

Sri Sathya Sai Education

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2008



Sri Sathya Sai Education

**Proceedings of the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference
July 20-22, 2008**

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Dedicated With Love and Reverence at the Divine Lotus Feet of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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Sri Sathya Sai Educare— Human Values

Divine Discourse, Inaugural Session, Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference
Prasanthi Nilayam, July 20, 2008

Embodiments of Love! I have nothing more to add to what has been told to you by Michael Goldstein and All-India President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Srinivasan. Education is not a subject on which anybody and everybody should talk. Today, education has become more outward and worldly. Today, there are millions and millions of people who have pursued such worldly education in India. In what way the society is benefited by such people? **Everyone is concerned with his own selfish interest. There is none who cares for public interest and welfare. No one is bothered about how society is and in what condition it is, or what difficulties people are undergoing.** When they speak in public they give long rhetoric about helping the poor, but when it comes to action, they are nowhere near. You all know in what state the world is today. Wherever you turn, you see sorrow and suffering. Peace and happiness are not to be found anywhere.

Protect the Poor and the Downtrodden

Every country claims progress and achievement in different areas. These claims are hollow in nature as peace and happiness cannot be found anywhere. If we enquire into the truth, every country is steeped in difficulties and is in some crisis or the other. No government makes a sincere effort to understand the difficulties faced by poor people. It is very difficult to determine who is poor and who is rich. All are “poor” in one sense. **Then who are the rich people? Those who put into practice what they say.** It is said, “*Manasyekam vachasyekam karmanyekam mahathmanam.*” It means that those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect accord are “Mahathmas” (great souls). Such people are very rare. In fact, countries like Russia and America, which are considered to be super powers, are causing great harm to the poorer countries. They do not even regret for their mistakes. They are unable to realise how the people of the under-developed and developing countries are suffering. For example, the people in Iraq underwent untold suffering. But, none cared to bother about their suffering. No doubt, that in every country, there are rich and poor people. Strangely, it is the rich people who are taken care of and given help. No one comes to the rescue of the poor people or provide succour to them. Hence, first and foremost, the poor and the downtrodden should be protected.

Cultivate Love and Compassion

Every devotee must cultivate love and compassion. It is said, “*Thyagenaike amruthathwa-manasuh*” (it is only by sacrifice alone that one can attain immortality). **It is only a person with the quality of sacrifice who can experience bliss.** Those with the ego-centric feeling of “I”

and “mine” can never be happy in life. Where there is the feeling of “I” there comes ego. Those who cultivate the feeling of “mine” and “my people” develop attachment. One should never develop the feeling that only my country should prosper. One should develop a broader outlook and pray, “*Lokah samasthah sukhino bhavanthu.*” (May all the worlds be happy!).

Those who develop the narrow-minded feeling of “I” and “mine” undergo a lot of suffering. This is due to the secular education that they have acquired. Worldly education does not go beyond one’s own selfish interest. **We should love all and serve all.** Today the rich have lost the qualities of “*papa bheeti*” and “*daiva preeti*” (fear of sin and love for God). If only you cultivate these two qualities, you can achieve anything in life.

Cultivate Human Values

We must bring down our selfish interest to a certain extent. One has to gradually give up selfishness. **We have to make full use of our education and energies for the benefit of the society.** If there are no poor people, you cannot even be sure of getting your food; for it is they who toil in the fields and factories to produce the grains and goods for the consumption of people in the society. While the rich enjoy the comforts of life, the poor sweat to keep their body and soul together. Every individual in a society has his own rights, the right to live, etc. Hence, we must take care of the poor people also and provide them with certain basic necessities. For utilising their services, we must also serve them in return. Today those who are highly educated and those who are holding positions of power are steeped in utter selfishness. It is only they who exhibit mean mentality.

Today, everyone wishes to fulfil his selfish interests at the cost of others. No one acts with a pure heart and good intention to help others. **A human being is expected to have the qualities of Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). Devoid of these qualities, he is not a human being at all.** How can a person with demonic qualities be called a human being? Hence, first and foremost one has to cultivate human qualities. No one has a right to enjoy when his fellow human being is suffering. All are God’s children only. To whomsoever you cause suffering, it will affect you. Hence, you have to

conduct your life with devotion to God and love for all human beings.

Unity, Purity, Divinity

All should remain united. **Where there is unity, there shall be purity. Where there is purity, there is divinity. You all have to lead your lives keeping in view these three aspects of unity, purity and divinity.** You should not remain unconcerned with others’ difficulties and suffering. Treat their suffering as your own. The one God dwells in the hearts of all people. “*Easwarah sarvabhuthanam.*” God is immanent even in ants and mosquitoes. There should be compassion in your heart. But, this has become a rare quality these days. Instead, we find “come-fashion” everywhere. How can then equality prevail in society? Show at least an iota of humanity. He who has such a human quality will become a person with compassionate heart in the real sense.

Lust, anger, hatred, jealousy, pride, etc., are animal qualities. **The real wealth of a human being is noble qualities like love, compassion, righteousness, sacrifice and truth.** Only a person with these human qualities can be considered a human being. Unfortunately, today people are human only in form, but qualities are those of animals. What is important is not the form, but qualities.

Realise Your True Identity

You cannot be sure when difficulties will confront you. **Every action (karma) has its reaction, resound and reflection. If you hurt others, surely it will have its reaction. It is only when you recognise this truth and conduct yourself accordingly that you can be called a true human being.** You ask any student of our institutions, even primary school children, and they will explain to you the human qualities very clearly. The human values have therefore to be cultivated right from childhood. The boys and girls should grow in human values. Even elders can learn from such students.

Now, about Truth. From where did Truth come? It has not sprouted from the earth nor has it descended from the sky. Its origin is not North, South, East or West. Truth is firmly installed in one’s own heart. If you develop your inner vision, you can surely recognise truth there. **Where there is truth, there righteousness is. When truth and**

righteousness go together, love emerges from the heart. From love comes peace. When peace and love go hand in hand, non-violence reigns. We have to understand the inter-relationship between the five human values, namely, Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence. All these human values are embedded in our own inner being.

A human being is God, verily. That is the reason why God is portrayed in human form. If God were to reveal His true identity, He would declare, "I am *Brahman*." He would not say, "I am so and so." All the names of individuals are only those given to the human body by their parents. They are not God-given. God has given only one gift, that is *Atma*. That is, "*Mamatma sarvabhuthantharatma*" (the one Divine Self permeates all beings). You observe the ants. They move in a line up and down. While doing so, they greet each other happily. If a cow has given birth to a calf, it does not join the flock leaving the young calf alone. The cow recognises the cry of the calf, even from a distance. The calf cries, "Amba! Amba!" And the mother cow responds. Such is the relationship among animals and even in birds.

Practise the Divine Teachings

In the *Ramayana* story, a hunter saw two birds happily spending their time in each other's company, perched on a tree. The hunter shot an arrow and killed the male bird. Unable to bear the separation from her beloved, the female bird also died soon thereafter. Sage Valmiki who witnessed this pathetic scene uttered a *sloka*, even without knowing it. It came spontaneously from his mouth. **That soka (grief) became the inspiration for the great epic Ramayana.** Thus, the birds and animals also love each other. How then can a human being lose such a noble quality of love? Today there are many things that a human being can learn from birds, animals and even beasts. But, the human being is least bothered to learn these lessons. I have been teaching many good things since decades; but you don't listen. Even if you listen, you don't put them into practice.

If somebody abuses you, you feel sad. Don't you know that he also feels in the same way when you abuse him? Praise or criticism, treat them all as part of the divine *leela*. When you develop such a sense of equanimity, you will come up in life. Today, even rich people are crazy for money. But, they do not show the same enthusiasm for God. People have lost self-confidence, totally. "Where is *Atma*? What

is *Atma*?" People ask hundred and one questions. **They do not at all understand that the *Atma* they were questioning about is very much immanent in them.**

Enquire into the Nature of Your Own Self

People say, "This is my handkerchief." It means "I" is separate and "handkerchief" is separate. Similarly when you say, "my body," you are different from your body. What is this "my?" You say, "This is mine." But, who are you? You do not know the truth about yourself. **When you know yourself, it amounts to knowing everything.** If you do not know yourself, you cannot know others. **Hence, sit calmly and peacefully in some corner and try to enquire into the nature of your own self. That is real dhyana (meditation).** Meditation does not imply contemplating on God. Know about yourself, in the first instance. God is in you, with you, around you, above you and below you. **YOU ARE GOD.** Whenever someone enquires, "Who are you?" say, "I am God." Don't say, "I am so and so." How happy you will feel when you consider yourself as God! Even those who listen to your reply will feel happy.

Education does not mean simply imparting knowledge. We learn many things from the textbooks. But, we may not be able to understand their real meaning. First and foremost, enquire into yourself, "Who am I? Who am I? Who am I?" Then you will get the real answer. Are you the mind? Or intellect? Or *chittha*? Or ego? Or body? You are none of these. No doubt the body, mind, intellect, etc., are all gifts of God. You have, of course, to respect them and value them. It is not enough if you read various texts and feel happy and contented that you have gained vast knowledge. Yesterday, one boy came to me and informed, "Swami, I have completed *parayana* of *Sri Shirdi Sai Satcharithra*." When I enquired whether he had read the book fully, he replied that he had completely read the book without leaving a single letter. Then I enquired, "How many teachings of Baba contained in that book are you practising?" He replied, "None, Swami." Then, what for is this reading? For turning pages? Not at all. **There should be a transformation in your heart. Then only your parayana (reading of sacred texts) will be sanctified.**

Develop Inner Vision

Devotees undertake several kinds of *sadhana*. But, they are not *sadhana* in the real sense. If you wish to see “reality,” you have to develop an inner vision. If you open your eyes and see the outside world, you will see a number of heads. On the other hand, close your eyes and look into yourself. Then you will see none but yourself. Hence, develop an inner vision. You should enquire, “Who am I?” Immediately reply comes from within, “I am I.” That is the correct answer. People say, “I am so and so; I am an American,” etc. These are not the real answers to the question “Who am I?” These are all outward names for identification in the external world. They are not important. **What is important is self-enquiry. Then you will realise the Truth.**

Goldstein and Srinivasan who spoke earlier eulogised education. What they said is related to worldly education. It should relate to you. Then only the concept of “I am I” can be realised. Tomorrow, I will provide answers to some of your questions that bother you in your daily life. I am sure very soon you will realise Divinity. I do not wish to speak about modern education. That everybody will do. **Reading books and gaining worldly knowledge is not great. This is only bookish knowledge. You must gain knowledge of your own self (inner being). That is real knowledge.** That is changeless and eternal. Truth is only one, not two. Truth is God. Righteousness is God. Peace is God. Love is God. Know this. “*Love is God; live in love.*” If

you cultivate such selfless and divine love, you can achieve everything in life.

What Is Educare?

“God is one; goal is one.” If you develop firm faith in this maxim, you can understand everything. Your experiences and enjoyment in this material world are not important. They are not true. Behind these momentary experiences, there are some eternal values to be cultivated; some human qualities to be developed. These values and qualities have to manifest from within, not in the outside world. That is Educare. **Educare means bringing out the latent qualities and values from the core of our inner being.** The books you read in the outside world relate to education. But, this is “Educare.” What is needed today is “Educare.” If people develop “Educare,” all will be united.

Take it from Me – in about 25 to 30 years’ time the entire world will become one. There will be only one caste, one religion, and one God. What is needed is such unity. Today, there are several differences between individuals on the basis of caste, creed, religion, language, nation, etc. Such differences should disappear and unity should prevail. The *Veda* has emphasised this unity in the declaration “*Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanthi*” (Truth is one, the wise say it in different ways). That is the real world we are visualising.

Today, I have spoken at length taking a lot of time. Tomorrow, I will clarify all your doubts leisurely. ~



Lead an Ideal Life and Set an Example to Others

Divine Discourse, Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference
Prasanthi Nilayam, July 21, 2008

*One may become a wise man by acquiring all types of knowledge;
He may not, however realise his own self, the dull-witted one!
Despite acquiring all knowledge
A mean-minded person cannot give up bad qualities.*
(TELUGU POEM)

*The more a person is educated
The more he indulges in argumentation
Never can he acquire true wisdom
Why pursue all types of education
And get doomed?
One must pursue education that leads to immortality.*
(TELUGU POEM)

Devoid of practice, any amount of education will serve no purpose. One may acquire high academic degrees and titles. But, he cannot be called an educated person. Education is different from practical knowledge. Hence one has to put into practice what he has learnt from an educational institution. Today, it is only the highly educated who come under the category of "Ajnanis" (those who lack wisdom). Children today imitate them and walk in their footsteps.

(Swami then answered some questions put by the delegates.)

Q1 How should students relate themselves to God?

God is not separate from you. He is in you, with you, around you, behind you and before you. **One has to develop love towards God and have an inseparable bond of love with God.** The relationship with God is not physical. One has to develop the feeling that God and himself/herself are one and the same and that God is in him/her.

Q2 What are the external signs of spiritual transformation that takes place in a devotee?

First and foremost one has to enquire into himself whether one has developed unflinching faith in God or having a casual and worldly relationship with God. Having decided over the matter, **one has to develop firm faith and ensure that he is living with a sense of total equanimity in both pleasure and pain.** In fact, there are no special signs of spiritual transformation which takes

place in an individual. It is possible that sometimes some signs may appear outwardly and in dreams or one may be relating himself to the voice of God. In any case, it is the individual that has to observe for himself whether his devotion is increasing or decreasing. **Everything is dependant upon one's faith in God.**

Q3 What are the qualities that are expected of a teacher in the Sai System of Education?

The teachers should not allow too much freedom to the students. The teachers should exercise proper control over the students with kind and good words, keeping in view the aims and aspirations of the students. Simply because they are your students, you should not let them go scot-free. Even if you were to allow them some freedom, you should apply brakes now and then and you should also punish them, if necessary. Such punishment is intended to be a warning to the students to behave themselves properly.

Q4 What is the role of a teacher in Sai Educational System? How should he enforce discipline?

Let the teacher remain as a teacher and the student as a student. Both have their roles and responsibilities. Especially the teacher has got a responsibility to ensure proper atmosphere in the classroom, while keeping the students happy.

Q5 What are the efforts to be made by a teacher to become a role model in human values?

This is a very important question. It is only when a teacher behaves properly with the students that they emulate his qualities. What you forbid the students, you should not undertake to do. Not only this, even in the matter of food both the teacher and student should partake the same food. You forbid meat eating for the students but you, yourself, partake meat and fish. Such a practice is very bad for developing a harmonious relationship between the teacher and the student. **What you teach to the students, you should practise first.** The teacher should not behave irresponsibly, thinking that the students have no right to question him. He should conduct himself with humility and alertness, while dealing with students. He should nourish and nurture the

students with love. Another question relates to his dealings with students in a co-education school. The teacher should take extra care in his relations with the girl students. They should be treated as his sisters with love and respect. It is only then their character will be moulded. A teacher is expected to set an example to others by his behaviour.

Q6 In what way the parents should be involved in children's education?

Parents are expected not to discuss their family problems in front of the children. They should sort out those problems between themselves and keep the children happy and education-oriented.

Parents should set an example to their children in conduct and behaviour.

Students should not cause any inconvenience to their parents. They should develop a sense of gratitude towards their parents for bringing them up by undergoing several difficulties and sacrificing their own comforts. Even after they are married, they should not neglect their parents, thinking, "I and my family are doing well. What do I care if my parents are suffering?" It is only the uneducated fools who behave like that. Educated people should not develop such attitude. You must serve your parents and keep them happy. You should fulfil their needs. **It is the duty of children to keep their parents happy.**

These days, students make friendship with bad characters. **"Tell me your company and I shall tell you what you are."** By joining bad company, you will also get spoiled. Today, there is a lot of agitation between parents and children. The desires and aspirations of parents and children are opposed to one another. If you look after your own interests, what about those of your parents? You should therefore fulfil your aspirations, keeping in view the expectations of your parents. It is sheer selfishness to work for your own satisfaction, making your parents unhappy. It is unbecoming of a son.

Parents should also exercise proper control over such children. The parents should explain to their children, "Today, you are married and have a family. But, we are with you right from the beginning. Make us happy. It is your duty." Bidding good-bye to the parents and setting up a separate family is selfishness. **This selfishness is increasing in recent times and causes the relationship to be strained between parents and children.**

Respect Your Parents

Another aspect I wish to emphasise is that you should not interfere in matters not concerning you. Due to the impact of modern times, children tend to become separate from their parents. Tempers run high and tensions build up in such situations. Hence, you have to control your anger to a certain extent. You have to pause and enquire into yourself, "Do I have to show my anger on my parents? Is it correct?" **You should not let your elderly parents shed tears on account of your rude behaviour.** On the other hand, if you make them happy, you will also be happy.

The *Bal Vikas* classes are very important for the children. *Dhyana* (meditation) should be taught to *Bal Vikas* children and to those undergoing training in Education in Human Values. First and foremost, the parents should develop an awareness about human values. They should follow the human values in letter and spirit. How do you expect the children to follow human values, when you yourself are not following them?

Set a Good Example

Set an example by your practice of human values. Parents today are busy and have no time to spare for their family and children. If both the parents go to their offices, what will happen to the children? Who will look after them? Some years back, I wrote a poem about the pathetic condition of the children and family in such situations:

If women go out for jobs, who will take care of the home?

When husband and wife go out to office, who will do the household work?

If women go out to teach others' children in schools, who will teach their own children?

If women also go to work just like men, who will cook food in the kitchen?

Earning money may solve some financial problems,

but how will it resolve domestic problems?

Women can work and earn money but they cannot lead a happy life if they neglect their home.

(TELUGU POEM)

Women depend upon cooks and maids to run their homes. This will bring down the reputation of the family. Hence, you have to take up employment

only after ensuring smooth running of the household. **You can certainly take up a job, provided the children are taken care of in a proper manner.** Even the men do not understand this situation. Some people spend their time in reading newspapers and watching TV after returning from their offices. Some others go to the club and play cards. They do not bother about their family and children.

Bring Up the Children in Proper Atmosphere

How can the parents ensure proper atmosphere in the house and children's education? If the children are not studying well, it is not their mistake. The parents are to be blamed for such a situation. You should remain in the house and look after the children properly. That is the real income for the family. On the other hand, if you go out to earn a few thousands neglecting your children, you become selfish parents. If your children are spoiled, you have to repent later. **Hence, it is the foremost duty of the parents to bring up the children in a proper atmosphere.**

The human values are to be followed by every individual voluntarily. No one can enforce them from above. If people in their respective occupations like the police, doctors, nurses, etc., were to do their jobs with honesty and integrity, problems would not have arisen in society. Unfortunately, this is not the situation today. The children are suffering for the faults of their parents. Hence, we have to ensure that the children are happy and grow up in a healthy environment. You should not allow them to sleep till 8.00 a.m. You must wake them up at 5 o'clock itself. Unfortunately today even the parents do not get up at 5 o'clock. They sleep till 8 o'clock in the morning and their children up to 9 o'clock. The parents should set an example to their children. Those who have no children and with no responsibilities can sleep for any length of time.

Give Top Priority to Discipline, Duty and Devotion

While establishing schools, Sri Sathya Sai Organisations can raise a corpus fund for the maintenance of schools. They can also take the help of parents for running the school. **Especially, the three principles of Discipline, Duty and Devotion must be given top-priority in Sathya Sai Schools.** Children have to be taught the human values right from an early age. Students should be

taught to establish proper relationship with God. Parents should not provide all sorts of fashionable clothes to the children. Provide them simple and clean dress that will suit their needs. It is the primary duty of the parents to exercise proper control over their children. Parents should also be given proper orientation about Sathya Sai system of education. It is possible that some parents may not be aware of it.

Some children out of fear of their parents speak lies. Hence, parents have to visit their school once in a week to enquire about their children's behaviour and progress in studies. Sometimes children alter their grades and give wrong information to their parents, who implicitly believe their children. They do not care to go to the school and check with the teachers. Parents have to go to the school every now and then and check with the teachers, without the knowledge of their children.

