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PG diploma courses can help reduce maternal mortality rate: Devi Shetty

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Bengaluru: Karnataka's proactive approach in introducing post-graduate diploma medical courses can make a huge difference to healthcare at the grassroots level, especially in reducing infant and maternal mortality rates, said Dr Devi Shetty, chairman and founder of Narayana Health.

During an interaction held here on Thursday, Dr Shetty, patron of Association of National Board Accredited Institutions, said there are about 170 hospitals at the taluk and district levels in Karnataka and 80% of them do not have specialists.

Welcoming the Centre's approval to start PG diploma course for MBBS students, Dr Shetty said this will reduce infant and maternal mortality rates in the country. "The Karnataka government is in the process of evaluating hospitals where the courses can be introduced," he added.

“Even though women and children comprise 60% of the population, India has one of the worst maternal and infant mortality rates in the world



Dr Devi Shetty | CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER OF NARAYANA HEALTH

“There are about 1.7 lakh candidates who complete MBBS in the country every year, but only 40,000 seats are available for post-graduate courses. The remaining aspirants take up coaching classes, but not all join post-graduate courses. Some of them end up in other professions like IT and civil services. But healthcare needs specialists,” Dr Shetty told TOI.

“We need gynaecologists, paediatricians, family physicians, anaesthesiologists and radiologists to take care of women's and children's health. Most

public hospitals, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 towns, suffer an 80% shortage in availability of these medical specialists. If hospitals introduce diploma training courses in all these specialities, the shortfall of medical specialists can be completely made up in two to four years,” he added. “In countries like the US, post-graduate seats are double the number of under-graduate courses...,” he said.

Earlier this month, the Union ministry of health and family welfare granted permission to National Board of Examinations to start eight post-graduate diploma courses of two-year duration for MBBS graduates. The courses are: diploma in anaesthesiology (DA), diploma in obstetrics & gynaecology (DGO); diploma in paediatrics (DCH); diploma in family medicine (DFamMed), diploma in ophthalmology (DO), diploma in ENT, diploma in radio diagnosis (DMRD), diploma in tuberculosis & chest disease (DTCD).

ಅರಸು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಸು ಜನ್ಮದಿನಾಚರಣೆ

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