



सत्यमेव जयते

Speech of Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
& Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University
at the 9th Convocation
on February 04, 2020 at 3.30 PM
at Auditorium of College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati

Chief guest of the function Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr. Y Hari Babu, Vice-Chancellor, members of the Board of Management, Members of the Academic Council, Faculty, Officials and staff of the University, awardees, distinguished guests, dear students, their proud parents, representatives of the press and the media, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset let me congratulate the students who are graduating and their proud parents. Graduation is a time of celebration and triumph and marks the end of one phase and beginning of the next phase. It is a very proud moment for the graduates, parents and teachers who have all played their part in the end result. The students certainly have worked hard with focus, determination and discipline.

Dear students, I have the highest respect for the teaching profession built over many years. Teachers have done their best to help you by encouraging and motivating you to perform at optimum and achieve the end result. Your parents have made many sacrifices in the past few years and provided you with the enabling environment at home, financial and moral support, to help you get through this phase.

There is a saying, I quote:

"Teaching is the profession that creates all other professions"
Unquote.

Therefore, I would also like to congratulate the learned teachers who have worked hard to equip you with the best education, knowledge and skills as well as the human values. I also compliment all those who have contributed in development and promotion of good educational standards in the university.

You will now be entering a totally different environment with new friends and new peer pressures. Parents have to accept that their children will not be under a common roof with them and may even end up a few thousand miles away from home. This will require emotional adjustment for both parent and their children.

My request to parents is to understand the aims and aspirations of the children and extend necessary support system to enable them to reach their goals. In some cases parents make huge sacrifices and it is expected that they have high expectations of you.

If you face any challenges in your life, remember your loving parents and take their help to sail through the ups and downs.

This is the day of the graduating students and I congratulate you all on your achievement. Well done.

This University has prepared you not just on the academic front, but to play your part in helping communities improve their quality of life. This is a quality that you must build on. The developing world is littered with major environmental and ecological disasters. As veterinarians, the country needs your input and you must at every stage of your life play your part in building a healthy society.

I am reminded of a well known quotation which says

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains un-awakened."

You should feel proud to have pursued a course that has a long history. Veterinary Science is quite popular from the Vedic days. A tradition of veterinary therapy was developed very early in India. Based on Ayurveda, Indian Veterinary Medicine is known for its specialized literature, treating animal diseases. Some of these treatments are still practiced today.

Ancient Indian literature in the form of the Vedas, Puranas, Brahmanas, epics etc., is flooded with information on animal care, health management and disease cure. Atharva Veda is a repository of traditional medicine including prescriptions for treatment of animal diseases. Scriptures such as Skanda Purana, Devi Purana, Matsya Purana, Agni Purana, Garuda Purana, Linga Purana, and books written by Charaka Susruta, Palakapya, and Shalihotra, documented treatment of animal diseases using medicinal plants.

Yajur Veda cites importance of growth and development medicinal plants and Atharva Veda details the value of medicines in curing the diseases and provides interesting information about ailment of animals, herbal medicines and cure of diseases.

During Mahabharata period too, Nakula and Sahadeva, the two youngest pandava brothers were supposed to be experts of horse and cattle husbandry, respectively. Lord Krishna was an expert caretaker and conservator of cow husbandry. The ancient Indians were so enriched with the knowledge of herbals and even Alexander acquired some of the skills used by Indians, particularly for treatment of snake-bite.

In the court of Chandragupta Maurya, King Ashoka set up the first known veterinary hospital of the world. He arranged cultivation of herbal medicines for men and animals in his empire and adjoining kingdoms. Kautilya's Arthashastra also contained a lot of information about different animal departments and veterinary jurisprudence.

Salihotra is known to have been a specialist in the treatment of horses and composed a treatise called Haya Ayurveda. Two other works, namely Asvapasansa and Asvalaksana Sastram, are also attributed to Salihotra.

Cattle husbandry was well developed during the Rig Veda period.

