World Students’ Day

The Sambhram Group of Institutions, Bengaluru, Karnataka organized the World Students’ Day -2017, recently to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam; unarguably the most loved president of India, Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam was a scientist who made India proud with his missile defence program but his favourite job was teaching and that’s how he wanted the world to remember him. Due to his love for students and focus on promoting education, the United Nations recognized Dr APJ Abdul Kalam’s 79th birthday (15th October) as ‘World Students’ Day in the year 2010 honouring the legendary who always wished to be remembered as a teacher and who has made himself approachable to more than 18 million youngsters over the last 15 years of his life. A scientist of global repute, Kalam was respected the world over. In 2005, Kalam visited Switzerland, after which the country declared May 26 to be the observed as ‘Science Day’ as a mark of respect and in honour of his visit. Prof K C Mishra, Principal, Sambhram Academy of Management Studies was instrumental in organizing the program.

Prof Y Rajaram, Former Dean, Ramaiah Institute of Management Studies was the Chief Guest during the occasion to deliver the Keynote Address and lead the Panel Discussion on ‘Dr Kalam- Journey from Rameswaram to Space to Raisina Hills : Becoming a Global Scientist-Cum-Statesman’.

Prof Mishra initiated the dialogue briefing about the program; Dr. Rajaram then told the audience that Dr Kalam was influenced and inspired by his teachers, who taught lessons with lot of practical inputs and those teachers had the quality of loving the students. He also informed how a Professor tortured Abdul Kalam to complete an assignment by fixing a deadline and when the students came up successfully the same Professor patted them at their back and hugged with appreciation and affection. One of his teachers showed him the future path of and subsequently, Dr. Kalam got into Aeronautical Engineering.

Ms Rema Narayanaswamy, Associate Professor presented a brief note on Dr Kalam as a lover of teaching and a passionate individual who constantly encouraged youngsters, particularly students. He preferred to be a teacher in a high school had he not became a scientist. She said that Dr. Kalam, a teacher par excellence had the quality of perseverance, humility, compassion and simplicity and was a visionary as a great statesman of the world. He also had
motivated students to dream and think differently to bring change into their life. About his important thoughts like: social importance of a teacher, how teacher facilitates thinking and imagining in a student, habit of smiling, dreaming to transform thoughts into action, ‘FAIL’ is ‘First Attempt in Learning’ and an individual is born with potential, goodness and ideas, confidence and wings of vision so can fly and ready to take off.

Ms Diksha S dealt with the topic ‘Growing Aspirations and Challenges of Students’ and Ms Savitha E spoke on ‘Role of Students in Nation Building’. Ms Diksha S dealt with aspirations of the students: wealth, publicity and fame, start-ups, MNCs, out-of-the-box thinking and social recognition asking to her and even others were such aspirations realistic? So she also had a deal with challenges they face like cut-throat competition, stress, depression, peer pressure, sense of honesty and abundant patience. Ms Savitha highlighted about the role of youth who are the most important segments of the population when India is the greatest number of youth in the world; government policy on youth development and how youth should be the active drivers and not merely the passive recipients of the development. She wanted awareness drive to be taken up on the issues: drug addiction, save and educate the daughter, crime against women, corruption, save tiger, river and tree, and awareness on Swachha Bharat Abhiyan. Good students with value-based society was her formula for nation building; role of the students as good human resource, invigilator of society, knowledge seekers, selfless individuals and as acting as a bridge. Students can play their role as: future professionals, entrepreneurs, NGO activists, ethical politicians, defence to nation, social workers, ambassadors of cultural values, policy makers, good and responsible citizens and as industrialists and business tycoons. She concluded that students should play their role as nation builders, social key players, to form part of good citizens and contribute to the skill sets, economic growth and quality of living and thirst for knowledge and never ending enthusiasm to learn more and disseminate more.

Dr. Rajaram, Chief Guest took time to tell the assembly many episodes being drawn from the life history of Dr. Abdul Kalam. Every student should feel that s/he is the best; can do the job entrusted with the devotion; should feel that god is always with him of her; s/he will be the winner; a strong feeling that ‘Today is My Day’. Dr Kalam has authored 30 books and the important ones are: India 2020; Wings of Fire; Ignited Minds; Indomitable Spirit; Turning Points; My Journey and the second last book written in 2015 before his death is Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji (June, 2015). The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Ms Diksha and also with a word of appreciation to the students who presented their skills Prof Rajaram thanked the organizers. Dr Rajaram then felicitated for his participation by the Principal.