

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Vellore Teacher's Home organised by the Vellore and Thiruvannamalai District Association for Teachers Welfare and Educational Advancement Trust

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Vellore Teacher's Home organised by the Vellore and Thiruvannamalai District Association for Teachers Welfare and Educational Advancement Trust at Voorhess College, Cobb Hall, Vellore today (20.01.2020) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted to be here today at the Golden Jubilee celebration of 'Teacher's Home' being organised by the Vellore and Thiruvannamalai District Association for Teachers Welfare and Educational Advancement Trust.

I came to know that this Teacher's Home was established in 1969, first of its kind in India to serve the teachers travelling from any part of the country to Vellore. Today, I declared open the New Golden Jubilee Auditorium built in memory of Smt. Nirmala Narasimhan. During last five decades of its existence, it has been found that this facility has largely benefitted teachers who visited Vellore for attending conferences and seminars.

I am extremely happy to note that the former President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was an alumnus of Voorhees College. Today, I am in the college where he studied. He was a great philosopher and thinker. His birth date September 5 is celebrated as Teacher's Day every year.

Teachers' profession is considered as a Noble profession. **Dr. Radhakrishnan** said and I quote, "**True teachers are those who help us think for ourselves**".

Learning and understanding are the essence of life. The guru or teacher who deepens our understanding of life is given a uniquely important place in Indian culture.

Mahatma Gandhi also said and I quote, "**I have always felt that the true textbook for the pupil is his teacher**".

The compassion, understanding and true motivation of a teacher determines the future of every child. Every gesture, every action, every thought of the teacher silently hones the personality of the child!

We need to teach our young people human values which will make them good men and good women who are mature, polite and well-behaved in all situations. The schools must impart value education to students and make them aware of the cultural heritage, values and traditions of India. So, there should be compulsory value education classes for all students. Weekly one hour should be set apart for personality development. In the morning assemblies with prayer, inspirational talk should be given by the teachers.

The values of simple living and high thinking are of great relevance and need to be followed diligently. Only then will sustainable development become a reality.

We in India have taught the language of Satyagraha and non-violence to the world. It is important for mankind to remember that violence begets more violence and that love creates more love. This is the message of all religions. Just as all rivers lead to the sea, all religions lead us towards God. While worshipping God, it is important to tread the path of morality.

One of the flagship programmes of our Hon'ble Prime Minister is "**Swachh Bharath**". In the last two years, I have visited all the districts of Tamil Nadu for the promotion of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan activities. During these visits a pledge is taken for ensuring cleanliness. A Shramdan programme is always undertaken to involve all sections of the society in the cleanliness drive. So the teachers and students should be aware of the needs for protecting and improving the environment. Here, I would like to point out the important things for nation-building.

Diane Mariechild said and I quote, "**A women is a full circle; within her lies the power to create, nurture and transform**".

The woman has the tremendous ability to feel, to love, to suffer and devote. She is the teacher and nurturer of the future generations. **A man builds a house, but it is a women who makes it a home.** It is a great blessing that the great leaders of the country had understood women's position in the society and worked tirelessly to make every one aware of their strength.

Swami Vivekananda said and I quote, “**The upliftment of the women must come first and only then can any real good come about for the country**”.

According to **Noble Laureate Dr. Amartya Sen** “**Women empowerment is catalytic to nation-building**”.

Strategies for women’s empowerment should ensure that women are accorded appropriate opportunities and their potential contribution is put to good use by their societies through augmentation of facilities.

The next important thing which I am going to discuss is building character among youth towards nation-building.

Good education is dependent on good teachers, but character-building goes beyond being good. To be able to distinguish between good and evil and to stand on the side of goodness is the first step towards character-building. One must have the courage of conviction, a firm faith in the greatness of goodness. One must rise above jealousy, suspicion and other petty failings and have the strength to support all those who are doing good work. This is the true essence of character-building. Academic brilliance, combined with a robust body and a healthy mind and character embellished with a nationalistic spirit is what a student must aspire for.

Without character-building the future of the civil society will be plagued by insecurities and violence. That is why utmost care should be taken for building character among youth. There are ten core qualities which I call the ten Cs of a good personality: 1. Conscience, 2. Character, 3. Courage, 4. Control, 5. Commitment, 6. Contentment, 7. Compassion, 8. Consideration, 9. Correction, and 10. Confidence.

Nations are built by visionaries through their lives characterized by compassion, hard work, patriotism and total commitment to the welfare of the people. They are able to inspire the people to engage themselves in nation-building. Our nation is fortunately endowed with the benefits of the Demographic Dividend. The youth of the nation are its biggest asset. Let them think big. Our youth have to dream. Dreams get transformed into thoughts and thoughts result in action. Such proactive actions become the foundation for growth and development.

An education system is not worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living but does not teach them how to make good and purposeful life.

At today's function, awards are being given for the Best Teachers selected for both State and National level. The award-winners of today have risen to their present position of recognition by their contributions. I applaud their efforts and admire their commitment to societal welfare. I wish them well.

I congratulate the Vellore and Thiruvannamalai District Association for Teacher Welfare and Educational Advancement for having organized the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Vellore Teacher's Home in such a grand manner. I wish them all success in their future endeavours.

Finally

Education should remember

To open the mind to yonder

Warm the heart to ponder

and Awaken the spirit to wonder.

Serve to Educate, Educate to Serve.”

On this occasion, Thiru. A. Shanmuga Sundaram, I.A.S., District Collector, Vellore, Thiru. Gunaseela Boopathi, President, Vellore Teacher's Home, Thiru. D. Selvamuthu, General Secretary, Vellore Teacher's Home, Thiru. A. Palani, Treasurer, Vellore Teacher's Home, Dr. M.S. Narasimhan, Chief Adviser and Advocate, Rt. Rev. Sharma Nithyanandham, Bishop, C.S.I. Diocese of Vellore, Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology and other dignitaries participated.

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Sd/-

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Addl. Director (PR)