



— — Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas — —
Vision 2025



**There is only one God and He is Omnipresent.
God is Love, Live in Love!**



Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas - Vision 2025

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Sri Sathya Sai

BALVIKAS



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations - India



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FOREWORD

Sai Ram!

The Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas Benediction is an annual feature when the young boys and girls receive their Diplomas on successfully completing their 9 year tryst with the Divine Universal Teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

On this occasion traditionally, the children pen their thoughts by way of an article to share their heart's happiness in the journey of Balvikas. This is not merely an exercise in literature but a genuine expression of their innermost joy and gratitude to Swami, their Parents and Gurus.

This year too, the compendium is resplendent with such expressions and I congratulate all the students for their truth of expression. These 25 articles based on the theme of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas - Vision 2025 are ensconced in their personal experience of innate Divinity.

It has the fragrance of Truth and Divine Love.

Every article evokes awe and respect for each child and once again we revel in the bliss of Bhagawan who most lovingly gave an opportunity for these children to secure their lives with a strong base of character.

I dedicate this at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Baba and wish everyone the bliss of reading these divine expressions of our unique children.

With Lots of Love,

Nimish Pandya

All India President

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, India

Sathya Sai Balvikas Vision 2025... **Values Revive...Elevate Life...**

Why Are We Here...If Not To Revere, Venerate and Live Your Message...?

Through the corridors of the mind a question crept up,
Why are we here...why are we here...why are we here?
As the contemplation grew, the misty quest within did clear,
In a glorious human form the Avatar chose to descend,
So that the human race may ascend,
Free from ignorance and traits contrary to mankind,
For man was born to be loving, compassionate, understanding and kind,
To live in Oneness with all living beings,
To reach the pinnacle of an enlightened way of living,
To learn valuable lessons from each experience,
Gaining liberation from the clutches of material existence,
From worldly attractions, selfish pursuits and narrow egoistical indulgences,
For us to soar and rise above,
Mother Sai constantly, lovingly illumined that values we must...
...respect, cherish, practise and love,
Firmly affirming that this commitment begins at a tender age,
Then, to remodify our fate He steadfastly did communicate,
That the fragrance of Balvikas should every home permeate,
And the role of a devoted guru, each parent must dutifully manifest,
Thereby rearing children with ideals and morals completely blessed...
O! Precious One, Beloved Bhagawan, Your Message is our life,
We are here to revere, venerate and live Your Message,
Bless us to actively participate in Your Divine Vision...

...as it continues nonstop to unfurl into an enormous mission,
Sanctifying Peace for all as one family – Vasudeva Kutumabakam,
For the world is but Your Palace and...in Your Holy Mansion,
All countries, cities and villages simply are rooms of varied dimension,
When we travel...we only move from one room to another,
Unity in diversity...for each heart blossoms solely with Your Essence,
Bless us with expansive awareness of our own divinity...
....of You seated within all as the Conscience,
With each breath help us to connect to Your Guidance,
When a child is nourished with values true,
Character, positive attitude, right conduct, ethics flow through,
Whatever may be the challenges in the path chosen to pursue,
Come, O! Soul Supreme, Sweet Mother Sai,
A sentiment of Oneness kindle, stir, revivify,
Guide, steer and uplift us all to UNITE,
To believe, evolve and live in selfless service of the Whole,
A peaceful coexistence, a joyful brotherhood, harmony in totality,
Exuding Maitri Bhav – the virtue of loving kindness,
Of Santushti for Samastha Shrishti – contentment for all of creation,
An elevated life that knows the Universe to be our own extension...
...and hence may we proclaim consciously, constantly, collectively –
Unite, Unite, U N I T E...this is how it should be –
Universe aNd I Together Eternally...

This is our pledge for Sathya Sai Vision 2025 –
Values Revive...Elevate Life!

– Jullie Chaudhuri



G. Yogitha Priya Darshini

Andhra Pradesh



VISION 2025 – LET'S ALL TAKE IT FORWARD

Whilst thanking our Dear Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for giving me an opportunity to be a tiny part of His Divine Mission of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas, I offer my most loving and humble Salutations at His Lotus Feet.

The memories of Balvikas classes, the learning of Slokas, Bhajans, the excitement as to what stories and games our Gurus would bring along for us are still very fresh in my mind.

The world today is full of chaos and confusion. Children, today, are exposed to lot of evil, crime, violence etc. The only panacea that can save the children, parents, society and the world is undoubtedly the Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas.

We, as Balvikas Alumni, can play a vital role to the Vision 2025. Expansion of Balvikas to every nook and corner of the world, is now the need of the hour. I take this opportunity to put across humbly, a small way which can make a big difference i.e., **the 4 I's**.

1. **IGNITE**: Ignite a spark of wisdom in the minds of children, parents, teachers, society and the people around us.

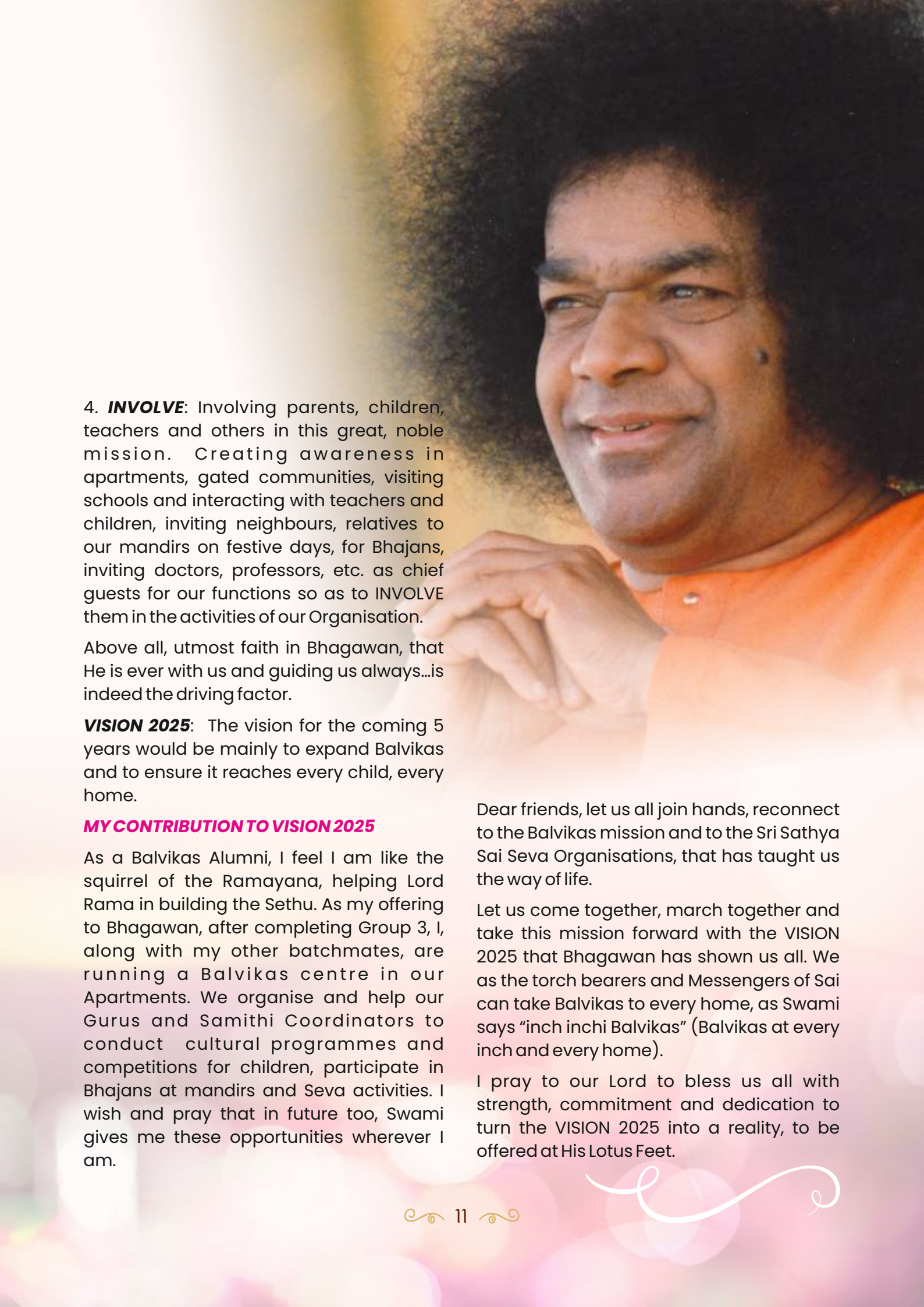
2. **INSPIRE**: Inspire them about what Balvikas is all about, the purpose, the vision and ultimately the end result, that is Self Transformation.

3. **ILLUSTRATE**: Igniting and inspiring is possible only if we practice what we learnt in Balvikas. Illustrating through an illustration.

One of our Balvikas Alumni, Arpita, joined a pharma company as a project manager. The first day, at the dining hall (as is the habit of every Balvikas child) with folded hands, she chanted the Brahmarpanam before eating food. The staff were astonished, some were amused and others confused. Curiosity arose among the staff and couple of days later she explained what this was all about. And lo and behold! After some days, most of the staff started following Arpita.

As Balvikas Alumni, influencing and inspiring others can be possible only through our behaviour, positive attitude and the way we conduct ourselves, wherever we are.

Couple of months back, I was standing in a long billing queue, in a departmental stores after picking up some groceries. Ahead of me was an old man standing with a big basket, waiting to be billed. Suddenly, from somewhere, a little girl of around 10 years or so, came running, took the basket from the old man's hands, accompanied him and saw him off till the auto rickshaw. The others were watching the little girl, awestruck. When she came back to her mother standing in the queue, curiosity got the better of me and I struck a conversation with her. It was a moment of pride and satisfaction to know that she was a Balvikas student. This is what exactly Swami wants us to be, to practice what we have learnt through Balvikas, wherever we are.



4. **INVOLVE:** Involving parents, children, teachers and others in this great, noble mission. Creating awareness in apartments, gated communities, visiting schools and interacting with teachers and children, inviting neighbours, relatives to our mandirs on festive days, for Bhajans, inviting doctors, professors, etc. as chief guests for our functions so as to INVOLVE them in the activities of our Organisation.

Above all, utmost faith in Bhagawan, that He is ever with us and guiding us always...is indeed the driving factor.

VISION 2025: The vision for the coming 5 years would be mainly to expand Balvikas and to ensure it reaches every child, every home.

MY CONTRIBUTION TO VISION 2025

As a Balvikas Alumni, I feel I am like the squirrel of the Ramayana, helping Lord Rama in building the Sethu. As my offering to Bhagawan, after completing Group 3, I, along with my other batchmates, are running a Balvikas centre in our Apartments. We organise and help our Gurus and Samithi Coordinators to conduct cultural programmes and competitions for children, participate in Bhajans at mandirs and Seva activities. I wish and pray that in future too, Swami gives me these opportunities wherever I am.

Dear friends, let us all join hands, reconnect to the Balvikas mission and to the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, that has taught us the way of life.

Let us come together, march together and take this mission forward with the VISION 2025 that Bhagawan has shown us all. We as the torch bearers and Messengers of Sai can take Balvikas to every home, as Swami says "inch inchi Balvikas" (Balvikas at every inch and every home).

I pray to our Lord to bless us all with strength, commitment and dedication to turn the VISION 2025 into a reality, to be offered at His Lotus Feet.



Trisha Choudhury

Assam

I offer my humble pranams at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Respected elders and all my loving brothers and sisters. It is indeed a blessing to share with you my views on the topic – Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas Vision 2025.

“Balvikas” as the name indicates is a movement launched by Bhagawan to enable today’s children to blossom into torch bearers and leaders of tomorrow. The focus of Balvikas is on bringing an intrinsic transformation within each child.

The essence of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas programme has been designed to help children to practice the basic human values, namely, *Sathya, Dharma, Shanthi, Prema* and *Ahimsa*. Through the judicious use of simple teaching techniques such as: Prayer, Group Singing, Meditation, Storytelling and Group activities, the Balvikas gurus encourage the children to become conscious about the latent potential within and orient their lives on the trajectory of human excellence.

Thus, with respect to this, the Action Plan i.e., the 4 ‘E’s for Vision 2025 has been created:

The first and foremost stands as Expansion

Swami says, “*Expansion is life and contraction is death.*” During an All-India Balvikas Gurus Conference held in the year 1979, Swami indicated that each Guru must serve at least hundred pupils in one year, only then can we have at least a hundred thousand or even more pupils getting the benefit of intrinsic transformation. Thus by 2025, the total estimated status has been considered as 39,500 centres, 69,000

Gurus and 1,930,000 students that includes the sum total of all the Residential, School, Village and SSSVJ Balvikas. Along with the increase in these quantitative numbers, Swami has laid equal stress on its qualitative growth. As per Bhagawan, quality should never be compromised. We should only rest in content if we feel that we have discharged our duties sufficiently with full honesty and sincerity to the children and hence to the society.

The second E stands as Encouragement

The only way forward. Encouragement comes with the following three ‘I’s.

- o *Inspire*: To encourage newer and younger generation to become Balvikas gurus through adequate training.
- o *Involve*: To include parental activities once in every month.
- o *Invigorate*: To provide strength to existing classes and ensure there are no dropouts. Swami, during a Balvikas Gurus training, explains that, it is only through Encouragement that not only the children but also the thoughts and emotions of the Gurus get sublimated which is always better than any other form of Sadhana.

The third E stands as Empowerment

The key to success. Its primary areas include –

- 1) Formation of Pre Sevadal members from Group III pass outs / Alumni who have reached the age of 18 so that they can be inducted as Sevadal or Balvikas Trainee Guru.

- 2) Conduction of Parents Awareness Programmes on Balvikas by every Samithi at least twice a year. Strong partnership between Parent and Guru alone can bring about the desired results of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas.
- 3) Involvement of Alumni district level meets to induct innovative plans for Seva, robust maintenance of data and tracking of migration of other alumni.
- 4) Organisation of Sports and Cultural meets such as Easwaramma Day and Balvikas Day celebrations and participation in service activities like visits to Orphanages, Old Age Homes, Tree Plantations with the name of Sri Sathya Sai Kalpakam and Gram Seva.
- 5) Introduction of Digital Platforms to impart online trainings and sessions to both Gurus and their students. The digital platforms have played a major role in keeping each and every one of us to stay connected even during this pathetic age of pandemic, hence it is of utmost importance. Empowerment can further be strengthened with spiritual activities like – Likhita Nama Japa, Jyothi Meditation, Bhajan conductions, Yearly Spiritual Retreat for children and parents by Gurus and also with spiritual ideas like – one Parthi Darshan by State Balvikas Gurus every alternate month in 5 years duly approved by All India President, involvement of topic wise study circles both online and offline on Indian Culture and Spirituality, gifting of Sai Love in the form of Balvikas magazines to the children and district level winter and summer camps on the concept of Gurukulam and topics such as – Work like you love to.

The fourth and the most important E is Execution

The entire vision of 2025 can only be achieved if executed with full dedication and honesty. This involves compliance with

Bhagawan's prescription – There shall be no deviation from what Bhagawan has created and prescribed, value additions as per requirements can be added but it should remain uniform all over India. Also, for fruitful completion of execution, the involvement of State Presidents, District Presidents, Education Coordinators is of utmost importance.

While concluding, I would like to share “The Divine Mandate” of Bhagawan where He has asked to lead every child along the joyous path of truth. The smiles that shower our faces should always spring from the bliss that we earn from seeing the happy faces of these innocent souls, who later on grow up as selfless heroes in the revival of the ancient glory of our motherland and thus bring universal harmony, love and prosperity.



Anamika Jha

Bihar

"Lead the future to path of truth"

Sri Sathya Sai Baba's words about the youth clearly indicate His love and affection towards the future generations. And His Message to the world is certainly being delivered to the masses only because the youth in the past listened to Him and worked upon that. Now, we have decided to pass it on to the next generation. The Vision 2025 is a part of that plan and we, as Sai Baba's devotees, have the duty to implement that with accuracy.

Firstly, the Vision 2025 is not exclusively for the children. It's for everyone who is learning and also for those who have an urge to learn in future. To make this possible, we need gurus as well, for they are the crux of this programme. Beside all the qualitative changes, there should be many quantitative changes as well. It means increase in the number of learning centres like schools, colleges, etc.

Also the approach of learning should be more unconventional to welcome the innovation in patterns of education. The introduction of meditation and prayers is one of the most integral part of it. The main aim of Vision 2025 is to ensure a child grows physically, mentally and spiritually as well. It should be an all-round development in true sense.

