

Vice Chancellor's Report

First Convocation of Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune

(10th April, 2010)

Your Excellency Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil, Governor of Tripura; the Chief Guest for today's Convocation ceremony Hon'ble Shri. Sushilkumar Shinde, Minister for Power, Government of India; Hon'ble Chancellor of the University Dr. P. D. Patil, Members of the Board of Management and of the Academic Council of the Vidyapeeth, Deans of Faculties, the Gradaunts of the day, the Teachers and staff of the Vidyapeeth, Distinguished Guests, Members of Press and Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I extend a warm welcome to all of you on the occasion of the First Convocation of Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune. As you are aware, the Vidyapeeth was established on 11th January 2003, and has been fulfilling its academic and institutional obligations wholeheartedly, with the mission of contributing to the socio-economic and ethical development of the nation, by providing high quality education, through its seven institutions. These institutions are capable of developing competent professionals and liberal-minded citizens. With this mission the Vidyapeeth has been providing high quality education in the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Allied Medical Sciences, Nursing, Biotechnology & Bioinformatics and Management through seven institutions. These include:

- (1) Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre
- (2) Dr. D. Y. Patil Dental College & Hospital
- (3) Dr. D. Y. Patil Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Institute
- (4) Global Business School & Research Centre
- (5) Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Physiotherapy
- (6) Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Nursing
- (7) Dr. D. Y. Patil Institute of Optometry & Visual Sciences

The constituent colleges/institutions together have over 500 dedicated faculty and state-of-the-art infrastructure with well-stocked libraries and well-equipped laboratories. Faculty members are devoted to the promotion of excellence in education through quality instruction and dedicated research. Through quality education we instill in the student-workforce a confidence that they have the capabilities to meet the challenges of present-day global environment.

As a result the Vidyapeeth, in a short span of six years, has achieved recognition in both teaching-learning and in research. The Vidyapeeth has been accredited by the National

Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with 'A' grade. The degrees of MBBS and BDS of the Vidyapeeth have been recognized by the Malaysian Authorities.

The Vidyapeeth offers a spectrum of 66 courses, ranging from undergraduate to Super-Speciality Courses; that include 7 undergraduate programmes, 43 postgraduate degree programmes 12 postgraduate diploma programmes, Superspecialty programmes in Neurosurgery, Urology and Nephrology and Ph.D. Programme. About 3000 students are studying on the campus.

The Vidyapeeth follows the principles of learner-centered professional education. The teaching follows modern trends, and in many ways approaches the concept of 'blended education' involving didactic lectures, tutorials, group discussions and seminars. A variety of ICTs are being used. Video-conferencing facility is provided for enriched learning and intensive faculty development activities. The programmes are all interactive Choice-based Credit System (CBCS), with summative evaluation, and results in letter grade with Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) have been successfully implemented in the Faculty of Biotechnology & Bioinformatics and in the Faculty of Management. The passing percentage on an average is 91.85% with significant number of distinctions in various disciplines.

Research is an integral part of our Vidyapeeth. Specific budgetary provisions for research have been made at institutional level, as well as at Vidyapeeth level. There is identification of thrust areas for research in every discipline. The Vidyapeeth encourages teachers to present their research through publications/presentation of papers/posters, at various national and international conferences. To provide this platform the Vidyapeeth has organized 166 events and also encouraged faculty members and students to attend 1629 such events that include Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences. The National Conference in Anatomy is scheduled in December this year. The Vidyapeeth has a vibrant Education Technology Cell catering to various disciplines and conducting workshops on innovative teaching practices.

Currently, there are 502 Research Projects with the Vidyapeeth with 262 ongoing Projects. The Vidyapeeth also has research projects funded by external agencies like ICMR, DST, DBT, WHO and DRDO. Our undergraduate students are also involved in research activities and take active part in the ICMR STS Programme. There is a significant number of publications, i.e., 739 by faculty members of which most are in peer reviewed journals.

Significantly, the research undertaken at the Vidyapeeth has been graded as 'A' (Very Good) by a recent MHRD Committee.

The Vidyapeeth is keen on achieving excellence not only in academics but also in extra-curricular activities. For all-round development of students the Vidyapeeth promotes various cultural and social drives. Our students have participated in various cultural and sports events, organized by the Vidyapeeth and other organizations. Many of them have excelled in music and sports at national level and brought laurels to the Vidyapeeth.

Community Service (Extension) is also a strong core activity of the Vidyapeeth. It has:

- Urban & rural health care services.
- Diagnostic health camps in remote villages with free treatment.
- Active participation in national health programmes.
- Support to NGOs during national calamities.
- Regular blood donation camps.
- Yoga Shibirs & discourses for faculty, staff and students.
- Awareness drives by students.
- Faculty/Students working as volunteers, e.g. in the case of Commonwealth Youth Games.
- Linkages with hospitals and institutes.

Our faculty have represented the Vidyapeeth at various international fora and brought laurels. They have received national and international awards for their outstanding contributions, viz., - Dr. Sampada Tambolkar was awarded Fellowship in Paediatric Environmental Health & Diseases by International Paediatric Association (2007); Dr. S. P. Dubhashi was awarded the National Surgeon Award by the Association of Surgeons of India (2009); Dr. Pankaja Bhuyar received Gold Medal of IGNOU for standing first in PGDHHM examination (2006) and Dr. Supriya Kheur was awarded Moutat Vernon award at IMPT Conference held in Belfast (2009)

The construction of the State-of-the-Art 1000 bedded Super-speciality Hospital is in progress. We intend to start Super-speciality course in Oncology, Neurology, Transfusion Medicine, Endocrinology and Plastic Surgery.

Friends, the Vidyapeeth works devotedly to create knowledge, ideas and infrastructure to aid and support all these creative endeavours. The credit for this all round

progress goes to our teachers and non-teaching supporting staff, who have worked unflinchingly to make the Vidyapeeth proud.

Every Vidyapeeth has to fulfill the expectations that the society has from it. The universities essentially exist to check and arrest what Prof. S. Radhakrishnan once described as “the ill breeding of the mind” and to realize the “Supreme Wisdom (Jnana)” flowing from “learning (Vidya), Reflection (Chinta) and austerity (Tapas)”. It is only through these incessant strivings that education can bring about ultimate freedom – the crux for which the universities perform and through which the universities stand out.

We seek your best wishes for fulfilling our stated objectives in the times to come. I offer my heartiest congratulations to all the grandaunts who will receive their degrees and diplomas today. I wish all of you success in your future endeavours.

God bless.

Jai Hind.