In a way, the parents in villages are better in this respect. They at least monitor the progress and behaviour of their children in the school and take timely corrective measures. But, people living in towns and cities especially high officials do not bother about their children. Students should not loiter here and there. Some students roam about in streets and waste their time. Such students are stupid! It does not behove the stature of a student to roam about in the streets aimlessly.

Practise Ceiling on Desires

Parents should also prevent children from misuse of money. They have to educate children as to what is right and what is wrong. Their behaviour should be corrected by the parents. Father, mother and children should thus lead a harmonious life in the house. Parents should also watch what books the children are reading. Youngsters are prone to read all sorts of books. They keep some useless novels in the midst of textbooks and read them. Parents think that the boy is reading a textbook. But, that is not a textbook; it is his "taste." Parents should immediately remove such books from the children.

When you thus observe and keep a close watch on the activities of the children, they behave well and come up in life.

The Bal Vikas children should be educated about the ceiling on desires which forbids waste of money, food, energy and time. It is only when you enforce this rule, children come under your control. Today, even the elders do not follow this ceiling on desires. During festivals and family occasions, a lot of money is spent in organising dinners where food is wasted. Food is God; do not waste food. Give food to those who are in need of it. Unfortunately today, the poor and hungry are not fed. A lot of food is thrown in the dustbin as waste.

Don't Waste Time, Energy and Money

As regards to talk, one should not talk too much, whereby precious energy is wasted. Similarly, do not waste time. **"Time waste is life waste."** We are wasting money. What purpose is served by wasting money? "Misuse of money is evil." Certainly you can spend money when necessary. But, should you waste money for unnecessary things simply because you have enough money in your pocket? Several people spend their entire salary for luxuries. They think that they are leading a pompous life. When you are thus spending money recklessly, even the milkman and servants in the house who observe your lifestyle put forward demands for increasing their wages. Therefore, you should not set a bad example for others. Each rupee you spend, you should enquire whether it is for a good purpose or not.

These are the answers for the questions and points you have raised. Conduct yourself carefully and lead a purposeful life in society. Even if you commit a small mistake, society will view it seriously. Do not commit even a small mistake. **The society is carefully watching the lives of members of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation. Hence, lead an ideal life and set an example to others.** ≈

Control the Mind and Constantly Contemplate on God

Divine Discourse, Valedictory Session, Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference
Prasanthi Nilayam, July 22, 2008

All names and forms are but the manifestations of the Supreme Being, who is Existence-Knowledge-Bliss Absolute and non-dual. He is the embodiment of Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).

(SANSKRIT VERSE)

Embodiments of Love! During the last two days, you attended the Conference and listened to the speakers sitting here in this Hall, undergoing all inconveniences. It is really your good fortune that you could come here from far off countries and participate in this Conference. You have come here spending a lot of money and undergoing great strain. This in itself is a testimony to the purity of your heart. There are millions of people in this world. There are *lakhs* of schools and colleges. **But only a few of you are blessed with the opportunity of coming here. You can imagine how fortunate you are!**

Manifest Human Values

Having come here and participated in this Conference, what are you supposed to learn? First of all, you must understand the nature of your own heart and manifest human values, namely, Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence. Only then can you be called educated in the true sense of the term. There are many lawyers in this world, who study voluminous books. In spite of their learning, we find many “liars” among them. There are many doctors. But what is the use? They are getting bogged down with professional rivalry. We cannot find unity anywhere. First and foremost, we have to develop unity.

All of us are the children of God. We are all brothers and sisters. We should preserve this truth in our heart. At times, there may be some differences among brothers and sisters. Therefore, we must learn to adjust with each other. Not only that, we must understand each other in the first instance. Adjustment becomes easy when we have proper understanding. There cannot be any adjustment without proper understanding. **Firstly, you must understand that whatever Swami teaches is only out of His Love for you.**

Have No Fear

There is great progress in the field of science today. All the inventions of the scientists are within the purview of senses. In fact, many scientists are acting in a senseless manner and committing mistakes. Scientists themselves are not sure of what they are saying and doing. They say they are helping society, but in fact they are doing just the opposite. It seems the motto of these scientists is - “help never, hurt ever” instead of practising “help ever, hurt never.” As a result,

today, people lead their lives with fear and anxiety. When you board a plane, you are not sure whether you will reach the destination safely. People are in the grip of fear. They are afraid of even rats!

Never be afraid of anything. Don't fear. **Fear is the root cause of anxiety and delusion.** People today are afraid to eat even fruits and vegetables because they are grown with the help of chemicals that are harmful to health. The food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe are all polluted. How can we lead a healthy life in such a polluted environment? We should therefore make our lives pollution free. We have to do it ourselves. Merely for the sake of satisfying our taste buds, we should not eat junk food and spoil our health. When you take proper care of your health, the children born to you will also be healthy.

Practise Silence

Always speak the truth. Apart from speaking truth, remain calm and composed in the face of criticism. Only then can there be peace. Our ancient *rishis* (sages) used to observe silence as part of their spiritual *sadhana* (spiritual disciplines). **Observance of silence helps you to progress on the spiritual path. When you practise silence, you can easily experience peace of mind.** Love manifests from peace. When you are filled with love, you will have no enemies. Therefore, lead your life with love. Only through love can we establish peace in the world.

Today people talk of peace, but we find only pieces everywhere. Even the country is being divided into pieces! What I mean to say is that people are keeping the interests of their regions above the national interest. We should stand united as a country. When someone asks you, "Where do you come from?" you should proudly say that you belong to India. Do not say you belong to Puttaparthi, Anantapur District, etc. Only those with a narrow mind will give such an answer. "I come from India," this should be your answer.

Similarly, one should not say that one comes from California, which is only a small part of America. One should say that one comes from America. **Always be broadminded in your thinking.** It is your good fortune to be endowed with such a broad mind. When you develop broadmindedness, your children also will be broadminded.

Parents Should Tread the Right Path

Parents should enroll their children in *Bal Vikas* classes and impart sacred teachings to them. As are the parents, so are the children. Therefore, parents should tread the right path and set an ideal so that their children can emulate them. The fault lies in the parents if the children do not behave properly. Hence, parents should take utmost care in bringing up their children. After a certain age, children do not obey their parents, because parents themselves do not follow the right path. **Parents should lead an exemplary life if they want their children to be good and come up in life.**

There should be no differences of opinion between the father and the mother. They should be united in whatever they tell their children. In some families, mother says one thing and father says something else. Such lack of unity and understanding between the parents is not a good sign. Both of them must stand on one word and teach their children the right path.

Adhere to Truth

First of all, they should teach their children to adhere to truth. It is enough if we follow the path of truth, because truth is the basis of everything.

Sathyannasti paro dharma (There is no *dharma* greater than adherence to truth). Peace originates from righteousness, and love manifests from peace. Where there is love, there is non-violence and everyone can lead a peaceful life. **If the nation has to attain peace and prosperity, we should follow the path of truth.** What is truth?

"*Manasyekam vachasyekam karmanyekam mahatmanaam.*" (He is a noble soul whose thoughts, words and deeds are in harmony.) If your thought, word, and deed are at variance, it amounts to falsehood. Before we teach our children to adhere to truth, we should practise truth in our daily life. Only then can the children emulate us and become ideal.

We should lead a "heartful life" but not an artificial life. Today, right from the system of education, everything has become artificial. People read a number of sacred texts, chant *mantras*, and undertake meditation. But all this is done in an artificial manner. **Whatever may be the spiritual practice you undertake, do it wholeheartedly.**

Control the Mind

In the name of meditation, people close their eyes and sit cross-legged, but they have no control over their mind. Their mind goes everywhere as per its whims and fancies. Therefore, we should control our mind in the first instance. *Manah eva manushyanam karanam bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause of bondage and liberation of man). As is the thought, so is the action. Hence, we should entertain only good thoughts, which lead to good actions and ultimately yield good results.

Do not follow the vagaries of the mind. Do not be under the control of the mind. The mind should be under your control. Mind is like a mad monkey. It goes everywhere without any restraint. But it becomes quiet and subdued when it is turned toward God.

When the Sun rises, our shadow is very long. If we start walking toward the Sun, our shadow will fall behind us. On the other hand, if we walk in the opposite direction with our back toward the Sun, we have to follow our shadow, which falls ahead of us. When the Sun is right on our head, the shadow will fall under our feet. *Maya* (delusion) is like our shadow. **In order to conquer *maya*, you have to turn your mind toward God.** When your mind is directly focused on God, *maya* will be totally subdued like the shadow under your feet.

Constantly Contemplate on God

There are three hands in the clock indicating seconds, minutes, and hours. The second hand is the longest and moves quicker than the other two. When the second hand completes sixty digits, the minute hand moves forward by one digit. Similarly, when the minute hand crosses sixty digits, the hour hand crosses one digit. However, the hour hand is most important. **Thinking of God once in a while and spending the rest of the time in worldly pursuits is like the second hand, which has little significance. But constant contemplation of God at all times is like the hour hand, which is most important.**

Do not act as per the vagaries of your mind. As I have mentioned earlier, mind can cause liberation or bondage. Therefore, you have to exercise control over your mind and turn it in the right direction, i.e., toward truth and love. Then it becomes steady and attains the power of concentration. **Love is truth and truth is love. Live in love.**

This is not physical and worldly love. We should preserve spiritual love in our heart. Only then can we develop steadiness of mind. Worldly love will only make our mind fickle and unsteady. Therefore, keep your mind always focused on God. Only then can you experience peace. People think it is very difficult, but let Me tell you that there is no *sadhana* (spiritual discipline) easier than this.



When we develop love for God, the mind can be controlled very easily. On the other hand, if the mind is not turned toward God, it can never be controlled. Whatever you do, consider it as God's work.

Will of God

Everything happens as per the Will of God. Do not be under the delusion that your will alone can make things move. If that be the case, why are you not able to exercise any control over certain events that take place in your life? Understand that everything moves as per the Divine Will. **If something good happens to you, consider it as the Will of God. If something bad happens, accept that also as the Will of God.**

There is certainly some purpose behind whatever He does, which you cannot comprehend. **Whatever He does is for your own good.** Hence, leave everything to His Will. *Sukhadukhe samekruthwa labhalabhau jayajayau* (**one should remain equal-minded in happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, victory and defeat**). Whatever may happen, consider it as an act of Divine Love and welcome it wholeheartedly.

When you get immersed in Divine Love, you will be successful in all your endeavours. But today people are getting immersed in worldly love only. One who develops worldly love is a liar! Only Divine Love can be termed as true Love. **Divine Love will never betray you.** Let people think what they like, let them criticise you in any manner, but always remain firmly established in Divine Love. Under any circumstances, do not deviate from the path of Divine Love. When you preserve Divine Love in your heart, your future as well as the future of your children will be safe and secure.

Give Up Bad Qualities

When someone asks you, "Who are you?" you are unable to give a correct reply. You identify yourself with the physical body. But in fact, the physical body is like a leather bag which contains various entities such as the mind, intellect, *chitta*, etc. Once the life principle ebbs away from the body, it becomes an "empty bag," which is of no use to us. Hence, we put it in fire and reduce it to ashes. Before the body becomes an "empty bag" and is burnt to ashes, you should offer to God all that is contained in it and redeem your life.

First of all, give up bad qualities such as *kama, krodha, lobha, moha, mada, matsarya* (**lust, anger, greed, infatuation, pride, jealousy**). They can cause you only misery but not happiness. You can see for yourself how blissful you become when you get rid of these evil qualities.

Offer Everything to God

In order to experience such eternal bliss, offer to God all that is in you. You have a number of desires. But is it possible to get all your desires fulfilled? No. Never cause harm to others in the process of fulfilling your desires. **If you desire something, pray to God and ask Him directly. Establish direct contact with Him.** If you follow "indirect" methods, you will be put to untold misery.

But today people are trying to harm others in order to satisfy their own greed. Such people are bound to reap the consequences of their evil deeds. Long ago during the independence movement, I composed a song visualising a scene where an infant was crying and his mother was consoling him with an assurance that everything will be alright and there is nothing to worry about the fate of the country. I sang it on the stage, placing a rubber doll in a cradle and rocking it gently.

Do not cry, my child, do not cry.

If you cry, you will not be called a valiant son of Bharat.

Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.

Did you get scared because the terrible Hitler has invaded the invincible Russia?

Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.

Do not cry, my child, do not cry.

For the Red Army is marching under Stalin.

They will put an end to Hitler.

Then what else is the reason for your crying?

Is it because the countrymen lack unity?

All the countrymen will unite and fight to win freedom;

Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.

(TELUGU SONG)

Develop Love

Today you have gathered here in such large numbers. Have we sent any invitation letter to any of you? No, no. It is only Love that has brought you here. It is only love that can unite everybody, but not hatred. **When your love and My Love**

come together, any task can be achieved. Hence, develop love.

With the power of love, you can win over anybody; even a mighty *rakshasa* (demon) can be subdued. When Ravana abducted Sita, Hanuman went to Lanka in search of her. He found her in Asoka Grove, sitting under a tree and chanting Rama's Name. She had firm faith that only Rama could protect her from the clutches of the *rakshasas*.

End of Education Is Character

In spite of all his learning, valour and wealth, Ravana was as insignificant as a blade of grass when compared to Rama, because he lacked character. Rama was one of noble character. **If one is endowed with noble character, one can achieve any mighty task.** That is why I often tell our students that the end of education is character. What is the use of all your education if you lack character?

Some lawyers keep reading a number of books day and night. But, when they go to the court, they speak only untruth. Greatness does not lie in reading books. The truth that the books teach should be preserved in our heart. We must develop good character. Then we will certainly achieve success in all that we do.

Once you go back home, remember all that Swami has taught you and develop good character

among your children. Develop a spirit of sacrifice and sanctify your life with noble deeds.

Utilise Wealth for the Poor and Needy

What is the use of merely amassing wealth? Alexander, the great emperor, conquered different parts of the world and came to India with a desire to conquer this country too. On his return journey, he suffered a grave illness. Sensing that his end had approached, he called all his ministers and generals and told them that he was not going to live any more. He instructed them to take his body to his country after his death. He further told them to expose his hands out of the bier with his palms turned upward and carry the funeral procession in all the streets of the city. This was to tell the people of the world that in spite of his great conquests in the world and a great name and fame, Alexander left the world empty-handed.

This is true of all of us. Whatever we may accumulate, we have to go empty-handed only. In the ultimate analysis, all worldly possessions are useless. **Our bank balance will not follow us when we leave this world. Therefore, utilise your wealth for the benefit of the poor and the needy, with a spirit of sacrifice.** When you spend your life in such a sacred manner, you will certainly be redeemed. ≈





Overview

Dr. Michael Goldstein

July 20, 2008



With humility and love I offer my *Pranams* at Bhagavan Baba's Divine Lotus Feet.
Distinguished guests, dear educational delegates to the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference, brothers and sisters, dear students.

Overview of the Conference

We are here because we are drawn to the basis of love and life, the spiritual source and recourse for all of us in this human adventure. I refer to our Lord, our Beloved, Divinity who lives amongst us and within us, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The occasion of our gathering today is to inaugurate the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference. It is my duty and an honour and joy to provide you, as best as I can, with an overview of the Conference. **The Conference bears the Divine Name; therefore it must be a spiritual overview.** But who among us can give a genuine spiritual overview? Though I were to soar like an eagle I would have only a vision of the immediate terrain below at an instant in time – hardly a spiritual overview.

A spiritual overview is everywhere and beyond. A spiritual overview is always and forever. It is to see all that has been, is, and will be everywhere. **A spiritual overview is the scene as seen by the Lord Himself who resides in the heart of each and every one of us and who sits before us now in the form of our Beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.** Only He can view and overview what He has conceived and created. I refer to our Lord, our Beloved, Divinity who lives amongst us and within us, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The Divine Name Is Sacred

Let us apply His Divine Name and Teachings seriously and responsibly to all aspects of education. **Let us apply His Divine Name and Teachings, reverently and lovingly to all aspects of our lives.** The Divine Name is sacred. It is powerful. It is our salvation.

Let us begin the deliberations of the Conference from the highest ideals that we can conceive and gradually explore the mundane considerations that impinge upon us. We are here to consider the institution of education in our respective societies so that this very important institution reflects the Divine Message. When I mention overview I'm not referring merely to a cursory enumeration of the topics on the agenda. The concept of a spiritual overview applies to this meeting, to spirituality and education, and to how we conduct our lives. Understanding a universal spiritual overview cannot but bring humility to all of us. Let us see things as they are and make them better instead of pretending that we are something that we are not.

Divine Instructions for the Conference

We were very fortunate to receive Divine Instruction for this Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference from Bhagavan Baba. Among His profound and pre-eminently important instructions for the Conference were that we should establish unity among all practitioners and organisations, and that the educational organisations outside of India should properly prepare for this Conference in their own countries before coming to Prasanthi Nilayam for this Conference.

Swami has instructed, emphasised, even commanded that we move forward in our educational programmes in the spirit of unity. **Unity is essential. Spiritual unity is divine. It is heart-to-heart. Unanimity is mind-to-mind. We seek spiritual unity, not unanimity. Our Beloved Bhagavan Baba has reiterated the need for unity at every stage of the development of this Conference.** Regarding the International Sri Sathya Sai Education movement, at first there were some inspired educational leaders in various parts of the world who developed their programme independently. Now as a result of Swami's Divine Command, all of them, from Africa, Europe, America, Asia, everywhere, sit together and speak as one. They are in spiritual unity.

Then in the planning of this Conference Swami instructed that it is a Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference and all should participate and be represented. Hence the programme consists of speakers from the Sri Sathya Sai University, the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of India, the Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Human Values in New Delhi and the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisation. All are represented on the programme, in the exhibition, and in the various workshops that will be taking place. Even within the various wings of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisation we are achieving new heights of unity that heretofore were not present.

Delegates from around the World

We have invited delegates from all sectors of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisation who might benefit from and positively contribute to the uplift of this Conference and the Sai Educational Programmes all over the world. **More than 1,300 delegates from 89 countries; with India more than 2,000 delegates have assembled to be in His**

august presence at this moment. The delegates represent the following International Sri Sathya Sai Educational Organisations outside of India: there are 23 Sri Sathya Sai Institutes in 22 countries. There are 39 Sri Sathya Sai Schools in 25 countries. There are Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes, formerly called *Bal Vikas* in 76 countries. There are practitioners of Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values in the community serving the downtrodden, socially and economically deprived segments of our respective societies in many countries.

Pre-World Conferences

In His Guidance to us regarding the planning of the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference, the divine command was two-fold. Let there be unity He declared. We are doing our utmost to live up to this divine command. Let all the participants prepare for the Conference in their own countries before they come here for the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference, He declared. In response to this second divine command, we conducted over a six-month period, a series of Pre-World Conferences. **Eighty-six Pre-World Sai Education Conferences were held in 73 countries.** Questions were generated among all of the delegates in every country. These questions were submitted to our Lord Bhagavan Baba. They will be the subject for discussions in the workshops of the countries of the Conference.

All have come together in unity. All are ready. All await the divine inspiration of our Beloved Lord. Your dear educators will return to their respective homes blessed and inspired. They will light up the world with their goodness, their love, and their human excellence.

Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes

Spiritual education must enable us to function in this world, and it must enable us to understand and experience spiritual truth and selfless love. For this to happen, we have to effectively navigate in this world. We need worldly knowledge for navigation. We have to apply ourselves to self realisation. We need spiritual knowledge for self realisation.

From the world and the academic discipline of education our Sai Educators should learn and apply the tools and tactics of the institution of education that are tried and true. Thus with excellence and skill, they will be empowered to impart worldly

knowledge that will enable the students to function effectively in this world.

From our Beloved Lord and the divinity within each of us, our Sai Educators must draw their inspiration. Thus with love and wisdom, they will be empowered to inspire spiritual knowledge that will awaken the divinity within the hearts of their students. Hence the advent of Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes – Sri Sathya Sai Educare, Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values, Sri Sathya Sai Spiritual Education and *Bal Vikas*.

