

## THE SEVENTH WHITE COAT CEREMONY OF S.D.M. COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD - 09

The Seventh White Coat Ceremony, marking the entry of III BDS students to the undergraduate clinical programme, was organised in the SDM Dental College auditorium on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The Ceremony involved the official handing over of the White Coat to students, which they use in clinics while treating patients. The function was attended by faculty of SDM Dental and Medical Colleges, parents and students of III BDS.

The programme began with a prayer invoking the almighty. Prof. Srinath L. Thakur, Principal, welcomed the gathering and said that wearing a white coat not only showed the world that the person was a doctor, but also reflected one's calling. He said that it was the duty of the doctor to put the needs of others above one's own.

Prof. C. Bhasker Rao, Director, said that the present III BDS batch was entering clinics during a landmark period of the college—its silver jubilee year. He said that the ceremony attempted to create an emotional attachment between the students and the white coat, which they would use in clinical care for the rest of their professional lives.

The Chief Guest of the Ceremony was Dr. S.S. Deshpande, senior anaesthesiologist of Hubli and consultant anaesthesiologist at SDM Medical College. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Deshpande said that the white coat is a shield protecting the students, who not only need to be nourished by the faculty but also put their own efforts to succeed as dental practitioners.

Shri Jinendra Prasad, Secretary of SDM Educational Society, Dharwad, urged the students to practice dentistry ethically and maintain dignity and decorum, while Dr. Niranjan Kumar, Medical Director, SDM Medical College, graced the occasion. Prof. Atul Sattur administered the dental oath.

Two of the students representing the entire batch pledged to maintain the sanctity of the white coat. The programme was capped with a vote of thanks from Prof. Kaveri Hallikeri.

