

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF
CHINMAYA VIDYALAYA AT CHINMAYA HERITAGE CENTRE, HARRINGTON
ROAD, CHENNAI ON 10.01.2019 AT 5.00 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Dr. S. P. Thyagarajan,
Chairman, Chinmaya Group of Schools

Thiru. K. Srinivasan,
Regional Officer, CBSE Chennai

Thiru. O. V. Nambiar,
Zonal Director, CCMT Educational Cell

Thiru. Jaishankar Unnithan,
Hony. Correspondent,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me happiness to take part in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Chinmaya Vidyalaya. It is a matter of satisfaction to see that this institution has grown over the years into a reputed institution after having been started in 1968 with just 30 students. This has been possible thanks to the contributions of a number of great people who were associated with the School.

I have been the Governor of Tamil Nadu for nearly fifteen months now and have visited 26 districts of the State. I am extremely happy to see that the achievements of the State in the field of education have been remarkable. The dropout rate is extremely low. The teacher-student ratio is about

one teacher for 30 to 40 students. Nearly 48% of the children who finish school education take to higher education. The large number of medical colleges and engineering colleges available in the State speak for the tremendous interest that students have for pursuing these professional courses.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been actively promoting the cause of education since Independence. The State was a pioneer in promoting the concept of aided schools. This enabled the rapid spread of education, particularly in the rural areas. This also triggered the growth of training institutions for teachers enabling the growth of employment opportunities. When it was realised

that many families could not afford to send their children to schools, provision of midday meals was done on a universal scale along with the provision of uniforms, footwear, textbooks, bus passes, etc. free of cost.

The contribution of the private sector for promoting the cause of education has also been impressive. Many philanthropic trusts have come forward to set up schools, colleges and universities in the State. I am happy to see that some of these institutions attract students from all over India and even from many countries of the world.

Education is the basic requirement for a person to make himself economically and socially useful to

society. Education brings out the best skills available within a person, hones them and enables him to achieve perfection in the field of his aptitude. It moulds his personality and gives him an identity.

Swami Vivekananda rightly pointed out, and I quote

"We need education through which character is formed, strength of mind is increased and the intellect is expanded by which one can stand on his own feet".

The twenty first century is characterized by the emergence of multiculturalism due to industrialization, urbanization and globalisation. Since education is an instrument for 'societal

change' it should develop cognitive capabilities, tolerance to withstand multicultural impulses and understanding of diversity. It should also prepare the younger generation to face the complex realities of globalisation.

Education should also inculcate moral values and a nationalistic spirit in the students. Albert Einstein once said, "Most people say that it is intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong. It is character". I am sure that traditionally well run schools such as this one are giving the necessary importance to character building in the school curriculum.

Good Education is linked to good teachers. Our ancient spiritual texts explain the relationship between the teacher and student and as to how both have to grow together in the process of learning.

Education is ‘a dynamic teacher-student interactive process’ in which teaching needs to be given great emphasis so as to make it yield maximized learning outcomes. A teacher should act as “a friend, philosopher and guide”. He should help students to discover their academic preferences, aptitude, natural inclinations and talents and nurture them. By integrating social values in teaching, teachers can promote social transformation and help students overcome prejudices of all kinds and

inspire and mentor them to live in harmony in society.

In this context I wish to draw your attention to two great examples of teachers from our epics. The first is from the Ramayana.

When Rama was a lad of less than sixteen years, Sri Vishwamitra comes to Dasaratha's court saying that he needs Rama to protect the yajnaas that he is conducting.

While Dasaratha is extremely doubtful about the capacity of Rama to be able to serve Vishwamitra's purpose, the latter is completely sure about it. He says, अहं वेदमि महात्मानम् रामम् सत्य पराक्रमम् (Aham Vedmi

Mahaatmaanam Raamam Satya Paraakramam)... ‘I know Rama who is of greatness of soul and is truly a mighty warrior’. Like Vishwamitra in Valmiki’s Ramayana, the ideal teacher is one who is able to notice the talent inherent in his students.

The other example is from the Mahabharata. Here Bhagawan Sri Krishna is playing the role of Parthasarathi i.e. a charioteer to Arjuna.

But when Arjuna suddenly develops cold feet on the battlefield of Kurukshetra where the forces of righteousness and the forces of wickedness are arraigned against each other Sri Krishna teaches him the wisdom of the Vedas and the Upanishads in

a simple and comprehensive manner through the gospel of the Bhagavad Gita.

Arjuna expresses his doubts, asks his questions and keeps pressing Sri Krishna for more information. And ultimately Sri Krishna too gives Arjuna the option of choosing his path.

The chapters of the Bhagavad Gita show that the teacher-student relationship, even if the teacher happens to be the Jagadguru himself, is a gradual process with the student being given his fair share of doubts and queries!

In India, learning has never been a monologue, it has been a dialogue and a mutual process! This is

an important lesson we need to carry forward to future generations as well.

The Chinmaya Vidyalaya over the last fifty years has spearheaded an educational movement that has shaped many young minds into responsible and fine citizens of our country. The Vidyalaya has a proven record in academic excellence and has been ranked seventh in the city based on various parameters by the Education World Education – a leading Education Magazine. It is equally commendable to mention that the school has been placed seventh at the National level in life skill education. The Vidyalaya has been accredited internationally by the

British Council with the ISA – International school award.

I convey my appreciation for the efforts of the school management, the teachers and the students of the past who have built up the image of this institution so as attain the status of celebrating its Golden Jubilee today. The students of today who are assembled here will, I am sure strive to make the school's reputation go up even higher. May success greet you all at every step along the way on the forward march into the future.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Hind.....