

Press Release

“Abide by Morality, Stay Faithful, Beware of Aids”

Symposium organised in Balco on the occasion of ‘World Aids Day’



Balconagar, December 01, 2014: “Abide by Morality, Stay Faithful, Beware of Aids”

This slogan coined and spoken by Mr. Girish Pankaj, renowned journalist and litterateur found strong impetus and caught the immediate attention of the audience at the symposium on the occasion of World Aids Day organised by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (Balco) at Balconagar. This programme was organised under Balco’s ‘Project Jagriti’ with assistance from self-help organisation - ‘Shroth’ and Balco Ladies Club in Pragati Bhawan, located in sector 1, in Balconagar. The programme was presided over by Mr. Prabhat Mishra, renowned litterateur and social worker.

In his address, Mr. Pankaj expressed his deep concern that society is slowly deviating from morality. Aids, a life threatening disease is a result of this change in society’s outlook. He further said that if society does not show its concern for morality, faithfulness and social values, it will in no time, be in the grip of even bigger diseases. Mr. Pankaj said that with the progress of civilisation, Man formed the limits of social behaviour for himself, but today He is indulging in behaviour which is breaking these limits. Today, society is asking for the lawful redressal of lot of immoral practices. He praised Balco for organising such a programme which is important for saving the society from various ills.

Mr. Mishra in his address said that Pandit Nehru had appropriately called industries as ‘ a Pilgrimage of Modern India’. This is showing in the social concerns developed by Balco. Balco is not only known for its aluminium production and modern technology, this Company also deserves appreciation for its outstanding involvement in areas of social concerns. We can only get rid of grave problems like Aids by developing feelings of social responsibility.

Mr. B.K.Sriwastwa, Head-Community Relations, in his welcome address said that Balco was appalled to see the growth of Aids in Korba District. With an intention to create awareness of this growing menace, 'Jagriti Project' was started in 2005. He went on to say that Balco which was established in the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh has always tried to reach out to needy people in every possible way through its social development programmes. The areas where such projects have been launched have seen the targeted residents becoming self-dependent and healthy. Basic infrastructure has also been developed and women empowerment has been given emphasis.. Mr. Sriwastwa added that the awareness of Aids is being spread in Korba by street skits, banners and camps. He was all praise for the efforts shown by 'Shrot' on the occasion of World Aids Day.

The symposium was organised on three topics. Separate Panels were formed for addressing the topics. The topic 'Rehabilitation, Social Concern and Community Initiative' was addressed by Mr. Girish Pankaj, Mr. Prabhat Mishra, Mrs. Archana Trivedi, Secretary of Balco Ladies Club and Mrs. Rukmini Nair, President of 'Sumati' – an NGO.

The topic 'The legal rights of HIV affected patients and related Government Beneficiary Schemes' was addressed by Mr. Gopi Kaushik, President of Korba Bar Association, Mrs. Madhu Pandey, renowned lawyer, Dr. B.R.Ratre, Nodal Officer of Korba District Aids Control Society, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dy. Chief Medical Officer, Balco Hospital, Mrs. Beena Mistry, Consultant, District Aids Control Society and Mrs Vandana Lal, President of an NGO - 'Next Step'. The common view shared by all Panelists was that 'the Constitution of India' has granted certain rights for such patients which are benefitting them. There cannot be any discrimination of any type with such patients.

The topic 'The view of Youth and Teachers towards H.I.V. Aids' was addressed by Mr. Kailash Pawar, Principal, Delhi Public School, Balconagar, Mr. G.V. Raj Shekhar Rao, Principal, D.A.V. School, Balconagar, Mrs. Papiya Chaturvedi, Asst. Professor, Govt. Degree College, Dr. Avinash Kumar Lal, Professor, Govt. Post Graduation College, Mrs. H. Lakra, Principal, Korba DIET. The Panelists apprised the audience about various dimensions of Aids Control. Mr. D.S. Bhati, General Manager, Administration, Balco, Mr. Neeraj Trivedi, AGM, 540 MW Power Unit, Balco, Mr, Ashish Ranjan, AGM, Community Relations, Balco and Mr. Dixon Mashih, President of 'Shrot' were present in the programme.

‘Nava Anjor Kala Jattha’ from Champa performed a skit on ‘Aids Awareness and Control’ . Mr. Rishabh Mistry also presented a solo song on the occasion. Mr. Bhati and the Guests presented awards to students who had shown outstanding performance in the ‘Inter-School Drawing and Slogan Writing Competition’. The paintings and slogans of the students were also on display at the venue. The programme started on an auspicious note by lighting of a lamp by the Guests in front of ‘Goddess Saraswati’. This was followed by a welcome song sung by students of ‘Divya Jyoti School’.

The programme also saw the presence of Mr. Arun Sharma, President of ‘District Truckers Association’, Mr. R.P.Tiwari, President of ‘Goods Transportation Association’, Mrs, Uma Gupta, In- Charge, Women Cell, Rampur Police Station, Mr. Shiv Agarwal, Secretary, Balco Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Parmanand Agarwal, Treasurer, Balco Chamber of Commerce. In addition to these people, there were a large number of school students from various schools, teachers, members of Balco Ladies Club, Balco officers and employees.

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