

# **WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS – CHENNAI**

## **(8<sup>th</sup> March' 2009) Service Report**

This Sunday was an enlightening evening particularly for the women of Chennai City. 8<sup>th</sup> March, being the International Women's Day, was celebrated by Brahma Kumaris, Chennai, as a day of expressing the potential and power of feminine, under the theme "Women of Bharat – Reincarnation of Powers (Sakthi Avathar)" at a reputed auditorium "Vani Mahal" located in the heart of the city.

The programme commenced with an auspicious dance performance by the students of "Kalapradarshini Dance School" and an invocation song by a renowned young artist Cuddalore SJ Janani.

The lighting of the sacred lamps by the 73 specially invited guests marked the inauguration of the celebration. During this special event, a deep silence prevailed in the atmosphere which exemplified that their minds were also ignited.

Dr. Mano Bakthavatsalam, Hon'y Secretary, Women's Voluntary Services of Tamilnadu, was the Chief Guest of the evening. During her inaugural address, she said that a woman who is physically healthy, mentally strong and emotionally balanced can face any situation with confidence and courage. She put forth an earnest appeal to extend a positive response to the wakeup call of Brahma Kumaris.

In her keynote address, Rajyogini Brahma Kumari Kalavathy Behnji, Incharge, Retreat Centre, Chennai, emphasized that the ignorance from our minds should be expelled by considering the self as a spirit. Another remarkable event was the women's day oath read by her and supported by everyone. They were also made to have an experience of peace through Guided Meditation by BK Sis. Muthumani .

In her felicitations, Mrs K Saraswathy, DSP, Vigilance and Anti Corruption, quoted real life examples to show that gender discrimination still exists and highlighted the problems arising out of it. She reiterated that this type of programmes will kindle awareness amongst the masses. Dr Mother Hermina, Provincial, St. Annes', Chennai, shared her experience of how GOD helps us when we have full faith in him.

Eventually, "Deity Darshan" was unveiled by Dr. Mother Hermina & Mr Vasantha Kumar, MLA, Proprietor, Vasanth & Co/ Vasanth TV. It was a spectacular show and won the applause of the audience. The theme behind this was that the deities are the memorials of those who develop the divine virtues & powers inside them. The Programme highlights were telecast in Vasanth TV through which it reached the masses.