

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF SRI VIDYA MANDIR
ASSOCIATION AT SRI VIDYA MANDIR HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL,
ANAND ASRAMAM, MEYYANUR ROAD, SALEM ON 09.02.2020 AT 12.15 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Vanakkam

Dr. Krishna Chetty,
Chairman,
Sri Vidya Mandir Association

Dr. P. Kulanthaivelu,
Vice-Chancellor,
Periyar University

Thiru. K. N. Lakshmanan,
Secretary,
Sri Vidya Mandir Association

Thiru. M.A. Ramasamy,
Vice Chairman,
Sri Vidya Mandir Association

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to be here today at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Sri Vidya Mandir Association.

I am informed that the Sri Vidya Mandir Association was started in 1969 with the aim of providing good education under CBSE curriculum. Starting from humble beginnings, the association is running 7 CBSE schools and 1 Arts and Science College with more than 12,000 students and 500 teaching staff. Vision and Mission of this school should be to provide quality and value based education.

I have in the last two years visited almost all the districts of Tamil Nadu. I am extremely happy to see commendable achievements of the

State in the field of education.

Tamil Nadu aims to become a vibrant knowledge society with world-class human resources. The Government's efforts in this direction have resulted in the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education amongst all States in India at 49.3 per cent. The Government has opened new colleges, commenced new courses, invested improving infrastructure, created more posts of teachers and filled teacher vacancies to make higher education more accessible and to enhance quality.

The Tamil Nadu Government's consistent effort is to ensure the continuance of cent percent enrolment and retention of students in schools, by providing quality infrastructure, nutritious noon meals, full complement of teaching staff, text books, supplies needed by students with quality teaching aids. The Government continues to revise and update the curriculum, incorporating modern concepts of education to maintain standards.

The contribution of the private sector for promoting the cause of education has also been commendable. 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 different countries of the world. I am also happy to see that the schools, both in the public and the private sectors, lay stress on the inculcation of skills that enable the students to get employed after completing their education.

Today students want the education system to equip and stir their innovative and creative minds. They are the creators. A good system of education should be able to satisfy their insatiable hunger for knowledge.

There is beautiful song emanating from **Prashanthi Nilayam**

“Where there is righteousness in the heart,

There is beauty in the character.

When there is beauty in the character

There is harmony in the home.

When there is harmony in the home,

There is order in the nation.

When there is order in the nation,

There is peace in the world.

If a country is to be corruption-free and become a nation of beautiful minds, the three key societal members who make the difference are Mother, Father, and Teacher.

Education should also focus on inculcating moral values and national spirit in the students. Teachers in schools have extensive knowledge about their subjects and enormous experience in various facets of life. Their skill, learning and experience provide them with the necessary capability to mould the student in a manner that is helpful to him, to his family and to the society. A society properly educated is always progressive, peaceful and prosperous. This will elevate the young minds to love the country, to love other human beings. The right kind of education based on moral values will upgrade the society and the country.

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.”**

Our country has a very bright future. It will brighten up more especially if children who will be the leaders of tomorrow work hard.

In the words of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, students should open up their thoughts to entrepreneurship, design, industry, direct participation in agriculture with innovative ideas etc., the opportunities are unlimited. Many of you are fortunate enough to attend good school for a quality

education. Students can plant at least five trees either in school campus or in their houses, so that in future you can work in a serene environment that could facilitate creative thoughts and actions. Students can take care of the elderly members, ageing parents and the differently challenged friends.

The great poet **Thiruvalluvar** rightly says, **“The stalks of water-flowers are proportionate to the depth of water; so is men’s greatness proportionate to their minds”**.

It is important to remember that a student’s relationship with his or her teacher can influence academic success. The scriptures say, **Acharya Devo Bhava, i.e., “Teacher is God”**. Another most popular sloka says,

“गुरु ब्रह्मा गुरु विष्णु गुरु देवो महेश्वरः”

“Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu and Guru is Maheshwara”

This clearly shows that the teacher has a major role in the life of students. Teachers should strive to gain more and more knowledge and distribute to their pupils. Both Teachers and Students must read many books. Book is source of knowledge. Please enhance your knowledge and help in Nation-Building.

The message of Swami Vivekananda will be of great help in the journey of breaking the shackles of shyness. His inspiring message to youth is **It is the coward and the fool who says, ‘This is fate’** - so says the Sanskrit proverb. But, it is the strong man who stand ups and says, **“I will make my fate”**.

Following **Swami Vivekananda’s** four-point mantra of **“Faith-Humility-Surrender-Veneration to the teacher”** will do a world of good to the students. We can see from the life of Swami Vivekananda that to be successful in life, we need three things, i.e., **vision (direction), plan**

and execution. The direction is guided by our vision and self-confidence. To realize the vision, we need an appropriate plan and flawless execution. Whatever work you do, put in your 100% sincere efforts. Discipline, determination and dedication lead to success.

In the words of **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**, the most important part of education is to imbibe among the students the spirit of **“we can do it”**. The role of the teacher is like the proverbial ‘ladder’ – it is used by everyone to climb up in life - but the ladder stays in its place.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said, and I quote, **“Learning gives creativity. Creativity leads to thinking. Thinking provides knowledge. Knowledge makes you great”**. Teachers build a society with good human beings. A good human being can contribute to the development of society. A student is like soft-clay in the hands of his teacher. He/she can be moulded into any shape at a tender age. If taught well by teachers, he can become an important tool for the society. If taught wrongly, he can turn into a weapon of destruction. We often see such example on the news channels. A good teacher’s attitude reflects upon his students easily. It is of utmost importance that teachers teach moral values to the students.

I feel happy to share my views with the students and teachers. I also wish Sri Vidya Mandir Association to come out with flying colours. I pray to the Almighty to shower His Blessings on them to celebrate Centenary and to continue their service to the society. My best wishes to all the teachers, students and their parents. May God bless all of you.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind.....

Jai Tamil Nadu....