

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE ST. JOHN'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL 'GOLDEN JUBILEE
ANNUAL DAY PROGRAMME' AT CHENNAI ON 28/06/2018 AT 06.00 PM**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

**Mr. V.G.Santoshan
Chairman VGP Group of companies**

**Dr. T.S.N. Sastry
Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University**

**Mrs. Nalini Wilson
Correspondent & Sr. Principal**

**Mr. D. Wilson
Managing Director**

**Mrs. Leelavathy Mohan
Principal**

**Mr. Vineet M Benny
Director**

Distinguished Invitees

Teachers & Students

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me happiness to be here today at the St. John's Senior Secondary School for the 'Golden Jubilee Annual Day programme'. It is always a matter of joy to be among radiant young faces of students who are full of hope and cheer. It is a matter of pride that the youth of India represent the wealth of India. For India to play a major role in world affairs in the 21st century the advantage of the demographic dividend which the nation enjoys is going to be its major asset.

The twenty first century is characterized by the emergence of multiculturalism due to industrialization, urbanization and globalisation. Since education is an instrument for 'societal change' it should develop the right

cognitive capabilities, tolerance to withstand multicultural impulses and an understanding of diversity so as to prepare the youth to face the complex realities of globalisation.

Education and more particularly school education is to provide the right training for all this to happen. Swami Vivekananda defined education to be the manifestation of the perfection already in man. 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.

Great importance has been attached to the profession of teaching at different points of history and in all parts of the world. Lord Jesus Christ performed the duties of teaching, preaching and healing during the course of his life time. Mahatma Gandhi also performed a similar role in recent times.

Mahatma Gandhi wanted education to make children ideal citizens of a democratic society. According to him, education not only moulds the new generation but also reflects society's fundamental assumptions about itself and the individuals who comprise it.

His goals of education also emphasized character formation and all round development (physical, mental, social, moral, aesthetic and religious).

Another classic example is Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who rose to become a philosopher, Vice Chancellor, Ambassador, Vice President and President of India. He started his career as a school teacher. His birthday on September 5th is celebrated as Teachers Day all over India.

Dr. Radhakrishnan used to say "One can shape National Solidarity by using neither bricks and lime nor hammer and chisel. It should bloom in the heart of every human. For the flower to emit fragrance we need to water the plant in the form of education.

I say all this to emphasise the importance of drawing inspiration from illustrious personalities for imparting the right kind of training in schools. I am happy to see that nowadays Schools are also the centres for inculcation of skills that enable students to get employed after completing their education. Communication skills, vocational skills and creative skills are also being 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.

Every part of the world has its own special characteristics and greatness. Punctuality for the Germans, teamwork for the Japanese, etiquette for the British, statesmanship 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.

India has the largest scientific manpower in the world. Tamil Nadu, by virtue of its excellent infrastructure in school and higher education, is well placed to become a model for other States to follow. All this requires enterprise, innovation, commitment and hard work. With the joint coordinated support of the Central and State Governments, institutions in Tamil Nadu can soar to greater heights, making the State the educational hub of our country.

I therefore request all well-meaning entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu in the field of education, to put their shoulder to the wheel and lay stress on expanding the availability of education and in improving the quality of education so that Tamil Nadu becomes the unsurpassed leader in education not only in India, but also in Asia.

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 to the school management that the sequence of activities is in their hands and I am sure that they will provide the right guidance and leadership.

I wish to conclude by recalling the words of our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam which gained great appreciation at the Golden Jubilee event of the European Parliament for the following address.

“When there is righteousness
in the heart, there is beauty;
when there is beauty in the
character, there is harmony;
when there is harmony in the
home, there is an order;
when there is an order in the nation
there is peace in the world.”

I convey my appreciation for the efforts of the school management, the teachers and the students of the past who have built up the image of this institution so as to attain the status of celebrating its Golden Jubilee today. The students of today who are assembled here will, I am sure strive to make the school's reputation go up even higher. May success visit you at every step along the way on the forward march into the future.

Nandri Vanakkam.
Jai Hind....