

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT INAUGURATION OF THE PROBLEM CHILD - SCIENTIFIC
SYMPOSIUM & BUDDHI IMMERSION ORGANISED BY BUDDHI CLINIC AT
MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER,
CHENNAI AT 30.12.2018 AT 10.30 A.M**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated the Problem Child Scientific Symposium and Buddhi Immersion at Madras Management Association, MMA Management Center, Chennai today (30.12.2018) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said "It gives me great pleasure to be here at the inaugural ceremony of this scientific symposium on the theme of, "The Problem Child", organised by Buddhi Clinic.

Maintaining the health of children is an important area of concern for us since nearly 50 crore children in India, forming 39% of the population. Maternal and child malnutrition, infections and other such factors dominate our consciousness in India and continue to be problematic, despite the giant strides.

The issues concerning children who have problems with learning, cognition and interactive behaviour are proposed to be discussed at the symposium, which disadvantage their human capital and potentially affect their contribution to society at large. While the Government through its Maternal & Child Health primary care, health and inclusive education programs is making substantial efforts across India, the role of experts, organisations and concerned others in society in improving the quality of care is also fully appreciated.

In this context, I am happy to see that Buddhi Clinic is organising programs that aim to raise awareness and bring to stakeholders in India, knowledge at the cutting edge. Pediatric neuropsychiatry, a new discipline that is focused on the brain & mind of the child, is an important subject engaging their attention and the professional contribution at this symposium are bound to enrich their disease to health. I thank them for taking the time and trouble to be here, to teach passionately their unique skills to Indian experts and to contribute through discussion and dialogue. I am sure that they too will return home enriched with significant professional and socio-cultural learnings.

I am also very happy that today's symposium honours two distinguished Indians from this part of the world: Late Shri. Appa Rao a freedom fighter turned rural industrialist represented here by his grandchildren and Late Dr. Krishnamoorthy Srinivas a doyen of community neurology in India, whose son Dr. Ennapadam S Krishnamoorthy has founded Buddhi Clinic and is the convenor of today's program. I deem it a privilege to have given away awards commemorating understanding.

Integrated care that leverages scientific advances, and at the same time respects the wonderful traditions and wisdom of our ancestors is the need of the hour. "Yoga" a valuable ancient Indian resource, which has now become available to the whole world and bears testimony to our contribution towards health and well being. The introduction of Yoga in schools across India, will definitely improve the mental wellness of our society and I hope this will be achieved comprehensively within a few years.

A famous physician once said "we cure sometimes, control often, comfort always"! We still are in an era where total cure or total prevention remain elusive for a number of health conditions. We must however, "care always", and this tradition of "care" is

something that has enriched our Indian culture and family systems for centuries. It is very important in my view that we preserve these traditions of yore and perpetuate them for global benefit. I understand for example that the value of our “joint family system” is being re-recognised today, especially with regard to the care of children, elderly and the ailing. I do hope that we will continue as a society to retain our social fabric of the “integrated family”. Indeed, grandparents and grandchildren share such wonderful relationships that we must engender and encourage their development.

I am very happy also to see “Autism- the Buddhi Book” a compilation of facts about this important condition that affects the brain and mind.

To have a better awareness about autism the World Autism Awareness Day is observed in the first week of April. The objective is to end stigmatization of discrimination against those afflicted by autism. The UN General Assembly resolution passed in November, 2007 called for the observance of this day with a view towards bringing together all organizations who are engaged in research diagnosis and treatment of autism. The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterre has also given a call to be more understanding of the problems faced by autistic children and their families, by saying “let us all play a part in changing attitudes toward persons with autism and in recognizing their rights as citizens, who, like everyone else, are entitled to claim those rights and make decisions for their lives in accordance with their own will and preferences.”

This sharing of knowledge through books, is a very important aspect of social development, as such knowledge is meant to be free and enjoyed by all. I am very

happy today to have released a Tamil translation of the Autism book, making the knowledge shared available to a wide section of society. I hope key stakeholders, doctors and other medical professionals, rehabilitation professionals, teachers in special schools and families of those children affected by disorders of the brain and mind, all benefit, both by reading these works and by the knowledge sharing of high quality that I understand is taking place here today. Physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals, like teachers, are the pillars of human society and are responsible for the development and maintenance of human capital. Their empowerment through education and professional interactions is extremely important. Programs like today's give us hope that brain health and mental wellness are achievable goals for our society, especially for our children.

I take this opportunity to wish you all well in this pursuit of knowledge and its application in the valuable work that you are doing, caring for the weakest and most disadvantaged in our communities. I would like to pay tribute here, to the parents and families of children, affected by conditions of brain and mind, like Autism. We recognise that you are engaged in a lifetime of constant effort, in caring for one you love. I pray the almighty gives you ample strength and rewards your efforts with constant and visible change in your loved one. I understand that a proportion of children with such conditions have unique abilities like music, art, memory and mathematics and would urge you seek and identify "that which your child enjoys and excels in" so that your combined quality of life as a family and your child's human capital, achieve their optimum.

As the Mahatma said, "strength does not come from physical capacity alone, it comes from indomitable will" and I pray to the almighty that you all may be so blessed

as you work towards restoring brain health and mental wellness, the two being inexorably conjoined. Let me end by appealing to the "karma yogi" in each one of you: perform your actions by invoking body, mind, intellect and senses, without attachment or ego. It is what "The Problem Child" needs from each one of us assembled here.

India has had a continuing civilization for more than 5000 years by following the path of sustainable development. Several challenges have been posed to the maintenance of equilibrium in Indian society. Solutions were provided by leading thinkers, philosophers and learned people from time to time. Though the areas of concern for the problem child have not been fully understood, I am sure that conferences such as these will decipher them within a short span of time. Once the causes are understood a solution to prevent or at least mitigate the occurrence will not be far behind.

Life is a beautiful gift of God. We must learn to treasure it and use this special gift for the benefit of society" .

On this occasion Dr.Ennapadam Srinivas Krishnamoorthy, Founder, Buddhi Clinic, Dr.Joyce Harrison Project Director, Dr.JaySalpekar, Director, Dr.Pramit Rastogi, Thirumathi. Gayathri Krishnamoorthy, Corporate Director Thiru.M.Raghuram and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22
Date: 30.12.2018

Sd/-
Joint Director(PR)