



Harmonious Homes

———— Human Values Parenting ————

Topic:

Why Human Values Parenting?

Guide I, Session I: Inaugural Issue

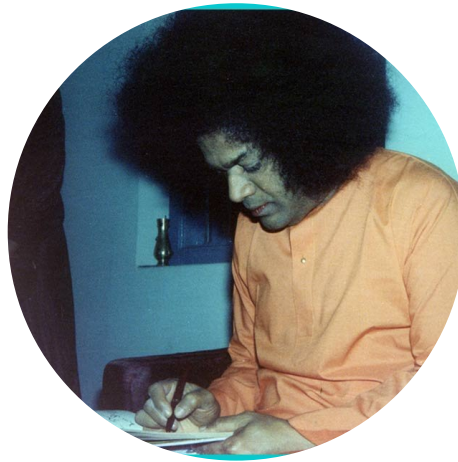
Winter 2022



Sri Sathya Sai Educare, SSSGC-USA

Why Human Values Parenting?

Guide I, Session I: Winter 2022



Objective:

The primary objective of this parenting study circle is to enable parents to gain a more holistic understanding of the core principles and practice of Human Value Parenting based on the Divine teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba to parents around the world.

In order to understand Sri Sathya Sai's words, it is important to establish context to His life and purpose. This guide will focus on Sri Sathya Sai's life, work and mission to aid parents understand all the guides that follow.

1. Brief account of Sathya Sai's life and teachings

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was born in a small village called Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh in Southern India on 23 November 1926. While displaying extraordinary wisdom and capabilities right from His childhood, at the age of 14, He declared that He belonged to the whole world, not just His family and started His mission of establishing Truth (Sathya) and the fostering of Righteousness (Dharma). This has led to the establishment of Sri Sathya Sai Centers in 186 countries, that serve as facilities for individual's spiritual advancement. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has lovingly persuaded all mankind to reach for their highest goal, their destiny to realize their innate divinity, by the monumental service projects that He has initiated and sustained all through His life, the miracles by which He has saved countless devotees all over the world, and through simple elucidation of the complex scriptures such as the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Gita .

Resources:

("His Work" video): <https://vimeo.com/52560575>
<https://www.sssmediacentre.org/#/sri-Sathya-Sai>

2. Beginning of Bal Vikas

As an important step in His mission to establish righteousness in the world, the Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Program has been founded by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to enable a world-wide renewal of individual commitment to an active moral life. Bhagawan Baba says:

"Education cannot be confined to stuffing the head. It has to melt the heart, refine it, and turn it godward. It is not enough to make a man of the student. He has to be transformed into an ideal human being. He must be made compassionate...Education is not confined to school or college. It goes on all through one's life..."

You should go out into the world as ideal students and serve the nation. You have to make your knowledge available to others. That is the purpose of education.

The end of wisdom is freedom, The end of culture is perfection. The end of education is character. The end of knowledge is Love."

- Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol.23, ch. 33, 1990



2. Beginning of Bal Vikas

Continued...



Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas has thus been initiated and founded by Swami based on the Divine Dictum

“The end of education is Character.”

Swami established “Bal Vikas” for children’s spiritual education in the year 1969. This was later named “Sai Spiritual Education (SSE)” and now recently, “Sri Sathya Sai Educare (SSSE)” in the USA.

“The Bala Vikas (organizational wing for children's development) is the primary basis of the great movement to restore dharma (righteousness) in the world. The elders are far gone in their ways, and it is difficult to expect change in their habits and attitudes. Children have to be led into good ways of living, into simplicity, humility and discipline. The ideal of the Bala Vikas is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and clear conscience. The actual syllabus is not so important as the creation of an atmosphere where noble habits and ideals can grow and fructify.”

- Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol 14, ch. 3, 1978

2. Beginning of Bal Vikas

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To get a glimpse of this movement, watch [The Path Divine](#). This is a movie on the program as it is in India. It will give you an overview of Swami's grand plan. The Sri Sathya Sai Educare program is the same, only that it caters to the needs of the children growing up in the USA.

3. Importance of the role of the mother



In order to nurture the spiritual development of the children, Swami emphasized the significance of the role of the mother in the upbringing of a child. The seeds of goodness are to be sown by the mother to raise children of great virtues.

