



Photograph: Nachiket Gujar

**“My passion has always been to focus on preventive health, especially in young girls and women as they are the mothers of tomorrow”**

...says **Dr Duru Shah**, renowned gynaecologist in Mumbai and Scientific Director - Gynaecworld. In this tete-a-tete, she shares her achievements, passion, journey and the other facets of her surgeon life.

 **Chandreyee Bhaumik**

**Being India's first gynaecologist to receive the prestigious FIGO Distinguished Merit Award during the opening ceremony of the World Congress of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology, how do you feel?**

I feel both honoured and blessed to be India's first recipient of the International Federation of Gynecology & Obstetrics (FIGO) Distinguished Merit Award. Appreciation always feels good, especially when it comes from the globally renowned FIGO. It means a lot not only because it

is a global award but more importantly because it recognises all the work I have done and my initiatives here in India. Right from improving women's health especially in the preventive arena-building awareness and educating women on reproductive and sexual health, to spreading the importance of planned pregnancies, care required in the pre-pregnancy stage, etc - all this adds up to my overall focus and ongoing efforts towards empowering women in our country because as they say, you educate the woman and you are educating the entire family, the community and the nation.

This has been a long journey. The whole idea to do things for people at large has been with me right from my younger days. I remember when I was in school I used to raise funds for charity purposes. It started in school and went to college, where we took part in blood donation camps, collecting funds, etc. In emergency situations such as when the doctors went for a strike we managed the situation.

As the President of Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), I spearheaded various women's health programmes especially those focussing on women's health mainly in the rural areas. I initiated programmes related to safe motherhood, adolescent empowerment, reproductive and sexual health in the youth, contraception, menopause and infertility. My passion has always been to focus on preventive health, especially in the young girls and women as they are the mothers of tomorrow. Currently, I am focussing