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'Medical practitioners should serve rural populace'

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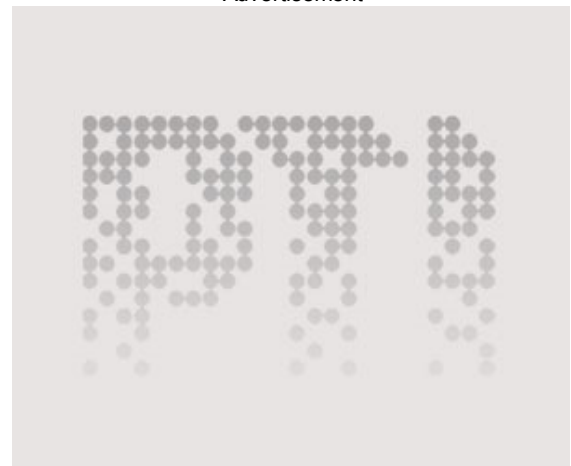
Kochi, Mar 4 (PTI) Former ISRO Chairman G Madhavan Nair today said it was the prime responsibility of medical practitioners to serve the country's rural populace.

Hardly two per cent of doctors go to villages to practice where 70 per cent of the population is living, half of them below poverty line. This is an anomaly, he said addressing the third batch of MBBS students passing out from the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) here.

Ever increasing population, lack of adequate affordable healthcare facilities, particularly in rural areas, was a matter of serious concern. A large proportion of the population has no access to safe drinking water, he noted.

Open drainage system, improper disposal of waste and industrial effluents and increased migration from rural to urban areas without proper sanitation facilities has aggravated the spread of water-borne diseases, he said.

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