

**Address delivered by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi at the 4th
Convocation of the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences held in the India International Centre,
New Delhi on 7th January, 1967**

Mr. President, Fellows and Members of the Academy, Ladies and gentlemen:

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all here on this occasion of the 4th Convocation of the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences. I am beholden to Dr. C.G. Pandit for the kind feelings expressed by him towards me. It gives me an occasion to recall to my mind the pleasant memories of our school days' association when we were students of the same school in the good old days.

It is my sincere belief that, for the Academy to achieve its objectives, it will be necessary to set a high standard of academic eminence for the Fellows and Members of the Academy. Unless this is done the institution will be falling short of its ambitions. As institution of the type of this Academy, which will give due recognition and encouragement to work of merit accomplished by medical scientists in all branches of medical sciences, will fill a keenly felt need.

I can visualize that the Academy, consisting as it does of top medical scientists, can play an important role in an advisory capacity to the Government in drawing up and in implementation of medical and health schemes. The Government is spending large sums of money in the 4th plan especially for family planning, and it will be worthwhile for the Academy to devote its attention to assessing and evaluating the results of such programmes.

I have great appreciations for the Academy's programme of holding multi-disciplinary seminars on important topics. In this connection I may tell you that the Delhi University is considering the establishment of a centre to study allied sciences where people of various disciplines like Bio-scientists would meet and exchange ideas. If necessary money is forthcoming, it will be set up in the 4th plan.

As regards the Academy's recently introduced examination I am happy to note from Dr. Pandit's address that the Academy is considering the feasibility of introducing the objective type of questions. You are aware that the task of defining purpose of examination has been exercising the minds of most educationists. After much contemplation the educationists in the Universities have come to the conclusion that the most important thing was the way in which the questions are set. If the process is correct one can be sure that the results area also good. I sincerely congratulate the Academy for the conduction of MAMS examinations and wish that a high standard continues to be maintained for this examination. I, however, cannot help mentioning that the holding of this examination at regular periods needs much greater publicity than obtains at present. Even I, as Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, was not aware of the development of this activity of the Academy.

I would also like to emphasise the desirability of the utilization of the Academy by educational institutions in the country as a medium for establishing outside contacts with eminent medical scientists about the new techniques employed in developed countries in the various medical disciplines with a view to imparting advanced knowledge to the postgraduate trainees in this country.

Another point to which I may draw your attention, even though I know that the Academy is not directly concerned with it, is the fact of a wide disparity existing at present between the availability of medical personnel and facilities in the urban and rural areas. There is an urgent need of improving medical facilities in villages. I regret that no satisfactory solution to end this disparity has yet been found.

As regards the finances of the Academy, I am surprised to note that the Academy is receiving a small dole of Rs. 60,000/- as its annual grants from the Government of India, towards maintaining its

multifarious beneficial activities. I am aware of the critical and carping attitude adopted in general by persons concerned with the sanction of grants to apply their axe for cutting down to the rock bottom the grants for medical and health activities which they find so easy to do. Let me hope the Government's grant will be increased adequately to enable the Academy to carry on its expanding activities efficiently. I regard this matter as of the first importance in the interest of fulfilling the objectives of the Academy and in the wider interest of the country.

I offer my heartiest felicitations to the 15 Fellows and 18 Members on their election to the Academy and I feel privileged in presenting them their well deserved scrolls.