



Rising to the occasion – overcoming our constraints

Saraswati Srinath, Founder Sudatta (Adoptive Parents' Support group – Bangalore)

Adoption is a unique experience for parents, and sometimes it brings its own share of challenges. As one interacts with parents in similar situation, one gets to understand how complex some situations could develop, if not handled in a timely fashion. Also, one may not always be self equipped to resolve all possible issues. Looking for help to come from external sources may not always be an option.

At an adoption meet in one of the placement agencies in Bangalore, 3 families met in 1997. Ms. Vidya Shankar and S. Shankar from Chennai, Dr. Saraswati Srinath and Dr. K.S. Srinath of Bangalore and Ms Sheela Kamath and Mr. M.N. Kamath also of Bangalore. We briefly discussed how we can join hands and work together to make adoptive parenthood a wonderful journey. The 3 families met subsequently and were convinced on the need for a support group as they firmly believed that "Only Adoptive Families can help other adoptive families". The news spread through word of mouth and more and more families joined. There was a common need to learn from collective experience and guide each other.

Sudatta is a Sanskrit word--Su meaning Good and Datta meaning adoption that is how the name was coined by one of the cofounders of Sudatta.

Sudatta was formally launched in Sept 1998, and what started with 3 families has now more than 200 members. Sudatta is a forum where parents and children can share their concerns, their feelings, their joys and challenges. Sudatta also plays a role in spreading awareness about adoption and educating society at large about adoption. It is important for extended families and schools to be educated and sensitized to adoption and Sudatta accomplishes this through its various workshops and seminars.

Looking back, it revalidates that love, compassion and commitment can resolve any challenge!