

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF REGIONAL SUMMIT ON QUALITY  
AND SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION ORGANISED BY CONFEDERATION OF  
INDIAN INDUSTRY AT HOTEL TAJ COROMANDEL, CHENNAI  
ON 18.07.2019 AT 10.30 AM**

**Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam**

**Thiru. N.K. Ranganath,**

Chairman,

Employment Generation, Education, Skill and

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CII Southern Region

**Thiru. Terry Durnnian,**

Chief Education, United Nations Children's Fund

**Thiru. P.Padmakumar,**

Co-Chairman,

Skills and Livelihood Sub-Committee,

CII Southern Region

**Thiru. Sathis Raman,**

Regional Director,

CII-Southern Region

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

It gives me great happiness to be here today at the inauguration of the Regional Summit on Quality & Sustainable Education – “Realizing the full Human Potential through Inclusive and Holistic Education” being organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry.

As you are all aware, the education system of India is one of the largest of its kind in the world.

We have as many as 13,06,992 schools imparting elementary education across 633 Districts of the country. Of the total schools, about 87.30 percent schools are located in the rural areas. According to current estimates, 80% of all schools are government schools making the government the major provider of education.

As regards higher education, the Gross Enrolment Ratio is 25.8 per cent for India, as a whole. The position of Tamil Nadu is considerably superior with a Gross Enrollment Ratio of 46% which is far higher than even the figure of 39.5% recorded in China.

Education is fundamental to progress. It is the means to the fulfillment of our vision for sustainable development.

For India to achieve the desired high levels of growth, to become a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025, one of the essential requirements is quality education across all levels of the education spectrum ranging from pre primary education to education in institutions of higher learning etc.

We are on the threshold of realizing the full benefits of the Demographic Dividend. The average age of the population of about 125 crores is 29 years and more than half the population is below the age of 25 years.

At least ten million Indian youth enter the country's workforce each year. This augurs well for both short term and long term growth. The benefits of the demographic dividend will be realised fully when this large workforce finds gainful employment.

Lack of availability of schools in the neighbourhood and lack of awareness about the need for education may have held back education for many people in earlier periods. But today,

better infrastructure, transport facilities, greater availability of schools, the provision of mid-day meals at schools and the large number of school buildings constructed under the rural development programmes of the Government have almost ensured universal access to primary education.

Good Quality 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.

A teacher should act as “a friend, philosopher and guide”. He should help students to discover their academic preferences, aptitude, natural inclinations and talents and nurture them. In the

Indian ethos, the teacher, rather than textbook, is the fulcrum of the process of education. As Gandhiji said, the true text book for the pupil is his teacher. By integrating social values in teaching, teachers can promote social transformation and help students overcome prejudices of all kinds and inspire and mentor them to live in harmony in society.

The 'School Education Quality Index' (SEQI) has been framed with a focus on improving the quality of education. The index comprises a set of indicators that have a strong influence on the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the school education sector. It can provide a clear picture of the Strengths Weaknesses opportunities and

threats of the Prevailing educational system in various states.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is a under the UGC which functions as a top level accreditor, and assesses higher educational institutions for their quality and standing.

Higher education institutions can be classified into three types: (i) research universities focusing on research and teaching; (ii) teaching universities focusing primarily on teaching; and (iii) colleges focusing only on teaching at undergraduate levels. It is important that they enjoy autonomy in their academic pursuits so as to be able to deliver education of the desired quality. For this to happen

ensuring transparency and integrity in the manner of selection of the Vice Chancellors and the teaching faculty is one of the important requirements.

The need of the hour is to make sure that students in adequate number are trained in the fields in which there is a requirement. The match between supply and demand has to be carefully monitored not merely in terms of mass quantity but also in ensuring qualitative availability in sectors of education and training for which there is a demand. And this demand in certain sectors has to be assessed at a global level. This makes the task challenging and intellectually stimulating.

It is necessary to adopt transformative and innovative approaches in the education space, reduce gender disparity, integrate sustainability and ensure quality delivery.

Apart from increasing public investment in education, we need to strengthen the use of technology and increase focus on skill development and training programmes designed to earn a livelihood. Only then will we be able to enjoy the complete benefits of the Demographic Dividend.

Skill India is a campaign launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15 July 2015 with the aim of training about 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022. It includes various

initiatives such as the National Skill Development Mission, National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Skill Loan scheme, etc.

Thus, as can be seen, there is a need for multiple stakeholders such as schools, colleges, industry and government to be on board for achieving quality education that can contribute to sustainable growth.

We have the great mind of Tiruvalluvar guiding us in our quest to gain answers, with a Kural, which translates as follows:-

Wisdom lies in discerning the truth in the different things that are said by different people

I am happy to see that CII has been supporting several sustainable development initiatives with the support in Indian Industry.

I am sure that the deliberations at the conclave will serve as the beacon light that can illuminate the way forward for the future.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Confederation of Indian Industry for having taken the noble initiative to organize a regional summit on an important subject concerning the youth of the nation. May they be visited with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu...

Jai Hind.....