Swami refers to worldly knowledge and spiritual knowledge. Worldly knowledge is necessary to successfully care for this body, this mind and the worldly responsibilities assumed by this identity in this lifetime. Spiritual knowledge is necessary to fulfill the divine mission of human life. **Our spiritual destiny is to receive the holy endowment bestowed by God on human beings, to realise and become that which we are, manifestations of the divinity who created us.**

Three Groups of Teachers

With regards to the acquisition of knowledge – **teachers impart worldly knowledge, mind-to-mind. Teachers inspire spiritual knowledge heart-to-heart.** How do teachers effectively impart and especially inspire knowledge? Swami teaches us that we can categorise teachers into three groups which we might call: abusive – the teacher who complains about the student; perfunctory – the teacher who gives lessons and does not relate to or care about the student; and finally and most importantly, exemplar – the teacher who inspires the student. All three types of teachers might impart worldly knowledge but only the teacher who to some degree is exemplary can inspire spiritual knowledge.

What does the teacher who inspires exemplify? The teacher exemplifies the five universal human values – *Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema, Ahimsa* (Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non-Violence). **And among these, Prema – selfless love – is the greatest.** By being noble, wise and loving the teacher exemplar inspires. Where do these five universal human values reside? They reside within each and every one of us. In fact they represent our true nature. The emergence of these values from within our spiritual hearts to outward manifestations in our character, which then becomes ennobled, is referred to as Sathya Sai Educare. **Educare is**

a process resulting in the emergence of the universal human values. This transforms us and results in nobility of character. This process is spiritual enlightenment. It is becoming who we truly are. It is being divinity. It is experiencing and perpetuating the reality of “I am I.”

We aspire to uplift education. We want to demonstrate excellence within the discipline of education, practising in an exemplary fashion the standards and practices that have been universally found to be effective and applicable. As I mentioned, Swami teaches us that there are three types of teachers – abusive, perfunctory and exemplary. This also applies to our lives. Look at yourself and look around you. Have not all of us at some time acted abusively, been indifferent or inspired someone? Do we not see people leading their lives in a manner that is either abusive and mean, or perfunctory and indifferent, or exemplary and noble? Like all other Divine Teachings of our Beloved Swami, it has universal application.

What Swami has pronounced regarding the categorisation of teachers applies to all people and human life. It applies to all of us. And just as this categorisation applies to teachers and to individuals, does it not also apply to social institutions which reflect the prevailing level of consciousness in the world? Is it not so that some of the standards and practices laid down by the educational establishments in our respective societies demonstrate abuse? Or indifference? Or exemplary status?

Transformation of Society

One group of educators in one of the participating countries in Pre-World Conference asked a simple question. They asked: There are many value-based education models, how will ours differ? How will our model find a niche for itself in our society? The answer is quite simple. To the extent that the people practising their educational model have applied the standard principles with worldly excellence and practise their profession with a deep understanding of the spiritual principles expounded by our Beloved Swami, in that manner and to that extent, their programme will have a niche. That niche will be to become a beacon, providing illumination for all the other ships at sea.

Just as the child responds to the exemplary teacher and the blossoming of human excellence ensues, so also will our respective societies

respond to the high ideals and the exemplary function of our programmes by virtue of the Divine Teaching. As a child is transformed and character develops, so also will the institutions of education be transformed, and through this transformation, society itself will be transformed as the spiritual principles shine forth and lead the way.

Sai Educators are not here to devise ways and means to violate or destroy the educational establishments in our respective societies, because some of these establishments have lost sight of the real mission! **We want to rejuvenate and authenticate the process of education by incorporating the highest spiritual principles, thereby breathing life into the moribund institutional methodology that we often find in educational circles.**

Some students forget or do not understand that they are here to learn the reason for their human lives and how to manage them. Some teachers forget or do not understand that in addition to being here to impart knowledge needed to live in the world – more importantly, most importantly, most urgently – they are here to inspire students to understand how to properly use the human lives that they are given.

Worldly Knowledge versus Spiritual Knowledge

Worldly knowledge is imparted mind-to-mind. Spiritual knowledge is inspired heart-to-heart. **We who seek to represent spiritual unity in our educational endeavours bearing the Name of Sai can only do so if we are in touch with our spiritual heart.** No degree of distinguished learning, educational accomplishments, nor intellectual prowess will enable an individual to lead or any of us to achieve spiritual unity.

Many of the distinguished educationists advise me that we must go this way or that, adopt this policy or that, follow these guidelines or those in order to achieve worldly success. I say to them, we must do what is right and be true to the Teachings of our Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. **While we want order and excellence in our programmes, we seek spiritual unity, not expedient unanimity.** We must be ever vigilant, lest we adopt policies contrary to His principles, guidelines devoid of His godliness, or rules and procedures that are expedient and artificial.

Theme of the Conference

Hence, the theme of the Conference. The theme of the Conference is: “Principles, Authenticity, Accountability and Service to Mankind.” It is simple and straightforward. Let us understand the divine principles set forth by the Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the nature and conduct of education. Let us internalise these principles so as to become exemplars. Let us incorporate these principles in our educational programmes correctly, fastidiously, so that the programmes are spiritually authentic. Let us maintain this spiritual authenticity by evaluating ourselves, evaluating our understanding, and by evaluating our conduct. In this manner we become accountable. When we have done all of these things we are ready to render genuine selfless service to mankind. **Swami once said, “Ready is a state of inner being.”** When we have done all of these things, we will indeed be ready. Educators will indeed be ready. I would love to sit in a class of educators like that.

The spiritual principles given by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba are the source of our programmes, our organisation and our lives. Principles are the source. Authenticity is the ideal for which we strive. Accountability is the imperative to which we must adhere. Pure, divine, selfless service is the result of deeply understanding Sai principles, authenticity, putting them into practice and being accountable for their ongoing authenticity and making sure that we are ever vigilant as to the manner in which we conduct these programmes. Principles, authenticity, accountability and selfless service to mankind – this is the essence of the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference, the essence of all Sri Sathya Sai Organisations and of our lives as spiritual aspirants, is it not?

How do we maintain these principles, this spiritual purity of Sai Education as it passes through generations of worldly delusion and distortion? **How can we stress, impress, redress the need – the imperative to maintain, practise and reflect the highest spiritual principles in all that we do.** How can we perpetuate spiritual authenticity in a world fraught with inequity? That is a question that we must consider and pray that Bhagavan Baba will provide the answers in His Divine Discourses or through insight that He inspires within our hearts.

Maintain Sanctity and High Esteem of the Organisation

In education and in our human lives, when we understand the spiritual principles given to us by our Beloved Lord – when our actions and our programmes authentically reflect these principles, when we maintain this authenticity by constant self scrutiny in whatever we do – then we are instruments for selfless service. Then we become divine and our service is imbued with selfless love.

Our Beloved Bhagavan Baba has lent His Divine Name to our organisation and to our spiritual efforts. **Let us maintain the sanctity and high esteem of this organisation in our respective societies.** Let us ensure that our efforts are truly noble, selfless, spiritual and pure.

Whenever we have a Conference it is natural that we consider whether the results of our deliberations will withstand the intellectual scrutiny of the greatest minds in our respective societies. This consideration gives rise to apprehension. But that is because we lose our spiritual orientation and forget the obvious. The answer is simple and two-fold. First, let us do this work whole-heartedly as our rendering to the Lord. The means is all important. It is everything, and the end we leave in His Hands. **This is the meaning of *nishkama karma yoga* – union with God through action without desire.**

Divine Will

One day one of the teachers in a Sathya Sai School asked Swami about the future of her Sathya Sai School, and Swami responded, “The future is uncertain, live in the present. It is the omnipresent.” Secondly, our work by virtue of our devotion to our Dear Sweet Lord is blessed and imbued with success according to His Divine Will. Whatever might be lacking in mind and depth of intellect or understanding is more than compensated for by heart and love. So there is no need for worry or fear.



Just as the surgeon in Swami's hospital prays to Swami and places himself and the welfare of his patients in Swami's Hands, he nevertheless at the same time does his utmost to exercise the highest surgical skills of which he is capable. So also must the Sai Educators place themselves and their students in Swami's Divine Hands, but nevertheless strive

to be intellectually excellent as well as spiritual exemplars as they teach their students mind-to-mind and heart-to-heart. Let us strive for this worldly excellence, but never to the detriment of selflessness and love. **Let us always be cognisant that it is He who is the doer, that love is the em-**

powerment, and that we are His creation and His instruments. Are these platitudes and unrealistic goals? Only to the extent that you place limits and restrictions on your faith and your spiritual love.

Redemption of Mankind

With faith and love the redemption of mankind is not merely possible, it is assured. **The personification of redemption sits before us now in the form of the *Kali Yuga Avatar*, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.** Why should we doubt and fear and hesitate? Let us instead pray that He will inspire us, fill our hearts with insight and vision, and open our hearts to His Divine and everlasting Love.

Jai Sai Ram!

Dr. Michael Goldstein received his medical degree from George Washington University. A practising physician for over 30 years, he has been serving in various capacities in the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation for the last 30 years. He is currently Chairman of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, which is the governing body for the Sathya Sai International Organisation. He is also Chairman of the Prasanthi Council and is responsible for the administration of Sri Sathya Sai Organisations in all countries outside of India.

Sri Sathya Sai Education in India

Sri V. Srinivasan

July 20, 2008



Om Sri Sai Ram! I offer my most loving and humble *Pranams* at the Lotus Feet of our Beloved Bhagavan Baba.

Century of Sai

Respected elders, eminent educationists, brothers and sisters! Let me add my own words of welcome to all of you, particularly those who have come from far off countries of the world, to this unique event in the first decade of the 21st Century. **This is the Century of Sai, a Century which will see the dawning of an age of Love and Peace all over the world, a Century which will see the realisation of a world in which mankind will live in accordance with the principles of its inherent Divinity.**

As I stand before you today, I recollect the words of a great devotee of Bhagavan, Sri Brahmanand Panda, who was the State President of Orissa. Speaking at the World Conference of Sathya Sai Organisations, in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba, he said, "While representatives gather elsewhere in fear and mistrust of each other to discuss how to establish harmony and goodwill among nations, we, here in this World Conference meet in love, and trust for one another, to establish brotherhood of mankind and fatherhood of God. All of us have one *mantra* – the Name of Sai. Here we do not acknowledge geographical distances and political boundaries. We have one home – Prasanthi Nilayam. **We have one flag – the Prasanthi Flag, and one God – Lord Sathya Sai.**" I can think of no more apt words to say at this World Education Conference. What Brahmananda Panda said decades back is as appropriate now as it was then.

Sai Has Come for the Transformation of Mankind

Unlike other *Avatars*, the Sathya Sai *Avatar* has not come for the destruction of any demons or evil-minded persons. The Sai *Avatar* has come for the transformation of mankind so that it may realise its inherent Divinity. That transformation takes place mainly through His Teachings, in various ways. The totality of that teaching is real Education. This Education is for life and not just for living. This Education is based on learning to differentiate between what is real and what is unreal. This Education rests on Truth and Love, not a transient Truth or a selfish Love, but a Truth which was, is and will be true for all time, and a Love which is selfless and always giving, never taking. **This Education is the reflection of the Life of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, whose Life is His Message.** Baba's Love is so all-encompassing that He wants our lives to be His Message. Brothers and sisters! That is Sai Education.

Recently, a renowned environmentalist gave a Convocation Address in the USA which was entitled "What Is Education For?" In this address, he made the following points:

- Modern Education emphasises theories instead of values, concepts rather than human beings, abstraction rather than consciousness, answers instead of questions, ideology and efficiency rather than conscience.
- It is not Education which will save us, but Education of a certain kind.
- The prevailing myth is that with enough knowledge and technology, we can manage the planet Earth.
- What may be managed really, is us: human desires, economies, politics and communities.
- It makes far better sense to reshape ourselves to fit a finite planet than to attempt to reshape the planet to fit our infinite wants.
- The planet does not need more "successful" people, but it desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, and lovers of every shape and form. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world habitable and humane.
- The process of learning is as important as the content. It is not just what we learn but how we learn it.

Remedy for the Problems of the World

Reflecting on this address, I felt that this person must have been inspired by what Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has been propagating for decades, and which is instilled into all the students of our University. So many years back, He said that the only way of living in Harmony with Nature and with ourselves is by practising "Ceiling on Desires." **The whole world is beginning to recognise that the only remedy for the world's problems is Sai and Sai Education.**

Sai Educational Programmes

This Education had its beginnings in the *Bal Vihar*, which Bhagavan directed the *Mahila Vibhag* to start, more than 40 years ago. This has evolved into the *Bal Vikas* Programme, which today has over 16,000 Centres all over India with 18,000 dedicated teachers who are appropriately called *Gurus* in keeping with the *Gurukula* tradition in ancient

India, moulding the character of over 300,000 children: children in the cities, in the villages, in the slums, rich and poor, of all faiths and religions. Sai Education is truly secular, as its tenets stress respect for all religions and their equality. The children go through a 9-year programme into the early teens. They become mature and disciplined individuals, loving and caring citizens who are willing to share, academically successful, at peace with themselves and with society. **Their Sai Education is a shield against the vagaries and temptations of the world and helps them to be in the world and at the same time, above it. Sai Education has transformed them and they are now the agents of Sai, working quietly to bring about a transformation of their families, society, their countries and of the world.**

By the Grace of Bhagavan, there are also 99 Sai Schools all over the country, which bestow Education in keeping with the Teachings of Sai. These Schools have an enrollment of over 50,000 students. All the Schools produce excellent results, and are much sought after. We are implementing a system of accreditation of all these Schools to ensure high standards in imparting holistic education. **Many other schools have requested the Sai Organisation to conduct *Bal Vikas* classes for the benefit of their students, which is being done in a careful and planned manner.**

Education Is a Birthright

At subsequent sessions, there will be other speakers who will elaborate on the Sri Sathya Sai University, which imparts Sai Integral Education right up to the doctoral and post-doctoral level. **Bhagavan has said that Education is a birthright and therefore Education in this University, which is of the highest standard, is totally free of cost to the students.** This University's experience, as well as that of other Universities, is that students who have the background of *Bal Vikas* training, perform exceedingly well. And, therefore, alumni of *Bal Vikas* are preferred for admission.

The eternal gift to Humanity of Bhagavan Baba is Sai Education, or Sai Educare as we know it today. This is our talisman, this is our *Veda*, this is our Mission, and this is our destiny.

Redemption of Humanity through Sai Education

Brothers and sisters, *Gurus* and teachers, we have all come here with great devotion and love, with high hopes and expectations. We have much to share and much to learn from each other. Most of all, we eagerly await for the message and guidance of our dear Lord and Master, Bhagavan Baba. Make haste but steadily, on this sacred task. **India is the blessed place where the *Avatars* have descended, and India will continue to be the ever-shining beacon for the redemption of Humanity through Sai Education.**

Let me conclude by again saying to all of you, "Welcome." "Welcome Home," for our real home is

Prasanthi Nilayam, with our true Friend, our true Teacher, our true God, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Jai Sai Ram!

Sri V. Srinivasan graduated with honours receiving a B.E. in Electrical Engineering. He was National President of the Confederation of Indian Industries and Institute of Plant Engineers and also a member of Syndicate, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is a senior member of the prestigious Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), USA. Sri Srinivasan serves as a trustee on the Sri Sathya Sai Medical Trust and Sri Sathya Sai University and is currently serving as President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, India.



True Education

Dr. Tom Scovill

July 21, 2008



My humble *Pranams* at the Feet of Our most Loving Lord.

Respected elders, dear delegates of the Sri Sathya Sai Education Conference, brothers and sisters, and dear students! Today we are gathered in Unity at this World Education Conference. Representatives from over 80 countries with Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes, and representatives from India, the birthplace of the Loving Lord who has initiated and sustains these programmes, are here united at His Feet. **We are reflecting on what has been accomplished, and praying for further Divine Guidance from Bhagavan to implement His Principles of true education in a way that is pleasing to Him.**

What Is True Education...

We must ask ourselves, what is true education, and how do we impart it? First we have to take a broader perspective to try and understand the place of true education in the *Avatar's* Mission.

In 1968 the Loving Lord Himself has given the purpose for which He has come. In part He said, "...for establishing *dharma* (or righteousness) on a firm footing, I incarnate from age to age... The *dharma* that has fled to the forests has to be brought back into the villages and towns. The *a-dharma* that is ruining the villages and towns must be driven back into the jungle."

How is the Lord utilising education in His Divine Mission? With our limited understanding, can we explain how the Lord, the embodiment of the Universal Absolute, the One to whom the wise refer by many Names, carries out His Mission? We can only listen closely to His Words and attempt to carry them out to their full import, and watch carefully His actions as the Divine example for us to emulate. In the stream of wisdom flowing in His Discourses through the years, He has enlightened us as to the very purpose of our lives, our *swadharma* (true *dharma*) is to realise our inherent divinity.

He has established the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, which in its charter declared its purpose: to help mankind realise the inherent divinity. By His own example and words the *Avatar's* Mission includes setting right education as it is known in the world. He taught us the correct and true process of education, *Educare*: bringing out that which is within. Simply put: that which is within is our inherent divinity. This is how we can understand the part education serves in the *Avatar's* Mission. **The purpose of true education is the same as the purpose of life, the same as the purpose of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation: to help mankind realise the inherent divinity.**

True education, by the process of *Educare*, integrates spiritual and secular education, the unity within and the diversity in the world brought about by five elements. In this way, true education is the same the world over. As Swami has said, "Truth is One, there is no American truth, no Russian truth. Truth is One." In the same way we can say that True Education is One. There is no separate education that is true for Africa, or a different education that is true for China. **True education is One.** Of course there must be adjustments for local culture and language.

... And How Do We Impart It?

Bhagavan has said in many different ways that nothing can prevent the success of His Mission. As educators, how can we be a part of His Mission so that we faithfully and authentically implement true education? Swami Himself has given us the answers through the years. I will mention just a few. Other speakers may mention more.

First we must consider our own attitude and awareness, and then we must consider how to impart true education skillfully to students; or, as Swami so succinctly puts it, "First self, then help."

Swami has given us many ways through the years to set our attitudes and intelligence right so as to escape the binding chain of the ego that keeps us separate from our inherent divinity. He asks us to take up any one of these ways and practise, practise, practise, but never give up. **All lead to the experience of the inherent divinity.**

Yesterday, Swami advised us to consider ourselves as Divine, as equal to God, to engage in constant contemplation that we are God, in order to understand the nature of "I am I." This is like expanding our awareness so large that we snap the chain of the ego and become free. At other times Swami has explained how we can shrink the perception of ourselves as separate from God so that we become small enough to just slip out of the chain of the ego. **We are instruments in the Hands of God.** There is only one cause in the Universe, and that is God. Everything else is the effect, or as Swami has said, all are zeros, there is only one Hero.

As a Sai Spiritual Education student wrote, addressing Bhagavan, "You are the one that chose me to be a flower in your garden." **It is no accident that we are sitting here today. Swami has said that no one starts on a journey to Prasanthi**

Nilayam without His Will. With this attitude of surrender to the Lord and selflessness, and with the attitude of constant contemplation that we are God, we automatically are living the human values of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love, and Non-violence. Then we are fit to carry out the education programmes that bear His Name.

Now, how to impart true education skillfully? **The central importance of the role of the teacher is often mentioned by Swami.** He has referred to the education system of ancient India, the *Gurukul*, where students were taken by their parents at a certain age to live with other students at the teacher's place. Explaining there was no particular daily timetable for study, Swami gives the example of the *Guru* awakening a student in the night to impart a particular lesson. With some thought we can try to identify the lesson for us today in that example. How was it possible for the teacher to know when to impart that lesson? What lesson to impart? First, the teacher must be a living example of the human values in thought, word, and deed. **The undercurrent of all the five human values is Love.** As teachers, we must love the students as our own children. Love motivates us to serve the students and provides the courage to take initiative. Unity in thought, word, and deed brings purity. With purity we have increased awareness. With increased awareness we hear the still small voice within—our intuition. Our intuition prompts us to instruct in the way that meets the needs of the student. In this way we can apply the lesson Swami imparts with the *Gurukul* example, even though the students do not reside at school in most of the Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes around the world.

