

17th Convocation

Thursday, the 23rd March, 2017 – 3-00 p.m.
in the Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium
University Premises

CONVOCAATION ADDRESS

by

Dr. N. MANGA DEVI

Founder Secretary

Sri Venkateswara Balakuteer

Chetana Charitable Trust, Guntur



SRI PADMAVATI MAHILA VISVAVIDYALAYAM

(WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

Tirupati, India

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(WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY)

TIRUPATI - 517502. ANDHRA PRADESH

SEVENTEENTH CONVOCATION



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Founder Secretary,

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Convocation Address by Dr. N. Manga Devi

His Excellency the Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the Chancellor of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati. Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan garu, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. V. Durga Bhavani garu, honourable members of the Executive Council and Academic Senate, Registrar, Deans, Faculty members, staff, my dear young friends, ladies and gentlemen, my greetings to you all.

At the outset I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Chancellor Sri Narasimhan garu, and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Durga Bhavani garu for bestowing on me this Honorary Doctorate. I consider this conferment as an act of encouragement and appreciation of my five decades of service for the development and welfare of women and children.

I feel honoured to participate in this 17th Convocation of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, the brain child of former Chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh Sri N.T. Rama Rao. The University, established in 1983 with a great vision and mission, has a uniqueness of its own. It is unique not just because this is the first University in the state to impart higher and quality education exclusively for women, but it is distinct because it was started with the great mission of empowerment of women by making them more knowledgeable, efficient, disciplined, skilful and capable. The surest way to empower a woman is to give her education and it is the foundation of any development. Sri N.T. Rama Rao was thoroughly convinced of the great role women could play and of the power of education in changing individuals, their families, and communities. He believed that a woman can create and mould not only her own children but the people around her with her love, affection, compatibility and integrity.

I am confident that this University, accredited by NAAC with A Grade, will be steered steadily towards realisation of the vision of creating an enabling and empowering learning environment for our young women, besides gaining international recognition and reputation in the years to come.

My dear young scholars coming out of this loving and educative lap of the mother university, I wish you will carve out a place in this society fulfilling the founder's dream and vision. I congratulate you all on this happy occasion of receiving degrees, diplomas and medals. I also congratulate the members of the faculty for their committed efforts in moulding these young women who are ready to face the challenges in the great task of changing the face of the society.

Now let us analyse how real education is to be, present trends and the role of woman as a mother, teacher, mentor and leader. We are all here working for the cause of education at different levels.

It is not out of place to recollect Swami Vivekananda's view about education: "We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet."

The Kothari Commission of 1966 stated that there is an imbalance in Man's knowledge and mastery of his own self. It is this imbalance that the educated seek to redress.

Again after 30 years, UNESCO Conference of 1996 held in Melbourne reported that the 21st century should focus on holistic education acknowledging the multiple dimensions of human personality - physical, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional and spiritual - thus moving towards an integrated individual living on a harmonious planet. No doubt, present day education is producing specialists, skilled and highly technical people.

Though career and profession are important in the present world, if all the focus is on them, and if success and money become their life goals, innumerable problems are bound to arise in the immediate society and world-wide. A paradigm shift in the thought process is the need of the hour, wherein emphasis must be on societal needs, self-reliance, and determination.

The chairperson of UNESCO also called for the establishment of wider and far reaching forms of international cooperation and to place renewed emphasis on the moral and cultural dimensions of education. This process must begin with self-understanding through inner voyage, whose milestones are knowledge, meditation, and the practice of self-criticism. Meditation is nothing but self-knowledge which gives one the capacity to strengthen one's will, change one's character and unify one's being. That is the science and essence of living.

The state of affairs of the educated being

The purpose of education is to prepare the child for life. The aim of life is not to conform but to be sensitive to all kinds of human experiences both within and in relation to fellow human beings, nature, and the universe. The present formal education is only able to produce knowledgeable, efficient, hardworking, and disciplined people but not always people with integrity and empathy.

Without an integrated understanding of life, our individual and collective problems will only deepen and extend. Technical knowledge, however necessary, may not resolve our inner psychological pressures and conflicts. To bring about a right human being the primary requisites are right education, right thinking, and right way of living. It is possible only when healthy relationships are cultivated among the people of the society and with a nature that love, tenderness, generosity, and empathy bloom with vigour. Hence

students are to be guided to be alive to both physical and psychological aspects of life.

Can we revisit our roles?

Though parents transfer hereditary potential besides taking care of their nourishment, the educational institutions are to transform the growing students as socially responsible citizens. Secure atmosphere in the School, College or University makes the learning more fruitful. Learning implies love of understanding and love of doing. A secure person is naturally considerate, sensitive, and cooperative. Besides, such an individual possesses emotional openness to experience. If there is kindness, consideration, and affection, out of these spring-up politeness, good manners, empathy, and concern for others.

As the young Nobel laureate **Malala Yousafzai** hopes, '*One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world*', if either the student or the teacher can possess the broader vision of one earth, one humanity, and oneness with nature, with the universe as belonging to one ultimate truth, peace prevails in the hearts and minds of the human kind and this inner peace invariably reflects in their interactions.

The role and responsibilities of women in the present world

We should be aware of the fact that Woman is not essentially the object of man's lust, but is much more, she is the mother, the maker, and the leader. It is the privilege of the mother to bring up her children, to help them develop their distinctive gifts - physical, psychological, ethical, and spiritual. The weakening of the institution of marriage and consequently of family, has been a cause of widespread concern. Both men and women need to be educated because a successful marriage requires personal adjustments.

Our beloved former People's President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam once said,

"If my mother is happy my home is happy,

If my home is happy the society will be happy,

If the societies are happy the state will be happy,

If the states are happy the Nation will be happy."

Woman as a mother is at the root of child's development. Hence, the onus is on us to educate parents about the way we impart holistic education that provides not only life-skills, but also the intangible benefits of value oriented life. Let us all, working for the cause of education, make it more meaningful, purposeful, and holistic to facilitate the development of integrated and good human beings.

My dear young friends,

Having gained experience in Early Childhood Education for a decade and more, I wanted to further equip myself with the latest trends and techniques in the same field and went in for research. I received my first doctorate at the age of fifty. My example demonstrates that age and status are no bar in making a right choice at anytime. Lest you ignore, let me remind you 'Dreams do come true' when pursued with all determination, devotion, dedication, and fortitude. The right results inevitably follow. I exhort you all to dream and hold fast unto that dream. Scant resources and shortcomings should not deter you from dreaming high and realising those dreams. As the oft quoted *sloka* of *Katha Upanishad* popularised by Swami Vivekananda says "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached", I reiterate my exhortation. This is a clarion call to you all young ladies assembled here.

If the goal is clear and you are prepared for any amount of hard work, and when you can overcome the 'me and my family' syndrome, you are sure to accomplish whatever you wish to achieve. Let us shed our self-centredness and selfishness to an extent and think in terms of society and its needs.

Young ladies,

Great responsibility rests on our shoulders. We have to sustain and rouse human values. Instead of building walls around ourselves, let us build bridges with concern and compassion, converting the whole world into one state to achieve the clichéd yet universally and eternally applicable philosophical understanding – *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. We should all make efforts to promote peace and put an end to fear. The time is ripe enough now for women to play a vital role. Being sensitive, we can sensitise the world around us. It is incumbent upon us to not only sustain values but also to nurture them in others. Just the way we bind our families with the thread of our love, we have to become the binding force in connecting societies and nations. Each one of us has to march ahead carrying the torch of love and be the crusaders of peace and oneness of humankind.

I reiterate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's prayer "*Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*"

Thank you.