

**ON EDUCATION : NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSTRUCTION
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I am indeed honored to be in your midst today, on this very important day, Teacher's Day. I am delighted that you have chosen to celebrate this day, honoring your teachers. This is indeed a noble gesture. Our traditions accord the highest respect to one's teachers, since teachers are the fountain head of all that is good in the world. Our tradition tells us that mother, father and teacher, in that order, are to be revered as gods they impart knowledge, they illuminate our minds and yet, they ask very little for themselves.

We also honor today, one of the greatest Indians, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India, who himself was a teacher par excellence. Dr. Radhakrishnan was truly a Philosopher – Statesman, one of the foremost scholars of comparative religion and philosophy, who built an intellectual bridge between the Eastern and Western thoughts and expounded Hinduism, in all its diversity to the Western World.

In my address today, I would like to spend a few minutes on what teachers do not teach, but is important to learn. Teachers are meant to educate. The term "education" has come to be understood as what is taught from archival sources, books, scientific journals, written notes, visual aids etc. But is "education" limited only to what is taught? In my opinion, no. As Einstein once remarked "Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything one learned in school". Education is more than the process of acquiring knowledge. Education is imbibing the art of living, wisdom to separate the trivial from important and learning the art of imagination and visualization. Education is thus much more than "learning" from books. Teachers are meant to "educate", not just help you to understand facts, theories and equations.

What then are the dimensions of education? Education is meant to impart emotional maturity as well as arouse spiritual feelings in us. Education must help us to understand both the external environment around us as well as the inner space in each one of us. Conventional learning provides us with answers. Education teaches us to ask

questions. Education teaches us compassion. Conventional learning exercises our left brain, where education must balance the function of both halves of our brain, left and right. Learning helps us to understand the physical forces that shape our environment, but education helps us to understand nature in all its dimensions as well as appreciate its beauty.

Whereas, scholarship can be acquired by learning, leadership is honed by education. Learning makes us problem solvers; Education makes us opportunity seekers.

Learning can be accomplished within the confines of a classroom or a laboratory. However, education can be realized only beyond the confines of the classroom, in the wide open world. A sense of keen observation, perception of human nature, ability to understand the unwritten word, and ability to see order or pattern in chaos is essential if one wants to be called educated.

Our world is full of people who have been to schools, colleges or universities. They have acquired degrees and certificates. But only few amongst them are truly "educated". Our world today is in dire need of leaders – who see beyond tomorrow, who seek new opportunities to change the world. We need a breed of men and women who look for possibilities that do not seemingly exist.

I hope, that on this Teacher's day, we take a pledge, not just to learn, but to get educated.

I wish you all the very best.