



**Dr Sudhakar Krishnamurthi** who established India's first andrology clinic in Hyderabad talks to RATNA RAO SHEKAR ON his book, *Sex Is Not A Four Letter Word* and people's reaction to his latest venture

# We do not have to be coy about **SEX**

Sex education in India and elsewhere in the world has failed miserably. Queen Victoria brought in that prudishness into sex, now Indians are more coy than anyone else about sex, remarks Dr Sudhakar Krishnamurthi who is already well known in Hyderabad as an andrologist. Andrology incidentally deals with male sexual problems as against female problems which is dealt under gynaecology. He is currently in news for the edufomative book that he has written called, almost tongue-in-cheek, *Sex Is Not A Four Letter Word*. Indeed.

According to him, because of the prudish society we live in people, especially men, are not willing to talk about their sexual problems and when they do, it's mostly with quacks who have done more harm than good.

"I am not going to become a millionaire because of this book. It is deliberately priced low so that a pensioner of 80 years and a teenager are able to go out and buy it," says Sudhakar for whom the book has been a labour of love. He has put together his experiences in the clinic of 17 years and come with solutions in an informal way.

The only problem is now, the book stores who are stuck in a sexual mind-warp are not willing to display the book prominently on their shelves. The book cover has a painting by his sister, Suchitra Krishnamurthi, which depicts a man and a woman with a child. This picture was chosen deliberately to emphasise that the basic unit even now is the family. And basic to the family is sex which is a clean, healthy thing, he reiterates.

When he began his career as an andrologist, his friends and family assured him he would starve for then, even more than now, there was no one taking male sexual problems seriously. Even doctors believed impotence was all psychological. It took Ronaldo Virag in Paris in 1982 to bring male sexual dysfunction from the realm of psychology into micro-surgery. Sudhakar, already an expert in micro-surgery, then went on to train with the world's experts in andrology and moved to Hyderabad to set up practice. The Andromeda Andrology Center in Hyderabad is the country's only stand-alone clinic for clinical andrology.

As for the book, it will be launched formally in Hyderabad soon, while **it already has received favourable reviews in magazines such as Outlook. In one review, Khushwant Singh said it was both informative and highly readable.**

"The book is a new model for sex education. It is not pornography," says the doctor who is serious about his profession and emphasizes that he is not a sexologist, and is only interested in the male sexual dysfunctions. **W**