



Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd.

Docs rally to champion cause of women's health



WHEELS OF CHANGE: A team of gynaecologists campaigning against female foeticide across the country stopped by the city on Saturday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A group of gynaecologists who have traded the white coat for bright yellow T-shirts for a month have been zipping across the country, from Kanyakumari to Delhi on a 'Bharat Jagruti yatra'. One of the four teams which has been spreading the word on 'Save the Indian Mother' and 'Beti Bachao' stopped by the city on Saturday enroute to Gujarat.

"We are going along empowering women. We want them to know their age, weight, height, blood group and haemoglobin to keep their anaemia in check," said one of the adventurers, Dr Shirish Patwardhan, who noticed a significant drop in awareness levels as they moved northwards from Kerala to Maharashtra.

The initiative spearheaded by the FOGSI (Federation of Ob-

stetric and Gynaecological Societies of India), is campaigning against female foeticide in an attempt to boost the dwindling female sex ratio, was flagged off on September 1.

"I have worked in government hospitals in Gujarat and understand the problems of the poor. Only awareness can change that," feels 72-year-old Dr Bhagwati Oza, who is the oldest member of the group.

One gynaecologist explains how it was an eye-opening experience to learn that 40 % of girls in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai were married before turning 18 or that 90 % school-goers in an Amravati village had anaemia.

President of Mumbai Obstetric and Gynaecology Society (MOGS) Dr Hrishikesh Pal who welcomed the team said they were already working on promoting the 'complete health for women.'