



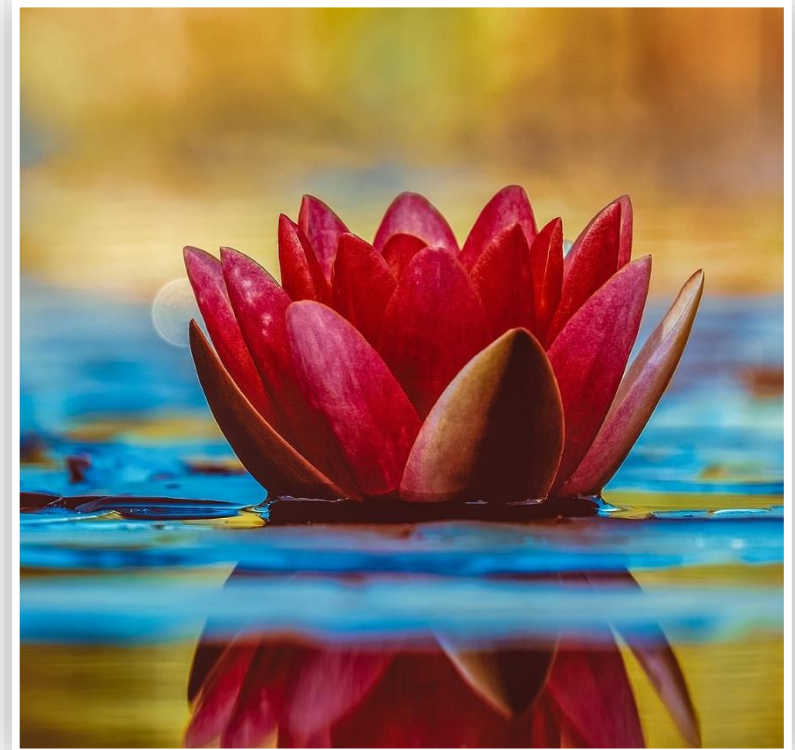
DEVOTION & EDUCATION

Module 9

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR SSIO OFFICE BEARERS

Module 9 ~ General Outline

- The True Meaning of Devotion
- The Devotion Wing
- The True Meaning of Education
- The Education Wing



*The True Meaning
of Devotion*





“Devotion (Bhakti) means directing the pure and unsullied mind towards God. People do not know the real meaning of love (Prema). The love you have for other beings is only temporary. God is the only one that is eternal. Love of God is Bhakti. Whatever scholarship one may attain, whatever power and position one may enjoy, one cannot be happy without the peace of mind that is got by pure devotion.”

~ *Sathya Sai Baba* (Sanathana Sarathi, Oct. 1994)

“What is devotion? It is not merely offering several types of worship or going on a pilgrimage. Unalloyed and true love for love’s sake alone constitutes devotion. True devotion is the love flowing from a pure heart unpolluted by selfish motives. Love is the intimate bond of relationship between a devotee and the Lord.”

~ *Sathya Sai Baba* (Sanathana Sarathi | 995, pg. 162)





“There is no distinction between devotion to God (bhakthi) and spiritual wisdom (jnana). Devotion becomes spiritual wisdom. It is not true that dedicated action (karma), devotion, and spiritual wisdom are separate. I don’t even like to classify one of these as first, the other as the second, and the next as the third. Dedicated activity to God is devotion and devotion is spiritual wisdom.” ~ *Sathya Sai Baba*

(Prema Vahini, pg. 11)

“Master the **5Ds** and receive God’s Love. **Dedication** means offering your heart to the Lord. **Devotion** is the highest form of Love. Strictly follow **discipline** in daily life. **Discrimination** is essential for everyone. Everything can be achieved with firm **determination**. Devotion does not mean merely singing devotional songs or performing puja (ritualistic worship). True devotion means that there must be a transformation in your behaviour. Devotion is not something to be proclaimed or demonstrated. Exhibitionistic devotion may result in disaster. True devotion should be an expression of love both internally and externally.”

~ *Sathya Sai Baba* (Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 21, Ch. 5)

The Devotion Wing



The Devotion Wing

- *The objective of the devotion wing is to encourage the transformation of members by fostering their devotion to God, their knowledge of the teachings of Sathya Sai and the unity of all faiths.*
- *The Devotion Wing focuses on the following spiritual practices and activities:*
 - ✓ *Group Devotional Singing*
 - ✓ *Prayers & Meditation*
 - ✓ *Inter-faith Activities*
 - ✓ *Newcomers' Programmes*
 - ✓ *Sadhana Camps & Retreats*
 - ✓ *Arranging Pilgrimages to Prasanthi*

...and other activities designed to strengthen one's faith and devotion to God, and one's understanding and practice of universal spiritual knowledge.

