

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE CONFERENCE ON ENHANCING QUALITY EDUCATION,
HOTEL ACCORD, T.NAGAR, CHENNAI ON 06.10.2018 AT 10.30 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr. Satyapal Singh,
Minister of State, HRD, GOI

Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan
Vice-Chairman, UGC

Thiru Mukul Kanitkar,
Organising Secretary,
BSM

Thiru Anoop A J
National convener Bharat Niti

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today, to participate in the inauguration of the one-day academic workshop of the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal.

The BSM is a voluntary organization which works in the field of education with the aim of providing an indigenous model of education that is both integrated and holistic.

The need for such an organization arises out of the desire to bring in Indian-ness into our system of education.

Education in India was meant to groom an individual so that he acquired knowledge, wisdom, skill, discipline and other virtues such as patience, obedience and humility etc. Subhaasthita says 'Vidyaa Dadaathi Vinayam'.

But there is a tendency in certain systems of modern education to pooh-pooh India's tradition as outmoded and obsolete.

The sensible outlook in this case is the view mentioned thousands of years ago by Kalidasa in his play, Maalavikaagni-mitram, with reference to literary works, where he says

“Not all works that are old are good, even as a poem cannot be dismissed as bad just because it is new! What we can glean from Kalidasa’s statement is that things should be judged on intrinsic value and not on the period they emerged in.

The products of anglicized education system were originally meant to conform to Macaulay’s description of a class of persons, ‘Indian in blood and colour, but English in tastes, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect’.

Fortunately in the decades after Independence more and more schools have emerged which aim to instill moral values that are have been held aloft in India for centuries and inculcate traditions that are deeply embedded in the Indian way of life.

Today the western world is also feeling the inadequacy of its materialistic values and many westerners are coming to India in search of spiritual solace.

The book titled, ‘The American Veda’ shows how Indian values have powerfully impacted Western culture, how the ancient philosophy of Vedanta and the methods of Yoga have profoundly affected the outlook of millions of Americans.

After centuries of exploitation of nature and a lifestyle that turned even the oceans into garbage bins, the materialistic world has understood the importance of sustainable development.

But the Indian teachers who taught in their gurukuls and forest schools as well as the great world universities like Takshashila and Naalanda, always knew that man must mingle with nature, not meddle with it. The best illustration of this is seen in Shantiniketan.

When Tagore started an open air school in Shantiniketan in 1901, he was only following in the footsteps of the great seers of India who pursued learning in the lap of Nature. Our tradition teaches us that the human race is an integral part of the infinite universe, and should not be warring against it.

Learning is considered sacred, and the Guru who transmits knowledge is held in great respect as the Upanishadic dictum, ‘Aachaarya Devo Bhava’, shows.

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.

Wisdom that comes out of study was meant to liberate a person, with the definition of Vidyaa being, ‘Saa Vidyaa, Yaa Vimukthaye’.

But in the changed scheme of things, all that education aims to do is to barter the educated person's utilitarian value for a remuneration that will buy some material comforts!

In the midst of such a crisis, there are those who look for a synthesis of Eastern and Western values, a balance between spiritual and secular dynamics.

Such an integral education will affirm the intuitive perception of India's ancient visionaries of man's spiritual dimension.

It will give to students the great inner resources of joy, tranquility and inner harmony, and change the way they look at the world. It will also endow them with the skills to enable them to pursue an occupation so that they can earn their livelihood.

It is this of integrating practical knowledge with moral values that will ensure quality education focus.

We also need to remember that such type of quality education is a continuous process starting from the primary level to the intermediate and higher education level and even further beyond.

Let us now turn our attention briefly on the latest National Plan on Education that has been submitted. This is pending review, and hence is not ready for implementation.

I will focus on the definition of and domain of operation of the term 'value education' as it appears in the report.

It states that "value inculcation is essential to promote equity, social justice, tolerance and national integration."

Such a value based education will be truly reflective of the ideals that education stands for, as defined by great leaders.

Mahatma Gandhi wanted education to make children ideal citizens of a democratic society. According to him, education not only moulds the new generation but also reflects society's fundamental assumptions about itself and the individuals who comprise it.

Dr. Radhakrishnan used to say "One can shape National Solidarity by using neither bricks and lime nor hammer and chisel. It should bloom in the heart of every human. For the flower to emit fragrance we need to water the plant in the form of education.

Swami Vivekananda defined education to be the manifestation of the perfection already in man.

I would like to stress before I finish that the future of this great nation is in your hands. It is only value based education that will lead us towards building a strong self-reliant vibrant nation.

This then would set us on a journey. A journey to lead and guide the entire world by setting an example as we used to do, a thousand years before.

Let us all unite to make education the means of harnessing the talent of India so as to make the nation the jagat guru of the world.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....