

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THINKEDU CONCLAVE ORGANISED BY THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP AT ITC GRAND CHOLA, GUINDY, CHENNAI
ON 13.02.2019 AT 12 NOON**

Anaivarukkum Vanakkam

**Hon'ble Former President of India,
Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee Ji**

**Shri Prabhu Chawla,
Editorial Director,
The New Indian Express**

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today, to participate in ThinkEdu the national level educational conclave organised by the New Indian Express.

We are fortunate to have with us as the Chief Guest for the occasion our Former President, Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

This symposium which aims to bring about a meeting of minds for the cause of education is sure to be close to everybody's heart.

Education has acquired central importance and significance more than ever before in our society today since India is on the verge of realising the full benefits of the demographic dividend. Nearly half the population of India is below the age of 25 years. This augurs well for the

nation both in the short term as well as in the long term.

As we ask ourselves the question today – where do we stand? The answer is available clear and simple. We stand at a point where if the huge force of youth that enter the labour force are duly skilled and trained, India is certain to emerge as the world leader in the 21st century. Already the spread of facilities for primary education are greatly encouraging. Poverty, lack of availability of schools in the neighbourhood and lack of awareness about the need for education may have held back education for many people in earlier periods. But today, better infrastructure, transport facilities, greater availability of schools, the

provision of mid-day meals at schools and the large number of school buildings constructed under the rural development programmes of the Government have almost ensured universal access to primary education.

After Independence, the Educational system has therefore considerably swerved away from the Anglicized Education System which was meant to generate a class of persons who in Macaulay's description were, 'Indian in blood and colour, but English in tastes, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect'.

The need for skilled human resources is growing day by day. The need of the hour is to make sure that students in adequate number are

trained in the fields in which there is a requirement. The match between supply and demand has to be carefully monitored not merely in terms of mass quantity but also in ensuring qualitative availability in sectors of education and training for which there is a demand. And this demand in certain sectors has to be assessed at a global level. This makes the task challenging and intellectually stimulating.

Swami Vivekananda pointed out in one of his speeches about the type of education that is needed 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".

Education should 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”.

In the Indian ethos, the teacher, rather than textbook, is the fulcrum of the process of education. As Gandhiji said, the true text book for the pupil is his teacher.

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.

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.

Mahatma Gandhiji wrote in an Article in young India on 22nd October 1925 and cautioned against seven deadly sins that can destroy a Nation. They are:-

1. Wealth without work,
2. Pleasure without conscience,
3. Knowledge without character,

4. Commerce without morality,
5. Science without humanity,
6. Religion without sacrifice and
7. Politics without principle.

It is important to identify the people who practice these sins in our midst and reform them without any further delay.

India holds an important place in the global education sector. The nation has one of the largest networks of higher education institutions in the world with 850 universities and 42,026 colleges.

However much more needs to be done, Regional disparities between rural urban areas need to be overcome. The education that is

imparted must be aligned with the needs of industry for achieving higher productivity. E-learning should be given a fillip. These and many other issues require our earnest immediate attention.

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.

There has to be a balance between spiritual and secular dynamics.

Only an integral education will affirm the intuitive perception of India's ancient visionaries of man's spiritual dimension.

It will give students the great inner resources of joy, tranquility and inner harmony, and change the way they look at the world. It will also endow them with the skills to enable them to pursue an occupation so that they can earn their livelihood.

It is this of integrating practical knowledge with moral values that will ensure quality education focus.

The New Indian Express group has invited many eminent personalities of India to share their

views on education. They are all men and women of high standing in society having achieved outstanding success in their respective fields. To cap it all we have in our midst a man of great erudition, learning and patriotism – Shri Pranab Mukherjee who has served the nation with glory and honour in his several decades of public service. His words of wisdom will, I am sure provide enlightenment at the start of the conclave.

I am sure that the deliberations at the conclave will serve as the beacon light that can illuminate the way forward for the future.

I thank the organizers for having invited me to participate in ThinkEdu and wish them all success in their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....