

Symbiosis initiative: Medical aid for Pandharpur Wari – June 2016

The PANDHARPUR WARI a distinct form of pilgrimage has been taking place for more than 700 years. Annually hundreds of thousands of WARKARIS travel on foot to have a glimpse of Lord Vitthal. The nearly two week long journey culminates at the famous Vithoba Temple at Pandharpur in Maharashtra on Ekadashi (11th day) of the Hindu calendar month of Ashadha.

Punekars' welcome the palakhi of Shri Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj & Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj with much zeal and gusto in the month of June/July every year which starts from Alandi & Dehu respectively . This year the grand procession was welcomed by PuneKars' on 29th June 2016.

From 29th June 2016 to 1st July 2016, Symbiosis Centre of Health Care (SCHC) and Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences (SIHS) in association with Mrs. Sheela Raj Salve Memorial Trust, arranged four mobile medical units to offer free primary medical aid by emergency medical practitioners for warkaris. Whilst the MBA students of Hospital & Health care Management, SIHS looked after the overall logistics & management of the event.

The Inaugural ceremony was organized at Vishwabhawan, Symbiosis. Mr. Kunal Kumar, Commissioner, Pune Municipal Corporation inaugurated the medical services by Symbiosis for the warkaris and delivered an inaugural speech wherein he applauded the efforts taken by Symbiosis in providing free primary medical aid to warkaris. Padmabhusan Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, President & Founder, Symbiosis elaborated on the Symbiosis initiative in the Community Outreach Program. Mrs. S. S. Mujumdar Hon. Director, AMM Symbiosis; Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Principal Director, Symbiosis; Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar, Dean, Faculty of Health & Biomedical Sciences, Symbiosis and Mr. Avinash Salve,

Ex- Corporator PMC and many dignitaries attended & expressed their opinion on this noble initiative spearheaded by Symbiosis & Sheela Raj Salve Memorial Trust.

This was followed by the departure of the mobile medical units for the wari from Symbiosis campus to specified locations.

Last year the total number of warkaris served were 33,612. This year the total number of warkaris served has increased to 45,433 warkaris were treated for various ailments like acute gastro enteritis, fever, acute respiratory tract infection, different kinds of minor injuries, aches / pains etc. The event was successfully managed by SCHC Medical Officers, Emergency medical practitioners' and the MBA students which was applauded by one and all.

Standing true to the saying, "Leader by example", on 1st July 2016, Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar encouraged the teaching & non-teaching staff members of Faculty of Health & Biomedical Sciences to join & walk with the wari which was nearly a 35 K.M stretch from Pune to Saswad through Diwe ghat. This as cited later by many employees of Symbiosis was an experience of a lifetime.