

## Initiative for Moral and Cultural Training (IMCT)

*Pujya Swami Ji launched the Australian vocational education and training courses offered by Perth based AAMC Training Group Pty Ltd on 24th July at a function attended by Mr. Stuart Campbell - the Acting Australian Consul General for South India, Mr. Sarat Chandran - Director of Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Jeff Mazzini the Managing Director and Principal of AAMC Training Group, Mr. Kurt Harrop of Westpac Banking Corporation and Dr. H.V. Hande former Health Minister Government of Tamil Nadu and Swami Tattvanishthananda.*



Education, in the Vedic times, was up to 24 years of age. Up to 12, the child is with the parents. After 12, the teenager goes to the Gurukulam. The parents are saved from the teenager-problems. At the Gurukulam, they stay for 12 years and their minimum education is for a period of 24 years.

This was seen in the Upanishads, Vedas. You see Svetaketu for 12 years at home and afterwards father Uddalaka sent him to the Gurukulam. He came back after 12 years, as a proud boy. Then afterwards there was education again. It never ends; especially when people have opportunities that are like the ones offered by AAMC. Anybody can continue learning. You need not stop learning.

In Indian English we have an expression, “married and settled”. That means there is no more anything else to do. But then they use this expression. ‘My son is

married and settled’, somewhere, in Sydney, I suppose. Because we the value for knowledge is just absolute. There is nothing more valuable than Vidya. Na hi jnanena sadrsam pavitram iha vidhyate. There is nothing like knowledge. One can burn one’s boat just to gain knowledge—spiritual knowledge. People used to travel on foot in those days from place to place to copy, to bring a copy of the manuscript somewhere there, where each one has to be copied. Each copy has to be hand written on palm leaves and we have them all. Therefore, knowledge moved this country, the people, culture which is based upon this love for knowledge. You have books in every discipline of knowledge.

In 2000 BC we had a book written by Bharata called Natya Sastra. Natyam means theatre, music, nrithyam - dance. Bharata’s Nrithyam, music and theatre—these three constitute naty., They had a language to talk about theatre, customs;

they could talk about music and they could talk about dance forms, gestures, movements. You have books in every discipline of knowledge. These three constitute natya. They had a language to talk about theatre, costumes. They could talk about music and they could talk about dance forms, gestures, movements. There was language for it. In every language there was some dance. In every culture there was some music that they could write about it and create a discipline out of it. There is grammar for it. We looked upon knowledge and skill as sacred. Gyanam is gyanam. Knowledge for us is sacred.

On the Saraswathi puja day, the day for invoking the Goddess of Knowledge, and on that day they will keep all books. Children at home bring their text books. If they feel they are a bit lacking in some subject and are not scoring marks, they would bring those books and keep them at the top of the pile of books and create an altar out of it. Out of simple text books, they make an altar and then do puja. Because for us, Dve vidye veditavye. There are two disciplines of knowledge.



There are two-fold knowledge. One is called apara and the other is called paraa. Apara means Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, Atharva Veda, phonetics—siksha, kalpam—the know-how of rituals, vyakarana, grammar. Sanskrit grammar is an amazing work. There is the Paninian work. Before him there were other people also. They used meta language to present the a highly sophisticated, classical language. Information is vast. To present all of them, they used meta language—a highly sophisticated classical language. They used meta language. Then there was Siksha, Nirjuktam—etymology of words and then Chandas – prosody and jythisham—astronomy and astrology. Six disciplines of knowledge. Then afterwards, there is bhuta vidya, preta vidya, nakshatra vidya, — you name it, any discipline of knowledge; anything tht is going to be taught by AAMC, that is also apara vidya and then there is para vidya

That is yaya aksharam adhigamyate. Yaya yaa vidyaya aksharam adhigamyate. By which vidya the truth of you, yourself, truth of this world, the truth of the cause of the world. There is one truth which is the truth of the three all the world, you, the world and the cause thereof. And that is know through which means of knowledge and that is called para vidhya.

