

World Students' Day @ Sambhram

Sambhram Group of Institutions observed World Students' Day, 2017 to commemorate the Birth Day of Former President of India Dr A P J Abdul Kalam; unarguably the most loved President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a scientist who made India proud with his missile defense program but his favorite job was teaching and that's how he wanted the world to remember him. Due to his love for students and focus on promoting education, the United Nations recognized Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's 79th birthday (October 15) as 'World Students' Day' in the year 2010 honoring the legendary who always wished to be remembered as a teacher and who has made himself approachable to more than 18 million youngsters over the last 15 years of his life.

Such was his aura that students across the nation looked up to him. His quotes are still shared on social networking sites. His sudden demise on July 27, 2015 shocked the nation but Kalam died doing what he loved best: teaching. Delivering a lecture to the students of IIM Shillong, Dr Kalam fell down the stage suffering a stroke and passed away almost instantly; the entire nation grieved his demise irrespective of caste, creed, location or religion.

A scientist of global repute, Kalam was respected the world over. In 2005, Kalam visited Switzerland, after which the country declared May 26 to be observed as 'Science Day' as a mark of respect and in honor of his visit. The list of awards bestowed on Dr Kalam is endless; in 1981 he was awarded the Padma Bhushan and in 1990, the Padma Vibhushan. He was later awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contributions to research, the field of science as well as his work with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

It was an honor to observe this day in the interest of students of our Group of Institutions and in the memory of the great scientist who visited our campus on April 26, 2013 and addressed the students. Prof K C Mishra, Principal, Sambhram Academy of Management Studies was instrumental in organizing this program and Prof Y Rajaram, Former Dean, Ramaiah Institute of Management Studies was the Chief Guest on the occasion to deliver the Key Note Address and lead the Panel Discussion. The important facet of the program was involvement of two MBA and M.Com students Ms Savitha E and Ms Diskha S who formed part of the Panel Discussion on the topic **“Dr Kalam- Journey from Rameswaram to Space to Raisina Hills: Becoming a Global Scientist-Cum-Statesman”**. To start with the stage was set for the skit by the students which rightly introduced the topic of discussion, in which eight students participated in different roles and this was for 15 minutes duration.

Prof Mishra initiated the dialogue briefing about the program; Dr. Rajaram then told the audience that Dr Kalam was influenced and inspired by his teachers, who taught lessons with lot of practical inputs and those teachers had the quality of loving the students. He also informed how a Professor tortured Abdul Kalam to complete an assignment by fixing a dead line and when the students came up successfully the same Professor patted them at their back and hugged them with appreciation and affection. One of his teachers showed him the future path of and subsequently Kalam got into Aeronautical Engineering.

Later the stage was for the panel members to give presentations leading to discussions. Mrs. Rema Narayanswamy, Associate Professor gave a brief note on Dr Kalam as a lover of teaching and a passionate individual who constantly encouraged youngsters, particularly students. He preferred to be a teacher in a high school had he not become a scientist. She said Dr Kalam, a teacher par excellence had the qualities of perseverance, humility, compassion and simplicity and was a visionary as a great statesman of the world. He also had motivated students to dream and think differently to bring change into their life. About his important thoughts like: social importance of a teacher, how teacher facilitates thinking and imagining in a student, habit of smiling, dreaming to transform thoughts into action, FAIL is First Attempt In Learning and an individual is born with potential, goodness and ideas, confidence and wings of vision so can fly and ready to take off.

Ms Diskha S dealt with the topic “Growing Aspirations and Challenges of Students” and Ms Savitha E spoke on “Role of Students in Nation Building”. Ms Diskha S dealt with aspirations of the students: wealth, publicity and fame, start-ups, MNCs, out-of-the-box thinking and social recognition asking to her and even others were such aspirations realistic? So she also had to deal with challenges they face like cut-throat competition, stress, depression, peer pressure, sense of honesty and abundant patience. Ms Savitha highlighted about the role of youth who are the most important segment of the population when India is the greatest number of youth in the world; government policy on youth development and how youth should be the active drivers and not merely the passive recipients of development. She wanted awareness drive to be taken up on the issues: drug addiction, save and educate daughter, crime against women, corruption, save tiger, river and tree, and awareness on Swachha Bharat Abhiyan.

Good students with value-based society was her formula for nation building; role of the students as good human resource, invigilator of society, knowledge seekers, selfless individuals and as acting as bridge. Students can play their role as: future professionals, entrepreneurs, NGO activists, ethical politicians, defense to nations, social workers, ambassadors of cultural values, policy makers, good and responsible citizens and as industrialists and business tycoons. She concluded students should play their role as nation builders, social key players, to form part of good citizens and contribute to the skill sets, economic growth and quality of living and thirst for knowledge and never ending enthusiasm to learn more and disseminate more.

Dr. Rajaram, the Chief Guest took time to tell the assembly many episodes being drawn from the life history of Abdul Kalam. Every student should feel that s/he is the best; can do the job entrusted with devotion; should feel that God is always with him/her; s/he will be the winner; a strong feeling that 'Today is My Day'. Dr. Kalam has authored 30 books and the important ones are: India 2020; Wings of Fire; Ignited Minds; Indomitable Spirit; Turning Points; My Journey and the second last book written in 2015 before his death is **Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji** (June 2015).

With a word of appreciation to the students who presented their skills Prof Rajaram thanked the organizers; later with a vote of thanks proposed by Diksha the event came to a close. Dr. Rajaram then was felicitated for his participation by the Principal.