

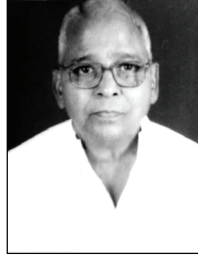
Let's Visit The Star World !

Playlets for children

Dr. Amrutha Latha

Translated by
Chintapatla Sudershan

Foreword



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Telugu literature is embellished with rich plays. Gurajada Appa Rao's 'Kanyashulkam' is an unforgettable play that out lived a century and lives as long as Telugu is spoken. Kanyashulkam lampoons the social evils of that day and is adorned with a striking message.

Dr. Amrutha Latha's playlets have a social purpose in them. They probe deep into the evils of present day imperfections in all walks of social life, practices and systems.

In these short but significant play-lets the writer presents a world of budding stars that may shine and dazzle in future. But their sheen will be eclipsed if they are not taught right education and fitting values.

The first play-let 'Inspection' is laced with biting

humour. It raises our eyebrows at the hollowness of learning of our wards. The play-let reflects the artificiality of teaching and how it strangles the academic growth of students.

'Study Hours' is a comedy lined with subtle humour. Here the students are sheep tethered in a pen. They are governed by an inept warden who believes in her bullying powers rather than in treating the tender souls with a matron's soothing touch.

'T.V. Nuisance' is a comedy that evokes peals of laughter. The neighbours who regularly come to watch T.V create an ordeal to the inmates of the house. The neighbours outwit the naïve trick of Ranganath. The reader pities the plight of the family that is fettered with false social etiquette.

'Presentations' is a play-let that makes a dig at the fallen values of the people. It makes an impassioned appeal not to make the social relations commercial and not to base them on quid pro quo basis.

'The invigilation' is a play-let that mocks at our examination system. As the writer is an academician, she is conversant with umpteen types of malpractices. She banters and looks down upon the very examination system that has become a farcical one.

We know the warnings 'Beware of dogs' and 'beware of thieves.' But here is a new caution 'beware of mikes' which is the title of the play-let. The pollution emitted by mikes is inimical to our smooth living. How sound pollution plays havoc with our lives is artistically shown in this play-let.

'Power cut' is a comedy of errors. The writer comically and skillfully shows us the perplexities of the people in darkness, when the stage is flooded with full lights. The play-let mirrors the reactions of the characters that represent different age groups and harbor different priorities.

The play-let 'Bus Stand' rings a bell. We recollect. Nirad C. Choudary's bus journey in Calcutta hilariously described in his novel 'The Autobiography of an unknown Indian'.

The pandemonium that we witness at the bus stand can be found at every bus stand throughout India.

'Tutions' is a play-let loaded with a warning and stinging message. It unequivocally declares that the present education system is drilling money making notions rather than social and Cultural values into the minds of our young students. It powerfully shows how the indulgence of some teachers in underhand methods corrupts the minds

of young ones.

The play-lets are for children. But they equally appeal to the imagination of the grownups also. We need such plays as they are quite entertaining and instructive. I appreciate the writer Dr. Amrutha Latha. Her effort is quite laudable. Chintapatla Sudershan's rendering these Telugu plays into English is plain and simple and deserves an accolade.

REFLECTION



Chintapatla
Sudershan

In the past, I translated poetry, essays and short stories. For the first time I have taken up the translation of plays. Initially, I thought it was only translating the dialogues and hence it would be easier. But as I got engrossed in translation I realized the difference between translating prose, poetry and translating the plays.

In translating poetry without transmuting the meaning in the source, the translator will have the opportunity to arrange the words as he chooses. In translating prose the translator will comprehend the matter, paragraph wise and builds sentences using liberty to some extent, changing their sequence if it is necessary.

But, in translating plays, the above specified opportunity and liberty are not allowed I perceived, as in translating plays exactness is indispensable. The sentences can't be rolled this way or that way. They can't be stretched or shortened. The

sentences (dialogues) which apparently look simple, when are translated into English should be anglicized so that they don't sound like Telugu sentences.

In plays the dialogue sentences are most frequently incomplete, sometimes they halt abruptly. Moreover, the tone and mood of the characters needs to be maintained through the dialogues. They need to be restructured into English sentences and in this process the differences in punctuation such as use of dots, full stops, exclamation and question marks are to be readjusted. While going through all this the plot of the play, the purpose and objective of the play Wright is to be retained vigilantly.

There are ten play-lets for children in 'Let's visit the Star World'. Among these, in 'Inspection', Study Hours, Invigilation, School Day', 'Tutions', the action takes place in the back ground of school. These playlets focus on the psychology of school children and analyze the mentality of teachers. The naughty activities of children, their innocent litterances, their way of understanding society, especially their teachers is the subject matter of these plays. All these plays present subtle humor and fabrication of real incidents. As a teacher I have experienced these incidents personally. My career as a teacher

began in a primary school where I taught 3rd class for the first time. I also have the experience of invigilating in exams. Therefore, translating these plays filled in me enthusiasm, delight and satisfactions.

The remaining plays in this collection are T.V. Nuisance, Presentations, Bus stand, Beware of Mikes, Power cut, delineate social problems. Yet, the children play a major role in all these. The mentality of adults, the reaction of children is well contrived. Along with humor we understand the craving of the playwright to present the stark realities of society and her intention to bring a change in the situation. The dialogue of the plays maintains a clear demarcation between the elders and children.

Above all the social utility of the plays strongly motivated me to translate them.

I feel it a great opportunity to translate these vibrant play-lets.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Dr. Amrutha Latha

Mr. Pran Rao.S.M's foreword about each playlet summarizes the writer's objective in a captivating way. His eye for detail is very impressive. I'd like to express my personal gratitude for the effort and extra time he has put in for this incredible contribution.

Most often than not - thoughts, ideas and expressions are lost in translation. For making the translation seem seamless, I am thankful to Chinthapatla Sudharshan. I am indebted to him as he fulfilled my aim of releasing the book in time.

I would like to express my gratitude to Bali and K.Babu for their apropos illustrations for the front cover and Mannem Sarada for adding vibrancy with color for the both front and back cover pages.

I am thankful to Subhani, Benhar, Benny, Natraj, Dhar, Uma and K. Babu for their illustrations.

I am grateful to 'Andhra Bhoomi' Weekly and Monthly for publishing these stories. I am especially thankful to the many readers that wrote back with their thoughts, reviews and comments when the stories were published.

I am very much thankful to K.Haranath, Maheshwari Sanakkayala and Dhruva Tej Vemula for their efforts in bringing out this book to the forefront.

In my attempt to run Vijay group of institutions, my own literary journey was on the back burner for over 20 years, for being ardent admirers of my literary work, for rekindling the love of writing in me, for fighting with me at times to make this book come to fruition, I am thankful to A. Shankar, Kiran Bala and Nellutla Rama Devi.

The most tedious task in publishing a book is the proof-reading. The mistakes and errors in a book often stand in the way of the pleasure it brings. To sift them with care and gently tossing them out requires enormous amount of patience, I am grateful to my friends Nellutla Rama Devi, Kiran Bala, A.Shankar, Thurlapati Lakshmi and K. Vijaya Lakshmi. Their help is invaluable.

Days and nights merge into one for our DTP operators Krishna and Madan. The time that they spent on this venture is unforgettable.

*To
my beloved madam*



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INSPECTION



(It's a class room. The teacher left the class as the first period ended - children are making noise)

- Class Leader : Silence! Silence!
(Children continue to make noise)
- Class Leader : Ten minutes have passed after the bell! Social teacher is yet to come!
It is a fool's errand to bring you all under control.

(Ravi is boxing with another boy)

Class Leader : Ravi! I told you so many times not to speak! I am writing your name. Let the teacher come, I'll tell her.

Ravi : You... you always point at meyou don't say a word against your shouting friends. Better tell their names to teacher. But you always fire at me. What leader you are! A worthless leader!

Class Leader : Mind your language! What do you mean by worthless leader? I never wanted to be a leader. Why this leadership? Only to be abused by an unworthy fellow like you (going out turns to Vinitha) Vinitha, second leader... come here to look after the class. I'll go to the staffroom and call our social teacher.

Vinitha : It's Okay. (Settles down in the place of the leader, poses as a teacher) come on children! Anyway social teacher will not come... work in the office as usual... till she appears I'm going to teach you an interesting lesson in social... are you ready to listen to?

Children : Oh !

- Vinitha : Come on Sunitha.... You'll be the D.E.O
- Sunitha : (With a bright face) what! Me...the D.E.O ? What a lucky fellow I am!
- Ravi : This mischievous girl... the D.E.O!
No... We won't accept.
- Sunitha : Please Ravi, for God's sake! Let me be the D.E.O this time! Our social teacher comes late every day... We'll play this game of inspection every day from tomorrow! Every one of you will get a chance to be the D.E.O on some day.
- Children : O.K! Agreed... come on... proceed!
- Ravi : Then who will be the Head Master?
- Vinitha : Third leader Vikram.... Who else?
- Ravi : Yes. But, where is Vikram?
- Vikram : (adjusting the collar) Here I am!
(Vikram walks in a dignified manner towards the black board and sits in the chair. Children clap and shout)
- Sunitha : Look children! Today we'll discuss the latitudes and longitudes. Now I'm drawing a circle on the board! Tell

me what is this?

Children : Globe... the Globe....

Vinitha : Correct! I'm drawing a line dividing this into two (Vinitha draws a vertical line, divides the circle into two parts)

Vinitha : The line I drew between is called the equator! What is this line called?

Children : The equator

Vinitha : Good!

Ravi : (Stands) Teacher... The equator is not like that. It is like this...

(He walks to the board, rubs off the vertical line and draws a horizontal line)

Vinitha : Who says it! You teach ...! An M.A.,B.Ed. here.... Who knows it you or I ! Get out!

Sunitha alias

DEO : (Prepares to leave) those who appoint this kind of teachers deserve to be blamed.

First Leader : (rushes into the class)

The DEO's jeep has come! Our DEO has made a surprise visit!

(All the students silently settle down

in their places)

Ravi : (Peeps out) our social teacher is coming... throwing off the sweater she is always busy in knitting... Oh! She is coming with a map.

