

Gyan Yug

Annual Function of DAV College, Koraput on 10.1.2008

It is my great pleasure to be here today with you to associate myself with the annual function of D.A.V. College, Koraput. I take this opportunity to extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to you all. Frankly speaking, I enjoy myself fully amidst the students. When heart is full words are few. My heart is full with joy finding myself today amongst many young faces full of promises and bustling with youthful energy. Seeing you my mind goes back to my college days. It is true, there has been a vast change in the life but this particular phase of life carries many sweet memories which one loves to cherish throughout life.

This is my first visit to Koraput and I feel delighted to be here in this beautifully located part of the State. This has been a long desire to visit Koraput and today it has been realised. At Koraput, I recall the memories of Gurukulas where practical knowledge was experimented on all branches of wisdoms spread by ARYA SAMAJ.

My dear students, you are proud to have been studying in a college, which has been established on the ideals of Swami Dayananda Saraswati. DAV Public Schools and Colleges established across the country have revolutionized the education sector right from the secondary to higher secondary level with emphasis on character building, sports and games, other co-curricular activities besides academic excellence to ensure all-round development of students. I am happy to know that this DAV college, a part of the vast DAV network throughout the country following the tradition and upholding the ideals of founding fathers has created an identity for itself in terms of imparting quality education.

It is heartening to find that this college is spreading the essence of knowledge in this tribal dominated district which has a literacy rate of 35.72 and it is 18.68 in case of Scheduled Tribe and 35.43 in case of Scheduled Caste. What is more depressing is that the female literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribe is only 8.38. But, I am happy to find here so many numbers of students showing keen interest to pursue higher education which means they want themselves to be fully equipped to take advantage of the opportunities available in this competitive world. Education is a process of learning which continues throughout life. Every effort should be made by the students to develop the strong desire in themselves to nurture the habit of learning even after leaving the portals of educational institution. The teachers have strong responsibility on their shoulders to motivate the students accordingly

by developing personal contact with them and project themselves as the role model before them who will love to emulate.

Today we live in a 'Gyan Yug' where only brain power is important and physical prowess has lost its relevance. So the students have to gain as much knowledge as possible taking advantage of the every opportunity available in modern technology like making themselves computer literate to stay ahead of others and face the competition successfully.

When talking of education it does not mean only literacy, it is much more than that. True education means the all round development of an individual. It makes one aware of his / her responsibilities towards the society. It is the primary input for promoting human values and inculcating an attitude to respect our rich cultural diversity. Mahatma Gandhi strongly believed that education means drawing out the best of body, mind and spirit in an individual.

What gives me pain that Orissa, which is culturally rich and also minerally rich is economically poor. The urgent need is to drive away dire poverty from the State. It cannot remain economically poor any more. Education is the key to remove poverty and promote progress. The State which is now on a fast pace of development with massive industrialisation looks forward to the youth like you to rise up to the occasion and meet the challenges to contribute significantly towards the development and progress of the State. Here I reminded of the words of Swami Vivekananda who said "Give me a hundred youth of character, I will change the face of the country." These words are still relevant in the present time. The youth which is full of vigour and energy should be motivated to engage themselves in constructive work. This is what expected from you at the present circumstances. A ship is safe in harbour but that is not why it is built. Remember you are meant for greater things in life and try your best to explore your potential. So make best use of the opportunities available to you in the college and never misutilise the time as once the time gone you will never get it back.

It has been a great pleasure to be here and spend time with you on this joyous occasion of your annual function. I wish you all good luck and a very bright future and also wish that the college will attain greater heights in days to come.

Jai Hind