

**CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BINDAL, JUDGE, PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT, CHANDIGARH AT MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR UNIVERSITY, MULLANA ON 20.12.2010.**

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Mr. Tarsem Kumar Garg, Chancellor of Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Prof. S. G. Damle, Vice-Chancellor of the University, distinguished faculty, guests, teachers, students, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a matter of great pleasure and distinct honour to be amongst you on this special occasion of third Annual Convocation of the M.M. University, Mullana. I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating students and the faculty, who have contributed in shaping them as high quality professionals.

I am happy to learn that in the last 15 years, an Engineering College started with about 100 students has grown into a full-fledged University imparting education to

12,000 students in the campus which include 45% girl students. Educating a girl means educating a family. Quality of education being imparted is evident from the fact that the Trust has expanded and set up a University at Solan and other educational institutions in Ambala and Karnal. Credit of this all goes to the vision and hard work of Mr. Garg, who needs to be congratulated for the same.

Convocation in the life of a University is a milestone. It gives us opportunity to see what we have already done ; where we stand today and what we have to achieve. It is a juncture where the successful students are made conscious of their liability towards their parents, teacher and the Nation.

The only motto of the Universities should be to produce well-informed, motivated and cultured citizens and

also to rejuvenite them for their future career and prospects with sense of responsibility. As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said and I quote

*“A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for progress, for adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the universities discharge their duty adequately, then it is well with the nation and the people. But if the temple of learning becomes a home of narrow bigotry and petty objectives, how then will the nation prosper or people grown in stature.”*

The relation of the student, who pass out from any educational institution does not end there. Rather it is

beginning of a new relationship. Even as an alumnae your endeavor should always be to take the institution at new heights so that you could say with proud that you passed out from that institution. Whatever you achieve in your life you should share the fruits of the achievements with the institution where you studied.

In the educational institutions from the very initial age, one goes to be educated. What this education means. Great thinkers in the past had a clear understanding that education was indeed the very process which lays the foundation for Dharma (Righteousness) by removing the cover of ignorance and letting the Self inner shine. It was put remarkably by Greeks with the proclamation, I quote :

*“..... Education should devise the simplest and most effective methods to turn the mind towards*

*the light. Not to implant sight in it because it already has the capacity, but to correct its orientation, because it is now improperly aligned and is not facing the right way.”*

Similarly, the societal welfare implications of education are marvelously brought out by a Chinese proverb which says:

*“If you are thinking for a few months grow fruits and vegetables,*

*If you are thinking about a few years grow trees.*

*But if you are concerned about generations to come educate your children.”*

In respect of marks and division, you may have secured, let me quote what noted historian Arnold Toynbee once said: ***“It is both absurd and unjust to classify a person, once for all,***

*was being first class or third class when he is only twenty two years old. There are slow-growers who blossom late in life and conversely there are brilliant starters who fail to fulfill their early promise.”*

Toynbee goes on to give the example of Winston Churchill who was apparently backward as a child but brilliant as a young man, a failure once again in middle age to become an admittedly great man in his sixties. We have the examples of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru whose academic records in school and college were none too brilliant and gave an indication of the things and events that followed which put them not only on national but on international arena.

We are living in times where knowledge is the

ultimate power. Today, youth is our strength and future. India is a nation bestowed with plenty of younger generation so our core strength is tremendous. I would like to put here that in developed countries major population is of senior citizens including China and other countries, whereas in India 60% of the population is below 40 years. You can lead India to zenith of glory and all of us are looking forward for your exceptional contribution in nation building. In fact youth of a country is the driving force and strength of a nation. In every field whether it is Space, Research, Science & Technology, Military, Industry etc. they can create wonders and miracles by their brilliant contribution keeping the masses spell bound. World class intellectuals, i.e. Philosophers, scientists, thinkers, entrepreneurs have emerged amongst you people. Keep in

mind that your own effort and endeavor is more important as no inspiration, encouragement and motivation can stand for long. It is a general saying that “genius is one percent inspiration and ninety nine percent perspiration”. Status, prestige, position and fame in the society are high sounding words but to acquire them one has to dedicate and sacrifice oneself completely.

How does achievement come? There are four proven steps; having an aim in life before 20 years of age, acquiring knowledge continuously, hard work towards the aim and perseverance to defeat the problem and succeed. In this connection, let me quote famous verses of 13<sup>th</sup> century Persian Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi:

*“You were born with potential.*

*You were born with goodness and trust.*

*You were born with ideas and dreams.*

*You were born with greatness.*

*You were born with wings.*

*You are not meant for crawling,*

*so don't, you have wings.*

*Learn to use them to fly.”*

Education gives you wings to fly.

More than a century back the reputed philosopher John Stuart Mill emphasized the power of education and therefore the need to design and harness it for human good as he said, I quote

*“Education and opinion which have so vast a power over human character should so use that power as to establish in the mind of every individual an indissoluble association between his own happiness*

*and the good of the whole”..... “Selfishness is the principal cause which makes life unsatisfactory. There is no inherent necessity that any human being should be a selfish egotist, devoid of any feeling or care but those which centre in his own miserable individuality....”*

One should not live his life for himself but should serve humanity as well. I will quote what Gandhiji’s mother said to her son :

*“Son, in your entire life time, if you can save or better someone's life, your birth as a human being and your life is a success. You have the blessing of the Almighty God.”*

You may not be handsome but give your hand to some one in need.

Career building after completing the education is one thing, but there are other areas as well, which need our attention. Today, India is being foreseen as an emerging third largest economy in the world, but still there are problems, we have not been able to solve.

Though I am deviating from the subject, but still I consider this also to be my duty to add few words about other alarming issues for which we have to sensitize every one. That is “water”. Though  $3/4^{\text{th}}$  of earth surface is water, which is enough to cover the earth with 3000 meters of depth, out of it only 2.6% or 2.7% is fit for drinking. Our country uses about 86% of this water for drinking or irrigation purposes. The only natural source is rain. The level of water in underground sources is going down day by day. We have to educate the people about the optimum

use of water and no tolerance level for its wastage.

Similar is the position with regard to environment. Everyone is aware of the level of pollution and the reasons there for. You are seeing result of use of pesticides and insecticides in Punjab in recent past. This is also a matter of concern which needs attention. Disposal of e-waste is also engaging attention of environmentalists.

I strongly believe and can say with confidence that you will overcome the obstacles of life with your competence and each one of you shall touch new heights of life. My good wishes and blessings are with you. I once again congratulate all the graduate and postgraduate students who have received their degrees and medals in different streams at this convocation. I wish you all success in life.

Thank you  
Jai Hind