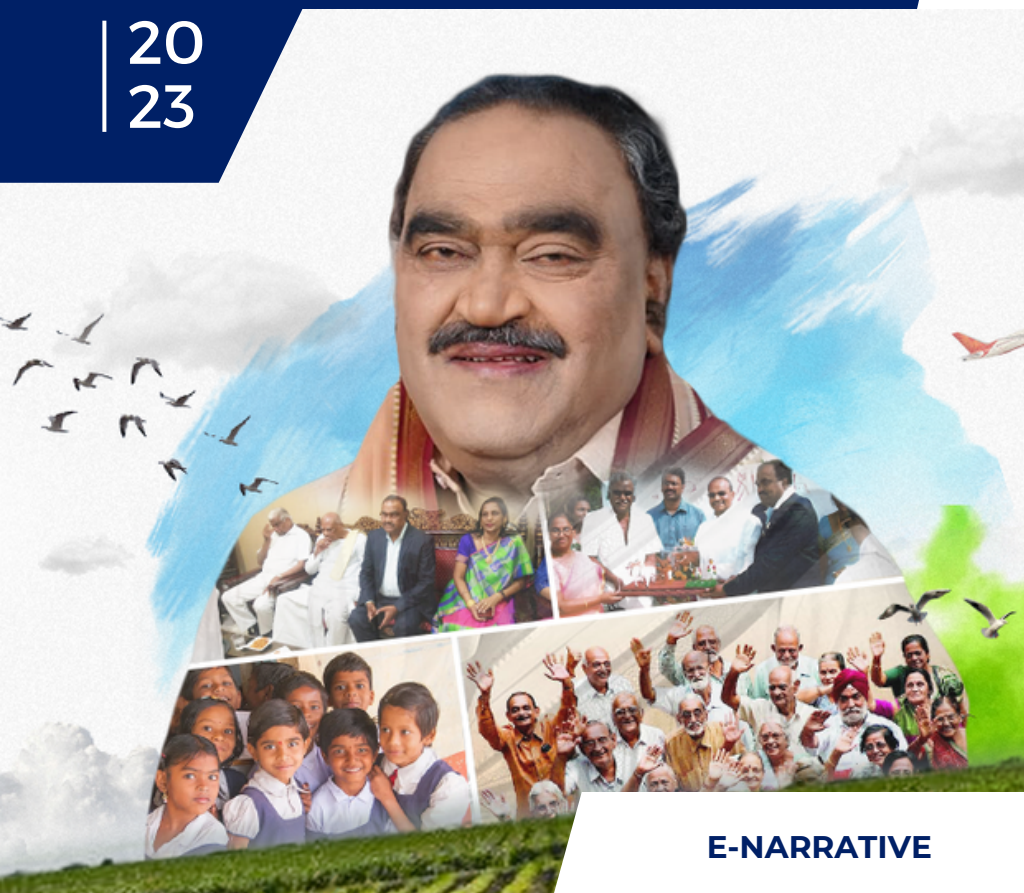


SEVA SARVABHAUMA

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E-NARRATIVE

A Brief Sketch of the
Life of Lion Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar

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INTRODUCTION

Ln.Dr.A.Vijay Kumar - A Life devoted to 'Joy of Giving'

Lion Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar is one of the rare people who personify their given names – 'Vijay' = 'Success'.

From personal to professional to the ethical and social, his biography is an inspiring account of how one man's passion for service can successfully create lasting impact over generations to come.

'Lionism' is the word coined for Dr. AVK's work by his many admirers and followers. As a Leader and Motivator, he has remained a philanthropic icon indeed.

As an art-culture patron, he has extended support and guidance, thus leading several socio-cultural organizations to much greater heights.

His initiatives eminently describe the multifaceted man he is.



CHAPTER I

Biography |

"The significance of one's earnings is not in the volume of wealth acquired. It is in how much service has been offered to those in need." - Ln. Dr. AVK

A simple beginning to a great journey:

Dr. A. Vijay Kumar was born in Anganooru village, Gudlavalleru Mandal of Krishna district, on 31 October 1951.

Born in a family with high moral, ethical and philanthropic values to Sri Arigapudi Purnachandra Rao, Retd. Head Master and Smt. A. Nancharamma, Retd. Telugu Teacher, he grew up emulating his elders and learning the "Joy of giving".

He completed his B.Sc. degree in Computer Science (PG Diploma).

In spite of receiving an employment opportunity from America, he started his career as a contractor upon the advice of a friend.



