

Ms. Shirsha Guha - Director of DPP with the members



## An interactive Session - "Care for the Elderly Charity or Necessity"

Deep Probeen Parisheba (DPP) is a unique and first of its kind concept of providing in-home services for the elderly in Kolkata and outskirts. This ground breaking service has been brought to Kolkata by HRDS Inc., USA. HRDS Inc. is an education consultancy that operates three medical schools in the Caribbean, Saint James School of Medicine, in Anguilla, Bonaire and St. Vincent. Deep Probeen Parisheba recently organized an interactive session on a burning social issue, "Care for the Elderly Charity or Necessity".

The objective of the session was to shed light on the difficulties faced by the elderly, who find themselves alone in Kolkata, fending for themselves, either because their children live overseas, in other cities in India, or are just busy corporate professionals in Kolkata with long working hours. For these senior citizens, everyday life becomes very challenging after a certain age without any reliable help available. Mr. Dan Cuckovic and Mr. Raj Mitra, Vice Presidents from Saint James School of Medicine's US corporate office, Dr. Dipankar Debnath and Dr. Kaushik Majumdar, both Geriatric Specialists from Kolkata, expressed their view points along with Ms. Shirsha Guha,

Director of DPP, and COO of Saint James School of Medicine. Several members of DPP were also present to share their first hand experiences of living their lives alone and how Deep Probeen Parisheba has made a difference to them.

The session helped immensely to bring to the forefront one of the growing problems in India today, the care of the elderly, or the lack thereof. The speakers shared positive views on the way Indians take care of their elderly as part of their culture, and how inspiring it is for the people in the west, but also how this is seeing a gradual breakdown in modern day Indian society. A bit of insight was also given on the systems of elderly care that exist in the US and other countries around the world, where various government and private agencies deliver these types of services for the elderly in the absence of family support, while the UK has long incorporated geriatric care services within their healthcare system. It was concluded that it was time that for Indians to accept the fact that this is a growing issue and that workable solutions were needed that also suit the current situations of the young working generation.

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