

SLIDE 1 – Module 9 Title

- Module 9 of the SSIO Orientation Programme takes a closer look at the Devotion and Education wings.

SLIDE 2 – Module 9 General Outline

- In the first part of the module, we will dive into better understanding the true meaning of devotion to then look at the Devotion Wing in a Sathya Sai Centre/Group as well as the main responsibilities of the Devotion Wing Coordinator.
- In the second part of the module, we will focus more on having a better understanding of the true meaning of education to then look at the Education Wing in a Sathya Sai Centre/Group as well as the main responsibilities of the Education Wing Coordinator.

SLIDE 3 – Title: The True Meaning of Devotion

- So let us first, through Swami's inspiring words and quotes, enrich our comprehension to understand the true meaning of devotion.

SLIDE 4 – Quote: Devotion means directing the pure and unsullied mind...

- *(Read quote)*
- Here Swami reminds us that only love for God is eternal. Thus when we love others too, we must always seek to direct our love to the underlying divinity that resides within each living being.

SLIDE 5 – Quote: What is devotion? It is not merely offering...

- *(Read through slide)*
- Once again, here we can see that all external rituals or forms of devotion are just tools to take us within to experience true devotion, which is, as Swami says, the love flowing from a heart unpolluted by selfish motives. In this sense, we can say that all spiritual disciplines are just means for us to purify our minds, connect with our spiritual hearts to experience our true Self and unity.

SLIDE 6 – Quote: There is no distinction between devotion...

- *(Read quote)*
- This quote specifies what we already saw in Module 8 as well when speaking about Selfless service, actually all three paths towards Self-realisation, that is to say Devotion, Education and Selfless Service are interrelated. Devotion is indeed, spiritual wisdom.

SLIDE 7 – Quote: Master the 5Ds...

- *(Read quote)*
- Let us notice how Sathya Sai here mentions that true devotion must lead to a transformation in our behaviour, as once we understand and experience the Oneness of all, this understanding should reflect in our conduct and behaviour as well. This actually links to education as well, when Swami reminds us that education is not just information, but rather education leads to transformation. Once again, we see how all His teachings are interconnected with each other.

SLIDE 8 – Title: The Devotion Wing

- After deepening our understanding on the true meaning of devotion, now we shall look at an overview of the devotion wing.

SLIDE 9 – The Devotion Wing

- *(Read through slide)*

SLIDE 10 – The Devotion Coordinator

- *(Read through slide)*

SLIDE 11 – Meditation

- We saw that one of the responsibilities of the devotion wing coordinator is to help members understand the benefits and practice of meditation. Actually, daily meditation and prayer an important point highlighted in the 9 Point Code of Conduct for members. In this sense, meditation is a personal, spiritual discipline that ought to be practiced on a daily basis. In this sense, it is not like devotional singing which Swami describes as a group practice.
- Therefore, rather than having weekly or regular meditations at the Centre, the devotional wing coordinator has the task of organising workshops which can help newcomers and members understand the importance of meditation, the practice of light meditation which Swami recommends, so that they can each practice them in their own respective homes on a daily basis.
- *(Read quote)*

SLIDE 12 – Devotional Singing

- *(Read quote and points highlighted on slide).*
- We all have experienced the joy derived from devotional singing and the experience of joy and unity. It is equally important to follow these points.

SLIDE 13 – Title: The True Meaning of Education

- As we did with devotion, let us now also dive into the true meaning of education. For this, we will first go through some key words and quotes Swami Himself has said on this important topic.

SLIDE 14 – Quote: Education has two aspects...

- *(Read quote).*
- We can understand this further taking the example of the tree. Although we can see the branches, leaves, trunk, flowers, fruit, etc. to understand the true and whole nature of the tree, we must seek to understand the hidden, latent aspect that sustains it and nourishes it; that is to say, the roots.
- To further understand this, the word education comes from two Latin roots, 'Educere' and 'Educare'. 'Educere' literally means to bring out, to manifest. 'Educare' on the other hand means to nourish, to protect. Thus this double root in Latin, Therefore 'Educere' and 'Educare' help us understand that true education has to do with bringing out and manifesting our true nature, which is no other than the latent Human Values within as Swami says, and to bring them out in an environment of spiritual nourishment and protection.
- Also, it is important to note that if we are 'to bring out', this implies that these human values are already within, they are our very natural characteristics!

SLIDE 15 – Quote: Education is for life...

- *(Read through quote)*
- In this beautiful quote Swami invites us to become composers and not computers. That is to say, to connect with our intuition, our spiritual hearts.

SLIDE 16 – Quote: I find here a large number of students...

- *(Read quote).*
- This quote truly reflects the ultimate purpose of education which is to 'Know Thyself' as Socrates also said, and for this, the body, mind and senses must be disciplined and under control, and the intellect ought to be clear and sharp, this takes us back to our intuition, conscience and spiritual heart.

SLIDE 17 – Quote: True education does not have to do with the world...

- *(Read through quote on true education)*
- So once again, true education leads us to understand the true meaning of 'I', to 'Know OurSelf'. And as we can see in this image and we already saw in previous modules, we are not one person but three:

- The one we think we are (body), the one others think we are (mind) and the one we truly are (Atma, Eternal Self). So true education takes us to understand we are not the body and mind that at temporary and changing all the time, we are the Eternal Self, that which is Truth, Eternal and Indivisible.
- *(Read through remaining two quotes)* Swami also reminds us that the end of education is human excellence, however He also says the end of education is character, in this sense we can state that virtuous character is equivalent to human excellence, and this is the ultimate purpose of education.

SLIDE 18 – Title: The Education Wing

- So, after deepening our understanding on the true meaning of education, now we shall look at an overview of the education wing.

SLIDE 19 – The Education Wing

- *(Read through slide)*
- Thus, it is important to understand the difference between Sai Spiritual Education *(which was previously known as Bal Vikas and means the blossoming of the child)* and the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values classes. We will see this now as well on the next slide.

SLIDE 20 – The Education Coordinator

- *(Read through slide)*

SLIDE 21 – Study Circles

- It is important to note that, since 2017, in the updated guidelines of the SSIO, study circles are now part of the education wing rather than the devotion wing. This actually makes sense as the purpose of study circles is to derive spiritual wisdom from within, just as the aim of the education wing, which is to promote the study and practice of His Universal Teachings.
- *(Read quote).*
- Here Swami beautifully explains the purpose of the study circle which is once again not just acquisition of information, but rather the aspect of transformation, of putting into practice.

SLIDE 22 – Sai Spiritual Education

- *(Read through slide)*

SLIDE 23 – Quote: I know you have the enthusiasm...

- So, to sum up this module and coming to an end of this Orientation Programme, we recall 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". So, I would like to end with this beautiful quote *(read)*.