



RADIO ANNAYYA - A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

By G.L.Narasimham (Known as Buchibabu in Madras Balanandam circles)

Introduction & my own eligibility

Andhra Balananda Sangham is celebrating the year 2004-2005 as a centenary year of their founder Sri N.Raghava Rao Garu known as Radio Annayya. They have asked me to write a biography of Annayya Garu. Being the nephew of Annayya Garu (sister's son born in 1930), it is a bit embarrassing for me to write about my own maternal uncle. I still agreed to do this as I thought that children and all those connected with child welfare might know proper information about Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu. I lived with them in their house as a permanent member of the family for a decade at Madras and was also very closely associated with them till their death. I was assisting them in all activities be it personal, vocational or social. I was also an active participant in Balanandam in Madras till the end of 1956 and was also its Treasurer for several years. I was the Manager of BALA and BALA PRESS. My information and the biographical events about Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu up to 1939 was mostly by my mother and grandmother, later small narratives by Annayya Garu & Akkayya Garu themselves as a casual mention when we were discussing family matters and also hearsay from other relatives. From 1940 to 1946, besides the above it was little more since we had interaction with them due to our frequent reciprocal visits between Berhampur and Madras for vacations and other purposes besides my grand mother who was commuting between these two places on a regular basis. From 1947 to 1956, I was actually involved on a day-to-day basis. there could be minor variations with regard to a few incidents and years etc. Some personal references of our family could not be avoided as they are interlinked with Annayya Garu and his biography.

Parentage

Annayya Garu's birthplace is Berhampur in Orissa and he belongs to Nyayapathi family, which was very popular in those places and adjoining areas. His father Mr.Ramanuja Swamy was an eminent Advocate practicing at Berhampur. He was also a great philosopher, thinker, writer and also a philanthropist and cherished high values He attended the coronation of King George V in 1911 in England together with his brother-in-law on an invitation from the British Government. On his return the orthodox community leaders wanted him to perform some rituals before he would be allowed to mix freely with the community. He refused to do so saying all individuals are born equal and while each one can have his own faith, there should be no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion etc and further no pressure should be there from any quarters forcing him to comply with the rituals. He said if they were not still convinced, he would be happy to be aloof from all of them. After about a year, the community leaders relented and he was again mixing freely with every one. He died in 1925. The seeds for compassion, equality and truth were probably sown in the mind of Annayya Garu then itself.



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



Childhood & Youth

Annayya Garu was born on Srirama Navami Day in 1905 and so was named as Raghava Rao. They were three brothers and three sisters. Annayya Garu was the fourth in the order and second amongst males. He was highly talented in several fields. He played Harmonium, Dilruba, participated in several dramas. Had very good knowledge of music including composing, tuning and was able to even sing in childhood. He was a very good writer both in Telugu and English. In fact all his brothers and sisters were histrionically talented. He and his younger brother were very popular in Berhampur and the adjoining areas as Sri Rama and Bharatha in the popular stage play Sampurna Ramayanam. His younger brother used to portray the character as Sri Rama and Annayya Garu was Bharatha. All of us are aware as to how he used to play Mridangam with his lips in children's programs in All India Radio. Annayya Garu was a good player of Caroms and also Badminton and won several prizes and trophies. He even acted in movies Ratnamala, Malleswari, Sudigundalu, Naa Illu, Swapna Sundari etc. just as a hobby.

His education was interrupted several times due to the freedom struggle where he was an active youth volunteer. As a part of this movement, Annayya Garu discarded the mill made cloth and started to wear Khadi. This practice he continued till his death. Dhoti and Kurtha spun in Khadi were his favourites.

Since there was no Degree College in Berhampur then, he went to Vizianagram together with his younger brother and they both joined Maharaja's College and graduated from there. At this College, he met Akkayya Garu for the first time, which finally led into their marriage.

Marriage with Akkayya Garu & the initial years

Here it is necessary to make a brief mention of Akkayya Garu. She belonged to Peri family and was named as Kameswari. She was a left-hander. Those days educating girls was considered taboo. But Akkayya Garu was keen to get educated and went to Vizag and got enrolled in a school with the help of her mother's elder sister who was working as a primary school teacher. Then she joined Queens Mary's School at Vizag and continued her studies till she completed her SSLC. It is then for the first time the Maharaja's College at Vizianagram decided to admit even girls. She grabbed this opportunity and again moved over to Vizianagram and did her Intermediate and later graduation from the same College where Annayya Garu was her classmate. Originally there were three girls only and after the Intermediate two of them went to other places for their education whereas Akkayya Garu continued there only. Hence she was the first woman graduate from that College. She was going to the Maharaja's palace with her father who was a spiritual scholar. She taught English to the Royal family members. She in turn was provided free education besides food grains and other household necessities.

After graduation Annayya Garu moved over to Berhampur and was in regular touch with Akkayya Garu by correspondence. Akkayya Garu received an offer from Zamindarini of Nuzvid to teach



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



her English. She readily agreed and moved there with her mother. She then informed Annayya Garu who also moved to Nuzvid. It is here they got married in 1934. Akkayya Garu invited her youngest brother also to Nuzvid who till then was staying with her younger sister for education. This person was no other than Suribabu whom all Balanandam members knew and who died recently.

In 1936, there was an opening in the Editorial Department of the Hindu at Madras and Annayya Garu joined them. Both then moved over to Madras together with Suribabu. Akkayya Garu who by then acquired teaching experience and was good in writing skills joined the LT course at Lady Wellington College to become a qualified teacher. On completion of the training, she joined National Girls High School as a teacher, which was located opposite Rasika Ranjani Sabha at Madras. That school I believe is the present Lady Sivaswamy Iyer High School. This was in 1937. No sooner they moved over to Madras, the younger brother of Annayya Garu who did graduation with him fell sick and they brought him to Madras for treatment. He however died in the beginning of 1937 at a very young age of 27. His name was Balakrishna Rao and Annayya Garu loved him very much. He used to call him Bala. It took quite some time for Annayya Garu to be back to normal.

Children's programs in All India Radio

In 1939, All India Radio at Madras assigned the task of conducting children's programs in Telugu to Smt. Durgabayamma Garu and Akkayya Garu on alternate weeks. After a while Smt. Durgabayamma Garu left it, as she was busy with Andhra Mahila Sabha. Then Akkayya Garu and Annayya Garu were entrusted this task. These programs were very popular and the rest is history. In those programs they called themselves Radio Annayya and Radio Akkayya as they would appeal to children and even now those who conduct those programs are probably called by the same names. It just happened that both of them did not have any children of their own and they never felt this, as they were always with hundreds of children throughout their lives. They introduced characters of Radio Tatayya, Radio Moddu Abbayi, Radio Jeelebi, Radio Mirapakaya, Jeji Mamayya, Potti Bava, Chitti Maradalu etc. Radio Tatayya was Shri Mallampalli Umamaheswara Rao Garu (brother of reputed Sri Mallampalli Somasekhara Sarma Garu), Jeji Mamayya was by Sri B. Rajanikanta Rao Garu, and Radio Moddu Abbayi was Sri Prayaga Narasimha Sastry Garu all of whom were working in All India Radio at Madras. The other characters were by children who were attending the Radio programs. At that time the co-operation extended by officials in Radio was commendable. Special mention needs to be made of Sarvashri S.N. Murthy, Achanta Janakiram, Balantrapu Rajanikantha Rao, Ayyagari Veerabhadra Rao, Janamanchi Ramakrishna, S.V. Subba Rao (known as Buchibabu) and later by Smt. N.V. Ramanamma Garu. They were broadcast on all Sunday afternoons and were called "Ata Vidupu". In 1948, All India Radio introduced a second program for children on Saturday mornings known as "Balanandam" for younger children. In the same year, if my memory serves me right on December 1, 1948, All India Radio commenced its broadcast from Vijayawada and the first



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



inaugural children's program was broadcast by Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu who took a group of children from Madras for this purpose.

All India Radio used to pay them Rs. 25/- or Rs. 35/- as fees per week which they used to offer coffee and snacks in the Radio canteen to all the children, parents and a few more elders who were present. After that the children were taken to their homes in the van provided by All India Radio. Thus they did not retain even a single rupee, which they earned there. This practice they continued till the end. For writing the scripts for the next week's program Annayya Garu never prepared a rough one or edited. It was spontaneous and was prepared all at one time in just one hour. For him it was a real child's play. Quite a few of those scripts I believe are still available.

BALA Magazine

Annayya and Akkayya were overwhelmed by the response for the children's programs and more so for the active interest shown by all children throughout the State. They thought they should do something more for the enlightenment and entertainment of the children besides the Radio programs and also to sustain their interest in Telugu language. They then started a Children's monthly magazine by name "BALA" in Telugu in August 1945. They invested all their savings into this venture. The name BALA was chosen as it was apt to describe a child and incidentally it was also the name by which Annayya Garu was calling his younger brother who was no more. Akkayya Garu resigned her job immediately. With increased workload for the magazine, Annayya Garu also resigned his job in 1946. The magazine was printed at BNK Press owned by the famous pair Nagi Reddy Garu and Chakrapani garu and was located in George Town. Even children contributed articles. Several new innovative features were introduced. Once again this was an instant success. Circulation increased. They introduced popular characters like Ramu, Somu, Sarala, Virala, Latuku, Chituku etc. From then they also came to be known as Bala Annayya and Bala Akkayya. Since it was a monthly magazine children were eagerly waiting for the first week of each month. If there was a delay even by a day in releasing this magazine, children all over the State used to create problems for the newsvendors and the postmen.

Looking to the success story of this magazine, the owners of BNK Press, Nagi Reddy Garu and Chakrapani Garu thought that they should also start another magazine by name Chandamama at the same press. Annayya Garu then told them that since they were also publishing a children's magazine and that too from the same printing press, it would not be prudent to get BALA also printed there as there could be clash of interests and eventually come in the way of their good friendship. So the printing of Bala Magazine was shifted from BNK Press to Lodhra Press in August 1947. So from then onwards children had two magazines for them followed by several others later.

With the increase in circulation of BALA magazine a printing press by name BALA PRESS was established in 1950 in a different location and the office of BALA Magazine was also shifted to the Press. This was continued till they moved over to Hyderabad in 1956.



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



Andhra Balananda Sangham

They thought that children except for the school education had no other extra curricular activity to keep their young minds engaged in useful pursuits.

Then Dasara festival was forthcoming and Akkayya Garu thought of organizing a doll exhibition (Bommala Koluva) by the children. When she discussed this with the children and their mothers, all of them gave an overwhelming support. That was organized in Kesari High School. Children and mothers brought their own dolls and added to that Koluva. A jeweller who was selling silver toys brought all his goods and displayed them in this exhibition voluntarily. This was in 1947. With several activities for children they thought that all of them should be brought under one umbrella and decided to formally start a children's association with a set of rules and regulations. That was Andhra Balananda Sangham with the twin objectives of Vignanam and Vinodam. Bommala Koluva of course became an annual feature for several years attracting more and more children and parents. The membership was fixed as Re.1/ per annum. Thus Balananda Sangham, which till then was informal from 1940 became a regular association.

From that year all activities were conducted in the name of the Association. Debates, Dramas, Songs, Essay writing, Sports, Dances, Children's Conferences and a host of several other activities of interest to children were initiated. Thus the hidden talents of children were brought to the forefront. There was some activity or other almost each week. Several other organizations and Colleges used to invite these children to present their items in their annual cultural festivals and once the name of Andhra Balananda Sangham appeared, attendance used to swell. Skits like Boorela Mukudu, Pattudala, Potti Bava and Chitti Maradalu and the musical play of Gurazada's Puttadi Bomma Purnamma were attracting large audiences. That eventually became a springboard for film producers and directors to bank upon Balananda Sangham to provide children for their films. In those days if any movie had any children, they were invariably from Andhra Balananda Sangham. Several child artistes came to the forefront.

Several elders and parents offered their services voluntarily for this Association and also enrolled their children. Children who were below 15 were called child members and all those above that age and even elders were called Associate members and the purpose of the Association would continue to be child oriented which practice I believe is still continuing even today.

Home front

On the home front they had to encounter unexpected problems. In 1946, Annayya Garu's brother in law (my father) died at a premature age of 46 all of a sudden. We were six children besides our mother. Annayya Garu had to remit funds for our maintenance, which was becoming difficult for them with their limited financial resources. Hence in May 1947 in order to save costs for maintaining two families, I moved over to Madras to stay with them permanently and took up a job in the magazine Bala as an assistant to both of them. Next year all the rest of the family joined.



