

## **Stanley Chaudhry**

A short biographical note on Stanley Chaudhry, President Andhra Pradesh Pulp and Paper Mills Workers' union (AITUC), interviewed at Rajamundri on September 21, 2004

Stanley Chaudhry was born on 21 October, 1952 at Stanley Hospital in Chennai. His mother was critically ill at the time of his birth and Dr Stanley saved her alongwith the baby. His mother named him after the doctor. Father Prabhakar Chaudhry, by then a famous labour leader, named him Vasavaraju, a courier in the undrground movement and beaten to death by police.

Stanley was a brilliant student and soon became a mass leader as he started working for All India Students Federation early in life. He used to cycle to the viilages in the district and organise classes for the students. Many leaders were trained in the process who later joined trade union.

Stanley was not keen to join trade union as he felt that workers were not interested in fighting for others. Even now he feels that the criticism by the Communist party that the workers from trade union movement are not politicalised enough and hence keep away from the Communist movement in the country has been correct.

In Andhra Pradesh, against unemployment, there was a great movement launched by the unemployed youth in which Stanley took part in his own district. He organised the students and youth but could not bring the workers from the trade union in it. In agitation, there was police firing and yet bus loads of students kept pouring in the district capital.

Stanley had organised a film show of a flop film that came cheap and tickets were sold at high prices. With this money he organised a seven-day school to train youth and workers.

For Stanley, trade union movement was a ground new experiments. He was not in teh general union in the beginning but organised the workers at department level with involvement of workers from all unions. He thus created a body that supported him irrespective of his politics. It was named All Unit Federation taking up demands of local nature. The new crop of young workers supported his initiative as he introduced in various departments grades, designations and also skill levels. He also managed to get promotion after completion of every seven year. His method of working was appreciated by the Andhra Productivity council as it increased the efficiency of workers.

The management removed him thrice and once even got him arrested but every time they had to take him back. Once he was suspended for ten months but when he was reinstated, not a single day's casual leave or service break was mentioned in his records.

Communist Party wanted him to become a wholetimer in the party and the trade union front, but he refused as Stanley felt he could be more useful as a worker in the factory.

Till 1964, there was no gradation for the workers and no reliever worker. There was no incentive for commendable performance either. Stanley got all these measures introduced. Stanley also introduced shopwise bonus alongwith the general bonus given by the management.

However as the modernisation process is becoming a reality even in this factory, management wants to get rid of extra hands. Stanley has forced them to introduce Voluntary retirement scheme with extra benefits.

Stanley has only one kidney donated by his sister and death keeps staring at him as he is often unwell. But his spirit is undaunted.

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I was born on 21 October, 1952 at Stanley Hospital in Chennai. My mother was critically ill at the time of my birth and Dr Stanley saved her alongwith the baby. My mother named me after the doctor. Father Prabhakar Chaudhry, by then a famous labour leader, named me Vasavaraju, a courier in the undrground movement and beaten to death by police.

I was not bad in my studies and soon started working among the student masses as I was in All India Students Federation early in life. I used to cycle to the viilages in the district and organise classes for the students. Many leaders were trained in the process who later joined trade union.

I was not keen to join trade union as I felt that workers were not interested in fighting for others. Even now I feel that the criticism by the Communist party that the workers from trade union movement are not politicalised enough and hence keep away from the Communist movement in the country has been correct.

In Andhra Pradesh, against unemployment, there was a great movement launched by the unemployed youth in which I took part in my own district. I organised the students and youth but could not bring the workers from the trade union in it. In agitation, there was police firing and yet bus loads of students kept pouring in the district capital.

I had organised a film show of a flop film that came cheap and tickets were sold at high prices. With this money I organised a seven-day school to train youth and workers.

For me, trade union movement was a ground for new experiments. I was not in the general union in the beginning but organised the workers at department level with involvement of workers from all unions. I thus created a body that supported me irrespective of my politics. It was named All Unit Federation taking up demands of local nature. The new crop of young workers supported my initiative as I introduced in various departments grades, designations and also skill levels. I also managed to get promotion after completion of every seven year. My method of working was appreciated by the Andhra Productivity council as it increased the efficiency of workers.

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However as the modernisation process is becoming a reality even in this factory, management wants to get rid of extra hands. I have forced them to introduce Voluntary retirement scheme with extra benefits.

I have only one kidney donated by my sister and death keeps staring at me as I am often unwell. But I feel that till my last breath, I would be working for the masses.