

THALASSEMIA & SICKLE CELL SOCIETY

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Blood bank plays important role in modern health care. Blood transfusion is a life saving modality in critical situations like accidents, surgeries and intensive care units. Another important aspect of blood transfusion, it extends life span of children with transfusion dependent blood disorders like Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Anemia and marrow failure syndromes. Blood products are also used to stop simple or critical bleeds in coagulation blood disorders.

Major technological advances over the last thirty years in blood bank systems of blood collection, component separation, storage, virus detection, issuing compatible blood products made the role of blood bank in society today very much essential.

## Thalassemia and Sickle cell anemia

**Genetic disorders like Thalassemia and Sickle cell anemia:** Are burden for a developing country like India. Thalassemia is the commonest single gene disorder of human kind. It is estimated that about 300,000 infants are born every year with major hemoglobinopathies around the world of whom about 25 – 35, 000 babies are born in India. It is believed that in our country nearly 3.5% of the population (35 million) are carriers of Thalassemia.

In Thalassemics, the life span of the red blood cells significantly reduced because of ineffective hemoglobin synthesis. Thalassemia manifests in early infancy with anemia. These children become transfusion dependent for the rest of their life. If not transfused this condition is invariably fatal during the first few years of life. Some of children with sickle cell anemia and bone marrow failure syndromes need regular transfusion to keep their Hb levels up. Children with coagulation disorders like hemophilia and other rare disorders require plasma or cryoprecipitate to stop bleeds as clotting factors are quite expensive.

**The Begining:** The advent of modern practices, blood component transfusion and improved support therapy benefited these thalassemic children immensely and these genetic blood disorder are no longer fatal.

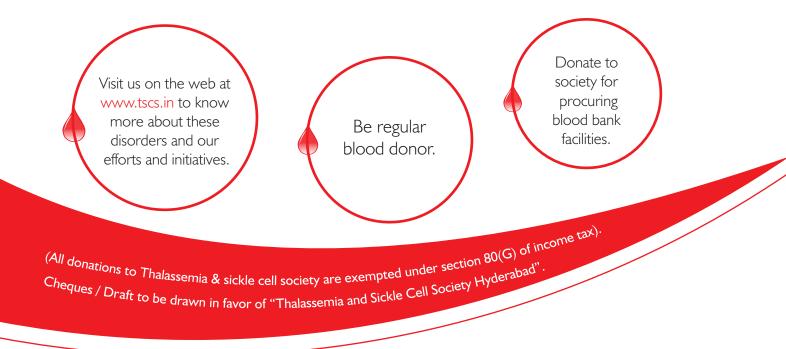
The Thalassemia and Sickle Cell society was founded in 1998 by parents, doctors and well wishers and is the only society in Andhra Pradesh committed for the care and control of Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anemia. The society that began with a modest 20 affected families then, supports over 1000 children with these disorders today.

There are 35 million carries of Thalassemia i.e. 1 in 25. Around 10- 15,000 babies with Haemoglobinopathies are born in India every year. TSCS provides them with subsidized drugs. TSCS coordinates with other blood banks and offers free blood transfusions. Apart from conducting comprehensive, regular and periodic medical check ups, TSCS members counsel the families too. TSCS facilitated more than 25,000 free blood transfusions for affected over last ten years.

Medical advances, research in this field are proving occurrence of these inherited blood disorders can be prevented. TSCS society is also, shouldering a part of this global issue by conducting population screening programs, carrier detection, genetic counseling and prenatal diagnosis. TSCS conducted in the past had several awareness programmes and continues to do it for doctors and public about these disorders.

Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Society is strong in its resolve to support these afflicted families with inherited blood disorders by providing them better medical facilities and to focus for prevention. Thalassemia & Sickle cell society is establishing a state of art blood bank at Chatta Bazar, opp. City Civil Courts,
Hyderabad shortly. It will be one of its kind in India specifically serving children with inherited blood disorders. The society aims to add advanced medical laboratory with research facilities and 20 bedded transfusion centre.

You too can share and support Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Society to achieve this giant task.





## **Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Society**

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