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



Additionally a nephew of Akkayya Garu (sister's son) also joined to continue his education. Thus all of a sudden they had seven children besides a mother to feed. The house was full. We then had to move to a bigger house. The entire burden was taken up by both of them without a second thought. For all of us they were the real parents. The role played by Akkayya Garu in lending an active support to this proposal is beyond words. Again in 1952, Akkayya Garu lost her sister and she invited her sister's daughter to come to Madras and continue her studies. From then we were 8 children in all. Certainly it was a huge family. But they never felt the burden and were extremely happy. That was their greatness. This I consider as a great and silent sacrifice on their part to actually bring up 8 children at one time and that too with ordinary financial means. The location for the office and gathering of children for rehearsals etc. for Andhra Balananda Sangham was invariably the house of Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu. Therefore they had no private life at all. With them we also did not have any separate place for our studies or even to store our own daily necessities. It was all an open house with children and parents coming and going on a regular basis. Snacks, drinks for all of them were again from the house kitchen, which was run on a 24-hour basis at no cost to the Association. Then in 1950, Annayya Garu's sister (our mother) fell sick and had to be hospitalised and her death was imminent. Then Akkayya Garu thought that she should perform the marriage of at least one child of hers so that our mother would have the pleasure of witnessing at least one event. So in 1950 September, our sister Kamala who is known to all Balanandam members got married. The bridegroom was Suribabu. As anticipated Annayya Garu's sister (the writer's mother) died in March 1951. Later they performed the marriages of all the rest of us also at regular intervals. I am happy to record here that all the marriages were very successful and all of us are leading happy and contented lives in our own way. No dowry was given or taken in any of the marriages. We consider all this due to their own good principles, character and moral values practiced by them all through their lives.

Children's movie and Gramophone records

Around this time Annayya Garu suggested to Shri K.S.Prakash Rao the famous cine director (father of Sri K.Raghavendra Rao, the present day famous Cine Director), who had his production company by name Prakash Productions to produce an exclusive children's movie with children only as actors and that would again be a first in the history. He readily agreed and a movie by name BALANANDAM with three different skits Burela Mukudu, Konte Kishtayya and Rajayogam were produced and released. Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu lent their active support and co-operation for this project. That was the first exclusive children's movie that was produced and enacted by children. I am not aware if any other exclusive movies for children were produced in Telugu since then.

HMV (Gramophone Company) came forward and wanted to record some popular songs mostly penned by Annayya Garu. About four or five long playing records (called LPs) were produced and released. Several of the Balanandam children participated. Here again whenever any money was received from HMV as a royalty Annayya Garu used to give it away to Balananda Sangham.



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



Registration of Balananda Sangham

When these activities still became wider and more members were joining, it was then thought that the Balananda Sangham should further be strengthened and so it was registered in 1952 under the Societies Registration Act, which still continues even today. While the concept was of Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu, Sri Kasturi Seshagiri Rao Garu, an eminent Advocate and son-in-law of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India, drafted the revised constitution for registration. Mr. Nagendra Prasad an associate member who is still with Balanandam at Madras and the writer assisted Sri Seshagiri Rao Garu. Besides the Executive Committee, there was also an Advisory Board consisting of eminent elite of the City like Sri D. Narasaraju Garu and Sri Kanda Bhimasankaram Garu who later became the Advocate General and Judge of the Supreme Court respectively. That is the constitution probably with a few amendments, which guides Balanandam even today. The registered office of the Association was of course the house of Annayya Garu. A children's conference was also organized for the first time in Madras. This led to the formation of several children's associations all over the State.

In 1953, the Central Social Welfare Board constituted a Child Welfare panel consisting of five members with Smt. Krishna Hutheesingh as the chairperson. Annayya Garu was one of the members. All of them toured the entire country and formulated guidelines for child welfare projects. Within a few months after the formation of a separate Andhra State with Kurnool as the capital, Annayya Garu organized the children's conference at Kurnool and more than 60 children from Madras went and participated. A special bogie was arranged for this purpose. Several child delegates from all over the State also attended and participated. It was a grand success and children enjoyed seeing so many tents etc. with people staying there. That was a two-day event and presided over by Shri Bezwada Gopal Reddy Garu, the then Chief Minister. In the subsequent years, these conferences were held at Nellore, Guntur and Hyderabad also and the same enthusiasm was there amongst children.

