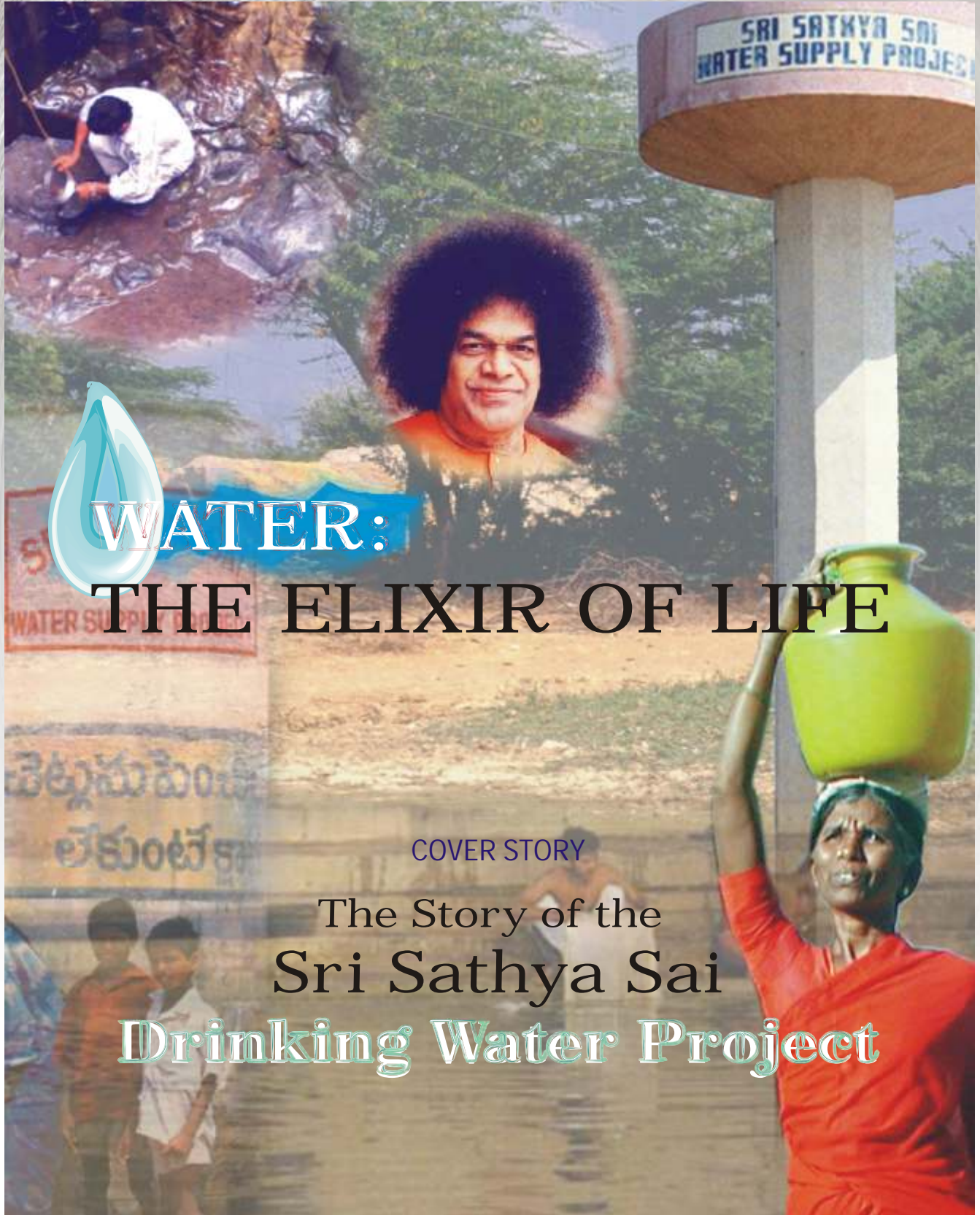




HEART TO hEART



RADIO SAI LISTENER'S JOURNAL



WATER:

THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

COVER STORY

The Story of the
Sri Sathya Sai
Drinking Water Project



PRANAMS AT THE LOTUS FEET

Journal

developed by

SGH Team, Prashanti Nilayam &
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Between You And Us

Dear Reader,

Sai Ram and Greetings. In this issue we feature two articles of importance. The first is about Swami's unparalleled water projects that have brought safe drinking water to one and a half million people living in the villages and small towns of the Anantapur, Mahabubnagar and Medak Districts of Andhra Pradesh. While reading our presentation on these great gifts of Compassion of our beloved Swami, we hope you would also take time off to reflect on water-related issues.

We can no longer take water for granted. We must know how to care for the gift that God has already given us, and how to preserve it for the future. We should not imagine that our only concern is how to use the water available. We must also remember that we are supposed to be the Trustees of God and preserve all natural resources, water included, for the future. In this context, *Water Education based on Human Values* assumes great importance and Brother Victor Kanu is doing wonderful work in this area in Africa. Based on the success of his work, the *UN Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation* is planning to take Swami's Message of Human Values all over the world. Incidentally, we see here a beautiful example of how the Sai Message is spreading quietly around the world. Later may be, we would do a feature on this exciting development.

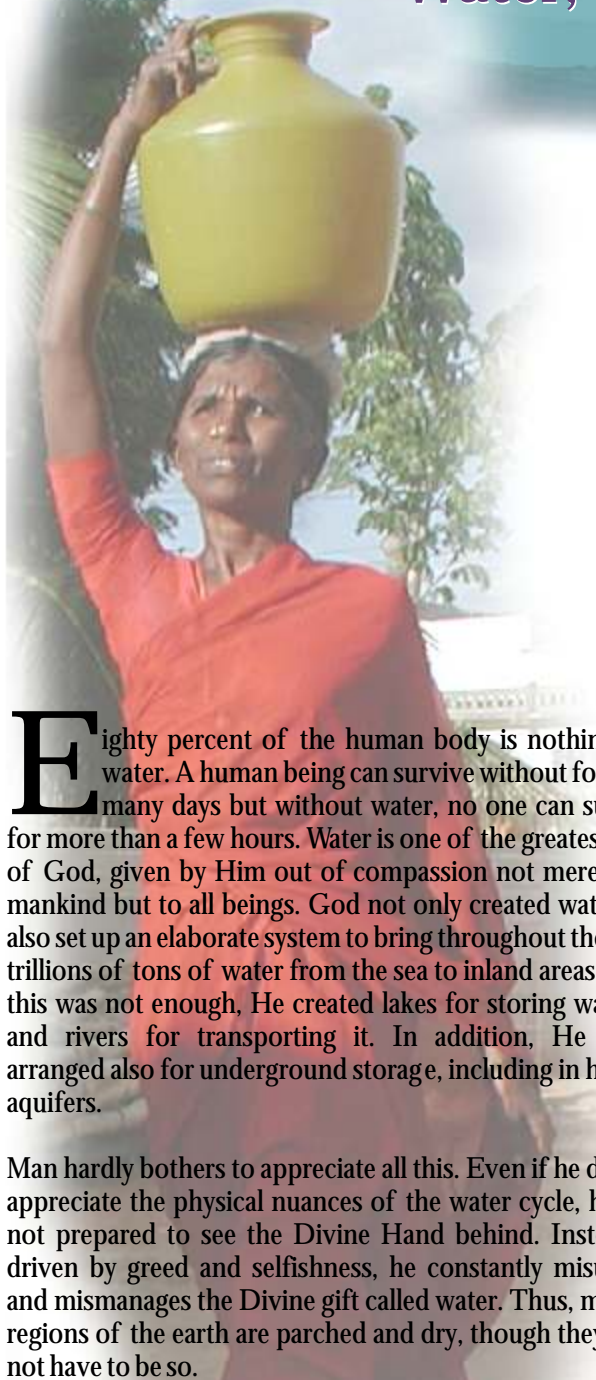
The other article we would like to draw your attention to is the report on the recent Conference of Vice Chancellors held here in Prashanti Nilayam. Way back in the eighties when the University Grants Commission granted recognition as a Deemed University to Swami's Institute, the Review Committee appointed to examine the issue of recognition said that the day would come when this Institute would be the torch bearer for values in India. That has indeed happened, and by way of celebrating its Golden Jubilee, the University Grants Commission decided to hold a Conference on Fostering Values; and what better place than Prashanti Nilayam?!

We hope you like these features and would also reflect on the messages they imply. Please do draw the attention of your friends to these articles, in case they are not aware. And, as usual, we invite you to write and tell us what you think. Just to remind you, we can be reached at:

Best wishes, and Jai Sai Ram.

SGH Team.

Water, The Elixir of Life.



From My earliest years, I have been concerned about providing three primary requisites for our people. Free education, free medical aid, and free basic amenities like drinking water. Education is for the head; medical care is for the heart; and pure water is for the body. These three cover the main requirements of life. To provide these three gives one the greatest gratification.

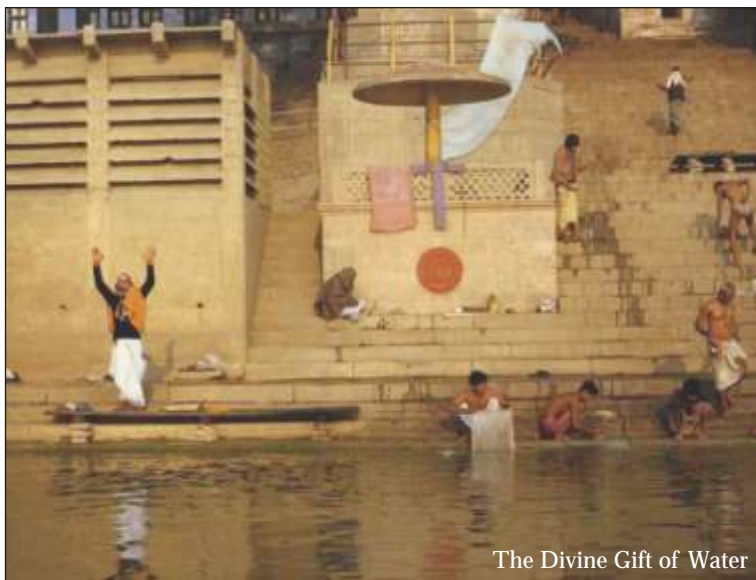
---Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Eighty percent of the human body is nothing but water. A human being can survive without food for many days but without water, no one can survive for more than a few hours. Water is one of the greatest gifts of God, given by Him out of compassion not merely for mankind but to all beings. God not only created water but also set up an elaborate system to bring throughout the year, trillions of tons of water from the sea to inland areas. As if this was not enough, He created lakes for storing water, and rivers for transporting it. In addition, He has arranged also for underground storage, including in huge aquifers.

Man hardly bothers to appreciate all this. Even if he does appreciate the physical nuances of the water cycle, he is not prepared to see the Divine Hand behind. Instead, driven by greed and selfishness, he constantly misuses and mismanages the Divine gift called water. Thus, many regions of the earth are parched and dry, though they do not have to be so.

The western part of peninsular India receives heavy rains during the monsoon season but vast tracts of land in the rain shadow region regularly suffer from water shortage. During some years, the water shortage escalates into a heart-rending drought. Foremost among the drought-prone districts of South India are Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, and Kurnool. Because they are also economically backward, they are known as backward districts. Swami jocularly says that 'back' in backward means Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, and Kurnool! This drought-prone region is collectively known as Rayalaseema. People here depend almost entirely on well water. Unfortunately, there is a serious problem with the ground water [if it is available!] – it has too much fluoride. This causes serious physical disabilities, like bone deformation, for example. [In

the state of West Bengal and in neighbouring Bangladesh, the ground water is heavily contaminated with arsenic; over a million people have been affected by this problem.] For over a hundred years, right from the British days, the people of the Rayalaseema region have been clamouring for drinking water but their plea always fell on deaf ears. Even in Independent India, this remained the situation for nearly half a century, until Baba stepped in.



The Divine Gift of Water

It all happened this way: On the morning of 22nd November, 1994, there was a special function in the Poornachandra Auditorium to honour the distinguished surgeon Dr. Venugopal, who, besides winning many laurels for his surgical achievements, had helped the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences [Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi] in numerous ways. He it was who had performed the first cardiac surgery there on the day of its inauguration on 22nd November, 1991. Present in the Poornachandra Auditorium was Mr.

Water, The Elixir of Life.



Polluted Water

P.V.Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister of India, who, incidentally, had inaugurated the Super Speciality Hospital three years earlier. In His Divine Discourse, Swami made a direct reference to the perennial drinking water problem in Rayalaseema. No one knew at that time that this would mark the beginning of a new mega project of stunning proportions. Swami threw a direct challenge to the Indian Government to do something about the drinking water problem, offering all possible help from His side, if the Government embarked on such a project.