Sunitha : Is it? Social teacher with a map.... 'O' after a long time... we see a map... oh! Today all our teachers teach while standing. They don't sit in the chairs now! They show us maps and teaching aids that we haven't seen so far... lessons will be very interesting today.

Vinitha : Will it not be very nice, if the DEO comes for inspection like this every day,

(Social teacher hurries into class room)

Children : (Stand up) Good morning madam!

Social Teacher : (Hurriedly) Good morning! Sit down! Sit! The DEO is here! Now...I teach you a lesson. If the DEO asks questions... answer them... all of you.... Understand!

Children : O.K. madam... sure!

(DEO enters... children stand up)

Children : Good morning sir!

- DEO : Good morning! Sit down!
(Looking at the teacher) please proceed!
- Social Teacher : The lesson we learnt yesterday was... 'India - the Airways')
(Writes the topic on the black board)
Now I ask you some questions! What are the important cities in our country! You... the first bench girl... Sunitha!
- Sunitha : Delhi... Madam!
- Social Teacher : Good! Come on... you second bench boy.... Vikram.
- Vikram : Calcutta!
- Social Teacher : Good! Now... third bench boy Ravi... You
- Ravi : Bombay!
- Social Teacher : Very good! Now fourth bench girl Vinitha...
- Vinitha : Madras!
- Social Teacher : Good! The air ways in our country link all these four cities. Sunitha, show me Delhi in the map!
(Sunitha comes to the board but unable to show, stands blinking her

eyes)

Social Teacher : Vinitha, come....

(Vinitha is also unable to show)

Social Teacher : Vikram you....

(Vikram is unable to find too.....
mutters)....

Social Teacher : You are very poor in map reading!
Who taught you social! Unable to
locate India's capital city being
Indians! Look, Delhi is here!

(Searches in the map, but Delhi is
not seen any where....
embarrassed... restraining
herself... gasping... hurriedly points
at some place)

Social Teacher : Here! Here is Delhi! Tell me now,
where is Delhi?

Ravi : Here is Delhi

Social Teacher : Here means where? Is it on your
bench? Come and show it in
the map.

Ravi : Here means here madam, (shows
in a map which he has) the Delhi
is here in this map! You are
searching it in Africa's map! How
could Delhi be there! Delhi is here

in this India's map. (Takes the map and hangs it near the board)

Head master : (ironically) Thank God! I was very much troubled till now as the children are searching for Delhi in Africa.

DEO : Shhh! It's not good to speak in front of children. We will tell her in the meeting later.

Head master : (in a low voice) Alas! She is a science teacher! She doesn't know social. We have three science teachers... unnecessarily in excess... since two months we've been asking for a social studies teacher.

(The bell rings, second period ends. DEO leaves. HM and social teacher follow him. After some time the sound of DEO's jeep leaving is heard)

First leader : The DEO left, it's Telugu period now... Telugu teacher also comes late....

Ravi : Till Telugu teacher comes shall we all once again play the inspection game! You never give me a chance... Now I am the DEO, I'll ask

you questions.... answer me. First bench girl... Telugu dictation! Come on... write 'Samskrutham' on the board!

(The girl writes on the board)

Ravi : Good! Second bench girl... come write... 'Duryodhanudu'

(She writes Dhuryodhanudu on board)

Ravi : O' No! No doubt Duryodhanudu is a villain but why double stress! One is enough! Listen to me. It's not Dhuryodhanudu. It is Duryodhanudu. No chance.... This country can not be set right... These students will never grow up!

(Another boy Vinod stands)

Vinod : Why always Social and Telugu? Now English Grammar! Listen! I'll teach you negative sentences....

(Writes 'she.... is there' on the board)

Vinod : She means 'aame'... Is means 'unnadi', there means 'akkada'. She is there means she is there... negative for this sentence is she is

not there. Now tell me what the negative sentence is for 'she is there!'

- Children : She is not there!
- Ram : Sir... I have a doubt...
- Vinod : Go ahead!
- Ram : 'She' means 'aame' (Telugu), isn't it?
- Vinod : Yes!
- Ram : 'Is' means 'unnadi'. ('Yes' in Telugu)
- Vinod : Yes!
- Ram : 'Not' means 'ledu', ('No' in Telugu)
- Vinod : Yes... Yes...
- Ram : 'There' means 'akkada' (Telugu)
- Vinod : (Vexed) So... so what?!
- Ram : Sir, as you said is means yes not means no in Telugu language. But, I don't understand what you mean by 'She is not there'... Is she there? Or is she not there?

(Vinod's head reels... scratches his head... unable to answer in confusion. English teacher entering the class room listens to Ram's doubt)

English Teacher : Look Vinod.... These doubts are quite natural - if English is not taught in English but in Telugu.

(Turning to a girl)

What's your name?

Vinitha : Vinitha.

English Teacher : She is Vinitha! Now tell me children! Is she Sunitha?

Children : No... She is not Sunitha...

(The teacher writes both the sentences on the black board and under lines 'is' and 'is not')

English Teacher : Look at the board children! You see 'is' in the first sentence and 'is not' in the second sentence. Okay! 'Not' is not the negative of 'is'! 'Is not' is the negative of 'is'..... understand!?

Children : Yes sir! Thank you very much sir!

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STUDY HOURS



(It's a hostel room. Children are seen playing as the curtain rises up. Sudden sound of the bell rang by the peon. On hearing the sound the children rush hither and thither and sit with books to read. Some sit in study hours without books! Some have slates but no slate pencils. While some look at the corners, others are scratching their heads. Warden appears)

Warden : Why sit so... write down 'a' on the slate

- Ramu : (In fear and confusion): Slate pencil... I don't have a slate pencil.
- Warden : You say the same whenever I ask you? What have you been doing with the slate pencils?
- Gopi : Madam! He... he has been secretly eating them. He threatened me of beating if I tell you.
- Warden : (Angrily) Is it so Ramu?
- Ramu : No... No...No... madam.
- Warden : (rebukes) tell me the truth
- Ramu : Yes... yes... madam!
- Warden : Rangamma!
- Rangamma : (Entres) Amma!
- Warden : Don't give poori to this boy for breakfast! Give him slate pencils! That will set him right.
- Ramu : (Slapping himself on his cheeks) sorry madam! I won't repeat it madam! Excuse me madam.
- Warden : For this time it's O.K. Take this slate pencil! If you lose it again I am not going to spare you. I'll tie the slate pencil around your neck with a thread, understand?
- (Ramu nods his head)

Rangamma : Amma... Parents! They want to talk to you.

(As the warden leaves to talk to the parents, the children throw the books. John and Ismail sit in front of one another and chat. Seetha and Deepthi play pebbles. Vikram dances)

Leader : (Looking at Vikram) Vikram go to your seat...What are you doing... this is time for study?

Vikram : Don't shout... because you are leader you can hide comics in your text books and read... can't I twist? I dance... it's my will! Who are you to stop me... If you want I have Chandamama... take it and shut your mouth.

Vijay : For God's sake don't make noise boys. I am doing sums....So difficult to understand... These boys turn into monkeys, if madam is not here.

Deepthi : Seetha what is it?

Seetha : Nail Polish! My brother brought it yesterday.

Deepthi : So... nice! May I polish my nails?

Seetha : Take it.

Aruna : Give it to me also.

- Seetha : You too take it.
(The girls are polishing the nails)
- John : Hey... Warden is coming!
(Seetha, Deepthi, Aruna on seeing Madam, instantly keep their hands folded at their back - hide the nail polish and act as if they are reading moving their lips... all the boys also are seen reading)
- Warden : John! Come here! Write 'a' and 'aa' on the slate
(Pulling the shorts that is about to slip, John comes and writes)
- Warden : Ismail bring your book here!
(Ismail gives his book)
- Warden : (Looking into the book) tell me the meaning of Paanchali.
- Ismail : Paanchali... Paanchali (muttering)... you want me to say the meaning of Paanchali madam!
- Warden : Yes!
- Ismail : Paanchali means... the 'aali' of the paanch... paanchali
- Warden : (Ironically) good.... How did you tell it so correctly?
- Ismail : (Exalted) simple madam... the wife of five Pandavas is Panchali.

Isn't it madam?

Warden : Gosh! It is not the wife of five...She is the princess of the country Paanchala... So, she got that name.

Ismail : (Grumbling) understood madam!

Rangamma : (Enters) Amma... phone for you.

Warden : Coming!

(As the warden leaves with Rangamma, Deepthi, Aruna sit on the floor at the two sides of a bench with backs against it and read falling into sleep. Seetha ties their braids and enjoys. Whenever they fall forward in sleep the knot makes them go back to their positions. When they wake up they understand, they begin to beat Seetha on her back even untying their knots)

Seetha : (Slapping herself on cheeks) don't beat me! Sorry! I never do this again.... I swear!

Deepthi : (Sits on the bench in dignified manner) come on! Untie our braids.

Seetha : (Shivering... unties their braids) don't tell madam, she will tear off my back.

Aruna : It's Okay...but you have to do one

thing!

Seetha : What do I have to?

Aruna : I am drowsy..... I'll sleep.... When warden comes you tell me... in a way you are the guardian of my sleep... did you get it?

Seetha : It's alright!

Deepthi : I will sleep too.... but under the cot. Don't tell the madam. If she asks tell that I am in bath room.

Vikram : Give me the snacks!

Gopi : No... I have only two....

Vikram : Nothing doing! You have to Didn't I give one to you the day before yesterday? Now you have to give me.

Gopi : No... I won't.

Vikram : Won't you... see what I do...

(Vikram beats Gopi, snatches away the snack. Gopi cries....)

Praveen : Vikram, why did you beat Gopi! Let madam come. I'll tell her.

Vikram : Who cares! I won't be caught. See. I'll make him laugh. Gopi... I'll say one... two... three... laugh before I complete the third number.... If you don't laugh I'll slap you again! Understand! One....

- Gopi : (holds the breath)
- Vikram : Two....
(Gopi moves)
- Vikram : Three....
(Gopi controlling tears, unable to laugh or cry... finally laughs with fear) hi... hi.... hi....hi....
- John : (Showing the little finger) leader!
- Leader : Same trick always! No... I won't send you! Sit!
- John : Please! Please!
(Holding the tummy moves impatiently)
- Leader : (Vexed) Did I not tell you to sit? Sit down!
(Unable to control John pisses in a corner there itself)
- All : Shame! Shame!
(Praveen is crying)
- Leader : Praveen! Why... why are you crying?
- Ramu : He has pushed the slate pencil into his nose. It is not coming out.
- Gopi : Shall I call Rangamma.... She will pull it out.
- Praveena : No...No... If warden knows she will kill me.

