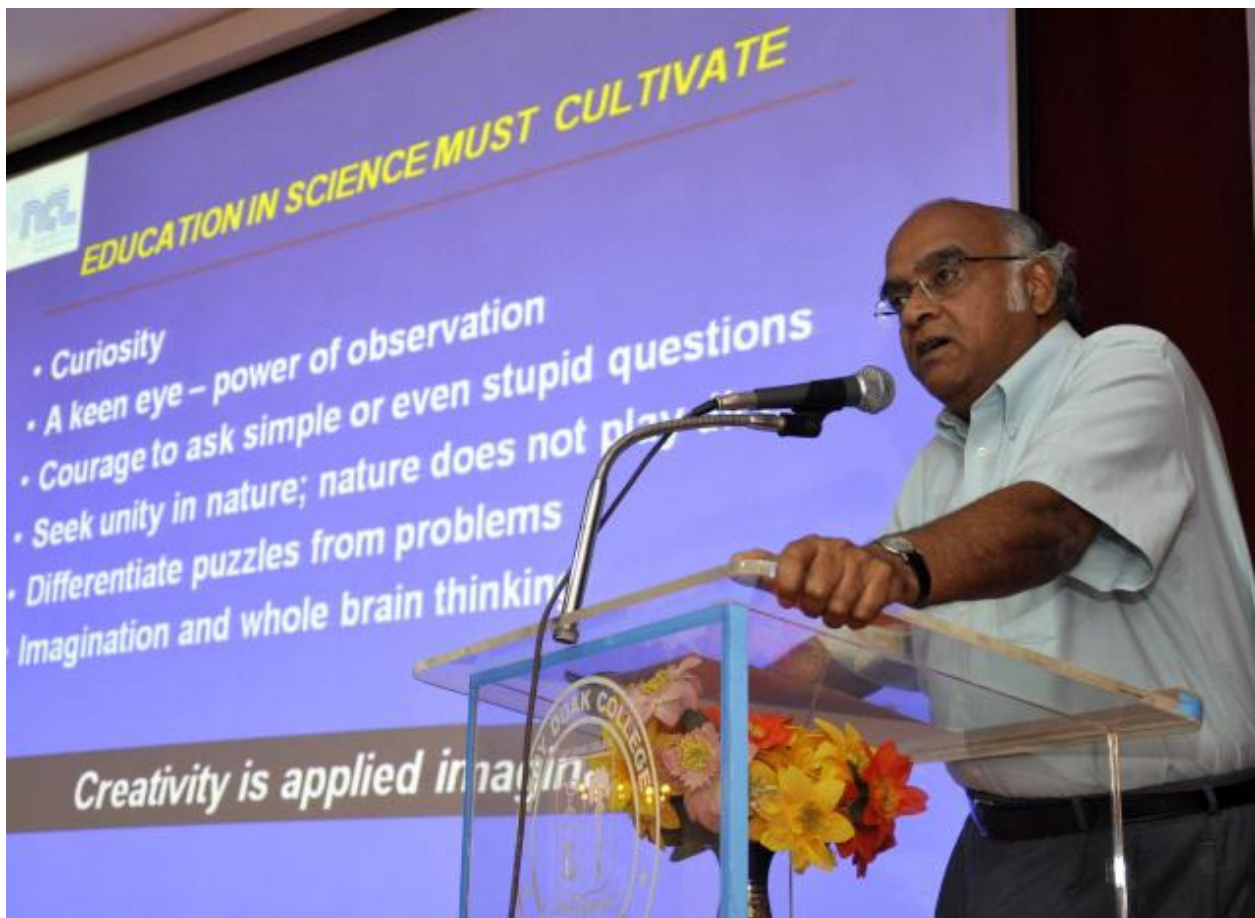


THE HINDU

Teachers told to expect right questions rather than right answers



S. Sivaram, former Director and CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, speaking at a meet in the city on Friday. Photo: G. Moorthy

Higher education meet lays stress on creativity

Teachers must make students ask the right questions rather than expecting right answers from them. Only then, the education system could be termed effective, it was stressed at the inaugural function of a national-level conference on 'Competence building in higher education- trends and challenges,' organised by the Lady Doak College here on Friday.

Asking higher education stakeholders to think from students' perspective, S. Sivaram, former Director, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, and CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow, has said that education at any level must ignite creativity among students — creativity was nothing but applied imagination.

“Our education system expects students to give the right answers rather than make them ask the right questions. Are we giving them what they really need or are we giving them what we think they need? Questions like these must be addressed,” he said. In the field of education, one could survive despite being irrelevant whereas it was not possible in other competitive sectors. “In business, if you are not good and not competitive you will vanish. But, in education sector, you will survive despite being irrelevant and not in tune with trends. So, a change has to come from within,” he said.

Education had become archaic, non-demanding and mostly irrelevant. It must trigger curiosity, imagination and the courage to ask questions in students .

Dr. Sivaram, in his inaugural address, urged women to show interest in science as a career and gave the example of celebrated Nobel Laureate Marie Curie who made it big in life despite several odds at every stage.

A. Mercy Pushpalatha, Principal and Secretary, Lady Doak College, referred to the list of global ranking of world universities in which not even one institution from India had figured in the top 100. “Even Thailand is ahead of India whereas the IIT-Mumbai is in the 187th position. So, we need to focus on quality of higher education,” she said.

Higher education must play an active role to propel India's growth, and supply-demand criteria alone must not be the chief factors in education sector.

The valedictory address on Saturday will be delivered by E. Balagurusamy, Member (Education), State Planning Commission.

Email the Editor

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