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Title: Need to introduce philosophy of Thirukural in school syllabus.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): A moral numbness has enveloped our lives now as we have lost the sense of distinction between right and wrong. The world increasingly reeks of amorality, if not immorality. Anarchy born of utter selfishness reigns supreme. Today's world is characterised not by moral values but by success stories. Our present education system is founded on the principle of utility rather than morality. As we do not teach moral or religious values in our schools and universities, there is a dearth of good values in the lives of modern Indian. This accounts for lack of humanity and the huge percentage of crime.

Twenty-Four Hundred years ago, when a perfect and stunning civilization of great culture and literature flourished in Tamil Nadu, Sage Thiruvalluvar, synthesised great principles of living in epigrammatic Kural Venba comprised in 1330 couplets in 133 Chapters under 3 great Topics of Rectitude, Wealth and Love. The entire Life of Man is comprised in these three concepts. Thirukural commences with the Praise of God. His is the Universal God, Who is above the bickering of religions. It is to the great credit of the Poet that he nowhere mentions any religion, whilst Theism and Belief are central to his poetry, he has not chosen to identify himself with any religion. That is why Thirukural is called a Universal Gospel. Thiruvalluvar, in sharp contrast to most saints and sages, does not negate life; and on the other hand, he urges one to live one's life in the full observing the principle of *aram* in every walk of life. The word *aram*, translates as *dharma* — Justness, Rectitude or Virtuous Living. Thirukural has been translated into many Indian and foreign languages.

I urge the HRD Ministry to make Thirukural a compulsory subject at all classes and other Ministries to propagate the philosophy of Thirukural in their respective departments so that our lives become so much more meaningful and culturally richer.

