



**Speech of**  
**Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh**  
**Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**  
**At**  
**Siddhartha Academy, Vijayawada, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October,**  
**2019 in connection with 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary**  
**celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi**

Distinguished guests on the dais and off the dais, ladies and gentlemen, media representatives, ADARIKI NAMASKARAM.

I deem it a privilege and honour to be here as part of 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. During India's struggle for freedom, he showed the world that freedom can be achieved peacefully through the path of non-violence.

Gandhiji in his writings emphasized on the need for character building for students. In his book 'The Voice of Turth', Mahatma Gandhi said 'character cannot be built with mortar and stone. It cannot be built by hands other than your own.'

The Principal and the Professor cannot give you character from the pages of books. It should come within yourselves.

Gandhiji had also given a word of caution to the teaching community "If teachers impart all the knowledge in the world to their students but inculcate not truth and purity among them, they will have betrayed them and instead of raising them set them on the downward road to perdition." Gandhiji said students are the hope of the future and they should have a sense of responsibility and show it in a much tangible manner. He also said most students entertain noble impulses during their student days and these disappear when they finish their studies.

Gandhiji said the life of a student should correspond to the life of a sanyasi up to the time his studies come to an end and his behavior should be a pattern of exemplary self-resistant.

It is very much relevant today to remember the views of Gandhiji on education. Gandhiji said education means 'all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man – body, mind and spirit.' He also said 'the aim of

university education should be to turn out true servants of the people who will lie and die for the country's freedom.'

Gandhiji's teachings transcend all generations and are relevant even to the modern times. Particularly his teachings to the modern youth bring inspiration, instilling in them the power of his ideas. Many of Gandhi's teachings are relevant to modern youth. He understood the feeling and sympathy of youth and called them as instruments of social change.

Gandhiji emphasized on simplicity, kindness, truth, and non-violence. These are the essential things that students have to learn and follow. Moreover, he wanted the youth of today to follow moral values. His ideas and philosophy teach us a lot about his morals and principles. His simple life and sacrifice to the nation are the guiding principles for today's youth.

Speaking on the impact of mankind on the environment, Gandhi said "there is enough in the world for every man's need but not for every man's greed."

Gandhiji firmly believed that God is Truth and Truth is God. Gandhi requires the individual at the first instance to purify himself. Self-purification demands strict observance of and adherence to five moral vows such as Satya (Truth), Ahimsa (Non-violence), Brahmacharya (Celibacy), Asteya (Non-stealing) and Aparigrah (Non-possession) by the individual throughout his life, which according to him will lead to a disciplined moral life, purify his soul and realize his ultimate goal.

Gandhiji's profuse writings, speeches and talks cover every conceivable aspects of Indian life of his time as well as present world.

Lastly, I would like to quote Mahatma Gandhi, who in all humility said "I have nothing to teach the world. Truth and non-violence are as old as the hills"

Jai Hind