

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

2015-16

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Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

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K.R. Ravindran

District Governor
David Hilton

President
Mrs. Kanan Diwan

Secretary
Sanjay Bhatia

Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXX No. 42 Dated: April 19, 2016

PROGRAMME Living a Happier Life

Chief Guest:

Dr. B.K. Waraich

Consultant Psychiatrist, Fortis Hospital, Mohali

Date: **April 22, 2016 (Friday)** Time: **7.00 p.m.** Venue: **Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh**

Drug Problem in Punjab

Dr. S.S. Gill, former Head of Orthopaedics Department, PGI, Chandigarh and former Vice Chancellor of Baba Farid Medical University, Faridkot was the Chief Guest in our regular meeting on April 15, 2016. He is father of our Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Anureet Kaur Bhatti, who was also present along with her mother Mrs. Amarjit Kaur, brother Noor Shergill, and children, Inaayat and Shivjot.



Dr. S.S. Gill

After the meeting was called to order, President Rtn. Kanan Diwan prayed to the Lord to give us enough strength to serve the humanity. She gave a hearty welcome to our distinguished Chief Guest Dr. S.S. Gill. She also reminded Anureet how actively she was involved couple of years ago as a very willing volunteer in our medical camps and did a great job, and now we

look forward to her active participation again.

The President also acknowledged the presence of Dr. Saranga Sethi, and guests of Rtn. Sundeep S. Sawhney – Mr. Kulbir Singh and Mr. Ashutosh Mangla.

The Chief Guest Dr. Shivinder Singh Gill was formerly introduced by PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep. Dr. Gill did MBBS in 1972 from Government Medical College, Rohtak and M.S. (orthopaedics) in 1976 from PGI, Chandigarh. He joined orthopaedics department in PGI in 1979. He has vast administrative, academic and professional experience. He has received many awards and recognitions. He was professor and head of department of orthopaedics in PGI, Chandigarh from 2005 to 2008, vice chancellor of Baba Farid Medical University, Faridkot from 2008 to 2015 and many other important assignments in Govt. institutions. He was also Member of Medical Council of India, New Delhi and many other professional/educational associations. He has done lot of research work and published over 80 scientific articles, including 25 international and books chapters in the areas of orthopaedics.

Dr. Gill's presentation on drug problem in Punjab was very informative and revealing. He pointed out that this problem is due to the growing popularity of smack/heroin which can be attributed as geographical due to Punjab's close proximity to the region covering Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, and these three countries are, collectively, the world's largest producers of opium. Punjab shares a 553 km border with Pakistan, which is used as an entry point to smuggle narcotics into India. These have been seized in various states along the Indo-Pak border by the BSF. Punjab accounted for very major part of all seizures in India, according to a 2013 Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) report. Therefore, Punjab acts as a significant transit hub for heroin in India.

Commonly consumed drugs in Punjab, is sourced from the opium fields in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. While most of the opium production in these states is legal and supervised by Central Bureau of Narcotics, illicit, pure and adulterated opium still continues to be trafficked into Punjab. Youth unemployment, too, is an important reason for the growth in drug trafficking and use in Punjab.



Welcome address by President Kanan Diwan



National anthem by R'ann Sudha Puri and R'ann Urmil Luther

Analysing the problem, Dr. Gill stated that the problem is not due to failure of parenting. It is not due to lack of religion or due to consumerism. It is neither a moral failure nor a law and order problem. The problem is due to our geography. It is a failure of policy. It is health problem. It is due to unemployment, and has become a part of our culture. He said that it is not a problem of Punjab alone, but it is a worldwide problem.

He said that there are no correct facts and figures about this problem and there is no proper policy to tackle this issue. Whatever data may be available these are not accurate.

Dr. Gill discussed the Portuguese experience. Due to rise in drug use it became the most important public issue in Portugal as drugs were smuggled in from abroad, and police had failed to curb drug use which was taking place even in public places. Large number young children took to drugs. As its earlier drug laws did not differentiate between a seller

and user of drugs, in 2001 Portugal adopted a new drug policy which decriminalized use of all drugs. It shifted drug control from the Justice Department to Ministry of Health, and instituted a robust public health model for treating hard drug addiction. A minimum wage to all workers was guaranteed. Syringe exchange programme was also launched.

Dr. Gill highlighted the benefits of the Portuguese Model which removed the stigma surrounding drug use, and it has encouraged patients to seek treatment. It harnessed the strength of families to provide support to patients. Citizens were empowered by providing correct information about dangers, risks and choices. Better data was made available to the government about scale of the problem. Multiple victimization of patients was prevented. Police was freed to tackle drug trafficking instead of petty drug use.

Talking of Indian scenario, Dr. Gill stated that 67 per cent of the drug seizure cases during period 2007-2011 are marijuana

and/or hashish related as per official data available. Drug addiction figures are not accurate. Stigmatization prevents treatment. There is harassment of patients by police. They are subjected to multiple victimization. There is high rate of HIV among syringe users. There is drug abuse in jails too. Drug treatment facilities don't match up to problem.

Suggesting possible solutions Dr. Gill advised that drug use should be decriminalized. Police should tackle trafficking of hard drugs only. Experts from the fields of health, social workers, NGOs and lawyers should form an evidence based strategy and listen to drug addicts. Politicians, religious leaders, police officers and well-meaning but ill informed members of public should listen to the experts. Unemployment in Punjab needs to be tackled seriously.

On behalf of our club Rtn. Dr. I.S. Viridi thanked Dr. S.S. Gill for his informative presentation and for enlightening us on this serious problem.



Rtn. Dr. I.S. Viridi presents a memento to Chief Guest Dr. S.S. Gill



Dr. S.S. Gill presents a birthday gift to President Kanan Diwan



While PP Rtn. R.K. Luther and his son Atul are enjoying VIP dinner hosted by Taiwan Trade Development Authority in Kaohsiung Taiwan, his wife R'ann Urmil Luther receives his birthday gift from Dr. S.S. Gill



PP Rtn. Gurdip Singh Deep introduces the chief guest



Glimpses of the week by Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia



PP Rtn. Deepak Sood appeals for funds for poor heart patient



Vote of thanks by Rtn. Dr. Inderjit Singh Viridi



Rtn. Dr. Harinderjit Kaur gets punctuality award from President Kanan Diwan. Looking on is Secretary Sanjay Bhatia

Glimpses of our Club activities



Good response for Blood Donation Camp at Schneider Electric India Pvt. Ltd., Mohali on 15th April 2016. Blood bank team from GMSH



Rtn. Daulat Ram Agarwal getting the winner prize from District First Lady Patricia Hilton at recently held golf tournament (see report in bulletin No. 39)

100 programs completed by Rtn. Salil Chopra



Rtn. Salil Chopra, Rtn. Ashok Puri and Rtn. Jeeten Bhambri with Interactors

On 10th April 2016 it was 23rd round of this abhiyan in the market of Sector 16, Panchkula, in which 7 Interactors including Kuldeep, Sachin and Mohit, led by Rtn. Salil Chopra, collected nearly 7 bags of garbage and the reason was windy weather. A rickshaw puller and a shopkeeper too joined us in our effort to spread the swachhta message.

On 17/4 we had 5 members of Interact Club joining Rtn. Jeetan Bhambri, Rtn. Ashok K. Puri and Rtn. Salil Chopra for the 24th swachhta mission in the market of Sector 21 in our effort to change the mindset of people towards cleanliness not only by addressing them but also doing it

Contd on page 4....

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to Rtn. Ravinder Kapur on sad demise of his father, Mr. Jagdish Chander Kapur on 11th April 2016.

Prayer meeting was held on 14 April 2016 at Arya Samaj Mandir, Sector 18, Chandigarh.

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..... Contd. from page 3 - **100 programs completed...**

practically. The impact has been overwhelming. A cobbler wished that he should see clean India during his life time!

A seminar was also held on how to become an ideal Indian in which Rtn. Rekha Sawhney gave an impressive talk on Rotary and its role. Rtn. Salil Chopra spoke on swachh India, followed by 4 more sessions for students stressing on 'clean India green India'.

We also had an interesting and educative workshop on maintaining clean and healthy teeth, conducted by Dr. Ashish Gupta from Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra's clinic.

With this now we have done 28 programs on Swachh Bharat and 72 programs on "Teaching students the skills", completing 100 programs covered under these two important projects of our club.



Towards total literacy

Acknowledgement with thanks

Donations for poor heart patient to be treated under heart line project of Rotary Club Chandigarh – Our club's contribution Rs. 45000/- donated by;

PP Rtn. Deepak Sood – Rs. 5000/-, Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia – Rs. 5000/-, President Rtn. Kanan Diwan – Rs. 5000/-, Rtn. Mohinder Singh – Rs. 5000/-, PDG Shaju Peter – Rs. 5000/-, Rtn. Salil Bali – Rs. 5000/-, Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra – Rs. 5000/-, R'ann Urmil Luther – Rs. 5000/- and Rtn. Salil Chopra – Rs. 5000/-



DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY 2016

Lakshya

15th May 2016
The Vivaan, GT Road, Karnal
 Block the date

RI President 15-16 K.R. Ravindran	RI President 16-17 John F. Germ
District Governor 15-16 David Hilton	District Governor 16-17 Raman Aneja

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ROTARY CLUB OF PANIPAT CENTRAL

 Past RI President Rajendra K Saboo	 District Governor 16-17 Raman Aneja	 District Trainer 16-17 Ranjit Bhatia
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Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Hariti April 24
 R'ann Anupam Jain April 25

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Chandra Prakash April 24
 Rtn. Mrs. Rekha Sawhney April 24

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Dr. Harinderjit Kaur

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