

EDITORIAL

Shri Vitthalrao Joshi Charities Trust started Bhaktshrestha Kamalakar pant Laxman Walawalkar Hospital, Diagnostic and Research Centre in 1996, to cater needy patients of rural Konkan.

This ISO certified hospital has been on a growth trajectory & has set its sights on new objectives with the only aim of serving the society. It now intends to set-up a Medical College to train competent doctors, who will be capable of serving the healthcare needs of the poor & the downtrodden.

Today the B.K.L Walawalkar Hospital Diagnostic and Research Centre is in the midst of expansion from serving 300 beds capacity to 500 beds capacity with 14 operation theatres. This hospital would soon become a teaching hospital and would be attached to B.K.L Walawalkar Rural Medical College. All the operation theatres are air-conditioned and include laparoscope, image intensifiers, different types of monitors & ventilators. These operation theatres would handle a range of surgeries including simple procedures for treatment of hernia to complicated ones like that for knee

replacement, spine surgeries, Cancer surgeries. The B.K.L.Walawalkar Hospital is the only hospital in Konkan region with 300 beds (expansion to 500 beds) and 6 intensive care units like MICU, SICU, NICU, PICU, post operative recovery room. 14 well equipped operation theatres with laparoscopic facilities, image intensifier, endo-urology facility. Various specialty and super-specialty services like Medicine, Surgery, Paediatric, Orthopaedics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Oncology, ENT, Pathology, Blood Bank, Blood Component Unit, Radiology, Endoscopy and supportive services departments are available at B.K.L Walawalkar Hospital.

Today, the world is witnessing the activities of Walawalkar Hospital in its mission of serving the poor. A tiny, neglected village like Dervan in Ratnagiri district has now firmly established its place on the map of India. The self-less work of the hospital has been appreciated, especially by people from outside India leading to students from different countries visiting the hospital to study & learn. So far, students from Rosalind Franklin University (USA), Barcelona University (Spain), National University of

Singapore (Singapore) and Hamburg University (Germany), Oxford University (U.K.) have visited & worked at the hospital. Their stay also made them interested in Indian culture. A dedicated group of about 30 medical professionals from Newcastle (UK) has been visiting Dervan every year for the past 10 years and carrying out complicated surgeries. As the poor population of Konkan would never have the opportunity to travel abroad for treatment, Walawalkar Hospital has instead brought the same treatment at their doorstep.

A medical college with 100 seats is envisaged for the year 2014 by S.V.J.C. Trust as there is a dire emergency to provide modern medical services to the rural population at their door steps. Medical students trained from this college are expected to offer their services to the local communities. This would then improve the overall quality of health-services in these communities. Students will get an opportunity to carry forward the research already going on at B.K.L. Walawalkar Hospital.

Thus the main objectives of the Rural Medical College would be to achieve academic growth, provide good doctors in rural area who in turn

would serve the rural population, give an impetus to research and thus achieve overall upliftment of the society as a whole. Other objectives would to produce high quality academically excellent and research oriented doctors who would serve in rural areas, to be an academic institution of excellence both in the field of curative medicine and public health, to conduct research in priority areas this would lead to positive policy changes and implementation and to establish strong foundation of public health and community medicine for the overall upliftment of the society.

Research would be the future vision of the institution and it is intended that such research would bring about positive policy changes which would be implemented at field level. Thus the loop between research, policy and implementation would be completed. With this vision in mind B.K.L Walawalkar Rural Medical College is delighted to bring its first issue of Medical Journal titled “Walawalkar International Medical Journal”.

I thank the editorial members for their immense contribution.

----- Editor - in - Chief