

Proposing a vote of thanks, Prof. P.M. Shingi, Officiating Director, IIMA congratulated the outgoing graduates. He said:

During the last two years you have been working very hard. You had an exemplary behaviour. You have not only lived up to the image of the Institute, but also contributed to it in a substantial manner. The CHAOS 97 spoke wonders about your organizational capabilities.

You came to the Institute to acquire knowledge. During your stay here you have been exposed to fundamental concepts and issues in managerial decision making in various sectors of economy and key functions. You have also acquired contextual knowledge about industry, economy, and society in general. In addition to these concepts, you have sharpened your technology related knowledge, whether it is information technology or manufacturing technology; you have sharpened your policy related knowledge, whether it is economic reforms or environmental policy; and you have also sharp-ened your socio-political awareness, whether it is functioning of self-help groups or poverty eradication. You have learnt that there are many things to learn.

The prime vehicle to acquire this knowledge had been the rich repository of case studies which the institute has. Besides, many readings, presentations, guest lectures, seminars, access to an excellent library, and now Internet helped you to fortify your knowledge.

With this knowledge, you will now have a common terminology, a cross functional orientation, a flexibility to shift from one business to another, a flexibility to I shift from one sector to another, have an ability to abstract and articulate, ability to build on achievements, ability to develop managerial networking, and ability to deal with ambiguity so inherent in the present day corporate world.

Such a broad base of knowledge makes you highly versatile management graduates, capable of becoming valuable partners in organizations, which regard learning mode as an essential mode for survival and growth.

You have been seeking appropriate knowledge. And we do hope that you will continue to be a knowledge seeker. The virtues of knowledge are unlimited, immeasurable, and boundless. From time immemorial every soul has recognized the strength, the potency, and the vitality of knowledge, Lord Krishna told Arjuna in **Bhagvad** Gita that among all the human pursuits, the pursuit of knowledge is Supreme. This is because all human actions eventually culminate in learning and knowledge.

The Lord says that on earth there is no Purifier as great as the knowledge. But we must understand the true nature of knowledge.

In praise of Knowledge, The Lord says further that you might be a sinner, you might be the most sinful among the sinners, all those sins start evaporating with the pursuit of knowledge.

But then one must seek the true knowledge. Any knowledge which will help you to achieve self control is true knowledge. The knowledge which you have gained here will help you to control finances, markets, sales, and personnel, but not the self. The focus of true knowledge is self. Knowing the phenomena of self is one thing, knowing the self is another. What is taught here is knowing the phenomena of self. It refers to you as a manager, and the phenomena you are likely to encounter, and how to deal with it. But not how to deal with the self. How to deal with money, material, men, machines, and markets is no doubt a knowledge, but how to deal with mind and my self is a true knowledge.

Scriptures are the road to a true knowledge. You have sharpened your intelligence here. Allow that intelligence to be governed by the scriptures, and you have the true knowledge. "Unless the individual has complete self-awareness, he cannot become a master of his life" Knowledge about oneself is, therefore, important.

What is the essence of the self? Knowing oneself is not a matter of duty, but it is a matter of faith and devotion. Management technologies will develop potentialities in you to manage business. But management technologies about self will develop potentialities in you to manage the self. These technologies, simple as they may sound, will give spiritual content to your managerial role. Insufficiencies within you can get removed by the true knowledge.

Then what is the true knowledge? One can only give some examples. How to develop a sense of utter humility is true knowledge. How control our desires is true knowledge. How control arrogance is true knowledge. How to prepare the mind for higher consciousness is true knowledge. How to control the restless ego is true knowledge. Not nursing any thought of revenge or ill-will towards anyone is true knowledge. How to control anger is true knowledge. How control hatred is true knowledge. And finally how to control greed is true knowledge. True knowledge is the spiritual knowledge. There are many things which can lead to a true knowledge. Even a prayer can lead to a true knowledge.

He who becomes truly independent and asks guidance from no other power except his inner power has acquired this knowledge. Self explorations and knowledge about self is beneficial to the explorer and the learner. This leads to self realization and liberation of mind, it releases the bondage, helps to subdue the senses, and with this knowledge one can attain the highest perfection.

Self control is one of the qualities of divine nature. With this one can achieve the goals of austerity of body, the austerity of mind, and the austerity of speech.

Said Dr. Radhakrishnan, man's peculiarity is not the possession of the common pattern of two eyes and two hands, but the possession of the inward principle which impels the creative acquisition of a qualitative content of life. Learning about this qualitative content of life is knowledge. That is how you transform yourself from educated to a learned human being.

Let the knowledge of our own body, our own senses, our own mind, and our own intelligence, guide the quality of our speech and our thought processes. Let these be the objects of our knowledge. Let self be the object of our inquiry. Let self be the goal of our knowledge. It is this knowledge that will lead us to the practice of moral values, so badly and urgently needed in our public, corporate, and private lives.

You came here with some dreams. May be they are fulfilled. You may have acquired new dreams while you were here. Now you would be leaving us in search of new dreams. You may have a long journey ahead of you. And we thought we should pack some shidori, some food and water for your journey. You are equipped to undertake this journey. But remember not to get angry or hate anybody during your journey. Seek forgiveness or forgive when needed. And adopt a polite posture. And you will have a safe journey. Take care of your "self". You are the custodian of your "self". Our thoughts would always be with you. You will not find us wanting whenever you need us. Please, come back. Till then let me say good bye and auajo.