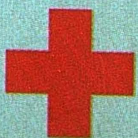


History of Red Cross



YOUTH RED CROSS



**INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
TAMIL NADU BRANCH**



50, Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

History of Red Cross

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CHAPTER 1

RED CROSS MOVEMENT

Prelude to the History of Red Cross

The History of human race has distinct landmarks such as discoveries of lands, growth of civilizations, development of industries and establishment of religions. Yet we cannot, without a sense of bitterness, overlook the impact and evil of wars at every stage of human evolution. The pity of it is that people have glorified war, as it has been associated with national pride, individual honour and stamp of superiority. Ruthless destruction of lives and property, brutality of armed attacks and bloodshed seldom found a place in the gilt-edged pages of history recording the great victories of kings and war-heroes. Barring one emperor (Ashoka) who was smitten with grief at the sight of war-victims, the victors virtually celebrated cruelty. The spectacle of suffering chastened Ashoka. Around 2000 odd years after, the sight of a similar calamity awakened the agonized mind of Henry Dunant to the imperative need to organize relief camps for the wounded soldiers to whichever camp they belonged. The idea of Red Cross was born from this dreadful sight.

Red Cross – Its Origin

Red Cross is a movement of embracing humanity as a whole. The originator of this great organization, Henry Dunant was born of an affluent business family. In 1859, when he was thirty-one years old, he embarked on a business deal in France. It was during

his stay at Solferino that he witnessed the ghastly scenes of war between Austria and Napoleon, the French emperor. The wounded and the dying soldiers strewn over the vast plains desperately needed help. Medical facilities were either out of their reach or far inadequate to meet the requirement of the increasing number of casualties. As many as forty thousand people were either dead or lost. Henry Dunant was first aghast, but soon awakened to a realization that something should be done to rush aid to the wounded victims of war. He brought from the neighbouring towns a group of doctors and volunteers and sought their help to treat the wounded in the church at Castiglione. He ran from pillar to post tirelessly to secure water and other needs and in the process his white dress shone stained with the blood of the wounded men. The ailing sick endearingly called him, "The gentleman in white". To Henry Dunant, a Swiss citizen, the French and the Austrian soldiers were human beings maimed and wounded and not rival combatants. 'Even the enemy is a human soul' these words of Henry Dunant moved the hearts of those who watched him nurse the helpless.

It was the book Henry Dunant published in 1862 titled "A memory of Solferino" that spelt out his ideals he was committed to realize. One of them was the establishment of a Relief Society in every country to rush aid to the wounded war victims. The second was to formulate an international humanitarian code to assure humane treatment and uphold the dignity of persons who came under the control of hostile power. The Red Cross Movement came into being as a result of the first objective put forth by Henry Dunant. The First Geneva Convention, the blossoming hope for millions of hapless victims of war, sought to translate the second ideal, which Henry Dunant held supremely noble. The historic revelation that Henry Dunant made known to the world, in the form of his book, was the turning point in the annals of war history. Henry Dunant dispatched copies

of his book to all leaders and statesmen of Europe, army chiefs and social organizations. Support and encouragement flowed from all quarters of the continent. Within three months, the public Welfare Society of Geneva, a local charitable organization, appointed a committee of five to take steps suggested by Dunant. The Chairman of the committee was Gen. Guillaume Dufour. Swiss Army commander, two doctors, a lawyer and Dunant himself were members of steering committee. An International conference was the first important thing that the committee decided to hold. Henry Dunant explained to the members his working plan, which envisaged the setting up of a task force consisting of doctor volunteers in every country. These volunteers were to be in readiness to serve anywhere at any time as need arose. The members invited delegates from all countries to discuss Dunant's proposals in Geneva. In October 1863, sixteen leading Statesmen deliberated on this for four days and thus was born the Red Cross Society. For the first time volunteers of Red Cross wore white armband emblazoned with a Red Cross, when they were called upon to rush for help during the war between Russia and Denmark in 1864.

Name of Red Cross and the Emblem

Originally the title name of the organization was "The society for the Relief of the wounded combatants". The Netherlands Society was the first to adopt a more-easily remembered name "Red Cross Society" in 1867. Other societies readily agreed to adopt this new title. It was in 1875 that the Geneva committee began to call itself the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The delegates who met at the conference of 1863 were fully aware of the practical need for the volunteers to be readily identified and protected as non-combatants. They stressed the importance of a uniform, distinctive symbol for personnel of the

4 History of Red Cross

medical corps of the army and a uniform flag for ambulances and hospitals. Red Cross with a white background was adopted as the Emblem. As some Muslim countries were hesitant to use Red Cross emblem they were authorized to use a Red Crescent symbol in white background. Iran, however, used a Red Lion and Sun initially as its Emblem, for the relief society and later switched over to Red Crescent emblem. The two symbols “Red Cross” and “Red Crescent” now carry great significance and as such many governments guard zealously their symbols and make every effort to restrict their use to the medical services of the armed forces.



CHAPTER 2

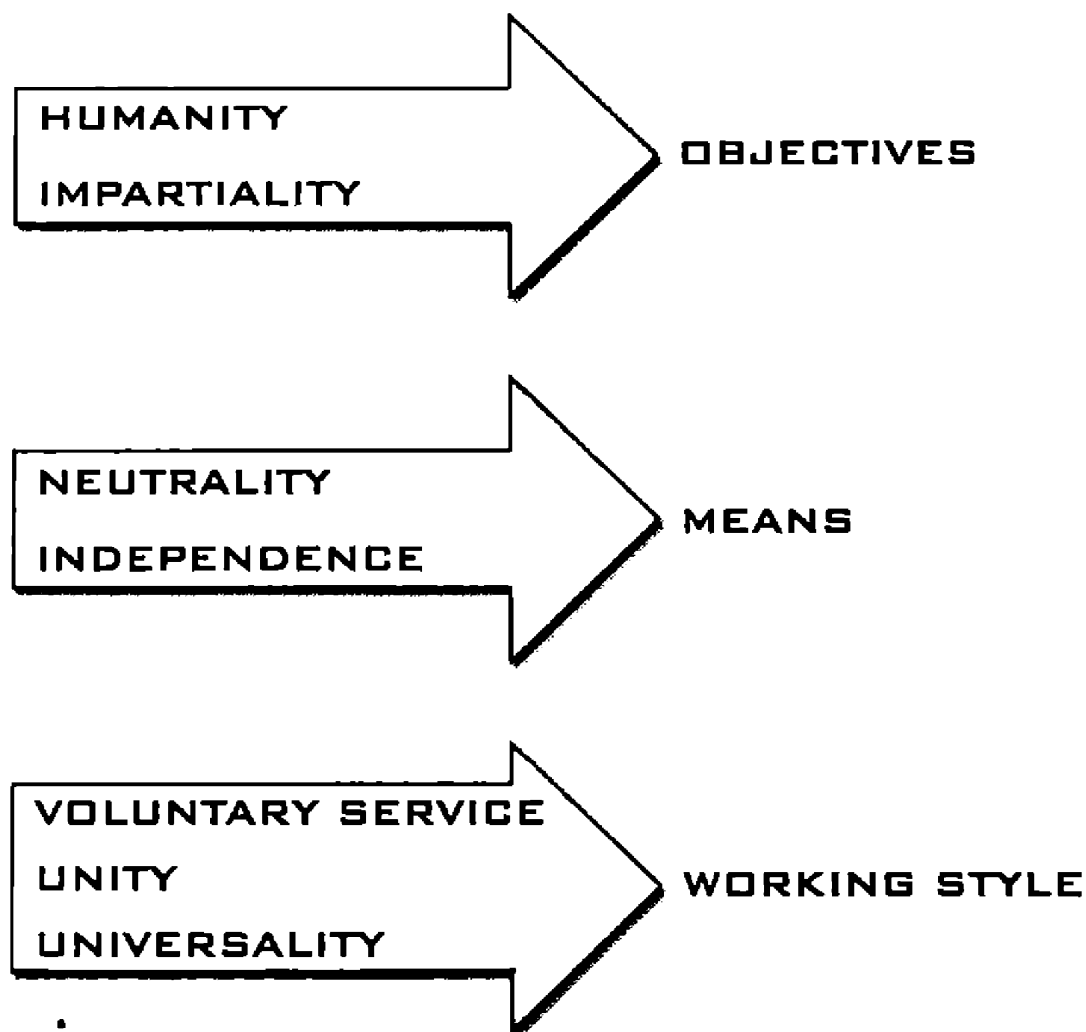
THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF “RED CROSS”

It was in 1875 that the Red Cross Movement spelt out four basic working principles to be observed.

- **Foresight:** It means that preparations should be made in advance, in peacetime, to provide assistance should war break out.
- **Solidarity:** The societies should undertake to establish mutual ties and to help each other.
- **Centralization:** It implies that there is only one society in each country but whose activities extend throughout the entire territory.
- **Mutuality:** Care is given to all the wounded and the sick irrespective of their nationality.

In 1921, a set of three principles was approved formally for the practical Red Cross work namely **impartiality, self-dependency and universality**. However, after the Second World War, the 19th session of the Board of Governors (Oxford, 1946) adopted a Declaration confirming the four principles supplemented by another thirteen principles and six rules of application. It was in 1955 that Jean Pictet, in his book “Principles of Red Cross” listed seventeen principles divided into two categories – the Fundamental Principles and the organic principles, which concern the Movement’s structure and how it works. On the basis of this latest study, the Movement’s Seven Fundamental

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES



Principles as they stand today were adopted in 1965 by the 20th International conference of the Red Cross held in Vienna. In 1986, the Conference decided to include them in the preamble of the statutes of the Movement. It recalls that every component of the Movement is bound by the fundamental principles.

The Fundamental Principles

1. Humanity

"The international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded

on the battle field, endeavours in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples".

The most significant role of Red Cross is its deep concern and caring for the human being. Even before the beginning of Red Cross, there did exist, in all cultures, the feelings of compassion and concern for fellow beings. What is of vital significance of Red Cross, is its universality.

Humanity forms the basis for the Red Cross and it is the driving force for the organization. Ever since its formation, work in war zones has been one of the most important tasks of the Red Cross. But it has gradually taken up humanitarian assignments in peace also. Red Cross works now both in war and peace times.

The humanitarian principle is divided into four parts

- Prevent and alleviate human sufferings.
- Protect life and health.
- Create respect for human dignity.
- Promote peace.

i) Prevent and alleviate human suffering

Keeping prevention of suffering as its most important task, the Red Cross Movement has a unique preparedness and competence to act immediately irrespective of the causes of suffering whether it is war, natural disaster, shortage of water, food or any other things.

ii) Protect life and health

To save life is an important task for the Red Cross, through relief and protection activities i.e., work for asylum seekers and

refugees. The work to prevent diseases, improve public health, and increase the social security in the community is also its concern.

iii) Create respect for human dignity

The Red Cross demands respect and freedom for every human life in all situations, and thrives to fulfill the same. It explicitly states that every individual shall be protected against injustice and should be treated humanely and fixes the goal of ensuring that human dignity is not degraded.

iv) Promote peace

The principle “To prevent and alleviate human sufferings” may naturally help to achieve our target of lasting peace in society.

In case of political unrest leading to conflicts and the environmental destruction and natural disaster leading to starvation and refugee influx, the Red Cross works with the community on disaster prevention, relief and management in the affected area thus maintaining the balance in nature which man has disturbed.

2. Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to the nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs and to give priority to the most urgent case of distress.

This principle contains two parts – nondiscrimination and proportionality. The Red Cross is against all type of discrimination. Non-discrimination is above all an imperative rule governing the work of the Movement. The deciding factor is the need for help regardless of any factors that are not humanitarian. Red Cross

highlights this requirement of help and seeks to assist without being limited by how and why the requirement has come up.

It also seeks to fight against discrimination in various forms by opinion formation.

On the basis of the principle of humanity and non-discrimination, all people must get complete and immediate help. In most emergencies, it is not possible to provide similar help to all. In such cases Red Cross should help those who need the help more. A priority in treating the victims may commence only if it is a question of medically urgent case. It is also the degree of suffering that is a deciding factor. The most acute sufferer should be given priority. If two people are suffering equally, the help should be equally distributed. The contribution of Red Cross shall also be proportionate to the requirements of each.

The principle of impartiality puts high demands, on the Red Crosser who has to assist those who need it most irrespective of who the needy and what the reasons are. Thus the Red Crosser must strive for not doing subjective evaluation on taking priorities.

3. Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Neutrality is a principle of means and an absolute condition for Red Cross work. Neutrality is a state of mind, an attitude which must guide every step taken by the components of the Movement. This conduct gives and maintains faith for the organization all over the world. The principle of neutrality is a means to reach out, deal and associate with all the regimes. This implies that the Red Cross must refrain from taking sides for or against any party in a conflict. In conflict situation,

neutrality demands naturally, absolute abstention from making any comment and taking any action that could support or hinder military operations in any way.

It must keep away from taking sides in political, religious or ideological conflicts. This has sometimes led to criticisms about Red Cross, that it acts weak. However, it is the neutrality and impartiality, which gives the Red Cross respect and recognition so that it can perform where other organizations cannot.

The Red Cross can pronounce and articulate itself generally against torture, racism, nuclear weapons or crime against the human rights law but does not take a stand in religious or ideological questions.

4. Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

As an organization Red Cross takes its own decisions for its functioning and activities, guided solely by its fundamental principles and without being influenced by any outside agency. This independence is a guarantee for its neutrality. It is important to maintain independence in relation to the respective country's regime. Independence does not mean isolation, but is in cooperation. The Red Cross can co-operate with authorities, institutions and other organizations under the presumption that they respect the Red Cross for following its fundamental principles.

