

Speech of the Hon'ble Vice President
at Jubilee Hills Public School, Hyderabad on
December 22, 2018

I am delighted to attend the annual day function of the Jubilee Hills Public School, Hyderabad today. It always gives me immense joy when I interact with students who are poised to take the nation to new heights.

I am happy to know that the institution is one of the most technologically-endowed institutions paving the way for the children to be technologically competent. I am also glad to know that children are also being trained in traditional values in tune with the school's motto "Tradition and Technology".

The school with experience of over 30 years has been providing high quality education to the children living in and around Hyderabad. The fact that your school was selected by NITI Aayog, for funding of the "Atal Tinkering Lab" itself shows the excellent work being done by the faculty and management of the school.

I am aware that former President of India, Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had visited the school in 2005 during his tenure as President and shared his thoughts on "Vision for the Nation". He had spoken on *space technology* and *food production*. He had touched upon two key aspects of India's development. One that helps India take lead in technological advancement and the other one that makes India hunger free.

Interestingly, he asked each student to pose a question: "In my country what I will be remembered for?"... This may be a difficult question for the young to answer

immediately but it certainly must have ignited the young minds.

Each of you must be having a dream, a goal you would achieve.

It is important to be ambitious. It is important to excel in whatever you are planning to do.

Each of you can achieve your aims in life if you have persistence, patience and pro-active approach.

You must ask questions and seek answers.

Such questioning should become an essential characteristic of a student's education. The habit of questioning and the quest to seek answers would set them thinking and help them develop critical and analytical faculties.

Dear students, it is essential for each one of you to develop a probing mind and think outside the box. .

The school curriculum should be oriented to make students think rationally, independently and express cogently

Such an environment will instil confidence in children, apart from inculcating a spirit of tolerance and accommodation in them.

Dear students, India has a great tradition of Guru Shishya Parampara. Teachers and students used to live together and engage in a constant dialogue. These discussions were recorded and have been handed down to us from the ancient past in the form of Upanishads.

The Upanishads and many of our ancient texts are an evidence of our long history of advanced learning. We

have always believed that true learning takes place through “observation”, “reading”, “discussion”, “reflection”, “analysing” and “synthesizing”.

This great tradition of India needs to be reflected in our modern education system as well. There should be a constant dialogue between students and teachers. Teachers must guide students not just in academics but also enable them to develop life skills, which are essential to successfully navigate in the increasingly complex world of today.

The present school education system has to be completely revamped to ensure that children enjoy schooling and become life long learners.

Education system needs to focus on making a child curious, creative, caring, communicative, confident and capable. It should prepare each child to be an active, caring citizen ready to participate in the world of today and capable of shaping the world of tomorrow.

Dear teachers and students,

Education is a foundation for all our efforts to improve the quality of our lives. Our life is multi-faceted and so must education be.

Our life encompasses activities which help us acquire new knowledge and skills required to earn enough to live decent lives, activities that make us physically strong and healthy, activities that please our inner consciousness, activities that please our heart, activities that bring out the finest qualities lying dormant in each one of us.

There is a fascinating range of activities that makes education so comprehensive and so vital to our growth as

individuals and collectively as a society. We should ensure that we don't merely confine ourselves to academics. Studies are important but equally important are sports, fine arts, dance, music, art and culture.

In fact, I have been advocating that students should spend 50 per cent of their schooling hours outside classrooms and that sports education should be accorded greater importance by educationists and parents.

An education which balances the head, heart, body and spirit alone can be called a truly holistic education. The child should not only be able to acquire and absorb knowledge, but should also be able to apply the knowledge in real life situation.

Participation in sports will instil the qualities of confidence, equanimity, team spirit and tolerance in students, apart from inculcating the attitude of sharing and caring.

Sharing and caring, in fact, is the core of Indian philosophy. There are many universal values that have been woven into our folklore and mythological stories, epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and the works of visionary poets and thinkers. The Shataka Sahitya in Telugu, Dohas in Hindi and the Subhashitas in Sanskrit contain timeless words of wisdom.

We must integrate these elements into our school curriculum.

Dear teachers and students,

We live in an age in which knowledge is expanding exponentially and disruptive technologies are changing the way we live, communicate with each other and work.

“Vigyana” is growing at an unprecedented pace.

It is like the energy that is unleashed in a nuclear reactor. If this energy is uncontrolled, it can wreak a terrible havoc like it happened in World War II, but inside the nuclear reactor, there is a mechanism for controlling the energy so that socially useful power is generated. The values we live by and the ideals that serve as our guiding stars are very important to channel our thoughts and actions in purposeful direction. That is what we call **“Viveka”** or wisdom, the ability to separate the ‘good’ from the ‘bad’ and develop the ability to choose the ‘good’.

“Vigyana” must be blended with “Viveka”.

We need an education system that promotes excellence, equity and empathy.

I am pleased that this school has programs that work for the holistic development of the students. I am particularly happy to note that the school is a forerunner in establishing a Skill Development Centre for providing specialized training to teachers and students.

Such programs provide an opportunity for students and faculty to grow into highly skilled citizenry. “Learning to do” is one of the four pillars of education. Along with this please note that we must have the ability to “Learning to know”, “Learning to be what you want to be” and “Learning how to live together”. The last pillar is very crucial in an increasingly fragmented world.

The ancient Indian vision provides a useful guidance in this regard. We have always, from time immemorial, believed that “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or the whole world is one large family. Fraternity and peaceful co-existence is a part of our way of life. We must strengthen

these roots and ensure that we not only tolerate differences but, actually celebrate our country's and our world's colourful diversity.

I compliment teachers, the entire staff members and the management for shaping the school as a place of joyful learning, as a place for shaping of new India built on good trends from our tradition and with a forward looking vision towards an exciting future.

I wish you all a very bright future.

Jai Hind