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 stakeholders
- 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)

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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
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    Market Committees
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    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
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

Desired

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

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

Today

Threats
- Public apathy etc
- Casteism
- Vested interests