



KEYNOTE ADDRESS
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
LT GEN NIRBHAY SHARMA
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
GOVERNOR,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION
OF
PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE OF
KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN
AT
COUNCIL HALL
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, TEZPUR, ASSAM
ON
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY, 2013

Opening Remarks

- Good Morning everybody
 - Shri Ajay Pant, Deputy Commissioner,
 - Learned Principals,
 - Officials of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan,
 - Friends from media,
 - Ladies and Gentlemen.
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- It gives me immense pleasure to address this Annual Conference of Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas of Upper Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. I place on record my appreciation to the Sangathan for giving me an opportunity to participate in the special occasion of its Golden Jubilee.
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- At the very outset, on behalf of people of Arunachal Pradesh and on my own behalf, I extend my heartiest greetings to each one of you. The Kendriya Vidyalayas in its 50 years of existence have done a yeoman service in the field of education, specially in meeting the educational needs of the Central Govt. employees who serve in various parts of the country and are transferred frequently.
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- The role of Kendriya Vidyalayas in promoting national integration and a sense of Indianism among the children while ensuring their total personality development and academic excellence is indeed laudable. It has on its rolls 11 lac+ students in more than 1000 schools including a few abroad and a staff of over 50,000 spread all over the country including the North East, where your footprints are seen in the remotest of places.

Education- a tool of HRD

- 21st century belongs to Asia and India is destined to play a lead role in it. We are a young country and nearly 30-40% of our population is in its formative years. They are our future leaders and the schools are their cradle for leadership. More so in the North East, which is Central to our “Look East Policy” and a gateway to development and prosperity.
- The vibrant forum of academicians present know the value of education in moulding our children and through them laying the foundation of building on India of our dreams. Through education the feelings are disciplined, the passions are restrained and true and worthy motives are inspired. As a famous German reformer said, **“The prosperity of a country depends not on the strength of its fortification, but on its men of education, enlightenment and character.”**
- Today, our main objective must be ‘Education for All’. We have to provide education to each and every individual, young or adult. Our country, which was once regarded as centre of knowledge in the world today is lagging behind due to low literacy rate. We have to ensure that each and every child receives proper education. South African leader Nelson Mandela once said that **“education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**
- There is lot of difference between being **literate and being educated**. Knowing how to read and write will make a person literate, but being enlightened, socially useful and using one’s knowledge for the welfare of society makes a person educated.

- We have to provide a good environment to the students to develop and inculcate right values. Recently I came across a note stating that literacy rate of Northeast region is high, but not translated into more employability. Therefore, we must focus on job orientation courses along with basic education. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to ensure safety and security of its teaching staff and officials in different parts of the region.
- You have to focus on physical and co curriculum activities. The children of the North east are very good in games and sports. Effort should be there to harness their talent and give impetus to our drive to produce champs.
- Today the youth of our country is impatient. The reason can be anything from improper education to unemployment. Many of our children have taken wrong paths. You as principals have the responsibility to ensure that each and every student acquires a sense of discipline and moral values to be useful to the society and to the country. As French Author Victor Hugo said and I quote, '**He who opens a school door, closes a prison**', we have to ensure that our children avail the right kind of education.
- Our region is a gifted land with rich biodiversity. One of the global biodiversity hotspots, it is home to a fascinating array of wildlife. Along with education, we have to instil sense of responsibility towards society and environment among the students.
- I am certain that the Conference would have deliberated on this basic theme and introspected to strategise the future course.

- Let me now share some of my thoughts as they relate to the leadership challenges and its priorities in the schools, which are a nursery for the coming generation and ultimately a bedrock of social and economic development.

Role of a Teacher

- Learned Principals, you are in a noble profession, infact noblest of all. Because in the shell of education lies the jewel of abiding glory and you are its prime source.

“Guru re Brahma, guru re Vishnu, gurudevo maheshwara, gurushakshaat parabrahma tasmay Shri guru re namaha”

- Yet the reality of today is vastly different. Neither the ‘Guru’ nor the ‘Shishya’ fit into the mandate. More than ‘Why’ of it. We need to see as to what can be done about it.
- The challenges are; how to insulate and protect the child from the evils of society, inculcate values and motivate him / her to rise upto the potential. To my mind, the triangle of teachers-parent-pupil relationship has to work on it, but the teacher has to be prime mover.
- Henry Von Dyke has said about teachers and teaching **“Ah, There you have the worst paid and the best rewarded of vocations.”** –Sixth Pay Commission, Notwithstanding, my frank advice to teachers – do not become a teacher unless you love it. For the vast majority of men and women, it has no promise of wealth and fame, but to whom it is dear, it is among the nobility of mankind. This unknown teacher is a king of himself and creator of leaders. He is the real nation builder. We may call it a philosophical meaning of teaching profession,

but it is a crucial pivot of nation building that we cannot do without. Some of our great personalities have said and I quote:-

“The true teacher is he who can immediately come down to the level of the student, transfer his soul to the students soul and see through and understand through his mind. Such a teacher can really teach and none else.”

- Swami Vivekanand

“The teachers place in society is of vital importance. He acts as the pivot for the transmission of intellectual traditions and technical skills from generation to generation and helps to keep the lamp of civilization burning.”

-Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

“A teacher can never truly teach unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame. The teacher who has come to the end of his subject, who has no living traffic with his knowledge, but merely repeats his lessons to his students can only load their minds. He cannot quicken them.”

- Tagore

The Secondary Education Commission in its report highlights that every teacher and educationist of experience knows that even the best curriculum and the most perfect syllabus remains dead unless quickened in to life by the right method of teaching and the right kind of teachers. Indeed, teachers are the real makers of man and history.

Principals as Teacher Leaders

- As a teacher leader, you have to be a teacher plus and have a wide range of roles to support the school and student success. In that you have to be an instructional resource provider and a specialist to evolve and help implement teaching strategies. Apart from facilitating professional learning opportunities among staff members, a good Principal also acts as a mentor for novice teachers. Above all, you have to be a role model as a school leader. Some of traits to be emphasized are:-

- The capacity to catch or create a vision and communicate it clearly and passionately without suffering from “analysis paralysis” and work single mindedly to achieve the goal.

- Do not be locked in the ‘status quo’ ‘syndrome’ and be open to find a better way of doing the same thing.

- Have practical ideas and identify “This will work or this won’t.”

- Lead by example. People don’t believe in what you say, but believe in what you do. Do not try and manage people, because inventories can be managed, but people must be lead. Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it is the only thing.

- Be mentally tough and accept criticism without being discouraged.

- Do not shy away from accepting responsibility and take the blame if something goes wrong, rather than passing it to your subordinates. Remember, loyalty is a two way lane. You must groom your subordinates and give them the environment to succeed.

-Magnanimity means giving credit where it is due. “**A good leader takes a little more share of the blame, a little less than his share of credit**” –Arnold Blasow

-Anticipate and ride the events. Recognise a problem before it becomes an emergency and keep the hope alive.

-Remember, the leader leads and the boss drives. Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave.

-Leadership cannot really be taught, it can only be learned.

- Translating the stated “pearls of wisdom” into specifics

- As you all know that education is the bedrock of social and economic development, hence the future of the region and country lay on your shoulder. You are the most important pillar of our education system. The improvement of learner outcomes and the expansion of the number of successful schools are key priorities for the administration, and that principals are keys to that vision of success.

- As Principals, you are mandated to provide quality education to the students. You are, first and foremost, responsible for the **efficient management** of your institution. In other words, how well the school runs is largely the result of the decisions that you take and the modalities of their implementation.

- Today, we are facing increasing **challenges due to moral degradations**. We have to take concrete steps to rationalize the unsettled mind of our students, widen their horizons, inflame their intellect, teach them to think straight. Always give your best to provide a healthy, safe and conducive environment to your students to enable them to develop a pride for their own culture and traditions.

- Inculcate scientific temperament among your students and instil team spirit and spirit of sportsmanship in them.

- You have to **inspire your staff and balance** exciting initiatives and necessary mandates into a vision that will move a faculty. If you want to establish and sustain good academic environment in your school, you have to confront behaviours that aren't favourable. Prepare yourself for the challenge.

As a commander in the field, you have to simply listen to the players who make up the school. Maintain team spirit. Find those teachers who have passion, a hunger for knowledge, and an ability to take measured risks and give them all the support they may need. Always try your best to be fair to all. Focus on school and classroom culture and be visible to your students and teaching faculty.

-You have to **provide direction and educational vision** in your school and community. You have the professional responsibility to even stand up and at times question constructively decisions taken within the Sangathan, which you do not believe to be in the best interests of the students at your school.

- It is critical that KV Sangathan must ensure all principals have the skills and knowledge to lead their schools effectively and do everything which will assist them.

- Always keep in your mind what our former President Abdul Kalam said, I quote, **‘Educationists should build the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model’**.

- As I have said earlier, the principals are the leaders, who have to lead the teachers, guide the students and direct the staff. You have many priorities, which I have mentioned. Now, how to choose your priorities?

- Just remember Gandhi ji’s talisman, which says, **“Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man or woman whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him or her. Will he or she gain anything by it? Will it restore him or her to a control over his or her own life and destiny?”** Then you will find your doubts and yourself melt away.

-You have to **provide direction and educational vision** in your school and community. You have the professional responsibility to even stand up and at times question constructively decisions taken within the Sangathan, which you do not believe to be in the best interests of the students at your school.

- Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been doing an excellent job in Arunachal Pradesh. The academic results of Kendriya Vidyalayas have always been outstanding compared to other educational institutes in the

State. Good academic results are the outcome of the hard work of the teachers and students and also good environment prevailing in the schools under the able guidance of the learned Principals. I trust that the good work will be continued.

- I am also happy to note that there are fourteen KVs in the State. I wish that some more may be established in places like Bomdila, Seppa, Daporijo, Anini, Anjaw, Ziro, Longding, Koloriang and one more at Pasighat.

Conclusion

- I call upon all the stakeholders present here to take note of the issues I have raised and also contribute their best for achieving excellence in the all-round sphere of education. Remember, **in the world today excellence is mandatory as mediocrity has no place**. We have to harness the potential of our youth to excel, nothing less. I am optimistic that the Conference will meet these objectives and ensure the qualitative growth of education in the North eastern region.
- Finally I wish this conference a grand success.

Thank you all.

Jai Hind.