He started contributing to art and culture promotion at an early age and often stated that this was a tradition imbibed from his parents.

The same inclination eventually led him to joining the Lions Club.





*Lion Sri A. Vijay Kumar and Smt A. Krishnakumari
Companions for Life.*

He embarked on his journey in Lionism as the Charter 1% Vice President of LC Jadcherla and progressed to become the President in 1989 and later a Zone Chairman, Region chairman and Group Coordinator of Campaign "Sight First".

He was unanimously elected as Vice District Governor 96-97. "Family Care" theme proposed by him achieved tremendous success all around. Vijay Kumar was the driving force behind the donation of ambulances to the rural clubs, building the Lions Child Development Centre at Niloufer Hospital, Hyderabad and construction of 34 Balajyothi Schools.

A record 324 IOL surgeries were performed in One day during his tenure. He was instrumental in the construction of Smt. Nancharamma Purnachandra Rao Memorial Hospital in 1992-93 and handing it over to the Government and also 20 acres of land worth 8 crores was donated for the construction of Purnachandra Rao Memorial Market Yard which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Y.S.Rajashekhhar Reddy.

His exemplary services as a leader and as a motivator gained recognition in the form of International President's Medal for 2000-2001 and 2003-2004 for outstanding lionistic works. This "No Problem" Governor is a recipient of several National and State Levels Honours.

His philanthropy extends not only to the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden but also to the field of art and culture. He has extended support to various socio-cultural organisations to help them in succeeding in their endeavours to protect and promote the Indian Art-and Culture. He is the chief Patron for several such organisations too.

Lion Dr. A. Vijay Kumar has extended his support to several organisations dedicated to the services to the poor, orphans, physically and mentally challenged children and also the senior citizens. He is the Chairman of K R Reddy Memorial old age home and orphanage, Gen. Secy. to the Economic Council, Trustee of Educational and Medical Trust Ram Reddy Eye Hospital, Lions Bhavan and the Lions Seva Kendra Trust.

In view of his unstinting efforts in the field of Social Service and promotion of Art and Culture, Lion Dr. A. Vijay Kumar was felicitated by Vamsee Art Theaters and was conferred the title of "Seva Saarvabhauma" and "Vadaanya Varenya".

On the eve of the New Year, he was also conferred the title of "Man of the Year -2017, "Visistha Sevaratna" and "Life Time Achievement Award" by Telugu Velugu Cultural Association which has branches at Vishakapatnam and Hyderabad.

Other titles include "Kala Samrat" and "Pride of India" Award by Srutilaya Arts Academy, "Kala Seva Prapoorna" by Srujana Arts, Hyderabad, "Kala Seva Ratna" by Seven Hills Cultural and Social Organisation, "Uttama Pourudu" by Visakha Samacharam Daily and "Samskrutika Yasho Bhooshana" by Tejaswini Cultural Association.

He was also felicitated by reputed cultural organisations across two Telugu States like Sri Krishna Swara Raaga Sravanthi, RR Creations, Madhura Veena Musicals, Suja Ramana Cultural Academy, Sarada Lakshmi Cultural Academy, Sri Sai Lalitha Music Academy, Raga Virajita Cultural Association, Fusion Four Group to name a few. There are many others organizations which have felicitated him besides these.

His philanthropic and social activities are supported and encouraged by his wife Smt. A. Krishna Kumari and his three sons Shri Purna Kumar, who is happily settled in Hyderabad and Shri Amit Kumar and Shri Sumit Kumar who are residing in Dallas and Houston respectively.



Dr. A. Vijay Kumar with his family



CHAPTER II

Ln.Dr.A.Vijay Kumar's Social Initiatives

Social Work driven by high morals, strong ethics and philanthropic values

When there is hard work, people become sages and great men ...

If you take these words of a poet and bring them to life... it is Lion Vijay Kumar personified. To labour is his nature. Belief in service is his second nature. It is also the source of unwavering hope for the blind.

His support is a reliable one for the disabled. He is like a burning lamp of consciousness that instils trust and provides constant service and security to the elderly.

Dr. Vijay Kumar's service programs have been lauded by many.

Although poverty in India cannot be completely eradicated, there are many charitable organizations working with the idea that if they give their help, the less fortunate will be relieved to some extent.

With the same ambition, the Lions Club, which started somewhere in 1917, began as a regional initiative.

Gradually, the organization expanded its reach to serve as a sheltering tree, extending the hand of protection to countless underprivileged individuals.



