

Language has the Power

India is now close to eradicating polio. We have covered 10 months in 2011 without a single incidence of polio anywhere in India. This is a great achievement for Rotarians in India. All what we have achieved was possible mainly due to the active support from the Government of India which allocated more than US \$300 million every year for the programme. The next biggest support was from Rotarians and other donors who have donated to this cause.

The International Polio-Plus Committee of The Rotary Foundation and the India National PolioPlus Committee want to create awareness about polio and Rotary's role in eradicating it, to children and their parents across India. Language has the power to make things.

Hence, conducting a nationwide elocution competition in schools may not only help to create awareness but also assist in building a good public image for the organisation.

Language gives shape to thought. Conducting an elocution competition amongst children will bring out their oratorical or expressive delivery skills, develop the graces of intonation, gesture, style or manner of speaking in public.

The topic for the competition will be 'Rotary's role in polio eradication.' The language in which the competition must be conducted is English. The competition will be held in the District level, Regional level and finally at the National level. Every RI District Governor in India must hold the elocution competition in at least 25 schools. Each school will select



one winner who will get a prize of Rs.1,000. Then, an inter-school competition will be held in the RI District from among the winners from the earlier round. A winner and two runners up (2nd & 3rd) will be selected from this round. The winner will get Rs.3,000 and the runners up will get Rs.2,000 and Rs.1,500 respectively. The winner only will be eligible to go the next level.

The expenses for these competitions will have to be borne by the respective RI District. However, for the district level competition INPPC will disburse Rs.25,000 to each District to be used for media coverage and logistics. The District level competition must attract a large crowd including parents of the children.

The next level is the Regional competition where the winners from

31 RI Districts will compete. For sake of convenience, RI Districts will be grouped into geographical regions, which will be East, West, North and South. The Districts in each of these regions will select one winner from each region. The winners will be awarded with a prize money of Rs.10,000 each and will compete at the national level in New Delhi.

The four winners will travel to New Delhi and eminent people will judge their elocution skills. The winner in the national level will get a prize money of Rs.25,000. The regional and national level competitions will be organised by INPPC and travelling expenses for the winners will be borne by the committee.

To make this event memorable all District Governors must initiate action immediately and complete the school level and dis-

trict level competitions by November 2011 and December 2011 respectively. The regional competitions would be held in January 2012 and the national competition would be held in February 2012. INPPC will provide materials for distribution to the schools.

Eloquence is the hallmark of Rotarians. Now let us hear from children.



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