

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF "THE ELA GREEN SCHOOL" AT
ELA GREEN SCHOOL, CHENNAI ON 04/04/2018**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. C.V. Shanmugam,

Tmt. Sheela Priya,

Thiru. T.N. Manoharan,

Thiru. Gopal Krishnan,

Prof. Dr. K. Madanagobalan,

Tmt. M. Samhita,

Distinguished Invitees

Teachers and Students

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am glad to be here with all of you for the inauguration of the Ela Green School. As the name suggests the school will specially focus on the concept of environmental sustainability in the process of imparting education to school children. The school thus holds out the promise of class instruction that is environment friendly with copious natural light and clean air.

Our ancestors knew the practice of sustainable development. That is the reason India has had a continuing civilization for more than 5000 years. The agricultural practices were sustainable. The needs of the people were limited and contentment was the principle that was admired, appreciated and inculcated in young minds in schools and Gurukulams. The Tamil proverb "pothumendra maname pon seyyum marundhu" bears ample testimony to this.

Swami Vivekananda defined education to be the manifestation of the perfection already in man. He elaborated on how all the wealth of the world cannot help one little Indian village if the people are not taught to help

themselves. He therefore exhorted that our work should be mainly educational both morally and intellectually.

Avvaiyar the famous Tamil poet has also underlined the importance of education through her famous saying “Ilamayil kal”

The talent and energy in youth is like a river gushing forth with force and fury. If left un channelised the waters get spread out over large areas with no useful result. Channelising the energies and purposefully using their talent is like constructing a set of canals which lead water for irrigating the locations where the cultivated areas lie.

In this context let me quote to you from our ancient texts to explain to you how the challenge of education was met those days.

Saha Naa Vavatu (May the Supreme Lord protect us – the teacher and the student)

Saha Nau Bhunakthu (May the Supreme Lord nourish both of us)

Saha Veeryam Karavaavahai (May we do great deeds together)

Tejaswi Naavadheetham Asthu (May our learning illumine us)

Maa Vidvishavahai ... Let us not quarrel but instead grow together in the process of learning.

These are some lessons which teachers need to follow so as to be successful in their efforts to bring out the talent in the young students.

Education is becoming increasingly competitive. I am informed that this school is going to follow a curriculum enjoying international recognition. An international school can succeed only if it satisfies the aspirations of the parents who are dreaming that their children will ascend to positions of international eminence in science, engineering, economics, medicine, etc. Another aspiration of these parents will be, that their children should be rooted in the Indian values so that their cultural foundations are intact.

Schools such as this will have to do a lot of detailed planning for achieving the twin objects of academic excellence and cultural training. Not only do the

teachers have to be well trained they also have to represent a wide range of expertise. They should also be attuned to the demands of teaching at an international school where the students come from a variety of diverse backgrounds.

I have been informed that in Green Schools such as this the campus will be a plastic free zone. There is also a lunch at school option that ensures that children get a balanced nutritious diet, planned by an in-house nutritionist. The Ela Green School also promises to follow the eight learning styles that children normally use ranging from visual learning to mathematical learning so as to enable children to achieve their full potential. This is a novel concept that enhances the joy of learning.

Every part of the world has its own special characteristics and greatness. Punctuality for the Germans, teamwork for the Japanese, etiquette for the British, salesmanship for the Americans are special virtues that are attributed to people of these regions. Similarly, spirituality is a special virtue for India. Spirituality is based on tolerance. Spirituality is based on acceptance of other people's ideas. Spirituality is based on moving society towards a goal that goes beyond the self.

When we refer to spirituality, we also include in that the concept of 'respect for nature'. Nature is like a Mother who provides abundant resources generously to her children. But it is important that this generosity is not abused. That is why Mahatma Gandhi mentioned that Nature has enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed. The expansion of the network of Green school will enable the development of a greater sense of respect and reverence for natural resources and the need to conserve them so as to ensure their availability for succeeding generations. In that manner, Green schools serve as a useful innovation in School education.

Let me conclude by emphasizing the importance of character building for this forms the corner stone of the success of any educational institution. An institution is known by the students that it produces and the students are known

by the values that they display and the values are borne out of the character building that is undertaken by the teachers and the teachers are guided by the policy set out by the school management. From this it should be quite clear that it is the school management that which controls the levers and provides the right direction. I am confident that this school management will provide the right guidance and leadership for the future.

The school has been started with a lot of promise and hope. I extend my best wishes to the teachers, parents and students on this happy occasion and wish the school management all success in their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind Jai Tamil Nadu