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Mr Lee Kuan Yew on “the kind of students we want to produce”: “What is the ideal product? The ideal product is the student, the university graduate, who is strong, robust, rugged, with tremendous qualities of stamina, endurance and at the same time, with great intellectual discipline and, most important of all, humility and love for his community; a readiness to serve whether God or king or country or, if you like, just his community.”

The above quote on education by Mr Lee Kuan Yew resonates with me. It underscores the all-encompassing development of our students, highlighting qualities beyond just academic excellence. Yes, I concur that the ideal product of education is indeed a well-rounded individual with mental strength, cerebral discipline, humility, social responsibility, civic mindedness and a readiness to serve.

There is a significant need as well to foster critical thinking, problem-solving ability, and intellectual curiosity. Education is not just the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think. It is constructive to also encourage a spirit of volunteerism and social engagement among our students, cultivate empathy, strengthen socio-emotional competencies and instill resilience in our students.

It is my firm conviction that by embracing this holistic approach, we can effectually equip students with tenable skills, sound values and relevant knowledge to make meaningful contributions, positively impact their communities and lead fulfilling lives. We are also in a better position to support the multifaceted growth of our next generation, who would bring Singapore forward into the future.