

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT INAUGURATION OF THE PROBLEM CHILD - SCIENTIFIC
SYMPOSIUM & BUDDHI IMMERSION ORGANISED BY BUDDHI CLINIC AT
MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER,
CHENNAI AT 30.12.2018 AT 10.30 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr. Ennapadam Srinivas Krishnamoorthy,
Founder Buddhi Clinic

Dr. Joyce Harrison,
Project Director

Dr. Jay Salpekar,
Director

Dr. Pramit Rastogi

Thirumathi. Gayathri Krishnamoorthy,
Corporate Director

Thiru.M.Raghuram

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here at the inaugural ceremony of this scientific symposium on the theme "The Problem Child", organised by Buddhi Clinic.

Maintaining the health of children is an important area of concern for us since there are nearly 50 crore children in India, forming 39% of the population. Maternal and child malnutrition, infections and other such factors dominate our consciousness in India and continue to be problematic, despite the giant strides.

The issues concerning children who have problems with learning, cognition and interactive behaviour which disadvantage human capital and affect their contribution to society are proposed to be discussed at the symposium. While the Government through its Maternal & Child Health care, primary health care and inclusive education programs is making substantial efforts across India, the role of experts, organisations and

concerned others in society in improving the quality of child health care is also substantial.

In this context, I am happy to see that Buddhi Clinic is organising programs that aim to raise awareness and bring to stakeholders in India, knowledge at the cutting edge. Pediatric neuropsychiatry, a new discipline that is focused on the brain & mind of the child, is engaging their attention and the professional contributions at this symposium are bound to add to the knowledge on the subject in great measure.

Integrated care that leverages scientific advances, and at the same time respects the wonderful traditions and wisdom of our ancestors is the need of the hour. “Yoga” a valuable ancient Indian resource, which has now become available to the whole world bears testimony to our contribution towards health and well being. The introduction of Yoga in schools across India, will definitely improve the mental wellness of society and I hope this will be achieved comprehensively within a few years.

A famous physician once said “we cure sometimes, control often, comfort always”! We still are in an era where total cure or total prevention remains elusive for a number of ailments. We must however, “care always”, and this tradition of “care” is something that has enriched Indian culture and our family systems for centuries. It is very important in my view that we preserve these traditions of yore and perpetuate them for global benefit. I understand for example that the value of our “joint family system” is being re-recognised today, especially with regard to the care of children, elderly and the ailing. I do hope that we will continue as a society to retain the social fabric of the “integrated family”.

I am also happy to see “the Buddhi Book” on Autism, a compilation of facts about this important condition that affects the brain and mind.

There should be no stigmatization or discrimination against those afflicted by autism. The UN General Assembly resolution passed in November, 2007 called for the observance of Autism day on 2nd April every year with a view towards bringing together all organizations who are engaged in research diagnosis and treatment of autism. The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterre has also given a call to be more understanding of the problems faced by autistic children and their families, by saying “let us all play a part in changing attitudes toward persons with autism and in recognizing their rights as

citizens, who, like everyone else, are entitled to claim those rights and make decisions for their lives in accordance with their own will and preferences.”

The Tamil translation of the book on Autism, is being released today making the knowledge available to a wider section of society. I hope key stakeholders, doctors and other medical professionals, rehabilitation professionals, teachers in special schools and families of those children affected by disorders of the brain and mind, will benefit, by reading the book. Physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals, like teachers, are the pillars of human society and are responsible for the development and maintenance of human capital. Their empowerment through education and professional interactions is extremely important.

I take this opportunity to wish you all well in this pursuit of knowledge and its application in the work that you are doing - namely that of caring for the weakest and most disadvantaged in our communities. I would like to pay a tribute here, to the parents and families of children, affected by conditions of brain and mind, like Autism. We recognise that you are engaged in a lifetime of constant effort, in caring for your loved ones. I understand that a proportion of children with such conditions have unique abilities like music, art, memory and mathematics and would urge you to seek and identify “that which your child enjoys and excels in” so that your combined quality of life as a family and your child’s human capital, achieve their optimum.

Mahatma Gandhi said, “strength does not come from physical capacity alone, it comes from indomitable will” I pray to the almighty that you all may be so blessed as you work towards restoring brain health and mental wellness, the two being inexorably conjoined.

India has had a continuing civilization for more than 5000 years by following the path of sustainable development. Several challenges have been posed from time to time, to Indian society. Solutions have been provided by leading thinkers, philosophers and learned people, all through history. Though the areas of concern for the problem child have not been fully understood, I am sure that conferences such as these will decipher them within a short span of time. Once the causes are understood a solution to prevent or at least mitigate the occurrence will not be far behind.

Life is a beautiful gift of God. We must learn to treasure it and use this special gift for the benefit of society.

I appreciate the efforts of Buddhi Clinic for having taken painstaking efforts to organise the symposium. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....