



Interview

*Excerpts from an Interaction
with a reputed Journalist*



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Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya

(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC act 1956)

(Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)

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Q *Honorable Vice Chancellor, this is a season when Students who just finished their Plus 2 successfully and their proud Parents are looking for answers to many questions. We have compiled a few based on your Travelogue and from other sources. May I ask you Sir?*

VC Sure. I will be happy to answer. By the way, let me Congratulate all the Students who did exceedingly well and their Parents who supported them right through.

Q *One of the main doubts the Students and Parents have is in understanding the difference between education in school as compared to education in a university setting.*

VC Well, one wants to know the difference between School education and University education. Right? In school education everything is laid bare before you by someone else and you are supposed to be thorough with the contents exposed to you. Seldom schools allow opportunity to the students to venture outside the realm of "What is called Syllabus". The reason is that at that tender age, developing sufficient background information about a variety of subjects and languages is more important. Schools prepare an individual for facing the world; lay the foundation for one's character; shape a cultured individual.

On the contrary, University is a place where a Student is encouraged to explore. Ask many questions, not only from the predefined syllabus related to a subject, but also "surrounding" it. You remember "Surround Sound" in Home Theater? Lovely, isn't it? While you choose a primary subject of study, a university is not restrictive and encourages you to acquire the knowledge that you desire and, in a way, that you desire.

As you progress through the years, it opens up more branches of specialization and reveals the association with other subject matters of study. In essence, school sows the seed and creates a tender plant; university grows it into a solid tree with branches along with the ability to coexist harmoniously in the forest of knowledge.

I hope I am not boring or being philosophical.

Q *No Sir. Not at all. It is interesting...
Moving further, may I ask: What is meant by choice, when you study in a University?*

VC There are two types of choices; one when you enter the portals of a university and the other when you are undergoing a particular program. For example, to choose to study any one of (Arts, Science, Commerce, Business Administration, Language, Law, Philosophy, Culture, Anthropology, Engineering, Medicine) is a choice one makes while entering a program. While doing Commerce, choosing to specialize in Taxation, Financial Planning, Banking, Legal Compliance is another. Another example is the relationship between Archeology and Anthropology, Mathematics and Computer Science, and so on.

One choice is visible from outside and the other is visible after you get inside. While the first level choice is normally a joint effort by students and parents, the second level choice is an informed decision taken by the student with the help of faculty counselling during the program. It is perhaps, the first-time student starts taking decision that impacts his / her life.

What the university does is to design the courses and their delivery timing to maximize the possibilities for each student to choose from.

Q *What is the difference between Arts, Science, Commerce, Philosophy, Languages, Culture, Engineering, and Medicine?*

VC A program in Arts subject enables one to understand the civilization around; makes one aware of past, present, and a possible future. For example, a student pursuing B.A. (Economics) comes across the fact (Perhaps for the first time) that cash that one carries in the pocket and the economy you are in are two different things; that the "Economic Environment" can be governed, managed, based on certain broader philosophies and principles. It is a wonderful subject. In fact, my favorite! I can tell you similar interesting facts about every Degree Program in Arts.

A program in Science enables one to understand the nature around. Physics helps you understand mass, movement, forces, and so on. Chemistry enables one to understand the elements and their properties that make the world around you. Mathematics enables to comprehend, represent, model, predict, and manage the events around you; arising out of anything, may be finance or data science or a scientific experiment or a medical study. Biochemistry enables you to understand the interaction of elements and subsystems inside an organism or a collection of organisms called human being. Biology enables one to understand the composition and behaviour of living things. Biotechnology enables one to understand the exploitation of biological processes for industrial and other purposes, especially the genetic manipulation of microorganisms for the production of antibiotics, hormones, etc. The list goes on...

A program in Commerce enables one to understand the business world. Exposes one to all aspects of the business environment; from accounting principles all the way up to governance and compliance. It is comprehensive. It also gives a glimpse of law as well.

The courses in Philosophy, Languages, and Culture are inextricably intertwined as all of them reflect the human evolution from time immemorial. These courses enable one to understand the origin of everything and the role of time in evolution of civilizations. The engineering courses span a spectrum; Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation, Civil, Structural, Computer Science, Information Technology, and so on.

Of these, study of Mechanical Engineering enables one to design next generation robot that is full of Electronics, Sensors, Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Applied mechanics, Materials Science, Mathematics, Control Systems and Stability, Data Science, aesthetics, Engineering Design! In fact, any study in engineering is wholistic. You start with reading and passing examinations, but soon you start "living it and breathing it".

This is true of every field of engineering study.

At our university we focus on Ayurveda based Medicine. Wonderful system based on our tradition and culture, believes in wholistic treatment of all diseases a human body may be subjected to, making of those medicines, nuances of diagnosis and cure are all an integral part. As in any other medical science education, the Ayurveda Program has intensive "patient-centric" practice. In fact, it is quite successful and sought after.

Q *Wow! Very impressive. You gave us a graphic description and a guided tour of almost everything. It makes one feel one wants everything! Given such a setting, how does one choose a course or program?*

VC It is simple. A student should figure out what does he / she wants. Where does the interest lie? Then the choice will be easy.

Q *Should one study only to get employment? Can't one study for the pleasure of it?*

VC You have asked and answered yourself! You see for many; studying is a means to reasonable livelihood; perhaps an investment of future. A university can help students in enablement; encourage them to equip themselves with contemporary skills that are useful in the job market; enhance their understanding of the subject they are interested in; empower them to go ahead and conquer the world in all possible ways.

