

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE "15TH GRADUATION DAY OF AIMAN COLLEGE
OF ARTS & SCIENCE FOR WOMEN" AT AIMAN COLLEGE PREMISES,
TRICHY ON 28/03/2018 AT 11.30 AM**

AnaivarukkumKaalai Vanakkam

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Dignitaries on the dais
Distinguished Students
Distinguished Invitees
Friends from the Media
Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me happiness to take part in the 15th Graduation Day of the AIMAN College of Arts and Science for Women.

The AIMAN College is engaged in the laudable task of imparting education to girls and more particularly girls of the Islamic faith. I am informed that this college has grown steadily since its inception in 2000. Starting with a student strength of forty in the first year the college has grown manifold to reach a figure of about thousand students today.

I have been the Governor of Tamil Nadu for nearly six months now and I am happy to see the status that education enjoys in the State. The achievements of the State in the field of education are exemplary. The dropout

rate is extremely low. The teacher-student ratio in schools is about one teacher for 30 to 40 students. Nearly 45% of the children who finish school education take to higher education. The number of medical colleges and the number of engineering colleges available in the State speak for the tremendous popularity enjoyed by professional courses. Another striking achievement that has been recorded is that women in higher education account for nearly half of the total student strength. Acquisition of knowledge and learning has become a matter of habit for the people of Tamil Nadu.

Seeking knowledge is a sacred duty – so say the Islamic texts. The first word revealed to Prophet Muhammad was “Iqra” which means “to Read”. The importance of education has been emphasized repeatedly in the Qur’an, which recognises knowledge as a means to get closer to God.

The same emphasis on knowledge and education was laid by Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the guru of Swami Vivekananda, who used to say “as long as I live so long do I learn.” Swami Vivekananda defined education to be the manifestation of the perfection already in Man. He elaborated on how all the wealth of the world cannot help one little Indian village if the people are not taught to help themselves. He therefore exhorted people to devote themselves to educational pursuits both morally and intellectually. One can, in these statements, see the common thread of thought that permeates all religions.

Similarly, all religions preach the goodness of truth and moral living, love and compassion. Their rituals may be different but the goal is one. We should respect all religions, in the same manner, as we respect our own religion, since the underlying message of all religions is the same.

We need to understand this universal approach of religions. The following Sanskrit sloka expounds it fully and forcefully.

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः

सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु

मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत् ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Translated into English, this means,

“May we all be prosperous and happy
May we all be free from illness
May we all see what is spiritually uplifting
May no one suffer
Om peace, peace, peace”.

Islam means submission to the will of God and obedience to His Law. It underlines peace, purity, submission and obedience. It stresses on values such as compassion, benevolence, wisdom and justice.

The verses of the Quran lay emphasis on the importance of being kind and developing the quality of forgiveness.

The Bible says, “Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love”.

Saint Guru Gobind Singh said that we should try to see the creator in every human being.

Gautama Buddha said,

“The thought manifests as the word; the word manifests as the deed; the deed develops into habit; and habit hardens into character. So watch the thought and its ways with care and let it spring from love born out of concern for all beings”.

Jainism says, “Live and let live... Love all and serve all”.

Thus, be it Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism or any other religion, all of them preach love and compassion.

The message I wish to emphasise based on all this is that we should resolve to practise love and compassion and promote unity and peace so as to build a harmonious world and nurture in the young the spirit of oneness.

I see the bright young faces of the girl students here who are stepping out of college into a wider world. My message to them is “Be confident, uphold moral values, be dedicated and devoted in your pursuits. The world is yours.”

The India of today believes in Nari Shakthi or Women Power. The concept of Durga as the protector of the human race is embodied in the celebrations of Navarathri, on which day we narrate hymns on her victory over the evil forces. Navarathri is celebrated all over India.

While we celebrate the power of Shakthi in religion and culture, history also speaks about the great women leaders who adorned our illustrious array of thinkers, poetesses and warriors. *Avvaiyar* was one of the most famous and important female poets of Tamil Sangam. Karaikkal Ammaiyar, a great philosopher, has sung devotional hymns which inspire the soul. Women like Rani Laxmi Bai, Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Mangammal, Kittur Chennamma and Velu Nachiyar are some of the important generals who fought with courage and bravery to defeat the oppressor. In recent times also some outstanding women leaders in Literature, Medicine and politics shine as examples of glory to womanhood and women power.

India has made remarkable progress in the field of higher education. With about 800 universities, 40,000 colleges and enrolment of more than 3.4 crore students, we today have one of the biggest higher education systems in the world. You are all proud members of this educational system. The world of today has enormous employment opportunities. Prosperity is waiting to knock at your doors, if you have talent and sincerity. Let discipline be your watchword; let dedication be your friend and let devotion to God be your guide. When such values mould your character, the impact of your knowledge is bound to be respected and recognized.

Mahatma Gandhi wrote an Article in *Young India* on 22nd October, 1925 in which he cautioned against knowledge without character as being one of the sins that can destroy a nation. The others are:

- wealth without work;
- pleasure without conscience;
- commerce without morality;
- science without humanity;
- religion without sacrifice; and

politics without principle.

Men and women of character can alone lead society towards peace and prosperity. I am informed that this College places special emphasis on the inculcation of moral values in students. I wish to applaud the college management for the pursuit of this noble mission by them.

I wish the students of the college a bright future. May God bless them with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu