

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE 1st GRADUATION DAY OF DHANALAKSHMI SRINIVASAN
MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL AT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SIRUVACHUR,
PERAMBALUR ON 19.09.2018 AT 10.00 A.M.**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr. C. Vijayabaskar,
Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Thiru. R. Rajagopal, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary, Raj Bhavan

Thirumathi. V. Santha, I.A.S.,
District Collector, Perambalur

Dr. S. Geethalakshmi,
Vice-Chancellor,
The Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University

Thiru. A. Srinivasan,
Chairman – Founder,
Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Group of Institutions

Thirumathi. Ananthalakshmi Kathiravan,
Vice Chairman,
Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Group of Institutions

Dr. J. Ranganathan,
Dean,
Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Medical College and Hospital

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be taking part in the first Graduation Day of the Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Medical College being held here today at Perambalur.

It is always a joy to be amongst bright, young, students with radiant faces seated in the audience with hope in their minds and idealism in their hearts.

Perambalur district which has nearly 80% of its population living in the rural areas is one of the developing districts of the state. The need for educational institutions and more particularly medical colleges such as these is therefore keenly felt.

The 71st National Sample Survey (NSS) of 2014 found that out of the total hospitalisation cases in rural areas, 42% were in public hospitals and 58% in private facilities. The corresponding shares in urban areas were 32% in public and 68% in private hospitals. For some decades now, the trend has been to move towards private health care facilities.

The development of this well equipped medical facility in a predominantly rural district is symbolic of that trend. There are about a million modern medicine (allopathic) doctors in the country. For a population of about 125 crores this availability of doctors works out to about 1:1250. Tamil Nadu is however

better placed with an availability of 12 doctors for every 10000 population. This is almost equal to the world average of 1:800.

Another area of concern is the low percentage of doctors in the public health sector. According to the National Health Profile 2017, there is a need to increase the number of trained doctors and motivate more doctors to serve in the rural areas and in the public health sector. The medical training provided for rural populations in college such as these is bound to help in a greater number of them working in the public health sector and in the rural areas.

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.”

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 these 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.”

Our country has a great and glorious past in medical education and medical sciences.

Sushruta, Jivaka Kumarabhacca, and Charaka were famous medical experts who showed the world how to treat diseases and illnesses. At a time when surgeries in England were done primitively, the most complex surgeries were being performed in India by well trained surgeons.

Sushruta is credited with performing advanced surgeries, including plastic and reconstructive surgery. Sushruta was not just a great surgeon, but also a great teacher. He used to advise his students that however well-read they are, they are not competent to treat disease until they have practical, hand-on experience. He taught his students surgical skills by making incisions on the skin of fruits. He also taught them how to remove foreign bodies from flesh by demonstrating the

extraction of seeds from fruits. His students were known to have practiced on dead animals and on leather bags filled with water, before they performed surgeries on patients.

Today, with changes in lifestyle, we have an inversion of disease patterns: a significant burden of non-communicable diseases, and a lower but still formidable level of infectious diseases. Our interventions must therefore cover tuberculosis and malaria on the one side, as well as diabetes, chronic kidney disease, hypertension and rheumatic heart diseases on the other. If malnutrition is a major problem, so is pollution. Reports indicate that 55 per cent of Indian women between ages 15 and 49 have anemia or low blood count. There are many, many such health issues that need attention.

Recently the Government of India has launched the Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission. The scheme has the benefit of health cover for Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the scheme will be the poor and vulnerable groups and nearly 50 crore people will get the benefit of health insurance. This is expected to make a big impact on raising the quality of life, since it will lead to increased access to health care and medication. In addition, the unmet needs of the population which remained hidden due to lack of financial resources will be catered to. It will lead to timely treatments, improvements in health

outcomes, patient satisfaction, improvement in productivity and efficiency, job creation thus leading to improvement in quality of life.

Further, to control costs, the payments for treatment will be done on package rate to be fixed by the Government in advance. The package rates will include all the costs associated with treatment, thus making it a cashless, paper less transaction for the beneficiaries.

The scheme also ensures appropriate integration with the existing health insurance/ protection schemes of State Governments thus enhancing the coverage and providing greater avenues for expansion of health care facilities.

I therefore wish to conclude by saying that the mission before us is to make health care comprehensive, universal, affordable and qualitatively professional. For achieving this objective, the journey ahead is going to be performed in your company and it is important for us to work together in a constructive manner to fight the common enemy i.e. disease. Distinctions based on public vs private sector, allopathy vs traditional systems and urban areas vs rural areas, should not be given any importance. We should all join hand in hand and march together so that we achieve success.

I congratulate the Doctors of this Medical College who are graduating today. 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. May success greet you at every step.

I appreciate the efforts of the hospital management who have shown enterprise in pioneering this effort of setting up a hospital and a medical college in a backward area. They deserve our praise and support. I wish them well.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind