

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR SHRI V. SHANMUGANATHAN ON THE  
OCCASION OF SOS DAY FUNCTION ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2016**

It is my honour to address all of you and I am grateful for this privilege given to me. To begin with, I remain indelibly impressed and appreciative of SOS Children's Village. It is my pleasure to commemorate and celebrate the Birth Anniversary of the Father Founder Dr. Hermann Gmeiner, of the world wide SOS Children's Village.

His hard work, dedication and vision have saved and change the lives of many Children all over the world.

It is my privilege to be amidst you to stand here and to speak on such occasion and to remember the great work and vision of Dr. Hermann Gmeiner.

SOS Villages take good care of Children in need of care and protection by giving them a Home, a Mother, brothers and sisters in a family environment which is a very unique thought and idea.

I would like to acknowledge the pivotal role played by the SOS Children's Villages in championing the Rights of Children by giving them Right to a family, Education and Health which are important for the growth and development of Children. It is the responsibility of the Society, State, Nation and Country to protect and nurture Children.

The SOS Children's Villages work as per the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. I am pleased to speak about the children, family relationship. The concept of SOS Villages is that the Mother heads the SOS family.

The SOS mother builds a close relationship with every child entrusted to her, and provides the security, love and stability that each child needs. As a child care professional, she lives together with the children, guides their development, and runs her household independently. She recognizes and respects each child's family background, cultural roots and religion.

She is responsible for their well being and good up-bringing. She takes care of the bond which leads a lifelong and ever lasting relationship between the Mother and her children.

I strongly believe that families hold Societies together. We all know parenting is a big role with huge responsibility. The well being of families which keep children together is crucial to our well being as a Society. Under its roof, children enjoy a real sense of security and belonging. Children grow and learn together, sharing responsibilities and all the joys and sorrows of daily life. The families share experiences and offer one another a helping hand. Through his or her family, village and community, each child learns to participate actively in society.

This is why we must move towards giving recognition and support to the range of family forms within which children are being reared; this is to embrace the multiplicity of other family forms and to ensure children growing in these families have the reality of their lives and families valued too.

Children know and believe that their family is the centre of their world. They love

their family trust the care giver as in SOS Villages the SOS Mothers.

I invoke upon all Child Welfare workers, NGO's, Organizations and Parents to always work towards the best interest of children so that we have a better world and safe environment for all children.

If children are happy the world will be a happy and free from all social threats and evils.

Hearty congratulations to the management, staff and all who are associated with this centre for your dedicated service to these children. As per my observation you are the alchemists of this young people who turn gold out of everything. With your laborious commitment, dedication and patience you have enabled these children to transcend their inabilities and live wholesome life like any other child and have developed them from the margins of the society.

Dear students, you have a very good environment here and very lovable and caring mothers to look after you. But you also have certain duties to follow. The mothers can only try and you have to stand along with them to make their efforts successful. You should have the zeal to succeed and the faith in yourself. There are many people in this world who have certain physical disabilities, but they have a strong mind which makes them successful.

For example, we have John Milton, the famous English poet. Milton's eyesight had been steadily declining for many years, most likely the result of untreated glaucoma. By February 1652, he had gone completely blind. At a time before Braille, recorded books or any of the technologies that assist visually impaired people today, blindness was like an intellectual death sentence. Milton was determined not to let that happen. He dictated his business correspondence to transcribe for as long as he could, and insisted that his daughters read to him. The twist in Milton is that he went blind before he wrote his best works, including the immortal epic poem *Paradise Lost*.

Sudha Chandran, an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer and Indian film and television actress lost a leg following a road accident while coming back from Madras with her parents in June 1981 near Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. She did not however let this deter her from goal to continue dancing, and subsequently went on to become one of the best Bharatanatyam dancers of her time. She is well known for her roles as 'Ramola Sikand' in *Kaahin Kissii Roz* and as 'Yamini' in *Naagin* and also for playing Anand's first wife in *Hum Paanch*. She is now a famous actress on silver screens and television. She has acted in more than 30 movies and also got several awards such as Special Jury Award for *Mayuri* in 1986, The Great Indian Television Academy Awards Best Actress for *Tumhari Disha* in 2005, Vijay Television Awards 2014 for Best Supporting Actress in *Deivam Thandha Veedu* and Vijay Television Awards 2015 for Best Mother in Law in *Deivam Thandha Veedu*.

Arunima Sinha is the first female amputee to climb Mount Everest. She is also the first Indian amputee to climb Mount Everest. She was a national level volleyball player who was pushed from a running train by thieves in 2011 while she was resisting them. As a result, one of her legs had to be amputated below the knee. Her aim was to climb all the continents' highest peaks and put the national flag of India. She was inspired by cricketer Yuvraj Singh, who had successfully battled cancer, "to do something" with her life. She excelled in the basic mountaineering course from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, and was encouraged by her elder brother Omprakash to climb

Everest with a prosthetic leg, which was arranged by raising funds with the help of a swami of Ramakrishna Mission, Vadodara. She contacted Bachendri Pal, the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest, in 2011 by telephone and signed up for training under her at the Uttarkashi camp of the Tata Steel Adventure Foundation. She has done five peaks: 1. Everest in Asia, 2. Kilimanjaro in Africa, 3. Elbrus in Europe, 4. Kosizko, Australia and 5. Aconcagua in Argentina.

Thomas Alva Edison was an American inventor of Dutch origin and businessman who developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world, including the phonograph and a long lasting light bulb. In school, the young Edison's mind often wandered. He was noted to be terrible at mathematics, unable to focus, and had difficulty with words and speech. This ended Edison's three months of official schooling. The cause of Edison's deafness has been attributed to a bout of scarlet fever during childhood and recurring untreated middle ear infections.

In 1921, Franklin Roosevelt contracted a near fatal case of polio that left him with limited physical activity. He established a foundation at Warm Springs Georgia to help other people who had polio and he directed the March of Dimes Program that eventually funded an effective vaccine. As a result of polio, Roosevelt used a wheelchair and stood with the aid of steel leg braces. He tried numerous treatments but was never able to walk on his own again. Despite his disability, Franklin Roosevelt was elected as the Governor of New York in 1928, later he became the 32nd President of the United States in 1932. He was the only American President to serve more than two terms.

Thus nothing is impossible. The word impossible itself says "I am possible". All it needs is the courage and dedication to face the world and make yourself a winner. Winners never quit and quitters never win. We have to remember that we cannot avoid the crises and problems that affect a child's well being. We have to take action and work towards their betterment.

I am happy that such NGO's like SOS Children's Villages is achieving milestones through their dedicated work. The help and protection which they provide to children in need of care is indeed laudable. I convey my best wishes to all the members associated with the SOS Children's Village and wish all the success for their future endeavours.

Thank you,

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