



SCHOOL

Society Of
Community Health Oriented
Operational Links



"Vriddha Mitra" initiative should guide programs for the Elderly on a National and International Level

– Shri. Ramesh Bais ji, Honourable Governor of Maharashtra, 12th September 2023

In order to make the lives of senior citizens more comfortable and to easily address their social and economic challenges, there is a need for innovative initiatives like "Vriddha Mitra." Honourable Governor, Shri. Ramesh Bais, called upon everyone to make efforts to implement such initiatives at the national and international levels. Shri. Vikram Kumar, Honourable Municipal Commissioner, Pune Municipal Corporation and Dr. Benazir Patil, the Chief Executive Officer of SCHOOL, shared the dais with Honourable Governor Sir.

Speaking at the inauguration of the city-wide expansion of "Vriddha Mitra" program organized by Society of Community Health Oriented Operational Links (SCHOOL), Honourable Governor Sir lauded Vriddha Mitra program, emphasizing the vital role it plays in supporting the elderly members of our society. This initiative, implemented by the Society of Community Health-Oriented Operational Links (SCHOOL), aims to improve the lives of the elderly by reaching them directly in their homes instead of displacing them to Old Age Homes. He further stated that senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge with them as they age, and they deserve respect and honour from society. Senior citizens often face serious economic problems due to their inability to engage in regular income-generating activities, and they often experience neglect or discrimination within their families.

The changing dynamics of traditional family structures are exacerbating social insecurity and isolation among senior citizens. It is important for society to show love and cooperation towards them. This is where initiatives like "Vriddha Mitra" come into play. Providing essential services at the homes of the elderly is the highest form of service. Honourable Governor emphasized that such efforts are needed at every level. Elderly individuals in society require emotional, social, and psychological support as they navigate the challenges of their lives. Each hospital should have separate units for the elderly, and the need for independent ambulance services for them is crucial.

Organizations like SCHOOL should advocate for specific standards for the elderly with the governments at every level. The joint efforts of "Vriddha Mitra" and Pune Municipal Corporation have initiated the establishment of independent units for the elderly in two hospitals. Efforts are being made to introduce such units in other hospitals as well.

Honourable Governor felicitated the organizations and individuals associated with "Vriddha Mitra" initiative.

With a reach that began with 600 elderlies and has now reached 33,000 in Pune, Mumbai, Bhopal and Gwalior, Vriddha Mitra signifies a growing awareness of the crucial role in caring for our elderly population.