It is also obvious that independence does not mean that individual members/ branches have the right to run the

organization in the name of Red Cross against common objectives and decisions.

Red Cross follows the laws of the country without foregoing its autonomy. The Government cannot have any influence on the organization and deviate it from its own line of action.

When donors help the disaster-affected people through Red Cross, it must be done as per the conditions of Red Cross. The donor cannot impose conditions of how and to whom the assistance should be provided, that are against the principles of the organization. Even financial contributions can be accepted on an unconditional basis and without any strings attached to them. It is also necessary that Red Cross should strive to stay away from media pressure generated by diverse humanitarian organizations.

5. Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

According to Indian cultural and spiritual faith, term 'sacrifice' implies voluntary and unselfish gift with a spirit of absolute soul-satisfaction. The same spirit governs the voluntary service. Red Cross is dedicated to human fraternity and renders humanitarian service without any consideration of gain or acknowledgement from others.

All people will be in need of help some time and will have some thing to give. Every contribution is meaningful no matter how small it is, The satisfying nature of the contribution is important, To help voluntarily does not mean that one abandons the quality of help. It is often necessary to have fundamental education and good training so that one could give right help and protection in difficult situation. Selfless help means that Red Cross does not have any personal interest to satisfy except

the satisfaction of the victim. The organization interests just coincide with those of the people it helps. A Red Cross worker must respect the sentiments of some one who refuses to accept the assistance, though he requires the same. When one takes up a task, it has to be done in accordance with the principle of the organization, and the accepted customs of the community being helped.

6. Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

The Red Cross or The Red Crescent has unity of purpose as well as unity of structure. In other words, there can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. One of the demands when recognizing a national Red Cross Society is that it has to be only one in its country and that it has a uniform management that works in accordance with the fundamental principles of Red Cross. It is a centralized organization, open to all. It must show nondiscrimination in recruitment of members and it must cover the whole national territory. It therefore follows that a national society, must enjoy a broad base in the population as a whole and recruit its members from among all the ethnic, social and other groups in the country. The Red Cross needs to involve people with different back-grounds, knowledge and ideas. Humanity unites different contributions from all people without a any discrimination of any type.

7. Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

The foremost task of the national society is to work within its own country. However, all the national societies have a joint responsibility towards each other. This means a commitment to assist and a right to get assistance themselves. When a national society cannot manage the situation itself, for example after a natural disaster in the country, it asks for help from other national societies through an appeal via Geneva. Irrespective of the fact that they are big or small, national societies belong to the Movement.

The message and the activities of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent are eloquent testimony to the universality of the Movement. People, wherever they live, find this Movement, a source of comfort in distress, hope in despair and strength to overcome the agony caused by disasters. The National Societies exist in almost all countries of the world. This itself is a living proof of the universality of the Movement. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide. It is true that there are few countries where national societies are yet to be established. Yet the universality of the Movement is demonstrated by its proven commitment to humanitarian service wherever distress or disaster affects the helpless.



CHAPTER 3

EMBLEM

History

The history of the origin of Red Cross emblem dates back to the beginning of Solferino War. It was the horror of the battle-torn victims that moved Henry Dunant to rush for their help. By temperament, tradition and training he could do no less. He managed to get medical personnel to treat the wounded. There he felt the need for providing a distinctive neutral sign to identify, the relief medical committee and the army medical services.

In 1863 the Red Cross on a white background was adopted by International Conference as the distinctive sign of societies bringing relief to wounded soldiers (the future National Societies).

In 1864 the Red cross was recognized by the Diplomatic Conference as the distinctive neutral sign of army medical services and sanctioned by International humanitarian law with the adoption of the Geneva Convention of 1864. The Cross was formed by arranging five red squares of equal size, with one red square at the centre and four other red squares put on the four sides of the central red square on white background. The Red Cross emblem, a Red Cross on a white back ground was adopted by reversing the colors of the Swiss flag, as a compliment to Switzerland which played an active role in establishing National relief societies and convening the first Geneva Conference. In 1876, during the Eastern war raging in the Balkans, the Ottoman Empire decided to use the Red Crescent on a white

ground instead of Red Cross claiming that the Cross offended the susceptibilities of Muslim soldiers. In 1929, the Diplomatic Conference recognized two other emblems as distinctive signs of medical establishments and units, namely the Red Crescent and the Iranian Red Lion and Sun. In 1980, the Islamic Republic of Iran renounced the Red Lion and Sun and adopted the Red Crescent. So there are two signs currently in use the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

Aim

It was adopted

- as a safety symbol for those who are involved in the Humanitarian work mainly in times of armed conflict.
- to facilitate access to the wounded soldiers and other victims of war so that the much needed assistance could reach them safely and quickly and
- as neutral sign to identify and protect the relief and medical teams and the army medical services.

Significance

The Geneva Conventions of 1949, which now forms the basis of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) adopted both the emblems.

After adoption in the Geneva Conventions, the Red Cross emblem has become a

- Universally known
- Legally sanctified and protected
- Neutral sign

to identify people with protected status in situations of armed conflicts. i.e., The armed forces medical units, the chaplains

and the relief teams. They are in the battle field exclusively for amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick soldiers and other victims of war and are protected from all kinds of hostile military action under IHL

Red Cross Emblem is expected to stimulate a reflex of restraint and respect from the combatants in the battlefield.

International and national laws regulate use and repression of misuse of Red Cross emblem. When the components of the Red Cross Movement use the emblem it signifies the seven fundamentals principles, which underlie their humanitarian and relief activities in situations of armed conflicts and natural disasters.

The authorized users

- The military medical services, their personnel units, installations and means of transport
- International committee of Red Cross (ICRC)
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, (The Federation)
- National Societies
- First Aid centres that offer totally free medical assistance and are authorized by their national society.

Types of use

There are two types of uses of the Emblem - large protective emblem and small indicative emblem.

In time of conflict, the large size emblem constitutes the visible sign of protection conferred by the Geneva conventions to persons (members of army medical service, ICRC delegates, National Society Volunteers etc.,) the medical units (hospitals, First aid posts) and means of transport. Large sized emblem is meant for protection of those who are actively engaged in wartime voluntary service.

The indicative use of the small size emblem, shows that the person/ object wearing the Red Cross Emblem has a connection with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Federation) or the National Societies. Small size emblem is meant for identification.

A person who belongs to Red Cross or Red Crescent Movement or an object associated with it is identified through this emblem. Because of its protective purpose, the emblem confers on its wearer a sense of discipline and an air of respectability. In effect, the emblem signifies the noble objective of this mighty movement, associated with humanitarian values, neutrality and selfless service.

The misuse

The use of emblem by those who are not authorized by the laws (1949 Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocols of 1977 and Geneva Convention Act 1960 of India)

The improper use of the emblem by those who are authorized to use it.

Imitation of Red Cross emblem by using a symbol similar to it.

And perfidious use of the emblem to betray the confidence of the adversary in a military action,

Consequence of misuse

Misuse of the emblem will diminish its protective value and thus destroy the delicate mechanism established by IHL to ensure much needed humanitarian assistance to the victims of war

Misuse of the emblem will also diminish the credibility of the fundamental principle of the Red Cross Movement and thus seriously hurt the Red Cross Movement one of the most successful humanitarian movements of the world.

Who misuse the Emblem?

Many unauthorized users misuse the Red Cross Emblem. The persons and institutions, which abuse the emblem, are:

- Government medical institutions like hospitals, dispensaries, clinics and blood banks.
- Members of medical, dental and nursing associations.
- Private Pharmaceuticals companies, their staff and products.
- Private Clinics hospitals and nursing homes.
- Traditional healers and herbalists.
- Organizations operating ambulance services.

In spite of having their own professional symbols, which are equally attractive and reflect the values and traditions of their respective professions they misuse Red Cross Emblem.

Indian situation

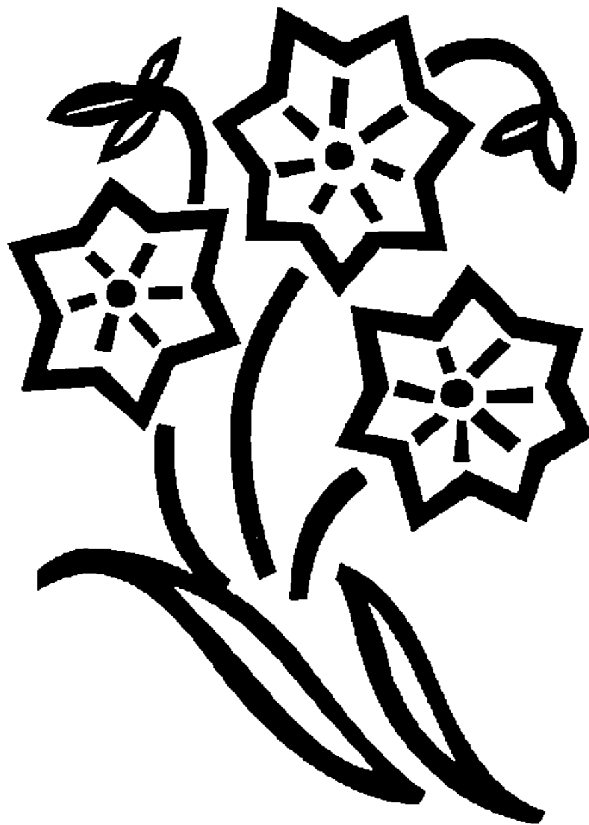
India ratified the Geneva Conventions on October 16th 1950, and thus became a state party to the Geneva Conventions. The Indian Law regulating the use of the emblem is called the Geneva Conventions Act, Indian Parliament made this law in 1960. Chapter IV of this act deals with the abuse of the Red Cross Emblem. Section 12 read section 13 of this chapter makes unauthorized use of the Red Cross emblem or its imitation a punishable offence. However, so far the government has not seriously looked into the implementation of this law, hence the misuse of the Red Cross emblem is rampant in our country.

Initiatives taken to change this situation

The Red Cross Movement has taken several initiatives:

- Educating the general public through the media, seminars, workshops and conferences

- Dialogue with the unauthorized peace time users listed above.
- Drawing the attention of the government to the general misuse and the need for appropriate measures to protect the emblem.
- Micro level interactive door to door campaign targeting the specific groups involved largely in the misuse.



CHAPTER 4

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

Origin and history

In spite of the best efforts to achieve world peace in the wake of two world wars, armed conflicts remain the prominent and painful feature of our human landscape. The recourse and resort to arms continue to be the only means of settling differences between nations, parties, people and ethnic groups with the accompanying toll of death and suffering.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded nearly a century and a half ago in recognition of this sad reality to preserve a measure of humanity in the midst of war.

The ICRC owes its origin to the vision and determination of one man, Name: Jean Henry Dunant, The date: 24th June 1859, The Place: Solferino, a town in northern Italy, The Occasion: The war between the French and Austrian armies. After 16 hours of bitter battle, the ground was strewn with 40,000 dead and wounded men. That same evening, Henry Dunant, a Swiss Citizen, happened to pass through the area on business. He was horrified by what he saw. Thousands of wounded soldiers on both sides of the army were left to suffer unattended and abandoned to their fate, for want of adequate but simple medical assistances. With the help of civilians from neighbouring villages, Dunant organized the relief operations for the wounded without any discrimination.

On his return to Switzerland, Dunant published the book (1862), 'A Memory of Solferino', in which he made his solemn appeals:

- For the establishment of relief committees whose members should be trained in peace time to render relief and medical assistance with zeal and devotion to the victims of war and
- For the establishment of rules that would alleviate the suffering of the victims of armed conflict, in the form of an international treaty among nations to assure more humane care of the wounded.

The first idea led to the creation of National Red Cross (and later, Red Crescent) Societies and the second to the development of modern international humanitarian law, which first found written expression in the Geneva Convention of 1864.

In 1863 the Geneva Society for public welfare, a charitable association based in the Swiss city, set up a five member commission - Gustave Moynier, Guillaume - Henry Dufour, Louis Appia, Theodore Maunois and Henry Dunant - to consider how Dunant's ideas might be implemented and founded the International Committee for Relief to the wounded - which later became the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In response to their invitation, 16 states and four philanthropic institutions sent representatives, to the International Conference, which opened in Geneva on 26 October 1863. It was in that conference the Red Cross as an Institution came into being.

International Status

The ICRC is a product of private, Swiss initiative but its scope and operation are public and worldwide. Through the many tasks – protection and assistance of the victims of armed conflicts – assigned to it by the Geneva Convention (1949) and the additional protocols (1977), it has acquired international status.

ICRC – Legal status

The ICRC is a neutral, impartial, independent and service oriented humanitarian organization. Its nature, membership and governance are non-governmental. In most of the countries in which it works, the ICRC has concluded headquarters agreements with the authorities. These agreements, which are subject to international law,

- specify ICRC's legal status,
- recognize it as an international legal entity and
- grant it the privileges and immunities enjoyed only by inter-governmental organizations

such as immunity from legal process, and inviolability of its premises, archives and other documents. Such privileges and immunities are indispensable for the ICRC, because they guarantee two conditions essential to its action, namely neutrality and independence. ICRC delegates thus, enjoy the same status as that of officials of intergovernmental Organization. ICRC has also signed a headquarters agreement (1993) with Switzerland, which recognizes its international legal personality and confirms its independence and freedom of action from the Swiss government.

ICRC's right and the legal basis

There are two types of legal basis, Treaties and Statutes

Treaties

ICRC's right to conduct certain activities such as:

- Bringing relief to wounded or sick / shipwrecked military personnel
- Visiting prisoners of war

during *international armed conflicts* is founded on the four Geneva conventions and the additional protocol I

Its *right to make proposals* by offering, its services to parties to conflict with a view to:

- undertaking relief operations.
- visiting persons detained in connection with the armed conflict

during *internal armed conflicts* is based on Article 3 common to four Geneva Conventions and on additional Protocols II.

