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## Provide more education to women: Governor

From Our Staff Reporter

CHENNAI, March 8.

The Tamil Nadu Governor, Ms. Fathima Beevi, on Saturday underscored the need to provide "education in its widest meaning" as an essential input for women's empowerment.

"Woman needs to have certain basic powers for emancipation and to enjoy equality. In the absence of opportunities and options, no woman can liberate herself and lead a fully productive life." A woman's contribution should become visible and her inner strength unleashed. In other words, a woman should be empowered to be herself, recognise her own worth and have proper self esteem. Central to this process was the person's self esteem coming from experiences. Education in its widest meaning is an essential input of the empowering process, Ms. Fathima Beevi said addressing the College Day function at Stella Maris College, Chennai, which completes 50 years this year.

Discrimination against women and denial of their rights was a global phenomenon. Enlightened persons had tried to better the situation. A woman's entry into higher education was viewed as a hallmark of social development. Governments offered it as an indicator of women's status.

Pointing to recent instances, the Governor said empowered women had stopped felling trees in Garhwal Himalayas, taken part in the

Chipko movement; more recently women's groups launched a successful anti-liquor movement in Nellore.

Ms. Fathima Beevi said in a rapidly changing world women should recognise their responsibilities in shaping the new world, for which their education was important.

To solve political, economic, and social problems, priority must be given to education in all its branches — literary, scientific, vocational and professional along with social education. In this context, she said Stella Maris College was contributing more than its fair share towards improving women's status by neutralising identified weaknesses. Its "vast sea of intelligent vibrant women spell hope for Indian womanhood," she added.

The College Principal, Dr. Annamma Phillip, said the institution was founded by Franciscan sisters on India's Independence Day in 1947, to signal a new thrust to women's education. She traced the history and growth of the college into an institution which shone in academic and extra-curricular activities like sports, NSS and NCC.

The Governor honoured some of the founding missionaries of the college, and gave away prizes to outstanding students.

Sr. Mary Rose, the Provincial Superior, Chennai, offered her felicitations. Among those who spoke on the occasion were Dr. Flavia and Dr. Meena N. Swamy, Vice Principals.