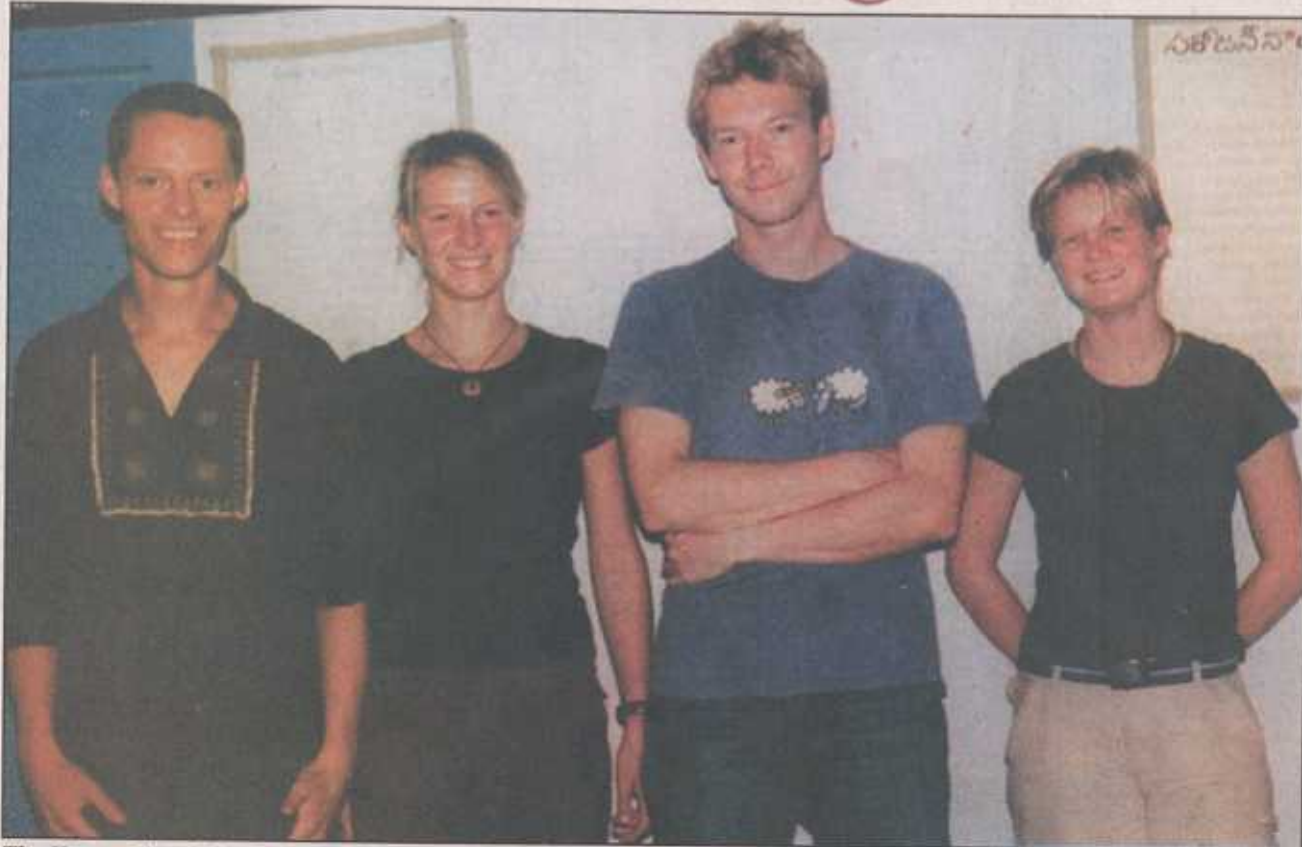


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Free with the

The Dutch Do-gooders



The Human Kinetic Technology Team

By K V RAMANA

Meet the Kinetic kingpins from the Netherlands with a kink for kingsize prawns and fish, not here as one would expect on some kind of academic assignment, but with a noble vision and a greater mission to help physically and mentally challenged people in need. The Dutch team you could call human kinetic technologists. They chose the Maharshi Samba Murthy School for physically and mentally challenged children here to share their expertise on Human Kinetic Technology (HKT). The group's team leader,

William De Joode, says they were motivated enough to fly across continents in order to use their knowledge for the cause of challenged children.

"I am very moved and impressed by the way innocent children are treated here. But, they need further assistance and HKT can help them a lot." Why are Westerners motivated to reach out to other nations looking to help and not seeking work, as would be the case with Indians? "We were greatly inspired by Azad Khan of the Friends Indeed Foundation in Netherlands. He was the one who motivated us to spread HKT in India and Kakinada," De Joode says.

Another volunteer, Girolanda Costa Ramos, says that she

loves to be here serving children, "enlightening" them on every aspect of life. "I love India and the people here," she adds. While Esther Blom, feels people in villages in East Godavari need to be educated about HKT as it can help them in every walk of life. Tom Kalkman says physically and mentally challenged kids must be treated with affection and HKT is the best way to do that. So, what is HKT?

"It provides concrete solutions to all problems of the disabled," the volunteers say. "It is a unique science of human touch coupled with practical interpretation. We trained for six months in HKT and the process will continue further later," says Tom Kalkman. For

the lay person, HKT also involves physical therapy and helps to develop devices for the challenged to improve their lost ability to move independently. The volunteers also teach local technicians design methods to ensure children get the mental and physical strength.

"To realise our goals we began an extensive fund raising programme. Three of us dedicate our time and knowledge voluntarily," William De Joode says. The team would love to serve Kakinada for as long as is possible, though admittedly they are hard pressed to cope with the oppressive heat. Strangely however, they can cope with the much too hot *biryani* and everything else that is spicy about Andhra food.