Lok Satta

Vision Building Exercise

Date : December 4th and 5th 1999

Venue : APCOB Coop Training Institute
Hyderabad
Dream

- Democratic organizational structure spreading to all corners of AP to the grass-root level
- Effective networking with like minded (people) groups across the country
- Achieving 70-80% of democratic reforms mentioned in Articles of Lok Satta
- Empowerment of stake-holders
- Decisive Watch Dog role in the governance process
Tension

• Elaborate, Specific details of the reform proposals
• Seeking endorsement of the above by a wider section of public/domain experts and opinion makers, through effective interaction
• Influencing decision makers
• Direct resources to build effective primary/district units on a pilot basis in a short time span and emulate the results in the rest of the state
• Educate the members of Lok Satta in organizational self-governance

Continued
Tension

• Identify like minded groups and forge alliances with them
• Develop abilities/ acquire skills to function as an effective watch dog to ensure proper implementation of the reforms
• Develop organizational strength to seize opportunities for enhancing people’s power
• Raise resources
Mission Statement

• People centered, genuinely democratic governance as reflected by clear linkage between taxes - and public services, Vote and well being of citizens Authority and Accountability

• A governance system that can fulfil the necessary pre-conditions for a civilized democracy namely Rule of Law, Basic freedoms, Basic Infrastructure & Economic Opportunities, Universal access to Primary Health and School Education, and Speedy and Efficient Justice
Statement of Current Reality

• Clear agenda, capacity to build consensus, built a non-partisan and credible image across the state with a vast reservoir of good will
• Emerging as a leading movement in governance reforms at the National level
• Hasn’t been able to expand within AP as fast as we would like to and to bridge the gulf between spread of ideas and organizational building
• Our reach is largely limited to educated middle class who have not been sufficiently motivated for self-action
• Tendency of people remaining passive and of people leaning too much on Lok Satta
• Proven ability to act in short bursts but inability to sustain at grass root level
Short Term Vision - 2002

1 Specific Reform Proposals
   – Local bodies empowerment
   – Citizens charters for all government departments
   – Right to information
   – Right to Primary Education
   – Access to Primary Health
   – Electoral Reforms at State level
   – Grama Nyayalayanas
   – Sanitation, construction of toilets
2 Endorsement
   – Effective interactions

3 & 4 Organisation:
   – Reach 100% District units
     50% Mandal units
     25% Primary units
   – Training 100% Office bearers
     50% Active members/volunteers

5 Networking
   – Present pace of networking to be speeded-up and alliances forged with like minded groups both locally and nationally
6 Watch - Dog Function:
   - Develop capability on 5 or 6 major user departments (locally identified)

7 Seize Opportunities
   - Electricity Reforms
   - Local body elections
   - Stake-holders/self help groups
   - PVP

8 Resources
   - Raise enough resources
Current Reality (Assessment)

- Time Line - Rama Reddy
- Achievements - Mohan Reddy
- Governance Today - KAN Murthy
- LS Size/Structure - Fr. Raphael
- Profile of LS People - Verma
- Helping Forces - Sambasiva Rao
- Hindering Forces - Sanjiva Rayudu
- Learnings - Dr Jayaprakash Narayan
**Reforms**

**Target 2002**

- **In AP**
  - Local Self-government - already exists
  - Electoral Reforms - criminalization - draft ready
  - Money power - yet to be done
  - Right to information - Information ready, Draft to be prepared
  - Gram Nyayalayas - to be prepared & lobbied
  - Administrative Reforms - ideas are ready, Draft to be made
  - Stake Holders
    - Market Committees
      - Cooperatives
      - Water users
      - Ward Committees
  - Sanitation
  - Citizen’s Charter - Lok Satta groups can provide Information
    Already prepared

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Media and Publicity

Target 2002

- Production and distribution of Audio, Visual capsules
- Booklets, pamphlets, posters, stickers
- Press reporting, briefing
- Contacts with elements in political parties
- Contacts with Industry
- Contact NGO’s, Professional bodies
- Arrange debates, Seminars
- Cultural teams to be trained and information to spread
- Students participation through special schemes designed
- National media
At National

- Federalism - equipped
- Local self-government - already
- Judiciary - to be discussed
- Political parties - Already exists
- Elections - Criminality - exits
  - Money power - put effort
  - Malpractice - examine
  - Proportional Representation - exits
- Institutional checks - Lokpal - exits
  Right to information - Info exits
Financial Resources

A Increased Activities - Need for greater resources
Therefore greater planning and Importance for Raising Resources

Continued
Financial Resources

B Spending and Funding at two levels

Field Levels
a) Generally District and other levels agree that they should be self financing
b) Sometimes they may need support

Sources - Membership fees
(Question of sharing)
- Individuals working
- Membership drive
- Look for donations
- No strings attached
(Service-membership Donations - Sponsors)

Apex Levels
1 Generally tighter position
2 Fund Raising Committee Group
3 Listing of sources
   - Individuals
   - Institutions
   - Others
4 Follow up of those approached; Identification of New sources
5 Availability readily of project material
Financial Resources

Need for forward planning/budgeting/choice of programs

Human Resources

More required - Volunteer Students - Training
Resource Persons - Expertise - Emphasis on Commitment
Capacity Building

• Training:
  – Apex level training cell
  – Material, Aids and necessary R&D to be handled at the Apex level
  – In turn train resource persons at the District level
  – Resource persons will train office bearers, volunteers and members

• Networking
  – Forging alliances with other NGO’s and voluntary groups
  – Identification of these groups to be done at each level independently
  – Identity groups to be affiliated
  – Identify groups for joint action on specific issues
Capacity Building

• Organization Activities
  – Membership Drive for 1 month every year
  – Identity domain experts to assist and participate in our activities
    ex : People’s Watch
      Election Watch
      Specific Reform Goals
Lok Satta

Raison D’etre (Purpose)
To Establish People’ Sovereignty
(or)
To Promote Good Democratic Governance with Self-Correcting Mechanisms

Values:
- Apolitical/ Non-partisan
- Accountability
- Professionalism
- Decentralisation
- Collective Action/Democracy
- Self-Governance/self-correction

Approach:
- Movement
- Legislation
- Collective Assertion
Opportunities

• People’s participation
• Media (support)
• Networking
• Interested Professional

Vulnerabilities

• No enough Document
• Centralization/ Top-down
• Inadequate systems
• Intolerance to criticism
• Not focused
• Lack of trained work force

Threats

• Public apathy etc
• Casteism
• Vested interests

Strengths

• Democratic Functioning?
• Collective leadership?
• Commitment, Transparency, Credibility
• Literature, campaigns...

Desired

Current Status

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