At the end, I would like to conclude that Vision 2025 is a way forward aim. The achievement of this would be possible only if we create awareness about the message of Bhagawan and make our lives His Message.





Suraj

Delhi

स्वामी के चरणों में मेरा कोटि कोटि प्रणाम और आप सभी को प्यार भरा साईराम |

यह सफर आज से लगभग 17-18 साल पहले शुरू हुआ था | जब मुझे ठीक से सही गलत की भी समझ नहीं थी | बस कुछ चॉकलेट्स और बिस्कुट के लालच के लिए मैंने बालविकास में जाना शुरू कर दिया था | समय बीता, शरीर बदला परिवर्तित हुआ, मानसिकता बदली और देखते ही देखते कुछ सालों में ही यह लालच भगवान के आशीर्वाद के रूप में बदल गयी | उम्र का तजुर्बा तो कम था लेकिन बालविकास में जाते-जाते अंदर एक परिवर्तन सा हो रहा था | जिसके बारे में न तो मुझे और न ही मेरे परिवार को पता था लेकिन हमारे गुरु सब जानते थे | एक नशा सा चढ़ गया था कि मुझे बाल विकास में जरूर जाना है, जिसके लिए मैं अपने प्रिय खेल क्रिकेट को भी छोड़ देता था | आप सब पूछेंगे इसमें ऐसा नया क्या है ? यह तो लगभग बाबा के हर भक्त के साथ हुआ है | लेकिन कोई नई बयार नहीं थी, नया मेरा मन हो रहा था, नयी मेरी सोच हो रही थी, नया मेरा चरित्र हो रहा था | अंदर एक नई ऊर्जा जन्म ले रही थी | बुराइयों के खिलाफ बोलने की हिम्मत आ रही थी | समाज के लिए कुछ करने सोचने का जज्बा आता था | सबसे बड़ी बात भगवान का असली रूप समझ आ रहा था | मैं ढूंढ रहा था ईश्वर तुझे धरती, समुंद्र, नव गगन में किंतु तू तो विराजमान है हम सबके मन में | किसी ने खूब कहा है मन से पूजूं तो पत्थर की मूरत भी भगवान है और न पूजूं तो सामने साक्षात खड़ा भगवान भी आम इंसान हैं | बस इन्हीं प्रेरणा पूर्ण शिक्षा ने हमें हमारे जीवन को बदल दिया |

इस सफर में समय के साथ-साथ कई गुरुओं से मुलाकात हुई लेकिन सबकी सोच सब का ज्ञान एक ही था | यही

खासियत है इस बाल विकास की क्लास की | अगर दुनिया में आप देखोगे आपको अलग-अलग जगह अलग-अलग टीचर अलग-अलग शिक्षा देंगे लेकिन बाल विकास में पूरी दुनिया में किसी भी कोने में समान शिक्षा और ज्ञान मिलेगा | यही खूबी है इस क्लास की | हम देख रहे हैं संसार में आज मनुष्य व्यस्त प्राणियों में से एक है, इस जिंदगी की भाग दौड़ में किसी के पास इतना समय नहीं कि दो मीठे बोल बोल सके लेकिन आज जब भी हम अपने साथी या गुरु से मिलते हैं तो इस मन के रेगिस्तान में शब्दों और विचारों की अमृत वर्षा होती है |

सच में यह कोई कार्यक्रम नहीं है यह एक आंदोलन है | जिसका नेतृत्व स्वयं भगवान कर रहे हैं | जिसके सेनापति हमारे गुरु हैं और सैनिक के रूप में हम सब को तैयार कर रहे हैं |

सोचो भगवान की इस फौज में होना कितना गर्व की बात है | स्वामी हमेशा कहते हैं कि बच्चों का मन निर्दोष और शुद्ध होता है | हर बच्चा अपने माता पिता और गुरु के लिए सफेद संगमरमर की तरह होता है | जो भगवान की छवि को गढ़ता है एक कली के रूप में खिलने के लिए |

आज स्कूल में बच्चों को शारीरिक, बौद्धिक और भावनात्मक बुद्धि प्रदान करते हैं, लेकिन श्री सत्य साई बाल विकास बच्चों को सर्वांगीण विकास प्रदान करता है, ताकि वह अपने जीवन में गरिमा, आत्मविश्वास और मजबूत चरित्र के साथ चुनौतियों का सामना कर सके | मैं आज भी बालविकास में जाता हूँ बस फर्क इतना है पहले मैं अपने गुरु से सीखता था लेकिन आज उन नन्हें-नन्हें बच्चों से सीखता हूँ | आज बच्चों के मुख से भैया साई राम सुनना बड़ा अच्छा लगता है |

समय के साथ-साथ दुनिया आधुनिक अविष्कारों के साथ आगे बढ़ रही हैं | आने वाले कुछ समय में हम ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी, स्वामी के इस मिशन की शुरुआत करने जा रहे हैं | भारत की लगभग 70% आबादी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से है, जहां शिक्षा का काफी महत्व है और शिक्षा की कमी भी है | हम आधुनिक शिक्षा के साथ-साथ मानव मूल्य और कर्तव्य की भी शिक्षा प्रदान करने जा रहे हैं | इतना ही नहीं हमारा संकल्प है, कि हर बच्चे को शिक्षा के साथ-साथ खेलों में और टेक्नोलॉजी में भी प्रतिभाशाली बनाएं क्योंकि अब माधव सेवा का वह समय आ गया है, संसार के प्रति अपने असली कर्तव्य को निभाने का, स्वामी की सृष्टि को चमकाने का, प्रकृति को वापस उसका सम्मान लौटाने का । हमें "मैं" से हटकर "हम" बनकर साथ चलना है । आने वाले कुछ साल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है इस सृष्टि के लिए और हम सब के लिए भी । अब वह समय आ गया है जो हमें स्वामी ने बालविकास में सिखाया, उसे जन-जन तक पहुंचाने का । बालविकास के सभी युवाओं को दिखाना और करना है कि समाज में बुराइयों का अंत बुराई से नहीं अच्छाई से ही हो सकता है । आइए हम मिलकर संकल्प लेते हैं आने वाले 5 सालों में स्वामी के सुंदर से बगीचे के फूलों के बीजों को दुनिया के बगीचों में बोएंगे ताकि इन फूलों से हमारी सृष्टि जन्मों- जन्मों तक महके ।

बहुत बीज थे इस बगीचे में लेकिन भगवान ने हम सब को फूल बनाने के लिए चुना | यही हमारे लिए किस्मत की बात है और आज जो भी यह विचार निकल रहे हैं इसकी वजह मैं नहीं, मेरे माता-पिता और गुरु हैं । अंत में आप सभी से सविनय निवेदन करूंगा कि आपको जहाँ भी मौका मिले आप भगवान के इस आंदोलन का हिस्सा बनें और मन में हमेशा सेवा भाव रखें यही भगवान के साक्षात् दर्शन है | सेवा भाव में ही माधव का वास होता है । जो इसे करता है वह मानव नहीं माधव बन जाता है | मैं अपनी बातों को इन कुछ पंक्तियों के साथ खत्म करता हूँ।



"मैं ढूंढता तुझे था, जब कुञ्ज और वन में ।
तू था मुझे बुलाता दीन के वतन में ॥
तू आह बन किसी की मुझको पुकारता था ।
मैं ढूंढता तुझे था संगीत और भजन में ॥
मैं लाचार हो बेबस पड़ा था, बिलकुल असहाय था ।
तू था मुझे बुलाता संगीत के रुदन में ॥
समझ न पाया हाय मैं तू रहता प्रभु कहाँ है ।
मोह माया लेकर तुझको बुला रहा था मगन मैं ॥
बांसुरी तेरी मुझे अब तक सुनाई न दी ।
क्या करूँ हे साई! मानव के चमन में ॥



Diksha Suri

Delhi

My most humble Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Swami and Loving Sai Ram to all!

Sri Šathya Sai Balvikas is Swami's gift to us. It is the basis of our spiritual development, which has helped us to differentiate between right and wrong in our academic career and in all walks of life.

Balvikas classes provide a divine connect between the student and the Guru. The different forms in which teachings are imparted to us, like – silent sitting, stories, value games...help us to be closer to Sai. We learn even the **Bhagavad Gita** Shlokas with ease and practise in daily life. The human values given by Swami – Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa, changes our outlook to life. It also helps us to transform our inner self and thus become worthy citizens. Celebration of festivals by our Gurus has further strengthened our traditional ethos. We owe our eternal gratitude to Swami and our Gurus.

