

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR ON THE OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF GOVERNOR'S AWARD, 2018 & RAJKUMARI SANATOMBI DEVI AWARD, 2018 ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 AT ASHA JINA COMPLEX, IMPHAL

Shri Y. Khemchand Singh ji, Hon'ble Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly,

Shri Y. Joykumar Singh ji, Hon'be Deputy Chief Minister,

Shri Th. Haridas Singh ji, Managing Committee, Rajkumari Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya,

Teachers and dear students of the Vidyalaya,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Invitees and

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be with you here, specially with the eminent educationists of Manipur, awardees and young students on the occasion of the presentation of the Governor's and R.K. Sanatombi Devi Awards, 2018. My congratulations to all the awardees and I wish them a bright future in their lives.

As we are all aware, Human Resource Development is vital to a nation's strength, progress and prosperity and education is one of its key elements. The central purpose of education is to inculcate among the students the ability to think and apply the knowledge they acquire in class rooms in solving social problems to make human life better. The importance of education has never been more explicit than in the expression that the students are the future pillars of the nation. The responsibility of imparting knowledge and education rests with the teachers who are considered to be moral guardians, friends, philosophers and guides in moulding the character of the students. Together, the students have to acquire knowledge, skill and education so as to enable them to shoulder the responsibilities to be reposed

in them by society. It is, therefore, imperative for all of us to do everything possible to inspire, encourage and support the students so that they are able to play a meaningful and determined role in nation building.

Our education should not only emphasize access to global knowledge, but should also uphold the richness of our culture and values, supported by the time honoured and eternal discipline. Education should stimulate all aspects of human intellectual potential. It is equally important to ensure that the students are equipped with core values needed to live as responsible citizens in our complex democratic societies. The world today is highly competitive, constantly raising the bar of proficiency and efficiency. The space for the average and mediocre has shrunk. Extraordinary demands are made on the students for extraordinary efforts, giving them tension and frustration while pursuing education. We should be mindful of creating a conducive environment so that the students do not fall by the wayside. I personally would like to see a position where students imbibe their education with interest and not as an imposition.

To quote Guru Rabindranath Tagore: “Education means enabling the mind to find out that ultimate truth which emancipates us from the bondage of dust and gives us wealth, not of things but of inner light, not of power but of love, making this truth its own and giving expression to it” and “ The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.”

I happily note that Padmashri Th. Haridas Singh along with his associates in the Management of R.K. Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya has contributed valuable services to the society, particularly in the field of education. It is worth appreciation that the Vidyalaya has been giving the Governor’s Award to its best student every year with a view to promoting and encouraging its students in the pursuit of excellence in academic and

co-curricular activities. It has also been giving R.K. Sanatombi Devi Awards to the deserving persons in different professions every year, those who have contributed substantially to social harmony. A peaceful living is a prerequisite for an all-round development in the State. I am sure that the efforts of the Management and Teachers of the R.K. Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya will go a long way in achieving their aims and objectives for a better society.

While thanking the organizers for inviting me to this function, I once again congratulate the Award winners and wish the Managing Committee all success in their future endeavour.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.