The Devotion Coordinator

- *The Devotion Coordinator has the responsibility of the various devotional activities in the Sathya Sai Centre. The Devotion Coordinator duties include:*
 - ✓ *Coordinating devotional meetings and practice of devotional singing to ensure high quality.*
 - ✓ *Helping members to understand the benefits and practice of meditation.*
 - ✓ *Establishing and maintaining activities to welcome newcomers.*
 - ✓ *Maintaining Sathya Sai Centre premises and an altar that is simple, universal and in accordance with the SSIO guidelines.*
 - ✓ *Presenting proposed programmes and activities in the quarterly Centre meetings.*

Meditation

“Can anyone train another in meditation? Or claim to train? It may be possible to teach a person the posture, the pose, the position of the legs, feet, or hands, neck, head or back, the style of breathing, or its speed. But meditation is a function of the inner Self; it involves deep subjective quiet, the emptying of the mind and filling oneself with the Light that emerges from the divine Spark within. This is a discipline that no text book can teach and no class can communicate.”

~ Sathya Sai Baba (22nd November 1970)

Devotional Singing

“Devotional singing (bhajans) is the process of singing that originates in the heart, not from the lips or the tongue. It is the expression of the joyous thrill that wells up from the heart when the glory of God is remembered. When all the participants in a bhajan sing in unison, what sacred vibrations are produced and what Divine energies are released! When these vibrations fill the world, they purify the polluted air. When one sings alone, the heart is merged with the song; but when many sing together, it acquires a Divine power.” (SSS Vol. 10, pg. 84)

- To be arranged at a time convenient to members.
- Encourage all to understand the meaning of their songs and prayers. If not understood, it is only a ‘mysterious mumbling’.
- Encourage composition and singing of songs in local languages which reflect local culture and traditions.

*The True Meaning
of Education*

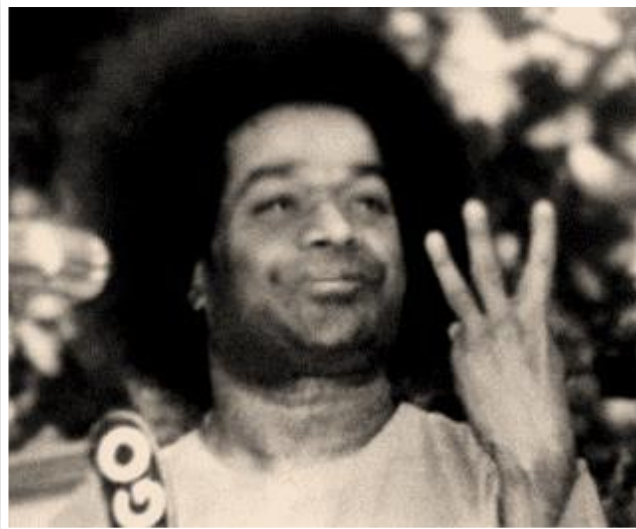




“Education has two aspects: The first is related to external and worldly education, which is nothing but acquiring bookish knowledge. In the modern world, we find many, well-versed and highly qualified in this aspect. The second aspect known as ‘EDUCÆERE’ is related to human values. The word ‘EDUCÆERE’ means to bring out that which is within. The five human values, namely, Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence are latent in every human being. One cannot acquire them from outside; they have to be elicited from within. But as man has forgotten his innate human values, he is unable to manifest them. ‘EDUCÆERE’ means to bring out human values. ‘To bring out’ means to translate them into action.” ~ *Sathya Sai Baba* (26th September 2000)

“Education is for life. Life is for man. Man is there for society. Society is meant for spirituality. The spirituality is there for the nation. The nation is part of the world, and the world is for peace. Today everyone wants peace. In fact, you can attain and acquire peace only out of human values. For peace and happiness, human values are most important. Bereft of human values, man can never be at peace. Without understanding this principle, man tries to acquire education. Man today considers that receiving information is education. It is not information that confers human values. Modern education makes a man machine, a computer. Greatness lies in becoming not a computer but a composer. You have to acquire education to make your life ideal.” ~ Sathya Sai Baba (10th August 1998)

“I find here a large number of students. Well, what are they studying for? What is the goal? How are we to judge that they have studied well? By the salary they are able to get, or the cadre they are able to secure? No. Education must result in the development of viveka (wisdom) and vinaya (humility). The educated man must be able to distinguish between the momentary and the momentous, the lasting and the effervescent. He must not run after glitter and glamour but he must seek instead the good and golden. He must know how to keep the body in good trim, the senses under strict control, the mind well within check, the intellect sharp and clear, unhampered by prejudices and hatreds, and the feelings untouched by egoism. He must know the Atma too, for that is his very care; that is the effulgence which illumines his inner and outer selves. This knowledge will ensure joy and peace and courage for him throughout life.” ~ Sathya Sai (25-07-1958)



“True education does not have to do with the world. True education is that which has to do with yourself, and it helps you realise the true meaning of the term ‘I’.”

