

Stress on dissemination of holistic knowledge

Staff Reporter

MADURAI: Education is not about filling a child's mind with information which the child cannot relate but it is about the dissemination of holistic knowledge that would lead to economic sustainability and growth of the society, said Daggubati Purandeswari, Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development.

Delivering the special address at the 5th College Day celebrations at Velammal College of Engineering and Technology on Thursday, Ms. Purandeswari, said that during these times of globalisation it becomes important not only to produce better citizens who could contribute to our nation but also to produce individuals who can productively contribute to the Gross Domestic Product of the world.

"There are two challenges that we as a nation are facing, first is the lack of leadership at various levels, this is a challenge that we need to overcome soon. We as a nation are

in a typical situation where there is a sea of under development and islands of development and we need leaders to bridge this lopsidedness. Secondly, innovation remains a core challenge, we as a land of ideas have to innovate and make our nation a land of opportunities and for that we need strong intellect based leadership," she pointed out.

"British Morris Oxford ran here as Ambassadors then, now our Indian Indicas run in London city as Rovers, this is the change that we see now. We have young talent in abundance; at a time when tablet PCs are being produced at a higher cost we had our IIT Rajasthan people coming up with low cost Tablet PC Aakash. There is a proper blending of intellect, corporate patronage and government support and this could take us forward."

Role as ambassadors

When students move out of the confines of institutions and go offshore for jobs they should not carry the idea that



RIGHT EDUCATION: Union Minister of State for Human Resources and Development Daggubati Purandeswari launching the 'Velammal Merit Scholarship' to support poor students. Manicka Tagore, MP, Virudhunagar, left, and M.V. Muthuramalingam, Chairman, Velammal Education Trust (second from left) are seen. - PHOTO: S. JAMES

they are fleeing as a poor migrant of a poor country but think that they are the ambassadors of a great nation and its rich culture. Economic studies show that India as an economic super power is inevitable.

In her speech, she also referred to the British System of education and the transformation in the post colonial

era where former President S. Radhakrishnan in the University Education Commission emphasized the need to have a system of education related to modernity imbibing social and moral values. "Though conceptually antithetical are the ideas of modernity and conservation of moral values; however we as a nation have travelled so far

comprehending those two."

Earlier, in the day Ms. Purandeswari, launched the Rs. 2 crore Velammal Merit Scholarship scheme which is aimed to support students from economically and socially weaker sections of the society.

Speaking earlier, Manicka Tagore, MP, Virudhunagar, pointed out the importance of having educational institutions of this nature in this part of south Tamil Nadu which was always seen as backward. Appreciating the launch of Rs. 2 crore scholarship scheme, he said that this could provide great opportunities for students from marginalized sections.

M. V. Muthuramalingam chairman, Velammal Education Trust, presided over the event and M. V. M. Velmurgan delivered the welcome address. Chief guests Ms. Purandeswari, Manicka Tagore distributed prizes and cash awards to students who excelled in academics and sports and to faculty members who helped the students achieve those results.