

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF DR. P.V. RAO HR. SEC.
SCHOOL, CHENNAI ON 21.03.2018 AT 4:30 PM**

ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM

Justice P.R. Gokulakrishnan

Justice P. Bhaskaran

Dr. NityasreeMahadeven,

Prof. Dr. V. Loganathan,

Thiru. V.R. UdayaSHankar

Thiru. S. Krishnamurthy

Headmaster, Dr. P.V. Rao Hr. Sec. School

Distinguished Invitees
Friends from the Media
Faculty, Staff
Teachers and Students
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me happiness to take part in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of this Higher Secondary School, which is being run by the Chennapuri Annadana Samajam. The Samajam was started 127 years ago with the philanthropic goal to help the poor and needy, the orphaned and the underprivileged. And it is a matter of satisfaction to see that the institutions set up by the Samajam have grown over the years. The Dr. P.V. Rao Higher Secondary School is now celebrating its Golden Jubilee. This has been possible thanks to the contributions of a number of great people who were associated with the School and most importantly the teachers.

Good Education is linked to good teachers. Our ancient spiritual texts explain the relationship between the teacher and student and as to how both have to grow together in the process of learning. In this context let me quote to you the relevant portions:

Saha NaaVavatu (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.

The former President of India Dr. Abdul Kalam has also narrated an interesting anecdote about the influence that teachers can have in shaping the future of the students. When referring to the contribution of his school teacher who kindled in him the passion for flying and aeronautics he wrote and I quote:

The teacher first taught the students about 'How birds fly' by sketches and explanations in the classroom. The students told the teacher that they did not understand the concept. The teacher then took the students to the Rameswaram seashore where dozens of seabirds were flying and said, 'See how the birds flap their wings and change direction using their wings and tail. The locomotive force of the bird's flight is its life energy'.

The understanding of science that was inculcated in the young Kalam by his teacher in a manner so as to satisfy his intellectual curiosity enabled the blossoming of the genius that was latent in him.

It fills me with delight to know that Swami Vivekananda also visited this Samajam in 1897.

Swami Vivekananda's teachings have been a source of inspiration for millions of people. His greatness lay in his ability to lead from the front. Swamiji preached to the young and old to maintain one's own dignity, to be bold and to be strong. He said strength is life and weakness is death. He eloquently propounded that you cannot believe in God unless you learn to believe in yourself. He called upon Indians to arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached.

I am sure that everyone here understands the importance of self-confidence that Swami Vivekananda emphasised for being successful in today's competitive world. The talent and energy in youth is like a river gushing forth with force and fury. If left unchannelised the water gets spread over large areas with no useful result. Channelising the energies and purposefully using the talents in a manner similar to the way the waters of a river are led through canals for irrigation will alone yield productive results.

I say all this to emphasise the importance of imparting the right kind of training in schools. Schools are the centres for inculcation of skills that enable students to get employed after completing their education. It is therefore necessary that communication skills, vocational skills and creative skills are honed along with the learning of subjects such as history, geography, mathematics, etc.

Education should also 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". I am sure that traditionally well run schools such as this one are giving the necessary importance to character building in the school curriculum.

The greatness of a civilisation lies not in what people enjoy but it lies in what people can provide for the betterment of mankind and continued civilisation in a sustained manner. Mere enjoyment and economic prosperity without sustainable development will be short-lived and short-sighted.

Our ancestors knew the practice of sustainable development. That is the reason India has had a continuing civilisation 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 propagated. The Tamil proverb "*pothum endramaname ponseyyum marundhu*" bears ample testimony to this.

Today globalization has ushered in a lifestyle, which relies on the use of petrol and petroleum products, the use of plastics and the mindless dependence on artificial chemicals, is causing an adverse environmental

impact. Global warming is emerging as a major problem and threatens to wipe out large populations if left uncontrolled.

Let me therefore exhort all the young minds here to take a pledge to reduce levels of consumption and instead recycle resources and promote the use of renewable sources of energy. In this context, let me recall to you the words of Mahatma Gandhi – “Nature has enough to satisfy every man’s need but not enough to satisfy every man’s greed.”

This school has been fostered over many decades with care and attention. In addition, the Chennapuri Annadana Samajam also runs a primary school at Park Town, an industrial training school and an orphanage.

I congratulate the President and other office bearers of the Samajam who have sincerely followed in the footsteps of their illustrious predecessors. The presence of the former Chief Justice of Madras High Court Justice P.R. Gokulakrishnan as patron of the institution is a source of support for the school.

I am sure that in the coming years the school will grow from strength to strength and rise to a position of eminence.

I wish the school management and the Principal all success in their endeavours.

Nandri

Vanakkam