Encouraged by the tent life at Kurnool and children liking it, Annayya Garu organized a camp at Tonakela with tents nearby Madras and all of the children spent full two days there. Several leading personalities including some film producers, directors and actors visited the camp and spent more than two or three hours with the children. That was a camp that was ever remembered. Several sports, dramatic events, songs were organized as entertainment items. A full-fledged kitchen was opened there and lady members were made in charge of that kitchen.

Central Social Welfare Board has sanctioned a grant to Balananda Sangham and by acquiring a van we started a mobile library. It used to make rounds each day to different localities and distribute magazines and children's books. A 16 mm projector was also acquired and comedies like Laurel and Hardy and other documentaries of interest to children were shown on a weekly basis to the children. The attendance at these shows was tremendous. A few of us associate members learnt the operation of the projector and thus saved the costs. All these activities made



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



a great impact. With the acquisition of this equipment and increased activity, a bigger house was taken and it continued till they moved over to Hyderabad.

Central Social Welfare Board has entrusted a child and women welfare project to Andhra Mahila Sabha serving the villages of Sriharikota, Irakam and Vatambedu in Sullurpet Taluk of Nellore District and Akkayya Garu was made in charge of the project. Several visits were made there together with Smt. Sugunamani Garu, the current President of Balananda Sangham at Hyderabad and a few other lady members and again it was a great success.

At one of the events of Balananda Sangham, Dr.C.D.Deshmukh, then Finance Minister and Smt. Durgabayamma Garu Chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board were both invited and it was held at Nageswara Rao Park just next to Andhra Mahila Sabha. At that function, Smt Durgabai while addressing said that Bala Vakku is Brahma Vakku. Hence she made an announcement for the first time that she and Dr.Deshmukh have decided to get married soon and wanted the children to endorse it. It was received with a very loud applause. That was the beginning for Smt.Durgabayamma Garu to become Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh.

Move to Hyderabad with formation of Andhra Pradesh

With full time activities involving Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu , they could not spare any time for the magazine BALA but they were never bothered. For them personal affairs took a back seat. In the meanwhile it was learnt that an integrated state of Andhra Pradesh was to be formed with Hyderabad as Capital. Sri Burgula Ramakrishna Rao Garu made a visit to Madras and as he knew both Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu earlier visited Balanandam and invited them to move over to Hyderabad and start a Balananda Sangham there. Both of them accepted this invitation without a second thought. They were sure that at Madras several other parents and associate members were there who would look after Balananda Sangham. They knew that this would definitely be detrimental to their personal interests as they have to wind up their magazine BALA but they never hesitated even for a moment to sacrifice this.

Swift arrangements were made, BALA Magazine and BALA PRESS activities were wound up and Balananda Sangham was handed over to a few senior parents and associate members. Sri D.G.Sarma Garu, Smt.D.Jogulamba Garu and Smt.Kamala Devi Garu have taken over the administration of Balanandam there. All the equipment like the van, library books, projector and other furniture were left there itself and they landed in Hyderabad literally empty handed. From Dasara of 1956, Balanandam was functioning from Hyderabad. Smt.Durgabai Deshmukh inaugurated the Association at Hyderabad. The story of Balanandam at Hyderabad I presume is being presented separately. In Hyderabad, Annayya Garu was the founder of A.P.Balala Academy and was also closely associated in setting up Jawahar Bala Bhavan.

Annayya Garu and Akkayya Garu were asked to conduct children's and Women's programs respectively in All India Radio where they served till their retirement in 1969. During her tenure in



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



All India Radio at Hyderabad, Akkayya Garu started several Mahila Mandals and was devoting her time even in respect of women's affairs.

From 1969 till their death they devoted all their time for Balanandam activities. Annayya Garu even at that old age was seen conducting rehearsals, training children and even adjusting the public address system himself. They were still moving in cycle rickshaws and personally taking care of things and guiding Balananda Sangham. Death only brought retirement to them.

A few noteworthy incidents

It would not be out of place to make a specific mention of a few incidents, which are unique by themselves and render a meaning to selfless service.