"Society helps every man.

*One must devote a
significant portion of the
fruits of success to the
same society"*

*- Dr. ANK's words on
social service.*

A Owing to the enthusiasm and initiative of a few committed individuals, these Lions Club programs have expanded providing direction to many, while giving a sense of belonging to the people. One such transformational individual is Mr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar.

He has often opined that society helps every man grow as much as he can and man has to devote a significant portion of the fruits of his success to the same society which has uplifted him.

Generosity is a trait passed down through generations in his family and it is one of the early lessons imbibed from his father.

It was also the reason for his being attracted to the Lions Club. He found immense satisfaction in being an active member of the Lions Club where he gained a sense of contentment.

He believes that significance of one's earnings is in how much service has been offered to those in need.

After moving to Hyderabad, he held significant positions within the Lions Club and served as the District Governor and Vice President, among others.

Irrespective of where he has been located, Dr. AVK has remained successful in touching lives in a positive way.

20-acre Market yard worth more than 8 crores donated to farmers – an example of unparalleled generosity:



Sri. Purnachandra Rao and Smt. Nancharamma Memorial Market Yard – 20 acres of land worth (valued at Rs 8 crores at the time) was donated to the farmers at Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar District by Dr. Arigapudi Vijaya Kumar.

At a time when even big industrialists would approach government offices for monetary benefits, he donated these 20 acres of land worth several crores to set up a market yard for the benefit of farmers. Recognizing the plight of cotton farmers in his region, who lacked a proper market yard and were compelled to sell their crops to brokers at unfavourable prices, he decided on this step.

The market yard was named after his parents and their statues were unveiled by Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in 2008. The fact that this yard is serving not only the farmers of Mahbubnagar but also the farmers of other districts shows how impactful this initiative has been on the local agri-economy.

Dr. AVK's remarkable contributions in social work include:



- 35 Balajyoti Schools constructed under Navodaya Programme
- In 2008, he donated 20 acres of land (valued at Rs 8 crores at the time) for the construction of a market yard, an initiative appreciated by then-Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy for its unwavering support to the farming community.
- As a Lions Governor, he has built many schools, bus shelters, and hospitals along with Ambulance services since 1997.
- He has done stellar work in uplifting Hameela village in Andhra Pradesh State in 1996.
- He organized blood donation camps, conducted free eye examinations, provided financial support to talented students, distributed books and uniforms, offered utensils, food, and beds during natural disasters, organized surgeries for head injuries, procured prosthetic limbs for the physically challenged, and provided wheelchairs to those in need.
- Dr. AVK receiving the Gold Medal in 2019, from Hon'ble Governor of Telangana State, Smt. Tamlisai Soundararajan in appreciation of his generous donation of a building for the Red Cross Blood Bank in Mahbubnagar.
- He has also received appreciation for his work from Shri Surjit Singh Barnala garu, Shri Chandrababu Naidu garu, and Sri Bandaru Dattatreya garu among other political figures
- Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar's work has received several nominations for the prestigious "Padma Shri" under the "Social Work Category".
- His work since his formative years and as an active Lions Club Leader have focused solely on social service and Philanthropy. From academic Professors to Social activists, to political leaders, several Padmashri awardees have recommended Dr. AVK's candidature for the prestigious award.

Currently, Lion Vijay Kumar continues to provide invaluable guidance and recommendations to Lions Club members. He is the Chairman of K. R. Reddy Memorial Old Age Home and Orphanage, Gen. Secy. To the Economic Council, Lions Bhavan and the Lions Seva Kendra Trust.

CHAPTER III

Dr AVK - An eloquent patron of arts and culture.



“Art is the stored honey of the human soul.” – Theodore Dreiser

Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar’s philanthropy extends not only to the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden but also to the field of art and culture.

He has extended support to various socio-cultural organisations to help them in succeeding in their endeavours to protect and promote the Indian Art-and Culture.

He is the chief Patron for several such organisations too.

The “Arigapudi Vijay Kumar Foundation – for the promotion of Arts and Culture”:

Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar has offered extensive support to performers, literary personalities, and many artists over his lifetime. His social work has spanned many fields in many directions.

While his work has been openly recognized and commended by the beneficiaries, government, and private entities alike, the need for a brand seemed imminent.

Considering this, Dr. AVK’s close associates convinced him to establish a Foundation which would give him the necessary umbrella under which his work could continue.