A good mother contributes to the society with good children who raise the community and brighten the world. The mother is bestowed with the blessed responsibility of nurturing the physical, mental and spiritual health of the children that God has entrusted in her care. Her dedication in raising the children in her care is her biggest Sadhana.

3. Importance of the role of the mother

Continued...

Why did Swami establish the Anantapur college for women?

Here is what Swami says:

"Women are the repositories of Truth and Culture. Though earth is one, the plants vary depending on the seeds sown. The womb of mother symbolizes mother earth. As is the seed of thought sown in it, so is the fruit it yields. You cannot expect mangoes by sowing a neem seed. So, the mother's womb should be filled with good thoughts, good words and good deeds. Only then can she beget virtuous children. Today we find many children with bad character and bad behavior. The reason for this can be attributed to the bad thoughts of their mothers. Aryamba was a woman of virtues of noble character. She spent all her time in the contemplation of God and undertaking noble deeds. As a result, Jagadguru Sankaracharya was born in her sacred womb. Noble souls like Vivekananda and Ramakrishna Paramahansa could attain exalted positions in their lives only due to the sacred feelings of their mother."

Divine Discourse, 19 Nov 2000 - Ladies Day



3. Importance of the role of the mother

Continued...

"We see in the world today disorder, violence and conflict. The world is like a sick man afflicted with many ailments. What is the cure for these ills? Man must shed his selfishness, greed and other bad qualities and rise above his animal nature. He must cultivate Charity (unselfishness) to achieve Purity. Through purity of hearts, men will achieve Unity, which will lead to Divinity. The mansion of human life should be built on these four bases. In the cultivation of these basic qualities, the role of women is crucial. - Honor the mother. Dedicated mothers can offer to the nation children who will strive for a great future for the country. Truth, sacrifice and peace are predominant qualities in women. Women are concerned about the purity and welfare of the community. It is such broad-minded mothers who are needed today. Good mothers are more essential than good wives. A good wife is of value only to her husband. A good mother is a national asset."

- Sri Sathya Sai Speaks ,Vol 16, ch. 24, 1983



4. Sathya Sai on Parenting

The above messages from Swami convey the importance of the role of parents in raising children with a “clean and clear conscience”. According to Sri Sathya Sai Baba, parenting is a very difficult and challenging task, yet a wonderful opportunity to serve God. Children are gifts of God and parents must rear them not as their possession but as representatives of God. Parents are merely custodians whose responsibility it is to mold their children with good thoughts and good habits.

“Parents must feel that they are servants appointed by the Lord to tend the little souls that are born in their households, as the gardener tends the trees in the garden of the Master. They must arouse the latent goodness in these tiny hearts by telling stories about the saints and sages of the past. They must see that children do not develop fear and become cowards afraid of walking straight.”

- Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. I, ch. II, 1958



4. Sathya Sai on Parenting

Continued...



Parenting is not just about giving birth to a child and taking care of the physical needs. Upbringing of a child starts from the mother's womb. What the mother sees, hears or eats affects the baby. Mother is the first teacher and a child learns every action from her during the first five years. A child's body, health and mind depend on parents. Parents are sculptors who must chisel the character of the children beautifully.

“Children watch and learn from their parents. So parents must set good examples to children. If parents are persons of good character and exemplary conduct, then children will become persons of good character and develop good habits.”

- Conversations with Sri Sathya Sai Baba, June 27, 2001

“If children are to be virtuous, parents must know them well and take good care of them. Parents are responsible for the success of their children.”

- Conversations with Sri Sathya Sai Baba, June 27, 2001

4. Sathya Sai on Parenting

Continued...

Good parenting shapes the life of children devoid of any bias or prejudices and kindles a desire to achieve goodness at all times. It fosters devotion, discrimination, empathy, honesty, self-confidence, self-control, and non-violence among children. Outcome of good parenting is a virtuous child who fully embraces the core human values in life and serves humanity to full potential. It is a reflection of true love between children and parents.



“Above all, realize that children are precious treasures; yours is the great task of rearing them up to become devoted servants of God and sincere Sadhakas of the spiritual path.”

- Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol 2, ch. 34, 1962

“Raising a virtuous child is greater than even those who have acquired jnana, vijnana, sujnana and prajnana.”

