

SLIDE 1 – Module 5 Title

- Module 5 of the SSIO Orientation Programme dives deep into Sathya Sai Baba's Teachings on Leadership. The focus in this module is firstly on the source of leadership itself, which is 'To Be' followed by virtuous action, that is 'To Do'.

SLIDE 2 – Module 5 General Outline

- Go through outline

SLIDE 3 – Quote: To be is the very source of leadership...

- Swami distilled the essence of leadership into these eight words: "*To be, to do, to see, to tell.*" He highlighted that 'To Be' is actually the very beginning and end of leadership. (*Read quote*)

SLIDE 4 – Triangle 'First Be, Then Do, Then Tell'

- As we can see, this diagram is an inverse triangle where to "*be*" is the largest part of it. Sathya Sai highlights the importance of first "*being*". Being refers to our inner state, our truth as divinity. Being is a silent and invisible presence, prior to any words and actions being expressed.
- So, we must first "*be*", that is to be good ourselves. To "*be*" has to do with the character of the leader. Then, this 'being' must be followed by virtuous action, that is to say, "*to do*", which means to act accordingly manifesting our true nature, to lead by example. And only finally, to "*tell*" others about what is good, by conveying the message in the most effective way and by setting an ideal example.
- Thus, leadership in the SSIO, or in any other field of our lives, must be grounded on exemplary character. Furthermore, leadership positions provide us with an opportunity to put into practice the Human Values of Love, Peace, Truth, Right Conduct and Non-violence and the opportunity to refine our character further. As we must embody and live by these virtues before attempting to preach them.

SLIDE 5 – Quote: Of course they must be eager aspirants...

- (*Read quote*)
- Therefore, as we saw in the membership requirements in previous modules, an office bearer and member of the SSIO must have unshakable faith Sathya Sai Baba and ought to be loyal to the SSIO and objectives. We also see the importance Swami has placed on winning recognition as a good person, which takes us back to the fundamental aspect of exemplary character.

SLIDE 6 – Title: The True Leader Within

- Talking about leadership, whether within the SSIO or in any other fields of our lives, before leading others, we should be able to lead ourselves lovingly and effectively. This takes us to ask ourselves a fundamental question: “Who is the true leader within?” So let us move onto this crucial aspect and interesting question over the next few slides.

SLIDE 7 – Who Am I?

- Swami always encourages us to recognise who we really are. He repeatedly said that we are not one person but rather three... the one that we think we are... the body; the one others think we are... the mind; and the one we really are... the Atma, that is to say, the eternal changeless spirit.

SLIDE 8 – The Three Parts of the Individual

Similarly, Plato, one of the great ancient Greek philosophers stated that every individual has three parts:

- The spiritual part, which is associated with the conscience, the intellect and heart. Here intellect as Swami calls it “*buddhi*” refers to the capacity to discriminate and to connect with our intuition.
- The second part Plato refers to is the part of our feelings and thoughts, which is associated with the mind.
- And finally, the desirous part, which is associated with our body.

So then, which of these three are we to follow? Which one should we follow to lead our lives? Swami beautifully answers this question in the next slide...

SLIDE 9 – Quote: The body is like a water bubble...

- (*Read quote*)
- Therefore, He tells us that our conscience is our true master. He constantly invites us to discover the true master that resides within each and every one of us. When we follow our conscience, our thoughts, words and deeds will be pure, noble and consistent. He encourages us go directly to the inner source of wisdom and in doing so we recognise our true Divine nature.
- We can discover and manifest who we truly are by turning inwards with faith, by diving within and activating our inner vision.
- So Sathya Sai asks us to go beyond our senses, to connect with our true inner source and to follow the voice of our conscience, the voice of our spiritual hearts.

SLIDE 10 – Title: Being an Example of Good Character

- Let us now move on to see and understand the importance of good character and being an example as crucial aspects of leadership.
- Swami has repeatedly said that the end of education is character. He also says that the end of education is human excellence. Therefore, we could state that good character is equivalent to achieving human excellence.

SLIDE 11 – Quote: Good character is the greatest wealth...

- *(Read quote)*

SLIDE 12 – Question for Self-reflection...

- At this point, I would like to invite you to participate by using the chat box and answering the following question: *(read question)*. So, I would like you to share are those qualities that you believe an outstanding leader should have. Thus, if you can just list the words that come to you, the qualities, the virtues that you believe it is essential a leader or office bearer should have.
- Please remember to share your contributions to everyone and not just to the presenter, thank you. *(Read participants contributions)*.

SLIDE 13 – Sai Vowels

- *(Go through slide)*

SLIDE 14 – Other Essential Qualities

- Taking a closer look at Love, Swami has said Love is the undercurrent of all the Human Values and Virtues. Love is indeed our divine source. He even referred to us as *"embodiments of Divine Love"*. Sathya Sai also spoke to us about the characteristics of this love being, selfless, unconditional and non-judgemental. *(Go through other essential qualities and quote)*
- Talking about example, Albert Schweitzer, who received the Noble Peace Prize in 1952 said: *"Example is not just another method, example is the only method; example is leadership"*.
- Similarly, the thinker and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said: *"what you are speaks so loudly, I cannot hear what you say."*
- So we speak through who we are. This brings to my mind a quotation from an unknown author that says: *"You explain what you know, however you teach who you are"*. As leaders, it is so important to remember this, that we teach who we are, that is to say through example. We must personally experience, understand and have the conviction in what we are sharing. This is why character becomes such an important and crucial aspect of leadership.

