

## **Pharmacy Company Testing Drugs on Poor Women**

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011

Andhra Pradesh (Piduguralla)- Earlier they had to sell their kidneys to survive; now they are forced by poverty to become guinea- pigs. This shameful situation is happening in the backward region of Palnadu where poor women have agreed to have clinical trials for a Hyderabad pharmacy company.

These trials were taking place without any permission from the government. The entire situation came into light after many women fell seriously ill in the region. They complained of acute joint pains, swelling in arms and throat infections.

District collector V N Vishnu, however, has acted swiftly by directing district medical and health officer Gopi Naik to rush to Piduguralla and probe the incident.

These women were promised a good pay for these trials. Also the company never informed these victims of the nature of such tests. It is being said that these companies had employed some middle-aged men to convince these women for these trials.

The major problem arising now is that the pills given to these women showed their side-effects after 3-4 months of their consumption. These daily-wagers and farm workers were made to sign a bond which had asked them to return to the lab after certain period of time. These trails had 3 rounds. And for that women were paid 9,000 rupees.

But in cases where abnormalities in the blood samples were found out or the volunteer developed complications, he/she were sent back by handing over a mere Rs. 1,000.