All that said, studying for its own sake has a pleasure component that is significant in shaping the individual.

Q *What is an interdisciplinary program?*

VC It is an interesting question. When you say there are programs in Mathematics as well as Computer Science, the interdisciplinary programs such as Cyber Security, Data Science, CS with AI and ML focus all turn out to be there automatically. Similarly, when you say you have Mechanical engineering, Electronics, and Computer Science, the interdisciplinary program in Mechatronics is automatic.

Q *Do you have Scholarship?*

VC Of course, we do. Scholarship is a sacred word. It is attributed to the Best. We closely observe the performance and reward the deserving year on year. When they finally graduate, it issues out as Gold Medal, Silver Medal, and so on.

Q *What are your fees?*

VC The programs of study in SCSVMV are economical and competitive. Of course, we ensure value for money. Our website carries all the details.

Q *Why are Engineering and Medicine expensive compared to other courses?*

VC Compared to Arts and Science courses, there are laboratories, expensive equipment, and the cost of running a hospital itself for practical training. It all adds up. Plus, the number of years of education is also more. Many reasons...

Q *Do you have interdisciplinary programs or courses?*

VC We do have a number of interdisciplinary courses. We also allow cross crediting with other departments. If there is a specific requirement for a student doing a project, the Faculty Counsellor can recommend exceptions. We are a dynamic institution. We have strict rules where administration, academic rigor, and discipline are involved. We are very flexible when it comes to academic need to achieve an academic goal.

Q *What should I study if I want to be an IAS?*

VC Any degree. It is not what, but how. An IAS requires ability to read a lot, comprehend quickly, make notes precisely and accurately, excellent language skills, ability to thoroughly analyze any topic at hand, and so on. It is more the way you shape yourself. 50% classroom engagement and 100% self-improvement. 200% dedication! I think I have exceeded the normal understanding that all percentages should add up to 100%.

Ha Ha Ha (*Laughs*)...

We teach Sanskrit to all students at SCSVMV. Sanskrit and Mathematics will open your eyes to the world. If you know Sanskrit, you will be able to understand the Process of comprehension, Identification of Issues, Define arguments, and Participate successfully in debates.

Q *What should I study if I want to be a Chartered Accountant?*

VC Preferably start with a B.Com. Or B.Com. (Hons.). Specialize as you go to higher years. Prepare for the First level examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. And proceed further as you graduate. In our institution, there is an in-built advantage. Many Chartered Accountants from the Chennai City volunteer in teaching courses. Students make contacts and pursue further.

Q *What should I study if I want to be a Company Secretary?*

VC Start with any degree. Specialize in law and legal compliance as you go to higher years. Prepare for the First level examination of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. And proceed further as you graduate. In our institution, there is an in-built advantage. Many practitioners from the Chennai City volunteer in teaching courses. Students make contacts and pursue further.

Q *What should I study if I want to be a Cost Accountant?*

VC Preferably start with a B.Com. Or B.Com. (Hons.). Specialize in accounting practices and information technology as you go to higher years. Prepare for the First level examination of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India. And proceed further as you graduate. In our institution, there is an in-built advantage. Many practitioners from the Chennai City volunteer in teaching courses. Students make contacts and pursue further.

Q *What should I study if I want to be a Scientist?*

VC Study Science. Ha Ha Ha (*Laughs*)... It is a journey. It is Tapas. Takes Years.

Q *What should I do to become a Data Scientist?*

VC Ha Ha Ha (*Laughs*)... The most fanciful thing today. You should make sure you take courses in Mathematics, Computer Science, and at least one application domain. Most often Data Science is mentioned in conversation alongside finance.

Q *Why are AI and ML fancied?*

VC World view. Some subjects are fanciful at some points. Such a trend represents the intensity of usage of that body of knowledge worldwide. But beware: any pursuit should be accompanied by hard work, passion, and devotion.

Q *How do I get a job that requires AI and ML?*

VC Study hard. Try hard.

Q *What is the difference between B.Com. and B.Com. (Hons.)?*

VC As I said earlier in response to another question, the difference is in specialization.

Q *How good is your University?*

VC Ha Ha Ha (*Laughs*)... You are asking me! What do you expect me to say? Of course, we are a Great University. Comparable to the Best in the world.

Q *Do you have good hostel? How is the food?*

VC Good hostel and Good food. Vegetarian. Tasty food.

Q *Do you encourage sports?*

VC Definitely. Good Body should accompany Good Mind. Football has been our continued success in the recent years. We would like to see that students train in the Gym regularly. Of course, our open ground can accommodate Cricket, Volleyball, Foot Ball, and many more.

Q *Do you have "Culturals"?*

VC Of course. Of course. No university education is complete without a Cultural Week! We have had the pleasure of having musicians, dancers, and a range of instrumentalists. We hope we will continue to attract them. Their presence is refreshing inside a university. They are by nature free birds and think out of the box.

Q *How is your University different from the rest? Why should I join you?*

VC Good question. Every university would like to feel that they are different in some way and also unique. We are no exception. But in our case, we are the only institution that is operating under the direct Divine Blessings of Shankaracharya. No one else can claim that. The automatic implication is that character building, inculcation of tradition and culture are guaranteed. Honesty and genuineness go with the institution automatically. Above all it is a Blessed Institution.

Come join us. Be transformed by SCSVMV experience; imbibe the best form of our tradition and cultural foundations.

If you have any questions, you can [post here!](#)