

# **DR. ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA**

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## **MEDICO SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During his tenure as Trainee in Plastic Surgery and thereafter as Post-graduate Teacher at Government run Medical Colleges at Nagpur and Mumbai, Dr. Ashok Gupta came across a number of patients, who required major reconstructive surgery, but were unable to do so due to lack of money and medical facilities. All he wanted to develop a program through which, Dr. Gupta could implement these needed services to the needy and also to invite those who wished to render their services. Dr. Ashok Gupta started his stride in to social and charity work for the down trodden and underprivileged at very early days as a medical student at the Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Nagpur.

- a. Volunteered as Camp Leader at the High Altitude Training session for Students at the Himalayan Trekking Program from 1969 to 1971 and helped a number of sick students.
- b. Offered Free Footwear and Clothing to about 200 Leprosy affected inmates of Leprosy Home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1971 “the Gandhi Jayanti Day”. He collected old and new cloths and donations single handedly through door-to-door visits to friends and neighbors, washed and repaired them himself and then distributed at a function under the guidance of Dr. Vikram Marwah.
- c. Participated as the member of the “Medical Relief Team” for the drought relief work in backward areas of Western Maharashtra and undertook vaccination and other medical relief to over 1000 people for 3 months in 1971.
- d. Participated in Free Reconstructive Surgery Operative sessions at the Civil Hospital, Yavatmal in 1973 - 1975.
- e. From 1981 onwards, on return from U.K. about 34 years ago, started to give back the advantage of his acquired professional skills and knowledge to under-privileged people in the remote / tribal belt of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, as he felt that he owed certain obligations to people of these States wherein, he had undertaken all his pre-primary schooling onwards to the Post-doctoral Degree in Medicine and Surgery.

- f. Formed an NGO called “**Fresh Start Surgical Gifts**” Indiachapter, which was later named as “**Reconstructive Surgery Foundation**”. Doctors from Bombay, Amravati, Ludhiana, Gwalior, Akola and also U.S.A. joined his team. Many nurses, medical assistants and volunteers from different walks of life \ different professions started extending help to these activities.
- g. During these 34 years, has been performing over **7000 Free Reconstructive Plastic Surgical procedures** on underprivileged children at **remote and tribal areas** of different States like **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana** and other parts of the Country.
- h. There is a large tribal population in these States, which still are lagging behind in the society. People here are very poor, it is difficult for them to make both ends meet. Thus even thinking of approaching a specialist doctor for reconstructive surgery is beyond their means and imagination. Despite of many odds, Dr. Gupta continued to help the poor not only in Padher, Betul, Itarsi, Jhansi, Durg (Madhya Pradesh) Amaravati, Akola, Badnera, Gondia, Jalna, Srirampur, Tumsar, Warora (Maharashtra) and Sumerpur (Rajasthan), but also in Bombay. Although Dr. Gupta was working very hard to reach these under-privileged sufferers, he was doing it single handed at a small scale.
- i. Voluntarily extended his services free of charge for few **Complex and Life threatening** Reconstructive Micro Surgical specialized procedures on a number of victims of
- **Post Lok Sabha Election riots 1984**
  - **The Post Babri Masjid related violent episodes**
  - **The Infamous 1993 Serial Mumbai Bomb Blasts**
  - **The heroes of Kargil War**
  - **The victims of Bhuj Earth Quake**
  - **The Terrorist attack at Akshardham Temple at Gujarat” &**
  - **The “2002 and 2003 serial Bomb Blasts at Mumbai”.**
  - **The Train Blast in Mumbai 2006 and the**
  - **The Infamous Mumbai attack on 26 / 11 / 08**

When the **earthquake in Gujarat on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2001** and the **Infamous Mumbai attack on 26 / 11 / 08** shook the whole nation, Dr. Gupta decided to help the victims and “**Reconstructive Surgery Foundation**” operated upon the victims free of charge.