

Dr Evita Fernandez

FRCOG

CHAIRPERSON, FERNANDEZ FOUNDATION



Dr Evita Fernandez took charge of Fernandez Hospital from the Founders, her parents, in 1985. Under her leadership, the Hospital has grown from one 40-bed unit to three hospitals with a 320-bed capacity, two outpatient clinics and a School of Nursing. With a focus on maternal and childcare, the institution has expanded into healthcare for specially-abled children, medical education and research, advocacy as well as retail.

In 2018, the Fernandez institutions were registered as not-for-profit entities under the newly established Fernandez Foundation. With this transformation, Dr Evita cemented her commitment to ethical, equitable healthcare for all.

Dr Evita is a passionate advocate of normal birthing and is vocal about demedicalising pregnancy and birthing. She values transparency and believes in empowering women with the right information so that they can make choices regarding their bodies and childbirth. She is committed to making birthing a respectful and blissful experience for every woman, irrespective of their background.

With this mission in mind, she brought midwifery to the private hospital sector in India. She is a strong advocate of midwifery, a practice that exemplifies every belief she holds. Through midwifery she seeks to increase access to high quality maternal care for more women and reduce unnecessary interventions such as caesareans.

She started the two-year in-house Professional Midwifery Education and Training (PMET) Program in August 2011. With this she initiated the entry of more midwives into the healthcare ecosystem. In 2017, Fernandez Foundation, in collaboration with the Government of Telangana and UNICEF launched an 18-month certification program in midwifery for nurses from the state's healthcare system. Designed to global standards set by the International Confederation of Midwives, the course was a first-of-its-kind in Telangana.

Dr Evita is a prolific speaker. In addition to presenting numerous scientific papers at national and international conferences, she has contributed chapters in textbooks. She is also the recipient of several awards.

Dr Evita holds an MBBS degree from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore and a DGO from Osmania University. She received her membership to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London in 1983 and was conferred a Fellowship in 2001.

She is the Chairperson of Fernandez Foundation as well as the Managing Trustee of the Dr Leslie J. Fernandez Memorial Charitable Trust and the Fernandez Hospital Educational and Research Foundation.