Veda chanting has further strengthened our values system and made us different beings as compared to others. I recall my memories of Class XIIth Boards, where chanting of **Medha Sukhtam** helped me memorise chapters well.

Today, being Sai youth, I have contributed to the "Sri Sathya Sai Vidhya Jyoti National Youth Project. By Swami's Grace, as a law student, I was fortunate to take classes for Primary school children in the adopted school on constitutional rights.

Pandemic...a disguised Divine Opportunity

Challenges are disguised opportunities. This holds true for our present crisis in Covid 19 Pandemic. The zeal of the Balvikas family has in fact tripled manifold to progress spiritually. The online classes along with innovative methods of imparting knowledge, quizzes through portals, etc. have enhanced the understanding. Even epics like Ram Charitra Manas can be depicted through video for more clarity and understanding. Gurus, our living God, work so much to build us.

The Road Map in next five years and beyond...

As we foresee the new norm and way of life, I would like to take an active part and suggest following probable ways for expansion of our Balvikas Mission.

1. *Veda Classes with other Countries:* Origin of Vedic Culture is India. Veda Chanting helps us to get rid of diseases, problems, ailments. The vibes purify the environment. Having combined sessions with students in other countries would promote brotherhood of Mankind.
2. *Empowerment of Rural India through Balvikas:* Post Covid 19, it would be dawn of a new Era. Thus, it is important to empower our brothers and sisters in Rural India, with training sessions about Balvikas classes and skill development programmes.



3. *National Balvikas Projects*: A variety of projects on Balvikas syllabus may be adopted. Children could participate in and learn more on the curriculum with the use of technology and online classes.
4. *Narayan Seva - Special Programmes*: Swami is our role model and He taught us the importance of Narayan Seva. We have learnt - Service to Humanity is Service to God. We may adopt a Universal Programme. We may connect globally with our other Sai friends. This would surely help in inculcating strong values and respect for fellow beings.

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas strengthens the roots of our development and makes us different from our peers. But at the same time, we owe our duty towards nurturing love, peace and harmony among family and Nation. Our Humble Salutations at the Divine Feet of Swami to bless us as **“Brand Ambassadors of Sai Mission”**. May Swami always guide us so that we could continue to contribute to His Divine Mission.

Let us all join hands in execution of these Programmes.

Together We Will Make Our World an 'Abode of Eternal Peace'...Prasanthi Nilayam.





Rutvi Akolkar

Gujarat

My most Humble Salutations at the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Baba.

**"The end of Wisdom is Freedom;
The end of Culture is Perfection;
The end of Knowledge is Love;
The end of Education is Character."**

—BABA

At the very outset, we, the students of Balvikas, are grateful to our Beloved Swami for gifting this unique programme – BALVIKAS, for the upliftment of children. Through this programme, He has inspired and ingrained in each one of us precious gems of wisdom which help in leading life with Human Values.

As a Balvikas alumnus, I aspire to be a worthy instrument in the Divine Mission of our Beloved Lord and offer my services at the Lotus Feet as Pre Sevadal / Balvikas Guru.

My Vision for 2025 is to work hard with firm faith in HIM and with HIS blessings spread HIS Message in the society. As a Balvikas student it will be my foremost duty to accept responsibilities with all humility.

With an eye on the topic, I am of the view that growth of Residential, School and Village Balvikas and Sri Sathya Sai Vidhya Jyoti depends on motivating parents, teachers at school and co - students / youth of educational institutions to undergo training as Balvikas Guru and thus help in expansion of Balvikas.

Through various activities like - Elocution Competition, Annual Sports Meet, Medical

Camps, Blood Donation Camps, Narayan Seva, Musical Programmes and Spiritual Activities, a bond of love can be developed between students, gurus and elders of in the Samithi.

Keeping in mind the new generation, digital innovation can be a very helpful and effective tool for imparting value based teachings and channelising a child's thinking in the right direction.

My formula for success of VISION 2025 is -

Teamwork, sincere Devotion and Dedication and above all HIS DIVINE BLESSINGS.

As a Balvikas alumnus, remembering continuously Swami's teachings and putting them into practice in daily life and ultimately becoming a worthy instrument, a "SAI MESSENGER" in HIS Divine Mission...is my Vision of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas 2025.

I urge every Balvikas student, present and past, to undertake spiritual sadhana in a disciplined manner so that it reflects in their daily life and thus become entitled to a passport for a journey to a new and blissful life.

"My life is His Message" should be our ultimate goal as a Balvikas student.



Dr. Vaibhav Sharma

Haryana

My most humble salutations at the Divine Lotus Feet of our Beloved Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas i.e. the efflorescent flower that transcends humanity and uplifts it to excellence was founded by Baba to inculcate human values in individuals to make them realise Brotherhood of Humanity and Fatherhood of God. Seeds are sown, nourished, watered and slowly the plant/seedling appears. This makes a gardener happy. To protect the plant the gardener creates hedges around, observes its growth and gradually enjoys its flowers and fruits. Similarly, in Balvikas too our journey is the same. Each Balvikas class is conducted in three groups, scheduled for an hour per week, where the children of first group meet their guru, bond with them and learn in a divine ambience. The well planned syllabus of Balvikas inculcates the 5 Human Values of Truth, Righteous Conduct, Peace, Non Violence and Love.

Change is the part of everlasting Nature, so 5 years from now i.e., in 2025 everything would experience a drastic change, be it technology, sentiments, customs, etc. But what remains constant and uniform are the Human Values. The recent time of Pandemic has already geared us up completely to extend and expand, conduct the programmes online, thereby increasing our reach. Now, the Balvikas gurus are not confined to homes or to a limited number of children in their vicinity but can engage in this selfless service all around the globe. The availability of infinite digital resources and content related to the Balvikas curriculum acts as an addition to

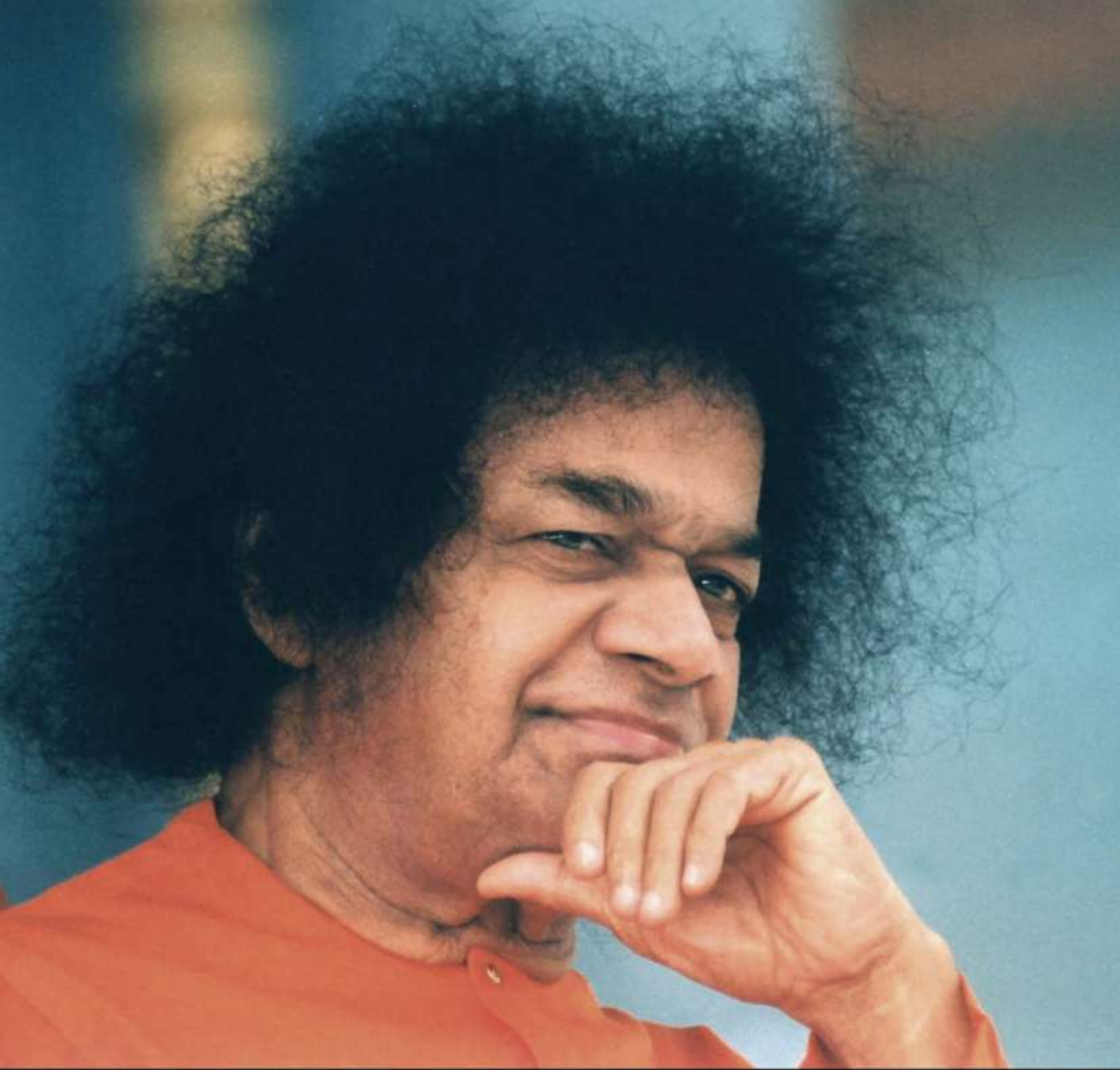
serve the purpose. Henceforth, Balvikas will surely flourish by leaps and bounds by 2025.

