

# GTB Medical Research Centre Hospital Kolkata's Gift to Humanity

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Selfless Service to Humanity has been the chief motto and basic principle of the Sikh faith, propounded by our Gurus throughout their life. It is with this mission that Guru Nanak Devji traveled far and near and taught the lesson of Universal Brotherhood through his soulful *Dhur ki Baani*. Following the same practice of *sewa*, Guru Amar Das dug up the *Baolis* at Goindwal Sahib to provide water for drinking as well as irrigation of agricultural land. In 1601 AD Guru Arjun Dev himself joined the humanitarian mission at Lahore to treat the people affected with an epidemic. Guru Har Rai ran a *Shafakhana* (dispensary) for the general medical treatment for all. Indeed, the ninth Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur set up an unparalleled example of Selfless Service to Humanity by sacrificing himself for the cause of freedom of religious practices, freedom of speech and above all, protection of human rights. Apart from the glorious contribution of our Gurus to humanitarian causes, the Sikh history is replete with great examples like Mata Khiwi, Bibi Amro, Bibi Bhani, Bhai Kanhiya and Bhai Taru Singh, who have set up a rare example of *Sewa* and Sacrifice.

These practical examples of our moral tradition that has been a continuous source of inspiration for Sikhs across the world to run the various social, medical and educational institutions out of *Daswandh* (part of hard and honest way of earning) for the service of poor and needy people of the society regardless of their faith, caste, creed, etc. A rare example of this practice is Kolkata's Guru Tegh Bahadur Medical Research Centre Hospital, started almost three decades ago, by the Managing Committee of the local *gurdwara* Sant Kutiya. During initial years it faced a lot of difficulties and challenges from employees union, who paralysed its working services for few years. However, in 1990's with the intervention and thoughtful initiative of Community leaders, the hospital resumed its humble services. Over the years the hospital has emerged as one of the city's most accessible centre for medical care. Its excellent services in the field of medical treatment for poor and under privileged members of the society have earned it a good reputation. Services -at a reasonable fee has attracted the poor and needy section of the society to this hospital. Its reputation has been ensured by keeping abreast of recent advances in medical science. To provide the best of medical services a good numbers of Doctors – specialist in various medical treatment - have been engaged and many of them are doing this service as labour of love. The Hospital has various department such as General Medicine, Chest, Cardiologist, E.N.T, Dental, Skin, Orthopedic, Gynae & OBS and Pediatrics. The Managing Committee is trying its best to make the hospital a land mark in the field of Medical care by expanding the present building to accommodate more and more patients and by increasing general facilities. The hospital is forging ahead with plans of achieving state of the art equipment as well as enlisting city's best expertise supported by a dedicated nursing and warden staff.

In order to create general awareness about good health and for free medical treatment the hospital is, from time to time, organizing medical camps with the help and active co-operation of local philanthropist organizations. These medical camps have been very successful as it has not only offered free medical treatment but has earned a goodwill for our community.

Since the hospital is being run "on no profit no loss" basis, the paucity of fund has been

the main concern, The purpose of writing this note is to draw the attention of our readers and well-wisher and mobilized donations on wider scale. As the Guru Tegh Bahadur Medical Service Centre Hospital is the only medical institute of Sikhs of Kolkata, in urgent need of upgrading and meeting rising demand of the Community at large, we appeal for generous contributions -out of daswandh- this will be much appreciated. Donors can remit their contribution by DD/Cheque 'directly' to the hospital address as per advertisement in page No. 69 with due intimation to us. Your valuable contribution will be used exclusively for the welfare of humanity.