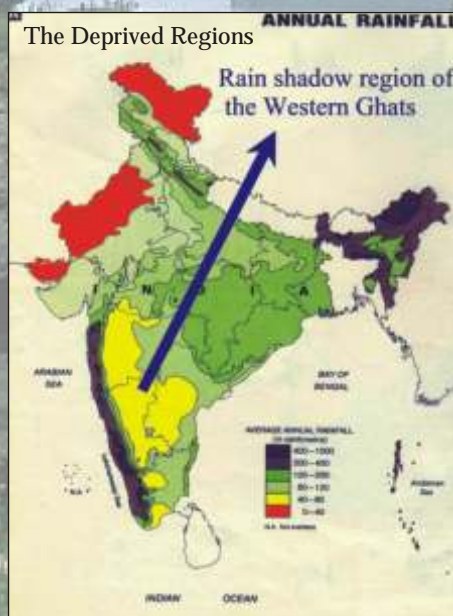
I wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the age-old drinking water problem that is affecting most parts of Rayalaseema, especially the remote villages, where people have to walk several miles to get a pot of drinking water. This needs immediate reversal. Rivers are gifts of God. In rivers like the Krishna and the Godavari, a lot of water is allowed to flow into the sea. There is no point in every State claiming rights over the river waters and quarrelling with each other over riparian rights. The waters of the Krishna and the Tungabhadra rivers can be harnessed to supply much-needed water to Rayalaseema. If there is constraint of finance, Swami is ready to help, in fulfilling this dire need of the Rayalaseema people.

Mountains may move easily but Governments do not. Swami was well aware of this but for His own reasons He chose to first remind the Government of its obligations. A few months passed, and nothing happened from the

Government's side - no surprise in that. Baba then quietly told the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, "Let us do the project;" and then set what seemed an impossible timetable. The Trust Members were all stunned. They wondered: "It is one thing to build a hospital, or even an airport. But to provide drinking water to the entire District of Anantapur with a population of over a million and having so many hundreds of villages scattered over hundreds of square kilometres? And that too in such a short time? Where was the money for all this? Where was the manpower, expertise, ..., etc.?" This is the way humans tend to look at issues and problems. With Bhagavan, it is quite different. He simply said, "Where there is a will, there is a way. Haven't you heard that faith can move mountains? I will demonstrate that good work combined with Total Purity would always find fruition."

Plans immediately began to be drawn, and miraculously, things started rolling. The devotees were all amazed but there was no shortage of sceptics. In the Government, it takes years to consider taking up a project, more years to study it, still more years to plan it, then more years to find funds, and dozens of years for execution. So, how is Baba going to do such a giant project and that too in such a short time, as He had promised?

It was the 9th of July 1995, and the Gurupoornima festival was



being celebrated in the Sai Kulwant Hall in Prasanti Nilayam. Barely a few months had passed after all the Poornachandra Hall function just described and already, a function was being held to mark the token beginning of the supply of drinking water to the people of Rayalaseema. Fluoride-free drinking water was being provided to the neighbouring village of Bukkapatnam, and Baba was to remotely inaugurate the water supply from the Sai Kulwant Hall, using the

instruments of modern telecommunications. After the usual speech making by the concerned officials, Swami pressed a button. By remote control, the pump in Bukkapatnam started working and drinking water began to flow out of a tap there. A microphone placed near the spot picked up the loud cheers of

Water, The Elixir of Life.

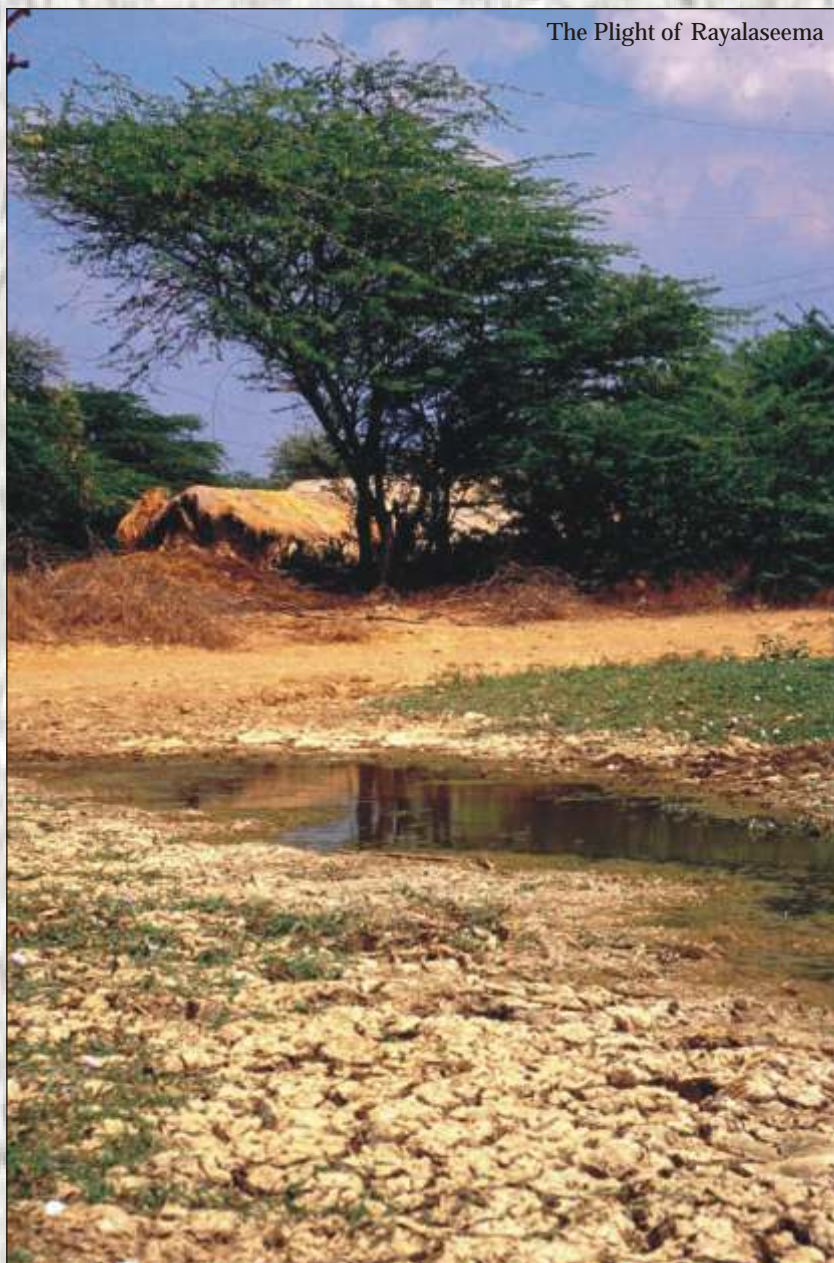
the villagers present, and soon village elders spoke words of thanks into the microphone. All this was heard by the thousands assembled in the Divine presence in Prasanti Nilayam. One of those who spoke on that occasion was Mr. Kondal Rao, then Secretary, Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and Technical Advisor for the Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project. Mr. Rao informed devotees that all this was just a curtain raiser, and great things would follow soon. Legend has it that Lord Siva sent down the Ganges in response to the prayers of Bhageeratha. Now in the Twentieth Century, one was witnessing such a miracle happen right before one's eyes. The people of Rayalaseema were all the time praying to the

Government but nothing happened. God heard the prayers and decided to answer them, though they were not addressed to Him.

The tempo now quickened and things happened with amazing rapidity, with Swami taking direct charge and monitoring progress literally on a day-to-day basis. The going was not always smooth. Many devotees wondered why this was so. Was not God in charge? Yes He was, and if He so willed things could have happened with a mere wave of His hand. But this was not the way He wanted things done. The project was being done partly to teach man many lessons. One lesson of course is that man must do his best to help others. Another lesson is that he must not mind obstacles that come on the way, but march resolutely forward towards the goal. The impossible becomes possible if one has firm determination.

For a brief period, there was money crunch. He who is known to create gold and even cash now borrowed money from a bank! All a part of the never-ending Divine Drama! There were a host of other problems too. But nothing bothered Him. He was always calm and His usual self – ever a perfect demonstration of equanimity. It was not so much His management of the difficulties as the magic of His *Prema* that amazed everybody. The Government of a State where Marxists were in power, did not hesitate to waive taxes on pipes and other products procured from their State. The Railways gave priority in moving various items, especially steel and cement, to the work spot. So on it went. In between, Swami made several aerial surveys over the entire District. So considerate was He that He squeezed these surveys between the morning and evening *Darshans*, and the devotees in Prasanti Nilayam never even knew that Baba was out touring during the day while they were having their siesta. In more ways than one, Swami showed how projects must be executed, with constant direct personal supervision from the top, and incessant attention to the minutest of details.

Months quickly rolled by and soon it was November. On 18th November, 1995, there was a meeting in the Poornachandra Auditorium. Once again, Mr. P.V.Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister of India was present. And he was going to inaugurate the Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project! Exactly one year earlier, he had been asked in this very hall to do something, and now, not only had he been spared the chore but actually asked to cut the ribbon so to say, and make a speech in the



The Plight of Rayalaseema

Water, The Elixir of Life.

usual manner! Mr. Rao was naturally stunned and totally overwhelmed. He said that 'Anantapur' had become 'Anandapur' or a 'city of bliss'. Most appropriately, he quoted from the *Bhagawatham* that describes the story of Krishna. One day when Krishna was a small boy, His foster mother Yasodha was told that Krishna had been eating mud. Yasodha ran to Krishna and asked Him, "Krishna did You eat mud?" Krishna just smiled, rolled His beautiful eyes, and shook His head to signal no. Not believing what Krishna was saying, Yasodha asked Him to open His mouth. He did, and what did she see? The whole Universe, including herself looking into the mouth of Krishna! Yasodha then exclaimed, "Is this an illusion that I am seeing or a part of the Lord's mysterious Creation?" The once remote hamlet of Puttaparthi already had a number of things to boast of - several schools, a Bus Stand, a University, a Stadium, a Planetarium, an Airport, and a couple of Hospitals, including a Super Speciality Hospital. No village in India, especially one located in a dry and backward District, could claim even a fraction of what Puttaparthi had. What was more significant, both education and medical treatment were available completely free to all that came, irrespective of caste, creed, and status in life. As

if all this was not enough, Swami had provided pure drinking water to almost an entire district! No wonder the Prime Minister had to dip into His Story itself, for the right words for the occasion. In His Divine Discourse delivered on the occasion, Swami mentioned that though the Project had been completed in a substantial measure [within the incredibly short period of just one year], there were many things that had to be wrapped up. He assured the people that all these would be attended to shortly :

All the natural resources of the country must be enjoyed equally by all the people, regardless of caste or community. There are many rivers in the country that flow across State boundaries. Bharat is not lacking in water or other resources. We have perennial rivers and vast areas of fertile land. But these resources are not being fully used. The Nation's great rivers like Kaveri, Ganga, and Krishna should be treated as National property. There will then be no room for inter-State disputes. The waters of all rivers should be used for the benefit of all people. It is because of lack of unity and the assertion of separatist claims, that a lot of the river

The Plight of Rayalaseema



Water, The Elixir of Life.



Miles to Walk for a Potful of Water

water is going waste. If if the Prime Minister endeavours to promote a national approach to the harnessing of river waters, the Nation will prosper. The States too are prone to promote their claims over that of others. They all should adopt a co-operative and fraternal attitude towards each other and behave as good neighbours. If this is done, there will be no shortage of food or water in the country. People should develop this co-operative attitude.

With regard to the water project, it should be noted that much was accomplished in a short period. In the execution of the project, changes had to be made in response to the appeals of people in different villages. Because of this, the entire project has not yet been completed. Some villages are yet to get water. This should not cause disappointment. Whatever may happen, all

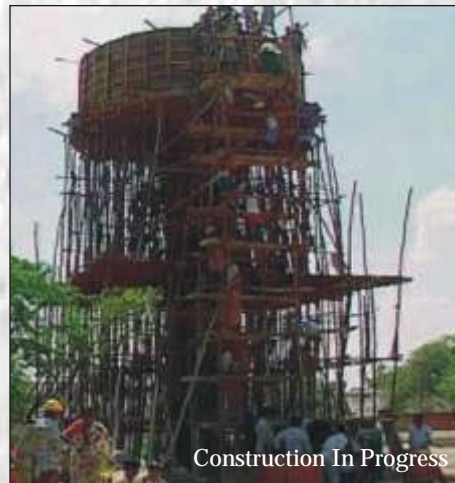


Affected by Flourosis

villages will get water and the project would be fully carried out !

Such was the uniqueness of the Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project, that the then President of India, Dr. Shankar

Dayal Sharma, an ardent devotee of Baba, also wanted, in some manner, to be associated with the inauguration ceremonies. And so, on Swami's Birthday that followed a few days later, the President symbolically signalled the achievements of the Water Project by opening a tap [specially set up on the stage in the Hill View Stadium], and collecting the water that flowed out. The Lord had granted water, even without the people praying for it directly to Him.



Construction In Progress

Meanwhile, seeing many villages towns that had not been in the scope Project to clamour Water! never says all these late also were duly ated. At last, safe supply of drinking



Bukkapatnam gets Water

the miracle, and even originally included of the began for Sai Swami no, and entrants accommod and assured

water was no longer a mirage or a dream for over seven hundred parched villages [and a few towns as well] that had suffered for over a century. The statistics of the Project are most impressive. For example, the record books said that the Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project was the largest social benefit project undertaken anywhere in the world by a private charitable organisation. However, records are no so important as Baba's Love. It is His Love from which the Project was born, and it is His Love again that saw the project to its completion. His Love came to hundreds of thousands in life-giving liquid form. And it was available to one all without distinction, including those who had never seen Him.