Even the smallest effort will generate the sweetest of fruits as is evident from one of the famous excerpts from Ramayana. When the Bridge (Setu) to reach Lanka was completely constructed, Lord Rama first of all appreciated the efforts of the tiny squirrel by patting its back and leaving 3 stripes of beautiful lines on its back. So too, Baba has guided us with the action plan of 2025 in the form of 4 'E's which are Expansion, Encouragement, Empowerment and Execution. These 4 'E's are the pillars above which the roof of the 5th 'E' - Educator will manifest.

Baba says that - "Expansion is life! Contraction is Death!" Encouraging the youth who have passed the 3rd year of BV to be a BV Guru is a highly important step.

We need to inspire, involve and invigorate the youth to take more BV classes. This challenge is being encountered through the implementation of a new group i.e., 4th group to BV curriculum in the future, where this group would lead to cope up with the lost momentum by increased contribution of the Youth. Parents being an integral part of this programme is a great asset.

Srimad Bhagvatam in the 8th Skandha elaborates the story of the Matsya Avatar of Lord Vishnu, wherein, at the time of massive destruction, Vivaswan Manu built a boat and gathered every creature in it to save them. The boat was then led by Lord Vishnu in the form of a giant Fish (Matsya) and He safely parked the boat off a shore. Balvikas



is that boat of 21st century where everyone who wants to be salvaged would have to be on the platform of this boat, for only this can save mankind and humanity. When the youth and the parents will understand their role and abide by them, by 2025 Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas will flourish like evergreen lush flowers spreading its fragrance throughout the world. This way every member will be a Balvikas Guru and every home a Balvikas class. We need to

plant more and more trees of Balvikas by 2025 to spread Global Harmony and the time is not far when Kaliyuga will transform to Satya Yuga.

We pray to Bhagawan Baba to continuously guide us in our endeavours so that we may collectively soar higher and higher and ensure global harmony and world peace in order to make this world a better place and rather bring paradise on Earth.



Dr Shivranjani Singh

Himachal Pradesh

"Swami hold my hand and walk with me"...I clearly remember this line that I spoke to myself, sitting on the floor of Sai Kulwant Hall at Puttaparthi on the eve of Maha Shivratri in 2008. That's when I saw my Sai Maa for the first time in real, donning saffron colored robe, sitting calmly on His majestic chair with divinity oozing out all around His Aura. I was mesmerized, that was nothing in comparison to how I had been seeing Him through His photographs all over my house, all these years. It was million times more heavenly to watch in real, unflinchingly with those teary eyes of a 16 year old.

Swami, as He Himself says, has fixed date, month, year, minutes, seconds, microseconds for each one of us to take us under His Divine Umbrella. Being born in a family that had always been ardent devotees of Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba, I was extremely fortunate to have opened my eyes in this beautiful world with Shirdi Sai Baba's and Swami's pictures all over my surroundings. My mother introduced me to Bhagawan in my initial years of upbringing. Without any doubt, like an obedient child, I accepted Him as my God, the One who is alive and not just in mere pictures and anybody can see Him and, if fortunate enough, can even meet Him. My mother, who herself has been very devotional towards Swami and had been a very sincere Balvikas student in her childhood, took up the charge of becoming my Balvikas Guru, teaching me the lessons which have shaped me into the person that I am today.

As a child, I found my solace in Swami's bhajans...surging up my interest deeper into music. My bond with Bhagawan began to grow stronger after reading His literature and all the stories of His divine miracles. Somewhere deep within, I had found my best companion for life. I started conversing about my daily routine with Him even without His picture around. Now, when I look back I feel overwhelmed to see how Bhagawan unfolded and shaped my spiritual journey with Him. He was always there even when I didn't know Him and has been there ever since.

My mother made sure to imbibe the power of being righteous exactly the way Swami has always wanted. Her efforts and the virtues she passed on to me through Balvikas made me believe that even if I am standing alone on the path of truth with the entire world holding up against me, I will always have Swami's Hand tightly entwined with mine at all costs. This faith has kept me moving on all these years. I firmly believe that Swami chose me to serve His mankind by being a Clinical Psychologist, where I can hold people's hand and walk them out through their mental sickness believing..."Why Fear, When Swami is There". This faith has encouraged me to gear up every ounce of my energy all over again, even when the clinical reports of my patients are not too pleasing and the fear of losing the patient to illness starts intimidating me. Sai Gayatri Mantra and Swami's ever so miraculous Vibhuti has been my powerhouse in empowering even those patients who



come to me with no hope of being alive at all. I have witnessed Bhagawan's divinity in the hard times when I feel short of words and ideas and how beautifully Swami takes the steering of the ongoing treatment in His Hands.

There is no denying the fact that Bhagawan has been the only one curing my patients. My Sai Maa is so loving that He chose me every time to be the medium in warding off my patient's illness. I make sure to imbibe His divine teachings and my Balvikas

virtues in my course of treatment with the patients which empowers the treatment miraculously as Swami has always protected my faith and honor.

Concluding my words of faith on Him, I have always held on to only one powerful thought which has kept me going even in the darkest nights and brightest days:

"My Swami loves me even more than I can ever love Him. Whatever He does, He will NEVER let me suffer. HIS DELAYS ARE NOT HIS DENIALS!!!!"





Swati Yadav

Jharkhand

I offer my most humble salutations at the Divine Lotus Feet of Swami. I really feel overwhelmed that I got an opportunity to be a part of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas and I definitely feel glad that I am a Balvikas student.

For me, Balvikas is my second home, where I have learnt many precious values that are continuously helping me in all aspects of my life. This world is basically a bag of both creators and destroyers, both boons and banes, and I am certain that I am different from others in many aspects of life. The foremost impact that Balvikas has made upon me is that I am calm through the most difficult situations. Kindness is the foremost value that I now abide by, and I never support anything wrong or cruel. Secondly, I always feel optimistic. I hold on to my positivity by praying to Bhagawan, I try to surrender every act to His Will. Balvikas has given me the biggest lesson of life, that whatever happens, happens for the best. Lastly, but in no way the least, Balvikas has inculcated the value of discrimination within me, and made me always choose the right path, the path that my conscience permits me to take. I have heard the voice of my conscience every time I am faced with two choices.

The topic of this article is “Balvikas Vision 2025”. We all know that Balvikas was initiated in the year 1969. It has been 51 years since then and now we are heading towards the centenary celebration of the Divine Avatar, which will be completed in 2025. This Divine initiative of Bhagawan has been carried forth by each and every one of us who has been part of it, and by His Grace at every step of the journey.

In my view, Balvikas is like that vehicle which can always speed up and slow down according to the situations, yet it always stays with us. I have noticed many times that a particular child joins the Balvikas class and very often discontinues the course. On the other hand, most of the time, due to their busy schedule, children absent themselves from classes. As a solution to this approach of students, I offer few suggestions at His Lotus Feet. We can have these classes at any most common and frequently visited public spots. We can spread the message of such a beautiful class through methods like these, and also organise orientation programmes for those parents who do not know about this class. Ultimately, we are working out a solution so that most of the children can have a better and protected life.

We can ensure that they enjoy learning and gaining spiritual knowledge and imbibing human values for a lifetime. In my opinion, Balvikas Vision 2025 simply means how we can simplify and explain spirituality for the upcoming generation. Now, when it comes to using this knowledge in our daily lives or following the codes of conduct or abiding by the rules given by Swami, most of us seem to fail in this disciplined sadhana after a particular time. We can implement the use of Spiritual Diaries, and to every child in Balvikas, we can assign a buddy



who is their classmate. Both the buddies can take care of whether or not their partner is ticking off everything, and following the discipline honestly. In turn, the children themselves will also undergo transformation.

What Swami has said is that each home should be a Balvikas Centre; each parent should be a Balvikas Guru and each child a Balvikas student. These small steps are like the rocks and we are fortunate to have received this golden opportunity by the grace our Beloved Lord to carry out His Divine Mission. Value Parenting Programmes and avenues where parents

can participate as gurus must be created so that children can get the required environment to practice what they learn back at their homes.

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas is that divine path which will guide us, connect us, correct us, and make us prosper. The sole aim of Balvikas is to always follow the path of Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa. I once again, with a heart filled with gratitude, thank Swami for blessing the children with the gift of Balvikas, and I will always be indebted to this beautiful process of transformation, and these priceless teachings.



Miss Sumana S Natesan

Karnataka

Amidst a year like no other, I saw myself completing my undergraduate degree and starting my practice as an auditor at one of the Big Four audit firms. Here I was on the first day of my job looking at myself in the mirror; what I saw was not just a young professional, but also my father's daughter, my mother's pride and most importantly Swami's child.

Before logging into our online induction program, I started my day by opening my palms and seeking the blessings of the mother goddesses, a practice I've followed as long as I can remember. I walked into the pooja room at home, sat down and closed my eyes, visualizing Swami's Lotus Feet and surrendering to Him. Reaffirming a firm belief that He will take care of me just as HE has in every step of my life. Breakfast that morning concluded with Dad wishing me good luck and recalling an anecdote from his experience with Swami.

Quoting my good friend... "Every conversation in our family always leads to Swami". As the

excitement and nervousness of my first day at work caught on, I found myself chanting "Sai Ram" in a loop to calm my nerves. With Swami right beside me through the day, holding my hand, the day went exceptionally well. Over dinner, my mother and grandmother shared the highlights of the online Balvikas classes. My day ended with the night prayer I've been chanting as long as I remember, I say... "Thank You, Swami"...and close my eyes.

This is a little snapshot into the life of an alumnus of Balvikas and of a household blessed to have Swami in their lives.

The primary aim of Balvikas is to create a generation of children who have a clean and clear conscience. The impact of this movement is a generation of adults who are ethical, resilient, humble and loving. A generation of reliable adults who will lead us to a bright future.

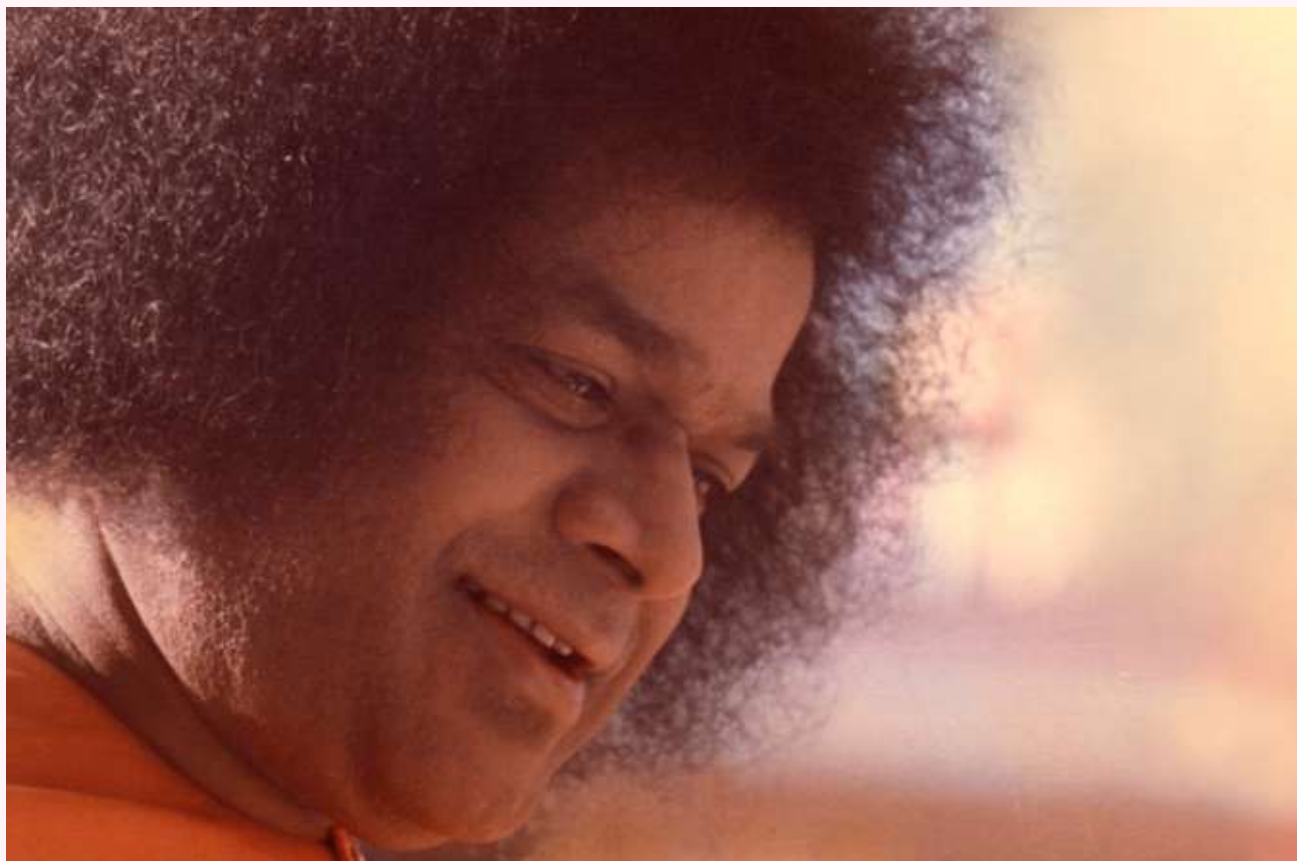
In line with the 4 'E's, my Vision of Balvikas 2025 would be:

Expansion

With times changing, technological facilities have become accessible at the palm of our hands and has been simplified to a degree where a child or a senior citizen can reap its benefits with much ease. This development is one that enables the reach of Balvikas to expand multifold. Geographical boundaries and logistical barriers are no longer a matter of concern.

However, care should be taken to ensure that the student to guru ratio is limited so as to

enable attention to each student. Online methods of teaching like videos, ppts, have proven to be effective teaching aids. This could be utilized to effectively reach out to a much larger student base. Online tools like Padlet, Bubbl.us and Linoit can be put to use to post their reflections and thoughts. This gives an understanding to the Guru on how well the child has understood the topic and serves as an assessment tool.



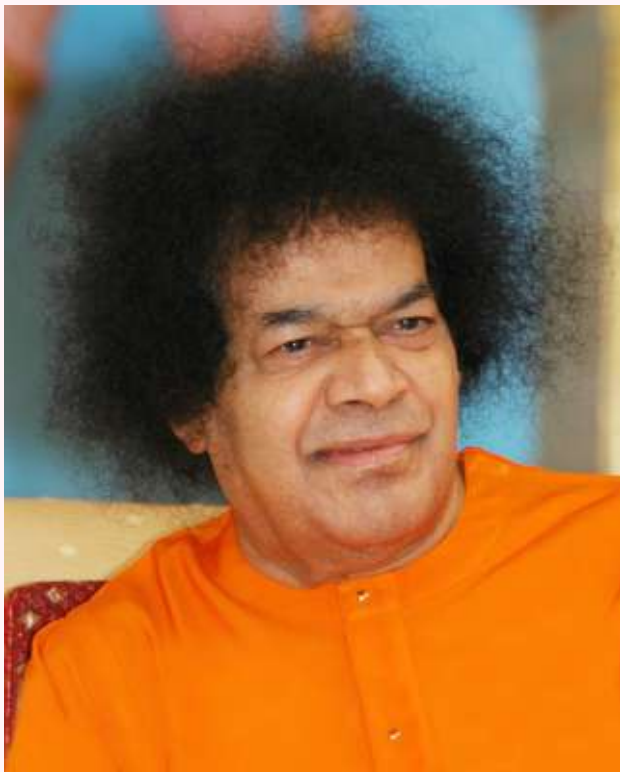
Empowerment

My journey as Swami's child continued as Balvikas Alumni. Our Gurus took up the initiative to empower our journey into adulthood the Sai way. This initiative helps us to bridge our learning as a Balvikas student and imbibe it in our daily lives as high school and University students. Under this program, we gather for a few hours every second Saturday and involve ourselves in activities that enrich and encourage us to grow spiritually. We identified areas where our hands and skills would be beneficial and offered our seva. Some of us help our Gurus prepare visual presentations and content for present Balvikas classes. Our Gurus also took up the initiative to teach us Sahasranama and Ashtakams. This was not just rote learning but we were educated about the inner meaning of these chants and how it would help us on a daily basis. We have group discussions and study circles where we discuss challenges we face on a daily

