



TWENTY THIRD CONVOCATION

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Chief Guest Address

SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY, Ph.D. [Harvard]
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
Former Union Cabinet Minister of Commerce, Law & Justice

**Twenty Third Convocation Address at the
Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi
Viswa Mahavidyalaya Kanchipuram University, TN
on
Concept of Seven Dimensional Intelligence for
Leadership**

By

SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY Ph.D. [Harvard]

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

**Former Union Cabinet Minister of Commerce, Law
& Justice**

**Former Professor of Economics, Indian institute of
Technology, Delhi and at Harvard University USA**

Concept of Seven Dimensional Intelligence &
Leadership

Dr. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, RAJYA SABHA

Hon'ble Chancellor and respected Vice Chancellor,
Distinguished Faculty, Graduating Students, press and
publication and Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel honoured to be invited to address this Convocation
at the University founded in the name of the divinity on
earth, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi, the holy
Sankaracharya of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham.

India at present has the highest proportion of young
population. The average age of Indians is just 26 years
compared to 35 years in china, 37 years in USA, 46
years in Europe and 50 years in Japan. Young educated
population is key to developing innovations, which
usually contributes 60% of the growth in GDP of a
modernizing country.

So, for India today education that motivates and energizes the youth be innovators, teachers, and entrepreneurs instead of becoming bureaucrats. Good education creates a mindset to take risks to discover new paths to growth.

The world has come around to the view that democracy is essential for full human development which is possible only through education and skill development. The view of the late Singapore President Lee Kuan Yew, at one end and Communists at the other, that economic development must be first achieved before democracy is possible, has now been decisively rejected. But democracy cannot be sustained unless the electorate is well informed, chooses its leadership wisely and the leadership chosen is intellectually empowered by a multi-dimensional intelligence.

Since the world view of economic development has completely changed, economic development is no more thought of human labour driven of Karl Marx or as

capital-driven of Alfred Marshall, but now as knowledge-driven.

For application of knowledge, we need innovations, which means more original research which needs more fresh young minds—the cream of the youth both men and women—to be imbibed with learning and at the frontier of research. Knowledge is gender neutral and hence 21st century offers a great opportunity to level the gender inequity of the last thousand years in India.

This requires for the young a mental faculty endowed with multi-dimensional intelligence. It is not adequate to foster cognitive intelligence only, as is being done in our educational campuses today. There are other dimensions of intelligences recognized now viz., emotional, social, moral, spiritual, environmental, and innovational. Our vast youth population is our demographic potential dividend but only if equipped and enabled with these seven dimensional intelligence.

For decades since Independence in 1947 we had been told that India's demography was the main liability, that India's population was growing too fast, and what India needed most was to control its population, even if by coercive methods.

I had challenged this view as long ago as 1972, arguing that population growth was not India's problem [Noted demographer, Dr.Ashish Bose of the University of Delhi had published in 1972 my research as a chapter in his book titled: India's Population, in which I had argued that the youth of India would if empowered with education be an asset to the country's development and not a liability].

I argued then that modern science, and through the scientific innovations of freshly educated youngsters, can overcome the limitations of land, natural resources and production.

But the negative view of population prevailed till the ‘nasbandi’ [vasectomy] fiasco of the Emergency in 1975-77 forced Indian politicians to become less vocal about the need for coercive family planning. Globally, India therefore today leads in the supply of youth, i.e., persons in the age group of 15 to 35 years, and this lead will last for another forty years.

We should not therefore squander this “natural resource”. We must, by proper policy for the young, realize and harvest this demographic potential. China is the second largest world leader in young population today. But the youth population in that country will start shrinking in proportion of total population from this year because of lagged negative effect of their one-child policy.

Japanese and European total populations are already fast aging, and will start declining in absolute numbers from this year (2009). The US will however hold a steady trend thanks to a liberal policy of immigration,

especially from Mexico and Philippines. But even then the US will have a demographic shortage in skilled personnel. All developed countries will experience a demographic deficit. But India will not.

