

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OFTAMIL NADU AT THE "GRADUATION DAY OF CHENGALPATTU
MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL ON 06/04/2018 AT 11.00 AM**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar

Dr. J. Radha Krishnan

Thiru. P. Ponniah

Dr. Edwin Joe

Dr. Usha Sadhasivam

Dr. Anitha

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

Teachers & Students

I am delighted to be here at the Graduation Day function of the Chengalputtu Medical College. What began as a Taluk Hospital in 1961 has flowered into a Medical College, thanks to the generous donation of land by philanthropists like Mr. Vedachala Mudaliar. It is a matter of satisfaction that the College today functions with 13 Post Graduate super specialty departments and admits 100 MBBS students every year.

The medical profession is a noble profession.

The famous French philosopher Voltaire once said

“Those who are occupied in the restoration of health to others, by the joint exertion of skill and humanity, are above all the great of the earth. They even partake of divinity, since to preserve and renew is almost as noble as to create.”

I have been the Governor of Tamil Nadu for six months now and I am happy to see the tremendous growth in medical education that the State has achieved. The State accounts for more than 10% of the total number of Medical

colleges in the country. Our goal is to have at least one Medical college in every district of the state. An All India Institute of Medical Science has been sanctioned for Tamil Nadu and the state is well known all over the world as the hub of medical tourism, providing affordable health care without compromising on quality.

Health care is undoubtedly an important determinant in promoting the physical and mental health and general well being of people. It revolves around the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, illness, injury and other physical and mental impairments in human beings.

The delivery of modern health care depends on groups of trained professionals and Para professionals coming together to form inter-disciplinary teams. This includes professionals in medicine, psychology, nursing, physiotherapy working along with many others such as community health workers, so as to be able to provide the best health beyond all this care services to the people. But it is also necessary to psychologically relate to the patient.

As Dr. Donald M. Berwick rightly said, “Those who suffer need you to be something more than a doctor: they need you to be a healer. And, to become a healer, you must do something even more difficult than putting on your white coat. You must recover, embrace and treasure the shared, frail humanity and the dignity in each and every soul.”

Allopathic medicine is based on constant enquiry and knowledge based treatment determined by careful experimentation and observation. It is established that Allopathy combats disease and infection through drugs or surgery to bring quick relief to the patient. One of the greatest achievements of Allopathy recently recorded in our country has been the eradication of polio. India completed a full 5 years as a polio-free nation on 13th January, 2016. It was remarkable feat considering the odds against achieving this status. When the campaign against polio began India was a vastly diverse country, with a 27

million births per year. Ours was the largest vaccination drive against polio in the world.

It was the untiring efforts of the medical workforce and their commitment towards this mass health initiative that paved the way for this success.

At the same time it is important not to rest on the laurels of one's success and be oblivious to the benefits of other ways of looking at a problem. With all these achievements the allopathic system of medicine will stand to gain it here exists open mind towards other systems of medicine as well.

The World Health Organisation has also recently emphasized the integration of medicinal systems for better universal healthcare.

Traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, Homeopathy and Unani also have a well-documented history showing the efficacy of their medicines and treatment. In combating disease which is our common enemy we will be able to do justice to the patient only if we can create a new model for health care based on the best practices and remedies from the wealth of information available in all systems of medicine.

I was in Rameswaram a couple of months back where I visited the house of Dr. Abdul Kalam. I am sure that all of you know about Dr. Kalam, who though born in an ordinary family in Rameswaram went on to become the President of India. His life was one of achieving excellence through diligence. He excelled as a scientist, as a patriot and as a leader among men. His love for children and students was unmatched. Every time he found an opportunity he would go and lecture to students in schools and colleges. Once when he was asked about the secret of his perennial enthusiasm and energy, he said "Every moment I keep thinking about what I can give to others". It is people like and Dr. Kalam, who through their work for the nation, stand as examples and role-models for the youth of Tamil Nadu.

At this juncture, I would like to specially stress the importance of character building in educational institutions. Education in colleges should lay stress on inculcating moral values and a nationalistic spirit in the students.

In all our activities, we must remember that the interest of our Nation should be paramount.

We should remember that our knowledge and learning should be used for the benefit of mankind and to lead the people from darkness to light. “Thamasoma Jyothirgamaya” is the saying in our spiritual texts. I am only echoing those words of wisdom.

The path to progress is always illuminated by the lamp of education. Prosperity knocks at your door when people in society acquire the asset of education. All those assembled here, the doctors, teachers and students have benefited by this acquisition of knowledge. Let its benefits be now shared with the community so that India becomes a stronger healthier and more prosperous nation.

I congratulate the organizers of this function for having arranged a Graduation Day for the Doctors of this Medical College who have recently completed their MBBS course. You are all stepping into the wider world with the benefit of education, the status of a Doctor and the confidence of recognition from society. You have the ability to change society, to serve society and benefit society through your actions. Think carefully before you act. Once you have decided to act, please do not keep thinking about consequences. Your actions should be free from attachment and be guided by the benefits they will confer on your society, your State and your Nation as the famous Thirukkural saying goes

“Ennith Thunika Karumam, Thuninthapin
Ennuvam Enbadhu Izhukku”

Nandri Vanakkam.