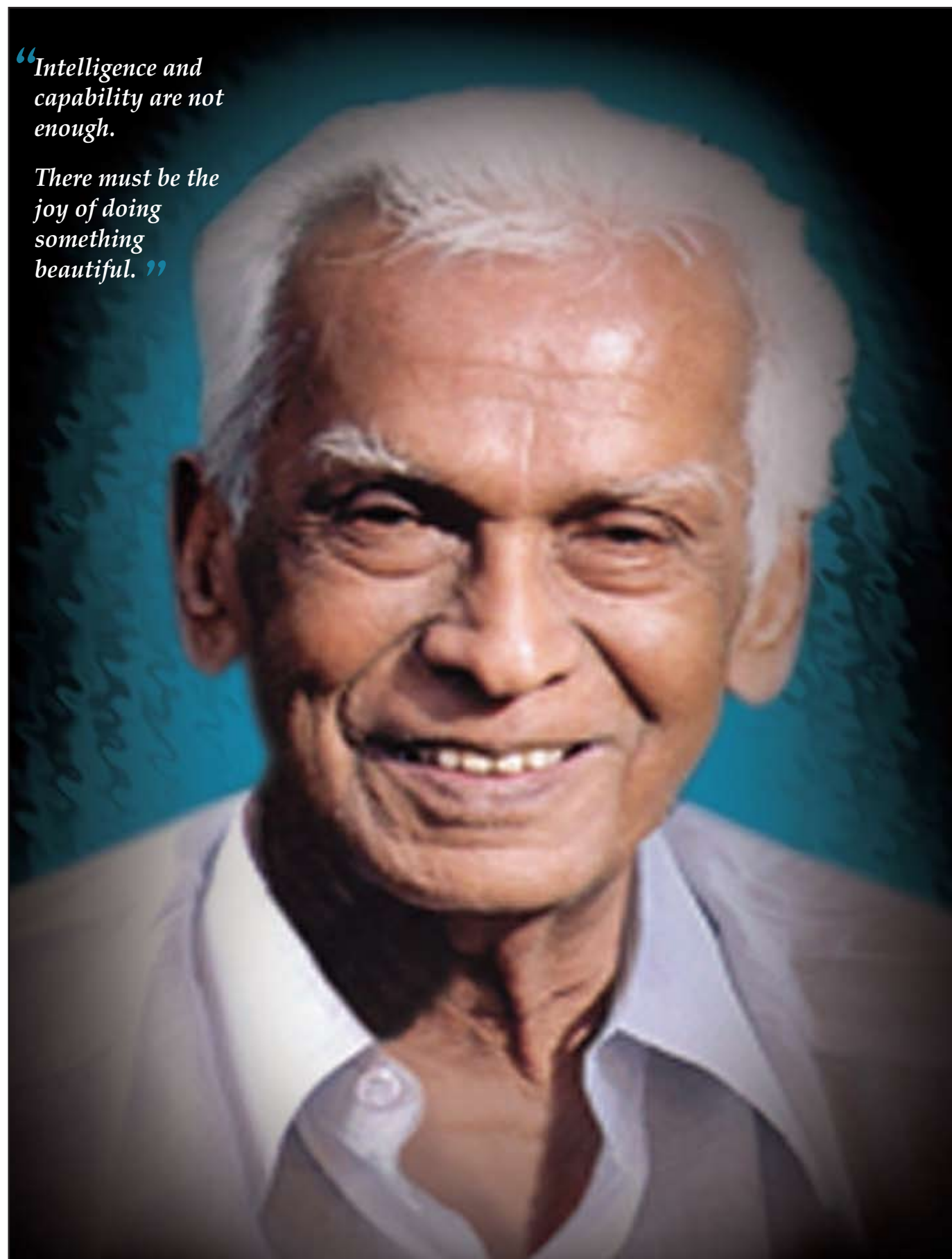


“Intelligence and capability are not enough.

There must be the joy of doing something beautiful.”



DR. G. VENKATASWAMY

WHO HOW FACTS

Dr Govindappa Venkataswamy, affectionately known as “Dr V.” among his patients, was a legendary eye surgeon from Southern India who influenced many he met, and millions he never knew. Dr Venkataswamy had personally supervised more than one hundred thousand cataract operations. Upon retiring from Government service in 1976, he established the Aravind Eye Care Hospital which is today the largest Eye Care Training and Research Centre in the world. He also developed and pioneered the concept of eye camps and safe assembly-line techniques, which have become models for blindness preventions and treatment programs worldwide.



Felicitated with many honours

Born in a farmer’s family, Venktaswamy received his medical degree from Stanley College, Chennai and joined the Indian Army as a physician. However, he had to retire when he suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis – a disease that left his fingers crippled. Despite his condition, he returned to medical school and earned a Diploma and Master degrees in ophthalmology. With hard work and determination, Dr. Venkataswamy managed to design his own instruments to suit his hands and trained himself to hold a scalpel, and to perform cataract surgery. The Aravind Eye Care system developed by him treats two million patients a year (two-thirds of them for free or with a steep subsidy).



A man undergoes a test at an Arvind Centre



with APJ Abdul Kalam during Silver Jubilee Celebration of Aravind

- Birth:** October 1st, 1918 in Vadamalapuram in Tamil Nadu
- Death:** July 7th , 2006
- Profession:** Ophthalmologist
- Education:** BA in Chemistry from American College, Madurai
Doctor of Medicine from Stanley Medical College, Madras
- Worked for:** Indian Army Medical Corps as physician
Government Madurai Medical College as Head of department
Government Erskine Hospital at Madurai as Eye surgeon
- Aravind Hospital:** The hospital is named after Sri Aurobindo, one of the 20th century’s most revered spiritual leaders
- Awards Conferred:** Padma Sri, 1973
International Blindness Prevention Award, American Society of Ophthalmology, 1993
Hellen Keller International Award, 1987
WHO award for Health for All
International Social Entrepreneurship Award
Medal of Presidency of the Italian Republic