



Nobel Peace Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi
Founder, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation
Chief Guest-2021

Respected Mr. Shekhar, Mr. Madhur, Minalji, respected Mashelkarji, my remaining counterparts, the Presidents and our today's awardees, those who have gathered here for the ceremony. As you all have heard, I have come here for the second time and I am presenting the awards to the awardees and in the right sense, with all humbleness, I am doing this work because when I heard about their life, about their work and also heard them speak now, I genuinely felt that they all are a source of inspiration.

When I see people like you all taking forward Gandhi's ideas ahead or taking ahead Gandhiji's work, when I feel such people around me, I feel that there is still a lamp, a candle, a light, a ray of hope amongst us.

We are all aware that Jamnalal Bajaj Awards is not only an award, it's a tradition and this tradition is being carried forward by Shri Jamnalal Bajaj's family, his generations. They have not only kept his values alive but have also taken it forward and are inspiring others to promote Gandhiji's values. It is very humbling to believe that whom Gandhiji used to call and had adopted as his 5th son, his sons and grandsons, who are taking the tradition forward, it's not only based on philanthropy and social welfare. Instead in the world over, there is a great need for business, industries and ethics. In every house of the society, this is needed and any form of help is required. In politics, society and even in religious places, there is a dire need of ethics and morality. If these are being promoted and encouraged by the people who are associated with business and those who are the leaders in the industrial sector, then this is one of the best and effective ways to improve the conditions of the world. I remember an incident when I was going to take my Noble Peace prize, it was a matter of great sadness to me that my eldest brother, who used to live his life on the ideas and principles of Gandhiji had passed away. But in my very first meeting, with Rahulji, when he had come to invite me for this award function at my residence. I saw the kind of truthfulness, honesty, concern towards the society and loyalty displayed by him. He appeared to be man within whom Gandhiji's values and principles merged and came true. When I saw these qualities within Rahulji, then after a few days, I requested him as an elder brother to accompany me to Oslo for the award ceremony program. He accepted my request and I can vouch for the fact that when he was there at the program with me, I could see the greatness he felt for me on his face. He had the same pride, the same emotions, the same happiness which you would expect to see otherwise for your brother. Because this was my personal experience, that's why I am sharing it with you all and this is only possible when we live our life with human values. This has been taught to us by Gandhiji and even by the hermits who lived thousands and thousands of years ago.

My dear and respected Mashelkarji has raised many valid questions. He has spoken many things and in one way, he has warned us that the issues which has been created by this pandemic, the negative outcome which will be faced by all, out of these, the biggest victims would be the children, women and those people in the society about whom David Albert spoke just now. When David Albert was giving his short speech, he said that he is going to receive this award on behalf of the last person of society, the last man and the last woman. He also listed a number of categories and people who are most deprived, who are most marginalized, who are most needy and they need humanity, human dignity, human freedom and equal opportunity in the world. All that he spoke about is connected to what Mashelkarji also said.

I work amongst children and as I speak, I can say that it's a matter of great concern that in this world, with a lot of promptness, authenticity and swiftness, neglected and deprived children are not being given opportunities. If their education, their medical aid, shelter for them, their goodness and welfare are not being taken care of, then by the end of 2022, nearly 46 million children, that is more than 4.5 crore children will go in for child labour, majority of the children will be pushed into it. This is a matter of great worry and concern. 24-25 million children, in this world will not return to school. They will be forced into prostitution, they will be pushed into slavery, those kids will be forced to do child labour and they will be indulged in small crimes – such will be their situation in future. Crores of people are becoming victims of unemployment and poverty. Amongst all these situations, the kind of program we are having today, the need for this program is so high today that has never been felt before. Sometimes, we come across situations when the world finds itself in real testing times. And Mashelkarji rightly pointed out that, this pandemic is not simply a health crisis or an economic crisis. This is the crisis of our welfare of children or childhood and I will go one step behind and say that this is going to be the crisis of entire civilization. There is a need to show oneness now, there is more need of it now than ever felt before. Those who have got this award today, it shows that social awareness, social consciousness, social initiative, social efforts and social improvement are extremely important today, more important than before. When there is progress on a normal basis, then people think that all this work will be done by the people in power, wherever they are sitting and operating from in the world. But without the parliamentarians and men in power also, sustainable change and sustainable transformation can be brought about – this is what Gandhiji has taught us and our awardees have proven that this is possible through the work done by them.