- Vikram : (Posing as a Greek leader)
Don't fear my son! A slate pencil
in the nose! Very easy task for
me! I'll just pull it out!
- Leader : Don't try! You can't... it is
dangerous.
- Vikram : You coward! You know my name!
Vikram ! Means courageous! It's
not at all a task... just... to remove
the slate pencil from the nose...

(As Vikram tries to pull the slate
pencil out... it gets farther deep
into the nose)
- Vikram : (Alarmed) Alas! It went inside...
Now... what to do?
- Leader : Die... Didn't I tell you? Now... what
happens to Praveen... will he live
or die?
- All : Alas!

(All begin crying at once...
warden rushes in! Aruna wakes
up at once and sits. Deepthi is still
sleeping under the cot)
- Warden : (Reprimanding) what happened?
Why are you all crying?

(All stop crying instantly)
- Warden : Why are you all standing like
stones? Tell me what happened!
- Leader : (Gathering courage) Praveen

pushed slate pencil in his nose, madam, Vikram tried to pull it out... but madam that went farther inside madam.

Warden : (Beats Vikram) Are you a doctor? Don't put your finger in unknown things! See what happens, if you do this again.

Vikram : Sorry madam... no madam I won't do it madam!

Warden : Rangamma!

Rangamma : Amma!

Warden : Take this boy to a doctor immediately... I'll follow you... come on... quick!

Rangamma : Ok amma!

(Rangamma takes Praveen with her. While leaving, warden observes the legs of Deepthi under the cot and stops)

(Seetha tries to wake up Deepthi by scratching Deepthi on legs with fingers of her foot)

Deepthi : Don't disturb my sleep!

Warden : (gestures Seetha not to talk slowly goes near the cot and pulls Deepthi out by holding her feet... But Deepthi does not get up. She turns to the other side in sleep)

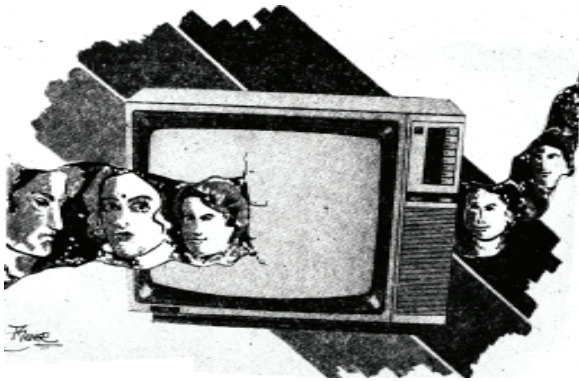
Deepthi : Don't wake me up! Let me sleep for some more time! Madam will not be back so soon... she won't leave her phone so soon!

Warden : (Jerking Deepthi) Deepthi... Deepthi... (On hearing) the warden's voice... Deepthi opens her eyes making a sound 'aaaaa'? as she is trembling.... the curtain)

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TV NUISANCE



(Sunday... the head of the home Gopal is reading a news paper in the T.V.Hall. Eldest son Vikas seriously is studying for exams. The younger one Ravi is doing home work. The house wife Kamala is working in the Kitchen)

Gopal : Kamala! Where are you? Come here! Your favourite Balchandar movie is released! Today shall we go to the first show?

Kamala : Who is going out for a movie today? Today Savithri's movie is on the T.V. Balachandar's movie is releasing today only. We can watch it tomorrow, if we want to.

But today there is no chance. I won't go.

Gopal : While munching hot pakodas, watching film on T.V. with wife and children... We bought T.V but what is the use? Just as we turn on the T.V. the neighbours will rush into.

(Sound from outside)

They are here. Hundred years to your friends! Don't look at me... go and open the door.

(Kamala opens the door trying to smile)

Kamala : Come in! Come in!

Suryakantha : (Enters) Namaskaram brother!

Gopal : (Nervously) Namasthe... come on... have a seat.

(Suryakantha followed by Manikyalu followed by Andala mma... another five children behind her enter! As the chairs are not enough in the T.V. Hall, Gopal and his eldest son leaves the T.V hall and goes into the adjacent bed room)

(Note: With a partition between T.V. hall and bed room, both should be made visible)

Grandson : Granny! I am thirsty! Get some water.

Suryakantha : Gopi! He wants water. Wont' you fetch him some water?

(Gopi goes into kitchen, comes back with a glass of water and gives it to the grandson of Suryakantha. Presently another neighbor Jagadamba enters. As there is no vacant chair, the house wife Kamala offers her seat to Jagadamba and watches the T.V. along with Gopi in a standing stance)

Andalamma : What is this? Something cold touching my feet... Alas! Manikyamba... your son has pissed it seems.

Manikyamba : (Angrily) This idiot turned the floor wet... Kamala will you give me a piece of cloth?

Kamala : Ravi! Bring a piece of cloth.

(Ravi brings a cloth from inside Manikayamba is wiping the floor. Gopal calls Ravi from the bedroom. Ravi goes into the bedroom. Mean while, the son of Andalamma, pulling his shorts down, says something in her ear. She looks at Kamala)

Andalamma : He has been suffering from loose

motions since morning! Won't you show him the toilet?

Kamala : Come on boy! Ravi... Show the toilet to this boy.

(The children, who have come to watch T.V., throw the shells of groundnuts wherever they want. Whenever there is a laughing scene on T.V. They laugh loudly. The disturbed eldest son studying in the bedroom holds his head)

Gopla's

eldest son : Because of this T.V. the home has become a cinema hall!

Ravi : Yes brother! Shall we introduce ticket system? Whenever there is a movie on the T.V, we may collect at least Rs. 25/-

Gopla's

Eldest son : Shut up! You.... With your nasty jokes!

(Ranganath brother of Kamala arrives. As they were all watching T.V. they don't notice someone's coming. As the door is knocked Kamala while continuing to watch T.V., opens the door, without noticing her brother, gets back to her place. A child, who comes to watch T.V. suddenly, begins to cry)

Mother of

the child : (To Kamala) would you mind giving two biscuits to this boy. The boy continuously crying! I can fetch biscuits from my home... but... the suspense... you see, is in the coming scene.

(Kamala brings a biscuit packet from inside, notices her brother sitting in a chair)

Kamala : (Happily) Brother! When have you come?

Ranganath : It is already an hour. Watching T.V, you just opened the door without noticing me.... and continued watching it. Not to disturb you I did not speak.

Kamala : Every five minutes someone knocks at the door! Sorry brother! I thought you were some neighbour.

(A loud sound is heard! Manikyalu's little child removes the flower vase from the top of the T.V and breaks it with a loud sound. Manikyalu slaps him... he begins to cry. Kamala rushes there having nothing to do, sweeps the glass pieces on the floor with a broom)

Ranganath : (Calls Kamala from bedroom)

Kamala! Kamala!

Kamala : (Enters into bedroom) what do you want brother?

Ranganath : What is this Kamala!? Haven't you noticed how the house is? You use to organize things very well. What happened to you now? Home is very messy - things littered around - Just like some war field.

Kamala : What do I do brother? I clear the litters once they leave Things get back normal again. I hesitate to tell them not to watch T.V.

Ranganath : Just give me permission! I will send all of them out in a minute.

Kamala : How?

Ranganath : You do... what I say

Kamala : Yes...

(Ranganath stands at the door of T.V hall and says in a loud voice to be heard by all)

Ranganath : Kamala! It's time for the movie. Get ready with the children... quick... the picture is released today... So no hope of getting tickets... if we are late. Brother in law get ready.

Kamala : Coming... brother!

Ranganath : (Comes into the T.V. hall). Are you

all ready? It is getting late... bring the lock... come on...let's go out...

(All the family members enter the T.V. hall with lock, a bunch of keys and a torch light. But, those who are watching T.V. don't move)

Ranganath : (Muttering) we are going to movie!

Suryakantha : Oh! Understood brother! You are all going to movie, no problem... you may all... but how can we leave Savithri's movie in the middle... if you don't mind give me lock and key! After watching film on the T.V we will lock the house and keep the key carefully with us to hand it over to you, when you are back. Is that okay?

(All the members of the house are stunned. Ranganath is unable to digest the situation, while giving the lock and key to Suryakantha - the curtain)

***'Andhra Bhoomi' - Illustrated
Weekly (Telugu) (03-01-1991)***

PRESENTS



(Priya is reading a paper in the drawing room. On the table in a corner a number of presents wrapped up in pink papers are visible)

Kavitha : (Enters) Priya... is your Mom in?

Priya : O Kavitha aunty! Come... Come!
Please sit.... Mom is inside.
Mom... Mom.... Kavitha aunty!

(Vimala yells 'Coming!' from the kitchen and enters the drawing room while wiping her hands with a napkin)

Kavitha : (Sitting in a chair) you are leaving this town on a transfer, aren't you? Meenakshi told me. I am here to

find out if it is true.

Vimala : Yes Kavitha! My husband got transferred a week back. We don't want to leave this town but... what can we do? Government jobs are so....

Kavitha : We have been together as friends for long... your leaving now is so sad!

Vimala : I too feel sad. I can't think of leaving this town.... I wanted to host a dinner for you all before leaving. It was my son's birthday as well; so I had invited everyone for dinner! When I came to invite you, you had gone to attend a marriage.

Kavitha : Yes... yes... I was told! Dinner was very grand, I heard! Seems the arrangements were excellent and many guests attended. All those who attended appreciated the dinner.

Vimala : Will it be good if I don't make it so - having attended parties hosted by friends in the last three years?

Kavitha : Here's the thing I was surprised about - You have been here for three years but never celebrated

your son's birthday in any year.
But now... newly....

Priya : May I tell you aunty? In the three years we were here Mom attended many functions, offered presents to more than twenty-five people! As she is leaving now Mom is so sad...

Rajesh : (Vimala's son enters) I got it...Mom's intention is to host a function like a birthday and get back all those gifts she presented... Am I correct?

(Vimala looks angrily at her son and daughter while Radha enters making sound of her high heels)

Raadha : Hello Vimala!

Vimala : Hi Radha! Come sit here.

