

Fortis Hospital, Vashi, Celebrates International Women's Day in Association with Nanhi Chhan Foundation

~ Helps build 2016 theme for International Women's Day - "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" ~

Navi Mumbai, March 8th, 2016: Fortis Hospital, Vashi, celebrated the International Women's Day 2016 on Tuesday with children from local schools, orphanages and Nanhi Chhan Foundation, an NGO that works towards addressing critical issue of gender ratio and empowering the girl child. To help build the theme for International Women's Day, Fortis Hospital, Vashi, helped celebrate women for their acts of courage and determination, for played an extraordinary role in the society. Drawing focus towards the cause and highlighting the need to respect women, this celebration helped bring together women from all walks, who shared their enriching experiences and stories with **over 150 little angels**.

On the occasion, underprivileged girl children from the Nanhi Chhaan Foundation were given an opportunity to celebrate the day with interactive and fun activities such as Caricature-making, Mehendi, Tadoo-making, Nail Art, Hair Styling, Bangle-Making etc. The participants were also given training in basic self-defence techniques at the event through a workshop conducted by the hospital staff. As part of the Women's Day celebrations and to spread the message on the evil of female foeticide, children were given Tulsi saplings to sow in the hospital campus as a sign of bringing prosperity and better health in their lives.

Mrs Poonam Patil, Health Committee Chairman, NMMC who joined the celebrations spent time with the children, participated in the self-defence workshop with enthusiasm and distributed sweets.

Dr Bipin Chevle, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital, Vashi, said, *"International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide as the celebration for women's economic, political, and social achievements. Fortis Hospital, Vashi, chose to celebrate the day with the message of respecting and empowering women – especially, underprivileged girl children. The objective is to spread awareness about the evil of female foeticide, which has resulted in adverse gender ratio in the country, an issue that must be dealt with utmost seriousness. We appreciate the efforts of children and the staff for spreading awareness"*.

On the occasion of the Women's Day, Fortis Hospital, Vashi, also offered a number of women-specific pathological check-ups at special discounted rates to its women visitors. To celebrate womanhood, the hospital invited new mothers who have recently delivered girl children and expectant mothers from the nearby areas. To spread awareness on the issue of female foeticide, the hospital also displayed creative posters depicting the evil of the malpractice.

Dr Trupti Rathod, Medical Superintendent, Fortis Hospital Vashi, said, *"The International Women's Day celebration is an opportunity for us to engage with women from all sections of the society, to help build the cause of respecting and empowering women. Through these interactions, we aim to spread the message of health, awareness and security for women and we are extremely pleased with the enthusiastic participation from the staff at Fortis*

Hospital. We are looking forward to more such events to engage women socially and spread the awareness on issues related to women empowerment.”

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