The Divine Example

By His example of Divine selfless service, we can see how Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes have expanded in His Mission. Swami established a School in Puttaparthi at the request of His dear mother Easwaramma so that the children will not have to walk far each day for schooling. He, who Himself left school as a young teenager in response to His devotees' calling, has gone on to establish model education institutions. Within one year of revealing His Mission in 1968, the Loving Lord started the *Bal Vihar* movement which became *Bal Vikas*, or Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) outside India. That same year (1969), the foundation ceremony was

held for the first of His Colleges, the Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College for Women in Anantapur. Two men's colleges followed, and the three of them became known as the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, now known as the Sri Sathya Sai University. Some ten years after beginning the *Bal Vikas* movement for children of devotees, he began Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) for society. **Now there are 138 Sathya Sai Schools around the world, and SSE and SSEHV are carried out in scores of countries.**

While different in the types of students served, in the formal and non-formal education applications, the Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes have true education as their basis — Sathya Sai Educare: drawing out into consciousness the human values, the inherent divinity. This fosters in students Self-confidence — confidence in the fundamental Divine Self — and the ability to see unity within the diversity, such as the unity of religions.

Examples of Students with Good Character

Today, what is the nature of the students who emerge from the Sathya Sai Education Programmes? **We see the laudable example of the students of the Sri Sathya Sai University — the young men from the campuses of Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan, and the young women from the Anantapur Campus.** Among the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation worldwide they have a reputation for stellar character, and accomplished skills and knowledge. Their village *seva* or service is admirable and inspiring, and is an integral part of their education programme. In Prasanthi Nilayam, students from the Sri Sathya Sai University and the Sathya Sai Primary and Secondary School are most fortunate to see Swami frequently and interact with Him. In fact for the University students His Guidance on studies and personal matters is an integral part of their programme. We will hear more about the Sri Sathya Sai University Programme from other speakers.

Students in other Sathya Sai Schools and in the SSE and SSEHV Programmes around the world are also becoming known for their good character. Stories of transformation to good character are frequent for Sathya Sai School students, most of whom are not children of Sai devotee families.

For example, at one Sathya Sai School, the parents are undergoing the transformation themselves, because the children are asking them not to smoke, not to watch too much TV, and not to shout in the house. From other Sathya Sai Schools we hear of children asking their parents to say prayers before meals because of the example set by the teachers at the Sathya Sai School. In two countries with political unrest, Venezuela and Sri Lanka, the Sathya Sai Schools remain beacons of peace and hope, and the parents are inspired by the transformation undergone by the children. In China, public school teachers report that the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Programme is resulting in personal transformation and good character for teachers and students alike.

In the students' own words we see the effect of the environment of love and teachers as exemplars in Sathya Sai Education Programmes. A Sathya Sai School student was rebelling at being asked to do chores around the home. I quote: "But it was the teacher who made me think. She read from a Sathya Sai book — *Work is Worship, Duty is God* — since then, I love cleaning the house and doing house jobs."

An SSE student described how her time in the SSE Programme gave her the strength not to spend time with erstwhile friends who began to associate with bad company. I quote: "I might not still be a good person if I had not attended SSE. **I have made sure to stay away from bad company and stay in good company. Swami says, 'ABC—Avoid Bad Company.'**"

The Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes are examples of true education. The Omniscience, Omnipresence, and Omnipotence of the *Avatar* are visible in these programmes.

Students Are His Property

These programmes that bear His Name are His programmes, and the students are His students. Four days ago Swami gave an example for all to see. The students from the Thailand Sathya Sai School presented a violin concert of nine songs, several of them familiar *bhajans*. Their regular conductor was not available, so Swami had Dr. Jumsai, their School Principal, act as music conductor. Two-thirds of the songs completed, the regular conductor arrived to lead them, and Swami allowed the programme to re-start from the beginning. Afterwards, to everyone's

delight, Swami had the college boys lead these same *bhajans*, then asked the Thailand boys to lead a *bhajan*, then allowed the Thailand boys to gather around him closely for photos and conversation. We saw the Love of the Divine Mother demonstrating that all of the Sathya Sai School students are His. We also saw the genuine smiles on the college boys' faces, sharing in the happiness of the Thailand boys. This is love in action!

Swami makes His Presence known in the programmes outside Prasanthi Nilayam. In one Sathya Sai School, Swami was seen by the staff walking the grounds. In another Sathya Sai School, Swami was seen by a student. While there are stories of other miracles, the greatest is the transformation to good character in the students, and by their example they are also bringing a positive change in their parents.

In bringing my remarks to a close, **true education is that which inspires, elevates, and draws out the inherent divinity through the Educare process. True education can be fostered heart-to-heart, between the teacher and student, in an environment of love. True education blossoms when the teacher's awareness includes their own human spirituality, their own oneness with the source of Love, God.**

Power in His Name

Lastly, one of the directions He has given is that His Name Sathya Sai must be attached to the programmes. **There is immense power in using Swami's Name in the Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes.** Once we have been in the orbit of Swami for some time, we know that in this *Kali Yuga* with all its distractions and difficulties, the easiest *sadhana*, or spiritual discipline, to undertake is to repeat one of the many Names of God with Love. It gives the monkey-mind something constructive to do, and there is potency in saying the Name that destroys a mountain of sin. Swami has said it

doesn't matter which of the many Names of God is repeated.

We hear of people who wish to start Education in Human Values Programmes in settings where they hesitate to use Swami's Name or mention divinity. In a Divine Discourse given in January 1992, Swami said, "If they do not like it, let us not go there. Let us go to people who respond to our thinking. If we begin to think whether they like this programme or not, then there will be no value in the activity. We should reach that state that they themselves should come and ask for this programme."



I pray to Swami to help us educators always remember that He is the cause, the architect, originator, designer, and the continuous source of all education programmes that bear His Name.

Swami, I am grateful for this opportunity. Together with the other delegates we are grateful for your Divine Discourse yesterday. We pray for your Divine Discourse today to provide more Divine Guidance to increase our self-confidence to authentically implement the Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes.

Dr. Tom Scovill is a retired public school educator having served 32 years in California, USA. He worked as a teacher in the field of special education for children with disabilities for 11 years, and 21 years in programme and regional administration. In addition to a B.A. in Psychology and an M.A. in Education, he holds an Ed.D. from the University of Southern California. He served on regional and state workgroups with the California Department of Education and as chair of the state association of special education directors. In the Sathya Sai Organisation he serves as member and secretary of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation's Education Committee, President of the Northern California/Nevada Region, and member of the USA SSEHV Foundation Advisory Board.

Spiritual Principles Underlying Sri Sathya Sai Educare

Sri B.G. Pitre

July 21, 2008



My Lord and Master Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, revered elders, brothers and sisters, Sai Ram!

I am facing a dilemma today. I see with these eyes Bhagavan in front of me, serene and blissful; at the same time I visualise Him in my heart, raising a hand and telling me, "Why Fear When I Am Here." Which of these is the Truth? Or both?

All Come from One Single Source

Three months back when the school summer vacations began in Mumbai, a boy visited his grandfather in the village famous for Alphanso mangoes. As he neared the house, he saw a tall tree laden with ripe juicy mangoes. He quickly plucked and ate two of them. Very excited, he asked his grandfather, "Grandpa, can I take this tree back to Mumbai?" His grandfather smiled and replied, "No son, how can you do that? However, you can take back these two seeds. Sow them, and they may grow like this tree, giving hundreds of mangoes each year."

Puzzled by this answer, the boy enquired, "You mean to say that these seeds have inside them tiny little trees like this one?" "Not quite, my boy," replied his grandfather, "but they have the potential, the wherewithal, to transform into a sapling and grow into a tree if the environment is favorable." Now, the boy further asked, "You mean to say, grandpa, that all these trees around us were seeds once, and those seeds may have come from one single mango tree?"

Now it was the grandfather's turn to get excited. He happily replied, "You are right my son. **Actually, not just these mango trees, but all plants, all animals and birds, even we human beings, these mountains and the nearby ocean, the stars and the planets, all have come from one single, original seed, and GOD IS THE SEED. He is Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.**"

Spiritual Principles Underlying Sri Sathya Sai Educare

I do not know how much of this the boy understood. **But, we all know that the entire Creation is a manifestation of the Divinity. Divinity permeates the whole universe.** You and I are the seeds with potential of the divine; God is present in our heart as the Truth, the conscience, the *Atma*. Just as the mango seed requires warmth of the soil, air from the surroundings, and rays of the sun, so also children need warmth of parents and teachers, a conducive environment, and Divine Grace of Bhagavan, to blossom into full excellence. This is the first and foremost spiritual principle underlying Sri Sathya Sai Educare.

What signifies blossoming, manifestation of the divine? When a seed sprouts into a plant, creation occurs and a new life begins. **Bhagavan says, "Life begins with Love." Love is the energy which binds all elements in Creation, from the tiniest atom to the biggest galaxy.** It is the under-current of all human values. When Love fills our thoughts, the Truth is revealed. When our Actions are suffused with Love, they become Righteous, *Dharmic*. When Love purifies our emotions, we experience Peace. Thus, Love is the common denominator in thought, word and deed, which brings harmony. It is the sure evidence of good character, unity of Head, Heart and Hands. Human values are latent in all of us; it is the process of True Education which brings them out. This is the second principle of Sri Sathya Sai Educare.

And how can this be achieved in our children? **To bring out the latent human values requires a different methodology than what we do to fill our head with information.** We employ the time-tested transformation techniques of (a) *Japa* and Meditation, (b) Prayers and Positive Thinking, (c) Singing Devotional Songs, (d) Reading and listening to stories of sacrifice, honesty, etc., and (e) involving children in Group Activities – experiential learning, value games, community service, celebrating festivals, etc. Children are given self-help skills, and they grow in a positive environment which fosters values. This is the third principle underlying Sri Sathya Sai Educare.

True Education Must Be Integral and Integrated

And who is to carry out this programme? The elders: parents and teachers. Hence, elders have to be role models because children imitate and emulate them. **You will realise why Bhagavan Baba is called a World Teacher. All the five transformation techniques are being constantly put into practice here in Prasanthi Nilayam.** Every day is a festival, a celebration. Every morning and evening *Nam Sankirthan* is organised, and *Seva* is given such great importance in the activities here. He wants us to emulate Him, so that our life becomes His Message to the students.

Last, but not the least, true education must be integral and integrated. From teaching academic subjects in the class to playing on the field, from writing examinations to celebrating festivals,

at home or in school, every activity has a value dimension and it must be brought out. Moreover, a balance must be maintained between education (gathering information of the external world and storing it in our head) and Educare (bringing out human values from within). **Just as a bird soars high in the sky using both wings, a student will need both: the secular knowledge and skills, as well as human values, to live in harmony and peace in later life.**

Blossoming of Human Excellence

For the first time in recorded history, a holistic system of true education has been revealed to us in such simple terms, inspired by the World Teacher – BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA. To raise ourselves to higher levels of understanding, for the first time, the Universal consciousness has entered into our mind as Purifier of the Age – and He is BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA. For blossoming of human excellence in us, for sprouting of the seed in us, He has descended amongst us, the *Avatar* of the Age – BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA.

On behalf of all those present today, and those who could not be present, also those yet to be born, we pray to Bhagavan: "Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Sai Ram!

Sri B.G. Pitre graduated with an M.Sc. (Physics) from Nagpur University and B.Ed. with distinction (Science and Maths) from Bhopal University, and conducted research in science curriculum development at the University of London. He has an extensive career as an educator, serving as a School Principal, Senior Housemaster, and Science Master in India. He served as President of the All-India Science Teachers Association, Director of the NCERT Physics Curriculum Development Group, and Vice-President and President of the International Council of Associations for Science Education (ICASE), which is affiliated with UNESCO. Sri Pitre has published numerous school science textbooks and has attended international conferences and meetings on science and EHV education. He has authored multiple publications on Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values and Educare, and articles in national and international journals. Since 2000 he has served as the Director of the Institute of Sathya Sai Education (India) in Mumbai.

Transformation of the Heart— Hallmark of Sathya Sai Education

Dr. Dalton de Souza Amorim

July 21, 2008



With humility and gratitude, I offer my most loving salutations at the Lotus Feet of our Beloved Lord Sai!

Dear Bhagavan, respected elders, dear brothers and sisters, Om Sri Sai Ram!

I am very happy and thankful to Swami for the opportunity to share with you the joy that He has given me with the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Programme.

Experiencing Unconditional Love of Swami

I come from a family of scientists. My father was a medical researcher and university teacher; and, I graduated with a degree in biology. But, despite my academic training, I now know that Swami had some other plans for me. Since childhood, He has been preparing me for a spiritual life. Having been born in a Christian Catholic family, I had some spiritual education early in school. I learned to deeply admire the lives of saints, and I was full of awe for the mysteries of God. While I was an undergraduate student I finally came to know about Lord Krishna and the Bhagavad Gita. Later on, I joined a spiritual group in Sao Paulo, Brazil that eventually brought me to Swami and His Teachings.

A closer contact with Swami occurred in 1996, when by His immense Grace I came to His Presence here in Prasanthi Nilayam and I experienced the unconditional Love of Sai! Soon thereafter, I experienced a subtle, but profound change.

Even though I previously believed in God, I thought that liberation was unattainable. But no! Swami constantly teaches us – as He did yesterday – that our very nature is God, that our source is God, and that it is our birthright to return and reunite ourselves with God. Understanding this part of Swami's Teachings was perhaps the most important change in my life – the realisation that we are all part of Swami Himself!

Learning about the EHV Programme

I made good progress as a scientist in taxonomy and the study of biodiversity, but after many years I finally began to get closer to Sai-ence! **Swami says that science is the split of love, and that Sai-ence is the spirit of love.** Swami did not allow me to abandon my worldly life and my job, but enabled me to follow my *Dharma* with even more rigour, while quenching my thirst for spiritual knowledge, and experience of the divine towards my ultimate goal of liberation.

Another blessed opportunity during my first trip to Prasanthi Nilayam was to get to know Swami's students. In Western countries children are exposed to such a vast amount of worldly information, so, when they become teenagers, their minds are almost entirely filled with worldly

desires. In Prasanthi Nilayam, we realise that it is possible to have children, youth, and young adults who have all the energy of youth infused with spirituality. How beautiful! Indeed, the students of the Sathya Sai Universities are verily the jewels that inspire and move the hearts of millions of devotees worldwide, with their academic excellence, good character, and love for God. **The students of the Sathya Sai Institutions were really my first source of inspiration towards learning about the Education in Human Values Programme.**

Beginning a Sathya Sai School in Brazil

It was not until a visit to Prasanthi Nilayam in 2000, however, that the idea of having a Sathya Sai School in Ribeirao Preto, a city in Brazil, in South America, took concrete shape. During the Education Conference held here in 2000, a group of educators from the city where I live were so impressed with the schools and students in Prasanthi Nilayam that they considered the idea of beginning a Sathya Sai School in Ribeirao Preto, in Brazil. Actually, we wanted not only Swami's blessing for the project, but also wanted to be sure that this was Swami's Will. At the end of that Conference, I had the opportunity to kneel and ask Swami if we should open the Sathya Sai School. Swami patted my hands and with a smile told me: "Yes! You *should* do the Sai School!"

With Swami's Grace, things worked out well with the Sathya Sai School. We went to see the mayor,

to ask for a piece of land to build the school. **The mayor said, "I will not give you a piece of land... but I will give you a building, so you can begin sooner." He offered four different buildings for us to choose from. One of them was in a place we would call a piece of Heaven, green all around and in a peaceful environment. Brothers and sisters, this can happen only by Swami's Will and Grace.**

Transformation of Heart

The Sathya Sai School is now in its seventh year of existence and has nearly 150 students. I am always impressed by how much the Sathya Sai School transforms one and all – certainly the students, but also the teachers, the volunteers, the staff, the parents and the community around. The Sathya Sai School is within a Christian community mainly of Evangelicals, who are very strict about religion. Nevertheless, the Sathya Sai School has earned the respect and the love of the community.

The mother of one of the children, in tears, once said that she did not know why God choose to bless this community with such a wonderful school. This means that she recognises the Sathya Sai School as a Godly project. I would like to share with you another beautiful story. We had quite an aggressive child at the school. After about 1½ years, children were outside listening to a song about values and this boy broke down into tears. The teacher asked



what happened: "Did somebody hit you?" But the boy could not stop crying to answer. When he finally calmed down, he said: "No, teacher, it is this song." It was the transformation of the heart that was taking place in this boy that moved him to tears when he heard the value song. These are just some of the wonderful experiences we have had in this Sathya Sai School. There are 12 other Sathya Sai Schools and 7 Sathya Sai Institutes in Latin America in which this same love is transforming the hearts and lives of all.

Example of Love in Action

I have come to understand that it is not the information, nor the techniques, but the true love that pours out from the hearts of teachers that transforms the children. This gives us a glimpse of what is so special about a Sathya Sai School: a teacher must be an example of love in action, every moment, every day throughout the year. **The teacher must develop constant integrated awareness, that is, uninterrupted Divine Love, if the Sathya Sai School is to fulfill its mission.**

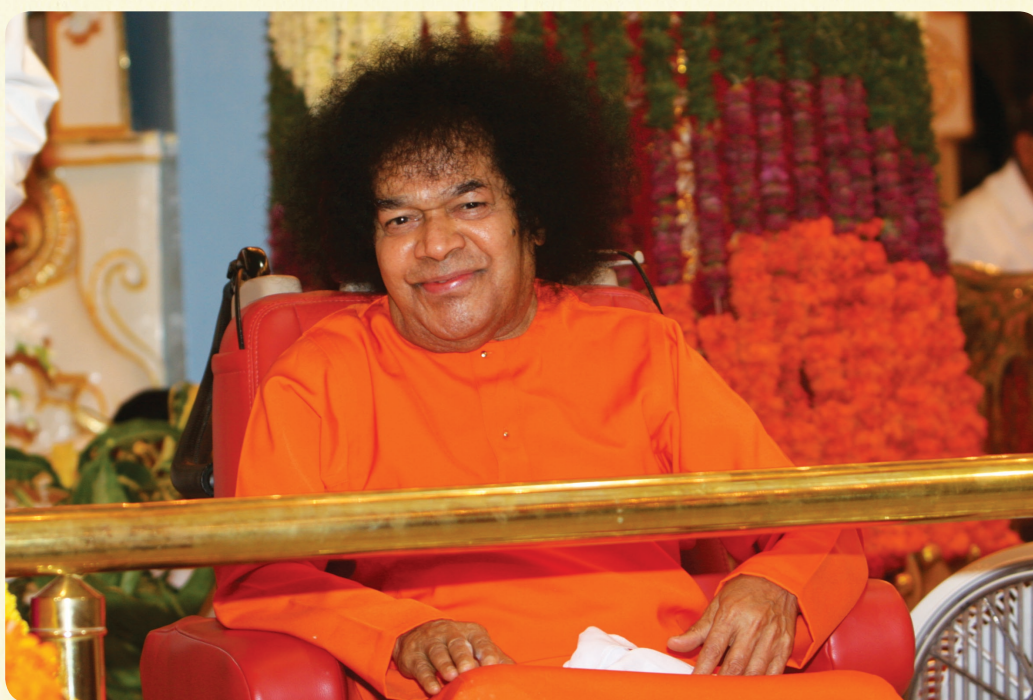
Swami gave me a unique golden opportunity. The opportunity to have my head in the forest and hands in the society; to have my heart in Prasanthi Nilayam and in the Sathya Sai School, and to be able to share this experience with my scientist colleagues. From the depths of my heart, Bhagavan, I offer You my gratitude and my life.

Three Prayers

Swami, I would like to offer at Your Lotus Feet three prayers. First, please help us to keep our hearts perfectly pure, so that we can become perfect instruments in Your Divine Mission. Second, help us to constantly pour our loving energy in the Sathya Sai Schools, with determination, discipline, and devotion. And finally, Swami, may all Sathya Sai Schools in the world flourish, grow, and shine, sharing Your Love and Your Message with the entire mankind.

