

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 Nyayalayas
- 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

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

Continued

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

Continued

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

Desired

- People's participation
- Media (support)
- Networking
- Interested Professional

Strengths

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

Threats

- Public apathy etc
- Casteism
- Vested interests

Vulnerabilities

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

Today