

Surabhi

*pītodakā jagdhatṛṇā dugdhadohā
nirindriyāḥ* (Kaṭha. Up. 3)

“These cows have drunk water for the last time, eaten grass for the last time, given milk for the last time, and unproductive.”

Today who will want to keep such animals except sending them to slaughter houses?

A sigh of relief and secure sight in Surabhi *gośālā* for *gomātās* at Ramadevara Betta, Chennamallana Halli Village situated 120kms from Bangalore in Madhugiri Taluk. These *gomātās* are living peacefully in Surabhi on top of a rocky hillock situated in a serene surrounding amidst rocky hillocks awaiting the last call from Bhagavaan. The lives of 380 *gomātās*, the survivors have been saved and rescued on the way while being



transported to the slaughter houses and becoming delicacies on the dining tables of many homes, five star hotels and restaurants.

The farmers, due to poverty sell these *vridhdha asvatha pītodakā jagdhatṛṇā dugdhadohā niirindriyāḥ gomātā* for pittance of money to the brokers who are in this *gomāta*, buffalo, bulls and oxen transporting trade to the slaughter houses.

This noble project of Surabhi *gosamvardhana Kendra* is active from 2006. So far 550 of them have been rescued. They take good care of these animals with proper medical attention. The cows also suffer from the same medical problems like the humans. They get cold, fever, diabetes, arthritis and skin problems and so on and so forth. Poor dumb animals cannot express the discomfort like the humans. Twice a week the veterinary doctor visits for a health check. So there



are separate natural shelters made of stone walls for the sick and healthy cattle.

A separate land has been demarcated for burying the dead cows. Surprised to hear that *gośālā's* are not exempt for going through the cumbersome procedure of reporting the death of every animal and procuring a certificate from the Government. The hawks are waiting for a slip to drag them to the courts!

Since this is situated on a rocky hillock, rural and remote place with scanty rainfall, providing water and fodder is a great difficulty for these animals. There is hardly any road leading to this *kendra*. Only bullock carts can withstand the roads. It is an adventure visiting this isolated place. Still lorries and JCBS reach this place to destroy, damage and demolish the *gośālā* by the supporters of the slaughter houses.

In spite of the stiff resistance and 78 court cases against him to close down the *gośālā*, a commendable job with yeomen effort with passion for *go samrakṣaṇa* has been done by the family of Shri Madhusudan, his wife Smt Rama, the aged mother Smt Leelavati and the support of the local villagers who have understood the noble cause.

He has made a rain water harvest storage which supplies him for four months only. The open well and bore well at the foot of the hillock is another source of water supply. The one solid rock hillock situated in a 7 acre has been converted into greenery by spreading more mud and clay. There is a Lord Rama temple and even a breezy *aśvatta* tree.

Sri Madhusudan has been creating awareness to the farmers by educating them on the value of the so called useless *gomātās*. He conducts workshops and training programmes on the use of *go mūtra* and cow dung, erecting biogas plants and culturing organic manure for the fields. He



has developed 30 traditional health care products out of these. The *bhasma* or *vibhūti* prepared out of cow dung cakes is another interesting product. There are no chemicals, chalk or white cement added unlike the ones available in the market. It is safe to be smeared on our foreheads!

He is also collecting the various breeds of *gomātās* from the farmers lest the breeds become extinct. These rare breeds are given to the needy farmers and other *gośālās* on demand.

He also addresses the school children in the villages and also in the cities about the importance of *go samrakṣaṇa*, protection of cows in spite of his busy schedule of his regular attendance to the courts to protect these *gomātās*.

Please visit their website for more details.
<http://surabhigoushala.org/>

It was a moving and touching experience for all the three Swaminis, Swamini, Svatmanishthananda, Swamini Svatmabodhananda and Swamini Bharatiyananda, who visited this *go samrakṣaṇa kendra*. Thanks to Swamini Bharatiyananda for initiating this eye opening trip to Surabhi.

Report by Swaminis