



## Expansion

Swamy said,

**"Children are the crops growing in the fields, to yield the harvest on which the nation has to sustain itself. They are the pillars on which the future of the nation is built. They are the roots of the national tree, which has to give the fruits of Work, Worship and Wisdom to the next generations."**

(10-07-1974).



- Following the promptings of Bhagavan, the mothers gradually changed their attitudes from '**my children**' to '**our children**' treading the path shown by Bhagavan in the journey of 'From I to We' and started Bal Vikas Classes in the villages and in the neighbourhood and started seeing mankind beyond the narrow corridors of home, caste, colour, creed and religion. It was in 1974 that Bhagavan gave a new identity to the teachers of Bal Vikas as '**Gurus**'. It was the beginning of the expansion of Bal Vikas.
- Devotees took up the clarion call of Bhagavan and in one year by 1975, the number of Trained Gurus rose to 3,500 and little over 50,000 children were encouraged to join Bal Vikas. It was also decided to make Easwaramma Day Celebrations as an integral part of the Bal Vikas Programme.
- In the early 1970s a Bal Vikas programme was begun in the United Kingdom. In 1977, Swami's devotees started Bal Vikas in United States of America. The Bal Vikas programme began to spread rapidly to other countries all over the world.. and in 1981, a conference for the overseas teachers was held in Prasanthi Nilayam. It was in this conference, the concept of **Education in Human Values** was introduced. In 1983, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bal Vikas was held in Prasanthi Nilayam. In 1995 at the Sixth World Conference, in order to emphasise the Universality of the Bal Vikas Programme, it was decided to change the name to **Sai Spiritual Education (SSE)** in countries outside of India.
- Bal Vikas classes are designed for children whose parents are primarily devotees of Bhagavan. The core content relates to the Five Universal Human Values of Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non-Violence. In the early 1980s a modification of the Bal Vikas programme was developed for children whose parents were not devotees of Baba. It was given the name **Sathya Sai Education in Human Values**. It promotes Character development and seeks to instill in the students, a respect and reverence for nature and for the rights of others.

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