Jai Sai Ram!

Dr. Dalton de Souza Amorim has been a full professor and researcher in biology at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil since 1990 and holds an M.S. and Ph.D. from the university. His M.S. and Ph.D. theses were each recognised as the best in the country in his area of research. He coordinated undergraduate and graduate courses and has been honoured nine times by his students for excellence in teaching. In his field, he has contributed 4 published books, 17 chapters in books, and dozens of papers published in national and international journals. He is an editor of several books and has been awarded a number of grants for scientific research. In the Sathya Sai Organisation he has served as National Education Coordinator, Central Coordinator, and Zone Chairman. He is currently one of the teachers in the basic and diploma courses at the Brazil Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Education.



Critical Success Factors for Educare

Sri G.S. Srirangarajan
July 21, 2008



I offer my humble *Pranams* at Bhagavan's Lotus Feet. Respected elders, respected delegates of the World Education Conference, dear brothers and sisters.

Educare is the process of making manifest and patent the human and Divine qualities that are latent within an individual. These qualities when manifested in one's conduct and behaviour entitles him/her to be called a good human being. This forms the base. With this base, secular education enables one to become a good engineer, doctor, scientist, or even a driver, clerk or farmer. The substratum is common to all and that is being a good human being. Therefore, Educare is inevitable for every individual.

However, the process of getting "educared" if one may call it so, as against getting "educated," is quite different. Let us have a look into the critical success factors for a successful programme in Educare. There are four of them, just like the four fingers of the hand.

1. Example - Teaching through Role Modeling

Educare in the true sense cannot be taught like education. The role of the teacher is limited to inspiring and encouraging the student to commence the process on his own and can provide some limited guidance. However, any amount of preaching cannot help because what we are, speaks louder than what we speak. **Role modeling is the best way of inspiring the pupil to walk on the lines prescribed.**

2. Experience - Experiential Learning in the Laboratory of the Mind

Education consists of acquiring knowledge externally from books and by experimenting in laboratories in the college. **On the other hand, Educare consists of sourcing insights from within one's own heart and of experimenting in the inner laboratory of the mind.** The entire process belongs to the inner domain. The teacher can at best inspire the student to begin or trigger this process but the rest depends upon the individual. He/she needs to discipline the mind, and turn it inwards to reconnect to the heart and tap the insights from within. Just as we experiment and learn in the laboratories of the college, so too Educare demands that we experiment with our mind-intellect complex and learn to gain mastery over them and train them to remain connected with the heart. Education needs physical infrastructure while Educare needs moral and spiritual infrastructure.

3. Empowerment - Enabled through an Enlightened Intellect

Gone are the days when children and adults implicitly obeyed the commands of elders and teachers. Today, thanks to the excessively prevalent scientific temperament and positivistic thinking, everything is questioned. Nothing is taken at face value. Therefore, it becomes necessary to sharpen the intellect of the children so that they learn to discriminate on their own. **Right from the young age, we need to empower them to differentiate between what is right and what is wrong.** Sharpening the tool of the intellect, we need to give them sound criteria for enabling moral and *dharmic* decision-making based on intuitive capabilities, and also based on case studies from our ancient scriptures and traditional wisdom.

4. Ennoble Life through Lifestyle Modification

Educare is not for those who aspire comforts and conveniences. **Material comforts and Educare do not go along with each other, as Bhagavan says.** Simple living and high thinking needs to be the motto for those who aspire for Educare. This demands a modification of existing life styles, especially those that revel in excesses and conspicuous consumption.

The above four critical success factors, as mentioned earlier, are like the four fingers of the hand. However, just as the four fingers cannot function without the thumb, so too, the four critical success factors will prove ineffective without the undercurrent of Love, which serves as the thumb.

5. Love Must be the Undercurrent

All the above cannot be effective unless love is the undercurrent for each of those. **As Bhagavan says, the three steps are: Love for God, Fear of sin and Morality in society.** We can clearly see the convergence of all approaches and spiritual pursuits over here. Bhagavan defines spirituality as removal of animal qualities, fostering human qualities and manifestation of Divine qualities. This is exactly what Educare is all about. Animal qualities are equivalent to sins that should be removed, not through suppression or force; but based on the foundation of love for God. Once this happens, the human qualities are fostered, the Divine qualities are manifested and there is morality in society.

At the Sri Sathya Sai University, we are extremely fortunate that we have an ambience created by our Beloved Lord that provides all the critical success factors for enabling the Educare process.

Lord Himself as the Ideal Role Model

To start with we have our Lord Himself as the ideal role model inspiring each one of us to follow in His footsteps. He not only inspires us through His Life and Actions but also as the indweller of our heart, He prods us from within to restrain the outward tendencies of our mind and turn inwards to connect to our heart. The omnipresent Lord creates situations and circumstances in each one of our lives that drives us to experiment in the laboratories of our mind and in the process, gradually we are able to sharpen our intellect. To facilitate this process, Bhagavan has Himself designed a beautiful system for us wherein students live in a typical ancient Indian *Gurukulam* style, with relevant modifications to suit the current times. This ensures a simple and humble life style. Above all, the process becomes such a wonderful journey because of the immense Love that He showers on each one of His pupils.

However, we are all so fortunate that our Master has the whole Universe as His University. If that is the case, these critical success factors are available anywhere and everywhere for each and every one of us. The ball is therefore now in our court. We need to take the first step and having taken that we also need to help others in doing the same. **The Universe is our home where each one of us lives for the other and all live for God.**

Transformation through Educare

Let me conclude by sharing with you two examples of transformation through Educare.

Example 1: Recently an alumnus of our University by name R. Viswanath of the 2002-2004 M.B.A. batch, who now works for a multinational company in Chennai was sent to the US for deploying a healthcare software package at the client's location. This alumnus executed the job so well and displayed such wonderful soft skills that the head of the client's organisation offered him a job at their unit in the US with a very attractive salary. Our student turned down the offer stating that his priority in life was to serve his parents back at home in Chennai. They were very keen to employ him and even offered to make arrangements to get his parents to the US. However,

our student remained firm in his resolution and now threw the next challenge to them. He said that he wished to stay in India and serve his country. He is now back in Chennai. Many of his colleagues considered his decision to be foolish and irrational. However, the student remained calm and cheerful. The CEO of the current company was so pleased that he organised a special gathering to felicitate the success of this alumnus. **When asked as to what prompted him to act in this manner, he said that it was the inspiration he had received in Sri Sathya Sai University and the love for Bhagavan.** That is Educare.

Example 2: There is a wonderful team in Bangalore, consisting of our alumni from different faculties – Sciences, Humanities and Management. They are now employees of top companies like Honeywell, Dell, GE, IBM and other MNCs. What do you think is their hobby and extracurricular activity outside their hectic jobs in the top IT companies and private banks? They identify very sick patients from neighbouring villages who cannot afford healthcare. They arrange for their transportation to Bangalore, receive them at the bus stand, accompany them to the appropriate hospital, be it Kidwai Institute for cancer patients, Ramaiah Hospital or our own Super Specialty Hospital, depending on the type of illness. They arrange and sponsor the treatment as well as the accommodation for the patient and his/her relative. They go to the extent of even providing a temporary mobile phone with a local SIM card to

help them in communicating with their relatives back in the village/town. One of the team members visits the hospital everyday with suitable food and fruits and medicines. And once the patient recovers, he/she is sent back home with a joyful heart and eyes moist with gratitude. This activity has become so regular that now the doctors in these hospitals are very familiar with our students and provide them immediate attention and even discount the charges for treatment. Ask these alumni, why they go out of their way and do all this amidst the hectic life they live – they have no words to speak, the heart says it all. **This is Educare.**

Therefore, let us waste no more time in meaningless pursuits. Let us train our mind to turn inwards, even as we engage in our regular tasks and chores. As the inwardly-turned mind makes contact with our Higher Self, the human and Divine qualities hidden within manifests itself. Let us then translate these noble values into positive actions for the benefit of society. Leading such a life, let us offer ourselves to Bhagavan, so that He may use us, as He deems fit in His Divine Mission.

Sri G.S. Srirangarajan received a B.E. in Industrial Engineering & Production from M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore. He received an M.B.A. from the Sri Sathya Sai University. Since 1992 he has been offering his services in the School of Business Management, Sri Sathya Sai University.



The Sathya Sai Model of Education: The Only Model to Emulate

Mr. Victor Kanu

July 21, 2008



Koti, Koti, Pranams! at the Divine Lotus Feet of our Sweet and Beloved Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba – the *Poorna Avatar* of the age.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters of the World Family, we are gathered here today by the Grace of our Lord Bhagavan Baba in order to participate in the World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Education.

An Extraordinary Conference

In Truth, this is a Conference of the Divine, by the Divine, and for the Divine – has He not taught us, contrary to some religious traditions, that we are all Divine, not born sinners? This Conference therefore, is for us embodiments of the Divine *Atma*. It is, therefore, not an ordinary Conference but rather an extraordinary, wonderful, magnificent and momentous Conference for the whole world including India, the birth place of the *Avatar* Himself; and His Educational Programmes, which He conceived long before His decent upon earth, in a huge ball of blue light which abided in mother Easwaramma's body, in early 1926. This Conference was part of His blue print. The rest of the world cannot do without India. However, in Truth, there is no India, no America, no UK, no Australia, no New Zealand, no Singapore, no Malaysia, no Indonesia, no Africa, indeed no East, and no West. There is only Sathya Sai who is our magnet, our unifying force and our only focal point.

Each Avatar has a mission to execute. Of the ten *Avatars* of Lord Vishnu, I will mention only four because of their relevance to this Conference:

Rama Avatar: Lord Vishnu incarnated himself as Rama in the *Thretha Yuga* in order to establish *Sathya* and *Dharma* in the world.

Krishna Avatar: Lord Vishnu incarnated himself as Krishna in the *Dwapara Yuga* in order to establish *Santhi* and *Prema* in the world.

Buddha Avatar: Lord Vishnu incarnated himself as Buddha in the *Kali Yuga* (the current Iron age) in order to establish *Peace* in the world.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Avatar: Despite the tremendous efforts made by Rama, Krishna and the Buddha in establishing *Sathya*, *Dharma*, *Santhi* and *Prema* in the world, the human race, because of its pride, stubbornness, ego and arrogance, continued to be tainted until all are tainted including the speaker and therefore unable to change to progress from darkness to light and from mortality to immortality. So, Lord Vishnu decided to incarnate again as the **Kalki Avatar** in the *Kali Yuga*, and will work towards the establishment of *Sathya*, *Dharma*, *Santhi*, *Prema* and *Ahimsa*. Indeed He did so just a little over eighty-two years ago. That *Avatar* is none

other than Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba seated in front of us today. In His Body reside all the God forms that mankind has ever known and will ever know. He declared this at a mammoth meeting in Bombay, on the eve of His departure for Africa in 1968. **He has decided not to uproot or annihilate the mankind because all are tainted; rather, He uses education as His instrument of change, of reform, of transformation of humanity.** It is this education that Bhagavan Baba has been progressively unfolding and which has culminated in this World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Education to which He has lovingly called us to participate. He wants us to understand the programmes in their authenticity, that is in their pristine and unadulterated form; become accountable or effective practitioners of His Ideals so as to make us worthy of serving the world.

When Did He Launch His Educational Programmes?

There is abundant evidence to show that Swami launched His Educational Programmes since childhood in the informal sectors of education and, incrementally continued to do so to this date, as can be seen in the following:

- In 1969 Swami formally established the *Bal Vihar* Education Programme.
- In 1971, a National Conference for Volunteer teachers who had been trained previously was held and the name *Bal Vihar* was changed to *Bal Vikas*.
- In 1981, a Conference of Overseas teachers was held in one of the "Sheds" of Prasanthi Nilayam, and the concept of EHV/SSEHV was introduced. Whilst Swami was a frequent visitor to the "Shed," Sri Indulal Shah stayed throughout the three-day proceedings of the Conference. We were greatly inspired by the facilitators - in particular, Usha Nanda as a story teller. In her dramatisation of the "*Story of the Frog*," she did



it so well that she was temporarily transformed into a frog. That was how effective the delivery of all the presenters was. There were no screens, no PowerPoint presentations, no lesson plans, no overhead projectors and no cartoons. There was only Sai in the minds and hearts of the presenters. We immediately accepted the programme

as a credible educational tool that would, in the long run, bring about fundamental changes in the minds and hearts of humanity. Simultaneously as these activities were in progress, **Swami set up formal educational institutions in India such as schools and colleges culminat-**

ing in the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) – (now Sri Sathya Sai University) with constituent campuses at Anantapur, Whitefield and Puttaparthi. This Institute became a model for the world to emulate.

- In 1983, a Conference of *Bal Vikas* teachers was held at Prasanthi Nilayam. This was followed by another Conference in 1995 when the name *Bal Vikas* for overseas countries was substituted with Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) for the convenience of those countries in order to emphasise the universality of the Programme.
- Indeed, throughout this period, there was a great surge of activities relating to Sathya Sai Education in all the five continents of the world.
- Outside India, by 1992 the Sathya Sai Schools in Zambia, Africa and Thailand had started.

Sathya Sai Schools and Institutes Overseas

Thereafter, inspired by the success and impact of these two schools, many other Sathya Sai Schools and Institutes mushroomed overseas, with great enthusiasm, and rapidity under the watchful eyes of the then World Council and Central Office, under the able Chairmanship of Sri Indulal Shah. This office was subsequently replaced by the Prasanthi

Council and the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation with Dr. Michael Goldstein as their indomitable Chairman. Arising from the need to examine the workings and relationships of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation and Swami's Educational Programmes, the Council set up a task force for the former under the chairmanship of Prof. Venkataraman, Ex-Vice-Chancellor of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation set up another Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pal Dhall, an eminent scientist and educationist, followed by the establishment of the Education Committee under the Chairmanship of Kalyan Ray, a retired and distinguished United Nations Officer.

The outcome of the work of the Education Committee was the production of the book titled *Global Overview of Sri Sathya Sai Education*, and the production of drafts of guidelines for the structure and function of Sri Sathya Sai Institutes and Sri Sathya Sai Schools.

The Sathya Sai Model

Swami has not just given us the contents and processes of His education as embodied in the concepts of Educare, SSE and SSEHV, but has provided us with two models for their implementation:

1. **He is a paragon of virtues** - a model of excellence in the practice of Human Values. **He loves all and serves all – students, teachers, parents and the world. As an educator, He only explains and inspires but never complains.** Qualities such as these are the guiding light which all levels of Sathya Sai Educators are expected to emulate if our schools and institutes around the world are to make the desired impact, in the communities in which they operate.

2. The second model is concerned **with Teaching** – on using the medium and language of instruction, as starters. During the inauguration function of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), He proclaimed:

"This University will not be imparting in its Botany Course merely a knowledge of trees in Nature; we will spread the knowledge of the Tree of true living.

It will not be imparting the knowledge merely of economics; the knowledge of theistic ethics too will be included.

It will not be merely teaching Chemistry (Rasaayana Shaasthra); it will also unravel the mystery of "Raso vai sah," the Supreme Embodiment of nectarine sweetness, the Atma.

It will teach not only the science of the material world (padaartha); it will also teach the science of the non-material world (paraartha). It will not differentiate the material from the non-material or treat the non-material as irrelevant to the material.

We have decided that this shall be the uniqueness of the University.

This will not, like other Universities, adopt a few faculties and burden their alumni with degrees, which they can present as begging bowls while clamouring for jobs.

This University will confer on its alumni the courage and confidence, the knowledge and the skill, to shape their careers by their own efforts, standing on their own feet and relying on their own strength.

So, we have proposed that spiritual education is to be integrated harmoniously with the teaching of ethical, physical and metaphysical sciences in this University."

This is indeed integral education, the model, the guiding principle for all of Swami's educational institutions and programmes, including our Schools and Institutes; and, this Conference in particular. We should emulate this model and must follow.

Three Examples of Personal Encounter With Products of Sathya Sai Education

1. Participants at the Conference of eminent educationists organised by the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning held at Puttaparthi were hosted at the Shanti Bhavan and we were lovingly cared for by selected students of the Institute. After dinner one night, I approached two students for some fruits for my dessert; they looked at each other and one of them told me to go to my room, and the fruits will be served. About fifteen minutes later, there was a knock at my door and when I opened it, I saw one of the students with a small basket of assorted fruits, beautifully arranged and covered, and he said, "Sir,

here are your fruits.” I thanked him, and noticed that he was perspiring, an indication that he ran to the market outside of the *Ashram* to buy the fruits for me. **This was indeed an amazing act of service by a University student – particularly, late at night.**

2. Identification of past students with their Chancellor Sathya Sai:

My office at Ndola is really a busy place. My assistant keeps asking me, when will this computer stop churning out emails, coming from many parts of the world. Sometimes it is tiring to read all these emails and respond to them immediately. But, this being part of my duty, and as Bhagavan has said “Duty is God,” I somehow seem to have a store of inexhaustible energy to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities.

Sometimes, of course, I get tired of listening to the emails being read to me, since a majority of them, with the exception of Swami’s Discourses, deal with routine matters pertaining to the various units of our organisation and others.

It was a glorious day, a rosy day, a day that filled me with joy to the point of near ecstasy when on Monday, July 3, 2006, an email arrived from a group of people who called themselves “Sai Students.” After my assistant had read the source of the email as coming from *Sai Students*, I wondered who these students could be, since the Sathya Sai Educational Institutions represented by Schools and Institutes throughout the world produce many students. Very quickly however, it became clear that *Sai Students* referred exclusively to the past students of Swami’s Institute. The Sai Students disclosed that they were former students from Swami’s Educational Institutions in India currently living and working in various professions in Europe.

3. The email is of great importance and relevance to Swami’s educational model which continues to produce men and women of good character and willingness to do selfless service to humanity. They had a deep inner urge for sometime, to seek an opportunity to participate, support and undertake a service project in Africa. **They submitted this request with much humility, out of a desire to offer their love and gratitude at the Lotus Feet of our Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who does so much to make their lives meaningful and worthwhile even after leaving the precincts of the**

Institute. Four of them arrived in Zambia, and met me. We discussed the opportunities and agreed that they would take Sathya Sai Education in Africa as the area of the greatest need for support. And since then, their commitment towards the enhancement of Sathya Sai Schools, and others in Africa has been continuous and sustained, despite the fact that they are ordinary wage earners, not millionaires, but householders with families. They proudly identify themselves with their Chancellor and continue to call themselves **Sai Students**. Why is this? It is the result of the impact of Sai’s Educational Model on their lives.

Sai Students are for Life

Students upon graduating from some of the outstanding educational institutions in the world such as Cambridge, Oxford, London University, Edinburgh, Harvard, Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Sorbonne and many, many great institutions scattered throughout the continents of the world, do not identify themselves with their Chancellors after leaving their universities. **“Sai Students” are for life, and not merely for “earning a living.”** A life that reflects the full Teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, their Chancellor; a Chancellor that receives no salary, no pension or gratuity; takes no holidays; is always with His students and staff, and is at the forefront of carrying out “*Grama Seva*” in the villages where the poor reside. This Chancellor is indeed the greatest and best Chancellor in the whole world.

Replicability

One may wonder whether this awesome “Sai Model” which is producing such wonderful young men and women can be replicated elsewhere outside India. The answer is resoundingly yes, because Sai is everywhere, within us, around us, above us and below us. Replication, therefore, is possible and inevitable, if we have faith and trust in our Bhagavan, and allow our lives at home, in the Sathya Sai Schools and Institutes, and everywhere become true reflections of His Life and Teachings, as a Model of Excellence; and, if we are not afraid to use His Name when we return to our respective countries; if we do not chase other models; if we do not believe that we are the doers instead of instruments in His Divine Hands; if we adopt the

policy of inclusiveness rather than exclusiveness and togetherness rather than separateness.

Finally, I ask all devotees throughout the world present and absent, to join me in expressing our greatest gratitude and thanks to our Beloved Bhagavan Baba for coming down on earth in this form living with us inspite of our weaknesses in order to transform our lives and become His worthy sons and daughters and specifically in making it possible for this Conference to take place.

