

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration of "Rehabasics" – Medical Conference and Book Release function of "Text Book of Rehabilitation" organised by Freedom Trust

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration of "Rehabasics" – Medical Conference and Book Release function of "Text Book of Rehabilitation" organised by Freedom Trust at the Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai today (14.12.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It is a pleasure for me to be here at the inauguration of Medical Conference on "Rehabasics" and to release the "Text-book of Rehabilitation" being organised by Freedom Trust.

Rehabilitation is a vital aspect of post-acute care, and is the third phase of medical treatment. Thanks to advancement in Medical Science and improvement in health facilities compared to the scenario in the last century, many more persons are surviving cancer, road accidents and stroke. This shows the tremendous need for medical rehabilitation. The field of medicine has progressed in leaps and bounds during this decade. Rehabilitation is no exception, and technology is fast replacing many activities that only humans were considered capable of doing. This has come as a blessing for many persons with disability, who wish to live a life of dignity. Patients who are suffering from disabling conditions need to get back to living their lives and therefore there is a need for a comprehensive text-book on rehabilitation medicine for students of various courses in the vast field of rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation is now being featured as a subject in our medical curriculum and this book, hopefully, will fulfil that need, and since it conforms to the syllabus of physiotherapy and occupational therapy, would immensely benefit students of those disciplines, and anyone who is a rehabilitation professional.

Dr.Sunder has understood the need of the professionals working in the field of rehabilitation, be it physiotherapists, occupational therapists, prosthetists, orthotists, or physicians having an interest in rehabilitation. It also can serve the purpose of a quick recap before appearing in the examinations; the way it has been written so

crisply giving point-wise information. I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Sunder.

I came to know that Foundation for the Rehabilitation Education and Empowerment of the Disabled of Madras (FREEDOM TRUST) was founded in the year 1997 to cater to the needs of the physically-challenged in terms of their mobility and livelihood. The main objective of the trust is to provide mobility aids like wheel chairs, tricycles, artificial limbs and orthoses to the rural physically challenged. Over the years the foundation has distributed mobility aids and appliances free of cost to about 24,000 physically-challenged and has conducted 600 rural camps.

Consideration for others' welfare should be the guiding spirit in human life. Engaging one-self in selfless service gives a feeling of joy and satisfaction from within. If more and more people in society come forward to help others, the world will be a happier place to live in.

It has been estimated that more than one billion people in the world live with some form of disability. Of these, nearly 200 million people experience considerable difficulties in their day to day activities.

With regard to India as per the Census of 2011, there are about 27 million people living with some form of disability. These include persons with Seeing, Hearing, Speech, Movement, Mental Retardation, Mental Illness and other disabilities.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 which came into force with effect from 19th day of April 2017 aims at empowering persons with disabilities by adhering to the following principles –

- i. Respect for inherent dignity and individual freedom to make one's own choice and independence of persons with disabilities;
- ii. Non-discrimination;
- iii. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society; and
- iv. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity.

The Government of India has also been assisting persons with disabilities in procuring durable and scientifically manufactured, modern aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological independence by reducing the effect of disabilities. I am happy to see that many private, public and joint sector

enterprises are involved in the manufacture of high-tech assistive devices for persons with disabilities.

Considering rapid growth of employment opportunities in the service sector, persons with disabilities are being encouraged to undertake skill training suitable to the market requirement. Self-employment of persons with disabilities is also being promoted through vocational education and management training.

In Tamil Nadu, the State Government has also been implementing a number of schemes for the well-being of the Specially-abled persons. As you all are aware, the Central and State Governments are providing reservation in various Government jobs for persons with disabilities.

Professor Stephen Hawking, the Astro-physicist who passed away recently, used to say that “disability need not be an obstacle to success”. He was speaking from personal experience. Professor Hawking himself had a motor-neurone disease for a large part of his adult life. But it did not prevent him from becoming a famous astro-physicist.

I would like to mention a few stalwarts like Padmashri Gayathri Sankaran, musician; Dr. Aiswarya J. Anuradha, winner of wheel chair race in Chennai marathon; K. Radhabai, first visually-disabled woman to receive a Ph.D degree in South India. They have never let any form of disability come in their way of success and have left an unforgettable mark in their respective fields.

Mariyappan Thangavelu (22 years old) who hails from Salem District in Tamil Nadu is another notable achiever. He won a gold medal in the Paralympic Games held in Rio in 2016. Recognising this glorious achievement, the Government of India announced "Padma Shri" award for his contribution towards sports and in the same year he was also conferred with “Arjuna Award”.

These are the Role Models. I appeal to the young generation to follow them.

I appreciate the efforts of the organizers for their special efforts in organizing this Medical Conference on “Rehabasics” and extend my best wishes and greetings to them. May the Freedom Trust be visited with success in all its endeavours.”

On this occasion, Dr.Sudha Seshayyan, Vice Chancellor, The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Dr.S.Sunder, Founder, Freedom Trust, Thiru. K. N.Ramaswamy, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra,

Thiru. E. N. Murthy, I.A.S., (Retd.) Board member, Freedom Trust and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

Sd/-

Date : 14.12.2019

Addl. Director (PR)