



Kidney Affected people Appeal for a better Life

Jayasinghe who lived in Madirigiriya passed away in 2012 after suffering from an unknown disease which affected his kidneys. In his last years he spent a painful life and having dialyses twice a week.

According to the Government sources, there are about 25,000 people affected by the same disease. But some researchers say it could be more than 400,000 people in the country.

Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) demands the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water supply and drainage and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure better facilities for the kidney affected farming communities, upon this World Kidney Day, March 13th of 2014.

Hemantha Withanage, Executive Director of the Centre for Environmental Justice said that “Don’t wait until Chronic Kidney disease devastate Sri Lankan farming communities! For years they have been providing us with the need of country’s need of rice. Therefore this is the time they need the attention in not only treating the disease but also helping their living struggle after the head of the family being unable to bring any income.”

The report concluded by the CEJ based on the recent study conducted entitled “Wide spreading CKD

(Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology) in Sri Lanka, its causes and public perceptions” shows that It was the story everywhere, the inability to engage in employment and thereby the lack of an income. The expenses for the treatments are so high that sometimes it is a burden on the rest of the family members as they also make sacrifices in getting treatments for the diseased member such as, sometimes children do not attend schools or cannot bear extra tuition fees, sometimes they have massive loans to pay or have their houses or jewelry in mortgage.

Although, the government has made available some allowance for the patients through welfare officers in the Pradeshiya Sabha, there is a discrepancy in the receiving of this with regard to the area. Some patients didn’t know about this and some are not eligible in the criteria yet, undergo expensive treatments. Also, this allowance sometime is not even sufficient for travelling for one trip while they have to go the hospital at least

twice a month. Inability to the access for treatment found to be a tragedy behind massive deaths of people from this disease.

However, the desperation among these people to receive some donation for attending clinics, getting medicines and Kidney transplant operations was evident. They all expected to have facilities such as enough medicines in the hospitals, adequate dialysis facilities, increased facilities to test urine and blood, health clinics in search for people with Kidney disease, facilities for transportation to clinics, awareness programs on controlling the disease, developed infrastructure facilities and empower district hospitals with necessary equipment, the service of specialists to treat the patients, access to good quality water and some donation to take medicines.

Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental Officer of the CEJ said “whatever the cause of the disease action is in now needed to reduce the number of cases in the worst stage. Therefore, awareness and increasing facilities for pre-identification of the disease, is a timely need”

A Tree Ordination in Weli Oya and Soragune

Soragune Forest is the water catchment for more than 7000 farmers living downstream. This 628 acre forest is belongs to the Soragune Shrine. Although such “Nindagam’ forest cannot transfer to an individual, the forest has been illegally sold to a hotelier to build a 36 hole Golf Course and a 1500 room hotel.

In order to bring the necessary attention, several trees were symbolically ordained on the 1st March 2014 and the forest has been now handed over to the Buddhist monks to save it. Buddhist Monks lead by Venerable Kalupahana Piyarathana Thero issued a ‘Sahngachna’ to the gods to save the forest.

The Centre for Environmental Justice took the lead in organising the Dharma Yathra started at Vihara Maha Devi park on the 27th February 2014 which reached the Forest on the 1st March 2014. Over 60 Buddhist monks and more than 4000 people joined this second tree ordination ceremony.



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