

**ADDRESS OF MRS. D. PURANDESWARI, MOS-HRD (HE) AS
CHIEF GUEST ON THE OCCASION OF LAYING THE
FOUNDATION STONE OF THE BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN'S
SCHOOL, IN HYDERABAD ON 23RD JANUARY, 2009.**

I am extremely glad to be here this morning in order to lay the Foundation stone of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School, Hyderabad. The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan stands for the re-integration and re-vitalization of Indian culture in its three-fold form of **Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram**. The chain of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan schools was conceptualized on the basic idealism that education should impart knowledge, shape the character, and build up the moral fibre of the child. It should also assist in imbibing and assimilating the social, ethical, and spiritual values so necessary for the all-round development of a child's personality and discipline.

To-day mankind is at the cross-roads. It appears that at one go humanity has been seized by those who believe that economic growth is the only index of lasting human happiness. Never before in human history there came such a predicament when everything is being measured in terms of per capita income or GDP or the relative purchasing power or such other material considerations. This preoccupation on the part of the twenty-first century man which has created a situation where family ties, inter personal, cultural, ethical, and even religious and social aspects have been relegated to the background is really sending shock waves all around. Nobody seems to be worried about the manner in which all finer graces of human

civilization have ceased to receive priority attention from those who control our lives. On the contrary the mighty tides of consumerism and its mesmeric abilities are being whipped up to enslave the material part of human character to ensure permanent dependence on and help the emergence of, new scenario of unlimited material growth.

It is against this background that we have to welcome the chains of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Schools started by Dr. K.M. Munshi one of the illustrious sons of India who believed that education would fail ignominiously in its objective, if it merely turned a robot and called him an economic material in outlook and behaviour. As he used to say, a school or a University or an institute of higher learning could hardly afford to ignore the cultural aspects of education, whatever studies it specialized in. Even though a student might ultimately become a scientist, a doctor, or an engineer, one had to absorb fundamental and eternal human values which would make him high in moral fibre imbibing the spirit of service before self. This is the message of our sages and seers since time immemorial.

A model school should be a mirror of the child's personality wherein education should constitute the inner beauty. Experimentation and creativity through interactive and scientifically developed activities, traditional values with modern knowledge and information, all-round development of the students without any discrimination or prejudices are the basic objectives of quality education. These ideas should form the core contents in educational

pattern of the school which prepares the young children to become leaders of future generation. To attain this, the pursuit of mere curricular activities is not enough. Other activities like group discussions, elocution, seminars etc., should also be conducted for the personality development of students. It is also important that innovative workshops, projects and guest lectures by eminent personalities are organized for the benefit of students. Hobby clubs should provide students to express and hone their skills and talent in a range of activities like painting, arts, music and dance, debate elocution stamp collection and so on. Students need some time to relax and rejuvenate. This should be done through games and sports which would keep a child's body fit and provide mental relaxation.

To make education more attractive, the students of lower classes should be imparted education through play-way methods. Exercises like clay-modeling, building sand castles, the playpen and other interactive methods should be adopted to make learning more interesting and attractive.

In this context I would like to say that this is how Tagore conceptualized and brought up his famous Santiniketan (Abode of Peace) where the entire educational system was integrated from pre-nursery to the stage of Masters' Degree and where the teaching was imparted in open air classrooms in natural surroundings. Poet himself used to take some primary, nursery and pre-nursery classes and imparted education through music dance and drama composed by

him. In some cases Tagore used to take part in the dramas and plays along with other children.

One of the basic drawbacks of to-day's schooling is that tens of thousands of school-going children in India are penalized by an educational system that is largely examination – centric. Failure in school often portends low self-esteem as adults, and most certainly contributes to poor productivity in professional life. What is worse is that students' failure permeates into the home. School authorities and teachers are seldom able to reassure distraught parents. Educators and psychologists occasionally offer diagnoses of dyslexia, or other learning disability, but seldom is a complete learning plan offered to the child or the parent that meets that child's specific requirements. This is because teachers often do not know **how** a child learns, and are over focused on **what** a child learns. An undue pressure on the child can adversely affect his capacity to learn, as well as his ability to take pleasure in academic work. We must not forget that education **must and should be joyous, not onerous.**

We must realize that education which merely promote professional excellence without accompanying human virtues may prove disastrous. As the adage goes that knowledge without character and science without humanity portend dangerous signals for a valued-based democratic society. We must therefore ensure that the no educational system which provides professional excellence should not directly or indirectly discard the basics of

human excellence. In the words of India's famous patriot saint Swami Vivekananda : (I quote)

“We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and whereby one can stand on one's own feet.” Un quote.

With these words, I have great pleasure in laying the foundation stone of yet another Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's School which, I am glad to learn, believes in **stress –free learning in serene environment.** .

Jai Hind.