



History

Beginning



Bal Vikas is not just a programme. It is a noble movement that took roots in the year 1968 with the founding of Sri Sathya Sai Mahila Vibhag. Swami instructed Mahila Vibhag in 1969 to

"run a Bala Vihar for young children where they will listen to stories from the Scriptures, the Epics, and the Lives of Saints belonging to all religions. Children must also be trained to sing Bhajans, enact small plays with themes selected from the classics. They must be taught to cultivate habits of discipline, for these alone can ensure happiness: both individual and social."

- "The ideal of the Bal Vikas is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and clear conscience. Bal Vikas is the primary basis of the great movement to restore Dharma in the world. The young minds of children are not polluted and hence they can be led into good ways of living, simplicity, humility and discipline."



- "Guide the children in the spiritual path, through simple and moral living; Install in the young minds, the importance of duty, devotion and discipline; Help them understand the five human values, so that they can practice these in their daily lives; Guide them to Love all and Serve all. In short help them grow into worthy citizens to serve the world; identifying the divinity present in all. Education must aim at providing the child not livelihood, but, a life worth living. The promotion of human values must become an integral part of the educational process."

Bhagawan's Compassionate Guidance to Gurus

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Dear Teachers,

Teaching is the noblest of profession. It is also the holiest Sadhana for self-realisation. For, it involves the cultivation of self-less Love and the showering and sharing of that Love. The teacher moulds the rising generation into self-confident, self-reliant, Atma-conscious persons. He is the architect of happy homes, prosperous communities and peaceful nations. He has not only to equip himself with knowledge and skills to inform and instruct, but also the vision and insight, to inspire and transform. Children absorb from teachers and elders their habits and manners, behaviour and beliefs. Therefore, the teacher has to be a constant example of the ideals he has to implant in their hearts. He must excel in humility, simplicity, morality and integrity, so that education results in excellence. Such a teacher can be a beacon of Truth, Love and Reverence. The children who grow under his wise care will shine as Lamps of Love in their homes, radiating courage, joy and hope. Let the Beacons never fade. Let the Lamps be ever bright.

Good Teachers + Good Students = Good Nation

*With Love and Blessings
Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

Bhagawan's Compassionate Blessings to Children



Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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Dear Children! Accept my Blessings. Blessings also for your brothers and sisters, your parents and teachers. Your classes are named Bal Vikas. Vikas means blooming, the blooming of the flower. The flower pleases us for it is beautiful, simplicity and innocence make the child is a flower in the garden of Sai. The tenderness, simplicity and innocence make the child charming, it is so loving that all people love it in return. The child is not selfish. It plays freely with other children. The child always speaks truth. It shares what it likes with its playmates. This sharing gives it great joy and adds to the joy of others. Children! Cultivate these virtues. Also, help other children whenever you can. And, help your parents when they need it. Make them happy. Make them proud of you and your goodness. Learn well the lessons your Guru teachers you and try to practice the do's and don't's they advise you to follow.

You are now in the first stage of the long journey of Life. You have many great tasks before you. You have many duties to discharge in order to make your motherland happy and prosperous. The boys and girls of today must be the doctors, the engineers, the administrators, the farmers the traders of tomorrow developing and defending this vast country and bringing joy to millions of homes India and the World have huge material resources, but your hands and hearts have to supply the will and the skill to use those resources for the good of the people. Prepare yourselves and get ready for the role.

I bless you that you grow into strong, brave, selfless Servants of the People Sai will be with you always. Sai loves children very much, for they are disciplined and devoted always doing their duties joyfully.

*With Love and Blessings
Baba.*

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Structuring

- The Bala Vihars were started in the year 1969 by Mahila Vibhag for the children above six years of age and they were imparted education from the content drawn from ancient scriptures with Divine guidance, through the methodology of story telling, enacting plays and singing Bhajans etc.
- Thus a new movement of momentous dimensions was set in motion by Bhagavan in the field of education. The children imbibed good habits through mutual help and cooperation which inculcated in them a sense of discipline and devotion. Prof. Kasturi defined Bala Vihar as a Play-Way education system imparting noble values, giving insight to Sanathana Dharma. Bhagavan later changed the name of Bala Vihar into Bal Vikas in 1971, redefining the education system created by Him as the system aiming at the **Blossoming of Human Excellence**.

The early beginnings of the Bal Vikas movement were quite simple. During 1950's and early 60's Bhagavan had been repeatedly motivating parents to fulfill the spiritual needs of the children. He insisted that parents should take up the responsibility of moulding the character of children who, in turn, shape the destiny of the nation.

Early in the development of Bal Vikas, Swamy emphasized that

- **"the Bal Vikas course is designed to impart the values of Sanathana Dharma, the Perennial Virtuous Conduct. It is imperative that the guru teaches this course with full faith and confidence."**

Throughout 1980, Swamy continued to elaborate on his concept of ideal education for children. Addressing students in May 1985 He said,

- **"The process of education involves the process of self-control and self-denial. Wealth, Scholarship, Power and Prestige are all despicable if they are not directed towards moral ends"**.

As time passed by, slowly and steadily the Bal Vikas Programme designed by Bhagavan for children between 6 years to 14 years of age, in three groups, took shape and with the formation and expansion of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Bal Vikas spread far and wide. Training modules were developed, research went in deeper, and with Bhagavan's active and continuous guidance Bal Vikas was crystallized into a 9 year non-formal education system for children enhancing their learning to become role models in character and also in academic performance.