Radha : Ok Kavitha! Hi! You are here as well!

(Radha instead of sitting goes straight to the table loaded with presents and looks at them in excitement)

So many presents! What is this?
Oh - an album! Some music is heard when opened... very nice...
What is this... a plate! Is this also

a present? Oh! If I too could get this kind of plate as a present, how nice would it be!

Kavitha : (Ironically) it's not a big thing! If you celebrate your son's birthday you may get many presents as well! Try your luck.

Radha : (Not understanding the riddle.. continues) I experienced that too. Once I bought a present worth hundreds of rupees to our neighbours' daughter. But when our turn came.... Do you know what they gave? They gave a flower vase in our daughter's marriage. I never think of someone giving something to me, just casually telling you.

Vimala : Yes, Radha! What you say is hundred percent true... you see... that day... on my son's birthday.... Lalithamba came with diamond tops, wearing a Banaras sari and a glittering gold chain in the neck, with empty hands! All the guests seeing her with empty hands chewed their ears off!

Radha : Is this... glass also a present?

- Vimala : See how delicate it is... a slight press will make a dent... somewhat better... it is not aluminum glass... found nothing else in the market except this poor glass... They threw it on our face!
- Radha : Oh! What is this?a plastic photo frame... not bad.... It's not a plastic soap case! Shameless people... wrote 'presented by' on it as if it is a great present.
- Vimala : Look at this present.... a biscuit tin... wrapped up in colour paper... Is this a precious present? Grand present! I feel shy even now.
- Radha : Yes... but your neighbor Saritha presented a tiffin carrier of four boxes! She told me it was made in Japan... biscuit tins, pens... I don't like such nasty presents.
- Priya : O my God! So many trays! Many albums! Mom! May I ask you, is one tray and one album not enough for us! What will you do with all these?
- Rajesh : Mom will open a steel shop or a general store with these presents and the presents coated with full

of dust on the loft.

Radha : I remember one thing... You know what happened a day before yesterday, my husband went to the wedding of his officer's son... unheeding to my protest, only to exhibit his loyalty bought a ring by raising a loan to present it to the bride groom! What happened you know... Yesterday I saw the wedding cassette! All those who gave small presents appeared in different poses in it. But, my husband who presented a ring did not appear anywhere.... Not even for a second! Remembering this always brings tears in my eyes. Quite unrecognized the present was...wasn't it!

Kavitha : (Impatiently) Ok... Vimala! Its time... children will come back... I have to prepare food stuff! Radha will you come... come on... Let's go.

(Kavitha and Radha exit. Vimala's husband Rama Rao enters)

Vimala : What's the matter? Why so late?

Rama Rao : It took so much time to get the relieving orders Vimala!

Dolly : (Neighbour's baby) Uncle! Uncle!

Rama Rao : O' Dolly! (Lifts her up and kisses)
What dear, not coming to us these days?

Dolly : Just like that uncle...! Tomorrow is my birth day uncle! My Mom told me to tell you and aunty to come! You will come, won't you?

Rama Rao : Why not? Sure!

Dolly : Must come! I am going uncle! Mom will be waiting for me.
(Baby exits)

Vimala : last days of the month. Down with birth days! Don't understand how to buy presents.

Rama Rao : There you are! Others also might have felt troubled when we celebrated our son's birthday! Did you ever think this?

Vimala : Any way... We are leaving the town soon. It's not our headache now. Let us skip Dolly's birth day tomorrow! Once we gave them a present... they gave us once!
If we give them a present now... we will never get it back!

Rama Rao : Why do you think so foolishly?

Vimala... present reminds me that incident... on that day you know what happened! It was my officer's daughter's marriage. All the subordinates held a meeting to buy a present with a contribution of twenty five rupees each. Some agreed. Some others were ready to give only ten rupees. There were some who agreed that the amount of rupees twenty five was very less and wanted to make it fifty rupees. But, I said 'no' as the officer did not like presents... discussions went on, no agreement arrived... I came out leaving the matter to them.

Vimala : Let me ask you... some out of love and affection present something as their memory... What's wrong in it if we accept the present?

Rama Rao : It's Okay if you also give gifts to them with the same love and affection, is it not? It's nothing but giving and taking... why is this all?

Rajesh : Daddy, you bought a watch to Priya as she got first rank in tenth class. Is it not a present? Is it not wrong?

Rama Rao : My son Rajesh! Priya is my daughter! I am her father! A father giving something to his daughter... cannot be a present. It is my duty to fulfill the basic needs of my children! But no father can buy all the things at a time. So... as per his convenience... he buys presents to his children on certain occasions. Priya passed tenth in first class! To encourage her as her father, utilizing the occasion, I bought her a watch she liked! Listen.. a husband buying something to his wife, a father giving something to children are not presents! Gifts! Children can take presents from parents... wife and husband may exchange gifts... but they should not be expected from relatives and friends. That's a bad convention in my view.

Vimala : Is it so? A person known to me got printed 'presents are not accepted' in the wedding card! We thought presents are not accepted really. So we went with empty hands. But, some came with presents and their presents were received. We felt ashamed

for going there with empty hands!

Rama Rao : It is a big mistake to give presents to those who want to avoid them. There are people like you, who won't listen! The presents might have been accepted not to create a scene or not to displease those who brought presents. Don't find fault with the person who invited!

Vimala : Leave this matter... what pinches me is this. Our neighbours received four thousand worth presents by spending two thousand! They served vegetarian food! But we... we spent five thousand rupees and gave a non-vegetarian treat. Spending so much... we could get presents worth only one thousand rupees! Think of the loss! For anything luck should support. If I had guessed of getting so less presents I would not have celebrated the birthday spending so much money.

Rama Rao : Stop it Vimala! If I had known your bad intentions I would not have celebrated the birthday! If

someone invites us with love...
we should certainly attend and
whole heartedly bless them!
That's all! Don't be so mean in
your words. It's disgusting....
Don't give presents to anyone
here after! Don't accept presents
from others! That will be good for
them and you.

Manikyamba : (Vimala's mother-in-law enters)
that's what you have to tell her! She
is always worried about giving
presents and getting them back
in any form! Ask her to come to
senses at least in the new town...
all will live well.

(Curtain)

***'Andhra Bhoomi' Illustrated
weekly (Telugu) 27-12-1990***

INVIGILATION



(Students in two rows are writing tenth class exams. There are ten students in the hall with five students in each row. In a row Ramu, in his front Ravi, Gopi, Suresh and John are there. The last one in the second row is Anand in his front are Abdul, Nirmal, Chethan and Karim! In the middle of the two rows Gopal Rao is the invigilator)

Ravi : Sir! Additional paper!

(Gives additional paper walks from one side to the other. When he goes front the students at the back, when he turns back the students at the front whisper, make signals and various gestures)

Gopal Rao : (Suddenly turns back)

Who is whispering! No sounds!
Sit right!

(Students sit right in their places.
As writing answers is difficult,
Ramu always peeps into the
paper of Ravi seated in his front)

Gopal Rao : Can't you sit right and write?

Ramu : No hope Sir even if I see and
write! If I don't see how can I pass
sir?

Gopal Rao : Mind your own business!

(Gopi who is sitting in front of Ravi
is also in the same situation! He
slowly takes out a slip from his
shoe, keeps it in between his
thighs and starts writing. Karim
sitting in front of all takes out slips
from the collar folds and is
copying.)

Gopal Rao : If you have any slips with you, give
them now! It will be troublesome
for you if the flying squad makes
a visit.

(Someone ties a small stone to a
slip and throws to Suresh! Suresh
continuously looks this way and
that way when the invigilator is not
noticing, grabs it, puts it under the
pad... Now and then he lifts the
pad up and is seen copying by
Gopal Rao)

- Gopal Rao : Mr. What is that? Give it
(Takes away the slip Suresh is copying)
See! This is the last warning! I won't keep quiet if you indulge in copying again.
- Suresh : We are like your children sir?! Be kind to us sir! You are so strict sir!
- Gopal Rao : Silence! If you talk more I will take away your paper! Be careful!
- Nirmal : Chetan! Answer for the second question...
(Chetan who is sitting in front of him is silent)
- Nirmal : Chetan... I will show you a film! Tell me the answer for the second question.
(Chetan is still silent)
- Nirmal : Ok! Don't tell me... after going out I'll see!
- Karim : That fellow is a proud fellow... he thinks he is very clever.
- Gopal Rao : Shh...! Why do you talk always! Sit right and write the exam.
- Abdul : (Raving against the teacher):
Arey! Chup baitho! Jab se chillare!
(Rolling the sleeves up) Kya

samjhe hum logon ko?

(At this time, the sound of flying squad's jeep is heard. The whistles, shouts of students who have come to supply slips are heard from outside! The students who are writing copies throw away the slips they have. The flying squad officer who comes along with the superintendent, checks every boy, one by one. When Suresh is checked he finds nothing on him when he asks Gopi to stand up he skillfully removes the slip which is between his thighs and puts it in his mouth in a flash of second. Flying squad officer notices it)

Flying squad

Officer : Mr. What is it? What are you chewing?

Gopi : (Stammering) nothing... nothing!
Chocolate!

(Draws a chocolate out of his pocket)

Flying squad

Officer : This is not your house to eat chocolate! This is examination hall. Sit right!

(As the officer goes near Ramu,

Ramu who is copying form a slip under his kerchief quickly inserts the slip in his tucked shirt)

Flying squad

Officer : What is it? Come on! Bring the slip out!

(Ramu shyly twists his body. As the invigilator pulls the tuck of Ramu all the slips fall down at once)

Flying squad

Officer : Invigilator! So many chits! Don't allow him to write the exam! Take his paper!

Ramu : Sir... Sir! Sorry sir! I won't do it again sir! Excuse me this time sir!

Flying squad

Officer : Chief Superintendent, come on! Bring this boy to office - he should be debarred!

Ramu : Sir! Please sir!

Flying squad

Officer : Shut up!

(Flying squad officer leaves the hall with Ramu)

Gopal Rao : Didn't I tell you earlier, you don't listen... I asked you not to copy. Did anyone listen? See now! How

Ramu is debarred!

Gopi : (carelessly)... Arey! Flying squad has gone! We can copy now without fear!

Gopal Rao : Started again! Give me that slip!