Statutes

ICRC's right of initiative in humanitarian matters during less violent internal disturbances is based on the statutes of the movement. The statutes confirm that ICRC may offer its services in any situation, which requires the presence of a specifically neutral and independent intermediary.

All these rights constitute the permanent ***mandate*** assigned to the ICRC by the international community.

ICRC's Humanitarian activities

ICRC may engage in the following activities on behalf of victims of armed conflicts, internal disturbance and other situation of internal violence.

1. The work of the Central Tracing agency
2. Visit to persons deprived of their freedom,
3. Relief operations
 - food aid
 - building shelters, distributing clothes, blanket etc.,
 - emergency agricultural / veterinary assistance.

4. Health activities:

- looking after the war-wounded;
- supporting the existing health services;
- water and sanitation;
- nutrition.

5. Dissemination

Spreading knowledge of:

- international humanitarian law,
- Red Cross Movement in general and ICRC in particular,
- fundamental principle guiding all components and
- its own activities

International Humanitarian Law

International humanitarian law is a set of rules, which seek to limit the effects of armed conflict:

- Protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and
- Restricts the means and methods of warfare.
- IHL applies only to armed conflict hence it is also called the law of war or the law of armed conflict.

As the promoter of international humanitarian law ICRC contributes to its development, prepares drafts to be adopted by states and organizes the Diplomatic Conference, empowered to adopt new texts. As the custodian and guardian of international humanitarian law, ICRC has been mandated by the international community to monitor its application by the parties to conflict through its delegates in the field. ICRC must encourage and ensure respect for the law, by spreading knowledge of the humanitarian rules.

ICRC reminds States of their obligation to disseminate international humanitarian law, and supports their efforts in this direction.

ICRC encourages states to take practical steps in peacetime to ensure that rules of humanitarian law will be applied in the event of war. ICRC reminds the belligerents of their obligations under convention,

ICRC itself strives to spread knowledge of humanitarian law particularly among the armed forces and organizes a large number of seminars on IHL

ICRC and Prisoners of war

The prisoners of war are quite often a more miserable lot than the disabled or victims of war. The International humanitarian law is designed to protect both civilians and the captured combatants. Yet there have been instances where prisoners are persecuted or even executed. Basic requirements like food, water, health-care are not provided for them. The plight of the civilians, who are unfortunately caught up in the strife during the armed conflict, is very pitiable. The ICRC, as an independent humanitarian organization makes on-the-spot study of the conditions of war-prisoners and civilian victims and submits reports to the authorities concerned. It also calls upon the states party to take steps to ensure that the International humanitarian law is applied. The ICRC visits people detained in prison to ensure protection against possible ill treatment. The ICRC delegates are given access to places of detention. The essential role of the ICRC is to ensure mutual trust and respect between detainees and the authorities who are holding them. The ICRC medical staff accompanies the delegates to assess the inmates' health and to detect any consequences of ill treatment.

Another significant and praise-worthy role of ICRC is its noble commitment to bringing comfort to the detainees by arranging contact with their relatives. Messages from relatives are delivered to the inmates of prisons and replies collected and dispatched to the relatives.

ICRC and its preventive actions

The purpose of the ICRC's preventive action is to limit suffering caused by war.

- by promoting values such as tolerance, non discrimination and the acceptance of others,
- spreading knowledge of humanitarian law,
- carrying out activities to limit suffering so as to minimize feeling of resentment and vengefulness with a view to prevent new out break of conflict,
- helping as a neutral intermediary to solve humanitarian problems of war, and initiate the dialogues between the belligerents and
- helping victims regain a minimum self-sufficiency through medical / agricultural assistance

In cooperation with National societies, ICRC's activities contribute indirectly in preventing conflicts before they erupt. ICRC can exert a preventive influence by addressing social problems and rural issues.

ICRC and violations of IHL

The ICRC is neither a judge nor a prosecutor nor is it a court of law

If ICRC observes a violation of the Geneva Conventions and the additional protocols, it makes confidential approach oral or written to the authority responsible and sends report and recommendations to the parties to the conflict.

It maintains a reserved attitude when it comes to communicating to third parties its findings and observations. The parties to the conflict know fully well that ICRC will not divulge information that could be exploited by their adversaries. It is this approach and attitude that make authorities allow on their territory the activities of ICRC.

The efficiency of humanitarian action depends largely on direct and long-term access to victims. To achieve this goal ICRC has embraced discretion as a working method. The ICRC has chosen the path of persuasion and accountability in making the parties to conflict face up to their responsibilities. This course facilitates independent action free of all manner of political, economic and media pressures that could only be detrimental to the victims. The purpose of maintaining discretion with regard to parties to conflict is not only to gain access to victims but also to ensure continuing access.

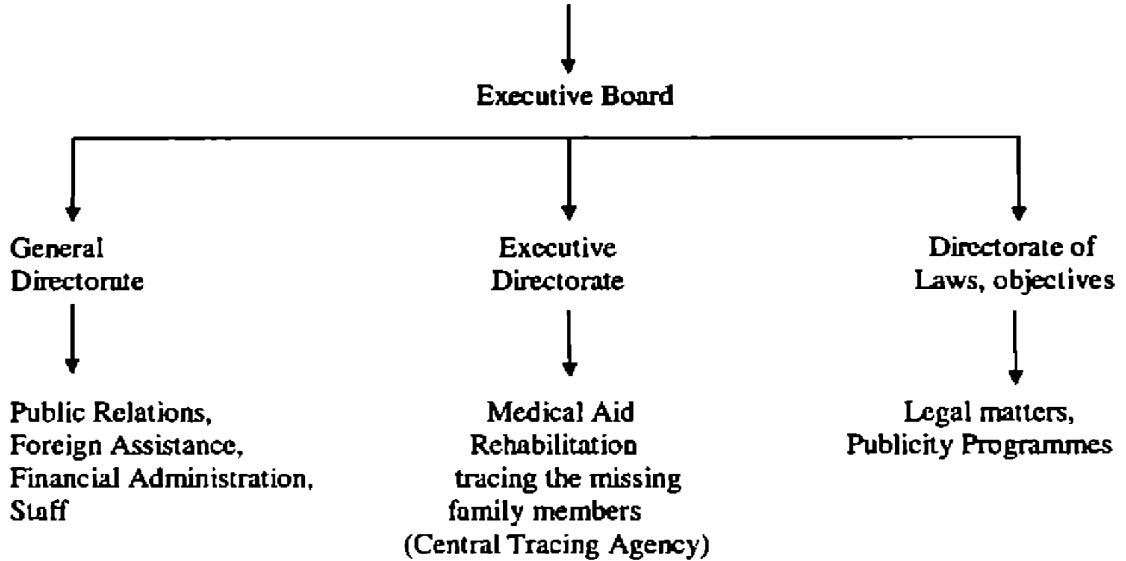
Administration and Structure of ICRC

ICRC is an independent humanitarian Movement. The governing bodies of ICRC belong to Switzerland and there are 25 members in them. They are all elected from among the citizens of Switzerland. One of them is elected head of the governing body every four years. The Executive consists of the following office-bearers.

- a. President
- b. Permanent Vice-President
- c. Two Non-permanent members
- d. Director
- e. Executive Director
- f. Director in-charge of objectives, Rules and Regulations and other matters related to the Movement.

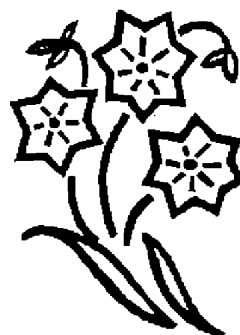
This board meets every week and assumes the responsibilities connected with ICRC. The Chief Executive Board functions in Geneva. As many as 800 members of staff are appointed to perform the functions of the Board. Besides, hundreds of medical experts, assistants and technicians are appointed to assist the Board. This International Committee of Red Cross now functions in 80 countries including, Africa, Europe, Middle East

Assembly



ICRC and other Red Cross / Red Crescent Institutions

The ICRC, the National Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are independent bodies. Each has its own, individual status and exercises no authority over the others. They meet every two years in the Council of Delegates. They gather with representatives of the States party to the Geneva Conventions every four years for an International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.



CHAPTER 5

NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

The National Societies are national voluntary organizations embodying the work and principles of International Red Cross & Red Crescent movement in about 182 countries and acting as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field.

Together 105 million volunteers and 3,00,000 employees in the National Societies all over the world assist some 233 million beneficiaries every year.

There are four broad core areas where most national societies developed expertise and also where the need for Red Cross / Red Crescent action will increase during the next years.

They are:

- promotion of Movements' Fundamentals Principles and humanitarian value,
- disaster response,
- disaster preparedness,
- health & care in the community

CHAPTER 6

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies is an international humanitarian organization with unique worldwide network.

Mission

- The International Federation exists to improve the situation of the world's most vulnerable people. It provides assistance without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.
- The International Federation Secretariat's role is to assist National Societies in their work with the most vulnerable, to promote co-operation between them and thus to realize more of International Federations potential.

Strength

Founded in 1919, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is a federation of all National Societies recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRS). It has presence in almost every country in this world today through its National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Red Crescent is used in place of Red Cross in many Islamic countries.

The Federation inspires, encourages, facilitates and promotes at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by the member

Societies with a view to prevent and alleviate human suffering and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of world peace.

The International Federation Strength lies in the global network of National Societies and the International Federation Secretariat with its delegation strategically located to support Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in various regions. This network enables the International Federation to be there – on the spot – with men and materials – so that it can respond to crises effectively and rapidly.

The International Federation's mission is *to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity*. It directs and co-ordinates international assistance to victims of disasters and to people affected by health emergencies and displacement. It acts as the official representative of the National Societies in the international field. It promotes co-operation between National Societies and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out disaster preparedness and response, health and social programs, and to promote humanitarian values.

Global Network

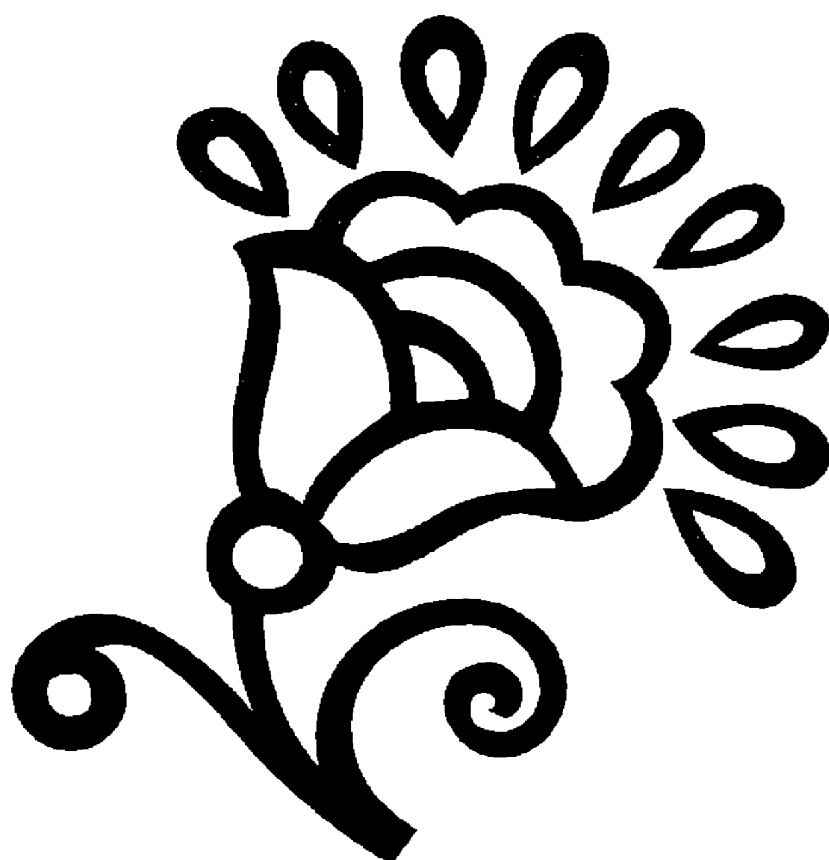
The International Federation commands an immense potential and power because it can mobilize efficiently and quickly local volunteers through National Societies worldwide. The last decade has been committed to strategically strengthening all its resources to promote respect for human dignity and humanitarian values, to improve its ability to cope with crisis and to strengthen the ability of vulnerable people to enhance the quality of the daily lives.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The relationship between the Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions are defined in the Statutes of the International Red

Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Seville Agreement adopted by the council of Delegates in 1997, clarifies and redefines the responsibilities of each of the Movement's components and confers on the ICRC the role of lead agency for international operations conducted by Red Cross and Red Crescent in situations of armed conflict and internal strife.

The ICRC is responsible for verifying that future National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies meet the criteria for membership of the Movement and that they are in a position to conduct their activities in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. If so, the ICRC grants them official recognition. The National Society concerned may then apply to join the Federation. In practice, the ICRC and the Federation review applications jointly.



CHAPTER 7

GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

During armed conflicts, it is important to observe certain humanitarian rules even with regard to enemies engaged in conflicts. These rules were formulated mainly in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12th of August, 1949 and their Additional Protocols I and II of 8th of June, 1977.

- The respect for and dignity of Individuals
- The respect and protection against the effects of war given to persons not directly taking part in hostilities and those who cannot take part due to injury, sickness, captivity and any other cause.
- The aid and care given without discrimination to those who suffer from effects of war

form the very foundation on which the Geneva conventions are based.

The additional protocols while extending this protection to any person affected by armed conflicts, stipulate that the parties to the conflicts and combatants should not attack the civilian population and civilian objects and shall conduct their military operations in conformity with the recognized humanitarian rules.