And then there is para vidya and that is yaya aksharam adhigamyate. f all the three, uyou, world and the cause thereof, and that is

known through which Para vidya is the truth of you, yourself, truth of this world, the truth of all the cause of this world; there is one truth which is the truth means of knowledge, and that is called para vidhya. Dve vidya\haye veditavye; para cha apara cha. Every topne hasto gain these two disciplines of knowledge. One has to have the minimum education so that you can have an infrastructure. If that is there, para vidya can be easily gained. We need both: para vidya—spiritual knowledge and in the apara vidhya, you have Rig Veda is sacred, Yajur Veda is sacred and all these are sacred books.

Then there is a book on physics, a book on chemistry—organic and inorganic, microbiology, geology, geography, astronomy—all of them are under apara vidhya. I told you whatever that is going to be taught by this academy, by AAMC, that is also apara vidhya because they joined the same category where all these Vedas are recurring under one category called apara vidhya. Any discipline of knowledge you are going to make will be apara vidhya. They are equal to Vedas.

Knowledge is sacred for us. On the Saraswathi Puja day when they make an altar for worship, the children going to school may place even books on Indian history! The Indian history, cover to cover, is to be questioned. There are a lot of things that we can question, whether it is true or not. One

person asked me this question: should we worship this book where there are too many lies especially about ancient India, and therefore, how can you worship it? I told him the book contains truth. What truth; all lies? No. Lies also are truths. Lies are truth because you know they are lies. If you know a lie as a lie, it is truth! If you don't know lie, and then you come to know a lie as a lie, it is truth. If there is truth and you don't see it, it is a lie. Therefore it is worshipful. Knowledge is valued here. And valued in such a way that it cannot be improved upon.

You can never see a Hindu stepping on a book. If one born and brought up in this culture of India, he will ask for pardon. Can any one of them dare to say, or do it? : step on it and ask for pardon. So too with reference to currency. One rupee note—even though it has no value any more. If anybody steps on it, he asks for pardon. Stepping on it is desecration, and therefore they ask for pardon. Because money is Lakshmi., sacred and Saraswathi is sacred equally. In fact, in India anything worthwhile you pursue is shared by these two women: Lakshmi and Saraswathi. If



you want to have some happiness at home, she is griha lakshmi. If you want marital happiness, then it is Vara Lakshmi. If you want children, and happiness of progeny, then it is Santhana lakshmi. If you want to have money, it is Dhana Lakshmi. If you want to have land and produce something worthwhile, it is dhanya lakshmi. If you want success in any undertaking, Jaya Lakshmi. These are all Lakshmis. Otherwise I won't be here. And if all success is under one Lakshmi lady, then the other woman, Saraswati, Goddess of Knowledge must be very sad. ~~Nobody~~. Nobody comes to me. . No she is not sad. She is playing and she is relaxed and happy. You can have all these but without me you cannot enjoy anything. Therefore, she is relaxed. These two women dominate our lives. They consume all our time, attention and energy.

As long as these two women rule our hearts, as our Dr. Hande said, India is going to be something to be always reckoned and respected and worshipped. India cannot be taken for granted. It is an

amazing country. You can tell people about India and its culture, in music, dance; It is an attitude and it is very important. One fellow American said it is written in the dollar, 'in God, we trust', and do you have anything like that? I said we need not have to write. Our trust is in the dollar. In the currency is Lakshmi. We have an attitude. India has its riches in the attitudes of Indians. All our riches lie in our attitude of Indians. And they are to be explored, understood and assimilated. It takes a lot of contact; learning because every attitude has a background topic to be understood. Which is an outcome of certain realities, certain facts and they are to be understood, and therefore, any ongoing education or anything that can be continued by anybody, and of course, if you can give some Lakshmi, it is sacred. If you can make a person more skilled, and more qualified it is sacred for me. Therefore, I am with all of you, AAMC. Let them make people gain more skill and let the student get more qualifications to make the life. Thank you all.