Suresh : No... sir... I won't!

Gopal Rao : Flying squad officers are still here. They may come again at any moment!

Suresh : Let them come! But I don't give it at any cost!

Karim : Sir! Small request! People like you don't like this... if you stay outside the hall, it will be good.

Suresh : Sir! Mine is another request! We will be ever grateful if you stand near the door and inform us in case the fly squad comes.

Gopal Rao : What do you mean! Am I here to watch you or the flying squad? How dare you are!

Ravi : Sir, additional paper!

(Gopal Rao gives additional paper to Ravi. At the same time attender enters with the pretext of giving water, hands over a slip to John without Gopal Rao's notice and exits. Karim wants to leave for Dubai... he will get a job there

only if he posses the SSC qualification. So he requests the invigilator)

Kareem : Aapka pair padthum, mujhe nakhal likhne dev saar
(I'll touch your feet, sir! Let me copy sir!?)

Gopal Rao : No talking please!

Karim : Agar mai pass huwa tho Muscat jaavunga !. Vaha mujhe achcha naukri milega sir.
(If I pass I will go to Muscat... There I will get a good job sir!)

Gopal Rao : I say don't talk!
(John is writing exam for promotion)

John : If I pass this exam I will get promotion Sir! If you are not kind to me how can I get through the examinations, sir? You just ignore us sir! We will see nobody complains against you, Sir!

Gopal Rao : Silence please!

John : What Sir! Why so strict? Did you pass without copying?

Gopal Rao : I was not of that kind....

John : Come on! Everybody says so...!
Who doesn't know this?

Karim : Hum ko maryada se likh ne dethe
ya nahee?

(Won't you allow us to write?)

Gopal Rao : Nahee tho...!?

(If not-)

(Karim raises his hand to beat
Gopal Rao, at this movement
Flying Squad Officer enters)

Flying squad

Officer : Mr. what is this nuisance....
Where is your paper? Give it to
me... come to office room!

(Flying Squad Officer drags
Karim along with him)

Karim : Sir, sir, maaf karo Sir! Muj se galti
hua! Maaf karo sir!

(Sir, sorry, sir, excuse me sir!)

Flying squad

Officer : Shut up! Nothing doing! Come on!

***'Andhra Bhoomi':
Illustrated Weekly (15-11-1990)***

SCHOOL DAY



Madan : This Chief Guest has come two hours late! He has been hammering with his speech for over two hours! Who will have patience to listen to his speech?

Raju : Students like us come only to watch dramas and dances! Who cares these speeches?

(Students express their impatience in different poses... a

moment after)

Somu : Hey! Shall we heckle the chief guest with shouts and whistles?

Venkat : Ready... one... two... three!
(Students begin whistles)

Madan : (nervously) Even now the Chief Guest is not stepping down.

Raju : Seems to be very strong! Shall we increase the hoot?

Somu : We shall! We will!

Madan, Raju,

Somu, Venkat: O... O... O... O...

(They continue this for some time but as the guest is unmoved they clap continuously)

Madan : (look at the stage... happily)

Thank God! The Chief Guest is stepping down.

(Silence for some time! While audience watches at the stage, there is an announcement from behind the curtain.

'Namaskaram, Viewers! The cultural programme begins in five minutes!'

Madan : Hey! Cultural programme will start.

(They are patting on one other's back and are thumping on the

- chairs.)
- Somu : (Staring) that girl's dance... I think is Okay.
- Venkat : So... So! Let us clap... she will be happy feeling that she did well!
(Now little children's dance 'Twinkle Twinkle little star')
- Madan : Hey look! That baby on the stage... perhaps a LKG baby. She is stout but sweet! What is she nourished with, we don't know... but!
- Raju : She is so fat... will she dance?
- Somu : Why did you say so? That girl is stepping back with fear.
- Venkat : Whose hands are they behind the screen?
- Madan : Her teacher's! She is pushing the baby on to the stage.
- Ravi : That baby seems to be frightened, why the teacher is blowing a whistle.
- Somu : It seems... instead of the baby... She is going to dance!
(Announcement again... 'Now English playlet !')
- Madan : English play! Another boring item! These English medium people...

Raju : Who understands this? Only for posing as if they only know English!

Somu : I doubt! Are these the dialogues of the boys belong to them or someone is prompting from the back of the curtain?

Venkat : Hey! During these English plays we can take a nap! What do you say friends?

Raju, Somu : (Nodding heads) yes... yes... sure!

(Some sit relaxed in the chairs some others rest their bodies as if they are disinterested! An announcement again "Disco-Dance" in a few minutes")

Madan : (Jumps on the chair) Hey... Disco... Dance... Disco... Disco dance announced!

Raju, Somu, Venkat: (Gets up with a jerk) is it so!?! (Whistles... jump... Raju climbs the chair and stares Somu on his tiptoes stares! Venkat holding their heads apart stares through the gap.

Madan : Disco dance is excellent!

Raju : Lighting is more awesome than costumes!

- Somu : Steps... Steps are superb than lighting!
- Venkat : Song is better than steps!
(Meanwhile another student Satish comes - He watches the programme standing - they are unable to see the stage).
- Madan : (To Satish) Hello Satti! You too have come to this cultural programme? How many times did I tell you not to come after eating bellyful! Keep distance... lean fellows like me may fall down with your tummy's blow!
(Annoucement : "Now Peacock dance")
- Venkat : See Somu, Raju... Sattiga... look... look... how nice is the peacock dance!? That music... simply superb! Guess who danced as the peacock! I think she might be padmaja of tenth class! No.. No... Not seems to be so... perhaps should be the two braids chandrakantha !
- Somu : No... This girl seems to be a new comer to school.
- Madan : Hey sattil! Come here!
(Satish comes fondling his tummy)

- Madan : What a dance... While watching it I felt like playing the drum rhythmically! If you don't mind... lend me your tummy for a quarter hour?
- Somu : Oh... Oh... the peacock dance is over! Idiot... (Looking at Satish) I am a short fellow; you stood like a baby elephant in front! I could not see the dance as your tummy stood like a boulder! Once more... Hey girl! Once more!
- Madan : (Observing time in the watch)... Hey fifteen minutes back the peacock dance is over! No sign of another item! It seems... they are setting the programme now!
- Raju : Your guess is right!
(From behind the curtain "Now folk dance on 'Bugge kandi poyindile'... !)
- Somu : This girl did classical dance already... Now ... she intruded into folk dance also.
- Venkat : Perhaps she is the daughter of the principal!
- Madan : certainly! Otherwise how could a single girl get two chances?
- Raju : I don't know who is singing this song. There is no connection

between the song on cheeks and dance.

Somu : Alas! Not only the song and dance... there is no relation between music and steps!

Venkat : Who is singing with that squeaky voice?

Madan : Leave the song... The hair bun of the girl is off! See... See... her hair bun is off.

Raju : Instead of the song about cheeks it should be a song about the hair bun.

(All laugh. Announcement again: "Group Dance in a few minutes")

Raju : O'my God! Is this a group dance or drill?

Somu : You are correct Raju! This dance is choreographed by the drill teacher Sunanda! She invited my sister to watch this worthless dance by putting 'Kum Kum' on her fore head!

(Announcement again: "Now last item "School day" - Telugu drama")

Madan : Hey! You have seen the girl who is the hero of this play. Haven't you? Whose is the stripes shirt she wore? It is mine... mine...

- Ravi : Don't bluff! I know your dresses.
How can I believe?
- Madan : It's true... It's mine! Lalitha
asked... So I got a new shirt
stitched for her!
- Raju : (doubtfully) the other day when I
asked you five rupees you said
you didn't have? Where did you
get money for a new shirt?
- Madan : When Lalitha asked. I could not
say no... I sold my text books!
- Venkat : Oh! You did a great sacrifice!
Guroo! Last year as Girija asked
me for the school day... I gave her
my sister's old silk saree! That's
the end! She is not to be seen
since then onwards!
- Somu : I too have the same experience.
Once my neighbor Meenakshi
requested me for a silk saree,
unheeding to mothers objection I
gave it to her! How many colours
they painted it with, you know...
As it was my mother's wedding
sari she... out cried so furiously
you know... Now your shirt is
also... Govindo...
- Venkat, Raju : Govinda.....!
- Madan : Shut up! Look at that heroine of
Telugu drama. Flat nose, fibrous

hair!

Raju : What? What did you say? You know who she is? She is my sister... my sister! (Gives four blows to Madan) if you talk about my sister again... I will break your bones - be careful!

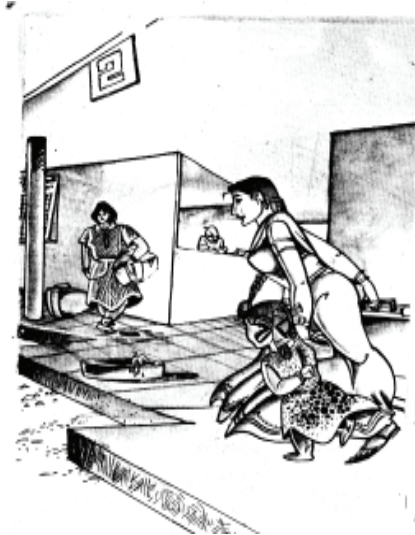
Vinod : (Enters) Till now you have reproached all! Now why are you so angry... because she is your sister! Aren't the other girls like your sisters? You have tortured us with your comments. Did you allow us to see at least one item in the cultural programme?

(On seeing Vinod, others escape! As Raju is shouting with pain being thrashed by Vinod... curtain falls).

"Andhra Bhoomi' Monthly (Telugu)

1989

BUS STAND



(As the curtain opens a bus is seen on the stage)

Baby : Mom! When will our Hyderabad bus come?

Vimala : It will come in ten minutes! (The boy selling jilebees comes; the baby's mouth is watered on seeing them)

Baby : (Staring at jilebees) Mom! I am hungry! I want jilebees! Buy Jilebees for me!