With Swami's permission, I want to thank the following:

Dr. V.K. Gokak, First Vice Chancellor of the Institute and whose pioneering committee laid the foundations of Sri Sathya Sai Education; the *Bal Vikas Gurus* of India who nurtured the Programme that led to SSEHV; Sri Indulal Shah for his indefatigable striving in keeping Swami's educational programmes alive for so long; Dr. Michael Goldstein and his team for bringing India and the rest of the world to this Conference and for their excellent leadership style in helping all of us to live together, work together and march together towards our cherished goal – Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba; the Zone Chairmen, Central and Deputy Central Coordinators, Chairmen of Councils and Coordinating Committees, and Sai Educators throughout the world for their hard work and cooperation.

The Sathya Sai Model

As Sathya Sai Educators, in our efforts to assist in the establishment of *Sathya, Dharma, Santhi*,

Prema and Ahimsa, the purpose for which Swami has incarnated, we should remember that His Model – The Sathya Sai Model and none other, is the only model that will ensure that the treasure within us – the Divinity within ourselves and our children – surges into human excellence and thus usher in the Golden Age.

I pray, Bhagavan, that You become the Only model that we will Follow as Sai Educators in our Schools, Centres and Institutes.

Jai Sai Ram!

Mr. Victor Krishna Kanu received his B.A. and M.A. at the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University and served as Sierra Leone's High Commissioner/Ambassador to the UK with further accreditation to Norway and Sweden. In 1980 he introduced the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) Programme in England, and after 20 years in SSEHV work with education authorities in London, he returned to Africa and set up a Sathya Sai School in Zambia. He advises UN-HABITAT as a consultant on Education in Human Values, and was responsible for introducing Human Values-based Water Education in Africa, about which he has presented papers during the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (2001) and other international forums. He currently serves as the Director of The African Institute of Sathya Sai Education (TAISSE), The Central Coordinator of Africa (Region 93), and as a member of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation Education Committee.



Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba: Teacher of Teachers

Mr. Jeremy Hoffer
July 21, 2008



Dearest Lord, I offer my *Pranams* at Your Divine Lotus Feet.

Though I was 18 years old and had nearly finished school by the time I came to know Bhagavan, my real education was just beginning. Though I had many good teachers and learned many things in school, I didn't learn the most important thing: how to find true and lasting happiness. Bhagavan says that education is not for mere *anaalu* (money), but for acquiring *gunaalu* (virtues). Today, youth are in search of raising their *jiitam* (salary), but not elevating their *jivitam* (life).

Many people think that there is no poverty in the USA, but this is not true. Yes, there is economic poverty, but the real poverty in USA is a poverty of values. Such poverty is not limited to poor people; wealthy parents routinely come to school to ask for special privileges for their spoiled children, and make excuses for their misbehaviour. Selfishness abounds, and sensitivity to the feelings of others is seen as weakness. But the most devastating form of poverty is the crushed spirit of a child, a lack of hope or even a belief in one's self.

If ever there was a need for divine intervention, the time is now. The world's children need Bhagavan now, more than ever.

"What Is Sai Education?"

Several years ago, a small group of teachers from America were talking with Swami, and we said, "Swami, we want to do Sai Education in America." And rather than offer us some direct instruction, Bhagavan replied with a question: **"What Is Sai Education?"** There was a pause in the room, as none were completely confident to answer Bhagavan's question. And then one of us offered, "Developing faith in God." Swami responded, "Yes." But a doubt quickly arose in us, and we put this doubt before Swami. We said, "But Swami, talking about God in the U.S. is difficult." And then Bhagavan responded in His typically simple but profound way. He said, "God is just a word." When **Bhagavan confirmed that "developing Faith in God" is the essence of Sai Education**, I assumed that the emphasis was on God – the object of our faith. But Swami quickly turned the tables on us and put the emphasis on the first word, "Faith."

Faith, He went on to explain, is natural and essential for every good life. In families, faith – a deep trust and reliance upon one another – must exist between family members in order for the family to function well. The same faith must exist between co-workers in the office, too. At other times, Bhagavan has explained that even atheists live lives of faith, going to sleep each night peacefully because they have "faith" that next day the sun will again rise, and they can continue living the life they've grown so attached to.

In the years since this interaction with Bhagavan, I've come to appreciate two important lessons He taught me that day: (1) that the principle of faith is an essential tenet of Bhagavan's methodology; and (2) that Bhagavan's philosophy of education is universally applicable, not limited to Sai devotees, India, or religious-minded people only.

The first lesson Bhagavan taught me that day was that faith plays an essential role in the education of every child. **The philosophy of Educare is predicated on the principle that every single person is an embodiment of divinity. The role of the educator, then, is to help bring out the latent divinity in each child.** But in practice, educators work with a variety of children that are far from perfect. When confronted with difficult children, there is a strong, natural tendency to see only some children as good and others as bad. We often say to ourselves, "I can't teach this child; their behaviour is not good, they lack natural intelligence, their parents have not done their job to make the child ready to be successful in school."

Practise His Teachings

This is when faith is required. If we are not convinced that each and every child has the innate capacity for goodness, success and accomplishment, then we can never serve them. If we have not the deep-seated faith to believe in each and every child, then how are children to believe in themselves? Self-confidence for young people very often begins with elders believing in children. Isn't it true for each of us, as well? Where would we all be if Bhagavan didn't see the goodness in each of us? Human vision sees the faults in others, even when there is good; **Divine vision sees the good in others, even when all may not be perfectly good.** Sai Education requires us to have such faith.

I'll share a small, practical example of how the principle of faith has found its way into my own teaching. At my school – a school with tremendous economic and racial diversity – children are often

separated into different classes depending upon the perceived ability of the children. The intention is to put the smarter kids into one class, and the not-so-smart kids into a separate class. Children in the smart classes are given challenging work and are expected to be successful, and are prepared to go to college. Children of the not-so-smart class are given easier work, are often not expected to succeed, and are almost never being prepared to go to college. I argued to my colleagues that all children are capable of challenging work, no matter what their backgrounds, and so mixed the different children into one classroom that only taught the rigorous curriculum. It was not always easy, but after one year, our class outperformed all of the other classes on the final exams. Not every child was successful in the class, but many of



these children had accomplished more in one year than they had over the past many years of school. The students told me that the work was very hard, and that at first they didn't think they could do it, but because their teacher believed in them and continued to help them realise they could do it, they eventually began to believe in themselves.

The second lesson Bhagavan taught me that day was that Sai Education is universally applicable. Many people have doubts and see His Institutes and philosophy as being essentially religious, and more specifically Hindu in nature. This is a misunderstanding. Swami's philosophy of education is built on universal human values – Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non-violence. As Swami so beautifully explained, even the value of Faith – a value we most often associate as being exclusively religious – is a universal human value, and is not limited to the religious domain. Universal Human Values like Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non-violence also signify divinity. My own experience working with young people in public schools has confirmed that Swami's Teachings are indeed universally applicable, and extremely beneficial.

Of course the most important thing is that we, as educators, must practise the values ourselves. The famous American poet and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson is remembered for saying, **“What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.”** Swami, too, has always insisted that practising His Teachings is more important than preaching.

Practical Spirituality for Children

Once we start practising the values ourselves, then we can begin to talk about the values with children. One simple activity I used to do with my students is to discuss the well-known saying, **“Do good, be good, and see good.”** After introducing the quote to the class, I used to ask them which one must come first: doing good, seeing good, or being good? Then the students organise themselves into groups according to their own choice and feeling about the sequence of the quote. Then the students would discuss a rationale for why they believed the sequence should follow the order they chose. Next, the groups would begin to discuss and debate which order made the most sense. Some would insist that we must first “Be Good” before we can “Do Good” and only then can we “See Good.” Others would say that they understand differently, and explain their own understanding and rationale. Ultimately, after much discussion, we would all agree that the most important thing is that Being, Doing and Seeing Good are really interdependent; they cannot be separated or isolated from one another if we are to be good.

Practical spirituality for young people deals with questions like “What is happiness, and where does it come from?” “Who am I and what is my purpose?” Helping young people to understand that their thoughts and feelings and actions are responsible for their happiness, that happiness is something within them, not outside of them is very helpful to them. Very often young people will say, “No one has ever told me this before.” What is the point in talking to young people about *Vaikunta* (the celestial abode) if they don’t know who they are, and how to live happy lives here on Earth? **In sharing Human Values with young people I have seen the transformation of many children** – self-centred children have become sensitive to others; angry and violent children have become soft-natured and compassionate; insecure children have become confident. All of this transformation is due to Bhagavan.

Everything Is in His Hands

Once a group of young boys from America were waiting outside of Trayee Brindavan for Swami to come down and interact with them. The atmosphere was Divine—gardens, trees, quiet, ... suddenly, His door opened, and He slowly came down the ramp towards the boys. Excited, we all rushed towards Swami. As we gathered around Him, He held out His Hand, empty and palm up for us to see, and He asked, **“What is in My Hand?”** Of course it was empty, and I think more than one of us thought to ourselves, “Nothing is in Your Hand, Swami.” **And then He slowly repeated out loud, almost with a question mark at the end, “Nothing, nothing, nothing?” And then He corrected, with increasing strength, “Everything, everything, everything is in this Hand!”** And indeed it is true: everything is in His Hand. He says, “I can turn earth into sky, and sky into earth with a wave of this Hand.”

Today, there is nothing more urgent, more in need of the rescue by the Divine Hand than our institutions of education. Those of us that work as professional educators know the challenges and obstacles that children face in this world – children in poverty, children of broken homes, children lost on the road of life. And those of us that have worked to serve these children know how hard it can be to lift them up. But as I have reflected on my experiences, I have come to believe that the solution we so often seek can be found in Faith. Not an exclusive and sectarian faith, but a universal faith. **Not faith in something that divides us, but faith in the universal human values that unite us all.** I pray that Bhagavan will lift us all up with His Hands and deliver us to Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non-violence. Jai Sai Ram.

Mr. Jeremy Hoffer is a high school English teacher who began his teaching career in 2000. He has in-depth experience in education reform and integrating human values in public schools. He recently won recognition in Denver, Colorado, USA, for advancing educational opportunities for low-income and minority children. He has been active in the Sathya Sai Organisation for the past 18 years as a centre and regional officer and most recently as a regional young adult advisor in his region. He attended Bhagavan’s Summer Course in Brindavan in 1995 and all three World Youth Conferences.

Sathya Sai Education – Transformation

Sri M.K. Kaw

July 21, 2008



My humble *Pranams* at the Sacred Lotus Feet of Bhagavan Baba.

Brothers and sisters from around the globe, Om Sai Ram!

We are indeed fortunate to be taking part in this Global Conference on Human Values, and are very grateful to Swami for allowing us to participate as delegates.

Vision of a Global Civilisation

The Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Human Values at New Delhi was inaugurated by Swami on March 12, 1999. Right from its inception, the Centre has tried to live up to Swami's vision of a Global Civilisation coming up in the world. **Swami has not come to establish a new cult or set up a new religion. He wants every one of us to be a person of character with full harmony between thought, word and deed.** He wants a Hindu to be a better Hindu, a Muslim to be a better Muslim, a Christian to be a better Christian, and so on.

In order to achieve its objective, the Centre has embarked upon a number of activities like monthly lectures by eminent people, professional workshops for IAS (Indian Administrative Services) and IPS (Indian Police Services) Officers, Railways and Military Officers, production of a bi-monthly newsletter, publication of books and reports, managing a website, etc.

Reaching Out to Principals of Schools

Above everything else, we followed Swami's advice that values are best inculcated in childhood and to begin with school children would be the most effective strategy. When we surveyed the field, we found that we had to reach out to millions of children, or if we tackled the teachers, to thousands of them. The task was too daunting for a fledgling Institution like ours. **After much consultation, we decided to concentrate in the first instance on principals of schools, who were in hundreds and could be trained as master trainers.**

We have accordingly taken this approach. Beginning in January 2004, we have conducted 35 orientation programmes for principals of CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) affiliated schools like Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Army Public Schools and Sainik Schools. As of today we have covered 803 principals.

Orientation Programme

Each orientation programme is for five working days, Monday through Friday, and caters to 25 principals. In addition, there are some interested principals, teachers or other social activists

who request for participation and are allowed to take part as observers; we have both a core faculty and a guest faculty.

The day-to-day programme is chalked out with utmost care to cover all aspects of the subject of human-values education. The subject is divided into the following four segments:

The first part is self-actualisation. Participants are given a FIRO-B (Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation-Behaviour) test, which checks their current inter-personal behaviour patterns, in so far as inclusion, control and affection are concerned. They are taught about the *Vedantic* analysis of the human personality to reveal the five sheaths within which the individual "I" or the *Atman* functions. **The concept that God or the Divine Principle is only one and can be best described as a combination of existence, consciousness and bliss is introduced.** And, finally leading to the conceptual understanding that divinity permeates everything, that it is God Himself who has become all this and that each one of us is God Incarnate.

In the second part of the exposition, we explain how there are inherent commonalities among all religions, which actually preach the same doctrines. The fundamental doctrine is that God is one and resides inside each one of us. **While there might be philosophical or ritualistic differences, all religions preach the practice of the five fundamental human values viz. Truth, Love, Right Conduct, Non-violence and Peace.** These values are expounded in some detail, to bring home the point that these are actually part of each world religion.

The third part of the programme relates to the process of transformation which the participants are persuaded to embark upon. **They are required to introspect, in order to see what defects there are in their character.** A human value assessment test is administered in order to estimate where they stand with respect to cherished values and practised values. They have to maintain a spiritual diary, in which the results of daily audit are entered. They are introduced to *yoga*, meditation, music, humour and other similar practices which contribute to the free flow of spiritual energy.

The fourth part relates to the pedagogical aspects. This includes the government policy and CBSE guidelines on value education, the manner in which values can be integrated into **classroom**

teaching of individual subjects, how inculcation of values starts right from the morning and carries on throughout the day whatever be the activity, be it sports, eating of food, co-curricular activities, social service or whatever. The ideal teacher and the art of ideal parenting are defined. Participants are exhorted not to wait for systemic transformation, but use personal insights to introduce new ways of thinking, speaking and behaving among the students. The case studies of situations having potential for value conflict are studied. Moral stories are acted out as plays, and the end product of the programme is emergence of an action plan for inculcation of human values in schools.

Multiple Teaching Techniques

One major technique that is frequently used in the programme is the use of data or theory proved by modern science. Thus the programme starts with a brief video clip by the scientist John Kramer, who shows how the sound "Big Bang" was not a Bang at all. It was more like a cosmic *Hum*, which goes on and on and is strongly reminiscent of *Aum*, Amen and Onkar in different religions.

Later, we have a presentation on reincarnation which has been confirmed by the scientific research on near-death experiences, past life regression therapy, reincarnation memories, and the phenomena of Xenoglossy (i.e., ability to speak unlearned foreign languages) and genius.

Then there is an exhaustive exposition on the paradigm shifts in the science of physics, from the pre-Newtonian, to the Newtonian, to the Einsteinian and then to the quantum mechanics paradigm, culminating finally in the post-David Bohm paradigm. So matter is no longer the basic building block of the universe, nor is energy. It is consciousness.

During the progression of the course, the participants are exposed to community singing, yoga, pranayama, meditation, maintaining a spiritual diary, implementing small vows (anuvrat) like "I shall not tell a lie today," "I will not criticise anyone today" and so on.

The course uses multiple training formats like lectures, working group discussions, panel discussions, video films, audio tapes, role plays, FIRO-B test, SAHVAT test, open house debates, visit to primary school, etc., to bring some variety and interest to the orientation programme.

Feedback of Participants

The feedback of the participants is invariably positive. **They feel transformed and are keen to implement the various ideas in their schools.** Most of them give an excellent rating to the quality of the programme.

This orientation programme is currently the flagship programme of the Centre. Its success has encouraged us to extend the strategy to colleges, although this is still being attempted on a limited scale.

I would like to conclude by requesting Swami's continued Blessings for the International Centre at New Delhi.

Om Sai Ram.

Sri M.K. Kaw joined the IAS in 1964 and retired in 2001. He was allotted to the Himachal Pradesh cadre and held senior posts such as Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Finance Secretary, Education Secretary, Personnel Secretary, Director of Industries, etc. in Himachal Pradesh. He held many important posts in the Central Government, such as Member Secretary of the 5th Central Pay Commission; Secretary, Civil Aviation; Principal (Advisor) Education in the Planning Commission, and Secretary (HRD). Sri Kaw has written 15 books, including "China: The Agricultural Training System" for the FAO, "Bureaucrazy," and "Science and Spirituality." Currently he is functioning as Dean of the Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Human Values run by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust at New Delhi.



Educare through Silence

Mr. Sanjay Mahalingam
July 21, 2008



My loving salutations to the one without a second. I offer all my ideas of right and wrong, all my ideas of morality, ethics and values. I offer all my knowledge and all my ignorance. I offer all my light and all my darkness, all my virtues and all my vices, all my intellect and all my understanding. I offer my entire being to that Pure Presence that shines in our hearts as a sun, embodied here and now, as Sri Sathya Sai.

The Story of Bhagavan – The Story of Love

I thank Bhagavan for this opportunity to speak, and I pray to Him that let this talk be my communion with my higher Self and let me speak what I most need to listen. Generally people speak on the Life and Teachings of Bhagavan. And I intend to do the same. The Life of Swami – where do I begin? The Life of Swami is not just the life of this body. **The Life of Swami is the story of Love, seeking Itself.** The story of Swami is the story of time. It is the story of consciousness expressing itself through myriad forms. Consciousness they say sleeps in a stone, feels in a plant, thinks in a man and shines in a Divine One. The story of Bhagavan is the story of life itself. Where do I begin?

The Teaching of Swami – Attunement in Silence

The Teachings of Swami – the Teachings of Bhagavan cannot be read in a book. They cannot be understood in words and they cannot be assimilated through analogies, metaphors and similes. No man whoever spoke since the beginning of time on the Teachings of Swami ever truly hit the target. Because, Swami's Teachings cannot be expressed in words. **Swami's Teachings can only be perceived by attuning with Swami in utter silence.** Words, words and words; is that all we have to show of our association with such a Supreme One? What is the use of going to the seashore and admiring the sea and coming back without even wetting our toes? **What is the use of coming to Sai and not getting drenched in His serene Peace, in His abundant Love and in His perfect Freedom.** "Free! Free! Free!" screams every cell in Bhagavan. What is the use if we don't become like Him? They say a great master is one who makes His disciples like Himself. How many Sai has made like Himself, that He alone will know, but why have we not become like Him yet? It is said in the scriptures "*manushyatwam mumukshatwam mahapurusha samshrayaha.*" **These are the three things that one needs. A human birth, the desire for liberation, and the refuge of a great one.** We are all humans, we desire freedom, and we are with Swami. What is missing?

Gautham Buddha and Ananda

Sometime back Bhagavan told me a beautiful story that has stayed with me. And I wish to share that story with you. The story is of Ananda, who was the elder cousin of Gautham Buddha. Ananda one day went to Gautham Buddha and asked him for a boon. He said, "Gauthama, I am your elder cousin, so you must never say no to me. I'm going to ask you three boons and you must grant them. (1) I must be with you twenty-four hours a day. (2) Whatever I ask, whatever question I ask, you must answer me. (3) You have to talk to everyone whom I bring to meet You." Gautham Buddha agreed.

For 40 years Ananda stayed with Gautham Buddha, twenty-four hours a day. He used to eat with him, he used to sleep in his room, he travelled everywhere with him, he listened to every sermon that Gautham Buddha gave, he visited every village, every nook and corner with Lord Buddha and all the time he was with Buddha. He spent twenty-four hours a day with Lord Buddha for 40 years.

