



Past Students

The Past Students of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas And Their Role In The Divine Mission

The Past Students are those students both boys and girls, who have successfully completed the 9 year program of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas.

To play a role in the Divine Mission, the essential investments that every past student of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas has made over the 9 years of the Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas program are in :

- i. Health of the Body-Only a healthy body that can endure hard physical and mental work which can contribute to success in any venture. This in turn contributes to good health, clarity of mind and longevity.
- ii. Health of Mind : Extraordinary powers lie in the mind of man. For self transformation, great emphasis must be paid to purity, control of mind. Observing silence and cultivating good reading habits are time tested techniques of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas, to keep the mind alert and vigorous, stimulated and positive. Ceiling on desires and purity in thought, word and deed are the hallmarks of the Alumni.
- iii. Spiritual Health : Emphasis on spiritual growth is an essential ingredient of the Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas prompted by daily meditation, devotional singing and prayers. "The voice of God can only be heard in the depth of silence"
- iv. Health of Society : It is here that the past students have a major role to play for as Baba says "Service to man is Service to God". Through selfless seva, the past students become the harbingers of joy, hope and rays of golden sunshine in the resplendent horizon of Sai's Mission.
- v. Health of Children & Youth : Through mentoring, the past students who have gone through the 9 year program can be ideal mentors to the children and youth.

For a continuous period of nine years, these students have been entrenched into every aspect of the Sri Sathya Sai BalVikas. Hence, it is very necessary that, no stone is left unturned in the sphere of bringing the past students of Bal Vikas Program into the fold of Sai through the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation to ensure their sustained enthusiasm and participation in the Divine Mission.

Obviously, the strategy to achieve the above objective must be one of clarity and vision. The Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation is therefore focusing its attention on :

i) Establishing communication with past students by :

- a. Updating data base in each State of the Past Students by giving all necessary particulars.
- b. Creating a State wise Newsletter for Past Students and sharing the same with the other states/countries. Preferably such newsletters must be edited and published by an Editorial Board, constituted of such past students.
- c. Giving the past students access to all Sri Sathya Sai Website links, especially Bal Vikas Website so that they can keep in touch with the latest developments and news of the World of Sai.
- d. Ensuring subscription to Sanathan Sarathi so that all past students are covered as readers of Sanathan Sarathi and can therefore be privy to the latest Divine Messages, events and announcements that happen or emanate from the abode of Sai.
- e. Ensuring subscription to Bal Vikas Magazine so that they continue to maintain contact with the Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Organisation.

(ii) **Motivating the past students for Personal Sadhana**, to sustain the rich heritage that they have acquired over the nine years of the Bal Vikas Program comprising of.

- a. Daily self audit and introspection by each past student
- b. Regular practice of meditation and prayer
- c. Self study
- d. Contributing articles to Newsletters by way of self / personal experiences which can become a motivation to others.
- e. Being mentors to present Group II and Group III children of Bal Vikas program

(iii) **Motivating the past students with a program for Family Harmony by ensuring that they continue to**

- a. Share and care for the elders in the family
- b. Send their own children to Bal Vikas
- c. Schedule a time for Family prayers.

iv) **Ensuring the participation of past students in the Organisational Programs / Activities of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization, by motivating them to**

- a. Join at least one service project in the samithi
- b. Start a Balvikas class in their own house / locality and assist in its conductance.
- c. Plan visits to Prashanti Nilayam once a year

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- d. Help in the Parent Contact Programmes under the directions of the local samithi by sharing their personal experiences of Bal Vikas with other parents
- e. Attend periodical study circles of past students in local samithis to create better bonding and synergies
- f. Hold Panel Discussions / Seminars by Past Students to motivate public awareness of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Movement.
- g. Attend and participate at quarterly bhajans conducted by Past Students in the samithis
- h. Hold State wise / zone wise / district wise conventions for past students at least once a year, so as to keep them attached to their spiritual roots.
- i. Create an interaction cell within the state / zone / district to enable the past students to communicate with the Organisation.

By virtue of the nine year Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Program and training, the past students of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas emerge as ideal instruments to forge ahead the Divine Mission of the Lord.

**First Convention of Bal Vikas Past Students at Prashanti Nilayam
October, 2005 - All India Conference of The Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Past Students**

For the first time ever, a conference was held for all the past students of Bal Vikas. They had come from all over India in spite of the incessant rains and cyclonic weather all over the state, to attend this inaugural conference of past students and recharge their spiritual batteries at the Divine Lotus Feet. Swami inaugurated this conference by lighting a lamp. After a welcome address by Sri V. Srinivasan, 4 past students talked about the impact of Bal Vikas by presenting Case Studies of Excellence either from their own life and experience or what they had observed or heard.



The first speaker was Sri Sathyanarayana Kumar of Karnataka who related how Bhagavan came into his life at an early age, when He visited his home. The second speaker was Smt. Meenakshi Dey of West Bengal who narrated how the teachings of Duty, Devotion, Discrimination and Determination in her Bal Vikas classes had saved her at critical periods in her life.

Dr. Sumit Thakar of Andhra Pradesh narrated how nine years of Bal Vikas classes helped him discriminate between the good and the bad in life. Finally, Smt. Krishna Priya Mohanty said that Bal Vikas revealed to students their inner strength and laid a strong foundation for their life.

Two past Bal Vikas students also spoke on Role Models and Torch Bearers of Bal Vikas for about 15 minutes each. An action plan for the Sri Sathya Sai past Bal Vikas students was also chalked out in this closed door session.