

Convocation Address by Dr. M.N. Desai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Gujarat at the 45th Annual Conference of NAMS, Ahmedabad

Dr. P. K. Dave, President of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, Prof. Bajaj, Vice-President, Secretary, Dr. Haribhai Patel, Dr. Tarang Patel and Council Members and Guests,

I have always tried to meet Doctors outside the dispensaries or in my Chamber. I never wanted to go to the dispensaries because, for a small thing they would ask me to go for a number of tests which I would not like at all.

There are a number of doctors in my families also. And I ask them a question, “Have you an analytical mind or not? Have you lost your art in your profession? For small reasons one has to undergo a large number of tests. This is not the art and you are not technologist and therefore a combination of both, the art and the technology must be there”.

When I was the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Haribhai Patel and myself and few other colleagues discussed a lot about this. I had to keep police force for six months at Patel’s residence because he was being targeted for implementing changes in Medical Faculty examinations. These changes were against the vested interests of so many.

I particularly believe that, people discussed to-day, in all Faculties, about the quality of education, quality of medical education, quality of science education, even quality of engineering. I have been thinking all these years because, you know, I myself served as Vice-Chancellor for a period about 13 years and I used to say that on the campus I am the most confused person. I had to deal with so many interests: the management, the Government, the students and local leaders and others. But that went on very well and, according to me, the quality of education is how you define it. I know in your profession quality can be detected very easily but in other professions it is very difficult to judge the quality. Yours is a performance based science. People will immediately recognize which Doctors are good, which are excellent and what not.

I must congratulate the Fellows and the Members and those who got Life Time achievement awards, Oration awards and Memorial awards. I congratulate them all because I know it is very difficult to become a Member or a Fellow of the National Academy, either it is of Science or it is of Medical Sciences or it is of Engineering Sciences. It is very difficult to enter into this august body. I, therefore, once again congratulate all of you and wish that you will behave differently and you will work differently, you will think differently than the rest of your people around you.

Prof. Bajaj has rightly remarked that there is no dearth of money. There is no dearth of latest equipments for carrying out good research work. The dearth is that of analytical mind. You must think differently from other people. He was talking about the Nobel Prize. It is very difficult but not impossible and unless you think totally different and something innovative, then and then it will be possible.

The other day I read in Times of India that Mahatma Gandhi was considered thrice for the Nobel Prize but that Nobel Prize is a Shanti Nobel Prize which is more of a political nature rather than of a scientific achievement and other achievements and therefore we can understand that it may not be given to any Indian. I am very hopeful that in very near future we will definitely have a Nobel Prize. Those who know, in Chemistry Prof. C.N.R. Rao was just on verge of getting the Nobel Prize but he lost it and therefore I am sure we are not so far to receive the Nobel Prize.

Once again I thank all of you, particularly the Association, National Academy, for calling me over here to speak on this Convocation. Thank you all.

Wish you all the best.