Swami's attention to details is legendary. The question arose: "After the Project is completed, who would operate and maintain this large system?" Swami was quite clear about what had to be done in this respect. He said, "The Central Trust will operate the Project and maintain it for about a year or a little more, till things settle down completely. After that, the entire

Water, The Elixir of Life.

water works would be handed over to the people of the State. In between, people who were to take over would be trained properly."

October, 1997. After a break of a few years, Swami had arranged for the performance of a *Yagna* [a holy Vedic ritual] in the Poornachandra Hall, at the time of the *Navarathri* Festival. On 11th October the concluding day, after the religious ceremonies were over, a special function was arranged in the Sai Kulwant Hall, to mark the formal transfer of the Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply System, to the people of Andhra Pradesh. The person receiving on behalf of the people was the Chief Minister of the State, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu.

The function was simple. The speeches were few but the praise for Baba was lavish – naturally. There was also an expression of deep-felt gratitude, and the water works now formally became a property of the people. In His Discourse, Swami said: "You all are praising Me, but what have I done? Whose money has been spent? Who has given the money for the project? It is all people's money. People's money has been spent for people's welfare. What is there in My hands?" At this point, Bhagavan raised His hands high and showed they were empty. Then He softly whispered, "Everything is in these hands!"



Inauguration by the Prime Minister, 18th Nov 1995

The curtain had come down on the historic Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project, or so people thought. Not quite, for it set a new and continuing trend. People now began to realise that providing drinking water is an essential social service. Spurred by Baba's inspiring example, many began to organise efforts on scales affordable by them. For example, one devotee hailing from Chittoor District started mobilising people in various villages to tackle the problem there. Another devotee spearheaded a similar drive in Kolar District in the

State of Karnataka [Kolar is close to Whitefield]. There are many other such local efforts. One presumes that in the years to come, such schemes would multiply both in number and in magnitude.

Meanwhile, Baba has mounted a major thrust in the northern Districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly Medak and Mahboobnagar, Phase II, one might say.

The Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project must be viewed in its entirety and not

merely in terms of statistics, impressive as they are. It is not merely an illustration of how the drinking water problem, present in many parts of the world, must be addressed. Nor is it just an example of how projects must be boldly pushed with dynamism and energy. There are a number of things the project represents. Above all, it is a touching symbol of God's Love for His children. Equally, it is a stirring lesson for man how not to run away from society's problems but face them squarely and head-on. As Swami often says, "Good work is always God's work." If man takes a small step in doing good to his fellow beings, then God will shower His Grace and magnify that small step into a giant leap. All it takes for man is firm faith in God, strong determination, and one small step of Pure Love.



Swami On 18th Nov 1995



The President sharing in the joy 23rd Nov 1995

Water, The Elixir of Life.

The Sai water projects constitute a major milestone in the history of the Sai *Avatar*. While Divinity is the common aspect of all the *Avatars*, each Incarnation is unique in its own respect. Where the Sathya Sai *Avatar* is concerned, Selfless Service to humanity at large, born of Infinite Love and Infinite Compassion are the unmatched Hallmarks. Swami constantly tells us: "Love All, Serve All". He is doing precisely that all the time, and every second of His life is His Message.



Carrying water to the remotest places



The thirst is over



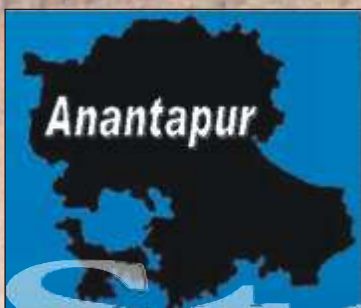
Handing over to the Government, Oct 1997



The Reservoir (of Joy)



Purifying the water



Anantapur
Project Cost : Rs. 3000 million
No. Of villages covered : 731
Population benefited : 1 million
(Approximate)

Mahabubnagar
Project Cost : Rs. 300 million
No. Of villages covered : 141
Population benefited : 450,000
(Approximate)

Medak
Project Cost : Rs. 300 million
No. Of villages covered : 179
Population benefited : 550,000
(Approximate)

Statistics

A Love Story Revealed

Dear Reader,

In March 2003, there was a big conference in Japan entitled the *World Water Forum*. This was a sequel to the Earth Summit that took place earlier in August 2002, in Johannesburg. Kyoto was the venue of the *World Water Forum*, and top world leaders came to attend it. There were also many satellite meetings, one of which was on the theme *Water and Cities*. This meeting was held at Osaka. In Kyoto, there was a Panel Discussion, to which was invited Prof Anantaraman, a professor in management who and CEO of a multinational firm.

What follows is a digest of remarks made by Prof Anantaraman about his experience in Kyoto. This digest has been prepared by us from an interview recorded with Prof. Anantaraman for broadcast over Radio Sai. Some of you might have heard that interview.

SGH TEAM

Crown Prince opens WWF3, Kyoto, 16 March 2003



This panel discussion was held in Kyoto, and I went there on account of an invitation sent to me by the UN HABITAT. The Panel Discussion was being jointly organised by UN HABITAT and the Asian Development Bank or ADB. They wanted me to discuss the financial aspects of the Sri Sathya Sai Anantapur Water Project. After a lot of hesitation I finally decided to accept the invitation.

Initially I hesitated because after all, the basic strength of Anantapur water project is not financing aspect. I felt that to basically talk about only the financing of the water project was a mistake. However, there was an invitation, and I went there eventually but with a lot of trepidation.

On the first day, there was a beautiful musical ballet presentation as a part of the inaugural ceremonies. The ballet was all about

A Love Story Revealed

water as a source coming through time and through space. The ballet was presented by the children from the Sai School in Japan. During the ballet, there were references to Truth, Peace, Right Conduct, Non violence. My ears immediately pricked up. When the ballet was over, the 1500 delegates present gave a standing ovation. I basically felt right then that may be Swami's presence is already here. This made me resolve that I should make my presentation to the panel fairly forcefully.

The panel presentation was on the next day. I was the fourth speaker in a panel of six speakers. Most of those who spoke before me, talked about Financing Models, Pay-back methods, Cost of Recovery, etc. I had prepared a Power Point presentation but after seeing the children's ballet I realised there was no point in making this presentation because financing was not the important part of Sri Sathya Sai Water Project. So in the last minute I decided not to do my Power Point presentation. Instead I began by saying that I am no expert on water, in fact, I don't even know why I am here. Therefore I am not going to make a presentation on financing to you; instead what I am

going to offer you is a case study. It is not merely a case study, it is also a Love Story. It is not only a story of Love but also one of Compassion. It is the story of how one compassionate individual found it necessary to bring water to a parched land and quench the thirst of over a million people. That is what my story of Compassion and Love is all about. The moment I said that there was immediately a lot of attention and after that my presentation went on very well. Subsequently, there was a lot of interest concerning what the project was about, and what Swami was saying.

The press was immediately after me and wanted to know many things like what was this project about? Who is Sathya Sai Baba? And so on. There was also an invitation from the Osaka Students Union asking me to come and talk to them about the water project. Not merely that. A Minister from China and the whole delegation from China wanted to hear my presentation. The Minister wanted to discuss with me about this compassion that I was talking about, and about the whole project. In short, Swami's Love Story was a real hit!



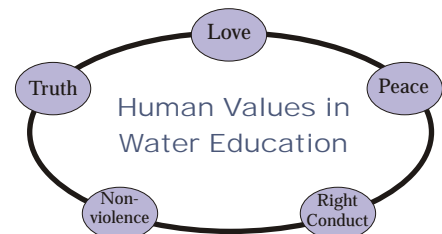
Prof. Anantaraman at Kyoto

'Valuing' Water

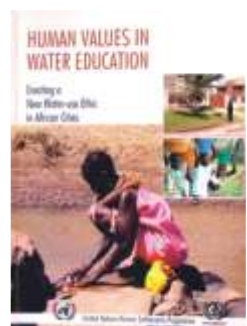
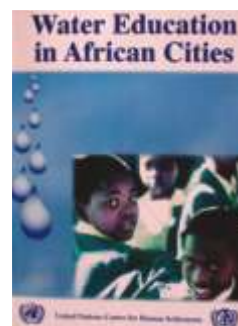
Not so long ago, people in most parts of the world took water for granted. That is no longer possible for two important reasons. The first is the rapid increase in global population and the second is the sharp reduction in the available fresh water resource, thanks to extensive pollution, mismanagement and wastage. As a result, in many places, matters have already reached crisis proportions. Thus it is that in Bangladesh, a country that is supposed to have a lot of water, people have to depend for drinking, upon ground water that is heavily contaminated with arsenic. The time has come for mankind to deal with water and indeed with all aspects related to Creation not merely from a purely scientific point of view but from a higher and nobler perspective. As Baba often reminds, man is himself a product of the five elements that surround him. Hence, as great ones realised, like the Buddha for example, external pollution of the five elements starts with the pollution of the five elements within. In other words, the starting point for the cure must be a return to basic human values. Recognising the importance of this approach, the Sai School in Zambia has launched, with support from UN HABITAT, a very successful programme to impart water education through human values. Impressed with the success of this pilot programme, efforts are now under way to expand the scope of this programme to the entire world [especially the Third World], through the UN Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation. Way back, a small seed was planted in Puttaparthi. Today, the branches of the tree that grew out of that tiny seed have spread to all corners of the globe!



Water supply does not run dry when it is drawn from the well of human values



Baba's five Human Values have now been accepted by the UN-HABITAT programme on Water Education, as the above Logo shows. On the left may be seen pictures of two books published under this programme.



'Valuing' Water



The Sweet Water story : African values on water usage.



TIMES OF ZAMBIA,
JANUARY 20, 2003

The Human Values approach to water education in Africa lays great emphasis on the values rooted in African culture, and trainees are encouraged to bring out their cultural values.

The Human Values approach emphasises Five universal core values as their basis. These are: Truth, Love, Right Conduct, Peace and Non-violence, which have numerous practical modes of expression.

Some time ago, Dr. Victor Kanu of Zambia, well known for his pioneering work on Sai Education in Africa, recorded an interview with Radio Sai. What follows is a digest of the remarks he made then, concerning what he calls Water Education in Africa. Basically, it is a programme to sensitise school children to the importance of water for the survival of humanity, via a special approach based on the five human values that Swami talks about so often. In a later issue, we expect to reproduce the entire transcript of that interview.

The United Nation's Centre for Human Settlement known briefly as UN-HABITAT, has initiated across many countries of Africa, a programme called 'Water Education'. Why such a programme on 'Water Education'? There are many reasons for this. Firstly, one century ago the population of Africa was only about 150 million whereas today it is 875 million. According to an estimate, in about 20 or 25 years, this figure would swell to 1.5 billion people. And all these 1.5 billion people in the African continent would be using the SAME water resources, the same rivers and the same lakes, as did people one hundred years ago. That should give an idea of the water problem that Africa faces. Not only that; the water today is more polluted than ever before.

History reveals that countries sharing the same river basins and same lakes are often at loggerheads; there are also conflicts. There have been water riots, and there also have been water wars in history. There could well be such wars in Africa also in the future, and water usage is threatening to become a major issue for peace and stability in the Continent.

'Valuing' Water

In the view of the crisis that is looming large on the horizon, it is necessary to have a change of attitude, especially with regard to natural resources endowed to us by God. Attitudinal change in this context essentially means a change of Heart. In turn, this change of Heart must lead to a proper management of available water resources, based on traditional human values, which includes revering and caring for Nature's gifts. Attitudinal change must lead to solidarity, cooperation and tolerance, in the midst of scarcity. It is by practising such values that the people of Africa would be able to face water shortage in the future, without fighting and without conflict. This is the essence of the water education project.

Prior to adopting this novel approach, the UN tried many methods, mainly technological. The UN concentrated on improving the supply of water; the UN experts are good at that sort of thing. But this did not remove the water problem because though the supply got better, a lot of water was also getting wasted. There was a lot of indiscipline and inefficiency. There is, for example, illegal connections and tampering with meters. Then there are the rich who use much more water than they used to before. For instance, following increased supply, in Johannesburg, a rich family would use about 200 litres of water a day for washing cars and watering the garden, whereas in a neighbouring slum, an entire family would get hardly 20 litres of water a day. This kind of problem is especially acute in urban areas, where people have lost their traditional values. The United Nations has finally realised that blending human values with water education would help enormously.

It all started with an expert group meeting in April 2001 in Johannesburg,

to which many experts from all over Africa were invited. Many papers were presented, and among them was mine whose theme was *Water Education - A Human Values Approach*. They liked this so much that they unanimously adopted it as a possible solution that would complement existing methods employed by the UN. After that I was asked to present a similar paper to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on the 6th of June, which I did. This paper too was well received. I was then asked to chair a sub-regional meeting of African countries in Ndola, Zambia, and another one in West Africa. After that, I was appointed by UN-HABITAT as a consultant, for integrating human values in water education in the curriculum of schools of Africa, starting with 6 countries - Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Senegal and Ivory Coast.

My task was to revamp the existing syllabi and blend them with water education based on Swami's human values. This is being done all the way from pre-school to primary and secondary school.

The human values approach is really about transformation whereas the subject content is about information. So we are going to blend information and transformation to bring about the desired attitudinal changes in the young, who would become the future utility managers and future leaders. This, in brief, is the programme.