Since 2019, the AVK Foundation has supported, mentored, and provided a platform for promoting art and culture across South India.

Through the AVK Foundation, Dr. Vijay Kumar’s generous support of the arts now has an iconic brand voice. In the coming days, it promises to be a mascot to which artists and cultural champions would rally.



**"Arigapudi Vijay Kumar Foundation
– for the promotion of Arts and Culture"**

The "Arigapudi Vijay Kumar Foundation – for the promotion of Arts and Culture", the AVK Foundation for short was established on 29 December 2019 at Telugu Lalitha Kala Thoranam, Nampally, Hyderabad.

The Inaugural event was marked by Musical, Folk, and Dance performances by artists. The event was graced by noted names from art and cultural domains as well as politicians, social workers, philanthropists, and Padmashri awardees in various fields.

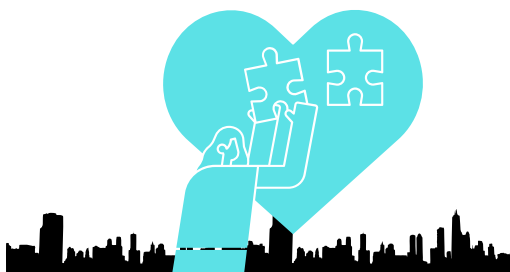
CHAPTER IV

Services rendered in Healthcare over the years

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.

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.

With the support of this training, the children can 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 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 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."

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.



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

- 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.



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

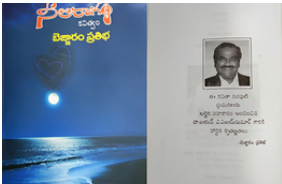
CHAPTER V

Literary Services to the society by Dr.AVK



“Udyoga Vijayalu – Oka Udyogi Athmakatha”

By Author, Sri Hasyabrahma Shankaranarayana.
The book was dedicated to Dr. AVK by the author.



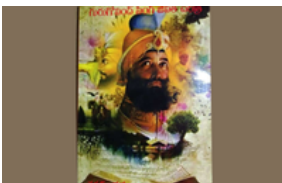
“Neeliragam”

By Author, Bejjaram Prathibha.
Dr. AVK extended the necessary financial support for publication of this book, for which the author expressed heartfelt gratitude.



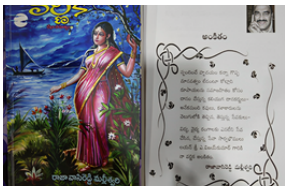
“Natyashastra”

By author, Kalajyoti Kalamitra R Ravisharma
Dr. AVK extended his support to this book.



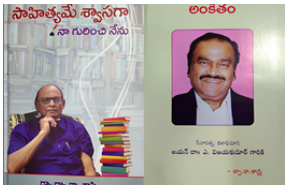
“Guru Gobin Singh Jeevitha Charitra’

By author, Charan Janamanchi.
Dr. AVK extended his support to this book.



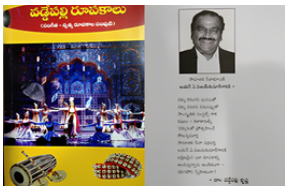
“Varnika”

By Author, Raja Vasireddy Malleswari.
The book was dedicated to Dr. AVK by the author and the author also offered gratitude for his large hearted support of arts, literature and generosity.



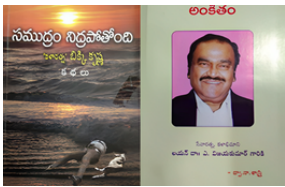
“Sahityame Swaasaga – Na gurinchi nenu”

By Author, Dr. Dwaana Shastri.
The book was dedicated to Dr. AVK by the author



“Vaddepally Roopakalu – A compilation of music and dance compositions”

By Author, Dr. Vaddepally Krishna.
The book was dedicated to Dr. AVK by the author and also offered gratitude for his benevolence and large hearted support of arts, literature.



“Samudram Nidrapothondi”

By Author, Kalaratna Bikki Krishna.
The author affectionately dedicated the book to Dr. AVK and commended his generosity and wholehearted support of the arts.

CONCLUSION

Generosity is the Soul of "Lionism"



Having the self-confidence to accomplish any task, the determination to carry out responsibilities, the mindset to lead from behind, are the reasons for the recognition Dr. AVK garnered in society.

He not only received the blessings of elders but also transformed his life through self-reliance, carving his own path and becoming an ideal for others.

To know more about him, visit <https://lionavk.com/>