



Rajbhawan Information Wing, Uttarakhand
Press Note

Uttarakhand Governor lauds 125 years of service by St. Martha's Hospital

Dehradun, 11th February, 2012:

Uttarakhand governor, Smt. Margaret Alva praised the compassionate service that has been rendered by St. Martha's Hospital in Bangalore for the past 125 years, "not only surviving but remaining financially viable and sustainable, maintaining its vision and mission."

In her valedictory address as chief guest at the hospital at the culmination of the 125th year celebrations of the hospital, the oldest in Bangalore, the governor said that this had been possible because of the dedicated and committed team of the Good Shepherd Sisters, doctors, nurses, Para-medical and other staff at the hospital.

"Completing one hundred and twenty five years is a great achievement for any institution. And completing them as successfully as St. Martha's has done, is even more remarkable," said the governor, congratulating the hospital, its management and staff, on the historic occasion.

She said St. Martha's was among the best known and most loved hospitals in the city today and its affiliation with St. John's Medical College had given it a national status. "The graduates from St. Martha's Nursing School, now the largest Catholic Nursing School in India, are found in every corner of the world, and they carry with them the motto which the Good Shepherd Sisters live by : 'One person is of more value than a whole world'," said the governor.

Getting nostalgic, she said, "I have come here to be cared for, at the birth of all my four children and retain very happy memories of my stay," said Smt. Alva.

She said that long before the term "Primary Health Care" was coined, medical missions like St. Martha's had put this concept into practice, going out of their way to seek out those who were marginalized and neglected. "They took health to the villages, setting up rural clinics, and training members of the local community in basic health care practices. They did not distinguish between healing and worship."

In her valedictory address, the governor of Uttarakhand said that St. Martha's Hospital, through its community health department, had extended the reach of its services to the sick and marginalized well beyond its walls. "The Directly Observed Treatment Short (DOTS) Programme, under the National Programme for TB control, has functioned efficiently, and effectively, so much so that St. Martha's has won the trophy for the best DOTS hospital for the last three years," she said.

Talking about the health care scenario in the country, she said that it was "not very encouraging". She said that a report released by the Planning Commission admitted that India's public healthcare had been facing a serious decline due to non-availability of adequate medical personnel, diagnostic services and medicines. "Our doctors and nurses leave the country soon after their training, to cater to the needs of the patients in the developed world, ignoring their duties to their fellow countrymen. I firmly believe that one year's rural service for all medical functionaries must be made compulsory before they get their degrees so that they serve their people before they leave," said the governor.

Present on the occasion were Sister Prameela, Sister Superior and President, St. Martha's Hospital Society, ADC to Governor Shri Barinderjeet Singh and several dignitaries.

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