

Know your National President

Dr Ravi Wankhedkar — *A Saga of Selflessness*

On 21st September 1963, Smt. Bhagirathibai—then a primary teacher—and late Shri Sitaramji Wankhedkar gave birth to a baby boy. The couple were visionary parents, they named their son—Ravi—which is another name for the God of light and God of energy i.e., the Sun. This “Ravi” of the Wankhedkars became the light of hope for many socially down-trodden and the source of energy for thousands of friends.

Education : After completing schooling at Canossa convent in Dhule, he reached Pune—the Mecca of education in India. He earned MBBS and MS (General surgery) from the prestigious, B J Govt Medical College, Pune.

The beginning : “If you treat one, you save one and if you teach one, you save thousands”. With this belief in mind Dr Ravindra Wankhedkar, joined Shri Bhausaheb Hire Government Medical College, at his home town Dhule. Due to his passion for teaching and a very open-minded persona, soon he became one of the most popular teachers of the college.

Journey in IMA : In the year 2003, he took a very active role in renovating IMA hall in Dhule. This was the small step of an IMA member, which was to become a giant leap for any IMA activist, in future.

Then onwards, he worked for IMA, as if, it was his sole purpose of life. He became local branch secretary, state AMS chairman, national chairman AMS, National chairman of IMA accreditation council, national chairman of Trade Union committee IMA HQ, National secretary of IMA HBI and CWC member for seven years. His popularity made him the elected member of executive committee of Maharashtra medical council.

He has got tremendous organizational capacity. This has been evident from the successful organization of EVECON (Womens conference), West zone AMSCON, National AMSCON, National governing council meet, YOMEDICON, National CGP Leaders meet, WIMALS (Women’s IMA leaders summit), and VI-BRANCE (National HBI conference). Apart from these conferences, UNMESH (Cultural, sports and academic meet) and SHABDANGAN (the first of its kind—exclusive medico’s literary fest), were the landmarks, depicting the all-encompassing interest of Dr Ravi and his innovative mind.

Socio-medical work : He has been part of all the IMA programmes in the last two decades. He led them from front. His social acumen is abundantly evident from the “Mission pink health”. -It’s a wonderful blend of Beti Bachao, Aao Gaon Chale and Anaemia Control Programme. He started IMA Biomedical waste disposal project at Dhule. He has been conducting free consultation camps in the fields for the poor farm workers.

Social work : Although Dr Ravi is a crusader for the welfare of all the modern medicine graduates, his heart gets touched by the highest sacrifices of the soldiers and also by the sufferings of those affected by drought or hailstorm. His sensitive mind feels the pain of anyone in distress, -may it be Latur, Bhuj or Nepal earthquake victims or may it be a small girl from Ladakh. He has helped everyone of them.

Academics : Professor Wankhedkar’s devotion for teach-

ing and that in surgery made him an accomplished teacher and a highly successful surgeon. He is the member of the National board of exams and that of board of studies at MUHS (Maharashtra University of Medical Sciences). He was the national chairperson of the UNESCO Bioethics committee.

Extra-curricular : Dr Ravi sir has got special interest in basket ball and mountaineering. He excels into, whatever he takes up. He has been a national level basket ball player and also did Kailash Mansarovar parikram. Another example of his pursuit of excellence is his farm, wherein a barren land of 35 acres has been converted into lush green, scenic area by his relentless efforts and hence aptly named as “Ravishrushti”

Awards : His painstaking efforts, in everything he does, earned him many awards. Teacher of the decade Award, national award for the best local branch secretary, Best AMS chapter award at all the levels, RK Mendha memorial oration, Medical education and research award at NATCON, 2011, National Satyapaul Agrawal award, and AP Shukla memorial award are a few of them

The zeal for working for IMA, great oratory skills, extraordinary organizational skills, superb memory, (which remembers people by name and their individual characteristics), innovative ideas, sensitive social acumen, sportsman to the core and visionary leadership qualities took this ever enthusiastic IMA activist to the highest post of our organization i.e. the National President 2018. This proves his popularity and acceptance across all three generations

Family : He dedicates all his development to his mother Smt Bhagirathibai, who is a retired head mistress. He is ably supported by his wife Dr. Meena, who herself is an IMA activist. His son and daughter-in-law are both radiologists. His daughter is a highly qualified engineer.

To write the journey of such a personality, prose is not enough. To sum up the journey poetically, all we can say is...

*A competent healer and a tough task Master...
With qualities of leader, but a soul of farmer...
A passionate biker and a terrific hoopster...
A skillful doctor and a daring trekker...
A true social worker and a perfect planner
An excellent orator and a voracious reader...
A learned teacher...yet eternal learner,
What more can I say as your silent admirer?
Salute to thee...Dr Ravi Wankhedkar !*



Dr Ravi Wankhedkar
National President, IMA