- I Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field.
- II Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and ship wrecked members of Armed forces at sea.

- III Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.
- IV Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war and Additional Protocols I and II of 8th June, 1977.

The four conventions relate to the amelioration of the condition of the sick and the wounded in the Armed Forces, the ship-wrecked members of Armed Forces and the treatment of Prisoners of war and civilian persons in times of war.

The four conventions and additional protocols will apply whenever and wherever armed conflicts and war break out, though with restriction in the case of severe internal armed-conflict, where only certain rules shall apply. Yet, humanitarian laws must be respected at all times. Murder, torturous treatment, corporal punishment, maiming of limbs, outraging personal dignity, mass persecution, hanging of persons without proper legal proceedings and several such inhuman acts of violence are to be prohibited. It is the duty of the parties to a conflict to secure the supervision and implementation of the conventions and the protocol by the application of a system of Protecting Powers i.e., a neutral state not a party to conflict and accepted by both parties to conflict. A brief account of the provisions of the protocols I and II is given below.

Protection and care

All the wounded, sick and ship-wrecked to whichever party they belong, shall be respected and protected in all circumstances.

They shall be treated humanely and shall receive the medical care and attention required by their condition. There shall be no distinction among them on any grounds other than medical ones.

Protection of persons

The physical or mental health and integrity of persons who are in the power of the adverse party or who are interned or detained shall not be endangered by any unjustified act.

Protection of civilian medical and religious personnel

Each party to the conflict shall ensure that civilian, medical and religious personnel shall be respected and protected and are identifiable besides their units and means of transport.

Methods and means of warfare

It is prohibited to employ methods and means of warfare, which are intended or expected to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment.

Improper use of emblems

Improper use of the distinctive emblem of the Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red lion and Sun and other emblems, signs and signals is prohibited. It is prohibited to make use in an armed conflict of the flags or emblems or uniforms of neutral or other states, not parties to the conflict.

Safe guard of an enemy *hors de combat*

A person who

- is in the power of an adverse party,
- clearly expresses an intention to surrender, or
- is incapacitated by wounds or sickness to defend himself

shall not be attacked and be protected as prisoner of war.

Protection of Civilian population

The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats to spread terror among civilian population are prohibited.

General Protection to Civilian objects

Attacks shall be limited strictly to military objectives. It is prohibited to commit any acts of hostility directed against the historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples.

Protection to objects indispensable and Natural environment

It is prohibited to attack or destroy objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. Care shall be taken in the warfare to protect the natural environment against widespread, long-term and severe damage.

Protection to installations containing dangerous forces

Dams, dykes and nuclear electrical generating stations shall not be made the object of attack, even where these objects are military objectives, if such attack may cause the release of dangerous forces and consequent severe losses among the civilian population

Precautions in attack

All feasible precautions shall be taken in the choice of methods of attack with a view to avoiding and minimizing incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects.

Civil defense

“Civil defense” means the performance of humanitarian tasks intended to protect the civilian population against dangers and

the effects of hostilities and also to provide conditions necessary to its survival. Some of them listed below:-

- a. Warning
- b. Evacuation
- c. Rescue
- d. Fire fighting
- e. Medical services and religious assistance
- f. Provision of emergency accommodation and supplies
- g. Emergency repair of indispensable public utility
- h. Emergency disposal of the dead

Civil Defense Organizations, authorized to perform these tasks shall be respected and protected. Each party to the conflict shall ensure that the civil defense organizations, their personnel, building and materials are identifiable, while they are exclusively devoted to the performance of civil defense tasks.

Relief in favour of civilian population

The occupying Power shall ensure the provision of clothing, means of shelter and other supplies essential to the survival of the civilian population of the occupied territory, and protect objects of religious worship

Fundamental guarantees

Persons who are in the power of a party to the conflict shall be treated humanely at all times & shall enjoy the protection. The following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever.

- a. Murder
- b. Torture of all kinds, physical or mental
- c. Corporal punishment
- d. Mutilation

The Managing Body shall, with the previous approval of the President appoint a Secretary General and a Treasurer for the Society. It makes rules for governance and supervises the functions of the Society, which include.

- Delivering emergency relief during natural and man made disasters.
- Working together with communities in psycho-social rehabilitation.
- Training communities in disaster preparedness.
- Ensuring availability of water and providing sanitation services.
- Providing first aid training.
- Protecting civilian life by disseminating Geneva conventions.
- Providing services for serving and ex-soldiers.
- Reuniting families in disasters and conflicts
- Conducting awareness programmes for HIV / AIDS
- Delivering community welfare programmes
- Organizing blood donation camps to provide safe blood
- Promoting Junior and Youth Red Cross.

Resources

The IRCS mobilizes people's involvement as volunteers and members. In 2001, it had roughly 12 million members and volunteers.

The Society has warehouses, cyclone shelters, hospitals, primary health centres, office premises, training centres to facilitate the effective implementation of its programme, and a fleet of vehicles, including trucks and mechanized boats.

Partnerships

The Society collaborates with other organization in the country, which share similar objectives and principles DFID,

European Commission of Humanitarian Organizations (ECHO). International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Partner National Societies such as German Red Cross, American Red Cross and British Red Cross, etc., have supported its programmes. At the 1997, International Federation's General Assembly, the IRCS, was elected as Vice-President of the International Federation. IRCS also works closely with various government ministries such as health, social justice, education, etc., and the central relief commissioner while maintaining its autonomous, impartial and independent character. In the nodal agency for managing all natural disasters in the country, i.e., the crisis management group of Government of India, IRCS is serving as a member in the group.

Strategic Development Plan

The Indian Red Cross Society aims to inspire, encourage and initiate at all times all forms of humanitarian activities so that human suffering can be minimized, alleviated and even prevented and thus contribute to creating a more congenial climate for peace.

Indian Red Cross Society works together with other national societies all over the world "to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity"

The vision of Indian Red Cross Society is to become " a leading humanitarian organization serving vulnerable people in the near future". The national development plan identifies three strategic directions, four objectives and adequate action plans to fulfil its vision.

The three Directions are

- Focusing on core programmes
- Focus on disaster prone states
- Focus on branch development

The four objectives of IRCS mainly aim at its capacity building i.e., enhancement / raising the capacity of IRCS in various spheres of service in community.

Objective 1

Enhancing the capacity of IRCS to deliver its humanitarian message in society and to advocate tolerance and coexistence.

The systematic organization, refresher training and effective sharing of knowledge among Red Cross members volunteers and functionaries about Red Cross history and structure, its Fundamental principles, Emblem and IHL form the action plan with the following implementation methods.

- The revising and developing training modules and materials by NHQ
- Training of state level trainers in a national level workshop by NHQ
- Sponsoring the conduct of similar nation wide dissemination workshops on emblem, IHL etc at district branch level using the trainers as resource persons.

Another action plan endeavours

- to create an awareness of
- to strengthen the knowledge on
- to promote the understanding about and
- to ensure the required respect for

the fundamental principles, the Emblem and IHL, among the public authorities and others.

NHQ, and state branches in conjunction with ICRC will organize dissemination programmes for the public

misuse of Red Cross emblem will be carried with the help of trained YRC and JRC volunteers and media in the implementation method.

Objective 2

Increasing the capacity of Indian Red Cross Society in disaster preparedness, and disaster response and to reduce the vulnerability of targeted groups in disaster prone area.

The action plans contemplated and the implementation methods to be followed include:

- The development of Disaster Management policy, strategy, plans and protocols.

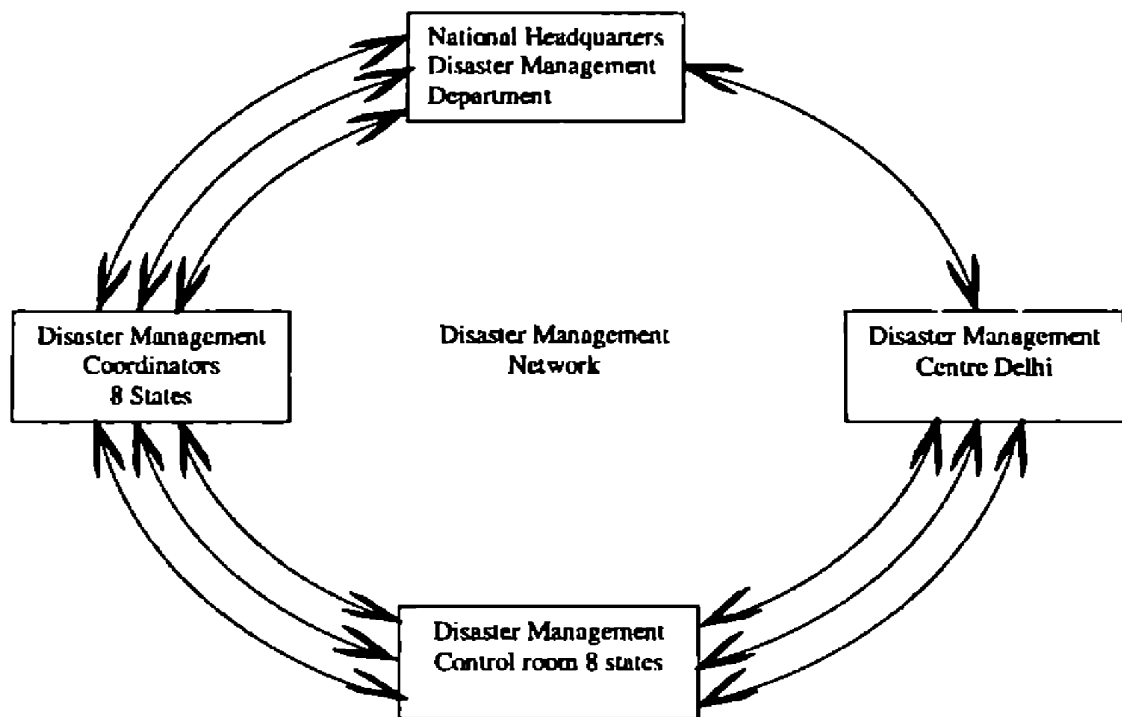
Indian Red Cross Society will develop Disaster Management (DM) Policy and procedures by organizing a meeting of branch representatives at NHQ. A National Disaster preparedness (DP) plan will be formulated, which will form the basis for decision-making and execution of operation. An over all awareness on the impact of disaster will be developed and established at District, State and National branch level. Suitable and appropriate community based DM plans are to be designed. The state branches will organize the meeting of district branches for the same, study materials on Disaster preparedness and Disaster mental health will be provided by NHQ.

- The development of effective and sustainable disaster management mechanism conforming to sphere standards.

At NHQ DM Department has been established with well trained and fully knowledgeable personnel in disaster preparedness and disaster response, logistics, storage and distribution of relief materials and is being kept in full alert to plunge into action on any emergency.

Actively operational and fully functional DM centre at Delhi is also established with network links to the eight Disaster prone states.

Eight state branches will be establishing an operational DM control Room linked up with DM centre in Delhi.



The process of developing a DM network involving the DM Department and the eight states DM control Rooms through the DM coordinator is in progress.

NHQ supported self-assessment of DP capacity of disaster prone state branches will be done and development plans for capacity building will be framed by survey, personal visits and conferences.

Mobile Disaster units and Assessment kits procured by NHQ shall be used to undertake field exercises to train the officials, for development in the case of any emergency.

NHQ has formed and trained the National Disaster Response Team, NDRT. The upgradation of infrastructural facilities in the regional warehouses will be completed soon. The maintenance

funds for emergency relief and DP infrastructure will be developed at NHQ and State branches.

NDM training team has to be recruited and strengthened by NHQ and State branches.

- Enhancing the capacity of the community for creating awareness.

with an aim of improving most vulnerable communities' capacities to help alleviate the suffering of the affected population.

NHQ will

- get ready the standardized frame work for the development of Community Based Disaster Management Plan (CBDMP),
- organize Training of Trainers courses on CBDMP and
- develop and distribute materials on Disaster Mental health to be distributed to victims during Disaster.

Further CBDP Training Programme will be conducted at district level jointly by state & district branches.

Objective 3

Increasing the capacity of IRCS in health care at all level and improving the health of vulnerable people and communities.

The first action plan envisages, developing health policy, strategy, plans and protocols and designing and executing health-care programmes.

In conformity with the Federation's strategy in health care, NHQ will establish a health policy and strategy in the implementation part. With the assistance of state branches NHQ will develop a standardized framework for developing health care programmes.

The branches will evaluate and assess their programmes with respect to the needs in community.

NHQ will ensure that its strategy in health care is reflected in the Disaster Response and preparedness plans and IRCS is recognized as the lead agency in emergency health.

For the second action plan to strengthen the prevention-focused, volunteer- based community health care, in the implementation method.

NHQ will

- establish guidelines for community based health programme,
- proactively involve communities in making assessment, plans, monitoring and evaluation,
- develop training materials and community awareness materials for dissemination and
- organize Training of Trainers course of community based first aid.

The third action plan aims to enhance the IRCS emergency health capacity.

NHQ will

- develop jointly with state branches plans for emergency health care and make operational Emergency health mobile-medical units, water-purification units, etc.,
- organize trainings for volunteers and staff on emergency, health and basic health care unit and
- help state branches in the conduct of training and development activities in the implementation part.

The fourth action plan proposes to help and support the vulnerable to handle HIV/AIDS epidemics

NHQ will

- jointly with state branches develop a HIV/AIDS policy – a Five-year strategic plan aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention, care and promotion of dignity for people living with HIV/AIDS,

- conduct awareness campaigns employing YRC and JRC in the community,
- organize a community based pilot home care and support programme for people with HIV/AIDS and
- train volunteers and motivators and provide them with technically, culturally and linguistically applicable materials in the implementation phase to be followed.