When they came to Hyderabad, Sri Burgula Ramakrishna Rao Garu offered them a house at 10, C.I.B. Special Quarters in Narayanguda on a hire purchase where they could carry on Balanandam activities besides having a shelter of their own as they never cared to acquire during their entire 20 years of stay at Madras. He offered to allocate it in the name of Akkayya Garu. While accepting the offer, they requested him to allocate it to Balananda Sangham. They said they would occupy a portion of that and pay rent out of which Balananda Sangham would pay the hire purchase instalments. Sri Burgula was surprised to find a couple rejecting such an offer and instead asking for a public institution. Since the rules then did not permit allocation to institutions they took it as N.Kameswari, President of Andhra Balananda Sangham and true to their words paid the rent and out of those rents the hire purchase instalments were being paid. With the increased needs of Balananda Sangham, there was hardly any space for them to live. At the same time there was increase in the cost of living coupled with a growing family. Then they felt that it was necessary for them to move to a nearby place and stay there and leave the entire building for Balanandam activities. Since it would be difficult for them to pay the rents of both the house as well as Balananda Sangham, they approached Shri Kasu Brahmananda Reddy Garu the then Chief Minister and requested him to sanction a grant to Balanandam to cover the balance of hire purchase instalments. He was kind enough to sanction the same. They moved over to another house on rent and left the entire building to Balananda Sangham, which is the present location. They died without any property of their own.

When Shri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy Garu was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, he came to know that this couple does not have a shelter of their own and hence suggested he would allocate a house to them in Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar and they were taken by his officials and shown the area. They felt that it is very far away from Balanandam and they would find it difficult to commute such long distances and hence politely declined. Once again personal interests were sacrificed. Shri Sanjeeva Reddy Garu remembered this very much and made a mention to them when they called on him during one of his visits to Hyderabad when he was the President of India.



ANDHRA BALANANDA SANGHAM

(Estd. 1940)
Children's Cultural & Recreational Centre



While in Madras, Annayya Garu had a proposal to the Government requesting them to subscribe to the BALA magazine to various school libraries and thus help the publication to reach to more children. At that time Shri S.B.P.Pattabhi Rama Rao Garu was the Education Minister and known to them well. Both of them went there and talked with him all Balanandam matters and in the end requested him to inaugurate a Balanandam event coming up in two weeks time and he readily accepted. Then they came away without ever making a mention of BALA magazine. Their argument was that it would be improper on their part to ask for a personal favour.

Akkayya Garu died on October 23, 1980 and Annayya Garu died on February 24, 1984 both after a brief illness for a few days. That is the story of great visionaries of child welfare who have sacrificed everything for this cause. They left a great void in the field of child welfare. They ensured that all through their life, they do not ask for any personal favour from any Government officials or Ministers or others. They never bothered for recognitions, awards and titles. They did not even have a car of their own and used to commute in cycle rickshaws till the end. Thus when they died they never had any house of their own or any other assets and the Bank account had only minimum balance. All they left was their clothing, their scripts and a small supply of stationery and thousands of Telugu children.

Conclusion

It is also a pleasure to learn that a few dedicated members are continuing the activities of Balanandam at Hyderabad. My sister Kamala and Suribabu took active interest to continue Balanandam activities at Hyderabad. Recently Suribabu died but their daughter Papa (Smt.J.V.Kameswari) is taking active interest with utmost co-operation from Mr.Malapaka Purnachandra Rao and a few others with Smt.Sugunamani Garu as the President and Chittaranjan as the Vice President etc. Even at Madras, though both Sri D.G.Sarma Garu and Smt.Jogulamba Garu died, Smt. Padma, their first daughter-in-law has taken up the responsibility and is running a Primary school there on behalf of Balananda Sangham.

In those days at Chennai besides all of us belonging to Annayya Garu's family, the following who come to my mind off hand were very active participants as associate members. Sarvashri D.G.Sarma , Nagendra Prasad, Rabindranath Tagore, Koka Raghava Rao, Muralikrishna , K.S.Prakasa Rao, and Srimatis Jogulamba, Kamala Devi, Kanda Papayamma , Tanguturi Ahalya Devi ,Dhanalakshmi , Sakuntamma, Kasturi Rukminamma and several others. So many child members were very active participants. Suffice it to say that popular personalities of several fields these days have had their initial interaction with Annayya Garu, Akkayya Garu and Balanandam. With so many people around and all engaged in these activities voluntarily and happily, not a single dull moment was there.

Let their lives inspire all those who work for the cause of child welfare and mould the children to be worthy citizens of this great country.