In my opinion, there is a need for setting up a “National Livestock Mission”, on the lines of National Horticulture Mission. Livestock production is high but productivity is low. Population driven production enhancement is certainly not a viable option, as technology driven productivity enhancement is the most pragmatic approach for sustainable livestock production.

Healthy and productive livestock produce a wide variety of food products for direct and indirect human consumption and processing. Animal food products from healthy and productive livestock improves farmers’ access to both domestic and international markets. It is for this very reason that the provision of veterinary services by national and regional agencies is a key component of efforts supporting sustainable production of food from animal origins and to the success of farm operations.

So, be proud to be the graduates of veterinary science. Not every project or task you undertake can be successful. When it is not successful, learn from the mistakes made and take the necessary remedial measures on the next project.

The field that you have chosen is very significant Veterinary medicine, as it deals with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorder and injury in animals, both domesticated and wild.

Veterinarians also play critical roles in environmental protection, research, food safety, and public health. However, the basic problems are yet to be addressed and vets across the country point to major gaps facing their profession. The current status of manpower in veterinary institutions is far from adequate in the context of offering quality education.

In 2013, for the first time the National Livestock Policy was released, which acknowledged the need for the involvement of veterinary doctors in formulating the policies as well as a boosting of the infrastructure to treat sick animals and control diseases.

Requirements of the feed industry, pharmaceuticals, food processing plants, semen stations, wild life and zoo animals, public health issues, herd health management and reproduction, environment and global warming should also be addressed adequately.

Animal husbandry plays an important role in changing the knowledge regarding skill in animal rearing practices and attitude towards newer technology of livestock, which can lead to an increase in per animal milk production. As you all know, livestock sector plays a pivotal role in our country, in the rural economy as it is an asset of the poor and majority of the people in rural parts are engaged in livestock farming.

Thus, any improvement in the production of livestock will definitely improve their economic status of small and marginal farmers. In the ever-changing socio-economic, technological and market conditions, it is our duty to continuously upgrade skills of the small farmers, so that they can earn a sizeable amount from their livestock enterprise.

Traditionally, agriculture is the primary rural activity, relegating livestock farming to a secondary status. If you, as veterinarians, take the task upon your shoulders, it will certainly help the farmers to grow better.

In fact, the role of veterinary professionals is relevant in the improvement and protection of animal and human health, animal welfare, food quality, food safety, food security, ecology, biomedical

research, protection of environment and biodiversity. Livestock diseases and quacks are now major concern, poor hygienic practices also are a setback in livestock production posing significant threat to animal and human health, food quality, food safety and food security. Veterinary services sector can certainly help in substantial increase of the nation's Gross Domestic Product.

Field observations and studies at the grassroots level in villages revealed that a lot of improvement is necessary regarding the extension services to enable small farmers and those residing in adverse agro-climatic conditions to have a better knowledge of animal rearing. Efforts should also be made to ensure that necessary services reach tribal areas also through fully equipped mobile veterinary clinics.

The concept of veterinarian should be changed and looked at, from a broader perspective and efforts made at overall development of villages with livestock as a prime factor. Special efforts are required in case of people living in hilly and tribal areas to increase livestock output.

It is important to promote veterinary practice because vet services are no longer just offered in clinics. Veterinary medicine is also becoming more specialized, with clients expecting their pet to be referred to a specialist for treatment or surgery.

According to "Manusmriti" a pupil obtains one quarter of his learning from teachers, another quarter of learning from his own intelligence and the third quarter from the association of his fellow students and the remaining quarter in the course of time. Dr. M.S.Swaminathan, a great agri-scientist once said, I quote:

"If educated youth choose to live in villages and launch the new agriculture movement, based on the integrated application of science

and social wisdom, our untapped demographic dividend will become our greatest strength". Unquote.

The biggest challenge you now face as veterinary practitioners is to keep yourself updated about the changing standards, emerging trends and new drugs, therapies and treatments in the field. It is beneficial to veterinarians to maintain a community presence and address issues confronting the cattle.

I conclude my speech with a quotation from Mahatma Gandhi who said:

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Jai Hind