

# Chairman's Speech in Schoenstatt St Mary's School

Dear Children

First of all, let me extend you all my heartfelt wishes for a Happy and good New Year.

When I was invited to come to school to deliver this felicitation, I was not sure what I will talk about. Then I started asking my friends and other people who are familiar with such speeches. Different versions came. I read, reviewed and finally decided that I will write by myself.

Then came the key matter, what is the subject I can talk to you. I am older than you. I probably could share some of my life's experience and lessons I learned over the years.

First and foremost what comes to my mind is your age. You are at a greater advantage compared to your elders. You have a golden opportunity to lay the foundation for your future success now. By that I mean doing very well in school and school sponsored extra curricular activities. You must dream of something big you want to become. It is that dream that will be the driving force behind your success.

As a young boy growing up, I always wondered how I would grow up and support a family like my father did. It had been a constant worry in my mind. I am sure some of you may also be thinking of their future. In my case, it was mostly my mother who gave me the courage to go boldly forward.

I specifically remember an instance in my life. It was 30 years back. I went to my mother and told that I have got an immigrant visa to go to America . I was expecting that she would definitely say NO, as she was getting older and needed me to take care of her. Much to my surprise, she said, "If you can do better, please go and I will pray for you". It this encouraging word from my mother that has formed the foundation of my life over the past 30 years. The strength of her prayer and the

desire to do better has made a world of difference to me and the lives of people surrounding me.

Our teachers are also a great source of inspiration for us. In addition to sharing their knowledge with you, you grow up learning discipline from them. One of the things I learned over the years is that discipline is fundamental to the success of a person. By discipline I mean your determination to be in school in time, doing your home work, achieving good grade etc. Because at this stage in your life, these are some of the most important things you need to do.

We must also at this early stage think of another important matter. There are certain things where we have the choice to make, like the choice to do well in studies. There are other instances where we do not have a choice. For example, the religion that we are born into, the color of our skin, the gender and the region into which we are born. As I said, we have limited choice in these areas. **BUT WE CAN CHOOSE TO BE BETTER HUMAN BEINGS.**

Avoid hatred towards other groups and live in Harmony. These are things we can choose. We must all work towards a better world where we exist as human beings.

The value of time one thing you must learn while you are very young. Always remember that time once lost is lost forever.

Schoenstatt St Mary's Nursery School, run by Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, is well known for its quality education and the spiritual, academic and cultural atmosphere within this campus. My congratulations to the Sisters of Mary for their commitment to the new generation.

It is quite interesting to note that the motto of this school is 'firm and free personality'. The school aims at the integral formation of the young. Of course, that is the need of the time.

Finally wishing all of you gathered here a positive outlook towards life and especially the children urging them to make your parents proud of you.

Thank you