Human values are integrated into the programme by starting first with the existing syllabus and then blending it values. Let us take photo synthesis or how plants transport water. Now the function of the roots is to hold the plant firm and to give it a solid base while it

searches for water. The roots will go to great lengths in search of water. If the root comes across a boulder it does not give up; it goes round it - that is endurance, a sense of duty and persistence. While teaching children about the function of roots, these values must be brought out at the same time - persistence, endurance strong sense of duty, cooperation etc. We also bring in traditional values. According to our ancients, spirits were supposed to live in water. Africans believe in the existence of God and the deities. God pervades the entire Universe and that same God is also in water. This is ancient African culture. But that has been forgotten as a result of colonial rule. Baba says education without culture is like a kite without a rope. It is like a dark room that is infested with bats. So what we are trying to do is to harmonise and bring out the positive values in our cultures and traditions in Africa and harmonise those values with the present trends in our school system. This is very well received and that is why the UN HABITAT is so much interested in this. People really want to go back to their roots, which makes our easier.

Currently we are in the process of reviewing the syllabi. We will teach students to *Be water wise and water efficient*. Eventually we expect this programme to be adopted across the board in Africa. Our approach is very cost effective. It does not require elaborate materials and things like that.

Once we have dealt with water, I believe we can tackle the rest of the environment, besides social problems like early pregnancies, break down of marriages, AIDS, etc. The human values approach will help solve such problems also. In short, we are trying to make people realise that they are human beings.

Inspired by the Water Project....

Love and the spirit of service are infectious. Thus, Baba's example has inspired the Police to provide drinking water in Puttaparthi, devotees in Tamil Nadu to arrange water supply to a cancer hospital in Kanchipuram that was facing shortage, and devotees in far-off El Salvador to arrange water supply in a village in the mountains. Thanking the Sai devotees, the village leader said that the Sai Organisation had given them what the local government had failed to, despite repeated appeals for twenty years.



Water project in Kanchipuram



Water project in El Salvador



COMING NEXT

Christmas is a very special occasion at Prasanthi Nilayam, when tens of thousands of devotees from all over the world, gather at the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagavan to relive the love of Christ and to reinforce their hearts with the eternal teachings of the Father and the Son. Heart to Heart brings to you, in the December 15th issue, a glimpse of this holy festival at Prasanthi Nilayam through exciting features!

Inspired by the Water Project....

Enero 12, 2002

Estimados Miembros de la Fundacion Sathya sai,

Durante Veinte Años hemos recibido promesas de diferentes gobiernos ofreciendonos ayuda a conectar el agua. Pero solamente fueron ofrecimientos porque dijeron que costaria mas de un millon de dolares. Cuando Uds. llegaron despues del terremoto con alimentos y ropa y Uds. preguntaron en que podian ayudarnos, dijimos por favor ayudenos a conseguir el agua. Cuando Uds dijeron que era posible de instalar grifos comunitarios y agua para la escuela, no les creimos. Pero Uds. nos enseñaron como trabajar en conjunto y todo el mundo colaboro enterrando tubos. Cubrimos cinco kilometros en un dia. Entonces Uds. compraron la bomba e instalaron la electricidad mientras nosotros construimos el tanque con su cubierta. Ahora tenemos 21 grifos comunitarios que estan funcionando perfectamente desde hace 5 meses, y hemos obtenido un beneficio que no anticipabamos. Ahora todos los niños asisten a clases. Antes ellos tenian que traer el agua desde la fuente en una subida de un kilometro, pero ahora caminamos 50 metros al grifo mas cercano.

Nuestro costo por mes es \$2.00 por familia para pagar la electricidad de la bomba. Uds. hicieron en pocos meses lo que ningun gobierno pudo hacer en veinte años a una fraccion del costo. Solamente de Dios pueden recibir su recompensa por este servicio.



Transito Rivera
Presidente, Comité de Agua



Exciels Cortez

Exciels Cortez
Director de Escuela
Rural Mixta

Letter of thanks from the village leader, authenticated by the Director of Rural Education.



Cleverness and Wisdom



The human mind has two distinct capabilities. They are (1) the capacity to acquire worldly skills, and (2) the capacity for Spiritual Discrimination. These two faculties are called *Medha Shakti* and *Buddhi* respectively. People do not have a clear idea of the difference between (worldly) cleverness and (spiritual) Wisdom, and often mistake *Buddhi* to mean cleverness. This is not correct.

Being exclusively related to the phenomenal world, *Medha Shakti* would help a person to be shrewd in worldly matters and achieve success in Society. However, this is no blessing. A clever man is restless, does not enjoy peace, and often goes through mental conflicts. He is a slave to his ego, which casts a veil over the Self and renders *Buddhi* ineffective. Cleverness is not an attribute of the Wise but unfortunately in this *Kali* age a clever person alone is regarded as great and accorded much respect.

Modern education lays great stress on the sharpening of the brain and can certainly help people to become clever. But it has no positive effect on *Buddhi* or the spiritual intellect. Our ancients, on the other hand, were unanimously of the view that *Buddhi* is superior to *Medha Shakti*, and is any day to be preferred.

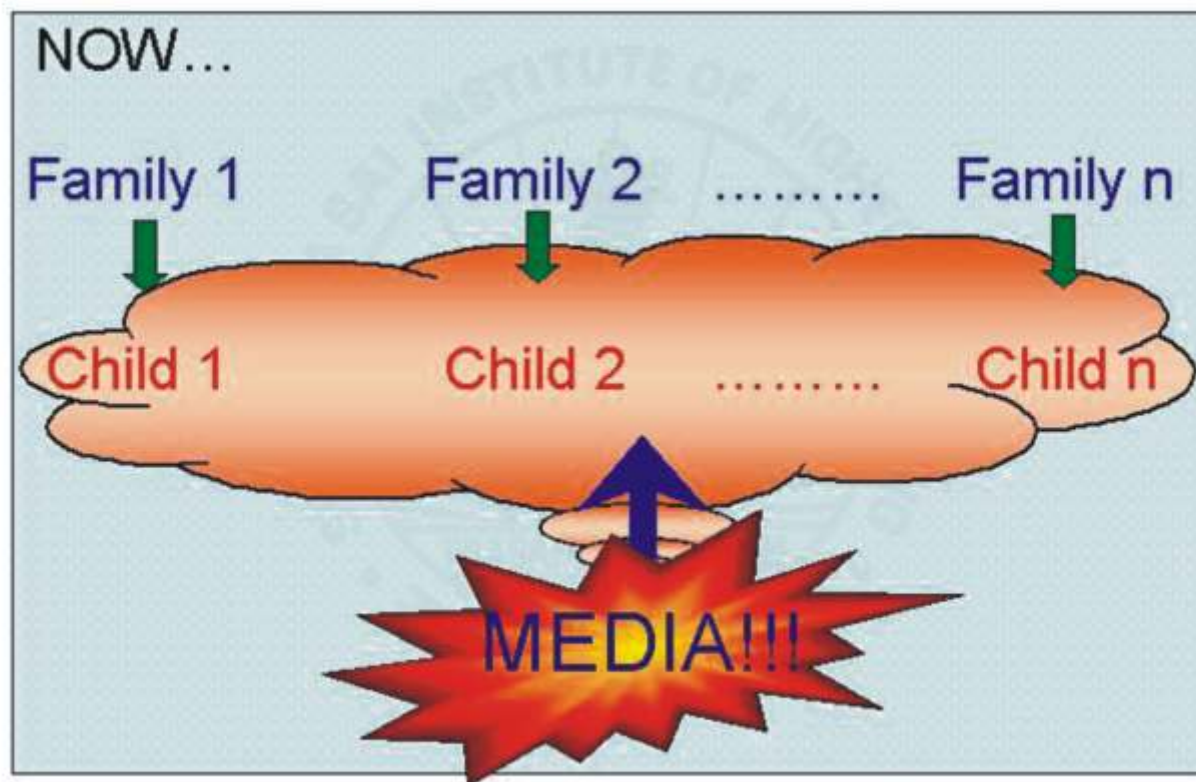
Buddhi is essentially the combination of *Shradda* (earnestness), *Sathyam* (Truth), *Yoga* (power of control), and *Mahat Shakti* (Divine Power). *Shradda* is the product of yearning and steadfastness. The *Sathyam* aspect implies a proper judgement and perspective, with Truth as the central focus. The third aspect *Yoga* connotes a mastery over the senses. One cannot speak of a person being with blessed with *Buddhi*, if he lacks sense and mind control. *Shradda*, *Sathyam* and *Yoga* together manifest as *Mahat Shakti*, the power of the Divine. In short, all the aspects of *Buddhi* are verily Divine.

Students should understand clearly the difference between *Medha Shakti* and *Buddhi*. Cleverness would help one in securing good grades in examinations, and in scoring victory in debates. It is associated exclusively with worldly skills. *Buddhi*, on the other hand, is spiritual in nature and close to the *Atma*. Thus, one must never confuse a Wise person (*Buddhiman*) with a clever person.

The hierarchical relationship of the various entities related to *Medha Shakti* and *Buddhi* is as follows: At the bottom of the totem pole is the physical plane. Above it are the senses; then comes the mind or *Manas*. *Buddhi* comes above the mind and last of all is the *Atma* or the Self. *Buddhi* is thus just a “stone's throw” away from the *Atma* and is verily a reflection of the latter. It is thus the height of ignorance to equate Wisdom (*Buddhi*) with cleverness (*Medha Shakti*). The latter is associated to the senses and is thus intimately related to the phenomenal world. It promotes ego, and as long as ego dominates you cannot understand anything about the Self. A clever person would never be able to achieve Self-realisation; only a Wise person can.

The Malady and the Remedy

EDUCATION NOW



Sri Sathya Sai Institute Of Higher Learning
Prasanthi Nilayam

Awareness Programme

Recently, there was a Conference of Vice Chancellors held in Prasanthi Nilayam. This issue carries a detailed report on that. Relating to that, I would like to presently muse on where education has drifted today where India is concerned. By the way, I should mention that this Conference was a part of the year-long, Golden Jubilee Celebration of the University Grants Commission. This particular Conference was to deal with the question of values, and what better place to hold it than Prasanthi Nilayam?

Let me start by comparing today's situation in education with that which was obtained in 1947, at the time of Independence. If we do that, we sure find many pluses. The budget for education has increased enormously, the number of schools and colleges has grown

phenomenally, so has enrolment, and funding for research which, while it could be better, is not to be sneered at. In fact, it is all these facts put together that has enabled the country to make good progress in Science and Technology, as compared to many other developing countries that won freedom around the same time. Nevertheless, the overall score is somewhat disappointing because today's students are not quite what they should be. No doubt they are very intelligent, they are quick on the uptake, they can solve problems in a jiffy, and many of them are even whiz kids. But all of this does not add up to what this country needs at the present time, and needs badly I might add.

What has gone wrong? Well, I believe that the root cause of the problem is the large-scale abandoning of values by schools and

colleges. They are no longer bothered about character-development which really ought to be their priority number one. Instead, most of them are busy trying to make money, try to be one up over other schools and in teaching ruthless competition to students. In other words, values that have been cherished so dearly and which have held this Society for thousands of years have been jettisoned altogether in a few short decades.

I recall what it was like barely sixty years ago. Children were given a good moral upbringing at home, there was morality in the school and in college, and in the work place too. There was, so to say, a general moral ambience. As a result, when young people came together, they brought with them their individual moral armour, toughened at home and in school. Thus young people had no difficulty in adhering

The Malady and the Remedy

to the moral path. Today, all that has more or less disappeared, thanks to two major factors. Firstly, parents have no time for their children while teachers couldn't care less about character development. Secondly there is the pernicious effect of the Media, fuelled by money power. The net result is that large numbers of even good people have begun to think that *Sathya* and *Dharma* will not work anymore. Is this really true? Let us examine.

Let us ask first: "What really is expected of an educated person?" People may say: "Such a person would be good at solving problems and in delivering the goods." I would say not enough. To me the foremost duty of an educated person is to serve as a Conscience-keeper of Society. And one cannot be a Conscience-keeper, unless one follows one's Conscience. All of which means that the prime goal of

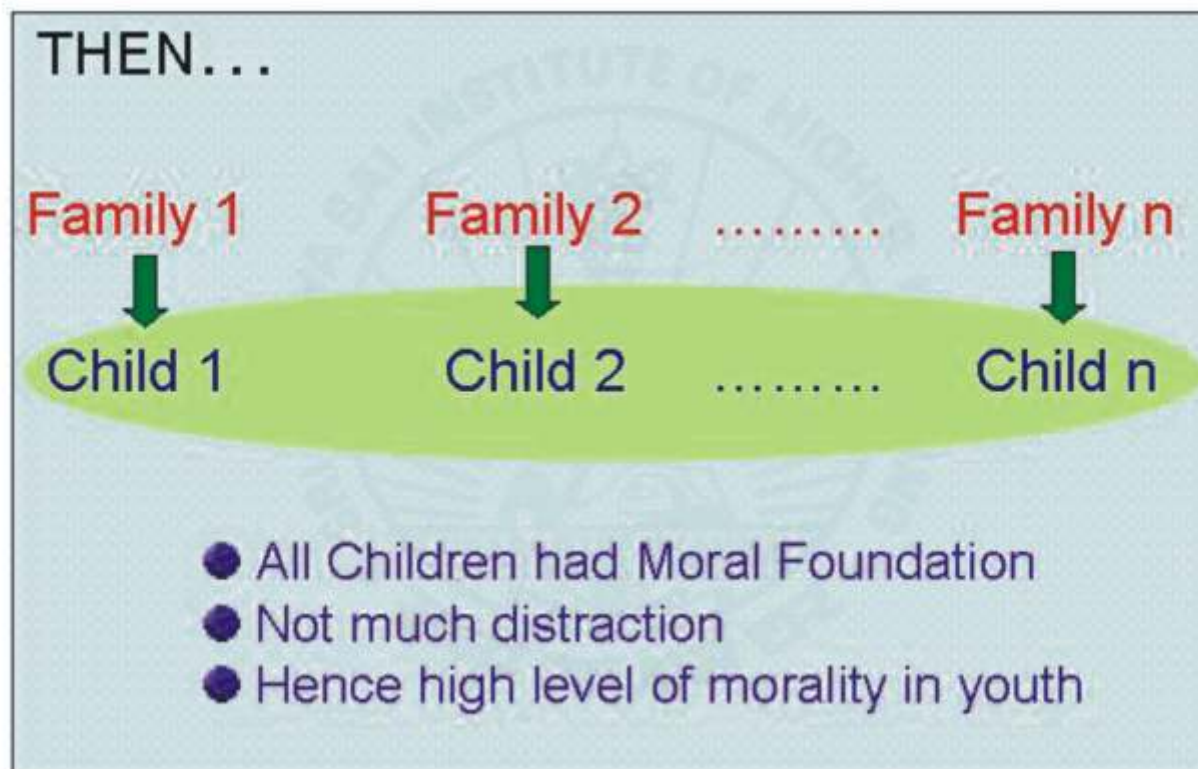
education must be to develop character.

You do not have to take my word for it. Just go back to the Mahabharata and examine what the great Bhishma, Dronacharya and Kripacharya did at a crucial moment. They all remained silent when they ought to have spoken strongly. They totally failed in their role as Conscience-keepers. Of what use then was their so-called Knowledge?

Today's a very large number of the so-called intellectuals have abdicated their moral responsibility and are remaining silent about all kinds of moral delinquency concerning which they ought to raise a strong protest. In fact, many of them are even deluded by the views promoted by the influential people in association with the media.

Let me at this point recall an incident that occurred many years ago. It was the month of March, and Swami was in Brindavan. I was teaching there at that time. One evening after Bhajans, during the usual Trayee Session, Swami got the ball rolling with His usual question: *Emi Samacharam*, or what news? One elder said, "Swami, this morning an exciting thing happened. A Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle [PSLV] rocket was successfully launched from Sriharkota Launch Station". Swami said, "Is that so? What will this rocket do?" The elder replied, "Swami, the PSLV has placed in orbit a remote sensing satellite. This satellite can remotely monitor forest fires, urbanisation, deforestation, etc." The gentleman rattled off a long list but Swami did not seem impressed. After a while He asked, "Has not Science already made a lot of progress?" "Yes Swami." "In that case,

EDUCATION THEN



The Malady and the Remedy



why not harness the fruits of these developments first for the benefit of mankind, before spending more money on research?"

That really is the point, and it is far from trivial. Just to underscore it, let me draw attention to what has happened to TV in this country. When it was first introduced in the seventies, it was stated that TV would be used mostly for educational purposes and moderately for entertainment. TV is a very powerful medium and if it had been harnessed for education, it could have done wonders. Instead, very quickly it was taken over for money making, almost with no holds barred. And the results are there for all to see. In fact, Swami refers to TV as *Televisham*; *visham* means poison! The indictment is indeed strong.

So, what are we to do? Luckily, there is an answer and, needless to say it is from Swami Himself. The answer came way back in 1968 when Baba was in Bombay. During that trip He was invited to the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, a Cultural

University in that city. Assembled there were a group of scholars and intellectuals, and one of them asked: "Should India go nuclear or not?" This, by the way, was six years before India tested a nuclear device. Swami in reply first drew attention to the Pandavas. He said that while Bhima was mighty and Arjuna a skilled archer, both of them bowed before their elder brother Dharmaja. That was because Dharmaja always adhered to *Dharma*. Baba continued, "In today's world, America is like Arjuna while Russia is like Bhima. India must be like Dharmaja. In practical terms, India must try to enhance its Moral Power rather than its military might." Interestingly, this is precisely what Swami Vivekananda dreamt of earlier he too wanted India to be the Moral Leader of the world.

The message is loud and clear we must do everything we can to return to a moral way of life. This is a must because as Gandhi reminded us so often, there is a Moral Law governing the Universe. We cannot but bow to it.

There is no need to feel diffident about returning to a moral way of life. All that is necessary is to have confidence in Moral Power. This is the Power of God and there is no power in the Universe that can come anywhere near it; but this we must firmly believe in. If parents and teachers believe in this, then what seems impossible can be achieved.

There is no need to imagine that returning to a moral way of life means backing away from modernity. This is a totally mistaken assumption. One has merely to take a good look at Swami's School and Colleges, which, by the way the visiting Vice Chancellors all did. These educational institutions founded by Bhagavan Baba have all successfully blended education

with educare, thus offering the right mix of education that would help in making a living and education that is for life. Aspects of that were highlighted in the previous issue. Please go back and take a second look. My musings are about the Indian scene but I am sure that aspects of what I have said apply to all countries. Do you agree? Do write and let us know. As always, we can be reached at: h2h@radiosai.org

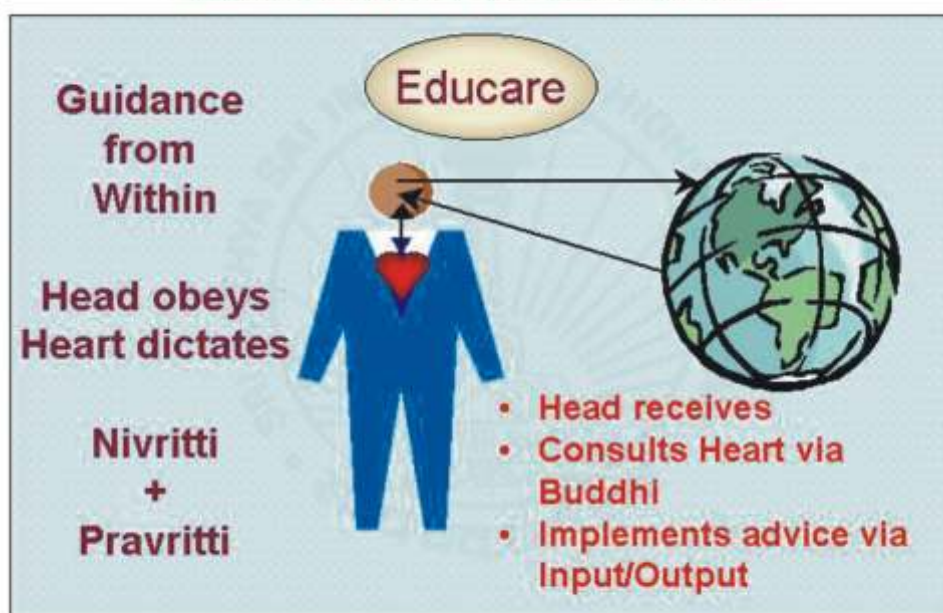
Jai Sai Ram.
G. Venkataraman

Education and Educare

DEAR READER,

Continuing our feature Getting Spiritually Better, we offer below the fourth instalment. We hope you like it, and would share it with others who are interested in enquiry and self-improvement. Do write and tell us what you think, how you find it, whether it is useful, and in what ways this feature can be

EDUCATION vs EDUCARE



Sri Sathya Sai Institute Of Higher Learning
Prasanthi Nilayam.

Awareness Programme

In an earlier issue, we discussed the question of spiritual balance. Presently, we shall look at that issue in terms of education and educare, especially in the light of the great importance that Swami attaches to educare, the conferences that have been held and continue to be held on educare, and the stress on educare that is constantly being laid in the Organisation.

We begin with what Swami Vivekananda said over a hundred years ago. He made two important points and both of these have been elaborately stressed by Bhagavan in recent years. Vivekananda said that education must bring out the Divinity latent in man. He also pointed out that humanity's thinking has been shaped by two great streams of thought and philosophy. One originating in Greece drew people into the outside world. This in turn led to exploration, advances in science and technology and all that. The other stream of thought originated in ancient India, and sought to take man deep inwards. As scientist David Bohm remarks, the Western Approach is analytic and tries to understand the whole by breaking it into parts. The Eastern Approach, by which is meant really the Indian Approach, is holistic. Vivekananda says that what modern society needs is a good and practical blend of the two schools of thought. Let us now see how Swami describes this blend in terms of what may be called education and educare.

Education is the name given to the knowledge that one acquires about the external world. This knowledge is acquired, among other things, through our senses. Educare, on the other hand, relates to the knowledge about our Inner world. This knowledge has already been deposited in our Heart by a loving and merciful God. This treasure is His gift to us. It has been given to each and every individual, WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION.

Swami describes education and educare as follows. He says:

EDUCATION: MIND SHAPED BY EXTERNAL FORCES.

EDUCARE: MIND SHAPED BY THE DIVINE SOURCE WITHIN.

IN THE CASE OF EDUCATION,

ACTION IS INFLUENCED AND DETERMINED SOLELY BY THE EXTERNAL WORLD.

IF EDUCARE IS THE FOUNDATION, THE INTERNAL FORCE GENERATED BY SATHYA, DHARMA AND PREMA ALONE DETERMINES THE ACTIONS PERFORMED IN THE EXTERNAL WORLD.

EDUCATION: SURVIVAL PHILOSOPHY [DESTROY OPPOSITION, BEAT THE COMPETITION, ETC.]

EDUCARE: DIVINE PHILOSOPHY [LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL].

FINALLY, EDUCATION IS FOR THE HEAD, AND EDUCARE IS FOR THE HEART!

Education and Educare

Incidentally, the word *educare* has its origin from the Latin word 'educare' [pronounced edukare], meaning, to bring out or develop from latent or potential existence. On our context, it means bringing out the Divinity latent in the person.

The question arises: "Why suddenly EDUCARE? Why was it not there before?" The answer is the following: Earlier, the forces related to educare were working silently, implicitly and unobtrusively. There was morality in the home, morality in the school, morality in the work-place, and finally, morality in the community also. Today, the situation has changed completely. God has been put on the back burner so to speak. Therefore, an entirely different strategy and set of priorities are called for. We have to first invoke God strongly and then only move on to other matters and business.

Just look at the recent happenings in the Corporate sector for example. All of a sudden, one is hearing of scam after scam, and how greedy executives at the top have been taking the public for one huge ride and swindling money, millions of dollars if not billions. Commenting on this spate of corporate fraud, one pained teacher of a business school asked, "Whatever happened to old-fashioned ideas of honesty and integrity?" They got thrown out because people thought they were old-fashioned that is what happened! Who wants honesty when one has to compete severely in order to survive?

The recent massive collapse of corporate morality is enough to drive home the importance of morality in Society. And how does morality come about in a Society? Swami has the answer. He says first there must be Love for God; next there must be fear of sin. Given these two, morality would automatically prevail in Society. That is what was happening all

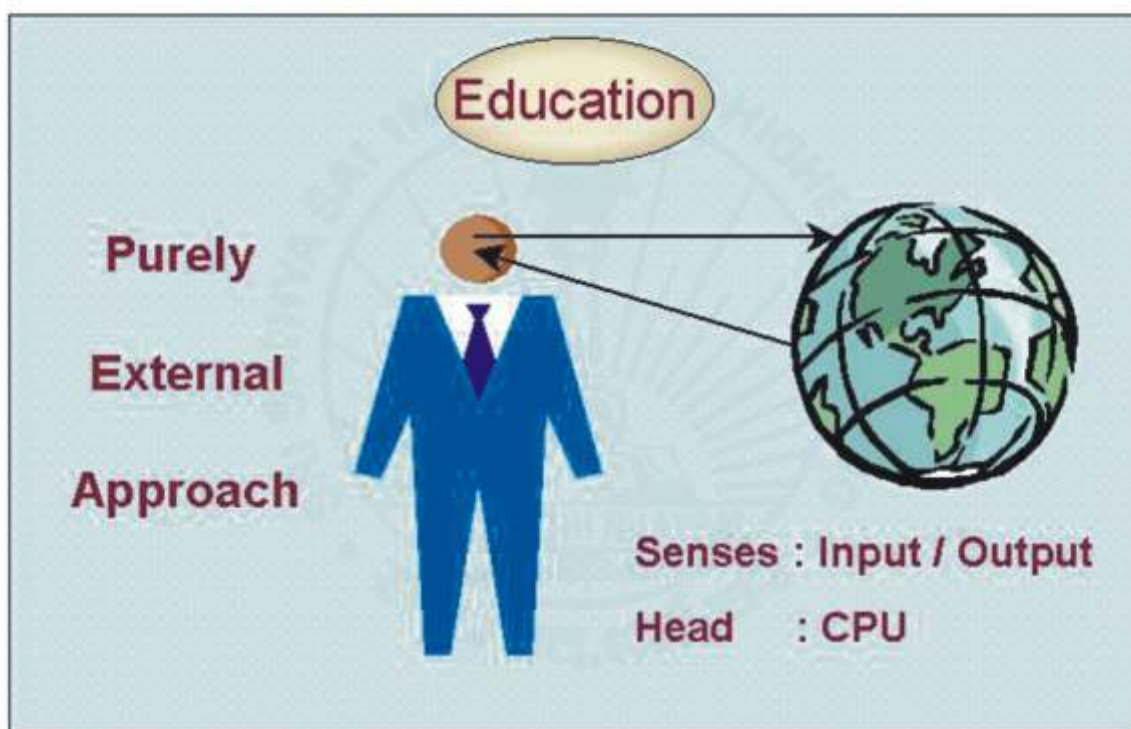
over the world till even the middle of the 20th century. Then technology began to run away, consumerism began to swell, and greed began to grow without limits. Given all these factors, the crash was inevitable.

The tragedy is that even now, the lessons are NOT being learnt. Leaders warn that CEOs must be honest. Legislatures pass bills calling for severe penalties for fraud. But can lectures and acts of parliaments produce honesty? Morality comes from within! And it has to be fostered the way Swami has indicated.

How many schools have time set apart for moral instruction? Do the press and TV bother to keep out undesirable news? Do they make any effort to publicise honesty? No; the standard argument is that honesty is not 'news' whereas robbery, crime, scandals, etc., are.

This raises a fundamental issue of *rights versus responsibility*. Once upon a time, responsibility was considered over-riding but these days everyone is concerned more about rights than about responsibility. Practical Dharma is all about discharging one's responsibility. How can people be expected to behave in a responsible manner

EDUCATION vs EDUCARE



Education and Educare

when *Dharma* is hardly ever mentioned, while rights are stressed all the time? In this respect, the media has become a law unto itself.

Let us go back to education versus educare and see how the two together can lead to balance in daily life. Swami says that a human being is a combination of the body, the Mind and the *Atma* he is thus an MBA complex! Here, we shall use the words *Atma*, Heart, and Soul interchangeably. A person who ignores the *Atma*/Soul would be guided entirely by his body and his Mind. The senses would feed information about the external world to the person concerned, and the person would react to situations based entirely on the dictates of his senses and the impressions coded into his mind/brain. This would be true of even a highly-educated person who is totally Heartless. His actions and decisions would never show even the slightest trace of any compassion. He would always be guided by selfishness and self-interest. The two words that Baba often uses in this context are: *SWAARTHAM* [selfishness] and *SWAPRAYOJANAM* [self-interest].

To make matters explicit, let us consider a doctor. Let us say that this person knows nothing about Inner Divinity, human values, etc. He is very intelligent, has passed with laurels from the medical school, and is a great surgeon. He is shaped entirely by the external world. He is very proud of his skill, is keen on earning name and fame, and of course also a lot of money. Such a doctor would never think of going near a patient who cannot afford his fees. This is not an imaginary scenario. There are innumerable examples of such doctors these days. This is what happens when a person receives only education and has zero exposure to educare. On the other hand, there are many doctors for whom saving a life is more important than making money. These are people guided by their Heart rather than their head.

In short, the external world applies a force on man, compelling him to conform, keep up with the Joneses, etc. The Heart, on the other hand, directs man's attention to the SOURCE as Swami puts it, and arouses feeling of compassion etc.

In a good man, the Source overwhelms the Force [due to the external world]!

The EHV program avidly promoted by the Organisation is nothing but a balanced diet of educare plus education. It is important that educare is seamlessly blended with education, and is not offered as an appendage stuck with tape as an after-thought! A few examples are in order.

Say there is a course on molecular biology. The technical part of the course would naturally deal with genes and all that. But along with all that scientific stuff, the students must also be given a strong dose of the ethical issues involved in genetic engineering, cloning, etc.

Say there is a course on the environment. The students must be taught not only about the physics and chemistry of the biosphere, but also about the dangers to it thanks to pollution etc. Further, there must be special stress on how all this can be avoided by curbing desires, and resorting to a model of sustainable living and development.

In every sphere of human endeavour it is necessary to temper worldly knowledge with spiritual overtones. Swami often states this in terms of two words: *NIVRITTI MARG* and *PRAVRITTI MARG*. The former means the spiritual path and the latter means the worldly path. Swami adds: "When you walk, you use both feet and not just one. It must be the same in life. You walk concurrently in the spiritual and worldly paths. It means that you perform worldly actions like teaching, nursing, cooking, piloting an

aircraft, or whatever. But spiritualise all your actions by thinking of God and offering it to Him". This is what is meant by hands in Society and head in the forest.

You may get a salary for the job you are doing for example as a teacher. But do not do the job thinking of the salary and promotions. Do your best as a teacher with the good of society in your heart. That would amount to achieving a good blend of education and educare.

Shakespeare talks of tempering justice with mercy. The judge administers justice based on his legal training that is education. But the feeling of mercy flows from the Heart that is educare!

ADDITIONAL NOTES RELATING TO THE ABOVE

The Mind is the seat of all knowledge.

The Mind has two pipelines for receiving inputs:

One input is connected to the external world. It brings knowledge about the world. The other input is connected to the Heart; it brings feelings from the Inside.

The two pipelines are:

Study carefully the comparison between Educare and education as given in the Guide Book. Additional comparison is presented below:

EDUCATION	EDUCARE
SOURCE	World
PHILOSOPHY	Survival & upmanship
ATTITUDE	Greed & aggression
APPROACH	Competition
MANIFESTATION	Selfish grabbing
	Heart
	Harmony with Creation
	Love & compassion
	Co-operation
	Selfless service

Education and Educare

●In earlier times, it was 1) LOVE FOR GOD, and 2) FEAR OF SIN. These automatically lead to MORALITY in Society.

●On account of his love for God, the individual was moral. Individual morality then led to community morality.

●In olden days, people in all societies and communities believed in being honest, helping each other, etc.

●Thus, there was morality in the home, in the school, in the workplace and in the community. Hence, there was no special need to EXPLICITLY invoke Educare.

●Fifty years ago, normal education, i.e., subjects like history, geography, economics, etc., were taught without any special reference to morality. There was no need to, because morality was a part of the general ambience. In other words, Educare was built into daily life, and no special reference to it was necessary.

●Lord Nelson said: "England expects every man to do his duty." Shakespeare said, "Above all to thine own Self be true!" Thus, truth and duty with sacrifice were the accepted norms.

Prior to the advent of the media on a large scale, in every house, the children listened to the advice of their parents and conducted themselves properly. When children got together, each of them brought with them a moral armour. And together, they upheld morality.

●Today, things are very different, as the graphic below shows.

●Parents may advise their children but when boys and girls get together, they are lured by the attractions paraded by the media. The media has thus become a very powerful disturbing force.

●First it was the books and the magazines that pandered to a low taste. But then, not everybody could read. Then came the movies, and even the illiterate could be easily misled to the path of bad ways. But

one could not see movies all the time, and that was a bit of saving grace. Now there is the TV which spread poison all 24 hours. That is why Baba refers to Television as **TELEVISHAM** *visham* means poison!

True there are some good programs but which parent finds the time to carefully steer his or her children through the nonsense that pours out from the idiot box?

●Thanks to all this, God has been consigned to the "back burner" as they say. Agnosticism and atheism are the fashions of the day, with scientists and "intellectuals" leading the pack. The propaganda often go like this:

SCIENTIST: There is no God!

POLITICIAN: Political power is the greatest thing; it gives both power of patronage and leverage.

BUSINESSMAN: Money is the ultimate power. With money, one can buy anything!

BEAUTY QUEEN: Glamour is the greatest thing.

ROCK STAR: Being a hero is the greatest thing!

MEDIA: Have a ball! Live like there is no tomorrow! Buy! Keep buying all the time! Consume without limit! Life is meant to experience excitement.

●This kind of barrage makes humans slaves to the six famous enemies that are worse than deadly serpents. They are: **KAMA** [desires of various kinds, including lust], **KRODHA** [anger], **LOBHA** [greed and miserliness], **MOHA** [attachment], **MADA** [pride and arrogance] and **MATSARYA** [jealousy]. To these six may be added two more: **AHAMKARAM** [ego], and **MAMAKARAM** [sense of mine, or possessiveness].

●Man is deluded into welcoming these serpents as honoured guests! Speaking once to students, Swami said that man

welcomes these demons and, extending hospitality, asks, "What would you like to drink? Tea or coffee?" That is how gullible we are made by external propaganda.

●Young people are all the time subjected to a barrage of falsehood. But no one has the time or the patience to guide them and correct them, both parents and teachers.

●The net result is that a wall is built on the road from the Heart to the Mind.

●When *Buddhi* is blocked and not allowed to play its role, then man is entirely under the control of external forces.

●In today's Society, God has been put on the back burner. The wall of ignorance built up by vested interests must be smashed like the Berlin Wall!

●The approach needed today is:

WE MUST GET BACK TO GOD. THE ALMIGHTY MUST BE IN POSITION NUMBER ONE.

MANKIND MUST FURTHER DEVELOP LOVE FOR GOD.

PEOPLE MUST BE MADE TO REALISE THAT EVERYTHING COMES FROM GOD THE EARTH, THE SKY, THE RIVERS, THE OCEAN, THE LIGHT, THE HEAT, ETC.

AND THE PRIORITIES MUST BE AS SWAMI SAYS: 1) Love for God, 2) Fear of sin, and 3) the restoration of morality in Society.

●Swami says: **MAN = BODY + MIND + ATMA**; in other words, he is an **MBA**! Man must go through life in such a manner that all these three entities are in harmonious balance.

●However, today's lifestyle is such that man tends to totally ignore the *Atma*.

Now the Mind has two major constituents, the lower Mind that looks outwards [drawn there by the senses], and the Higher Mind that looks Inwards, i.e., towards the Heart or the Conscience.

Education and Educare

within, that goes on throughout life.

●Lower Mind + Body [inclusive of the senses] External world. Swami refers to this pathway as *Pravritti Marg* or the Outward Path. The Higher Mind [which is essentially the *Buddhi*], on the other hand, draws one to the Heart. Swami refers to the Inward Path as *Nivritti Marg*.

●The Inner Path is more important than the Outward Path. In today's parlance, INNERNET is more important than the INTERNET!

●At the same time, Swami is quite realistic. He says that since we live in the world, we cannot ignore the outer world and live like a recluse. What is required is a balance. He says that when we walk we use both feet; in the same way, we must go through life keeping both the Outer and the Inner paths in view. Swami gives beautiful expression to this idea in *Summer Showers in Brindavan*, 2000, p. 131.

●In other words, live in the external world but be guided from within.

●The essence of this chapter is:

●Education is incomplete unless based on fundamental values [Truth, etc.].

●The true end of education is not a prosperous career but BLEMISHLESS CHARACTER. As Baba often reminds us, if character is lost, everything is lost.

●Without character, education can produce only clever devils!

●Eminent scientist Victor Weisskopf says: "[Scientific] knowledge without compassion is inhuman. On the other hand, compassion without knowledge is ineffective."

●Amplify the statement of Weisskopf, especially with some good examples.

●Important: Educare should not be interpreted as something intended merely for the classroom. Just as education does not mean learning merely in the classroom, so also, educare is a continuous process of drawing out from

●Let us say there is a tribal living in a forest. Just by observing, he picks up a lot of information about his environment. He then codifies this information into his brain, forms patterns of knowledge, and draws upon this resource in times of need. Thus it is that tribals know how to read footmarks of animals, how to distinguish between poisonous and non-poisonous plants, where and how to hunt, etc. All this comes from self-training and self-education, via his parents, friends etc.

●In the same way, long before the child enters school, it learns a lot from its mother by watching and observing. In fact, the child learns an enormous amount, including a language! It would be a good idea to expose the child to values, and learn intuitively about educare, as indeed used to be done in the olden days. How?

●Basically, the parents must unobtrusively set an example. For example, the parents must always be smiling, especially when speaking to the child. They must never fight with each other, especially in the presence of the child. They must speak politely to all so that the child makes politeness a way of life. And so on.

●The important point to note is that intrinsically, no one is bad to start with; people only go bad in the interim. Hence, right from an early age, the child must be encouraged to bring out the latent godness in every possible way; that really is what educare is all about. It is not something that is taught. The parent/teacher merely facilitates the emergence of what is already within.

●Senses drag the Mind to the outer world. That is but natural. However, in today's environment, the Mind can become an easy prey to the dangerous attractions in the of the external world, most of which are nothing but deadly poison though heavily sugar-coated. So there must be a counter force. That necessarily has to come from within, and the required training for that must start early.

POINTS TO PONDER OVER

●Construct examples like that of the doctor given above, relating to various professions/vocations like law, government administration, military service, business, industry, etc. In each case see what modification educare can bring about.

●Just imagine how different the world would be if people were guided in their decisions not merely by their educational training but also by the voice from the Heart!

