



DR DEEPALI DUTTA

Delving Deep into the Human Mind

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A multi faceted personality who is a doctor, social worker, wife, mother and writer, all rolled into one dynamic persona, is Dr Deepali Dutta. She was born on the 20th of Sept in the Upper Assam town of Doomdooma in 1936. Her father was late Hem Chandra Barkakoti. Dr Dutta completed her MBBS in 1958 under Gauhati Medical College but continued her higher studies in Edinburgh where she did her MRCP (1964) and FRCS in Psychiatry (1975). She has been happily married to the equally eminent doctor, Sarat Chandra Dutta who is a consultant urologist in Guwahati.

Dr Deepali Dutta was the founder professor and Head of Psychiatry, GMC. Among the various responsibilities she shouldered, one can include those of the post of the Director, Medical Education, Govt of Assam, Ex-president and Life Fellow of Indian Psychiatry Society as well as Member, World Psychiatric Congress. She has numerous literary publications to her credit, which cover a wide range of articles in print media, two books of short stories which have proved to be very popular.

Her work as a social worker has been widely recognized and appreciated. She was the founder of Gauhati Mental Welfare Society (1972) and Mon Vikash Kendra (1980), a pioneering school for the mentally challenged. The aim is to provide good education, care, professional guidance to these children to help them join the mainstream of the society. In fact, Mon Vikash Kendra has served as a model for future schools of similar nature which have come up later. The Kendra is a day school cum training institute which has many facilities like Speech therapy, Physiotherapy Unit, Spastic Unit etc. It started with only six students. Now it has its own building, land and other assets over the last few decades donated by the govt and other sources. The ultimate aim is to make it a complete institute. It has received the Best Institute Award for Mentally Handicapped (1998).

It was during the tenure of Deepali Dutta as Principal of Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh that a 'Harijan School' was established (later taken over by the Education Deptt, Govt of Assam) for the children of 4th grade personnels in the college.

She established a socio-cultural organization constituted by the lady faculty members of GMC which has already completed more than 25 years. It provides a much needed outlet to the members to participate in dances, songs, drama etc.

A tele film on D.Dutta 'A Face in the Crowd' was made by Delhi Doordarshan (1989); she received Excellence Award from Indian Psychiatric Society (1998), Woman of the Year Award (1987), Mahila Shiromani Award for contribution to national development (1990) and many more awards and accolades. □□