- Vimala : Disgusting! Full of flies! See the flies on Jilebees! No... Baby!
- Baby : I want them...eee...ee.....eee...
(Begins to cry)
- Vimala : You never listen to me (Vexed) that's why I don't take you anywhere with me!
- Baby : (Beating legs on the floor) I want jilebees! (Vexed... troubled... Vimala buys jilebees! Baby eats them)
- Baby : Mom! Toilet... Mom!
- Vimala : All troubles with you! The toilets here are very dirty! How can you use it...? Go out... go and come.
- Baby : No Mom, I'll not go outside! I feel shy! All will look at me! I use bathroom only!
- Vimala : (Annoyed) told you... you can't step into...
- Baby : Mom... Mom! (Impatiently) please... urgent Mom!
- Vimala : No use blaming you! The mistake is mine! I should not have bought jilebees to you... It's okay... go!
- Baby : (About to enter in by sealing her nose) O my God! Nasty smell here mom!
- (Vimala looks at her angrily)

- Baby : Mom! Someone has shit near the door! How can I go in? (Saying so goes inside and a loud shriek is heard from the back of the curtain)
- Vimala : (Behind the curtain) what happened?
- Baby : (Behind curtain) slipped and fell Mom!
- Vimala : (Bringing the baby out) A rascal threw a banana peel! How many bruises... don't know! Clothes are spoiled! How comfortable it will be if the toilets are kept clean even taking money!?
- (Vimala removes the clothes of baby and helps the baby to wear a new dress)
- Sweeper : (Sweeping the floor) whose suitcase and baggage is this! Put aside!
- Vimala : Wait... wait! I am coming. (While Vimala is trying to shift the suitcase the sweeper sweeps on her legs and she places the suitcase in another place, sweeper appears there also)
- Sweeper : Put away... put away the luggage!
(Meanwhile a Muslim woman pats Vimala's shoulder and showing a bus...)

Fatima : Aji e bus kidar ja rahee hai?
(Where is this bus going?)

(Vimala ignores her. Meanwhile
Vimala's husband rushes)

Ranga Rao : What Vimala? What is this?
Hyderabad bus has come long
back? You didn't see! Bring the
baby! Come on! I'll try for a seat...

(Giving kerchief to a person
appearing at the window of the
bus) Please keep a seat with this
kerchief for my family!

Fatima : (Looking at Vimala standing near
the door of the bus) Aji Jara
bolona e bus kidhar ja rahee hai?

(Please tell me where the bus is
going?)

(A person peeping out through the
window without noticing Fatima
spits paan! It falls on Fatima. She
fires with anger.

Fatima : Dikhra nahee hai? Paan mere
oopar thook diye? Dekho mai
kya karoongi!

(Are you blind? You spit paan on
me! See what I do!)

(Passengers crowd at the door of
the bus. Finally a woman
passenger pushing through the
mob gets down with hair undone)

Husband of

That woman : That's why I asked you not to get down after every one gets down. I told you the passengers who are on the platform push you while they get into the bus.

Blind beggar : (Singing) God is everywhere from the beginning... don't hate others... but love all human beings o my son!

(He stops singing as if recollecting something)

Hyderabad! Hyderabad!!
Hyderabad bus has come!

College student : (To another young chap) hey... two girls are boarding Hyderabad bus! Shall I go and jostle against them!

Another

young man : Show me your face! You are not so brave!

College student : You just watch me! See... What I do?

(As if in hurry of getting into a bus he moves forward pushing them! When a lady... shows her chappal, says sorry and escapes)

Beggar : (Small boy) Give me ten paise....since three days no food! Amma! Give me... you will get...

- Vimala : (Annoyed) Move... Move aside!
My bus has come!
- Beggar : (Not letting her go prostrates
touching her feet with his head
again and again) Ten paise...
amma ! I will die and born in your
womb!
- Vimala : I am telling you! First leave my
legs!
- Begger : Only ten paise amma! Giving
alms will get you goodness.

(Vimala murmuring, draws out a
rupee from purse and puts it in his
hand)
- Passenger : Conductor saab! Give me
change! You have to give me a
rupee.
- Conductor : If you have a rupee, give it! I'll give
you two rupees!
- Passenger : I don't have change! Give it
quickly! Our Karimnagar bus is
leaving.
- Conductor : Then what do you want me to do!
I told you I don't have change!
Give me a rupee and take two
rupees!
- Seller : Chilly bajji! Sir! Chilly bajji! Buy
it sir, I'll give you change.
- Passenger : If I wait for your change my village
bus will leave! No other bus this

night! I don't know whose face I have seen this morning? Conductor's job is so fetching! Every day earning ten rupees this way is enough! I didn't listen to my father when I was a child, who wanted me to study!

Conductor : What you say is yes... I am constructing buildings with your rupees! Come without change and say whatever you want to say... This has become a habit to people.

(A man of confusion named Agamayya is taking away the suit case of Vimala instead of his suit case)

Vimala : Gentle man! O gentle man! That's my suit case!

Agamayya : Oh! is it yours! Sorry! I didn't notice!

(Gives back her suit case, takes his own and strides away)

College girl : (getting into bus) See Mister! Don't you see ladies? First allow ladies to get into the bus!

College boy: Then why do you shout for equal rights! Why special treatment to you in a bus? You get into bus as we get into! Stand equally!

Vimala : It's true! See girls! This college

boy is a woman in child bed! He cannot board the bus equally with us! We have to give him way!

(College girls smile at her words and give way to the college boy. Agamaiah with an umbrella under his arm tries to climb the bus behind the college boys)

Vimala : Be careful with the umbrella hold it the other way! Otherwise it will pierce into our eyes.

College girls : (Seeing Agamaiah) you are also in a hurry! Okay Okay... he seems to be pregnant! Give him way! Is it ninth month? How can you equally board the bus with us... please give him way passengers... he is not an ordinary man!

(Looking angrily at the college girl he pushes himself into the bus)

College girl : Come on... get in carefully... carefully... carefully! O' God! Got in!? Happy!

Ranga Rao : (Observing a village girl entering the bus with a basket) Hey basket girl! First of all there is no space for people here... why with basket?

Vimala : (To Ranga Rao) listen to me! Got

our luggage mounted on the top
of the bus!

Ranga Rao : Yes.

Coolie : Saaman ooper dal diya! Paisa
dev!

(Put the luggage on the top... Give
me money)

(Ranga Rao gives him money!
Examining the money given) what
- only one rupee? Give two
rupees!

Ranga Rao : Why? It is written 'coolie one
rupee' there!

Coolie : O jamana ka baath hai! Kal ke
dham aaj hai kya? Nikalo?
Nikalo, Nikalo, paisa nikalo?

(That's a very old coolie! Are the
rates not increasing day by day?
Come... come, come up with the
money!)

Ranga Rao : Nahee tho...!?

(If not...!?)

Coolie : Anwar! (Looking to the top of bus)
Oo saamaan neeche pek do.

(Shall I throw the luggage down?)

(Tries to throw down the luggage)

Ranga Rao : Don't do that! Let the luggage be
there! Why only two rupees! Give
you three! It is time for the bus to

move.

(While Ranga Rao is searching for money in his pocket, bus starts. Ranga Rao did not get into the bus still! Sound of the bus moving)

Baby : (Calling from the bus) Daddy...
Daddy!

Vimala : Where are you? Come on!
Quick!

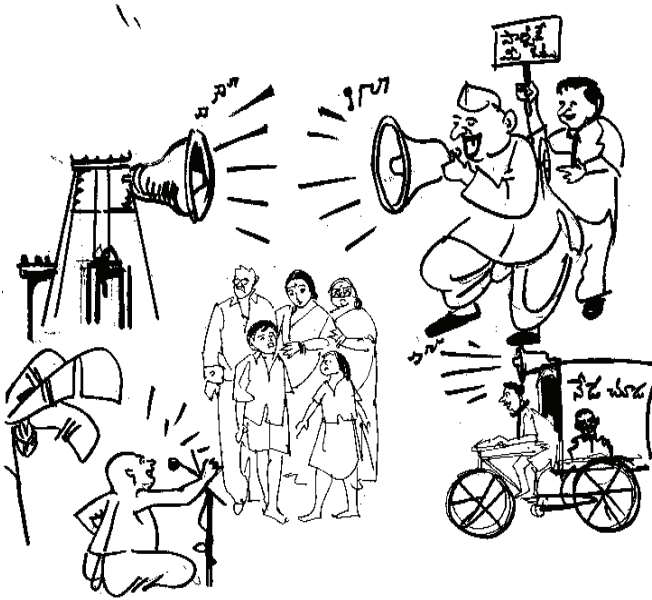
Baby : Daddy... Daddy! (Cries)

Ranga Rao : Don't cry baby! I am getting in!
(Banging the door of the bus)
Driver, stop the bus!

(When he puts one of his legs on the foot board and another leg is hanging in the air... curtain).

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BEWARE OF MIKES



(It's a bed room! Granny in one cot, two children in another cot are sleeping. Granny wakes up with the alarm sound - presses the button and goes near the children.)

- Granny : Sunil! Vijay! Get up! It's five... still sleeping... You have to write exams today... Get up! Get up!
- Sunil : (Gets up with a jerk!) One minute
Granny! (Goes to the adjacent bath room, brushes, comes back and engages in reading)

Granny : Vijay! How long will you sleep?
Get up!

Vijay : Getting up granny!
(Gets up lazily... brings tooth brush from the bathroom and brushes in bedroom... From somewhere 'Kaushalya Suprajarama Poorva Sandhya Pravarthathe' Sloka is heard. He brushes moving his head rhythmically to the sound... after a while 'vinudu, vinudu, Ramayana gatha, vinudee manasara' is heard. He follows it while brushing.)

Sunil : (To Vijay) stop! Stop! Your dance to the song is excellent but it is getting late, go wash your face! We have to read so much!
(Another song 'Ghana Ghana Sundara... Karuna rasa mandira' is heard)

Sunil : These records, this noise in the morning are disturbing our studies Granny.

Vijay : Unbearable sound... every day... the same old records... Granny they are maddening us.

(Maid servant enters the room to sweep. Another song 'Rambha... Ho' the maid throws the broom off and begins dancing to the tune of the song)

Sunil : What is this? These songs are killing us... don't dance... go! Go! Who is playing these records Granny!

Granny : These week days we have Vinayak Festival, dear! From today onwards... every day will be so...

Vijay : Yes... Whether we like it or not we have to listen. That's all!

Sunil : O my God - how can I prepare for the exams, Ganesha?

Granny : You don't worry! You will be in school all day! We in the house will die day and night... what happen to us... who are there to tell our grief?

