

Partnership in Education is important: Jannif

A well-known advocate in Fiji’s higher education sector, Ikbal Jannif has described Education as a tripartite activity, requiring team work between the education decision makers, teachers, parents/students.

Jannif said in order to succeed in the field of education, various stakeholders needed to work together.

“If we don’t move together, we all will fall. Everyone must move in a coordinated fashion otherwise it will collapse,” commented Jannif.

The Fiji National University (FNU) Former Chancellor was recently awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters for his enormous contribution in education and research.



FNU Former Chancellor Mr Ikbal Jannif

Sharing his lifelong journey in the Education sector, Jannif said partnership in Education is mandatory because it not only provides us all with opportunities to continually learn and improve, but also helps in solving issues to a large extent.

“If we want educational experiences and lifelong learning to be both experiential and relevant, partnership is the vehicle,” said the former chancellor.

“The more we collaborate, the more likely we are to address challenges which arise. Education is a very dynamic area, changing and evolving at every turn. We must try and keep up to date with what is happening but in doing so we should also consider our other stakeholders. I believe in having that broad consultation. Obviously, someone is going to make the final decision and the consultation will help in that decision-making,” commented Jannif.

The Honorary Award recipient said his interest in education dates back to 1950’s when he was in primary school.

“I studied at Marist Brothers Primary School. I remember going to school early in the morning and seeing teachers already in classrooms ready to start their

day. There were no computers at that time, teachers had to arrive early to prepare the lessons. I took them as an inspiration and this is what led me to contribute towards education at a later stage in my life,” added Jannif. Giving credit, Jannif said “I believe that my years as a recipient of education at Marist Brothers Schools is what has moulded me into what I am today”.

Jannif served on the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of four different schools attended by his children and grandchildren. In October 2005, Jannif was recognised for his work with Marist schools, and made an Associate member of the Marist Family of Champaganat Associates.

“My message to students is that you must play your part. Education is not about you as a student in one corner and the teacher in another corner with and the Ministry having a helicopter view of both corners. For me, education is a partnership and in a circle. Students and teachers both must play their parts; and my advice to parents is also to play their part. They should show interest in their child’s education. Teachers should not only be focusing on the curriculum for passing exams, but also on the moral and civic education of the student. Teach them social skills as well as teaching them to pass their exam,”

FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey congratulated Jannif on receiving the Honorary Doctor of Letters award.

“Universities award honorary degrees to individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to education and research. It is hard to think of anyone who deserves this recognition more in Fiji,” said Professor Healey.

Jannif has served for almost 25 years on the USP Council, including terms as Chair of Council and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, as well as chairing the Council of the Fiji Institute of Technology and, most recently, serving a three-year term as Chancellor of the Council of Fiji National University from 2015 to 2018.



Mr Jannif receiving his honorary award for his contribution in education sector.