

Polio Eradication Session in District Conferences

Dear Leaders in Rotary,

I had the opportunity to meet and interact with Rotarians in many District Conferences I attended in U.S.A and some other parts of the world. To my surprise, in all these District Conferences, Polio Eradication Programme received considerable attention. All these countries had eradicated polio. The Rotarians from these countries that have conquered Polio stressed the need to eliminate polio from the polio endemic countries. This session was an important programme in their District Conference!

India is still grappling with the task of eliminating polio and Rotarians here seem to be giving the advocacy programme lesser importance than what it deserves. Apart from the routine National PolioPlus Orientation Seminar which is held annually, there is little or no sign of taking the message to the Rotarians at large through district seminars and more importantly during the District Conference.

Polio eradication is Rotary's priority programme. It needs your involvement. Rotarians need continuous updates and at every stage they need guidelines on the fresh initiatives that need to be taken.

As leaders, we should not be accused of being complacent. We have the infrastructure, but we need more commitment. The India National PolioPlus Committee can help the Districts that need knowledgeable resource persons to come to the District Conference to promote the PolioPlus Programme.

We need to be serious about our goal. I fervently appeal all the leaders of our zone to recharge the programme



of Polio Eradication and rededicate themselves to the task of eradicating Polio. Many Districts in India are polio free. But the danger of it coming back is there as long as the virus is still within our borders.

The only reason why polio is still lurking here is because we have been thinking more about what we don't want than what we want. What we want now is more of advocacy. Polio is the don't want disease. We are keeping this alive when we predominantly think on what we don't want. But you are the generation of leaders that can change history, because you have received the knowledge that can free the world from polio. You have to simply think and

speak about what Rotary wants. And Rotary wants a polio free world.

We need a single minded determination to plunge head long on to the mission. The poet Bekar Utsahi said, "If your determination is strong, all obstacles will crumble before you. Single handedly does the seashore faces the tempest and pushes it back."

All of your power to create a new polio free world is available right now within you. Please use it.



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