

Arsh Choksi

2nd September, 2016

Teachers' Day Speech

"Instead of celebrating my birthday, it would be my proud privilege if September 5th is observed as Teachers' Day." - said Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

It is quite clear that the doctor understood the worth of a teacher. I'm here to do the same, to estimate the worth of a teacher in our lives. Now I'm not very good at Math but I'm pretty sure this one's not a miscalculation.

The first thing anybody thinks of when they hear the word 'Teacher', education comes to their mind. Now the only problem with this is how we perceive education. Is it just about knowing the valency of silicon or remembering what temperature suits the growth of evergreen forests? Or is it about improving ourselves holistically and understanding that it's better to know how to learn than to know? And this is where you come in, the teachers, the educationalists. And not all the teachers in the world, but you the teachers here at Champion. You've made us learn three very important things besides Newton's Laws

- To focus more on improving ourselves so we don't have the energy to criticise others
- Never letting compliments get to head and criticism get to our hearts
- We are students for life, and learning never stops

The most amazing part of you as a teacher is the fact that instead of using your knowledge to show how powerful you are, you're empowering us too see how powerful we are.

In-fact, the greatest thing a teacher ever told me was "If you find yourself to be the smartest person in the room, change rooms, you're in the wrong one because you want to be around those that lift up your mindset" and hence I learned humility and the appreciation of the brilliance of another's mind. And I could go on about how you as a teacher have actually moulded our minds, but the point I'm trying to make is, a teacher's role is irreplaceable. Which leads me to the conclusion that a teacher's value is not a number but an absolute measure of their student's success.

Many of us barely understand teaching, which is a humble but effective art. We consider it simple, for we aren't exposed to its underlying significance and complexity. Teachers might look ordinary but they are, in fact, extraordinary because they have the power to change the world. They have the skill to ignite minds. Their vision is unparalleled, thought is unique and they stimulate our curiosity. They are distinguished individuals who develop minds and nations. Teachers understand their role so well that they defy convention, go beyond limits and make learning truly wonderful.

Yes, learning will never stop, and we are never done being educated, but it's this quality of education that we have only two more months to cherish. Thank you teachers for lifting us up, creating better versions of ourselves and most of all, helping us grow.

-Arsh Choksi, 10 A