Objective 4

With a view to improve the condition of vulnerable, the capacity of the branches and NHQ in mobilizing, organizing and managing the local resource will be enhanced.

First action plan envisages the creation of a national branch development policy and strategy and enhancement of capacity of NHQ to provide development support to branches.

On the implementation methods.

NHQ will

- develop policies, strategy, rules & procedures for branch development,
- conduct national level Training of Trainers workshops on Branch Development and also sponsor regional follow up workshops,
- establish region-focused resources to provide technical support to state branches and
- see that all state branches formulate and follow long-term state branch development plan integrating the finance, resources mobilization, volunteers management, junior and youth programmes etc.,

The second action plan aims to promote the integrity of Indian Red Cross Society ensuring respect to and compliance with the Fundamental principles through the review and amendment of constitution, structure, rules, policies and procedures according

to the needs and in coherence with the policies of Red Cross Movement.

In the implementation scheme, NHQ will

- initiate constitution review process,
- frame uniform branch rules in consultation with branches,
- organize an annual state branch secretaries conference to review the implementation procedures and programmes,
- see that similar annual conference of District branch secretaries is conducted by state branch and
- will see that all in IRCS, must respect the Fundamental Principles to increase integrity and improve transparency and accountability.

The third action plan envisages to develop and establish a national resource development strategy integrating financial, material and personnel development, mobilization and maintenance components.

In the implementation phase, NHQ will

- develop policy, strategy, rules and procedures for development and mobilization of resources,
- initiate a national membership campaign every year along with state branches to improve existing membership pattern,
- modify, the fund raising system and initiate a fund raising campaign per year along with state branches,
- conduct two national Resource Mobilization Training of Trainers workshops and four similar Regional follow up workshops and
- help the state branches organize resource mobilization workshops at district branch level.

For the fourth action plan to improve and upgrade the technique of reporting and communication at district, state and national head quarters

NHQ will

- develop policies, strategy, rules and procedures for developing reporting technique and improving communication skills,
- develop together with branches a corporate identity programme, ensure the enhancement of IRCS image,
- conduct national communication Training of Trainers workshops and help in the conduct of similar regional follow up workshops,
- make available the information about Red Cross and
- see that state branches organize communication and information workshop to district branches in the implementation part.

The fifth action plan aims

To improve and upgrade the capacity of financial planning, management and reporting at NHQ and design and establish finance development project for all branches.

NHQ will

- develop along with selected branches an Indian Red Cross Financial Hand book review the current NHQ financial planning and management system and establish a new finance management system,
- establish a project section within the finance Department to handle financial relation with donors and partners,
- design and establish a Branch Finance Development Project jointly with selected state branches organize TOT for state branches on accounting manual, update procedure basic accounting, budgeting technique and reporting skills and
- make state branches organize Finance Management workshops for district branches, in the implementation phase.

The sixth action plan to develop and establish a community based volunteer management system (CBVMS) and relief and emergency volunteers will be implemented as under

NHQ will

- develop together with branches, policies, strategy, rules and procedures for volunteering and volunteer management,
- conduct national TOT workshops on volunteer management and facilitate the conduct of regional follow up workshop,
- make state branches organize volunteer management workshops for district branches and
- develop together with disaster prone states a relief and emergency volunteers management concept and tools on an experimental basis.

The seventh action plan aims to develop and establish a human resource development system and phased training programme for governance, volunteers and staff.

On the implementation phase NHQ will

- review together with branches and develop policies, strategy, rules and procedures for staff management and development,
- develop a training curriculum and programmes and impart training to volunteers, governance, and staff in a regular and rigorous manner,
- conduct national TOT workshops on staff management and development and facilitate the conduct of similar regional follow up workshops,
- organize and help state and district branches organize, trainings and workshops for governance, volunteers and staff and
- undertake a systematic approach to training the human resource development to ensure that leaders, volunteers and staff possess the competence and knowledge essential to run branches in conformity with fundamental principles, policies, rules and regulation.

The Indian Red Cross Society aims to inspire, encourage and initiate at all times all forms of humanitarian activities so that human suffering can be minimized, alleviated and even prevented and thus contribute to create a more congenial climate for peace.

CHAPTER 9

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY - TAMIL NADU BRANCH

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world, for it is present in almost every country. There are now more than 181 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the World. All National Societies act as auxiliaries to the state authorities in their own countries and provide services ranging from disaster relief, health and social assistance to first-aid and child-care courses. ICRC has its headquarters in Geneva. The basic principles of Red Cross Movement are:

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary Service
- Unity
- Universality

Red Cross Society functions with the only aim of serving people in distress, without considerations of caste, creed, language or nationality. The Society serves as an auxiliary to the State authorities engaged in Social Welfare activities accepting the rules and regulation of the state but at the same time it maintains its autonomy so that it can act always in accordance with the fundamental principles. The Indian Red Cross Society was

established in 1920 following the passing of an act of Parliament. The Tamil Nadu Branch started functioning from 27th November 1920 itself. All States in our country have branches. In Tamil Nadu, besides the State branch, there are 30 District branches and 40 additional sub-branches. His Excellency, the Governor is the Patron-in- Chief . Collectors of districts are the ex-officio Presidents of the district branches.

The Tamil Nadu State Branch functions on the basis of the following broad objectives:

- a. Human Welfare
- b. Prevention of diseases
- c. Service to the sick and suffering

Notable are the following activities linked with these objectives:

- a. Providing relief to those affected by natural calamities.
- b. Blood Donation and Blood Bank
- c. Urban welfare centres for mother and baby welfare
- d. General medical centres to provide free treatment for the poor.
- e. Setting up centres for giving residential vocational training and free artificial limbs to the handicapped
- f. Tracing cell to locate and restore the missing members.
- g. Medical aid to the Sri Lankan Refugees staying in cyclone-shelters along the coastline set up by Red Cross.
- h. Creches run by Red Cross units in all districts.
- i. Short-term training to the backward and weaker sections of society with a view to providing them employment opportunities.
- j. Training courses in Typewriting, Computer, Nursing Laboratory technical and Horticulture for destitute-children.
- k. Family counselling
- l. YRC and JRC

Funds needed to carry out the activities referred to earlier on-going and new projects, are received mostly from members of the units and from the charitable public and public institutions.

Facilities available at IRCS – TNB

A multi-speciality, fully equipped and suitably staffed Day care hospital is functioning in IRCS, TNB premises to cater to the needs of poor people in the area around Egmore, with free supply of medicines obtained through donations.

A fully operational Blood bank with all modern sophisticated instruments for the collection of blood from donors is effectively functioning.

A mobile-medical unit rendering medical aid to the slum-dwellers and Sri-lankan refugees is a special and notable service.

A physiotherapy unit, equipped with all modern accessories, helps poor physically challenged people. The artificial limb centre is supplying mobility aids, wheel chairs and tricycles free of cost.

A family welfare unit is functioning in Chintadripet area to promote family planning, nutritional care for mothers and children immunization, personal hygiene etc.,

A family counseling centre-rendering services to women in distress and despair, exploited and exhausted to settle family disputes, emotional problems etc, by providing moral support and free legal aid.

AIDS intervention and HIV/AIDS awareness programmes in selected and targeted areas are implemented through counseling and using different audio-visual aids.

Training courses

The following Vocational Training courses are being conducted

- 2 years Turner, Draughtsman courses

Geriatric Home Nursing
Nurse – Aide and
Medical Lab Technician courses

- Short term Type writing and computer training courses

Placements

A placement cell is also functioning; it makes arrangements to secure employment for those who were trained in the Red Cross vocational training centre.

Canteen

MRRC canteen is run from the donation of philanthropists to provide cheap and nutritious food to all in the campus.

Relief Activities

Fire accident relief, cyclone / flood victims relief, drought affected region relief etc activities were regularly and spontaneously undertaken by IRCS, TNB by rushing essential materials like Rice, Clothes, packages etc to all places not only in the city and districts in Tamil Nadu but in other states also whenever emergency call in received for relief.

Gujarat Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation work

Immediately on hearing the news of the devastating earthquake at Gujarat on 26th January 2001, the state branch appealed to the public, raised funds and received relief materials from all over Tamil Nadu. An initial amount of Rs.1.00 Lakh was sent as a token gesture to Gujarat by the state branch and later relief materials like wheat, rice, atta, sugar, medicines etc worth Rs.5.00 crores were rushed through all possible modes of transport road, rail and airways.

The rehabilitation work was also undertaken by

- Constructing five primary school buildings in five villages.
- Purchasing essential furniture to these five schools.
- Digging bore wells to provide water facilities in two of the schools.
- Financing partially (55%) the repair work carried out in two village school buildings.
- Donating (80%) money for the purchase of an Ambulance van to Shamlaji Health Centre run by Aim of Seva and
- Repairing the damaged toilets and bathrooms in the old age home.

using the funds Rs.89.19 Lakhs collected, from philanthropists and general public and the accrued interest (Rs.3.99 lakhs) there from fully.

Tsunami victims' relief work

Our country faced an unknown and hence never expected, unheard of, unparalleled, never-experienced and devastating tragedy on 26th December 2004. The mass-killer tsunami, swept the entire coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. Thousands of people were killed and lakhs were rendered homeless and hopeless in the coastal areas of Chengalpet, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari districts. The IRCS, TNB, swung into action and arranged for immediate relief work engaging its YRC volunteers & officials from district branches. The corporate houses and the general public in large numbers responded generously and contributed relief materials and money to be distributed to the victims through IRCS, TNB.

Rs. 70 million worth relief materials like food items including water & milk, kitchen wares, family packs, dress materials, bedding items, medicines etc., were properly and effectively distributed in the shortest possible time to the full satisfaction of the victims.

Rs. 16.8 million received as donation in cash was allotted to the tsunami affected districts.

The prefabricated building modules (10 Nos) received, as donation will be used to house the crèches at 6 districts.

The 24 hours and round the clock work of the office bearers and officials of IRCS, TNB in the months Jan - March 2005, for effective and timely distribution of relief materials to the victims as per their needs formed the hall mark of 'Red Cross Service' at the time of any natural calamity.

The rehabilitation work of the tsunami affected victims will be undertaken with an outlay of Rs.100 million promised by various organizations like NHQ, Canadian Red Cross, Karnataka State branch, Coca cola and others.

Official Set-up of IRCS TNB

IRCS, TNB has His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu (○) as the Patron-in-Chief and leader of the Red Cross Movement. The President, nominated by His Excellency the Governor, does form the brain and the Charismatic Captain (●) of the state branch, ably, efficiently and enthusiastically supported by the eminent Chairman & Vice-President (▶), the experienced Vice-President (◀), the devotedly service-oriented, the perfectly planning and brilliantly performing Honorary Secretary (▼), and the committed Honorary Treasurer (▲). These five – office bearers really form the torch – bearers of the Indian Red Cross Society, TNB

There is an Executive Committee (◎) with 17 members. Perfect planning, careful execution, continuous monitoring, periodic feed back with constant review and course correction on the capacity building & resource generation and mobilization for all service activities are the prime functions of the Executive Committee, which meets as and when needed.

The Executive Committee endeavours to achieve the targeted progress and development as per schedule, with the sound support, active assistance and coordinated cooperation of the following eight (I) subcommittees for

1. (I) Finance and Administration (17)
2. (I) Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre (14)
3. (I) Blood Bank (13)
4. (I) Hospitals and Medical Services (15)
5. (I) Projects and Buildings (27)
6. (I) Youth Red Cross (35)
7. (I) Junior Red Cross (33)
8. (I) Maternity & Child Welfare and Family Welfare (17)

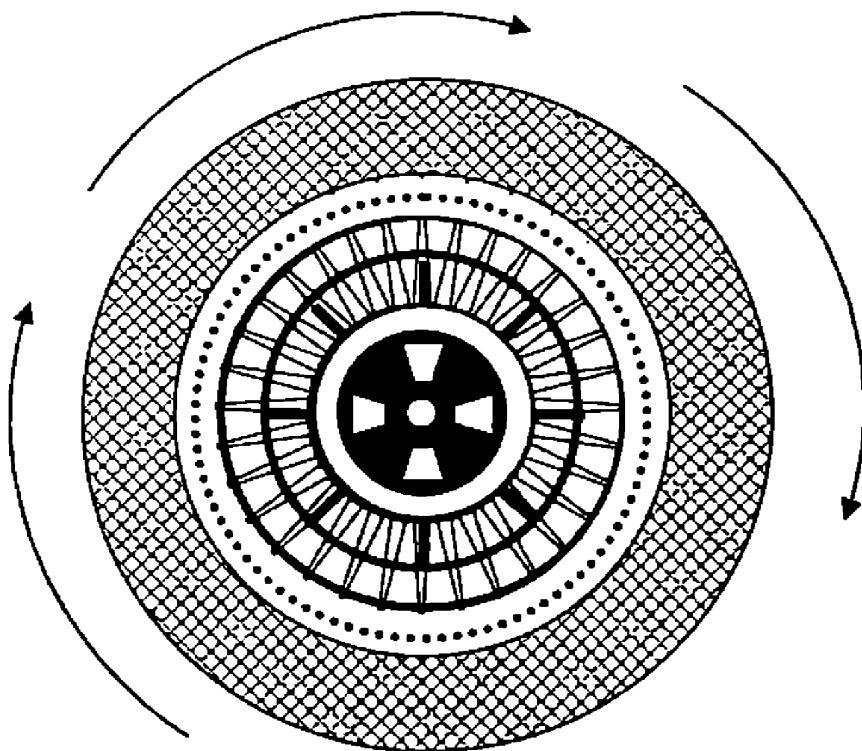
The General Committee (64) (/) with representatives from all the district branches throughout the state forms the true broad-based administrative body of IRCS, TNB, and will meet once in a quarter. Some of the powers vested in General Committee are delegated to the Executive Committee for effective implementation, continuous monitoring and regular reviewing of the projects for remarkable results. General committee will get full information on the on-going projects, their implementation status and the functioning of various wings and to help in the dissemination of work done by state branch to the district branches and taking the requirements of the district branches to state branch for consideration.

