

# EDUCATION TODAY

Sathya Sai Education in Human Values

NEWSLETTER

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Human Values in Sathya Sai Schools: First Be, Then Do, Third Tell

## HIGHLIGHTS



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Hope in FIJI

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Living Values:  
a choice of  
**HEART**

*"Each person in the primary school should have a feeling of brotherhood towards everyone. Consult each person who is engaged in the task of developing, nurturing and caring. Let there be harmony in the headmaster's office, the classrooms, the dormitories, the dining room and the playground. And when anyone is asked to do or not to do something, make sure that those persons know the importance and purpose of that action."* Sathya Sai Baba

For more about Sathya Sai Schools, <https://www.sathyasai.org/education/ss-schools>

## EDITORIAL

### Human Values in Sathya Sai Schools: First Be, Then Do, Third Tell



Modeled after the teachings of the Founder of the programme, Sathya Sai Schools around the world strive to provide free education integrating traditional subject matter with spiritual perspective and Human Values. Today under the umbrella of the Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO) there are 39 Sathya Sai Schools in 25 countries outside India. Many of these schools are in their third decade and have themselves become models for other schools in how to implement Educare within local laws and cultures: drawing out from within the student the inherent human values of truth, righteousness, peace, love, and nonviolence as the student progresses through the traditional curriculum. As models for other schools, Sathya Sai Schools could be said to follow the advice of Sri Sathya Sai Baba for individual integrity, **"First be, next do, third tell."** Be—recognize the human

values within yourself. Do—put the human values into practice in your daily life. Tell—only then share your experience with others. Applied to a school-wide setting, Be—teachers, custodians, cooks, managers, principals, board members acknowledge the inherent human values within themselves. Do—they strive to put human values into practice supporting a school learning environment of love. Tell—Sathya Sai Schools view the best way of telling others of the effectiveness of Sai Education is the example set by the transformation of their students to lead a good life. Stories abound of students positively affecting their homes and neighborhoods. On a visit to the Sathya Sai School of Newcastle in South Africa, one parent told us that a large group of neighborhood children gather frequently at her house waiting for her daughter to come home from the school. The children eagerly listen to her daughter explain the value lesson she learned at school that day. People often ask, how do Sathya Sai Schools integrate values into traditional subject matter? Beginning in the early 2000s with

publications of the Institute of Sathya Sai Education of Thailand, examples of lessons integrated with values began to be developed. A current example, a traditional math multiplication story problem might say—In the field there are 30 milking cows. Each cow can provide 25,000 grams of milk per day. How many thousand grams of milk are provided in one day? With values infused—One person can affect 25 people per day by smiling at them. How many can 30 smiling people affect? For more extensive examples, see the new Sathya Sai Schools Lesson Plan Hub <https://www.sathyasai.org/education/ss-schools/lesson-plans-hub>. All Sathya Sai Schools are invited to submit lesson plans, currently the Hub contains plans from South Africa. Socrates is reported to have said that an unexamined life is not worth living. At the school level, like many government or other private schools worldwide, Sathya Sai Schools engage in a self-examina-

tion of their effectiveness. A three-part quality review process guided by teams of educators: Standards, Self-Review, and Accreditation, offers an opportunity for a Sathya Sai School community to reflect on its effectiveness in fostering a learning environment and culture of love which leads to the emergence of human values and excellence in students. Currently in its third cycle, this process encourages the schools to engage in continuous systemic self-evaluation that extends beyond receipt of an Accreditation Certificate. Examples of schools' ongoing self-monitoring for program improvement include the "constant integrated awareness" systemic efforts by the Australia Sai College, and the annual meeting hosted by the Sathya Sai School of Riberão Preto in Brazil in which school alumni reflect on their experiences at the school.

*Tom Scovill*  
EC Board Member

*"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Aristotle*



## CHILDREN LEARN FROM THOSE WHO LOVE THEM

The **Green Nature School** has been operating in the Kaunas district, Lithuania, since September 2018. Several dozen children of all ages attend this private school. It is a school of humanistic spiritual pedagogy. "We try to take into account each child's feelings and emotional expressions and to create an environment that is as conducive as possible to the development of abilities", says Jolanta Lipkevičienė, director of the Green Nature School. To combine secular and spiritual education and to integrate the human values in the curriculum the Five Teaching Techniques of the SSEHV philosophy are being used, for example:

**Inspirational quotations:** "One of the activities is the reading aloud uplifting quotations by the Founder of the SSEHV programme or other empowering role models. The children analyse the quotations and write them on the board. [...] When they discuss the quotations, they tell us the deep insights and lessons they have learnt through them. Adults help them to analyse by giving examples from their lives." (Jolanta).

**Prayers:** to connect to the indwelling higher Self "[I learned] to ask God to help you deal with difficult thoughts." Pupil Vytautė, 6 years old.

**Group activities** such as service to the society allow the children to find a direct way to transfer the understanding of the values into daily life situations and enables them to improve their understanding of the environment.

