

HELPING HANDS

Reaching out to widows

Pawan Pandita

WHERE THERE'S a will, there is a way. Squadron Leader (retd) P. K. Khullar who opened a charitable hospital at Behrola village, Palwal a few years back, is ensuring that medical facilities available reach the destitute.

Reaching out to the widows in the neighbouring villages, Khullar is planning to launch a medical cover for the widows at the Able Hospital.

"The basic aim is to stop the creation of orphans. We are trying to provide medical cover to widows in the villages so that we can save them from preventable death. Most have children. These children have already lost one parent. God forbid, if the mother also dies, the child will become an orphan," says Khullar, president, Able Charitable Trust.

The project for providing medical cover to widows was formally launched on February 1, 2006.

The trust started surveying the neighbouring villages on December 1, 2005 and so far over 300 widows and 18 children have been enrolled under the scheme.

"Our target is to cover



SANJEEV VERMA/HT

The charitable project which provides for medical cover to widows was launched yesterday.

1,500 widows in the years to come. The scheme is very simple. We will charge 50 paise a day (Rs 180 per year) from each member. We will give them medical cover up to Rs 25,000 a year. This is possible as our normal charges for medical facilities are very low," says Khullar.

The medical care for widows includes any ailment to be covered under general surgery, gynaecology, cardiology, ENT, skin, eye, orthopaedics and physiotherapy.

The trust chooses seven widows from each village to cover 200 neighbouring villages. After this project,

Khullar would like to cover the labourers and rickshaw-pullers.

"Narayan Hrudayalay, Bangalore is providing similar facilities to 1.9 million people in Karnataka by charging Rs 10 a month. However, they have government support," he says.

When asked about the source of funding, Khullar says, "I couldn't succeed with the government. There are some philanthropists in India and abroad who are sustaining the project."

(Khullar can be contacted on e-mail: ableindia@yahoo.com)