

Health sector to be 'heart beat' of world economy: Dr Shetty

'Find mechanism to deliver what is available'

MYSORE: Chairman of Narayana Hrudayalaya Group of Hospitals Dr Devi Prasad Shetty opined the health sector would drive the world economy in future.

Delivering a foundation day lecture at SDM Institute for Management Development (SDM-IMD) here on Saturday, he advised students to consider the growth factor of any industry before opting for their career and health sector is one of them with a size of \$2.5 trillion, second after agriculture in India.

Dr Shetty drove home the point that health sector was not only for doctors, but also for balancing the economy as it has the capacity to provide job opportunities to millions of youth.

IT Vs Health

Comparing the IT sector with health sector, he said while IT absorbs only graduated engineers, health sector provides opportunity for those belonging to lower social strata by employing paramedical staff.

He said while the IT sector is supported by the government with free land and basic infrastructure, the health sector is burdened with imposition of service taxes making



Chairman of Narayana Hrudayalaya Group of Hospitals Dr Devi Prasad Shetty seen with Dharmasthala Dhamadhikari D Veerandra Heggade at SDM Institute for Management Development in Mysore on Saturday. DH PHOTO

the already expensive health-care unaffordable.

He lamented that management principles were not applied while delivering health-care and said that even after 100 years of the first heart surgery, only 10 per cent of the world population can afford it.

"With latest advancement, the life span of humans has increased. So, finding an alternative method to bear health expenses is the need of the hour," he said.

Explaining about the Yashaswini micro-health scheme launched in 2002 as a state programme, he said: "For just Rs 10 a month, cardholders have access to 400

networked hospitals across the state, free of cost."

Observing its success, the programme was implemented as Rajeev Arogya scheme in Andhra Pradesh, Kalignar Insurance in Tamil Nadu and Vajpayee Arogyashree in Karnataka, he remarked.

Balance sheet

Dr Devi Prasad said his offices follow a system of maintaining a balance sheet on a daily basis, which is messaged to all employees to enable them to take remedial measures.

He faced a volley of questions from students who were keen to know about introduction of health schemes on the lines of RTE, entrepreneurial

'Women can do any job'

Dr Devi Prasad Shetty observed that there was no job a woman cannot do and disclosed that 90 per cent of his employees were women. "Empowerment of women from lower social strata bring up disciplined children, who will have a clear thinking while taking decisions. Employment creation for women is must," he stressed.

opportunities in health sector, how to reduce the cost of health education, etc.

He said though the government was willing, it did not have the money as the expenditure will be 5-10 times more than on RTE.

"Giving a boost to medical education is the only solution to reduce healthcare costs by 50 per cent. Students should come up with different models to suit the common man, he added.

"Fixing a price tag for human life is a difficult part of his life which he has to face everyday. This shows that as a country and society we have failed," he regretted.

Earlier, SDM-IMD chairman D Veerandra Heggade addressed the students. N R Parashuraman, H Gayathri and M R Suresh were present.

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Health City planned by Narayana Hrudayalaya

MYSORE: Dr Devi Prasad Shetty of Narayana Hrudayalaya (NH) said 'Health City', a low-cost hospital project at a cost of six million dollars, would come up in the heritage city too.

The 300-bedded health city will have facilities to perform more than 60 heart surgeries, which is being constructed by L&T Company and will be completed in six months.