SLIDE 15 – Title: Doing Every Act as an Offering

- In this next part, we shall take a deeper look as the aspect of “To Do” and the importance of performing every act as an offering.
- Once again, utmost importance is placed on leading by our personal example. As we know, personal example is indeed the most important factor in inspiring people “to do”. If we think about it, Swami himself touched our hearts and inspired us “to do” and be active instruments in the spiritual Organisation that bears His name, through His own personal example.

SLIDE 16 – Quote: Each office bearer must take an oath...

- *(Read quote)*
- As office bearers we must fill our hearts with immense gratitude and humility before accepting any service role within the SSIO.
- As Swami has further stated: *“These offices should not be regarded as positions of authority or ‘prizes’ for devotion. They must be accepted with humility and executed with love towards the members and the public”.* (SSS Vol. 8, pg. 20)

SLIDE 17 – Quote: Be a servant, a servant of God...

- *(Read quote)*
- May want to share that the spiritual journey of every office bearer is to: “Put Apart the I” (*Puttaparathi*)

SLIDE 18 – Who is the Real Doer?

- *(Read quote)*
- Having said that, it is important to do and take action! Even as instruments we need to do! We only need to look at Swami’s example. He tirelessly served and undertook tremendous activity. Practical spirituality is active and dynamic

SLIDE 19 – W.A.T.C.H.

- *(Go through slide).*
- Special importance placed on watching our words and actions as they are irreversible. We must take the time to pause and think, to tune our ‘Head, Heart and Hands’ before speaking or doing.
- An office bearer must reflect softness in speech and sweetness in actions.

SLIDE 20 – T.H.I.N.K.

- The process of pausing to reflect or distinguishing which thoughts to act upon can be similar to the “T.H.I.N.K.” questions.
- That is to say, before taking up a course of action, to pause and T.H.I.N.K.:
 - Is it **T**True? Or, is this action based in **T**Truth?
 - Is it **H**Helpful?
 - Is it **I**nspiring?
 - Is it **N**ecessary?
 - Is it **K**ind?
- So indeed this THINK analogy can help us make better leadership decisions and connect with our true inner voice or conscience.

SLIDE 21 – A Good Leader...

- *(Go through slide)*
- Additionally, spiritual discipline is very important. If we want to be exemplary leaders, we must engage in constant spiritual inquiry and practice. Spiritual discipline helps us to cleanse our minds, get rid of impurities and achieve purity, unity and harmony of thought, word and deed, achieving the quality of integrity. For the sincerity of the act promotes the purity of the path.

SLIDE 22 – Title: Undertaking Actions for the Good of Society

- We shall now take a closer look at how ‘To Do’ can be translated into virtuous action, that is to say, undertaking actions for the good of society as a whole.

SLIDE 23 – Quote: You should recognise that along with you...

- *(Read quote)*
- Sathya Sai Baba spent His entire life in compassionate activities for the upliftment of humanity. He demonstrated that a spiritual life does not mean living in seclusion, but a full and dedicated life rendering loving service to all. He demonstrated that goodness is not passive but dynamic & active, involved and caring. All His actions, whether small or big, were founded by His pure, selfless, unconditional & eternal love.
- He demonstrated how to render selfless service through His own personal example. He has repeatedly said that the highest spiritual discipline is selfless service. That hands that serve are holier than lips that pray. And He reminds us that we do not serve others, we actually serve ourselves, and the divinity that resides in every living being.

SLIDE 24 – Service to Society

- *(Read quote)*

SLIDE 25 – Question for Self-reflection...

- I would like to invite you to participate by using the chat box and answering the following question: *(read question)*. Please remember to share your contributions to everyone and not just to the presenter, thank you.
- *Read participants contributions.*

SLIDE 26 – Title: Understanding that Your Life is My Message

- Sathya Sai began saying *"My Life is My Message"* and then proceeded to say: *"Your Life is My Message"* making us active participants in this noble mission of spreading love. As he also says *"Expansion is My Life"*.

SLIDE 27 – Quote: I know you have the enthusiasm...

- *(Read quote)*
- Coming to an end of this module, what comes to my mind are two quotes: *"Express your gratitude, that's the best attitude"* and *"Actions speak louder than words"*. So since actions speak louder than words, what better way can there be to express our gratitude towards our dearest spiritual master, to that master that resides within, better than putting into practice His universal and eternal teachings?
- I hope what we have shared together today may have helped you in your spiritual journey, it has definitely helped us engrave his teachings deeper and deeper in our hearts and minds, helping us dive within. So thank you wholeheartedly once again for your participation, active and patient listening and interactive sharings.

Om Sai Ram