

## GOVTS. NEED TO DO A LOT —Says new IMA Chief

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Dr. V. Paramesvara

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be filled on merit determined by an all-India entrance test. How does the doctor react to this?

“I wish the Medical Council of India the very best in its attempt to set up such an exam. The Supreme Court’s decision is for the best. It goes to prove that attempts are being made to improve the present standards in the field of medical education”.

The situation is no better in the therapeutic side. Here again patients are the ultimate victims in Government hospitals that attach no value to human life, or in nursing homes that charge exorbitantly for sub-standard facilities. Does the IMA have an anti-dote to this virus?

But Dr. Paramesvara doesn’t seem to agree with us here. “The Government does not provide loans to doctors at low interest rates, nor does it provide any special facilities for them to start nursing homes,” he argues. “Why blame the doctors then for trying to make a profit out of their own investments?”

What about the cancer of corruption and quackery? Says the IMA chief: “It is the public who are ultimately affected and, as such, it is the public who should raise their voice against this menace. IMA and all other organistaions would co-operate wholeheartedly.”

“Health for all by 2000 A.D.” is the goal set by the UN and accepted by India. Dr. Paramesvara has his doubts how far we can go in this direction. He pointed out that the amounts allotted for health in the Five Year Plans have been on a marked decline from the first to the sixth. What can be achieved with this meagre little?

Turning to his own aim in life, Dr. Parameshvara says he will be happy to serve people to the extent he could. Recalling the days when he, along with a group of doctors, went door to door collecting medicines to provide free treatment to diabetic patients of more than 8000 families, he poses the question; “How many doctors are willing to do it now?”

The suffering in rural areas of lack of doctors and medical facilities is not a new story. As the IMA chief sees it, “We are more than willing

to serve the masses in the villages. But let the Government provide the bare essentials as far as us to go. It is only then that the difference can be be felt.”

It was an almost disillusioned doctor who then described his dream — a dream to start a small medical collage in a rural area, teaching in the rural dialect, to ultimately make these graduates serve the rural people. Due to obvious reasons, this dream has not yet come true.

The unassuming Dr. Paramesvara has a seemingly never-ending list of credentials. Eight fellowships, 12 eminent positions in medical institutions and societies all over the world, authorship of various scientific papers and publications, and national awards are among them.

What are the additional responsibilities he has to shoulder as the IMA President? “My responsibilities have not increased. It is only my designation that has changed since commitment both to society and the association have always been priorities to me,” he said.

Active participation in the National Welfare Programme, curing deficiency diseases leading to blindness in children, organising dialogues between various voluntary agencies for methodical functioning, are some of the plans the doctor has envisaged for the IMA.

But his interests are not all academic. He loves to read and listen to music. The secret of his success? “I owe my success to my family.” The situation was one of co-operation right, from childhood. “As for my wife, to put it in simple words, her contribution was gigantic”, says Dr. Paramesvara.