A well-knit team of well trained work force (92) (•) functions like a well-oiled machine in IRCS, TNB, with precision and perfection in carrying out all the assignments and activities as envisaged and making the cherished vision a charming reality.

To inculcate the spirit of service and sense of duty in the young minds so that they grow up to be resourceful and responsible citizens, IRCS, TNB, has set up Junior and Youth Red Cross wings in schools and colleges respectively. More than 5 lakh

students of Junior and Youth Red Cross wing respectively receive training and orientation in Red Cross principles and activities. In addition the District Red Cross Branch (30), (DRCB) and sub-branches (40) tap the potentials of the general public, train, orient and sensitize them on the principles to reach out all segments of the society.

The three important components of IRCS, TNB, namely the District Red Cross Branch (DRCB) (↺), Youth Red Cross (YRC) (↻) and Junior Red Cross (JRC) (↷) actively work in the implementation stage of each and every project. Just like the bees collecting the honey and the ants moving the grains, the volunteers of JRC and YRC are always ready to work and serve under the directions of the “Queen” to bring laurels to IRCS, TNB. Their sincere, significant, selfless efforts move the ‘Wheel’ on the path of humanitarian service to reach the goal ‘protecting the human dignity’.



HUMANITARIAN SERVICE →

Details of Membership Fee

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Patron | Rs. 20,000/- |
| Vice-Patron | Rs. 10,000/- |
| Life Member | Rs. 500/- |
| Life Associate | Rs. 250/- |

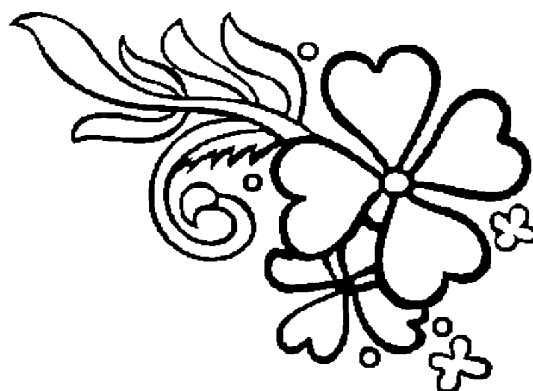
Renewable per annum

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Institutional Member | : Rs. 1,000/- |
| Annual Member | : Rs. 50/- |

Tax benefit for Donation

For donations to Indian Red Cross Society exemption from Income Tax as per I.T. Act. 80(2) can be obtained.

Millions of people all over the world are united by the noble objectives of the Red Cross Movement. The Red Cross brotherhood has no parallel in the history of humanity. The sufferings caused by natural calamities and man's evil acts will not cease. New challenges are bound to arise. The battle against evil will not come to an end. This is why the need for a movement like Red Cross and its service will always be there for the good of humanity.



CHAPTER 10

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, DISTRICT RED CROSS BRANCH AND SUB-BRANCH

District Red Cross Branch

District Red Cross Branch (DRCB) functions in every district. The District Collector heads the branch and the administrative committee functions under his chairmanship. This district branch looks after the relief work for the people of the district. The branch is in touch with the State branch and seeks the necessary advice and assistance for carrying out relief operations. Any person belonging to the district can be a member of the branch.

Sub-branch

Besides district branch, sub-branches function in some districts. These sub-branches assist in the speedy implementation of relief work within their jurisdiction. Such sub-branches can be set up only with the concurrence of the District Collector.

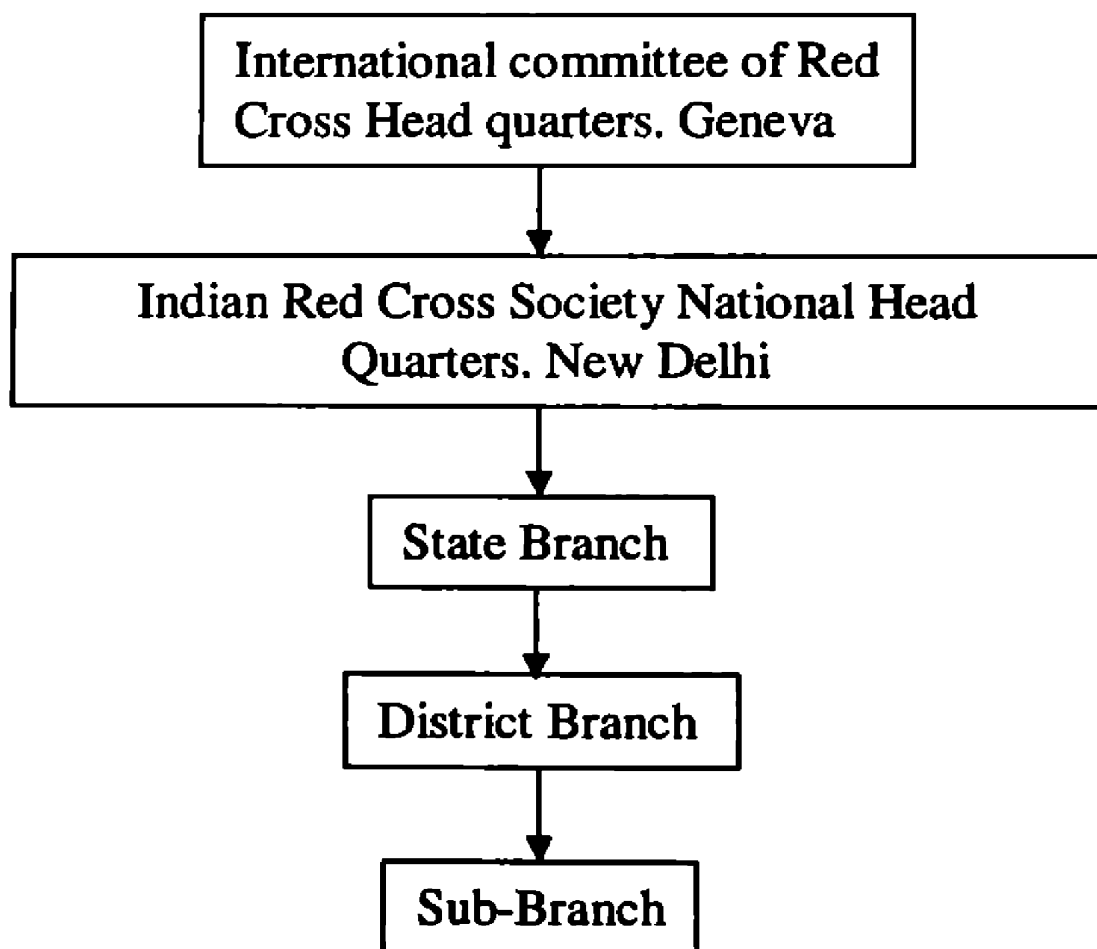
The Vision

The longingly-proposed and continuously- envisaged target of the President, namely the involvement of at least 1% of the population in each district or a minimum of 20,000 members in DRCB remains still a distant dream. Further, her dream, desire and cherished vision that DRCB should take up the mission of forming

a “service-corps” of about 1% of the members or 200 volunteers from general public in each district is also yet to be fulfilled.

30 DRCB units were setup in each revenue district. The Branch Growth Indicators (BGI) like membership enrolment, activities planned and performed, regular conduct of meetings involving large number of members, accounts maintenance and reporting etc, of DRCB showed in general a gradual growth only except few islands of excellent and commendable growth and activity. The most sought after need and necessity on the part of DRCB, is the marked improvement in BGI and the achievement of 20,000/200 or 1% and 1% of 1%.

Organizational set up



Quality improvement

Improving the quality of Red Cross activity implies the increased and efficient functioning of the District Branches. District Branches may be built on a sound and firm foundation of selfless, sacrifice-guided and service-minded leadership, with proper and perfect planning, effective and efficient resource mobilization, 'ready to act' volunteer base and the strong will and power for prompt execution, forming the four pillars to support the roof of "Protecting the human life and dignity".

A time schedule for work "as at least one hour per day or 7 hours per week or 3 days per month" may be drawn up. Periodic and regular meeting on a specific date at prefixed time and venue may be conducted without any break for increased interaction & contact and for collective planning and action.

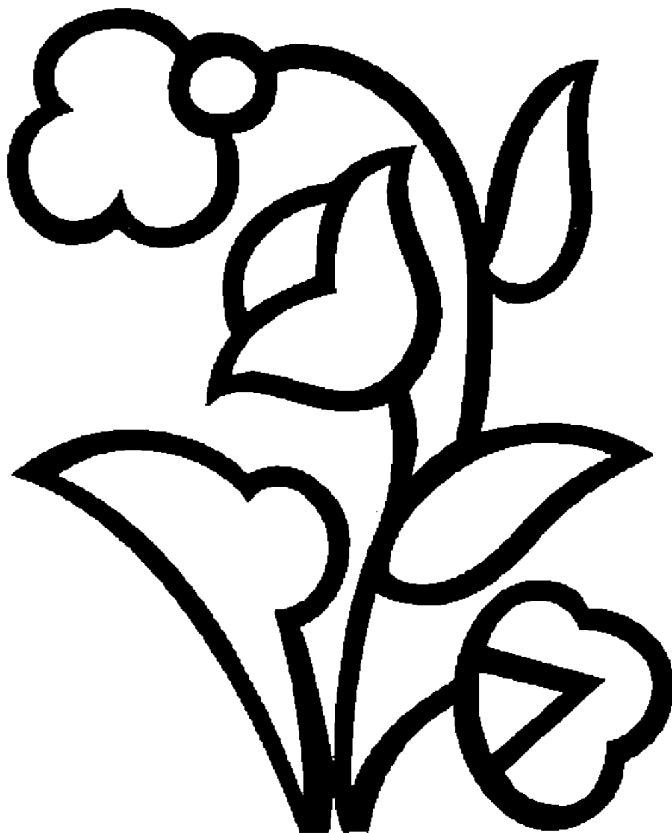
Maintenance of minutes of the meeting, assessment of activities done, progress and performance record and reporting to state branch once in two months may form the basis for effective functioning.

Need-based, priority-directed and vulnerability-targeted programmes are to be identified and acted upon. Activities carried out may be a reflection of perfection, satisfying the needs and requirements of beneficiaries and adhering to the seven fundamental principles of Red Cross.

Dissemination workshops and campaigns may be frequent, and wide spread covering the entire district leaving no region uncovered, and followed by feed-back to assess the success.

About six district branches have their own buildings, while six DBRC units function in the collectors' office. The capacity building on accommodation and manpower needs for easy and quick contact of the people with DRCB officials needs priority. Planning and execution of community-based, priority-directed and service-oriented activities involving all the members are to be strengthened and streamlined.

However, during natural calamities the DRCB units were quick and spontaneous in rushing to the spot and efficient and enthusiastic in carrying out the relief work without any restrictions, reservations, despondency and discrimination as proved by their performance on many earlier occasions.



CHAPTER 11

YOUTH RED CROSS

What is Youth Red Cross

“The Youth Red Cross” is the most important constituent of its mother organization, Indian Red Cross. It is a group movement organized at the initial stages for students between 18 and 25 years of age within the colleges. A qualified lecturer is recognized as the leader and he is called the Programme Officer under his guidance, the students are trained and encouraged to manage the affairs of the group, electing their own office-Bearers.

Main objectives of Youth Red Cross

The main purpose of organizing the Youth Red Cross is

- to inculcate in the Youth of our country
 - an awareness on the care of their own health and that of others
 - the understanding and acceptance of civic responsibilities and acting accordingly with humanitarian concern, to fulfill the same.
- to enable the growth and development of a spirit of service and sense of duty with dedication and devotion in the minds of youth.
- to foster better friendly relationship with all without any discrimination.

Principles of Youth Red Cross

Youth Red Cross has the following three principles

- Protection of health and life.
- Service to the sick and suffering
- Promotion of National and International friendship

to develop the mental and moral capacities of the Youth.

Some features of the Youth Red Cross Unit

The Vice-Chancellor of the University nominates a dynamic, devoted, energetic, enthusiastic and service-minded faculty member of the university as the YRC Zonal Coordinator.

The YRC Zonal Coordinator takes up the responsibility for the growth and development of YRC in the University Zone. The YRC Zonal Coordinator will sensitize, induce, encourage, guide and train the young, active, selfless, sacrifice-filled and service-minded YRC Programme Officers nominated by the respective principals of the colleges taking the help, assistance and cooperation of the YRC District Organizers and YRC Joint District Organizers in each district in the University Zone.

The YRC District Organizers and YRC Joint District Organizer are nominated by the YRC Zonal Coordinator from among the YRC Programme Officers, who have excelled in their Red Cross activities with dedication, commitment, enthusiastic involvement, sacrificing nature and service mind.

The Zonal Coordinator, District Organizers and the Programme Officers of YRC form the pillars of the Red Cross Movement in the university level firmly founded on the young active, energetic and ready to serve YRC volunteer groups in the colleges forming the very foundation of the Red Cross Movement in the grass root level.

How to start a YRC unit?

