

College Motto award citation for the year 2025

Blessy Sucharita came to CMC Vellore in 1999 to join the MBBS course. As is common among many aspiring doctors, her dream was to complete her undergraduate studies and her service obligation, and soon after, relocate to the US – to join her brother and build a life as a physician, in the ‘Land of Liberty’.

On completing her MBBS, Blessy was posted to the Kacchwa Christian Mission Hospital under the Evangelical Hospital Association, in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. For the first time in her life, the young Blessy witnessed patients dying from simple, manageable conditions because of the dearth of doctors. The experience shook her and made her question the morality of her plans to pursue a life of comfort. The tipping point came when a visiting American missionary told her, “You have set your heart on something...but God has a different plan”.

Abandoning her US plans, Blessy rejoined CMC to complete her Diploma and MD in Paediatrics. In 2016, she returned to North India to work at the Duncan Hospital in Raxaul, where she had previously worked as a Consultant Paediatrician from 2010 to 2014, while undertaking her service obligation. Blessy knew that at Raxaul she could carry out her life’s new mission – caring for the marginalised and drawing people to God’s love.

Serving in this remote region near the Indo-Nepal border is fraught with challenges. There is rampant drug abuse, smuggling and human trafficking, to name a few. The most formidable challenge was the resistance of the local community who were suspicious of outsiders and, often, utterly disrespectful of women. It took years of perseverance, patience and compassionate service before Blessy could get at least half of the community to trust her with their children. Old tensions occasionally resurface leading to episodes of anger and aggression that require containment with curfews - severely testing the faith and resolve of the team at Raxaul.

As Consultant Paediatrician, Blessy’s responsibilities included neonatal care, paediatric intensive care, and management of general wards and outpatients. Despite the heavy load, Blessy and her team produced excellent outcomes that often rivalled those of tertiary centres that were far better resourced. For this, she remains ever grateful to God who, she believes, grants her daily wisdom and the healing touch to save many lives.

Over the years, Blessy has proactively responded to growing needs, taking on critical responsibilities outside of her core speciality. When the Blood Bank at the hospital was in imminent danger of closure because of the absence of trained personnel, she underwent a brief period of training at CMC and took charge of it. Last year, recognising the huge need for mental health services in the area, she took additional training and put together a team to assist her in treating mental health patients abandoned by their families.

Spurred on by her faith, Blessy continually widens her circle of love. By partnering with the government and like-minded NGOs and by training healthcare workers in various settings, Blessy has significantly improved not only health outcomes, but also

education and rehabilitation outcomes for children on the streets, for specially abled children, for destitute and mentally challenged women, and for other vulnerable groups in the region.

Dr. Prabhu, Managing Director and resident orthopaedician at the hospital, walks alongside Blessy on her straight and narrow path, sharing her burden. The couple are blessed with two children, a boy and girl, and foster an eight-year-old girl child who Blessy had rescued from the flesh trade. In this historic year marking the 125th anniversary of CMC Vellore, we proudly present the College Motto Award for 2025 to Dr. Blessy Sucharita and Dr. Prabhu in recognition of their unwavering dedication to God and their tireless service, despite profound personal and professional challenges. Through their inspiring lives of servant-leadership, they embody and give life to the highest Biblical ideal expressed in our College Motto: “Not to be ministered unto, but to minister”