Thus, India has now become, by unintended consequences, gifted with a young population. If we educate this youth to develop cognitive intelligence to become original thinkers, imbibe emotional intelligence to have team spirit and rational risk-taking attitude, inculcate moral intelligence to blend personal ambition with national goals, and cultivate social intelligence to defend civic rights of the weak, gender equality, the courage to fight injustice, and the spiritual intelligence to tap into the cosmic energy that surrounds the earth, then we can develop a superior species of human being, an Indian youth who can be relied on to contribute to make India a global power within two decades.

The nation must therefore structure a national education policy for the youth of India so that in every male and

female young Indian, the seven dimensional concept of intelligence, viz., cognitive, emotional, moral, social, spiritual, environmental and innovational, manifests in his or her character. Only then, our demographic dividend will not be wasted.

These seven dimensions of intelligence constitute the ability of a person to live a productive life and for national good. Hence, a policy for India's youth has to be structured within the implied parameters of these seven dimensions.

The parameters of such a national policy are [1] ability empowerment—that is the development of the seven types of intelligence stated above; [2] a collective mindset about the legacy and future of the nation which means knowing the correct de-falsified history of India [3] commitment to a social contract of rights and obligations such as a fundamental right to quality primary and secondary education, right to work, an obligation to compete for most positions of employment

on merit, practice gender equality and placing national interest above selfish interests.

A National Education Policy is therefore a framework for the comprehensive growth of the nation's young population between 15 and 35 years of age, and for enabling this youth to be positioned in life for personal advancement as well as for contributing to national greatness.

We however lack today a properly structured policy for development of India's youth. Hence many are going astray to drugs, promiscuity, and crime.

What are the objectives then that the youth should work toward? These objectives cannot be purely materialistic because we know from our past history that though India was the world's most economically developed country, our nation was subjected to brutal assault and loot by a handful of foreigners, and for a 1000 years we could not rule from Delhi.

Materialistic progress alone does not guarantee national security of a nation. What is essential is the character and integrity of its citizens.

In brief, our National Policy for integrating spiritual values and organization leadership can be achieved by measures by which we can create a modern mindset in the youth of India, not only to motivate the youth to acquire technical cognitive competence, but to develop emotional, moral, social, spiritual environmental and innovational intelligence that will make that person a self-reliant individual of high character, patriotic, and possessing a social conscience. Governance, business ethics and organizational leadership has to be founded on that pool of talent.

Such an army of evolved youth will be the asset of the nation, and then collectively the demographic dividend for the nation can be reaped by us for the glory of the nation. Hence, a well-structured national policy for

development of multiple intelligences is vital for making India global power two decades hence.

This then would be a basis for our national renewal and renaissance. Therefore I wish you young graduating students, irrespective of the gender to strive to stand on your own feet, be innovative, take measured risks, and try to make a difference to the society where we live in.



Maitreem Bhajata: A Benediction

मैत्रीं भजताऽखिलहृज्जेत्रीम्
आत्मवदेव परानपि पश्यत
युद्धं त्यजत, स्पर्धां त्यजत
त्यजत परेष्वक्रममाक्रमणम्
जननी पृथिवी कामदुघाऽऽस्ते,
जनको देवः सकलदयालुः।
दाम्यत, दत्त, दयध्वं जनताः !
श्रेयो भूयात्सकलजनानाम्।

Follow the path of friendship that conquers minds
Treat others as you treat yourself
Give up war, give up rivalry
Give up aggression
Mother earth is there to fulfill all needs
The lord God is father, merciful
Oh! People of the world!
Be disciplined, Be charitable, Be merciful
May everyone attain sublimity

This benediction was composed by His Holiness Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Swamiji, the Sage of Kanchi, known as the "Paramacharya". It was rendered at the United Nations on 23-10-1966 on the occasion of the UN day by Bharat Ratna Smt. M.S.Subbulakshmi.