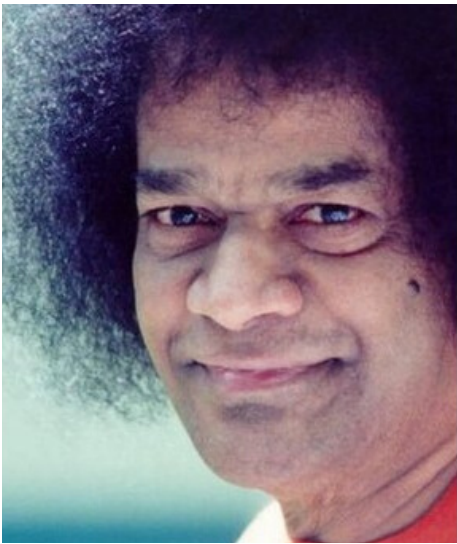


SAI DHARMAM

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA CENTRE OF COOKSVILLE



"THE END OF EDUCATION IS CHARACTER"

How many times have we heard Swami's quote "The end of education is character"? Swami has always said that to truly understand the essence of education and its inner meaning, our character must fall in line with it. I grew up in a household where my parents instilled in me the idea that who I am as a person is just as equally important as my level of education. Alongside my accomplishments in education, my parents also celebrate my success in character. Even though both successes were not celebrated in the same way, they were always marked as an equal goal in life. As a recent high school graduate, I was quite disappointed when I did not receive the traditional graduation that I had

waited 4 years to experience due to COVID-19. What surprised my parents the most was my positivity every time someone would bring up the loss I had experienced; graduating high school without a proper graduation. My parents constantly took note of this and one day they brought it up in conversation. They were so shocked with my positive outlook on the situation that they ended up hosting an at home graduation for my best friends and I. Essentially I would like to emphasize, that though in today's world education itself is extremely important, our character is as equivalently important. As Swami says, the end of education is character.

TRUE EDUCATION EMERGES FROM THE HEART

True knowledge is undiscovered in everyone. It emerges from the spiritual heart, which entails spiritual education. It is becoming a normality that parents want their children to get a post-secondary education that is 'solely job-oriented education'. However, is this education beneficial in more ways than just to take care of our physical needs? Many individuals develop large ego's through their advancement in their education. Swami has said that, "Humility is the hallmark of true education. If a man lacks viveka (discrimination) and vinaya (humility), all his education is of no value". Modern-day education lacks the ability to prepare students to 'turn inward and listen to their inner voice' and engage in self-awareness.



Reference: https://media.radiosai.org/journals/Vol_07/01AUG09/01-ssspeaks.htm

True education is when one gains athma prabodha (athmic knowledge). One should grasp onto the gandha (essence) of all granthas (texts) and not simply the contents of the books. There are three key principles in every human being – Manas (mind), Buddhi (intellect) and Atma (self). "When you understand the principle of love and develop loving relationships, all will become one." Translating your knowledge into action is what speaks more, as it is what you practice that matters. If your actions are not in a principled manner, all your education becomes useless. Everyone should comprehend the principle of unity. Unity leads to purity, which leads to divinity; this is what a true human being strives for. "First, purify your senses and develop unity. Consider everyone as your brothers and sisters, and live in harmony." When one develops love for one another, there will be no room for hatred." The Vedas say, 'Sahara Seersha Purushah ...'; it means that all heads, all eyes, all feet are His. Once you understand the principle of the oneness that is present in all, you can live in tune with the true spirit of brotherhood.

DEVOTEE SPEAKS

Character in simple meaning means, one's own personality. How does one's character come? They are based on systematic and regular manifestation of qualities, habits, and traits. In fact, the character of a person is shaped by instincts. We begin our education with "A" for Apple, "B" for Boy, "C" for Cat, and "D" for Dog. "Today, the educational system, though very expensive and elaborate, has ignored instruction in morals. In the Gurukulas (hermitages) of the past, instruction was provided for right living, spiritual advancement, and moral conduct and behaviour. In those days students were trained to lead lives marked by humility, sense-control, virtue and discipline.