Many monks came to Buddha. They came with utter emptiness but with love and sincerity. They assimilated the real teachings of Gauthama, became enlightened beings and walked like *purusha simhas* – lions among men. After 40 years, when Gautham Buddha had decided to shed His mortal coil, He was lying on the bed and He called Ananda. He said, "Send word to all the monks whom I have initiated and tell them that Gauthama is going to shed His mortal coil and they must come." The word was sent and all the great monks, the enlightened beings, came from all over the country. All of them sat around Buddha serenely with a smile on their lips. Ananda was wailing and lamenting. One monk went to Gauthama and said, "Gauthama, this man has stayed with you for 40 years! And why is he like this?" And you know what Gauthama said? He said, "Can the spoon know the taste of the soup?"

Gauthama passed away and then the need was felt for the great Teachings of Gautham Buddha to be recorded in the form of scriptures. So all these great monks assembled in a great hall and they worked throughout the night. They wrote the great Teachings of Gautham Buddha in its pristine form. But Ananda was not allowed inside. He sat at the door and cried all night. **Just in the wee hours of dawn, in utter frustration, despondency, hopelessness and emptiness, suddenly Ananda went inward and in that glorious moment he understood the**

Teachings of Gautham Buddha in reality, without a word. In that timeless moment he understood what Gautham Buddha taught all His Life. And just then, the monks opened the door and welcomed Ananda inside the hall. Sisters and brothers, there is an Ananda in each one of us.

Silence Is Real Educare

The chosen one is not the one who gets to know intimately the person of Sai. The chosen one is the one who knows the infinite possibilities that Sai stands for. **The chosen one is he who is able to experience the infinite Love of Bhagavan and is able to earnestly seek the great, wonderful things that Bhagavan can grant us.** Educare teaches only one thing. Silence, silence and silence – silence is Swami, and Swami is silence. That's all!

Only those words are useful that will take us to the wordless.

Only that action is useful that will take us beyond action and inaction.

Only that work is useful that will make us realise that we are not the doer.

Only those thoughts are useful that will take us to the thoughtless stillness.

Only that company is useful that will take us to inner solitude.

Educare, above all, teaches only silence. It teaches that there is only one moment, and that is this moment. How often Bhagavan says, "Past is past! Forget the past. Don't worry about the future for it is uncertain." It's just not there! There is only this moment, here and now. Educare teaches us to stay here and now in the present moment.

I wish to conclude my talk with one story. Many years back, Bhagavan gave an interview to a professor of our college and asked him, "What do you want?" The professor said, "Bhagavan, this *maya*, this ignorance, should go." Swami asked, "What is your name?" The gentleman told his name. "What is your wife's name?" He told his wife's name. "What have you studied?" He replied. "What is your hobby?" He replied. "What are your likes and dislikes?" He replied. After a barrage of questions, and that man's answers, Bhagavan said, "*Baap re baap! Tumko itna kuch yaad hai to maya kaise jayegaa!*" He said, "Alas! You remember so much. How will the ignorance go!"

His Silence

Sisters and brothers, let us all pray that Bhagavan blesses us with His Divine Discourse following this talk. But **let us also remember that when Bhagavan speaks, there is another discourse that goes on. And that is the Discourse of His Silence. Yes, His words are very beautiful. But between the words there pervades an utter silence. And all His words come from that silence. And few are those who can stay there in that silence, between His words! And that silence takes us to the place from where His words come.** And that silence is His real Discourse. In that silence Swami can communicate to us what He is, what we are, and what we really

need to learn. So, when Bhagavan gives His Divine Discourse, let us try and let us pray that the supreme silence engulfs us all.

Jai Sai Ram!

Mr. Sanjay Mahalingam received a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology from the University of Delhi. He worked for one year as a software engineer in ST Microelectronics before he joined the Sri Sathya Sai University in 2002, where he received an M.B.A. in 2004. Since 2005, he has been working for a Ph.D. in the field of management on the topic of "Corporate Strategy for Success in Emerging Markets: The Indian Context."



Sri Sathya Sai Educare— The Way to Immortality

Dr. Narendranath Reddy

July 22, 2008



*Madhuramu mee satchirathamu
madhuramu mee punya nama arayaan
palukulu madhuramu, ganamu madhuram
madhuramu bhavadeeyamella madhuraswarapupa*

(Nectarine is Your holy story, Your Name is sweet, Your Words are sweet, Your Song is sweet. Embodiment of sweetness! Everything about You is sweet and nectarine.)

(TELUGU POEM)

With love, reverence and gratitude, I offer myself at the Divine Lotus Feet of our dearest, sweetest, loving and most beautiful Lord Sai, who is our *Jagad Guru, Sadguru, Gurunaam Guru* (the Universal Teacher, Divine Teacher and the Teacher of Teachers).

Respected elders, dear sisters and brothers, and blessed students of Sri Sathya Sai University, Loving Sai Ram to all of you. We are grateful to Bhagawan for giving us this opportunity to be in the Divine Presence, at His Divine Lotus Feet.

Mother Sai

Sai is Love and Love is Sai. His Love is unfathomable and that of infinite mothers'. He has guided us at every step regarding the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference from its inception till today – the programme, the speakers, the exhibition, and all the arrangements. I would like to share with you a recent experience of how Swami is *Gurunaam Guru*, teacher of teachers. Last week, when we presented to Swami the various items to be distributed to the delegates, we also showed Him the writing pad and pen included in the package. Swami looked at them, took the pen out and made sure that it wrote. However, instead of writing on the paper, He wrote on the inside back cover of the writing pad and made a comment, "See, I don't want to waste the paper." **There is a message in every act and every gesture of Swami.** This is also a lesson for us that we need to pay attention to every detail, perform quality control and should not waste anything. Yesterday He commanded us not to waste food, not to waste energy, not to waste money and not to waste time. **His every word is a mantra.** Mother Sai provided all the delegates with delicious *prasadam* — breakfast, lunch and dinner, free on all the three days. Also, there were more than 10 items on the menu. The food tasted nectarine – *Amritum* because the food was saturated with Swami's Love and Blessings, and was served with selfless love and dedication by the *Seva Dals* from Andhra Pradesh. This is an example of Educare in practice.

Blessed Opportunity

Sages and saints perform austerities and penance for aeons for a Blessed opportunity like this, to be in the Divine Presence. In the play *Tripura Rahasya* it was aptly mentioned that we are more fortunate than sage Parushurama, who was initiated by Lord Dattatreya. We are highly fortunate to have Sai Dattatreya with us.

Once Swami asked His devotee Colonel Joga Rao, "Do you want to see My real form?" Swami then asked a student to take a Polaroid photograph of Swami. Lo and behold, the photo that emerged from the camera was that of Lord Dattatreya, the embodiment of Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwara. Swami has also given visions of many other Divine forms, like Rama, Krishna, Shiva, Buddha, and Jesus, to His devotees.

Swami is not only these Divine forms but He is also all names and all forms. *Sarva Rupa Dharam Sarva Nama Dharam*.

Furthermore, He is beyond all names and forms. He is *Gunatheetha* and *Rupavarjitha*. So it is said, "**He is one in all, all in one, all in all, and beyond all.**"

We cannot comprehend the Mystery and Majesty, Glory, Grandeur and Beauty of our Lord Sai, but all of us can only experience and share His infinite Love and eternal Message.

His Message - Educare

Swami began His Educare Programme at the age of 14 when He gave the world His first *bhajan*: "*Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam, Dustara Bhava Sagara Tharanam.*" (Oh mind, hold on to the Feet of the Lord and He will take you across the ocean of *samsara* and will free you from the cycle of birth and death.)

He gave His second Educare message in the song He composed in Karnam Subbamma's house:

*Sathya Dharmamu Santhi Premalatho mee
nitya jeevana yatra saginchu.*

(O Jeeva (embodied soul)! Lead the daily journey of life with *Sathya* (Truth), *Dharma* (Righteousness), *Santhi* (Peace) and *Prema* (Love).)

(TELUGU POEM)

This song has 9 verses which contain **the quintessence of Vedanta and the message of Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values.**

Ideal Student

Swami teaches us by example and through examples. Swami said Prahlada was an ideal student. When asked by his father, Hiranyakashipu, what he had learned from teachers in the school, the young boy Prahlada replied:

*Chadivinchiri nanu guruvulu, Chadivithi
Dharmartha pekku sastrambulu,
ne chadivinavi galavu pekkulu chaduvulalo
marmamella chadivithi thandree*

(Father, I studied and mastered many branches of knowledge from my teachers, I read several books and I learnt the secret and essence of all knowledge and education.)

(Pothana Bhagavatham)

Prahlada says that the goal and purpose of life is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love and serve our fellow beings. He says hands should be used to worship the Lord; tongue to sing the glories of God; eyes to have the beautiful vision of the Lord; ears to listen to the glories of God. He concludes by saying:

*Kumbhini dhavu cheppedi gurudu gurudu,
thandri Hari cheru maniyedi thandri thandri*

(The true father is the one who takes the child to God and the true teacher is one who gives the child knowledge of the Divine.)

(Pothana Bhagavatham)

Hiranyakashipu is an example of education without human values. As Swami says, he was the greatest scientist who travelled not only to the moon but also to various planetary regions and had conquered the three worlds. The nature and all the five elements were under his control. But he did not conquer himself, and was a slave to his senses and his inner enemies. In contrast, Prahlada exemplified Educare. He mastered his senses and was a mastermind. He had pure, pristine and unsullied love for God and love and compassion for all.

Simple Living and High Thinking

Another ideal student that Swami often refers to is Abraham Lincoln, the President of United States of America. He was the son of a poor farmer who rose to become the President of America. He is regarded by many historians and laymen not only as the foremost of American presidents but also as the greatest American of all time. He exemplified

Swami's Teachings of simple living and high thinking. He managed to live with only a pair of clothes, but he lived with self confidence which was taught to him by his mother. Most of us know that as a student how Swami lived with just a pair of clothes to set an example, even though by His *Sankalpa* He created this whole universe, and He can create anything, anytime, anywhere by His Will. Just yesterday, we witnessed the Glory and the awe-inspiring creation by Bhagawan of the beautiful golden *lingam* which gave joy to all of us.

Love and Compassion for All

In His Discourse, Swami emphasised that we should have love and compassion not only for the poor and needy but also for all beings including mosquitoes and ants. One day while going to the Congress, President Lincoln saw a pig stuck in the mud. He told his driver to stop the carriage, got down to pull the pig out of the mud and in the process his clothes became dirty. The driver offered to take him back home to change his clothes. The President told the driver that he did not want to be late for the meeting and when he reached the meeting, everyone wondered what happened to the President. When they heard what transpired, everyone in Congress was moved by the love and compassion of the President for all beings. When

someone asked the President why he did not delegate this task to someone else, he said that he felt oneness with the pig at that time and felt its pain as his own pain. This is what Swami calls **feeling oneness with the creation.**

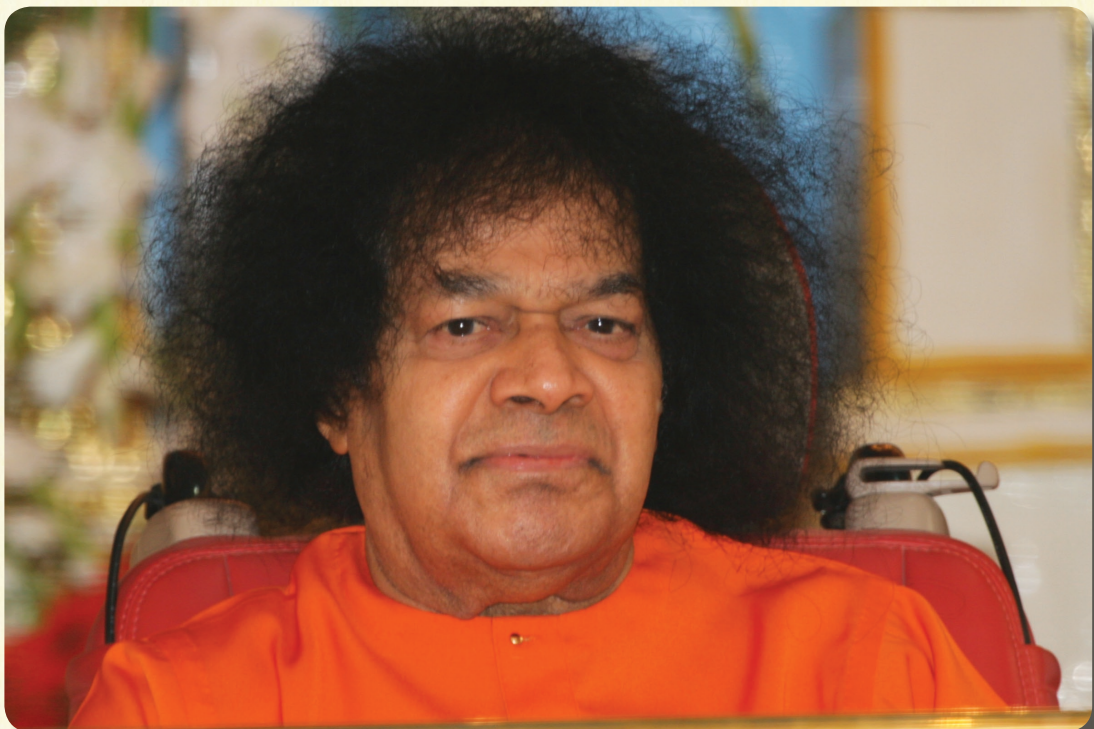
*Atmaupamyena sarvatra samam pasyati yo
Arjuna
Sukham va yadi va dukham sa yogi paramo
matah*

(O Arjuna! He is regarded the best among the Yogis who considers pleasure and pain of others as his own.)

(Bhagavad Gita Chapter 6, Sloka 32)

Human Values in Daily Life

In the present day, under the Divine Guidance of our Beloved Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the students of Sri Sathya Sai University demonstrate academic excellence along with exemplary character. In His *Guru Poornima* message Swami related how two women students and a young man have been requested to attend universities in USA and in Hungary because of their academic achievements. Even their airfare and other expenses are fully paid. But, the greater achievement of the students here is their practice of Human Values in daily life. Yesterday we heard instances of this in the



talks by Brothers Victor Kanu and Srirangarajan. In his convocation address on November 22, 2006, President Abdul Kalam mentioned that there are millions of graduates from thousands of universities all over the world, but these few hundred students from Sri Sathya Sai University are the beacons of light and are the torchbearers for Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. These students are the hope for all of humanity. We did not have the privilege to be students of Sri Sathya Sai University, but we have a consolation. **Swami says that the universe is a university. We are all the students of this university and here God is the Chancellor of the University guiding us to realise the goal of our life.**

Swami says that the **essence of education is concentration; the end of education is character; the purpose of education is to serve humanity; and the goal of education is to realise one's divinity.**

The Way to Immortality

The degree that we should all aspire for is *Amritasyaputra*, children of immortality.

*Chaduvulenni, chadivi chaavanga netiki
Chaavuleni chaduvu chadava valayu*

(What is the use of learning everything and dying? You should study that which leads you to immortality.)

(Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba)

How do we get this degree of *Amritasyaputra*? Swami gave the answer – first we need to **get rid of the feeling of I and mine**, i.e., *ahamkara* and

mamakara, ego and attachment. Secondly, we should **go inward and be in touch with our Atmic reality**. Swami's Name itself is the answer to this. SAI BABA. SAI – **See Always Inside and then you will see BABA – Being, Awareness, Bliss and Atma (Satchidananda)**. Swami says that we are all embodiments of *Satchidananda*.

Let us pay heed to the Divine clarion call. "Realise, assert and manifest your Divine nature. See and experience the Divine in everything, everywhere and ever." I pray to Bhagawan to bless all of us with the strength, determination, dedication, discrimination and devotion so that we can attain this goal in this very lifetime by the Grace and Blessings of our Loving God, *Paripoorna Avatar*, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

I pray to Bhagawan on behalf of everyone to bless us with His Divine Discourse.

Jai Sai Ram!

Dr. Narendranath Reddy received his medical degree with distinction from SV Medical College, Tirupati. He received his training in internal medicine at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry and did his sub-specialisation in Endocrinology and Metabolism at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York. He has been a practising internist-endocrinologist in Southern California for over 25 years. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Endocrinologists and is on the faculty of the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. He is Chairman of the International Medical Committee of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and is a member of the Prasanthi Council. He serves as a Director of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation.



Educare Is Realisation of the Self

Sri Nimish Pandya

July 22, 2008



Salutations to the power that is beyond the Trinity, salutations to the power that sustains every breath of life in each one of us here and all the beings around the world, salutations to that ultimate Being amidst us in the form of our most Beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Distinguished guests, brothers and sisters, dear students.

Spiritual Knowledge Should Be Practised

In the great Treatise called the *Tripura Rahasya*, there is an interesting episode. Two young princes, Ratnagada and Hemangada, are out hunting in the forest. As they enter the forest, a celestial demon attacks and kidnaps Ratnagada and threatens to devour him. Hemangada urges the demon to free his brother but to no avail. After great persuasion, the demon agrees to free Ratnagada only if Hemangada agrees to answer the queries put to him by the demon. The questions posed are such as to elicit answers with a message of significant import. **The first question is “Why is the Self not realised?” Hemangada promptly replies, “Ignorance, my Lord, ignorance!” The demon continues, “What is this ignorance?” “Separateness from the Self is ignorance,” replies Hemangada. The demon further asks, “What is the cause of birth and death?” and pat comes the reply, “The sense of doership!”** Indeed, man develops an ego that he is the doer, when, in essence, the Truth is otherwise. Being happy with these answers, the celestial demon transforms into a Sage. He releases Ratnagada and confesses that because of his Ego to debate on spiritual concepts, he was cursed and turned into a demon.

This story emphasises that spiritual knowledge is not a matter of debate but one of sheer practice, and in this sense, the message of Sri Sathya Sai Educare is indeed the panacea to dispel this ignorance and free oneself from the sense of doership.

Decisions of the World Education Conference

My mandate today is to present the decisions of the World Education Conference, in so far as they apply to India. **Bhagavan, however I must confess that we are fully conscious of this fact that you alone are the Doer and we are mere instruments in the Divine Cause.**

At this stage, I remember a lovely story narrated by Bhagavan many years ago: “Once, all the Gods were invited to a Conference. Each of the Gods present came with their respective *vahanas* (vehicles). Lord Shiva with his Nandi, the Bull, Vishnu with his Garuda (Eagle), Ganesha with his mouse, Yama on his buffalo, etc. After parking their respective *vahanas*, the Gods entered the Conference Hall. While entering the Conference Hall, Lord Yama, God of Death, spotted a sparrow perched on the branch of a tree and smiled. Garuda saw the smile on the face of Lord

Yama as the latter spotted the little bird on the tree. Garuda was anxious for the little bird for he knew that on whomsoever Lord Yama's eyes are cast, that one is sure to meet his end. As soon as the proceedings of the Conference began, Garuda flew up to the little sparrow, picked it up and flew away with the little sparrow to a deep forest, far away in the hinterland. Garuda left the sparrow in the forest and returned to the Conference, confident that now Lord Yama would not be able to take the life of the little sparrow. The Conference ended and all the Gods came out of the Conference Hall. As soon as Lord Yama came out, he looked up at the tree and found the sparrow missing and again smiled. This time, Garuda could not contain himself. He rushed forward and asked Lord Yama why he was smiling. Lord Yama replied, 'When I was entering the Conference Hall, I was wondering as to how this sparrow perched on this tree would meet its death in a forest, miles away from here. But, now I understand, how easy you have made my task by lifting the sparrow and taking it to the forest, where it has met its end by being burnt in the forest fire. See, one cannot interfere with the Will of the Lord. Remember, He alone is the Doer and we are all mere instruments in His Hands.'

Bhagavan, being conscious of this fact we have proposed to place at Thy Divine Lotus Feet the following proposals made during the deliberations over the last two days. We pray that with Your Blessings and Grace these proposals can become a part of Your ever unfolding Divine Mission. By Your Grace we hope to continue as Your Instruments for Educare Programme.

