

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL  
NADU AT INAUGURATION OF RISHS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANGADU,  
CHENNAI ON 05.02.2018 AT 11.00 A.M**

ANAIVARUKKUM KAALAI VANAKKAM

Thiru Justice R. Mahadevan

Dr. G. Viswanathan

Thiru B. Krishnamoorthy

Thiru N. Sakthivelu

Thiru M.Karthikeyan

Madurai Pu.Muthuswamigal,

Principal&Vice Principal of  
RISHS International School

Distinguished Invitees

Friends from the Media

Teachers and Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be here in your midst for the purpose of inaugurating an institution of learning that is expected to make a difference to the quality of education in a place like Maangaadu, which is otherwise known only as a temple town.

Maangaadu is the place where Devi Kamakshiper formed tapas. It was here that the Saint AdiShankara installed the Sri Chakram for the well-being of the world. The new school being located in a place of such greatness should come as an inspiration to teachers and students.

Education is also a tapasya, a penance. Learning can be achieved only if there is total devotion to the subject of study.

Many of us may know of Swami Vivekananda's definition of education as the manifestation of the perfection **already in man**. This school's philosophy and vision which is stated to be "**retaining the natural and innate thirst of the individual for knowledge, and perfection**", echoes the same view.

Good education is linked to good teachers as this anecdote about the 11<sup>th</sup> President of India Dr. Abdul Kalam will tell you.

Dr. Kalam used to recall with gratitude the contribution of his school teacher Sivasubramania Iyer who kindled his passion for flying and aeronautics. The teacher first taught the students about 'How birds fly' by sketches and explanations in the classroom. The students told the teacher that they did not understand the concept. The teacher then took the students to the Rameswaram seashore where dozens of seabirds were flying and said, 'See how the birds flap their wings and change direction using their wings and tail. The locomotive force of the bird's flight is its life energy'. The teacher thus taught his students that the fundamentals of aircraft design are based on the flight of birds.

It was the understanding of science and satisfaction of the intellectual curiosity that the teacher successfully imparted, that enabled the blossoming of the genius that was latent in the young Abdul Kalam.

Any institution whether a school or an industry owes a lot to the people of the locality where it is situated. Their support and cooperation are vital for the institution to succeed. Though this is an international school I shall make bold to suggest to the school management that they should earmark a percentage of their seats for the people of this town of Maangadu and charge only nominal fees from those students. It is only then that the school becomes socially relevant in the local context.

Another method by which international schools can contribute to their neighbourhood is by sharing their facilities with less endowed schools. This concept was also highlighted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the meeting of the Inter State

Council which took place in 2016. As you may all be aware, the Inter State Council is chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and has all the Chief Ministers and the important Union Cabinet Ministers as members. Based on the decision taken at the Inter State Council, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has worked out guidelines for enabling sharing to take place between well endowed schools and less endowed schools. I am sure that the management of RISHS International School will take steps to follow the guidelines set out by the Inter State Council and share their resources with other less endowed schools in the neighbourhood.

Education is becoming increasingly competitive. An international school can succeed only if it satisfies the aspirations of the parents who are dreaming that their children will ascend to positions of international eminence in science, engineering, economics, medicine, etc. Another aspiration of these parents will be, that their children should be rooted in the Indian values so that their cultural foundations are intact.

Schools such as this will have to do a lot of detailed planning for achieving the twin objects of academic excellence and cultural training. Not only do the teachers have to be well trained they also have to represent a wide range of expertise. They should also be attuned to the demands of teaching at an international school where the students come from a variety of diverse backgrounds.

The talent and energy in youth is like a river gushing forth with force and fury. If left unchannelised the waters get spread out over large areas with no useful result. Channelising the energies and purposefully using their talent is like constructing a set of canals which lead water for irrigating the locations where the cultivated areas lie.

In this context let me quote to you from our ancient texts to explain to you how the challenge of education was met those days.

Saha Naa Vavatu (May the Supreme Lord protect us – the teacher and the student)

Saha Nau Bhunakthu (May the Supreme Lord nourish both of us)

Saha Veeryam Karavaavahai (May we do great deeds together)

Tejaswi Naavadheetham Asthu (May our learning illumine us)...

Maa Vidvishavahai...Let us not quarrel but instead grow together in the process of learning.

These are some lessons which teachers need to follow so as to be successful in their efforts to bring out the talent in the young students.

Let me conclude by emphasizing the importance of character building for this forms the corner stone of success of any educational institution. 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.

The school has been started with a lot of promise and hope. I extend my best wishes to the teachers, parents and students on this happy occasion and wish the school management all success in their endeavours.

Nandri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu