

**ADDRESS BY SMT. D. PURANDESWARI, MOS-HRD AS CHIEF GUEST ON THE OCCASION OF ANNUAL DAY FUNCTION OF ST.ALPHANSUS HIGH SCHOOL AT NALGONDA ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2009.**

Mr. President and members of the School management, Principal and other faculty members of the school has a disgusted guests and friends.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here this evening and to address the young students of the St.Alphansus High school on the occasion of its annual day function. In spite of my pre occupation in connection with the session of Parliament I deliberately accepted the offer of invitation to come to the annual day functions to-day because it would provide me an opportunity to interact with the small kids, appropriately regarded as 'blooming flowers', who are undoubtedly our national assets.

**Education is not just the amount of information that is put into a child's brain undigested, unrelated and unassimilated. The very essence of education is the concentration of mind and not mere collection or collation of facts. As Swami Vivekananda said: "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man". The concept of education is that it should help the formation of character expansion of intellect and development of a positive view of life. It is this man-making character which is the basic object of all education.**

An ideal 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 generation to become leaders in whatever career they choose and to contribute positively towards self, family, society, nation and the world. It should also understand the need for effective communication and offer intensive coaching in both oral and written communication skills. This helps in expressing ideas clearly and effectively. 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, stamp collection and so on. Students need some time to relax and rejuvenate. This is done through sports, games and other physical activities. They help in keeping the body fit and provide mental relaxation.

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 has largely failed to take into account their special learning needs. It is time we better understood the profile of students with learning difficulties. Educators and psychologists occasionally offer diagnoses of dyslexia, or other learning disability, but seldom is a 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 is over focused on what a child learns.

To be successful in school, students are required to be good at many things at the same time regardless of their strengths or capabilities. This leads to frustration, humiliation, and failure among many of them. 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.

Inculcating the spirit of discipline, good manners and brotherhood in our youth is very important. This work has to begin at the building blocks of our society – at home and in school. Each one of us adult Indians, as a parent or as a teacher, must shoulder this responsibility. We must bring it on ourselves to lead from the front, in becoming the role model which our children should be encouraged to emulate. In this context, I am reminded of an advertisement on the television, which shows a child questioning his father for preaching about honesty to his children, but not practicing it himself, when it comes to paying the mandatory tax to the Government. It is not sufficient merely to exhort our children to be patriotic by singing the national anthem and honouring the national flag. Of course, these laudatory practices should be there in place for they contribute significantly towards the process of building national consciousness. But, we must attune our own behaviour and mannerisms at all times and so fashion ourselves that our children feel pride in referring to us as their father, mother or teacher.

National unity is an important and essential component of nation building and the growth of national consciousness. Secularism is the bedrock of our democracy. This implies that the individual while adhering to his own religion must respect other religions and practice with tolerance and understanding. In the nonreligious sphere, social life should be governed by rational, ethical and human attitudes rather than by considerations of caste, creed and community.

In this context I would like to draw your attention to Part IV-A of the Constitution of India which enjoins upon the citizens to perform some fundamental duties. While all the duties mentioned therein are of equal importance, I will like to make a special reference to one of them which calls upon us to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. In my view this requires the focused attention of our youth who should and must constantly follow this principle in all their activities and pursuits so that the nation could strive to excellence and rise to a higher levels of endeavour and achievement and at the end of day we may succeed in making India a modern society, democratic in spirit, socialist in content, scientific in temper and secular in outlook.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Annual Day Celebrations of the school and I hope that it would attain higher levels of perfection in the coming years. To the young kids and

blooming children, present in the celebrations here. I convey my best wishes in the following words of the poet.

*“May there always be work for your hands to do:  
May your purse always hold a coin or two:  
May the sun always shine on your windowpane:  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain:  
May the hand of a friend always be near you:  
May God fill your heart with joy to cheer you,”*

Jai Hind