Sunil : True Granny! Really! I pity you!

Sunanda : (Calling from Kitchen) Sunil, Vijay come and have coffee!

Sunil, Vijay : Coming, mummy!

(They go to Kitchen, Geetha, Sunil's sister enters the room)

calling 'Granny'! Again another song 'mere anganeme - tumara kya kaam hai' is heard. As Geetha is dancing to the song the servant maid enters)

Servant maid : No... No... Almitah Bachchans steps are not like that! Look, they are like this!

(Geetha follows the dance steps of servant maid. Sunil comes and twists the ears of Geeta)

Sunil : You fool! In four or five hours we have to write Unit Test! You are dancing here! I'll tell daddy! Daddy... Daddy!

(Geeta runs to him and closes his mouth with her hands)

Vijay : You! You don't enjoy! Don't allow us to enjoy! You are a book worm! You are after books only. Books! Books! Books! - You know nothing except eating books - eating us! It's all our fate!

Sunil : Shut up! Mind your words, who are you to talk against me?

(Again a movie song is heard. The servant maid mopping the floor with a cloth - gets up and

starts dancing As Sunil's grandfather enters... She stops and resumes her work in the kitchen)

Grandfather: It's time for regional news! Will any one turn on the radio?

(Grandfather himself turns the radio on! An announcement is heard from outside).

"See today! In your favorite theatre Kishore! The best latest social film 'Swati Mutyam', enacted by Kamal Hasan and Radhika'.

Don't get upset by delaying... No delay...! Watch today! Only today! Swati mutyam! Swati Mutyam! Swati Mutyam!!!

Vijay : Oh! Swati mutyam! What nice a picture it is! Grandpa saw it twice when I went to uncle's house in Hyderabad! Especially that song 'Suvvi - Suvvi - Suvvalamma, Seethamma!' Kamal Hasan's action oh! Superb! Suvvi... Suvvi...

(Vijaya sings that song and dances)

Grandfather: Can't you shut your mouth for

some time? Let me listen to radio dear?

(Hymns from a marriage pendal are heard 'mangalyam thanthu nanena - mama jeevana hethunam' followed by 'Ee jeevana tharagalalo- aa devuni chadarangam lo' is heard)

Grandfather: Well! Very well! 'Mangalyam Thanthunane' on one side and 'Ee Jeevana Tharagalalo' on the other...

(Wedding presentations are read out in the marriage pendal. 'A gift of twenty rupees, to the bride, is given by Gurram Gundayya! Now bridegrooms... aunt, what's her name! Oh! Kobbari kayala kanthamma, what village you said Oh! Is it Kotturu? Okay - Kobbari Kayala Kanthamma Kottur is presenting with love a TV to the bride groom... Who are you! Bellam Bhadrayaa! Don't be shy! Don't hide... come... come here... to whom is this gift? Is it to the bride? Okay... Bellam Bhadrayya presents a tea spoon to the bride with love)

- Vijay : Thank God! Power is cut off!
Now there will be no mess of records and hymns! It's like the end of rain!

(Now sounds of Vehicles horns... pipeem, papaam!)
- Sunil : Vijay... What is this again...? Pipeem... Papaam!
- Vijay : It's election campaign! Polling date is nearing! Some film actor is coming for election campaign! The villagers are coming in the tractors to our village!

(Slogans from outside: Vote for PP Reddy, Vote for PP Reddy. Another group slogans: Vote for KK Rao, Vote for KK Rao.)
- Sunil : (Throws the book, pulls hair) I am getting mad! These records, advertisements, announcements, slogans!
- Vijay : We will ask daddy to make our room sound proof...
- Sunil : Where will we get so much money? Bad idea!
- Geetha : Brother! I have an idea.
- Vijay : Sister! Tell us and save us from this problem!

Geta : Very simple. We all will go to
Vinayaka.

Vijay : Ok... We... will go... then...

Geetha : Ask him a boon!

Vijay : Come on... What boon? Come
on!

Geetha : To make all those who are going
to born in India deaf! Then no one
can hear any sounds... How is the
idea?

Vijay : Shut up!
(Curtain)

1988

POWER CUT



(All the inmates of the home are at the dining table! All the eatables are Arranged on the table! The house wife Anita is feeding two years baby on the table with rice lumps)

Jeevan : (Lifting the lids of the bowls on the table and smelling) Oh! Fish curry today! Hai Hai! Water is oozing

in my mouth! When will Dad come! When will we all eat together? Don't know!

Preethi : (Sealing the nose) Fish smell! Jeevan... don't sit by my side! Keep distance!

Jeevan : See mom... how Preeti is sneering at my favorite dish?

Preethi : Slaughter is a great sin you know...

Jeevan : That's enough! If you speak away more I will eat you also! I am eating what I like to eat! Why do you frown? What about you... are you not eating sweets and laddus every day and turning yourself into a laddu! Did I ever mock at you?

Preethi : When you said laddu, it sounded me laddu! You give me the laddu in your plate to me and I'll share my portion of fish curry with you!

Jeevan : Oh! You can't trap me like that! I won't give! I want both laddu and fish curry.

Preethi : Selfish fellow! Don't show your face to me! Why should I plead you! I will ask mom! Mom! I want one more laddu.

Anitha : In the morning all have eaten!

Laddus exhausted... That's why I served one laddu to each! I kept aside two laddus for Dad.

Jeevan : (Impatiently) Dad always the same. Hasn't come so far! I am damn hungry! Serve food to us mom!

Anitha : Wait for five minutes dear! Let the baby eat! She is already dropping her eyes.

(The baby while sleeping continues eating)

Preethi : Mom, please! You wait for Dad! But we will eat!

(Both the children start eating! Not even two morsels they eat suddenly the power is cut off! They shout 'aaa' at once)

(Announcement behind the curtain: "The power has gone in the play! Yet the viewers need not worry! Lights will be on on the stage! The characters in the play act as if there are no lights now!")

Jeevani : (Groping) completely dark! I can't see what is where! Mom... Where are you?

Baby : (Crying rhythmically) Mom... I want drum stick... ee..ee..

- Anitha : Should not eat in dark... if anything falls in the plate it cannot be seen. Let the lights come! I will give you then.
- Baby : (Unheeding) Woo... Wooo I want drum stick.. I want drum Stick... ee... ee...
- Anitha : (Annoyed) you never listen to me
(Anitha groping in the dark somehow gets drum stick and tries to put it into the mouth of the baby)
- Baby : (Moving her head back) Stop mom! You are not putting it in my mouth... You are putting the drumstick into my nose! I don't want drumstick... I want nothing... I am drowsy! Take me to bed.
- Anitha : Okay. Come on!
(Anitha with baby on her shoulder... groping walks slowly to the cot beside the dining table and lays her on it)
- Jeevan : Nasty current! Should it go now itself! Tasty fish curry! How to eat in this darkness! If I eat now, the fish bones may stick in my throat! Mom! Please come here! Won't

you remove the fish thorns for me?

Anitha : How can I do dear! I too can't see in darkness! Wait for some time, the lights will come!

(Meanwhile Preeti takes away her favorite laddu from the plate of Jeevan and hurriedly eats it, in order to finish it before the lights come).

Anitha : Mother-in-law! Will you bring a candle and a match box? It is in the upper shelf on the right side in kitchen!

Granny : Okay! Okay! But... children don't leave the place, where you are sitting now! Meanwhile I'll go to the kitchen and bring candles.

(Granny while walking into kitchen for candles kicks a chair and falls down trying to get up holding her waist says 'abba')

Anitha : (Bewildered) what happened? Why did you shout?

Granny : Fell down... hit by the chair! Heavy body...unable to lift it! (Granny tries to stand! But is unable)

Anitha : Wait! I am coming!

Granny : No...! Don't move! Nobody

should leave the place! You will hit something and fall down!

(Rama Rao calls from outside)

Rama Rao : Anitha! Anitha!

Anitha : Jeevan! Go and open the door. Your Dad has come!

(Groping in dark Jeevan goes to open the door but fails to find where the door is)

Rama Rao : Anitha! What are you doing?

(Jeevan finally reaches and opens the door. Rama Rao enters)

Rama Rao : See children what I have brought for you! But... in this darkness I am unable to see where you are!

Preethi : We are all at the dining table Dad! Mom is also with us! Come to us dad!

Rama Rao : Wait! I will change my dress and come!

(Rama Rao goes to clothes stand groping... tries to change his dress and wears the Gadwal sari of Anitha which was on the stand thinking it his lungi and comes back)

Rama Rao : It is so suffocating children!

Preethi : (Claps her hands) these mosquitoes are biting us to death!

Granny : Alas! Our baby is allergic to the mosquito bite! Turn on the fan... Otherwise if that little one wakes up, she will not sleep again whatever you do!

Preethi : O my... innocent granny! When the power is not there, how can he switch the fan on!

Granny : Oh! Yes! I forgot it!

Rama Rao : Jeevan! Preethi! Where are you? Open the window doors! Air will enter and it will be cool to some extent

Jeevan : Ok dad!

(While going Jeevan stamps on Preethi's legs! Preethi makes a shrill sound and slaps Jeevan)

Preethi : You idiot! Can't you walk right? See how my legs have been trodon? Where are your dirty slippers?

(Preeti snatches the slippers and throws them! They speedily fly and kiss the face of granny! Thinking it an insect granny makes a shrill sound!)

Anitha : What happened mother-in-law?

Granny : Nothing... something jumped on me! May be a lizard... or a cat!

Rama Rao : Dad! I opened the window as you said!

Rama Rao : Good! Now I am relaxed as cold air is pushing in (Phone rings)

Rama Rao : Jeevan, go receive the phone... find out who is talking!

Preethi : Dad... I will speak on phone!

Jeevan : You are a small girl! You don't know how to speak on phone! I will speak.

Preethi : No.... I will!

(Jeevan gets annoyed; pulling Preethi's braid back. tries to go! Preethi boils over it by holding Jeevan's hair! As the two quarrels Anitha slaps them! As the phone continues to ring Rama Rao groping goes, sitting on the cot holds the receiver. Beside the cot! The baby who is in the cot shrieks with the weight of Rama Rao. Understanding that he sat on the baby, he stands up with a jerk)

Rama Rao : Baby! Did I sit on you dear! I did not see you in dark! Sorry! Don't weep. (Carrying the baby on his

shoulder and patting her- he takes the receiver)

Rama Rao : Hello! Who is speaking? Oh Shanker! What's the matter? What? Power cut throughout the night!? O my God! I don't think we have candles at home! Even to buy them in the bazaar... no hope, no shop is open! Shops are closed!

Preethi : Alas! Don't we get power today Dad! A good serial in TV channel nine!

Granny : (Enters with a lighted candle) Ramu, children are hungry! They have waited for you till now! Wash your hands... come... let us eat! I found this small piece of candle! Before it melts away we all should finish eating.

Rama Rao : Just in a minute I'll come!

(He goes to the wash basin to wash his hands! No water!)

Rama Rao : Alas! Water in the over head tank also over it seems! Adding fuel to fire... with this power problem - Water problem also...! Fate!

(Rama Rao removes the shirt on his body - take the laalchi from the

stand, wears it in reverse, in the dark!

Jeevani : There won't be power today! How lucky it is! No botheration of reading! If the power is not restored throughout this night how nice it will be Preethi!

(As the children sit in the chairs relaxed, happily moving their legs, the current comes back)

Preethi : (Controlling her laugh on seeing Rama Rao) Alas! Dad! What lungi you wore you know? It is mom's Gadwal Saree...! Hear! Hear! All of you look at dad...

(While Rama Rao is looking with changing glances towards the lungi, laalchi and at his smiling wife... curtain)

1988

TUITIONS



Gopi : Ramu, I am scared of going home after school!

Preethi : Why?

Gop : At home my mom always bothers me by asking me to read... read... read.

Ramu : Shall I tell you a trick to escape this?

Gopi : What is it?

Ramu : Ask your dad to send you for

tuition!

Gopi : The tuition master also makes our lives miserable by making us read! That will not be comfortable!

Rame : Oh! My innocent saint! You know... I am going to Raja Rao sir for tuition! Do you think he teaches anything? Asks to carry their pinky! That baby with her red chubby face is very sweet! As long as I am there I will be happily playing! My mother may think that I will be busy reading there.

Sunil : Damn with the home work! It drives me nuts. For our neighbour Naani, his tuition master does his home work every day he told me! What a joy! If I go for tuition at him, he does my home work, doesn't he? I will ask my dad to send me for tuition.

Venkat : The topic on tuitions reminds me one thing. You know Satya Narayana sir... recently I started going to tuition! In our class room he always appears yawning and sleeping... but at home he will teach lessons very well.

Gopi : If he teaches well in school nobody

goes for tuition! That is why he will not teach properly at school.

Sunil : This Satyanarayana is better than your Raja Rao Sir! Though doesn't teach in school, he teaches at home as he is money minded.

Ramu : Yes... Yes... our Raja Rao sir just simply reads the paper and watches T.V. by leaving the students to their fate.

Sunil : Once my dad went to school to meet Head Master to enquire about tuition. But before reaching the HM, three masters approached and confused him by saying 'Come! Come! I'll take up tuition... I will take up tuition...'

Gopi : Alas! Your dad might have been pressed among the masters.

Sunil : Yes... he could not decide whom to engage... if one is considered, others will be angry.... So it was a hard task for dad to escape the three!

Gita : I don't know anything about the masters but I think of going tuition from first of next month.

Latha : You come first in the class! Why

do you need tuition!

Gita : Listen! Till now I used to get first rank! But now I am getting second rank! Anitha who generally gets fourth or fifth rank is now getting first rank. These days she is going for tuition at Vinod sir! I won't get first rank in this life!

Latha : Anitha... might be reading well now! That's why she is getting the first rank! Why don't you think in that angle?

Gita : I also thought so! But, we wrote the same answers. I was given less marks and Anita got more marks! When dad complained to the Head Master, he ordered scrutiny, it was found Vinod sir corrected my paper strictly and Anita's paper liberally... So she got more marks.

Latha : What you said is also correct! In quarterly exams, Sunita wrote science exam sitting beside me.

Gita : Yes... Yes... that two braids Sunita! She was biting her nails for two and half hours in the exam hall! When the bell rang she gave blank paper and left! I don't know

what happened later.

Latha : Ask me what not happened!
When the papers were returned, there were answers to all the questions in her paper! On strict insistence, she told me that her tuition master also teaches her science subject. After taking home all the answer scripts, he picked up her paper from the bundle and made her write all the answers!

Gita : Not only this much! On the pretext of clearing the doubts of the students, some teachers tell answers for the objective questions without the notice of other students.

Latha : Let me tell you another secret - the tuition master of our classmate Ravi writes all the answers for objective type of questions on a slip and gives to his tuition children.

Gita : You don't know another thing! Tuition master of Kavitha asks his students to write answers in exams with a pencil - so that they may rub off the answers at his home and write them again.

- Ramu : Gopi, do you know what happened the other day. In half yearly exams Suresh and Satish sitting in my front row were copying! Vinod sir was the invigilator! Satish was going for tuition to Vinod master. Suresh was going for tuition to Raja Rao sir. When both are copying both should be caught... But Vinod master ignored Satish and caught Suresh!
- Venkat : What a faculty! If you go for tuition you can happily copy!
- Sujatha : Vijaya you always get zero marks in maths! How did you get twelve marks this time? Let me see your paper!
- (Vijaya gives her paper)
- Geeta : How could you write correct answers for all the sums without writing steps?
- Vijaya : What can I do? Thinking it would not be good to reveal answers before other students, my tuition master made the paper out! He made me do every sum ten times.
- Sujatha : When the paper is out - when you practiced all the sums... you have to get hundred out of hundred!

- Sujatha : I could remember not even a single sum! So I wrote the answers which I recollected!
- Ramu : My dad gives fifty rupees fees to tuition master! Thirty students come to him for tuition.
- Govind : How many! Thirty! That means he is getting fifteen hundred rupees per a month in the name of tuitions! His salary in the school is fifteen hundred! So that his income is three thousand rupees! How lucky!
- Ramu : That is not all! My mummy sends tuition master the vegetables we grow in our house! She also sends snacks putting in a lunch carrier through me to my tuition master.
- Venkat : My dad sends spray bottles, pens, watches and other things sent by our uncle from Dubai to the tuition master and invites him for dinner now and then.
- Gopi : Seeing these offerings I too want to become a teacher!
- Ramu : Working hard for six hours in a school fifteen hundred rupees! One hour tuition at home gets him fifteen hundred rupees, apart from

gifts and other offerings.

- Gopi : This is like a profitable business
- Ramu : When we grow up we should not join any school as teachers... we will take up tuitions one hour for each batch... likewise six batches...
- Gopi : we can earn nine thousand rupees a month!
- Govind : Foolish fellow! If we don't work in any school who are the fools to come to us for tuition?
- Ramu : Yes... that's right? When we work in a certain school, then only they will crowd at our house for tuition.
- Gopi : Therefore grab a job in a reputed school by hook or crook.
- Ramu : After getting a job and settling in it start taking up tuitions! Each one of us should gather thirty students!
- Gopi : Suppose... when more and more students turn up, we must fight with management, resign at an auspicious time and start a school.... How is the idea?
- Ramu : Shut up! One thing is strange to me!
- Ramu : Our Raja Ram Sir takes the tuition

classes for thirty students in an hour... doesn't he?

- Gopi : Yes, so what?
- Ramu : Three different class students are there in that thirty, aren't they?
- Gopi : Yes, What's your problem?
- Ramu : There are six subjects in each class, aren't they?
- Gopi : (Tired) yes... yes... who said they are not there!
- Ramu : Three multiplied by six total eighteen subjects.
- Gopi : Yes... eighteen subjects.
- Ramu : Eighteen subjects right! He teaches thirty students these eighteen subjects in 60 minutes - can you tell me how much time he allots for each student for each subject?
- Gopi : (Acts as if he is thinking) Oh... hi... hi... don't I know that much? He has to teach each subject in three seconds approximately!
- Ramu : How great intellectuals should be those students who understand the subject in so less time!
- Govind : Poor children! I pity them!
- Rajesh : Due to lack of time he tells

answers to the students in the exam hall! If nobody notices he himself writes the answers.

Govnd : Just as fence eating the crops, who saves us if our teachers resort to this type of malpractices in the name of tuitions?

Rajesh : Yes! A thief in the home can't be caught even by God! So we should say good bye to tuitions and study hard!

Govind : If we don't understand whatever teachers teach...

Venkat : We will ask them to teach ten times!

Govind : Yes! Under any circumstances none of us should go to tuitions!

Rajesh : Yes. You are right! Spending money on tuitions by our parents hardly benefits us. It is also a mere waste!

(Curtain)

1988

Profile of Chintapatla Sudershan



Chintapatla Sudershan

Short Story writer, reviewer, columnist and translator.

Literary journey began in 1970 with the editorship of Telugu monthly, Manuscript 'Ushassu'

Founder president Hyderabad old city writers' Association.

Specialised in writing satires.

As a columnist wrote more than 1000 satires in various papers and magazines.

Published 3 volumes (satires)

1. Addam 2. Criticolumn 3. Sudershansatires@telangana.com

Published 'Amrutham Kuravani Raatri', a collection of Short stories.

Translated:

★ **Telugu to English**

Poetry: The bouquet of verses

Tumult

A tale of the city

Short stories:

Ba Rahamatulla Khan's stories

Auto Biography: My daddy and me

One of the translators of

V. Prakash's 'History of Telangana Movements'

English Sub-titles: The last man (Documentary)

★ **English to Telugu**

*The lost horizon of Himalayan Dawn

(Digdiganthala Madhya)

★ Sui follows you home like a puppy

(A Nigerian Novel)

★ A portrait of the artist as a young man

(James Joyce Novel)

(Yuva Kalakaruni Atma Geetham)

Serialized in Palapitta Monthly (under print)

★ R.K. Narayan, Tagore's short stories in Telugu

(Published in Magazines)

★ **Hindi to Telugu**

Madhu shala (Harivamsh Roy Bachchans poetry) published in Vaartha

★ **Awards :**

Received Telugu University Dharma Nidhi Puraskaram-2000

Received Telangana State Govt. Award for literature- 2014

(First Anniversary of Telangana formation)

Presently writing 'Chowrastha' column in Sunday Nava Telangana and Satire in Employees voice (Monthly)

