

# Her success was best gift f

It was a special Sunday for Sudha Murty, who began the day with teachers and ended it enlightening students o

Arun Dev

"I come from a family of teachers. My father was teacher, my father-in-law was a teacher and my daughter-in-law and myself are from the fraternity of teachers. Because of this, Teachers' Day is close to my heart," said Sudha Murty, chairman of Infosys Foundation, addressing the students of Cathedral PU College on Sunday.

She started the day by meeting a group of retired teachers suffering from arthritis who will be given free joint replacement surgery by Sparsh Hospital. Many of them were overjoyed to spend some time with her ahead of the operation.

"Even someone who teaches you just a word is your teacher and is to be remembered," she told them.

"Among the teachers, I consider primary school teachers to be most important. It is not because of the first letters they teach us, but for the values of life imparted by them to children at that age. But as children grow, this process becomes hard and what one learned as a child remains with him or her forever," she said.

The lady of the day blushed when one of the teachers undergoing treatment said she was the biggest fan of Sudha Murty. She also posed with her for photos and shared a few laughs.

On the sidelines of the function, Murty shared some moments with students and teachers. She said her motivation to be an engineer came from one of her teachers in the school.

"I still remember my maths teacher Ragavendra Sir. He told me that mathematics is the queen of all subjects and if I had command over it, I could learn anything. Those words were something which inspired me to be an engineer," she said.

"After many years, when I visited him, I wanted to gift him something but he refused saying my success was the best gift for him," she said. To the question if there were any student whom she remembers



Sudha Murty, chairperson of Infosys Foundation, hands over a bouquet of flowers to Susheela Singh, one of the 100 beneficiaries of Sparsh Hospital's free joint replacement surgery programme on Sunday. (bottom) NCC cadets of Cathedral PU College lead Sudha Murty to the venue of the College Day celebrations – Nishant Ratnakar/Anantha Subramainam K



from her career as a teacher, she said: "Students have the privilege of having a favourite teacher, but not a teacher".

Making a statement on the need for care and attention to be given to teachers, she said: "We often do not remember our teachers. Instead of a hospital taking the whole burden of paying for the treatment of

teachers, students who are well off should also contribute an amount for their treatment".

"In Indian culture, teacher is given much importance. After father and mother, comes the teacher," she said.

There is also need for value-based education than a career-based one, she added.

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Sudha Murty, chairman of Infosys Foundation

## UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT IN HER LIFE

- ▶ Talking about how someone can change one's life, Sudha Murty shared an experience with Cathedral college students.
- ▶ "Years back, I was returning to Bangalore by train. There was a small girl lying under the berth to escape the ticket examiner's eye. She was an orphan heading for the city to find some job.
- ▶ "I took her to our foundation and gave her education. She cleared her matriculation and joined a course in engineering. Later, she joined a software firm and moved to the US.
- ▶ "Once I visited San Francisco to give a lecture. While vacating the hotel, I was surprised when told that my hotel bills had been cleared. The organisers of the lecture were clueless on who paid the bill. When I insisted, the hotel authorities told me to wait.
- ▶ A little later, the person walked in. She was none other than Chitra, the girl I found in that train. Along with her was her American husband Charles. That is moment I can never forget in my life," she said.

# or teacher

how precious the role of the guru is

## Sparsh to help them walk again freely

**Arun Dev**

This Teachers' Day will be special for 100 retired teachers as they will be relieved of the pain they had been suffering for years.

Sparsh Hospital, as part of a charitable programme, is offering them free knee cap replacement surgery starting from Monday. A team of 16 surgeons from India and abroad will be conducting them this week. Two surgeries have already been completed.

BC Naliniayamma, 66, a retired school teacher from Shimoga, has been living on high dose of painkillers for 10 years as she could not afford a joint replacement surgery. One of the reasons for her disease to aggravate was long hours of standing in the classroom. Yet she considers her days as a teacher the best days of her life.

The initiative was inaugurated by Sudha Murty, chairperson of Infosys Foundation. Subroto Bagchi, vice-chairman, Mindtree, who was present on the occasion, said, "Good teachers are bearers of hope to the future. Life is not about what we make out of it but what we leave

behind and teachers leave behind a bright future through children," he said.

Hemalatha from Mysore never thought there would be an end to her pain. "My operation is on Tuesday. Doctors say after that, my legs won't pain anymore," she said.

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**Hemalatha**

Retired teacher

Susheela Singh, 86, a retired reader in Botany of Maharani's College, motivated others to undergo the surgery. She has started walking two days after her surgery. Doctors described her case as a miracle.

She is now motivating others to undergo the surgery. "Many of them had doubts in mind. As someone who had been through it, I am motivating them to undergo the operation," she said.

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A student from Ebenezer International School gives flowers to retired teachers awaiting surgery

- Nishant Ratnakar