I am thinking of 4 points here, which I feel are extremely important today and from time to time, I have been saying that globalization of compassion is remarkable. We have globalized our means, our business and even our markets. Information, knowledge, news and technology has also been globalized. We have also globalized production and supply. Even knowledge is being globalized but it's happening only in the middle of all, where a lot of shrinkage is happening, inside our humanity, so for that it's important to go for globalization of compassion.

The 2nd point that we need to learn from this pandemic is that, we all are so interconnected with each other, but this pandemic teaches us, that there is no problem or no solution that can be addressed in isolation. We have to learn this from our neighborhood and we have to learn it in the geo-politics, in economies and everywhere. That's why I recommend that we need a supply chain for gratitude. We are sitting here, I am addressing to you, you are receiving the award virtually. This was possible because of so many people, a long chain of contributors who have contributed in our lives. The room in which I am sitting, the light is on here, this room inside the hermitage is safe. I am grateful to those who have made this. The people who are sitting in power, those who have achieved great heights in the industrial sector, those who have achieved success, those who have studied a lot and become academicians and scientists and entrepreneurs, they have not succeeded only because of their hard work. It's true that they have put in hard work and have got talent but there are many people involved. Today, as I am sitting here after eating my meal, I am grateful to not only the one who has made it and cooked it but to all those who are in the villages, in the fields, in the farms who have helped in growing it. If I am alive today, if I am succeeding today, then it's possible because of someone or the other and it's a long chain. So when we talk of supply chain of production and distribution, let us think of supply chain of gratitude. There are so many people who are contributing to our life and we must express our gratitude to them.

The 3rd point is that, we have created what we call the network of thanks now, in this modern technology. Just to connect everything with each other, we have formed a network of thanks by connecting our goods, our devices, our electronic items, our computers, our artificial intelligence. But let us learn how to create

the network of responsibility, mutual responsibility. We have to feel responsible to each other, this rebuilding of responsibility, this network of responsibility if we create then maybe we will be able to live with better security and safety. This is what we must learn from the pandemic.

Now the 4th point that I would like to say is, people often don't believe in diversity, they don't respect it. The colours of the rainbow cannot be clubbed into one. The 7 colours of the rainbow enhances its beauty. Similarly, in our life also, there are different ideas, different ideologies, different religions, different prayers, different languages, people from different cultures, when people from different countries meet, then together we all form a humanity race. We must realize this and realize it more now because of this pandemic and after the pandemic. So, we cannot ignore diversity and we must respect it.

Then we talk of algorithm. We live in the world of algorithm. Artificial intelligence is driven by that. So if we want to make an algorithm, which will look into diversity, we must accept these diversities. Whatever is there in these algorithms, we must join them to make a formula which will be beneficial for the society and bring about improvement. We can try in that direction. So I feel that these 4 points - globalization of compassion, supply chain of gratitude, network of responsibilities and algorithm of diversities, will help us in making this world a safer and better place. We cannot get peace, sustainability, prosperity and progress and inclusive development till we don't feel compassionate and responsible towards each other and move ahead.

So, we all together will form a new and improved India, form a better world and I expect that the kind of proactivity, the Indian government and the Indian industrialists have shown by sending vaccines to the poor countries of the world, that's very important because we are not free from this pandemic. Each one of us have the potential and the talent. We are born with unlimited potential, power and possibilities because our God cannot be so meager to give us birth with limited resource of possibility and potential. We are born with divine powers, each one of us.

I can just sum up with one short story. When I was invited to give my acceptance speech on the dais of Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, I lost my papers with my prepared points and then I suddenly remembered a story which I had read sometime in my childhood and it goes like that. There was a heavy fire in the jungle. All animals and birds and everybody were rushing for a safer place, leaving the jungle behind including the lion. And the lion noticed that there was a tiny humming bird flying straight towards the flames and lion was shocked. It said to the bird, "What are you doing? You are committing suicide?" The bird said, "No sir, I am going to extinguish this fire because I was born and grew up in this jungle." The lion was more surprised and then it asked again, "How come? How will you do it?" Then bird replied, "Sir, look at my beak. I am carrying a drop of water. I am doing my bit". I am doing my bit, it said and the rest is history. Dear friends, each one of us has that humming bird inside us. We have to do our bit. We can do and we will do and I am so proud to say that all of you, whom I can see on this screen virtually, they have done their bit and they have proven that the humming bird is around us and our jungle, our India and our world is safe.

Thank you so much.