The pedagogy of SSEHV is done through creating an environment and culture of Love. The teacher has a key role to play by being an example of Love and eliciting the human values through all aspects of education, including the process of learning and the process of teaching, as Jolanta summarizes: "Helping those around you is the way of love."

Learn more about SSEHV at <https://esseinstitute.org/en/philosophy/pedagogy>

## SEEDS OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IN FIJI

The **Drasa Sathya Sai Primary and Kindergarten School in Lautoka (Fiji)** is a model school for its country, and not only for its impressive pass rate. "Our hope is to raise a generation of people who value peace and show love to all", says Mr. Ambika Prasad, Headmaster. Indeed, the school's pedagogy, which focuses on all-round education and the development of character, encourages the students to uphold the human values of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Nonviolence. Morning affirmations start the day and support this practice by fostering introspection and calmness, inspiring them to fill their lives with peace and unity. The universal principles at the basis of the school's method, shared equally by all faiths and cultures, makes it a point for the school to celebrate the different religious festivities emphasizing the same positive messages behind them. Hence, the students, the majority of which come from iTaukei and Christian religion, gain in tolerance, understanding and togetherness. Recognizing the school's efforts and effectiveness, in 2006 and 2012 the European Union facilitated the publishing of two sets of handbooks, respectively for primary and secondary school, with the result of making their hands-on method and teaching strategies known to schools across the country. Along this line, workshops are offered through monthly outreach programmes to interested teachers. It is no wonder that the students do their best to not disappoint their teachers, who strive to help them develop their own moral compass. When needed, their corrective actions are reflective questions: "How would you feel if somebody did the same thing to you?", "How would your parents feel if they knew you did this?", "What does your religion say about this behaviour?", "What if everybody in the world would do that?". Last but not least the school is self-sufficient and the sole thing that it asks from the parents is to love their children.



Extracted from the first of a series of articles on the Drasa Sathya Sai School written for the Fiji Times by the journalist Aisha Azeemah. Permission granted by the author.

## Sunshine over the Balkan Countries

In the town of Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, a series of workshops, referred to as Sunshine School, have touched the heart of the community. The program, which has taken place since 2014, was inspired by the SSEHV pedagogy, and its Educare philosophy, which posits that Character is the end of education and that human values are an intrinsic part of the human being. When Human values are nurtured Character blossoms. At Sunshine School preschoolers and early schooling students practice self-respect and respect for others, thanks to a set of rules which encourage collaboration and good human relations. A series of creative activities, with special attention to storytelling, help the students learn to trust themselves and their deeper, inner perceptions, to respect freedom of thought and feeling, but also discipline, necessary for mastering anything in life, including self-control and inner peace. The workshops are a source of inspiration for the school's teachers, the guest-teachers coming from other institutions in Belgrade, and for parents who are directly or indirectly involved. Together they appreciate how an environment of love can transform both attitude and behaviour, recognizing the need to foster it at home

and in the community in general. In 2016 and 2018 two television broadcasts, "Good to know", and the "Joy of Life", stressed the many merits of the program, making it known to a larger public. During this same period (2012-2019) the enthusiasm of two teachers coming from Belgrade and Sarajevo, trained by the ISSE SE and ESSE Institutes, held a series of intensive workshops for young adults twice yearly. A partnership which has grown into an ongoing collaboration among educators from Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia, and which was particularly enforced with online human values programs offered to children during the COVID pandemic. An extraordinary achievement considering the devastating war and conflict that arose in 1992-1995 among these countries. A testimony of how human values can mend even the most serious and hurtful experiences through inspiring interaction and social uplift, and to how an education in human values is an education to Peace. In this light the SSEHV program is a powerful- and practical- tool to make Peace happen.



### A Prestigious Award for Colombia

On 14th December 2023, the Secretary of Education of Funza (Colombia) awarded "Fundapresai", the foundation that legally represents the **Colegio de Valores Humanos Sathya Sai**, the "Galardón Docente" prize, in the category "Leading Educational Company". This category recognises entrepreneurs, associations and foundations that contribute positively to the educational and pedagogical development of the municipality. The award was presented by Mayor Daniel Bernal and the Secretary of Education Nelsy Yasmín Cajamarca and was received by the teacher Jeimmy González and the secretary Esperanza Ruiz, on behalf of the foundation. This recognition is a breath of fresh and vital air not only for Colombia, but the whole world community. The award ratifies the positive transforming power of the **Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Programme** in the hearts and minds of children, parents and teachers. This recognition is an incentive to move forward towards our common goal.



*Only young men and women are capable of eradicating the evils prevailing in society. If we have virtuous youth, all ills of society can be transformed.*

*Sathya Sai Baba*

Front cover: Croatian youth, SSEHV workshop, 2019



*The Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO) is a spiritual and humanitarian organization that has been active for over 50 years, currently in 114 countries. The SSSIO Education Committee supports and promotes Sathya Sai Education worldwide including 39 Sathya Sai Schools, 28 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education, and programs of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) and Sai Spiritual Education (SSE). For more information please contact: [ec@sssio.org](mailto:ec@sssio.org)*

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