



Ref : CIRS/Gen/2008-09/543
Dated : September 22, 2008

Sri Nitish Kumar,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar,
Patna

Sub: Contribution towards the rehabilitation of victims of the Bihar flood crisis

Respected Sir,

Our student body wished to sacrifice on their part in order to help curb the suffering of our fellow Indians in Bihar. They decided to forego various food items from their regular menu enabling the School to save the cost of purchasing these items. The total amount of Rs 1,00,000/- so saved has been deposited at the State Bank of India, Coimbatore vide Cheque # 666454 dated 18-9-2008 on ICICI Bank in favour of the Chief Minister Relief Fund, Bihar

Please accept their contribution along with their prayers that have been made from the heart of each and every student.

The following is an address made earlier to the School Assembly by a member of our Students Council outlining the details of this contribution:

"At times Mother Nature can be cruel, and it is these times of natural disaster and destruction that test the unity and the moral fibre of human beings.

The Bihar flood crisis is worsening. Water levels are steadily rising, and the floods continue to ravage through village after village taking with them homes, facilities and worse of all lives. Mothers have lost sons. Fathers have lost daughters. Children have been left orphaned, left alone to strive on their own. People's lives have been utterly destroyed. Their lives are being washed away by the strong currents.

"How can I go back? The houses are gone, everything is gone," said Kakhrun Lal, a 65-year-old who watched his home, his crops, his animals - his most valuable possessions as that is how he makes a living in life - drown in the floods. All he had left was his family and two of his cows that he had to sell off so he could have a little money, just so his family could eat for a day. But when that runs out, he truly will have nothing left.

//2//

So for the time being he is living at one of the relief camps, where he and his family are at least getting two meals a day. Flattened rice topped with cane sugar syrup. A meagre meal for sure but food nonetheless!

And this is for those who have been given some relief; there is still no sign of any relief for many. The waters have claimed hundreds of lives and displaced more than a million. Leaving them homeless and in urgent need of aid. Relief is being hampered by extensive damage to roads. Floods have washed away roads and railway tracks; water and electricity supplies have been affected in many areas.

But as I said before, it is these times that bring out the best qualities in our nature. One man and his sons, along with a small group of people were trapped in the midst of the floods. As the water levels rose, help seemed to be too far away to be reached. So this man made the ultimate sacrifice and put aside his own needs. As the water submerged the people causing them to drown, the man, risking his own life, aided the others to safety by helping them out of the water. In the end he saved 9 people, but at what price?

He had to watch his own sons drown and be carried away by the floods. It is stories of self-sacrifice, courage, and of human nature that inspires us. So we must ask ourselves, what we can do?

When we stay comfortably in this school, and thousands upon thousands of our fellow Indians suffer and must struggle to meet their basic needs of survival, when it is handed to us on a silver platter. What can we sacrifice, truly sacrifice, so that our minds, hearts and prayers are with those that are suffering.

So as a collective student body, we have come up with the following decision: that over the course of the next two months, every week we will give up one unique food item. For example, the first week it will be our ice cream, and the second week our Sunday tucks, and the third week our pastry. On the fourth week, on a Sunday morning, instead of having a separate breakfast and lunch, we will have a brunch which will save the cost of one meal.

This cycle will be repeated the second month. By the end of the two months we would have saved about Rs 1.00 lakh which will be all be donated to those in Bihar who are in dire need of it. Also we also request those who voluntarily wish to, both students and staff to donate at least one article of clothing to be given to the victims.

Now some may ask why those who wish to cannot simply send money from their personal account with the School. Some may also ask why not sacrifice the cost of food that students generally do not like. To find the answers to these questions you have only to look within your own conscious and heart.

//3//

The money in your personal account is not yours, it is your parents; then where is your sacrifice in donating it?

By giving up a food item which you anyhow do not like, where is the sacrifice in that?

When we fast, we do not give up something we dislike but something we enjoy, why, because we are trying to discipline our mind to forego our wants. To truly sacrifice we must give up something, of our own that we truly desire. That is true sacrifice. By giving up something we enjoy, our minds truly are with those who are suffering.

Some may also wonder what is the use of sending only Rs 1.00 Lakh ? It is such a small amount compared to the massive amount the state requires. The answer to that is given by this example: when many droplets of water come together they form a stream, and when many streams come together they form a river, and when many rivers come together they form an ocean. That ocean was formed from a droplet of water. Similarly every contribution helps, whether it is one rupee or one crore; when it is given from the heart it is priceless.

Some are also asking, how are we sure that the money we give will even reach the people who need and not in the pockets of officials. We are proposing that the money will go directly to the Bihar Chief Minister's Relief Fund – a trusted place being used to help those caught in the Bihar crisis.

So let us come together, let our prayers, hearts and minds be with those who are suffering. Let us realize that they like us are also humans and deserve some hope that we can help provide. Let us reach inside of ourselves and realize that we are only sacrificing so little, out of 8 ice creams only 2, out of 8 tucks only two and so on, when the amount by which others are suffering is immeasurable.

Thank you and Hari Om!"

With sincere regards,

Anurag Sangal
Principal