- Conversations with Sri Sathya Sai Baba, June 27, 2001

5. Inherent Divinity of the Child

What is the role of the child in this relationship? What does the child come into this world with?

Sri Sathya Sai Baba says that children do not come to you, but through you.

“Every child is a message of Love from God, born with divine talent and unique temperament for a reason. As a parent you have the incredible privilege of seeing how these traits are used to strengthen your child at home, in school, and in the community.”

- Conversations with Sri Sathya Sai Baba, June 27, 2001



Children have unselfish Love; they are innocent onlookers; they observe the action of elders and they learn their lessons from home much earlier than from school.

5. Inherent Divinity of the Child

Continued...

Children have no inhibitions. They believe everybody and everybody can believe them. Their hearts are like gramophone records; they get impressed by whatever tune you sing to them. They play back the correct tune, without any distortions; provided the needle is sharp. The needle is Prema and it must be one-pointed and direct.



"They are fearless, it is the elders who plant fear in them. They are truthful, but elders teach them the art of lying."

-Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 2, ch. 34, 1962

"The word 'Educare' means to bring out that which is within. Human values, namely, Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa (Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence) are hidden in every human being. One cannot acquire them from outside; they have to be elicited from within."

- Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 33, ch. 16, 2000

5. Inherent Divinity of the Child

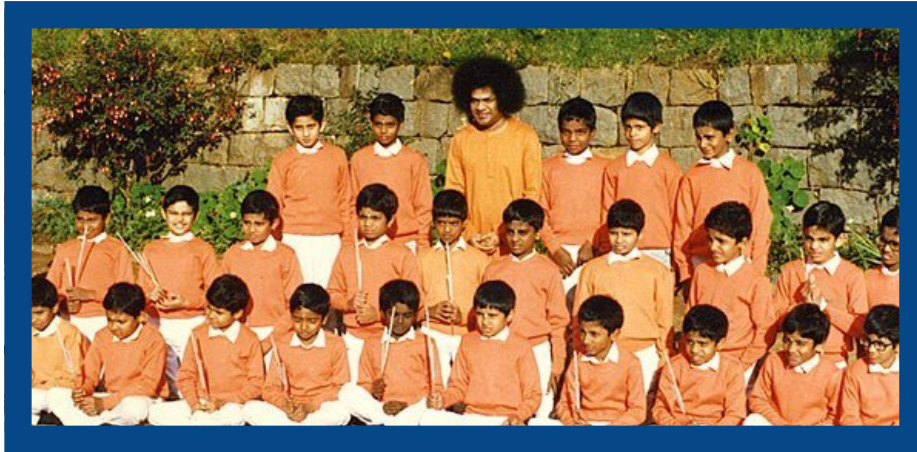
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“In the tender hearts of the children, there is much potentiality of devotion and attachment to higher ideals and objectives; this can be developed and cultivated, by you. Do not think that they do not know anything; that you can divert them any way you wish; this is a mistake. Recognize the great potentials of the child; adopt such methods as a child himself might suggest or indicate. Help the child to reach godliness and become Aware of its high destiny. Do not presume that the child is some inferior personality or that it is incapable of obtaining heights.”

- Divine Guidelines to Bala Vikas - pIII-II2



5. Inherent Divinity of the Child Continued...



"My sankalpa (Divine Will) is to provide an education that, while cultivating their intelligence, will also purify their impulses and emotions and equip them with the physical and mental discipline needed for drawing upon the well-spring of calmness and joy that lies in their own hearts. Their higher natures will have to be fostered and encouraged to blossom, by means of study, prayer, and sadhana (spiritual discipline), and contacts with the sages, saints, and spiritual heroes and heroines of their land, and place them on the path of self-confidence, self-satisfaction, self-sacrifice, and self-knowledge."

- Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol 9, ch. 31, 1969



Questions to guide discussion

1. How do you see the relevance of 'human values parenting' in your life?
2. How do you see the role of women in society and your family?
3. What teaching/action of Swami stood out to you as significant or new?

Feedback - solicit from participants

1. What teaching/action of Swami stood out to you as significant or new?
2. How do you see the relevance of 'human values focused parenting' in your life?

Suggested methods to go over the above material

1. Watch His Work as a large group.
2. Have more than one session on this introductory session.

References of pictures and Illustrations

- sssmediacenter.org
- storyset.com/illustration