The YRC Programme Officers should interact with and clearly explain to all the students, the aims and basic principles of YRC as and when he/she meets them during their free time. How joining in YRC unit will help the students in shaping and moulding their personality and developing their leadership qualities in serving the needy and vulnerable, should be precisely presented to them. Their interest is to be kindled and activated by constant, continued and committed counseling. Only those students who are really interested, enthusiastic and service-minded should be taken as volunteers and YRC unit is to be started with this core group. These student members will then elect from among themselves the office bearers i.e., Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and draw up the action plan well in advance in consultation with the Programme Officer and the Principal for the academic year strictly adhering to the principles of Red Cross movement.

Activities

No hard and fast rules are laid down regarding Youth Red Cross activities. The programme should be adapted to the particular needs of the unit under Programme officer's guidance. Youth should be encouraged to manage their own affairs and choose their own activities. Their programme should as far as possible include something under each of the following heads:

- a. Promotion of Health and Hygiene.
- b. Service to others.
- c. Relief work during emergencies like flood, fire and other natural calamities.
- d. National Integration.
- e. World Friendliness.

- f. Literacy campaign.
- g. Avoidance of Drugs
- h. AIDS awareness
- i. Communal harmony – conflict resolution.

As part of the suggested heads, the following activities can help the YRC members realize the aims of the movement.

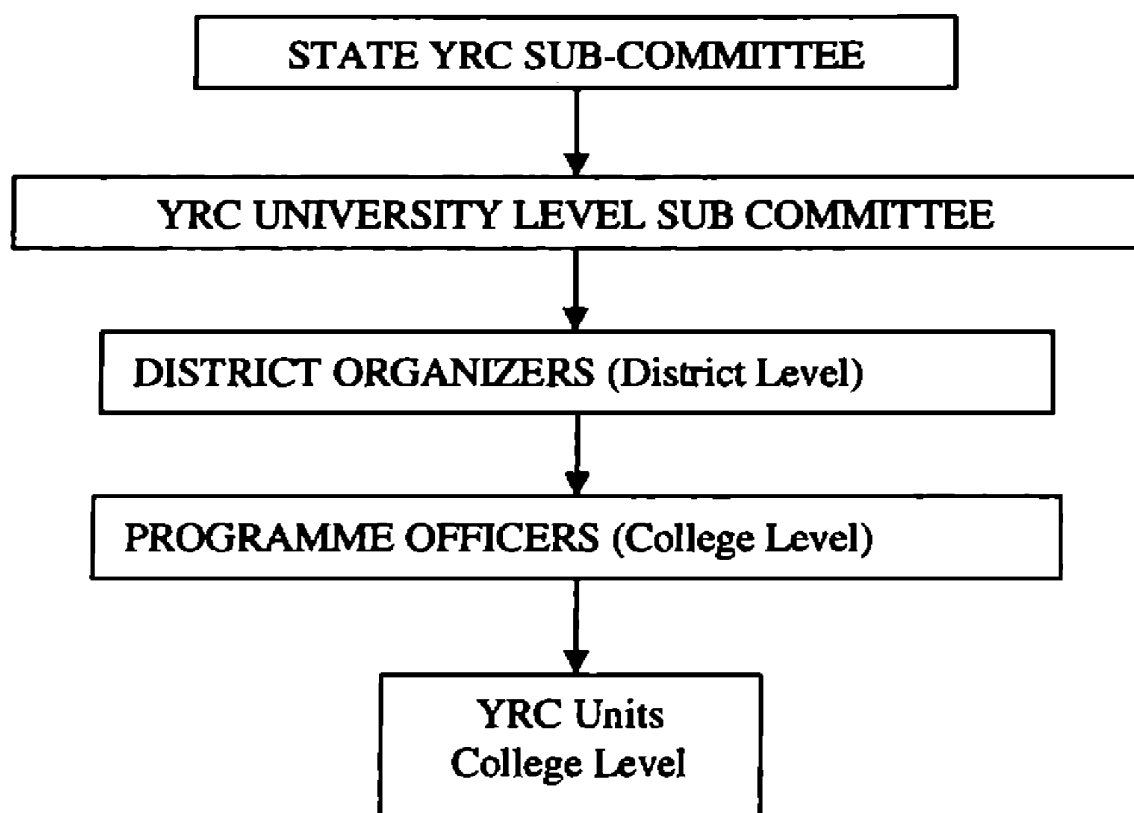
A. Health

- Practice of personal health habits
- Cleaning of college premises
- Preparation of posters and pamphlets
- Organizing propaganda programme in villages, slums and towns, to create awareness among the people regarding hygiene.
- Conducting medical check-ups in villages with the help of State Board.
- Co-operating with public-health department in anti-epidemic measures.
- Exhibition of films/cultural programmes on prevention of diseases.
- Conducting essay competition and award prizes.

B. Service to Others

- Visiting patients in hospital
- Guiding the patients to get information from counters or wards in Hospitals.
- Serving food to the needy.
- Collecting books and clothes for poor children.
- Helping traffic authorities to regulate traffic.
- First Aid and home nursing.
- Organizing blood-donation camp.

Youth Red Cross Organizational Set Up



YRC University Level Sub-Committee

- **President** Vice-Chancellor
- **Secretary** Zonal Co-ordinator
- **Member** Joint Director of Collegiate Education (Chennai Region)
- **Member** District Secretaries
YRC District Organizers
YRC Joint District Organizers

YRC College Level Sub-Committee

- Principal
- Programme Officer
- Senior Teaching Faculty
- YRC Student Volunteer Officer Bearers

Role of different functionaries of YRC

Zonal Co-ordinator

- Liaison between the State Co-ordinator and District Organizers.
- Organizing training camps for District Organizers / Programme Officers YRC members.
- Guiding District Organizers / Programme Officers for proper functioning of YRC.
- Issuance of certificates to District Organizer / Programme Officers / YRC Volunteers.
- Convening Meeting of College Principals in connection with YRC activities
- Organizing University level camps / competition for YRC members.
- Submission of Half Yearly Reports to State Branch about the YRC activities in Respective Zones.

District Organizers

- Starting of YRC Units in all the Colleges (Arts & Science, Engineering and Polytechnic) in the respective districts.
- Helping / guiding Programme Officers in conducting YRC Programme in Colleges.
- Liaison between Colleges and Zonal Co-ordinators / State Co-ordinator / District Branch.
- Organizing training course for Programme Officers.
- Organizing yearly District Level Camps for YRC Students
- Organizing yearly District Level Seminars for Programme Officers.
- Recommending participants for State Level programme to the concerned Zonal Co-ordinator.
- Organizing District level programme like rally, competition, sports, exhibition for YRC students.

- Celebration of Geneva Convention Day, World Red Cross Day, World Health Day, Aids Day etc.
- Collection of Annual Reports from the YRC Units of Colleges and sending them to State Branch with a copy to the Zonal Co-ordinator.
- Preparation of annual action plan at district level.

College Principal

Will function as a friend, philosopher, guide and facilitator, without whom YRC units will not be able to function.

Programme Officer

Formation of the Unit, monitoring its performance, helping the office bearers to chalk out programmes, maintenance of records / accounts, liaison with District Organizers / Zonal Co-ordinators, sending activity reports to State Branch / Zonal Co-ordinator.

College level Advisory Committee for YRC

It is advised that each college shall have a college level advisory committee consisting of

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Principal | Chairman |
| • YRC Programme Officer | Vice-Chairman |
| • One Staff member with Interest in social work | Member |
| • YRC Student Chairman | Member |
| • YRC Student Secretary | Member |

The over all function of the YRC advisory committee at the college level is to advise on the various activities of YRC unit based on the immediate and urgent needs of the students and the community. It should meet regularly at least four times during the year.

Records and Register

The following list of Records and registers is to be maintained by the college YRC Unit.

- Enrolment Register of Volunteers
- Cash Register
- Stock Register
- Attendance Register for Volunteers
- Register of Project reports
- Register of Progress Report
- Minutes book
- Visitors book
- Blood Donors Directory

Registration of YRC unit with IRCS TN State Branch

YRC units in colleges need to be registered with the Indian Red Cross Society Tamil Nadu Branch (IRCS, TNB) by paying annual registration fee of Rs.20/- per college as per the Government order. A pro-forma sent to the college from YRC HQ requiring the details of the college is to be duly filled and submitted for registration purposes.

YRC Membership Subscription

As per the G.Os.

- (1) G.O. No. 342, Higher Education Department
dated 13/07/1999.
- (2) G.O. No. 251, Higher Education (Technical) Department
dated 3/07/2000.
- (3) G.O. No. 151, Health and Family Welfare Department
dated 19/04/2001.
- (4) G.O. No. 92, Law (Law Education) Department
dated 14/02/2002.

- (5) G.O. No. 138, Health and Family Welfare Department dated 16/02/2003.
- (6) G.O. No. 57, Health and Family Welfare Department dated 18/03/2003.
- (7) G.O. Ms No. 221 Agriculture (AU) Department dated 31/08/2005.

The Arts and Science colleges (No: (1)), Engineering and Polytechnic colleges (No: (2)), Medical and Paramedical Colleges (No: (3), (5) and (6)) Law Colleges (No: (4)) and Agricultural colleges (7) may collect YRC membership fee of Rs. 5/- per student per annum from all the students along with the tuition fees at the beginning of academic year and out of which Rs. 2/- per student from all the students may be sent to the Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch and Rs. 3/- per student from all the students may be retained by the Colleges for carrying out the YRC activities in the respective Colleges.

(G.Os enhancing the Annual YRC membership fee from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per student have been issued for Engineering, Polytechnic, Medical and Paramedical Colleges).

Tamilnadu Governments help and assistance by means of issuing many G.Os making YRC membership complesery and periodically revising the annual YRC membership fee is whole-hearted and gratefully acknowledges.

Norms for Expenditure

YRC membership subscription will be collected from all the students. The Norms for Expenditure of the YRC funds collected from students and other sources are the following.

- Furniture
- Refreshments

- Traveling expenses for both YRC Programme Officers and students volunteers
- Stationery / Photographs / Mementos
- Contingency
- Programmes and activities / Blood donations

Training Course for YRC Programme Officers / Volunteers

To enable the YRC Unit to function effectively the faculty members who are in charge of YRC Units as Programme Officers will be trained to promote the YRC work on right lines, (Origin of Red Cross / Junior Red Cross and Youth Red Cross, Disaster Relief, Health, First-Aid, Road Safety, Fire Fighting, Social Service etc.,) Orientation Training Programmes and Study Camps for the benefit of YRC members of Colleges in all the 10 Universities, Anna University, Dr. M.G.R. Medical University and Dr. Ambedkar Law University will be periodically conducted as follows.

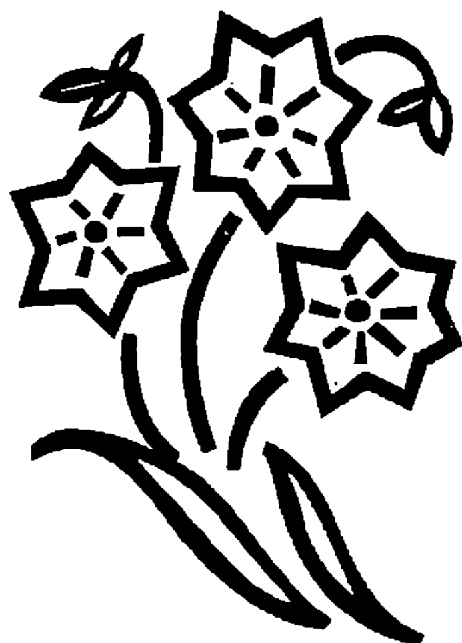
- One-day District level YRC Students' Study Camp.
- One-day Zonal level Seminar for YRC Programme Officers.
- Three-day Zonal level Orientation Training Programme for YRC Volunteers and Programme Officers.
- Four-day State level YRC Study Camp for YRC Volunteers and Programme Officers of Colleges in Our State.
- Five-day Inter-state YRC Training and Study Camp for YRC Volunteers and Programme Officers of Colleges from all States in India.

For attending these camps the traveling allowance, Registration fee if any for the YRC volunteers and Programme Officers may be met from the college YRC funds.

State Branch provides badges with Red Cross symbol for YRC members and Programme Officers. The State Branch Organizes Orientation Training Programmes for Programme Officers in all the ten universities.

Propaganda Materials

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Red Cross Movement (Tamil Books) | Rs. 25.00 |
| • History of Red Cross | |
| • YRC Handbook | |
| • YRC Badge for Students | Rs. 4.00 |
| • Programme Officer's Badge | Rs. 10.00 |
| • Photograph of Henry Dunant | Rs. 35.00 |
| • Red Cross Flag | Rs. 60.00 |
| • Red Cross apron | Rs. 60.00 |
| • Red Cross Cap | Rs. 35.00 |



JUNIOR RED CROSS

History of Junior Red Cross

The Junior Red Cross is the student's wing of the Red Cross Society. It is a student's movement organized within schools. Pupils who are actively involved in Junior Red Cross activities are known as 'Juniors'. The teachers guiding the pupils in JRC activities, are called "COUNSELLORS".

Following three incidents formed the vary of seeds of Junior Red Cross movement.

1. Six School children moved by the sufferings of the flood victims in Ohio state collected money and sent it to Mrs. Clara Burton, the founder of Red Cross in America.
- 2 Youth in Canada formed a group, collected money and sent it to Red Cross during the Boer war (1899-1902)
3. Canada children actively involved themselves in the Red Cross work, making bandages, dressings, etc. for soldiers in 1914.

Growth in India

Junior Red Cross units were first organized in 1926 in Punjab followed by other states. Junior Red Cross is becoming more and more popular and is being encouraged by educational authorities. The movement is extended to college students also under the name of Youth Red Cross.

Junior Red Cross Motto, Principles Pledge & Prayer song

Junior Red Cross Motto

- *We are here to serve*
- *Always needy to serve*
- *Service is our duty*
- *Service gives us beauty*

Principles

All the activities of JRC are based on and governed by three fundamental principles namely.

Health, Service and Friendship

- Health keeps out body clean and fit.
- Service makes our mind clean and pure.
- Friendship helps us make the body and mind of others clean.

Junior Red Cross Pledge

Junior Red Cross Pledge is an important aspect in Juniors Red Cross. Juniors and counsellors should pronounce the pledge in regular JRC classes, programmes, functions and camps.

Junior's Pledge

"I pledge myself to care for my own health and that of others, to help the sick and the suffering, especially, children and to look upon other children all over the world as my friends".

Counsellor's Pledge

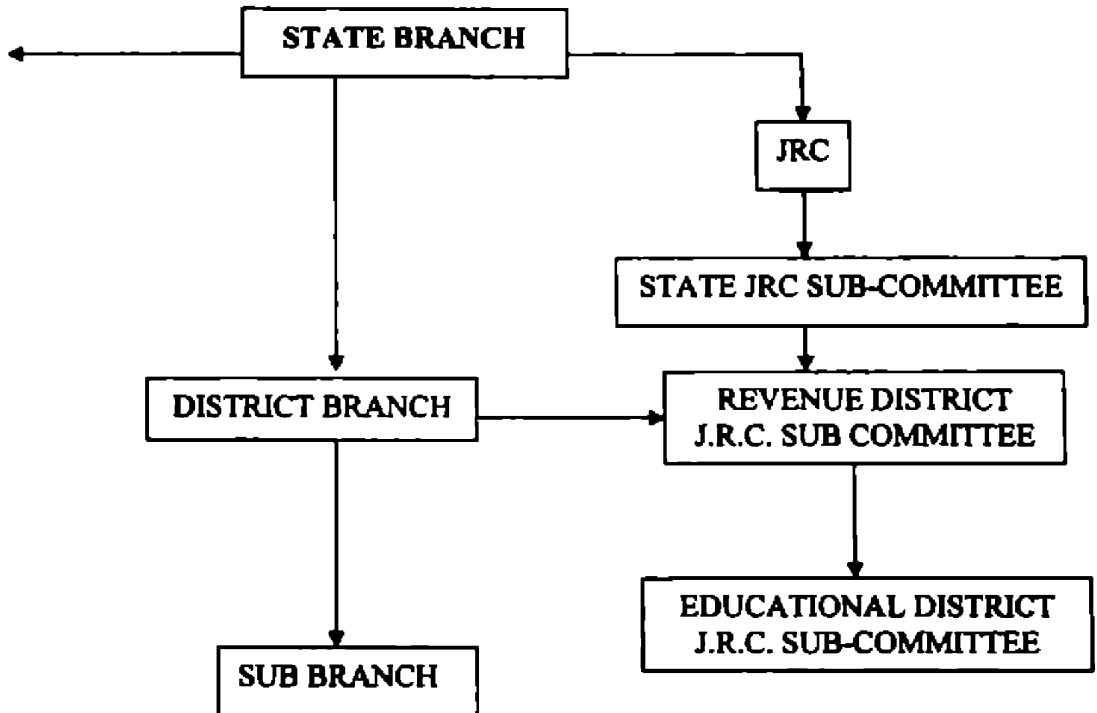
"I pledge to counsel the juniors in achieving the aims of Junior Red Cross, namely promotion of Health, Selfless Service, and National and International Friendship by setting the example myself".

Junior Red Cross Song

Darthi karo ninnal karo peeda prabu hey
 Jeevan karo vujval nava Jyothi paro hey - 2
 Dukki janonki seva hum kare
 Paththali thonko gale lagale - 2
 Shanthi padha shanthi kaarya shanthi varada hey
 Jeevan karo vujval nava Jyothi paro hey - 2
 Navajyothi paro hey nava jyothi paro hey

தர்த்தி கரோ நிர்மல் கரோ பீடா புரபு ஹே!
 ஜீவன் கரோ உஜ்வல் நவ ஜோதி பரோ ஹே! - 2
 துக்கி ஜனோங்கி சேவ ஹம் கரே - 2
 பததலி தோங்கா கலே வகாலே - 2
 சாந்தி பத சாந்தி கார்ய சாந்தி வரத ஹே!
 ஜீவன் கரோ உஜ்வல் நவ ஜோதி பரோ ஹே!
 நவ ஜோதி பரோ ஹே நவ ஜோதி பரோ ஹே!

Structure of Junior Red Cross



- Tamil Nadu State has a State JRC Sub-Committee headed by the Director of School Education.
- Every Revenue District has a Revenue District Level JRC Sub-Committee and the Chief Educational Officer (CEO) of that Revenue District will be the Chairman.
- Every Educational District has a JRC Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the respective District Educational Officer, (DEO) who appoints a District Convener for guiding the schools in JRC functioning and for co-ordinating the JRC activities in different schools within the Educational District.
- There should be co-ordination between District Red Cross Branch (DRCB) and Junior Red Cross at all levels.

Counsellors Training Course

A teacher with a sense of sacrifice, mind of selfless service, patience, perseverance, dedication, devotion and organizing capacity should be carefully identified and nominated to undergo the JRC counsellor, training course.

The JRC-Sub committee at Educational District level will be conducting a 4-Day JRC Counsellor Training Course. The Course content will include topics like.

- History of Red Cross and Junior Red Cross
- Health, Service and friendship
- Functioning of JRC units in schools
- Practical classes on drawing and crafts etc.

JRC sub committee will carefully select suitable, experienced and competent resource persons, from a panel of experts in and outside the Educational - District concerned depending on the availability and need and utilize their talents in all training courses.

There will be proper assessment of the participants in the form of test by experts group. Successful participant will be issued the certificate.

How to Start and Conduct JRC in Schools

A students meeting is convened by the Head of the School to brief them about the Red Cross, Junior Red Cross and advantages of having JRC groups in the School. Students voluntarily coming forward are enrolled as JRC Members. According to the strength of membership, more than one unit can be formed.

A willing teacher of the School is nominated as JRC Counsellor to look after the activities of the JRC unit of the school. Each unit is guided by one Counsellor.

Election of office-bearers

From among the JRC Members, following office-Bearers are elected:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary and
- Treasurer

With the remaining members, various committees are formed to undertake activities based on the objectives of JRC, like Health, Service, Friendship, Road Safety, First-Aid etc.

Inaugural Function

Formal inauguration of the unit is arranged as a mark of formation of the group.

Registration

Each school having JRC unit(s) need be registered with the State Branch by payment of relevant registration/renewal fee annually through the concerned JRC Convener.

Functioning of JRC in Schools

JRC activities are formulated based on the Principles of Health, Service and Friendship. The programmes are chalked out in such a way to suit occasions, locations and social requirements, some of the activities that can be organized are indicated hereunder.

Promotion of Health

- Practice of health habits.
- Cleanliness of school premises
- Health Awareness Campaign in the nearby areas.
- First Aid training
- Blood grouping camps for JRC members.

Service to others

- May I help you Squad
- Providing books, medicines, food, clothing etc. to poor school children.
- Voluntary Service during relief operations connected with natural calamities.
- Providing First Aid to the wounded / sick
- Visit to Hospitals, Orphanages and Homes for the Aged.
- Adoption of a near by slum for literacy campaign.
- Road safety and Fire fighting.
- All other programmes conducive to the welfare of humanity.

Friendship

- Participating in JRC camps, Competitions, Exhibition etc.
- Sending Greetings
- Exchanging of Albums
- Organizing Inter Religious Harmony Rally & National Integration camps.

Role of JRC Functionaries

Counsellor's Role

- Formation of JRC unit involving service minded students.
- Conducting JRC classes as per syllabus.
- Planning and execution of JRC activities with juniors.
- Maintenance of JRC account and records.
- Co-ordination with Headmaster and JRC convener and sending their reports to JRC convener.
- Participation in seminars training programmes and camps with juniors.

Role of Headmaster

- Identification of suitable teachers for JRC Counsellor's Training Course.
- Collection of JRC fees from students.
- Remittance of Registration fee to State Branch and the prescribed share to District JRC convener in time.
- Advising JRC Counsellors for chalking out yearly plan of JRC activities and
- Providing funds for such activities as per the Govt. guidelines.
- Co-ordination with JRC Sub Committee of the Educational District.

Role of JRC Convener

- To form the Educational District (ED) JRC sub committee, convene and conduct its meeting.
- To maintain the minutes book, of the meeting and the bank account of the 10% JRC money jointly with the treasurer.
- To conduct one day seminar for JRC counsellors.
- To see that all schools are registered in July itself.
- To send District Convener's conference.

- To attend quarterly reports to state Headquarters with a copy to the District Educational Officer
- To attend Collectors Meetings, District Branch Meetings, etc.,
- To co-ordinate with District Red Cross Branch and attend meeting of DRCB.

Improving the quality of Red Cross activities in JRC

Improvement may start from the grass roots level. All the JRC volunteers in schools may be thoroughly and well trained in the basics of Red Cross principles. The service-minded, dedicated and active group from these volunteers may be identified and made the organizing core group at school level. The annual plan of action based on the current themes, may be prepared in the beginning of every academic year in consultation with the teachers and counsellors and monthly activities may be done as per the plan involving all the volunteers.

Action plan and the action done may be sent to the District Convener and State Branch.

Out of various activities few area specific activities can be selected depending on the needs of the society and available infrastructure and resources, and carried out regularly after getting feed back at each and every stage, to improve the quality.

Improvement in the following activities can be thought of and carried out

1. Blood Donation
2. First Aid
3. Road Safety
4. HIV / AIDS Awareness
5. Eradication of Child Labour and Illiteracy
6. Saving the Girl Child
7. Stopping Misuse of Red Cross Emblem, etc.

In the Orientation and Training Programmes arranged at different levels these volunteer groups only may be selected first to participate and get the best possible training which they can pass on to others as trainers.

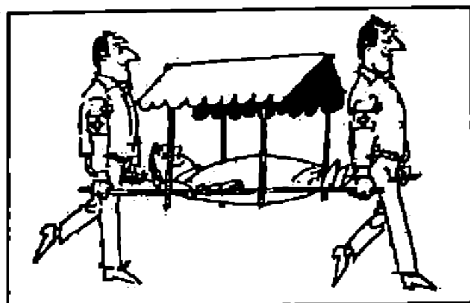
Assessment of participants at the end of workshop may form a component and certificate may be given on that basis. Appreciation to the deserving and encouragement to other participants may be given.

The Headmasters of Schools may be properly sensitized about Red Cross Principles and Activities. Six Regional One Day Orientation Programmes may be conducted for Headmasters in order to build up rapport, understanding and cooperation between the JRC Counsellor / Conveners and Headmasters at School level.

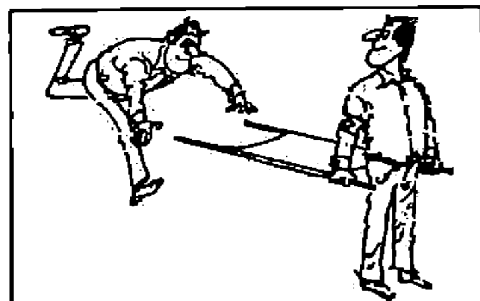
The sincere, service minded and trained JRC volunteers at the school level should be roped in with leadership offer in YRC units at college level with the view to utilize their talents and provide a continuity in their service activities. It is these volunteers from college level should form the seeds in the Red Cross volunteer forum to be stated by in the District Red Cross Branches.



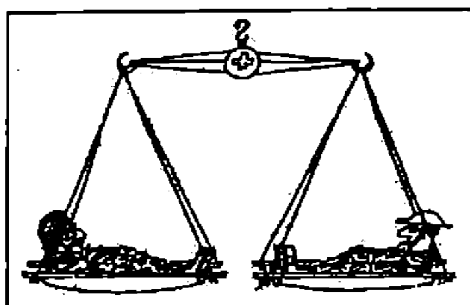
THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES



HUMANITY



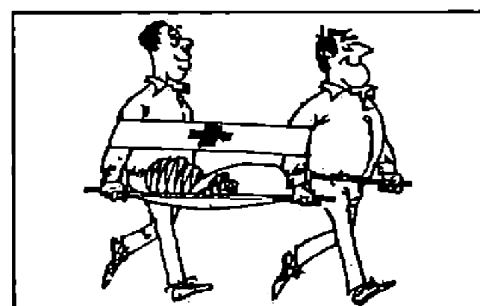
**VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**



IMPARTIALITY



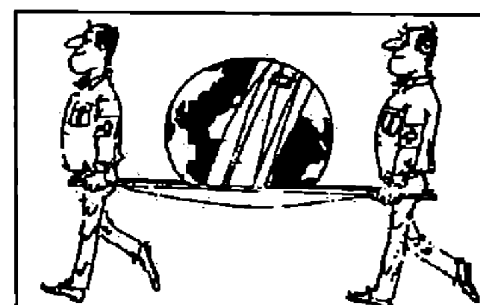
NEUTRALITY



UNITY

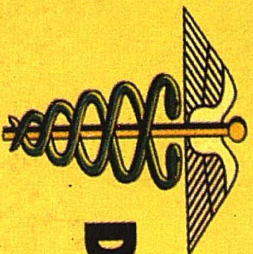


INDEPENDENCE



UNIVERSALITY

Use These

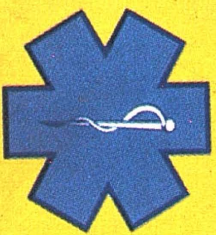


Doctor



Hospital

ЭСИДЛУВМА



Pharmacy

Don't Use



It is an offence.

**Only Red Cross
Movement Members and
Army Medical Core
can use it.**