

Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar – Services rendered in Healthcare over the years ... providing reprieve to the needy.

What started as a Lions Club service activity in the 90's today is an impactful movement in health care. Dr. Vijay Kumar's zeal not only encompasses social work for the upliftment of the needy. It also takes into account, medical support without which development effort cannot be considered as complete.

"For he who has health has hope; and he who has hope, has everything."

– Owen Arthur

The prestigious Lions Child Development Center:

The Lions Child Development Center, costing Rs 35 lakhs, was established in the Niloufer Hospital premises in 2003 for the rehabilitation and treatment of children with mental disabilities.

In addition to providing treatment for mental disabilities, this three-storey facility provides training needed for the intellectually challenged children to become self-sufficient and mitigate dependency on others to the extent possible.

The Centre also trains nurses to administer care to such children in rural areas, ensuring they can receive treatment at home. This not only improves the outreach to the rural located and scattered children but also generates employment opportunities for nurses. Local, qualified personnel who receive training at this centre are able to give back to the challenged children in their vicinity thus ensuring the training is spread out and effective.

Dr. Vijay Kumar conceived this initiative to eliminate the costs and challenges for the parents associated with transporting such challenged children to and from the hospital.

The history behind Lions Child Development Center, Niloufer Hospital:

Realizing the need for a large-scale training centre which can impact a larger patient base, this huge center was conceived by Dr. AVK.

The central idea was to design the training process so that the trainers who receive training here can spread out and impart training to the needy, thus reaching out wider. Trainers would

Hospital for the mentally challenged – Dr. AVK's zeal to provide sustained education:

Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar recounted the experience in his own words: "The program that has given me immense satisfaction is 'Education for Intellectually Challenged Children.' I have taken up the program as a mission, and I am determined to put in every effort to make it a success and wanted the inauguration by the Hon'ble Chief Minister."

"There are many hospitals dedicated to providing medical care for individuals with disabilities. However, there is a shortage of facilities that cater to children born with intellectual disabilities and provide them with appropriate care and education. Currently, these children can only be accommodated for about 15 days before being sent away. Considering this, the initiative to provide a permanent solution and ensure that children with intellectual disabilities receive proper care and education came into being."

"In this initiative, it's not just about admitting children to the hospital but also providing proper education to the nurses before they take care of them. The Centre offers education to nurses who are willing to work in villages where children with intellectual disabilities reside. Through this program, nurses who have received education in caring for these children can go to remote areas and provide them with the necessary care and education. Some charge is collected from them for the services provided by these nurses. It also opens up employment opportunities for them in a unique way."

be assigned cases of five to ten children each, upon which, they would go to the respective villages and train the children per the curriculum as well as train them to do their own work.

Today, the Centre at Niloufer Hospital premises is the only facility in Hyderabad to provide training for the mentally challenged.

But, when land was sought out for this initiative, the then District Collector said it would be possible only if 35 schools were built under Navodaya programme. Undaunted, Dr. AVK, completed those schools with great difficulty, fuelled by the determination to build the training center. This in itself was a huge accomplishment which had myriad positive social impacts. With the schools completed, the District Collector sanctioned the place and the training center was built with four floors. This mammoth effort can only be accomplished when motivation to serve is the driving force behind the man.



Hospital donated by Dr. AVK at Rajapur Village, near Jadcherla.

Dr. Vijay Kumar's continues to relentlessly offer medical services:

- Constructed and donated the Arigapudi Purnachandra Rao and Nancharamma Memorial Hospital at Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar in 1990.
- Serving as the District Governor of Lions Club, Dr. AVK has established schools, bus shelters, and hospitals, along with ambulance services, benefiting the public in the region.
- He has conducted various activities such as blood donation drives, eye donation campaigns, and family planning operations.
- He organized blood donation camps in 1997, resulting in the collection and distribution of over 20 thousand units of blood in a single year.



Dr. AVK donating blood at a blood donation camp organized by Red Cross.

- He has led the unique and remarkable achievement of organising 324 IOL eye treatments in a single day at the Sarojini Naidu Eye Hospital.
- Dr. AVK has also spearheaded the effort of performing heart operations on more than 40 people. Other free medical camps have been done on behalf of the Lions club for those suffering from heart diseases.
- Dr. Vijay Kumar clarified that he wants to undertake many more programs in the future. He said that many blood donation camps have been organized as usual on the occasion of 60 years of Independence Day.

"Pioneering spirit should continue, not to conquer the planet or space ... but rather to improve the quality of life."

– Bertrand Piccard