PROPOSED DECISIONS OF WORLD EDUCATION CONFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO INDIA

A total of 606 delegates, 236 men and 370 women, have participated from India at the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference. The working groups were divided into two sections, namely Sri Sathya Sai Schools in India and Sri Sathya Sai *Bal Vikas*. Around 87 men and 232 women joined the deliberation on "Developing *Bal Vikas* to Mould India's Younger Generation," and 149 men and 138 women delegates drawn from 99 Sri Sathya Sai Schools comprising Principals and management deliberated on the theme "Ensuring Sri Sathya Sai Schools as Models of Excellence." The discussions were spread over three working sessions. Each

session was chaired by a chairperson and assisted by a three-member panel.

PROPOSALS BY THE WORKING GROUP ON SRI SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS

1. The Conference recognises the great potential of the 99 Sri Sathya Sai Schools flourishing in India. It is proposed that all 99 Schools become models of excellence. This should be achieved on the basis of the detailed procedures laid out in the Accreditation Document put forth by the Institute of Sathya Sai Education at Dharmakshetra. The sole objective is to ensure the upgrading and accreditation of all 99 Schools which cater to more than 50,000 students.
2. It has been proposed that the Sri Sathya Sai Trust and the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in every state shall play an active role both academically and financially in supporting the endeavour of making the 99 Sri Sathya Sai Schools in India as models of excellence, where the Sri Sathya Sai Educare is strictly implemented.
3. It is also proposed to take adequate steps to establish a network within the State and at the National level to promote unity and foster creativity in all the 99 Sri Sathya Sai Schools in India.
4. Currently, the Institute of Sathya Sai Education at Dharmakshetra, Mumbai has been providing guidance on accreditation procedures, for integrated value education, as well as assisting with literature and training of *Bal Vikas Gurus*. It is proposed that considering the expanse of the Indian Continent and the spread of the number of Schools, three more such Institutes of Sathya Sai Education be established in India, subject to Bhagavan's approval, in the north, south and east of India. These institutions will work under the supervision and guidance of the Institute at Dharmakshetra, Mumbai, India.
5. The four Institutes will also promote research in value education and seek advice from the Sri Sathya Sai University in this respect as and when required.
6. It is proposed to generate a document on the role of the Management, Principals and Teachers of Sri Sathya Sai Schools in India with a view to enhance harmony, forge unity of purpose and promote a strong value-oriented foundation,

based upon the principles of Sri Sathya Sai Educare.

7. Finally, it is proposed to present a report on the Institutes and the progress of the Sri Sathya Sai Schools and their action plan on every *Guru Poornima* Day, at the Divine Lotus Feet for Blessings and Guidance.

PROPOSALS ON BEHALF OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SRI SATHYA SAI BAL VIKAS

1. The objectives of the Sri Sathya Sai *Bal Vikas* Programme as enunciated by Bhagavan are eternal and *sanathana* and will continue to form the substratum on which the *Bal Vikas Gurus* and Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation will continue to work.
2. The Conference recognises that the Sri Sathya Sai *Bal Vikas* is no more an activity but has assumed the magnitude of a movement which has taken in its fold children of all sections, religions, castes, creeds, etc.
3. The Conference recognises the need to broaden the base of the *Bal Vikas* movement by extending the same from residential classes to holding classes at *Bhajan* Centres, Community Centres and even in supportive Schools.
4. It is proposed to review the existing syllabus and make it more broad based to include the aspirations of the children from different communities and religions.
5. However, looking at the fast pace of modern life and the corresponding academic pressures, the Conference proposes to suitably adjust the duration of the *Bal Vikas* course by taking into account the requirements of the school academics and make the two more compatible.
6. The five teaching techniques along with experiential and activity-oriented learning shall continue to be the bedrock of the *Bal Vikas* Movement. Greater stress on experiential learning is the need of the hour in order to make the *Bal Vikas* Programme more effective, and having a greater impact on both the children and the *Gurus*.
7. It is proposed to bring the *Bal Vikas Gurus* to Puttaparthi once a year on a statewide *Gurus* Pilgrimage to experience the Divine Presence, for there can be no greater motivator than Bhagavan Himself.
8. The *Guru* is the backbone of the entire movement and hence must be an exemplar who inspires. Thus the training programme of *Bal Vikas Gurus* shall be suitably revamped to make it experiential so that they can deal with the contemporary issues of the children of modern India both in the context of the rural and urban areas.
9. The Conference has proposed several levels of training programmes and refresher courses for both existing and new *Gurus* for which



assistance will be taken from the Institutes of Sai Education.

10. The Conference has proposed the need for providing more literature especially in regional languages to meet the needs of children of modern India. Such literature will be produced both in the print and electronic media.
11. The Conference has emphasised the need of parenting programmes, to create a greater awareness and impact of the *Bal Vikas* Movement. And, greater involvement of the other wings of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation will be implemented.
12. The *Bal Vikas* Movement has been in existence for more than four decades and several thousand students now form the alumni of the *Bal Vikas* Movement. Hence it has been proposed that the past students be invited to become the mentors of the present *Bal Vikas* students and a formal mentoring programme be set up for implementation.
13. An Annual All-India *Bal Vikas* Report be published by incorporating inspiring accounts from each state of the *Bal Vikas* Movement, apart from the statistical data reports of progress. Such an Annual All-India *Bal Vikas* Report to be placed at the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagavan on *Guru Poornima* every year.
14. In order to create greater awareness of the *Bal Vikas* Movement in society, the Conference proposes the need to hold state-level exhibitions, cultural programmes and seminars on the *Bal Vikas* Movement.

Walking Hand in Hand With You

Finally, Dear Bhagavan, we are all indeed grateful to You for the loving opportunity to be in Your Divine Presence and participate in the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference. Bhagavan, we are all indeed grateful to You for the delicious food and comfortable stay graciously provided to us by You.

Yes, Bhagavan, it is for the first time in the history of mankind that You have come to give each one of us a unique opportunity to walk hand in hand with You, by Your side granting each one of us an extraordinary experience of realising how You do everything for us and yet let us take the credit.

Jai Sai Ram.

Sri Nimish Gulabrai Pandya is an attorney practising as an advocate of the High Court of Bombay. His law firm specialises in corporate and real estate law. He is on the board of directors of many leading corporations in India and is a notary public. In the Sathya Sai Organisation he is presently the District President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Mumbai, and is a member of the Council of Management of Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Maharashtra. He has been actively involved in the Sri Sathya Sai *Bal Vikas* Programme for several years and has been associated with the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Programme since its inception. Sri Pandya directed several value-based ballets and dramas with children and youth in Prasanthi Nilayam, many during the festival of *Ashadi Ekadashi*.



Summary

Dr. Michael Goldstein

July 22, 2008



With humility and love, I offer my *Pranams* at Bhagavan Baba's Divine Lotus Feet.
Distinguished guests, exemplary teachers, brothers and sisters, dear students.

Swami's Love

Two days ago, I had the good fortune, the great honour and joy to say a few words at the inaugural function. I had the task of giving an overview of that which I can't possibly envision, that which is infinite – an impossible job. Today, I have the honour and joy to summarise that which is infinite. The goodwill, good works, and love demonstrated by the delegates to the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference cannot be summarised. It is infinite.

I am grateful to Swami for this honour. I'm very grateful to Swami, very grateful. In fact, on behalf of all of us, I express our gratitude to Swami for His Love and His Care; His Graciousness for permitting us to assemble in His Divine Presence. He has spoken to us repeatedly and clarified our concerns. **He has showered His Grace upon us in ways that we will come to appreciate throughout our lives. We are here because it is His Will that it should be so.** Now, we have to use the legacy of His Love and His Teachings and the opportunity of having been in His Divine Presence and share this with our brothers and sisters everywhere.

Important Lessons from Nature

In order to share, we have to be orderly and focused in our efforts. Swami said, ***"The realm of the Atma is beyond rules and regulations, but we require rules and regulations to prevent the meanderings of our mind."*** The meanderings of our minds divert us from our purpose; dilute our efforts and subvert our work.

In His Divine Discourse two days ago, Swami referred to the orderliness and industriousness of the ants. I would like to say a word about the ants. Let us consider the ants who appear to meander. They move rapidly hither and thither seemingly in a meaningless fashion, but ants don't meander. They go quickly to their destination and do what is effective for the welfare of their community. They are neither purposeless nor are they self-serving. They are agents for the common good. They support their brother and sister ants. They contribute to the upliftment and survival of the society of ants. **We can learn important lessons from the ants and from all of nature as well. Has the Lord not created everything in nature?**

Success Is Inevitable

The Conference has filled our hearts with love and inspiration. It has filled our minds with useful knowledge. We will proceed with our programme in our own countries and in the

world at large. We will prevail in our homes and in our schools and in our societies because it is God's Will. **Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba spoke to us, blessed our proceedings, showered His Grace upon us – success is inevitable! The delegates demonstrated amply the five D's: Devotion, Discipline, Dedication, Determination and Discrimination.**

The theme of the Conference was: "Principles, Authenticity, Accountability and Service to Mankind" – (1) Understanding the spiritual principles given to us by our Beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, (2) Ensuring that our programmes in fact authentically reflect a deep understanding of these principles, (3) Constantly and diligently evaluating our efforts in order to maintain the spiritual authenticity of our programmes, (4) Finally and ultimately, rendering selfless, loving service to mankind through the institution of education in our respective societies. **We always remember that the divine principles are given to us by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, God of Gods!, Lord of Lords!, the Kali Yuga Avatar!, our Beloved Swami.**

Authenticity and Accountability

We have understood these principles. We have established programmes that clearly, authentically reflect these principles. **Now it behooves us, in order for us to proceed in the world in responsible fashion, to be accountable to ourselves, to our brothers and sisters, to the world, and most importantly to the Lord God Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who resides amongst us and within us.** We have to be accountable. We have to apply scrutiny to ourselves in our actions, in our programmes, in our deeds and in our organisation. Having understood the divine principles of spiritually authentic education, having correctly applied them to educational programmes within our own societies, having established a system of accountability so that we can be sure that we will perpetuate this authenticity, then we are ready to render genuine selfless service to mankind.

The speakers during the course of the Conference who gave their views according to their own experience and understanding were very inspiring and uplifting. The workshops provided answers to questions generated at all 86 of the Pre-World Conferences that were convened in 73 countries all over the world. These questions were collected, they

were placed at Bhagavan Baba's Feet and all of these questions were given to the various workshops so that the distinguished conveners of the workshops could respond and give you meaningful answers that you could take home with you and work within the parameters of your own organisations.

The exhibition demonstrated the state of our development and beautiful works of inspired teachers – exemplary teachers – and their transforming effects on the children of all these different countries. **Let this transformation commence in the mind and heart of each one of us in our respective Sai organisations throughout the world.**

Lasting Changes through Our Efforts

We are serious and intent on sharing the blessings that we have received. **Selfless love cannot be suppressed! It is the true, eternal, divine nature of everything. We will be true exemplars of the principles of Educare when we realise our innate divinity.** Until then we are spiritual aspirants striving for self-realisation. We are not self-righteous reformers. We are not ostentatious, egoistic or critical. We aspire to be uplifting, inspiring, loving contributors to spiritual upliftment and worldly improvement of the plight of mankind. **We are endowed with Divine instruction. We should accept it, savour it and apply it with humility.** With this attitude, the changes that result from our efforts will be lasting and will grow and flourish in our respective societies. To this extent that we have transcended the controlling obsession of our minds, the compelling quest of our senses, the identification with this small identity in this one life, we become spiritual exemplars! To this extent we realise our spiritual aspirations; to this extent we are capable of selfless love.

His Love Is Infinite

My dear brothers and sisters, the Conference is a great opportunity for us to gather, share ideas and experience and learn from one another. But truly, most importantly, it is a unique and precious opportunity for us to gather in His Divine Presence and seek His Divine Guidance. **His Love is infinite! His Guidance is perfect! His Proximity is breathtaking and magnificent!**

Jai Sai Ram.

Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference Exhibition

On the occasion of Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference, July 20 – 22, 2008, the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of India jointly set up an exhibition in the Poornachandra Auditorium. The exhibition titled "*Sai Vidya Jyothi*" (Light of Divine knowledge) depicted various aspects of Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes around the world. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba inaugurated the exhibition where the exhibits were lovingly provided by Sri Sathya Sai Organisations from over 50 countries including India.





Inauguration of the Exhibition

The exhibition was beautifully laid out around an attractive altar in the centre with backlit panels of photos of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, where the volunteers had gathered to pray to Him to bless the exhibition. Their prayers were answered on July 20, at about 11:00 a.m. when Swami in His infinite compassion proceeded from His residence “Yajur Mandir” to the Poornachandra Auditorium to inaugurate the exhibition!

Rangolis (decorative hand-drawings with colour powder on the floor) adorned a large portion of the auditorium floor, and children from various nationalities lined up holding flowers to welcome the Lord. Swami made the grand entrance and lit the sacred lamp to mark the opening. Then, He went around visiting the various sections of the exhibition.

Four Major Educational Programmes

The exhibition was laid out according to the geographical regions, representing India, Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, and Latin America. Also included was a section on the Sri Sathya Sai University, the Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Human Values in New Delhi, and a historical perspective of the *Bal Vikas* Programme in India. The exhibition clearly showed the work that is being done all over the world in the four major programmes of Sri Sathya Sai Education: (1) Sai Spiritual Education (known in India as *Bal Vikas*), (2) Sathya Sai Education in Human Values, (3) 138 Sathya Sai Schools, and (4) 25 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education.

As Swami went throughout the exhibition, Sathya Sai Educationists waiting at each station explained to Him the distinguishing features of Sri Sathya Sai Educational Programmes displayed in over 400 attractively designed panels. The panels were interspersed with beautiful backlit photos of Swami along with highlights of His inspiring and enlightening statements about true education and *Sri Sathya Sai Educare* – bringing out the Human Values from within. Student artwork and photos of Sri Sathya Sai Pre-World Education Conference meetings held in over 70 countries were also included in the exhibit.

Swami graciously remained in the audio/visual pavilion to view the full-length of the elaborate documentary on the various facets of *Educare*



and Sri Sathya Sai Education Programmes around the world. During His visit, while blessing all the participants, Swami said, "Very Happy" several times. At the end *Aarathi* was given to Swami in front of the well-decorated altar.

Several thousand devotees visited the exhibition during the Conference and the days following. Many visitors expressed a desire to be able to view the exhibition for longer periods of time.

Online Display of Exhibition Materials

To share the beautiful displays and photos, digital versions of the works have been assembled on official Sai Organisation websites. The online displays may be used to create slide shows at Sai Organisation meetings, or high-resolution files may be downloaded to print smaller versions of the photo design panels for a tabletop display of the entire exhibition.

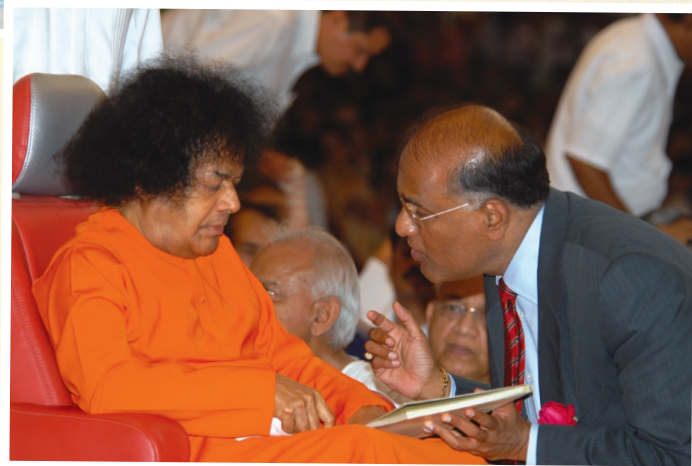
Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference photographs, exhibition photographs, videos, and other documents can be found at the following official Sai Organisation websites:

- The International Sai Organisation site:
<http://www.sathyasai.org>
- The Sathya Sai Schools and Institutes site:
<http://educare.sathyasai.org>

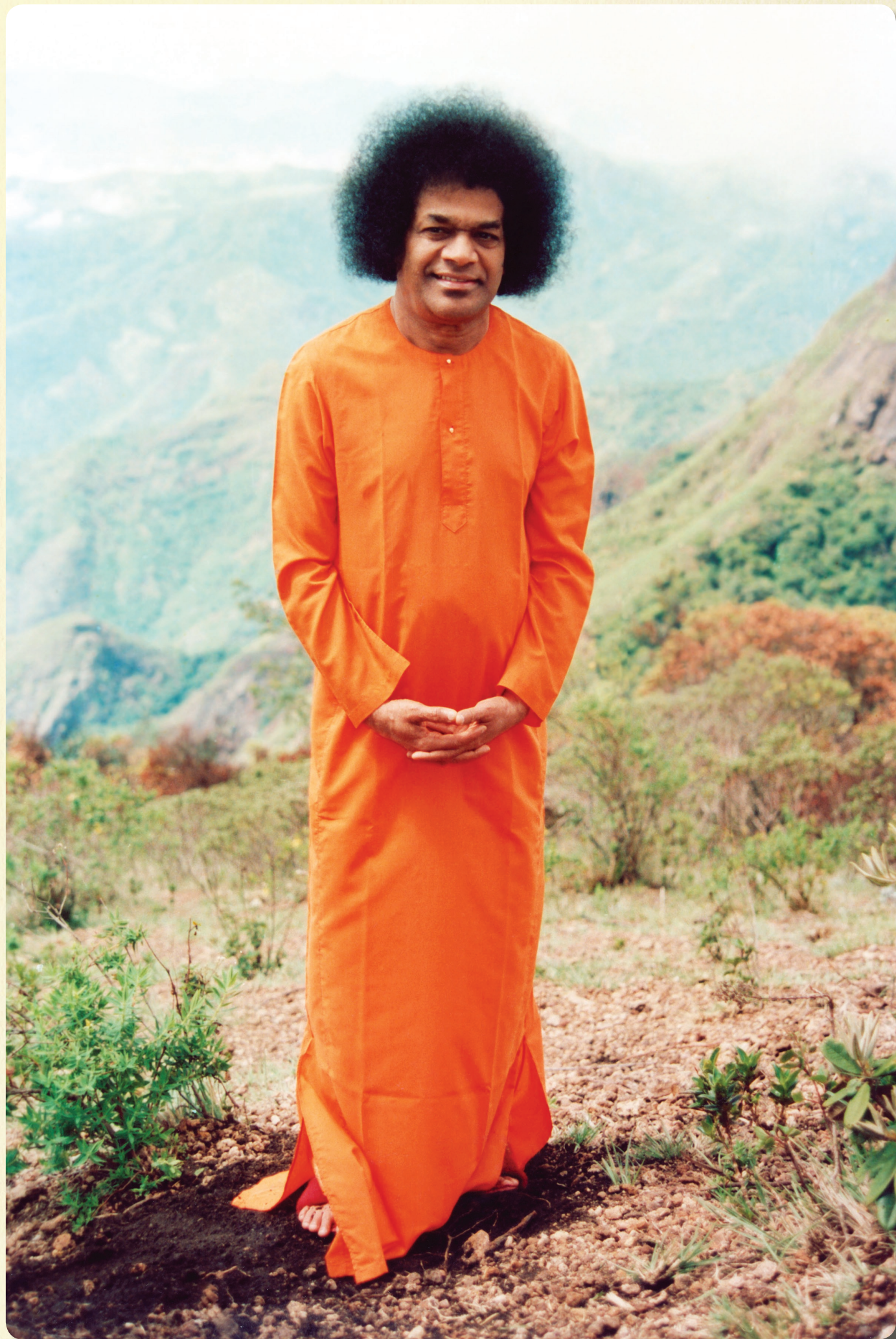




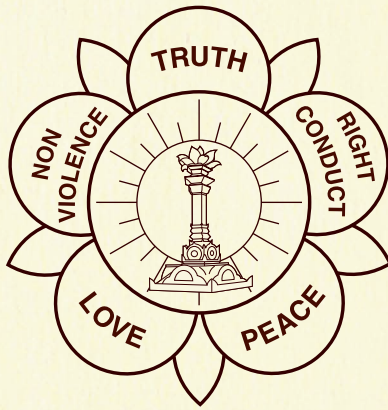
Highlights











Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation