

# **Policing as a Power to Prevent and Power to Correct.**

**Policing for me always stood for the ‘power to prevent’ and the ‘power to correct’. The power to arrest to be used for prevention and correction, at no stage it is to be for injustice, power play or personal gain.**

**Which is why this remained the mission statement of my service and all my actions were dedicated to police and prison reforms and working for the marginalized who are deprived of opportunities of the kind we got to grow and prosper.**

**It is this belief in the power of prevention that also made me work as a social worker alongside my service. I could use my goodwill for larger good and propel social reform. And it worked. I could ask for help for others and I got it.**

**Reforming and correcting people came naturally to me. I started my reform processes in 1980, with rehabilitation of erstwhile bootleggers and got them out of their livelihood of selling illicit liquor in my very first district police assignment. From this I moved on to running of drug de-addiction centers in 1986, from police station premises, something unheard of. Now the challenge was not bootlegging as the government had opened country liquor shops, but drug abuse. Drug abuse and crime were two sides of the same coin. By doing treatment it proved the power of prevention. For the treated made some difference. Since the work had to go on NGO was born.**

**From drug abuse treatment my life moved into education of children of rag pickers who were prone to falling in burglar and pick pocketing gangs and their mothers sold drugs for livelihood and knew no other work. I now set up vocational training centers for women and schools for children. Everything came through donations in money and kind.**

**The work has multiplied. It today reaches out to thousands every single each day and makes the difference. Some of our erstwhile students are on the staff and earning honorable livelihoods.**

**I got one more opportunity in 1994 to do even more with the receipt of Ramon Magsaysay Award. Thus was born India Vision Foundation. I did not name it Kiran Bedi Foundation---For it was India that gave me everything.**

**As my first personal donation from the award money I set up a bread making factory inside Tihar Jail, called India Vision Bread Unit, to provide fresh bread daily for 10.000 inmates. This venture is today grossing Crores annually and is being used for various welfare activities of prisoners. Alongside I institutionalized the play-school for children who come inside the jail with their mothers. The Foundation additionally trains women as crèche workers too.**

**I generated funds for causes from several of my personal sources including reward monies received over the years, all speaking fees, all writing honorariums, all book royalties, promotional gains, savings from travel tickets, including gallantry and donations from friends.**

**Travels for causes based on invites received, included invitations from corporate/ organizations. A travel agency owned by a fellow trustee issued all tickets, business or economy and received and acknowledged all payments to the account. They duly maintained the account. Worthy Invitations which could not offer any travel expense, the cost of the said was met from the existing savings in the same travel account with the travel agency.**

**In none of the accounting or saving was there any personal financial gain for me. On the contrary I stretched out to causes by investing my own personal self. But little did I realize that it would be misconstrued to the extent that my lifelong integrity will be placed in doubt by powerful vested interest out to victimize and teach me a lesson for being the voice with Anna Hazare against corruption.**

**Currently I am collecting all the stones being thrown at me to build a Janlokpall Bill. It will give us a legal system which will save the country from the corrupt who are only getting richer by the day depriving the common man of the essential infrastructure.**

**If we were not corrupt we would not have had to do what most of us NGOs are doing. There would have been many more schools, hospitals, dispensaries in each village and town, genuine medicines, not fake, more doctors and nurses in remote areas, and the weak and the poor would not die for want of medical care, more roads which provide road safety and not hazard as currently do---More polytechnics, vocational schools, colleges, IITs, IIMs, engineering and medical colleges, for our millions of youth.**

**Most of all ensure due audit at every stage that no hard earned money is lost. Most of all there will be adequate social security for the elderly and sons alone will not be the only source of security. Daughters too will be welcome and allowed to be born in world's largest democracy.**