for Disabled)
Dr. Uma Joshi Rs. 10000/- (Hearing aid project)

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Dr. Seema Rai December 10
R'ann Lalita Agarwal December 13
R'ann Pushpa Jawa December 15

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Karanjeet Singh December 12
Rtn. Puneet Malhotra December 12

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Vanita & Rtn. Vijay Kumar December 10
R'ann Saroj & Rtn. Ravinder K. Jain December 10
R'ann Sandhya & PP Rtn. D.P. Khandelwa December 11
R'ann Amardeep & Rtn. Maj. Gen. Hardev Singh December 12
R'ann Nita & Rtn. M.S. Manaktala December 12
R'ann Meena & Rtn. Rajesh Mahajan December 12
R'ann Manjit & Rtn. Darshan S. Kalsi December 13
R'ann Manmeet & Rtn. Karanjeet Singh December 15

Punctuality Draw



Won by Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua



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