Now, these qualities are not recognizable among them. They are not aware of the means or meaning of sense-control. The purpose of true education should be to shape character that leads to a self liberated from senses, where the mind is the master not the slave of the senses. This education also starts with ABCD where "A" stands for Awareness, "B" for Being, "C" for Character, and "D" for Divine. This education imparts Awareness of the Being which leads to a Character that is Divine. Everyone is a person of character, including the most respected and most despised. However, the ideal character of that person is someone who has a high moral, ethical, strong and good characteristic.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

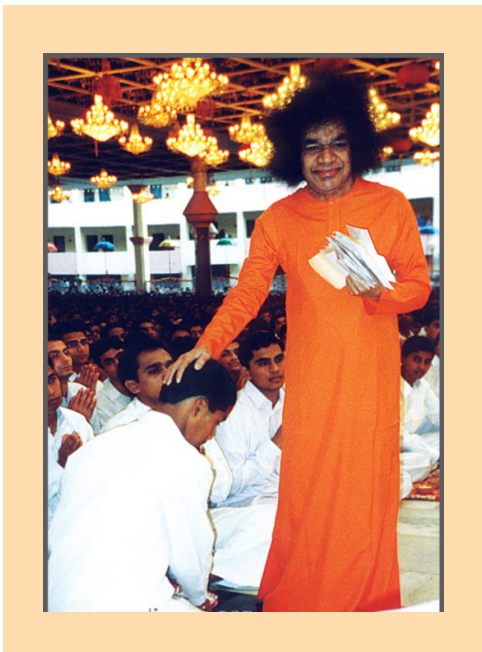
Aum Sri Sairam,

We are all familiar with this quote of our beloved Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, "If wealth is lost, nothing is lost. If health is lost, something is lost. If character is lost, all is lost." Swami further explained by saying, "Humility and character are the hallmark of education." Education does not mean mere acquisition of degrees. True education is knowledge of the Self (Atma) and it emerges from the spiritual heart. A good character is essential for the realisation of the Atma which is the ultimate goal of human life. Many are aware of Baba's often repeated phrase, "the end of education is character" and his emphasizing the importance of living one's life in concert with the five human values truth, right conduct (dharma), peace, love, and nonviolence. Human values and good character are espoused in all Sathya Sai education programmes. If one looks a

little deeper into Sathya Sai Baba's writings and discourses, we come face to face with the deep spiritual foundation of Sai's education philosophy, the spiritual underpinnings of character and human values. Human values make life worthwhile, noble, and excellent. Those qualities lie within the human personality, waiting to be drawn out and translated into action. Drawing out these five inherent human values develops good character. All education institutes under the name of Sathya Sai, regards the development of good character as the aim or end of education.

Reference:

<http://www.sathyasai.org/education/supreme-end-of-education>



DEVOTIONAL WING UPDATES

- Bhajan sessions are happening every Thursday through Zoom from 7:30-8:30pm
- Bhajan practices are happening every 2nd Saturday from 10am-11am
- Study circles are happening every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 10am-11am

Singing bhajans as a group with your family at home is a nine-point code of conduct: "group devotional singing(bhajans),or prayers with family members once a week." With the Covid-19 situation taking place, Cooksville Sai Centre is able to follow the rules and guidelines by hosting bhajans virtually. Make sure that you are taking part and not missing out!

GAME

Education is Character

E	C	R	S	S	P	I	R	I	T	U	A	L	E
E	O	A	W	P	T	D	L	O	B	H	N	T	S
V	G	I	I	O	B	P	D	E	E	D	L	K	R
I	I	S	H	D	R	U	S	E	A	O	M	R	C
T	I	T	T	A	N	D	R	C	O	L	A	O	O
A	I	A	G	B	O	R	I	N	M	E	T	W	M
I	Y	S	N	S	U	K	A	E	S	A	E	D	M
T	T	D	N	I	S	I	E	I	T	D	A	R	I
I	I	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	I	E	M	A	T
N	N	T	D	G	E	C	P	A	E	R	W	H	M
I	U	B	G	E	U	N	I	P	U	S	O	D	E
S	B	E	S	T	R	O	N	G	O	H	R	M	N
A	T	A	K	E	R	I	S	K	S	I	K	B	T
E	L	C	O	N	C	I	O	U	S	P	T	D	T

WORD
 EGOISBAD
 PATIENCE
 BESTRONG
 CONCIOUS
 BOLD
 INITIATIVE
 THOUGHT
 HARDWORK
 UNITY
 LEADERSHIP
 DEED
 TAKERISKS
 SPIRITUAL
 TEAMWORK
 COMMITMENT

BHAJAN

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo Sai Mana Mandir Mey

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo

Koti Soorya Samey Theja Swaroopa

Sai Thum Ho Divya Swaroopa

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo, Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo

Divya Jyothi Jnana Jyothi Prema Jyothi Jalaavo

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo

Meaning:

Sai Baba, illumine my mind. Light up in the temple of my mind a flame (of knowledge) that will glow continuously. You, my Lord, have the effulgence of ten million suns. Make my mind aglow with the flame of divinity, flame of knowledge and the flame of love, and make it glow for ever and ever.