●Why is it that people refuse to listen to their Heart? Duryodhana, the chief villain of Mahabharata once said, "I know very well what is right and *Dharma*, but I simply cannot get myself to follow it!" How come? This is an important point because in today's world, it is often the brilliant people who are responsible for many of the ills that one sees in Society. In fact, one educator lamented, "Today's universities produce only clever devils!" Think it over.

●Finally, it is good to bear in mind the following:

To see diversity in Unity is demonic.
To be in harmony with diversity is human.
To see Unity is diversity is Divine.

Modern education pulls one to the level of the demon. Educare, on the other hand, raises one to the level of the Divine.

ASSIGNMENTS

●Someone tells you that today's education is great and produces great achievers, etc. How would you try to convince this person that all is not well with modern education? [Points you might consider discussing: Growth of greed and excessive competition, life style accelerated far beyond body's physical capacity to withstand today's speed, enormous growth in mental stress and consequent rise in depression, decline of quality of life consequent to excessive emphasis on the standard of living, daring to tamper with evolution itself and play God....]

●Compile quotes of Swami that you think are relevant to this chapter.

Punkahwala



It was the hour when man, bird and beast were still, wrapped in sleep. Everything had melted in the thick darkness. The train was speeding along like a spangled snake, along the Sub Himalayan jungle track.

Dr. R turned in bed and opened his eyes, for there was a strange smell in the compartment, something burning, he thought! The fan was emitting sparks, like a Catherine Wheel! There was no one else in the coach, except his wife who was fast asleep. There was no time even to think out a plan. He put out his hand and fumbled with the switch, but, good God, it was out of order! The fan could not be stopped. It had to burn like that! and perhaps, set the compartment on fire!

Pull the alarm chain? But, that will be a big sensation; it would involve delay, for the guard has to investigate, come, diagnose, prescribe, administer the treatment etc. The sparks increased ; the smell smote the nose.

“Baba! O Baba, save us, O Baba!” The prayer automatically rose from his heart, for Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was his never failing succour. The train slowed down just a wee bit. Was it a station they were coming to? Well then, when it halted, he could wake the wife and both could get down and tell the guard.

He rose and peeped into the darkness, far out into the oncoming stage. Suddenly he saw a man clinging to his door holding fast to the handle. How could have possibly hopped up the running train in that forest blackness? A nascent fire, a sneaking thief -what was he to do?

The man said, “I am a punkahwala; come to repair the fan!” He looked a seasoned mechanic; he had a screw driver in his hand; he wore a kakhi shirt and drawers; he smiled in an appealing way. So, the doctor opened the door and let him in. The train gained speed. The wife too woke. It was all so easy for his skilfull hands; a few turns of the screw and tap or two at the proper place; the sparks ceased , the fan whirled, swift and safe. He was a silent, skilful hand. He then sat crouching in a corner and asked the doctor to lie down and sleep. His voice was so sweet, his kindness was so overpowering that the doctor lost all fear and suspicion. He laid himself down and turned away from him and dozed.

But, the wife had her own fears. She had read and heard of robberies in running trains of even worst calamities and so, she had half an eye open to watch the stranger's slightest movement. And, even while her eye was watching him, he disappeared!!

A week later, they get a letter from Baba at Puttaparthi, “How did you like my Punkah repair?”

Dr.R. himself narrated this wonderful incident when he came for Mahasivarathri to Puttaparthi.

“This is My Duty; when a call comes out of distress and devotion, I hasten to the rescue” , Baba said. And sure enough, Baba kept His word!

(from the Sanathana Sarathi , October 1961)

'What is the Centre of your Life?'

Dear Young Brothers and Sisters,

In this edition of Tender Hearts, we bring to you a very inspiring talk given in Swami's Presence by a young student, in April 2003. He asks us.....

Let me begin by telling you a little story, a story of a tree. This species of tree is supposed to be the largest and the highest in the plant kingdom. It is called the Giant Redwood tree. This tree grows in certain parts of the North American continent. This tree reaches the height of over a hundred feet. Its girth is expansive, its strength is immense. In the bark of the tree is a certain substance called tannin that gives it the red colour. Also, it gives the tree a lot more security. Fire cannot burn this tree, nor can water wet it.

This tree is like each and every one of us in our youth - strong and invincible. But what brings the downfall of this tree? This tree grows higher and higher. Thereafter, it falls down because it cannot bear its own weight. Why? The tree has shallow roots. No matter what we are in our lives, no matter how strong, young and powerful we are, if our roots are not deep enough, we will fall. Our Lord said this morning that youth is the foundation of life. If this foundation is not strong enough, if it does not go deep enough, the building of our life will collapse when even a small earth-shake strikes.

Where should we base this foundation of our lives? Generally we seek an education as the base of this foundation. We think that education will give us knowledge, wisdom and intelligence so that the foundation of our lives is strong, so that we will be strong.

It was when we were primary school students in Swami's school. One day Swami came to our school and said, "Boys! The education for which you have come here is like *idli* and all that I teach you is like *chutney*." One of the boys remarked, "Swami, *idli* is supposed to be the main dish and *chutney* is only the side dish. Your Love, Your teachings are like the *idli* and the worldly



Are your roots deep and Strong

education is like *chutney*." To this Swami replied, "Oh! No!" But the boys argued, "Swami, you are more important to us. You are like the *idli*, the world is like the *chutney*." After some time, Swami looked at us with a smile and said, "See, without the *chutney*, *idli* is bland, tasteless and useless." Without Swami's Love, without His teachings, without Swami in our lives, our lives are bland and useless.

Let us ask ourselves, "What will be

our lives without Swami?" Our roots will be as shallow as those of the red wood tree. Any breeze will blow us down, even a small gust of wind will bring us down to the earth.

In our lives, at this age, we always seek a good piece of earth where we can strike our roots, we seek a centre of our lives. Many a time, the youngsters outside choose a wrong centre for their lives.

I'll give you a small exercise. Just close your eyes and think for yourselves. What is the thing that drives you every day? Who is the person that influences every action of yours? Are our parents the centre of our lives? Or are our friends the centre of our lives? Please remember, God is our only true friend. In other words, what should be the centre of our lives? We need a centre that is the strongest. We need Sai as the centre of our lives.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are very lucky. We are a generation on this earth blessed with a very rare opportunity. Where has been an *Avathar* so easily accessible to the millions, especially to people like us? If we make Him the centre of our lives, our lives will acquire some value.

It was a day in Kodaikanal. Swami asked me, "Are you ready to do whatever I say?"

"Yes Swami, I am ready," I replied.

With a smile, Swami said, "All right, are you sure?"

'What is the Centre of your Life?'

I said, "Sure. Swami, I will do whatever You say."

"Then go to the terrace and jump down," said the Lord.

I was stunned. Swami had asked me to do something which I would never do in my senses. I looked into Swami's eyes, I had given my word to Swami, I had to do whatever He commanded me.

I got up and made a dash to the stairs. But before I could get to the foot of the stairs, Swami grabbed me in His arms. He looked at me and said, "*Bangaru*, I will never ask you to do such a thing. Even if you jump down, before you reach the ground, I will come with My arms to catch you."

Dear brothers and sisters, we need a centre that will never let go of us. We need a centre whom we will never let go of. The incident did not stop there. The next day we were serving breakfast in the dining hall. That day, the item for breakfast was brinjal rice. Swami came to

me with His mysterious smile and asked,

"Are you ready to do whatever I say?"

This time, I was silent. I didn't have the courage to speak out.

"I won't ask you to jump from the terrace, will you do whatever I say?"

I said, "Swami, I will." The events of the previous evening had given me much confidence.

Swami looked at me, pointed to the bucket of brinjal-rice kept there and said, "Sit down and eat the entire bucket of brinjal-rice." Brinjal was not exactly my favourite vegetable. I looked pleadingly at Swami. Swami smiled, everyone around had a hearty laugh. Then He stopped. The *chutney* was being added to my breakfast when He said, "*Bangaru*, if you want to make Swami happy, you need not jump from the terrace or eat buckets of brinjal-rice. You need not do anything great. Just be good....

Just be good... That's all I want from you."

If we have such a centre that will hold us so strong, that will inspire so much of goodness and godliness in us, do we need to ask for anything more?

We all believe in the law of *Karma* and the doctrine of rebirth. We have been here many times before. We have messed up all our previous births, that is why we are here again. This is one chance when we can live differently. We might have had different centres in our lives previously - money, power or anything of

that sort. But we are given a chance again, just to live correctly. This time, God is here with us, to teach us how to lead our lives. Is it not prudent on our part to go on to Him, to make Him the centre of our lives, to make this the last life which we will live gloriously to the end, doing His work, being inspired by His teachings, living our



Make Him Your Centre

lives for Sai and making Sai's message our lives?

The opportunity is our's. The Lord is gifting Himself to us. He is standing with open arms saying, "Come, my children, Be a part of My Mission. Make your life different." Whatever we do in His Name is for ourselves so that our lives will become more worthwhile.

Make Sai the centre of your lives. We have all come here for a task and our Lord is ready to give Himself to us. Let us seize this opportunity, let us mould our lives into something which God will feel proud about.

Jai Sairam

Promoting Values and Ethics: Vice Chancellors' Conference at Prasanthi Nilayam

OCTOBER 28th - 30th, 2003



The Conference

In the year of its Golden Jubilee celebrations (2002-2003) the University Grants Commission has, among other things, chosen to focus its attention on a review and restructuring of higher education in the country. One of the major issues that has very appropriately been taken up for serious deliberations and subsequently a concrete plan of action, has been the one relating to the introduction of human values and ethics in our higher educational system. The University Grants commission (UGC) has shown wisdom by deciding to begin such deliberations at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL). It is by now widely recognised that this institution stands uniquely distinguished for incorporating human values as an integral component of its system of education. The exact form of this first step in tackling the world wide problem of erosion in human values and a growing distance between the inculcation of ethical values and

educational processes was the Vice Chancellors' seminar, held at the SSSIHL with the Divine Blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba during Tuesday, October 28th through Thursday, October 30th, 2003. The overall theme of the seminar was "Promoting Value Education and Ethics". The seminar was inaugurated by Bhagawan in the morning on 28th October with His Divine Discourse which created the most appropriate ambience for further deliberations.

The seminar was attended by Prof. Arun Nigavekar, Chairman, UGC, who gave the keynote address in the first business session, Justice Ranganath Misra, formerly Chief Justice of India and Chairman, National Human Rights commission, Justice Malmath, former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, Prof. V.S. Prasad, Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Vice-Chancellors of 18 reputed

Promoting Values and Ethics: Vice Chancellors' Conference at Prasanthi Nilayam



The Vice Chancellors arrive

universities in India, the present Vice Chancellor of the SSSIHL, Sri S V Giri and his predecessor, Prof. G. Venkataraman, senior officials of the UGC and Higher Education Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh. Notably, the participating Vice-Chancellors represented women's universities, universities of distance education, deemed universities, agricultural universities, central and state universities spread across the length and breadth of India.

On the morning of 28th, Sri S.V.Giri started the proceedings with his address where he touched upon the concept of integral education at the SSSIHL which incorporates values in all aspects of learning.

After Sri S V Giri, Prof. G. Venkataraman, former Vice-chancellor of the SSSIHL addressed the audience on the crisis facing modern education and how to overcome it. He said that the power of Morality was greater than any other power and that one need not feel diffident in talking about it and practicing it. The next speaker was Sri Arun Nigavekar, Chairman of UGC. He pointed out the inadequacy of mere Higher education and stressed the need for Values and Ethics. Sri Ranganath Misra, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, speaking on the occasion agreed with the earlier speakers on the importance of values in education, right from the primary school level and prayed for the Grace of Bhagawan in bringing

about this transformation.

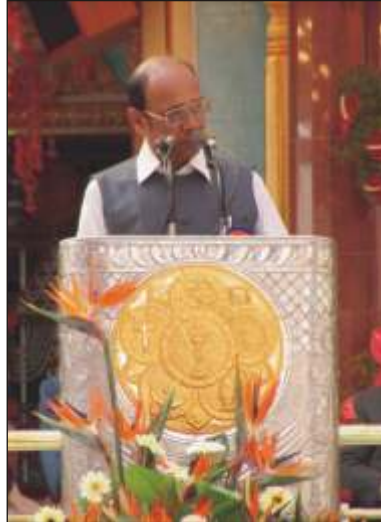
Giving his Divine inaugural address, Bhagawan said that the most important of all values is love and that the fundamental knowledge lies in asking oneself 'who am I?'. He said that contrary to popular belief spirituality is easy and one just needed to have faith to start with.

The deliberations of the seminar were spread over seven business sessions in addition to the inaugural session on 28th October morning. Various themes related to the main topic were discussed. They included: Policy Frame work and operational model, An integral approach to education and educational philosophy, Science technology and value inculcation, management education and value orientation, service orientation and responsible citizenship etc...

