



### **Southern Asia Division Lay Women's Congress 2014 (27.10.2014)**

Roorkee Adventist College had the privilege of hosting the Division wide lay Women's Congress from October 1 – 4, 2014. The first of its kind the Lay Women's Congress was directed towards recognition of the inner qualities of a Christian woman.

The congress was attended by about 250 delegates from various section, union, regions and institutions of the Southern Asia Division, as well as from Nepal and Bhutan.

The Inaugural address was delivered by Pr. Ezras Lakra, President, Northern India Union empowering women of today. The first session was taken by Pr. Hidayat Masih.

Several power packed sessions were taken by Diana Jaworski, a motivational speaker from The General Conference, based on the theme of the congress "Women of worth in action". Sessions like "The se chains don't work", "Gods beauty Saloon", "The Precious Pearls", "Gods Daily Menu", etc. were directed towards getting acquainted with the inner worth of a woman at the same time various health issues were also taken up in the Health sessions by Dr. Lizzie George pertaining to women health. Dr. Smitha and Dr. Hannah concentrated on physiotherapy issues. Delegates from the Medical Trust promoted healthy lifestyle and displayed their culinary skills by making varieties of salads, moist chocolate cake which was later served to the delegates adding flavor and taste to the Congress.

The reports from various directors from around the Division were very informative and updated each woman about the effects of community service at the grass root levels. The testimonials on Sabbath afternoon were an inspiration in strengthening and the faith of each woman.

The Sabbath morning was a treat as the delegates from the Northern India Union presented a message through a skit "A Chosen Vessel", followed by a spiritually uplifting sermon entitled "Victory in Jesus", by Diana Jaworski.

The Congress focused on various issues related to domestic violence, sexual abuse and female infanticide. All delegates took an oath during the commitment service where Mrs. Premila Masih, Director Women's Ministry Department of Southern Asia Division of SDA challenged the delegates to raise their voice against women abuse and called for "End it now" appeal. The session ended with a breathtaking cerography performed by the Roorkee Adventist College delegates on the song "Carry your candle. Later Mrs. Premila Masih led the ladies in a march around the Campus, shouting slogans like "End it now", "Save the Girl child" etc.

The Congress ended with a social extravaganza featuring cultural and fun performances from the various field units. The Congress led us ladies through a spiritual journey leaving us empowered and to be women of worth in action.