GJ Speech on Coming Revolution in Higher Education

1. Common global challenges
   a. Economic
      • Persistent poverty – 2B
      • Rising unemployment
      • Growing inequality
   b. Social
      • Alienation
      • Insecurity
      • Social unrest
   c. Political
      • Armed conflict
      • Refugees
      • Nuclear weapons
      • Terrorism
   d. Ecological
      • Pollution
      • Depletion of resources
      • Disruption of the ecosystem
      • Climate change

2. Causes
   a. All these problems can be traced to common causes
   b. They reflect deficiencies in our thinking and our action
   c. They reflect a loss of harmony with ourselves, with other people and with the natural environment in which we live

3. Our problems arise from Cartesian divorce estrangement between human beings and our environment
   a. Mind knows by dividing reality into small parts
b. The more we know the part, the more we lose sight of the whole

c. Fragmentation of disciplines of thought and fields of activity

4. Mind divides everything including time
   a. We live in our memories and expectations
   b. We act as if the past no longer exists
   c. We ignore the future which we create by our present acts
   d. We can only be fully alive and conscious in the present moment

5. Physicality of mind
   a. Physical mind mistakes the outer material reality as the sole reality
   b. We seek security by building 70,000 nuclear weapons that threaten our existence
   c. We have become so materialistic that we have forgotten the very purpose of living
   d. We forget that the greatest power of mind is not to invite new technologies but to invent new ideas
   e. Ideas are far more powerful than material technologies
   f. Ideas such as Glasnost have the power to change the world

6. Piecemeal fragmented solutions will not solve our problems
   a. We cannot save the planet without also meeting the needs of all human beings
   b. Poverty is the worst pollution – Indira
   c. Employment and economic security are linked to ecology
d. All are linked to peace, political stability, freedom, equality and rule of law

e. Rights of nations must be balanced by the sovereign rights of humanity and global commons

7. Need for comprehensive, holistic integrated solutions
   a. We need integral knowledge of human development
   b. We need trans-disciplinary science of society
   c. Need for a new paradigm

8. Ecological thinking is holistic
   a. Ecological thinking is comprehensive – it embraces the whole
   b. Ecological thinking is integrated – it sees the linkages and interrelationships
   c. Ecological thinking is organic – it recognizes that people, institutions, societies and ecosystems are not merely mechanical arrangements – they are living beings
   d. We must infuse all fields of education with ecological thinking

9. Russia
   a. Russia spans two continents – Europe and Asia
   b. Each has developed different faculties to a high level
      • Europe emphasizes the power of mind
      • Asia has developed the power of emotion, the heart
   c. Europe has developed the mental sciences to the highest level
   d. Asia has been the source of our highest intuitive spiritual knowledge
   e. Humanity today needs a synthesis of these two most ways of knowing
10. Education as technology for social evolution
   a. Definition of education

11. Early childhood learning
   a. Capacity for education starts in infancy
   b. Our brain formation and world view are formed before the age of six
   c. Therefore starting early is essential

12. Need for a revolution in education
   a. Break down the artificial barriers between subjects and disciplines
   b. Active learning vs passive transmission of information
   c. Integrated thinking
   d. Educational of the whole child – physical, social, mental, spiritual

13. Individual and Cultural Diversity
   a. Diversity is nature’s greatest secret of richness and creativity
   b. We are destroying the rich biological diversity of the planet
   c. We are also neglecting the rich cultural diversity of human potential
   d. Our education is standardized, massified social conditioning at a time when we really need to be fostering originality, creativity and individuality
   e. We need individual and cultural diversity to match the rich diversity of nature

14. Individuality
a. Human Individual is the most complex and wonderful creation of nature

b. Individual is the microcosm. Nature is the macrocosm. Both are infinite in complexity

c. The non-conforming individual is the source of all social creativity and innovation

d. Individual has the power to change the world
   • Copernicus, Galileo, Catherine the Great, Einstein, Mahatma Gandhi, Mikhail Gorbachev

e. All evolution has been moving toward the emergence of greater individual capacity, knowledge, skill and human potential

f. God became man so that man can become Divine

g. Individuality does not mean selfish, egoistic individualism – every man for himself

h. It means discovery and full development of our individual uniqueness

15. Human centered approach to social development
   a. That recognizes human beings as our most precious resource
   b. Based on harmony with ourselves, other people and the natural environment which is our Mother and our only home

16. Human-centred education
   a. That educates the whole person
   b. That stresses the mental and emotional as much as the physical nature of reality
   c. Value-based

17. Value of Values
a. Values are not merely high idealistic utopian goals
b. They are the quintessence of wisdom based on humanity’s experience
c. Values are knowledge for highest accomplishment
d. Among the eternal values that our education needs to impart
e. Freedom for
   • Individual creative self-discovery and self-expression
   • For social and cultural diversity
   • For future generations
f. Harmony and balance between
   • inner and outer
   • ourselves, other people and nature
   • between consumption and conservation
   • material security, psychological well-being and spiritual fulfilment