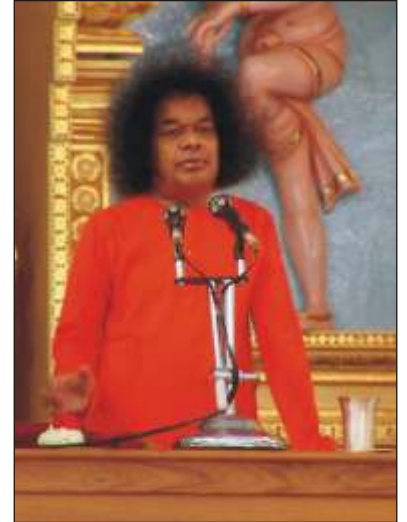
Every evening, all the delegates of the conference would assemble in the Sai Kulwanth hall in the Divine presence when the summary of the day's deliberations would be read out to the vast gathering. Also, students of the SSSIHL spoke on how because of the Divine Guidance of Bhagawan, their revered Chancellor, they could internalize and practise the concepts of integral value education. They spoke in Hindi, English, Telugu and even in Sanskrit! The delegates were thrilled with the splendid oratory of the students, who spoke full of feelings from the heart.

Promoting Values and Ethics: Vice Chancellors' Conference at Prasanthi Nilayam

On the evening of 30th October, the concluding day of the seminar, all the delegates once again assembled in the Kulwanth hall in the Divine Presence. Prof.V.S.Prasad, The director of NAAC, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, placed before Bhagavan the recommendations emerging out of the seminar deliberations. All the delegates felt that imparting human values in higher education was the need of the hour and came up with various suggestions on how to do it. Above all, they were unanimous in their appreciation of the SSSIHL and expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for giving them an opportunity to come to be in His Divine Presence. They said that the SSSIHL was a practical and ideal example of successfully imparting value education to students and recommended that it be declared as a 'National Centre for Excellence' in value education.



The UGC Chairman addresses the Gathering



Ask 'who Am I'

Prof. Jaya Shankaran, the Vice Chancellor of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Mahavidyalaya summed it up all in his eloquent speech when he said that it is from institutions like SSSIHL, that the country looked forward to future leaders. He said that the only solution of transforming all the 300 Universities was for Bhagavan to take those many multiple forms and guide each one of them personally.

Let us hope and pray to Bhagavan, that by His grace, very soon all the educational institutions in the country and the entire world would follow the noble example set forth by Him through the SSSIHL and make the world a happy and a peaceful place.



The Chancellor of the Universe with the Vcs

Glory of God

I derive great pleasure from watching wild animals in their own habitat. Their movements, their relations with others of their own kind, their free, uninhibited lives are very attractive to behold. They do not grieve, lamenting their misfortune, comparing their fate with other denizens of the forest. They do not plan or prepare to earn positions of power and authority over other animals. They are not eager to accumulate possessions that are superfluous.

-----Baba



Lessons Learnt In (Re)Morse Code



Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse code operator.

Answering an advertisement in the newspaper, he went to the office address listed. He entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until summoned to enter the Manager's office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, he stood up, crossed the room to the of the manager's office and walked right in. Naturally, the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They assumed that the young man who had gone into the office had made a mistake, and he would be ineligible.

Within a few minutes, however the manager escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, *"Gentleman, thank you very much/or coming but the job has been filled."*

The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, *"Wait a minute, I don't understand! He was the last to come in, and we never got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"*

The manager said, *"I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This youngman did. The job is his."*

Life has its own subtle ways of whispering wisdom, pre-empting opportunities, echoing answers, directing courses. Who said, *"The world outside is tough"*. It is only challenging. Live in awareness, else we will miss it all.

(from Kan Sai Light, volume 111, July October 2003)

Hospital Corner

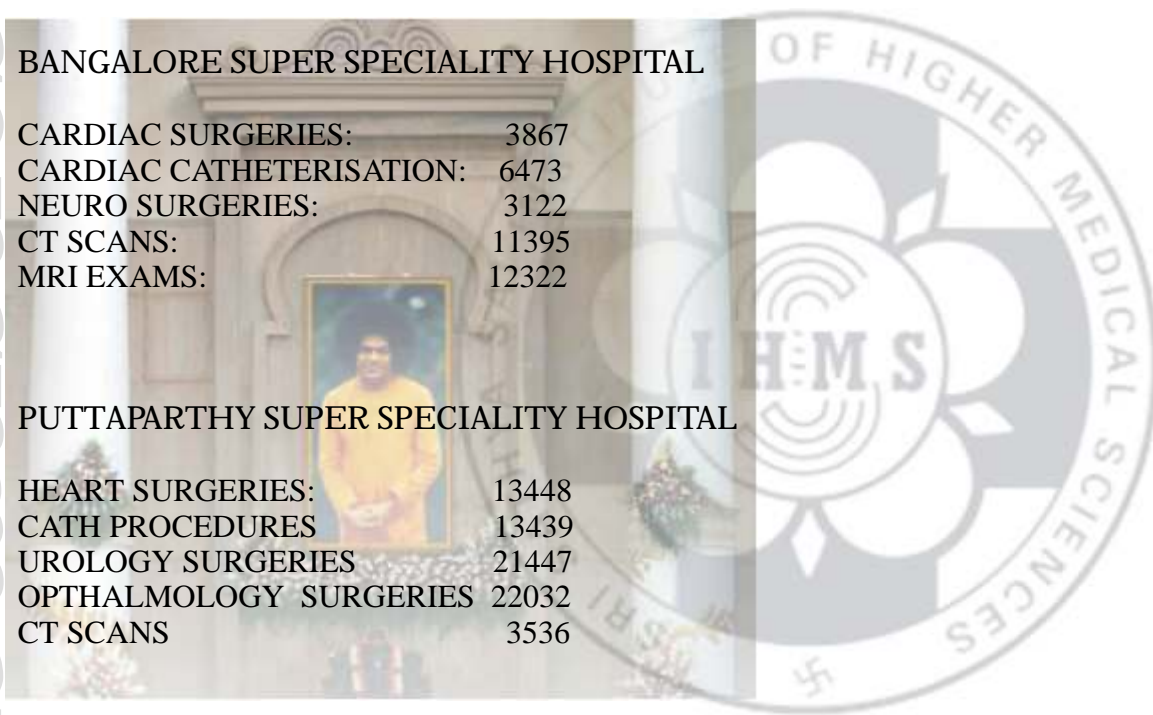
BANGALORE SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL

CARDIAC SURGERIES:	3867
CARDIAC CATHETERISATION:	6473
NEURO SURGERIES:	3122
CT SCANS:	11395
MRI EXAMS:	12322

PUTTAPARTHY SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL

HEART SURGERIES:	13448
CATH PROCEDURES	13439
UROLOGY SURGERIES	21447
OPHTHALMOLOGY SURGERIES	22032
CT SCANS	3536

Statistics



Touching thousands of Hearts...

(continued from the October 15th Issue)

.....One day, even the Super Speciality Hospital was covered. One may wonder why. After all, the people in the Hospital residential area are not poor. The reason is simple. The Hospital came within in the zone of a particular village in that area, and Swami's instructions were: "Distribute Prasadam to one and all, making no distinction between the haves and the have-nots." Swami also drew special attention to outlying houses, some of which were quite some distance away from the main road. Thus, when Mr.Chiranjeevi Rao came on his monitoring circuit, he asked the boys serving in that area, "Did you go to a house that is one kilometre away and standing all by itself?" The boys replied, "Yes sir, we did." Later, passing by the Sri Sathya Sai Airport, Mr. Rao spotted a group of people repairing the road in preparation for the Seventy-fifth Birthday. He stopped the car to check whether they too had received Swami's Prasadam.

The distribution of clothes to the destitute was handled somewhat differently. On account of various operational problems, this was invariably done at a central place in the village; if a school was available, then it was in the school compound. The eligible persons were brought together with the help of village elders and village officials [where available]. Before the distribution commenced, there would be a few Bhajans and/or a prayer. After this, the senior devotees in Swami's distribution party would be invited to give away the clothes and the food. Considering the prevailing levels of poverty, distribution of clothes was no easy task. However, by Baba's Grace, everything always went off smoothly.

The village visits highlighted many important facts. First of course was the extent and the depth of the poverty. It was heart-rending to see old and infirm people being even carried so that they might receive Swami's Prasadam. Those who had no human help, literally dragged themselves. For most persons associated with the service project, all this came as an eye-opener. It was difficult to believe that there were such places, barely a few kilometres away from P u t t a p a r t h i . Backward though the villages were, they were relatively clean. Another saving grace

was that there was no cinema, which mercifully kept out the garish cinema-posters that disfigure walls in the towns. Also, no TV! This was a real boon one might say! No wonder the villages still retained their old-world character that Swami always speaks so highly about. The schools, where they existed, were neatly maintained though obviously lacking in facilities. In every place, as per Swami's instructions, food and laddus were distributed also to the school children. It was heart-warming to see Swami's sayings and teachings prominently displayed in many schools.

Midway through the service, the girl students of the Institute and other lady devotees made a prayer to Baba: "Swami, what about us? Why can't we also go to the villages and serve instead of just packing the food here?" Swami immediately granted them their wish and asked them to do service the following day in Bukkapatnam the neighbouring town, to which, as young Sathya, He had to walk everyday in order to attend school. On the appointed day, all the senior women in the Ashram and all the teachers and students of the Anantapur campus climbed into the trucks for a change. The road followed was round the Bukkapatnam tank, covering a distance about twenty kilometres. The short-cut across the fields that young Sathya used to take is about four or five kilometres. That path does not appear to be used any longer, there being other roads.



Service by the Ladies



Reaching out to the neediest

Touching thousands of Hearts...



Distributing Clothes to the Poorest of the Poor

In Bukkapatnam, there was a huge turnout, with people there still feeling a special relationship to Swami. The main distribution centre was the town High School, and most of the girls and senior ladies headed for that spot. The local women had organised a *Bhajan* session, and a small altar had been improvised under the flag-staff of the school. Bukkapatnam turned out to be the biggest distribution assignment faced up to that time but the ladies were more than equal to the task. They not only handled the entire operation with great efficiency and ease but also distributed food to over a thousand teachers and staff of the school. Meanwhile, the recipients of Baba's largesse were so moved that many of them bowed and offered their salutations to Bhagavan's photo before leaving. While all this was going on, Swami sprang a surprise by sending several crates of chilled softdrinks! So, when it was lunchtime, not only did the volunteers have a nice campus with shaded trees all round to sit, relax and eat but also softdrinks to go with the lunch! A real picnic atmosphere prevailed, naturally. Thereafter, everyday Swami would send fruits (apples, bananas, oranges, or whatever) to go along with the lunch.

One of the unseen results of the Service Project was the extraordinary sense of unity and co-operation that it produced amongst the participants. There was an invisible web of unity, Divine Unity, clearly generated and sustained by Swami. There were innumerable opportunities for tempers to flare up, but most remarkably, such a thing never happened even once during the entire duration of the service activity. At four O'clock in the evening when most people were physically worn out, students and staff were ready to press on and do more service if required. Swami says that where enthusiasm, determination to accomplish, intellect, energy, courage and bravery exist, there may be seen the Divine Effulgence. This radiance was patently evident among the participants of the service project, both in young and old and in men as well as women. It was there on all days, from morning to evening. In fact, as the trucks and the tractors rolled in one by one into the Ashram compound in the evening, the boys would roar like a thousand lions: *Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba ki Jai!* [Victory and Glory to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba!].

(to be continued....)

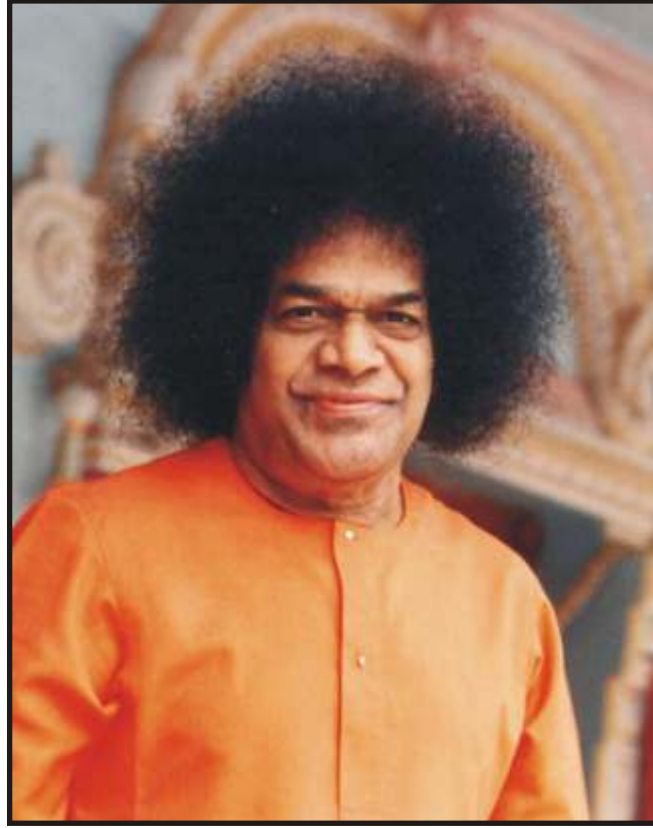


Still enthused after a days work

Darshan In Brindavan

Here are some Darshans during the old Brindavan Days.....





Divinity is present in man like fragrance in a flower, fire in wood and oil in the sesame seed - invisible, but latent. Unaware of this inner truth, men are carried away by the external appearances and consider them as reality. It is essential to realize the basic truth that God is present in the form of human beings. Given this, how will it benefit man if he inflicts pain on the jiva (a human being) and offers worship to Deva (the Divine)?

- Baba



Love All Serve All