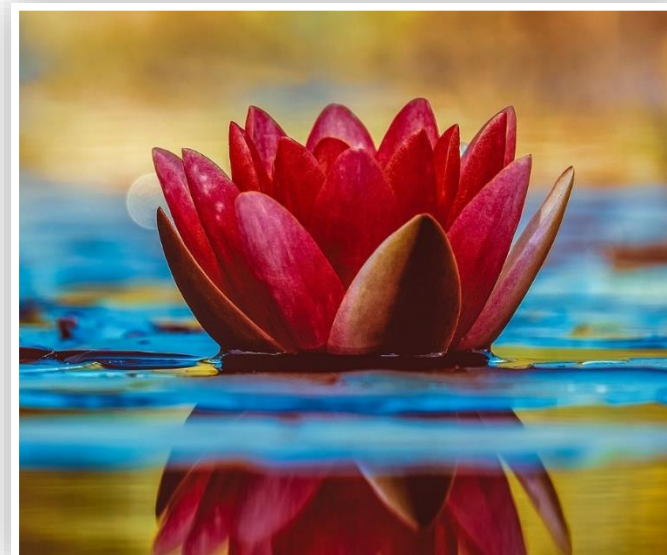
~ *Sathya Sai Baba* (20th July 2008)

“The end of education is human excellence.”



“The end of education is character.”

~ *Sathya Sai Baba*



The Education Wing



The Education Wing

- *The Education Wing promotes the study and practice of the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba through study circles, publication of His teachings, and producing audio-visual material on His teachings.*
- *Where there is no ISSE in a country, the Education Wing carries out SSEHV programmes in the community with the guidance of the SSIO's Education Committee and the Zone. Where there is an ISSE, the Education Wing supports its work to spread SSEHV programmes in the community.*
- *The Education Wing oversees the Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) programme in the Sathya Sai Centre.*

The Education Coordinator

- *The Education Coordinator has the responsibility of the various educational activities in the Sathya Sai Centre. The Education Coordinator duties include:*
 - ✓ *Organising and coordinating study circles to provide participants with the opportunity to study and deepen their understanding of Sathya Sai Baba's universal teachings focusing on the practice of Human Values in daily life and topics aiming at personal transformation and practical spirituality.*
 - ✓ *Promoting and providing Sai Spiritual Education for the children of members.*
 - ✓ *Conducting Human Values workshops for adults.*
 - ✓ *Support spreading Sathya Sai Education in Human Values to the community.*
 - ✓ *Presenting proposed programmes and activities in the quarterly Centre meetings.*

Study Circles



“A Study Circle does not mean only just reading and discussing and taking information into the head, but also putting into practice what is learnt. If knowledge is stored in the mind, it causes confusion and confusion leads to blowing of the fuse. How will real jnana (spiritual wisdom) develop if there is too much confusion? For instance, if you go on eating all the 24 hours, it will result in indigestion. This will lead to disease. What is eaten should be digested and then only you should eat again. In the same way, you should listen {eat} in the Study Circle and put into practice {digest} what you have learnt. You have to practise whatever you have learnt. Then only it becomes a real Study Circle.” ~ Sathya Sai Baba (SSS Vol. 18, Ch. 5: January 1985)

Sai Spiritual Education

- *Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) classes are primarily for the children (aged 6 to 17) of members of the SSIO.*
- *The children learn about Sathya Sai Baba's life and teachings, and the programme aims to foster character development and spiritual transformation by helping the children to bring out and practice the human values that are inherent in them.*
- *The training of SSE teachers prior to teaching ensures quality. SSE teachers need to be fully aligned with SSIO guidelines and teaching methodologies.*
- *(Note: SSEHV classes can be offered to children of families that are not members of the SSIO; this is to be done in conjunction with the ISSE).*



“I know you have the enthusiasm to carry My Message among the people of this country and other countries. Let me remind you that the best and the only successful way in which you can do it is to translate the message into your own lives. Your thoughts, words and deeds must be saturated with the Message. Then, they will spread effortlessly and efficiently, and the face of the whole world will be transformed.”

~ Sathya Sai Baba (SSS, Vol. 8, pg. 19)