basis. A moderator enables and guides us to find solutions based on several teachings, instructions, and words of wisdom quoted by Swami. This enabled us to build a bond and a support system to face real world challenges. In my opinion, having a safe space and reliable mentoring has been very helpful in tackling the challenges I face. The same would play a pivotal role for any young adult like me; a goal for Balvikas 2025, perhaps?

Encouragement

Parents and children have been at home together during this pandemic year. This is a trend that is predicted to continue. Social influences on a child's development had become more micro and individual centric. This is a factor of internal development at an individual level that needs to be factored in while citing examples and designing activities for a lesson. Parents and their involvement play a larger role in the development of a child now. The



experience they share with a child, be it their own or of another, are imbibed by the child at a more intimate level. This is a factor that could be carefully directed and moulded to be impactful in the most positive manner. Also today's world needs to go back to the roots where children turn towards their parents as a source of guidance.

Execution

Another one of Swami's sayings that has a huge impact on me is –

“The end of education is character”.

It saddens me to see students carrying out social projects as a superficial activity to gain extra credits on their student profile. A more in depth integration of Balvikas with a school curriculum would make a more impactful and genuine development of sensitivity and consciousness among children. Additional to the ongoing school Balvikas projects, added benefit of accreditations associated with the school curriculum would ensure a more serious interest and engagement from the

students, teachers and parents. This would truly enable a transformation on a large base of children into individuals with a more clean and clear conscience which only Balvikas can provide being holistic and deeply engraved with values.

Nurturing the Spiritual Life-On a larger platform

A day spent at Puttaparthi is an example of Swami's simple living and high thinking. It's an all-round development where every little detail is so thoughtfully designed by Swami, right from the daily schedule, to the simple sathwic food menu, to harmonious community living, to behavior with gratitude, reverence, focus, and patience, to caring and sharing. All this to show and make you understand that luxuries are not needed to bring happiness to your life, so too, signifying the importance of developing happiness from within. The activities of the day are integrated to the healthy development of the body, mind and soul.

"The attitude today is the root on which the future grows."

I envision this at an individual level, expanding to the family level and collectively being practiced at every samiti. This would make every unit a Prasanthi Nilayam and the whole world a reflection of Puttaparthi.

I would like to conclude this article with Swami's quote,

"If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.

When there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.

When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.



Sharanya Sriram

Maharashtra

“Sai Mera Mai Tera, Yeh Prem ki behti Dhara”

Balvikas is this river that flows in each of us Alumni. It's the conscience that works 24 hours in a day correcting our wrongs and also shaping us to be a better person each day.

Swami started Balvikas in 1968 and at that time it was called Balvihar. The name was later changed in 1969 to Balvikas. Vikas means expanding or developing. There are 5 pillars of Human Values - Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa. These pillars have not changed over the years and will remain the same as they are irreplaceable.

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas was made with such foresight and vision that its content is never behind the times. Many new terminologies such as multi dimensional or multi sensorial are used while curating a curriculum and imparting it - Visual, Verbal, Auditory, Inter-personal, Intra-personal, etc. Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas was comprehensive from the word get-go with stories, shlokas, bhajans, extempore, role plays and importantly a good moral conscience. Apart from the above, from now on, Veda will play a key role in shaping young minds. Veda is an all powerful tool and it is easy to understand and learn at an early age.

We were fortunate to see Swami in His Physical Form and perhaps it was easier to accept miracles and experiences more easily. Let us, as Balvikas students, make it more experiential for the current Balvikas

students. Sharing of experiences with the present Balvikas students, anecdotes, tales about Swami and how He helped, saved or guided us will help them experience Swami more. Bringing Balvikas children regularly to Prasanthi Nilayam will help ensure the strengthening of the bond between the students and Swami.

Over the years, millions of Balvikas Alumni pool has been created. By 2025, if we, as Balvikas alumnus, pledge to help, guide and understand the teachings of our Beloved Bhagawan, we will cross a million kids globally. Just as Swami says - Today's students are tomorrow's teachers.

World has shrunk with technology but has also made us very distant. In this impersonal world, the role of a Guru is more and more important. The Guru guides, explains and aids the student when there are so many distractions that lure them from reaching their goal.

This Pandemic has taught us in a hard way that people with a strong spiritual base and belief in Swami have come victorious and overcome their tough path. Swami's teachings are timeless and priceless. Just hold His Hand very tight and He will let your lifeboat sail with the wind of love, health and spirituality always.

*Beda Paar Karo Merey Sai
Uddhar Karo Merey Baba
Beda Paar Karo Merey Sai*





Satyajit Singgam

Manipur

The year 2011 was really a special one for me. It was special because Swami chose me for Balvikas class which is a noble movement for transforming ourselves in this age of Kali Yuga. As a small child, even though I had no idea of what it actually was, I enjoyed attending Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas classes. The environment of Balvikas classes was so different from my classroom experiences at School. It was so pleasant and it gave me such a great joy that I never wanted to miss it. Slowly and gradually my Balvikas Guru helped me in learning the Shlokas and Stotras. She also narrated wonderful value-based stories which all of us enjoyed very much. These stories have in fact helped us in imbibing the moral values in day to day lives too. One thing that needs to be mentioned here is that I gave up the bad habit of telling lies. Value based stories also strengthens our power of discrimination in identifying good actions from bad actions. Jyoti Meditation also cleans our mind, body and soul. The Group activities that we performed during Balvikas classes have taught us the right spirit of taking up any Seva activity with love. This has helped us to love each other and live happily and peacefully. Not only that, we learned beautiful bhajans too. Whenever I sing all these bhajans I am filled with immense joy. I became an alumnus of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas in the year 2018. At present, I am taking part in the Online Vahini Satsangs organised by the Youth Wing of SSSSO Manipur on alternate days. So far, I could participate in the Online Satsangs on Ramakatha Rasavahini and Prema Vahini. At present, I am participating

in the ongoing Dhyana Vahini series. In fact we have been benefitted so much after attending these Vahini Satsangs. The preface of Dhyana Vahini says - To be living as a contemporary of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is itself a unique chance, for His is the authentic voice of the Lord Himself; and He is easily accessible and eager to receive pious souls and persons afflicted with physical handicaps or spiritual confusion. His Advent itself is to restore Dharma in human relationships and instil courage in the hearts of sadhakas and purity in the ranks of sadhus.

How lucky we are to be an alumnus and the member of this Beautiful Organisation. As Prof. N. Kasturi mentioned, "Every word of His, spoken or written, is a Mahakavya; for He has the authority to make it so." In Dhyana Vahini, Swami tells us the power of meditation, the three paths of meditation, the goal of meditation which is to gain the inward vision and above all to be nearer and closer to HIM. It is difficult to express just in a few lines how much we have been benefitted by attending these Online Satsangs during this pandemic. Swami has paved the Golden Path for His children by gifting us the most valuable of the valuable gifts - Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas.

I pray to Swami to enable us to carry on with regular reading of Sai Literature and also putting into practice the Nine Point Code of Conduct in our daily lives. During these five year celebrations and also in the years to come may Swami give me the strength to be a worthy instrument in His Divine Mission!



Kunda Virulkar

Madhya Pradesh

भगवान श्री सत्यसाई बाबाने हम सभी को बालविकास की योजना एक उपहार के रूप में हमें दी है। इस अमूल्य उपहार को प्राप्त कर हम अपने को बहुत ही भाग्यशाली समझते हैं कि भगवान ने इस कार्य हेतु हम सभी को चुना।

भगवान के इस दिव्य मिशन का उद्देश्य बच्चों के अंदर छोटी सी उम्र से ही संस्कारों का बीजारोपण करना है। क्योंकि आज के बच्चे कल देश के एक जिम्मेदार नागरिक बन सकें जिनके अन्दर सत्य, सदाचरण, शांति, प्रेम और अहिंसा जैसे मूल्य हो।

त्रेता युग में भगवान राम ने जिस प्रकार समुद्र पर पुल बनाने का कार्य एवं रावण पर विजय प्राप्त करने में वानरों को अपनी योजना में सहभागी बनाया, उसी प्रकार आज भगवान बाबा के मिशन में हम गुरुओं को यह अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है कि बालविकास के कार्य में हम सहभागी बनें।

बच्चे उस गीली मिट्टी के समान होते हैं जिसे हम जैसा आकार देना चाहें दे सकते हैं अतः संस्कारों का बीजारोपण भी बचपन से ही उन्हें दिया जाना चाहिये जिससे बड़े होकर वे सही और गलत में फर्क कर सकें।

बालविकास का उद्देश्य है एक ऐसी पीढ़ी का निर्माण करना जिसमें संस्कार हो अच्छी आदतें हों।

बालविकास के कार्य को आगे बढ़ाने हेतु हमें निम्न कार्ययोजना बनाने की आवश्यकता है -

1. बालविकास की शिक्षा प्रत्येक घर में हर एक बच्चे को मिले इस हेतु हम बालविकास गुरुओं को अधिक से अधिक बच्चों को उनके माता-पिता को बालविकास की योजना से परिचित कराना होगा।

2. बालविकास की योजना का विस्तार स्कूलों में विद्याज्योति के रूप में हुआ है जिसके द्वारा बच्चों में पढ़ाई के साथ मानवीय मूल्यों का भी समावेश किया जा रहा है। इसका उद्देश्य बच्चों का चरित्र निर्माण करना है। स्कूलों के शिक्षकों को बालविकास को अधिक रूचिकर बनाने हेतु विभिन्न तकनीकों का प्रशिक्षण देकर उन्हें प्रशिक्षित किया जाना चाहिये।

3. विभिन्न गावों में बच्चों को बालविकास से जोड़ने हेतु भी हम गुरुओं को गांव के बच्चों को कक्षाओं में जोड़ना होगा। छोटे-छोटे बच्चों को बालविकास की विभिन्न गतिविधियों के माध्यम से जैसे - मातृपूजा, स्वच्छता, वृक्षारोपण आदि के द्वारा उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करना होगा।

4. गांव एवं शहरों में बालविकास के बच्चों की विभिन्न गतिविधियां जैसे - सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम, आनन्द मेला, ग्रीष्मकालीन एवं शीतकालीन शिविर आयोजित कर बालविकास के महत्व को बताना होगा। जिससे वे कक्षा से जुड़े रहें।

5. बच्चों के मातापिता के साथ मिलकर महिने में एक बार पालक सम्पर्क का आयोजन करें जिससे बालविकास की कक्षा में सिखाये जाने वाले पाठ्यक्रम की जानकारी उन्हें दे सकें। बालविकास के विभिन्न प्रतिभाशाली बच्चों का प्रस्तुतिकरण कर हम पालक सम्पर्क को और अधिक रूचिकर बना सकते हैं। इसके द्वारा बच्चों को भी प्रोत्साहन मिलता है।

6. बालविकास एक ऐसी योजना है जिसके द्वारा हम बच्चों के साथ स्वयं का भी विकास करते हैं। जैसे एक मां अपने बच्चे को नहलाती है तो उसके हाथ अपने आप स्वच्छ हो जाते हैं उसी प्रकार बच्चों को सिखाते सिखाते हम स्वयं भी बहुत कुछ सीखते हैं।

अतः हम सभी की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि भगवान की बालविकास की योजना को घर घर में पहुंचाने हेतु नित नयी खोज करनी होगी। नयी-नयी तकनीकों के द्वारा अपनी कक्षा को रोचक बनाना होगा, हर बच्चे से सतत जुड़े रहने का प्रयास करना होगा, प्रत्येक बच्चे के अभिभावक से माह में कम से कम एक बार सम्पर्क करना होगा उन्हें बालविकास की होने वाली गतिविधियों में सम्मिलित करना होगा। स्कूलों में भी बालविकास की विभिन्न गतिविधियों का आयोजन जैसे - भाषण, निबंध, आनन्द मेले का आयोजन, प्रार्थना सभा के द्वारा बच्चों तथा शिक्षकों को जोड़ना होगा। समय समय पर समिति द्वारा आयोजित समारोहों में भी सम्मिलित करना होगा जिससे भगवान की योजना के उद्देश्य से परिचित हो सकें।



Maya G. Shivakumar

Mumbai Metro Region

The essence of the Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas programme, envisaged by the Lord Himself, is universal and eternal. The beauty of this programme is in its adaptability to the changing times without compromising its essence. Though the core of the programme is timeless, making it contextually adaptable, is a challenge for our creativity but certainly not impossible.

Swami has compared a Balvikas child's journey in the Balvikas programme to that of a bicycle. The two tyres represent the role of parents and gurus together helping the child ride this cycle of life with joy.

This brings me to the **first important pillar** that we need to work on – **Parents**. A child's participation in this programme begins with the consent of parents. And that comes when they understand the role it plays in the development of their kids. If we need to double or triple the current number of Balvikas students over the next five years, we will need to work on reaching the essence of this programme to parents all across the country. And where do we find them to influence them? The social media platforms! If we could intelligently and impressively create short videos covering the challenges they face with kids and use Swami's words to help address them, it could attract their attention. If these content pieces are put out on a regular basis, it could help us bring in interested and inquisitive parents.

Another way to build engagement with adults is to undertake service activities around causes that matter to society. Here,

we should consider having children and young parents participate through enrolment, thereby becoming relevant in their lives. This could potentially help non-devotee parents personally experience the intangible benefits of such an association.

During the pandemic, when Doordarshan played the epic serials of Ramayana and Mahabharata, their viewership soared which suggests that somewhere all of us are connected with our culture and would like our kids to be too. However, it may be a case of, "where do I find such a class?". If we could fill this void then it would be a great seva opportunity.

If the parents are aware of what is being discussed in class, it can go a long way in helping the guru and together they can work on the growth of each child. For this, we must institutionalise the parent – guru contact programme once every six months.

I come to the **second important pillar** – the **Gurus**. I do believe that for kids, younger gurus do make an impact on the impressionable minds with their energy and fresh ideas. Also, if we intend to increase the number of students we will need to build a strong base of young, trained Balvikas gurus. We must formulate a programme that allows the smooth transition of a Balvikas student to the Sai Organisation. During their Group 3 project we could think of asking them to take Balvikas class once a month and together as a team come up with a theme class. The joy of working for the class and the



interaction with younger kids could motivate them to become Balvikas gurus.

The **third important pillar** is the **Delivery Platform**. Living in a digital world we must think digital. The pandemic has pushed us closer to this world. We must be open to a hybrid model of physical and online classes. The surge in the adoption of a plethora of edutech companies teaching KG to professional courses, and even coding skills using self-learning modules are proof that we will also need to embrace digital learning modules as a way to widen the access and reach of Swami's teachings.

We often rue that children are addicted to social media but we should instead train our Balvikas kids to positively and

creatively use it for solving everyday problems in the society. Having younger gurus will help in encouraging a healthy discussion on this topic in our classes. It is the need of the hour.

I'm afraid it might not be too far-fetched to imagine that we could even build an AI powered Chatbot that would dive into the treasure trove of Swami's teachings to find answers for children, Gurus, parents and devotees alike about the various dilemmas they encounter.

In the next five years, we must make every concerted effort towards building awareness about the Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas programme and embrace technology for the dissemination of Swami's message.





Jayalakshmi

North Karnataka

The end of education is character.

Today, we live in the age of crisis. Virtues and Values have no importance. Corruption, bribery, violence, impatience can be seen everywhere. The good common man is mentally tortured. Today, education gives importance only to information. So the need of the hour is men and women of good character. Education should give importance to character. The end of education is not information. The end of education is transformation. The end of education is character building. It is possible only by good teachers. Only virtuous good teachers can bring about a healthy change in society. In this context, Balvikas Gurus play a great role in bringing a good change in the behaviour of the children.

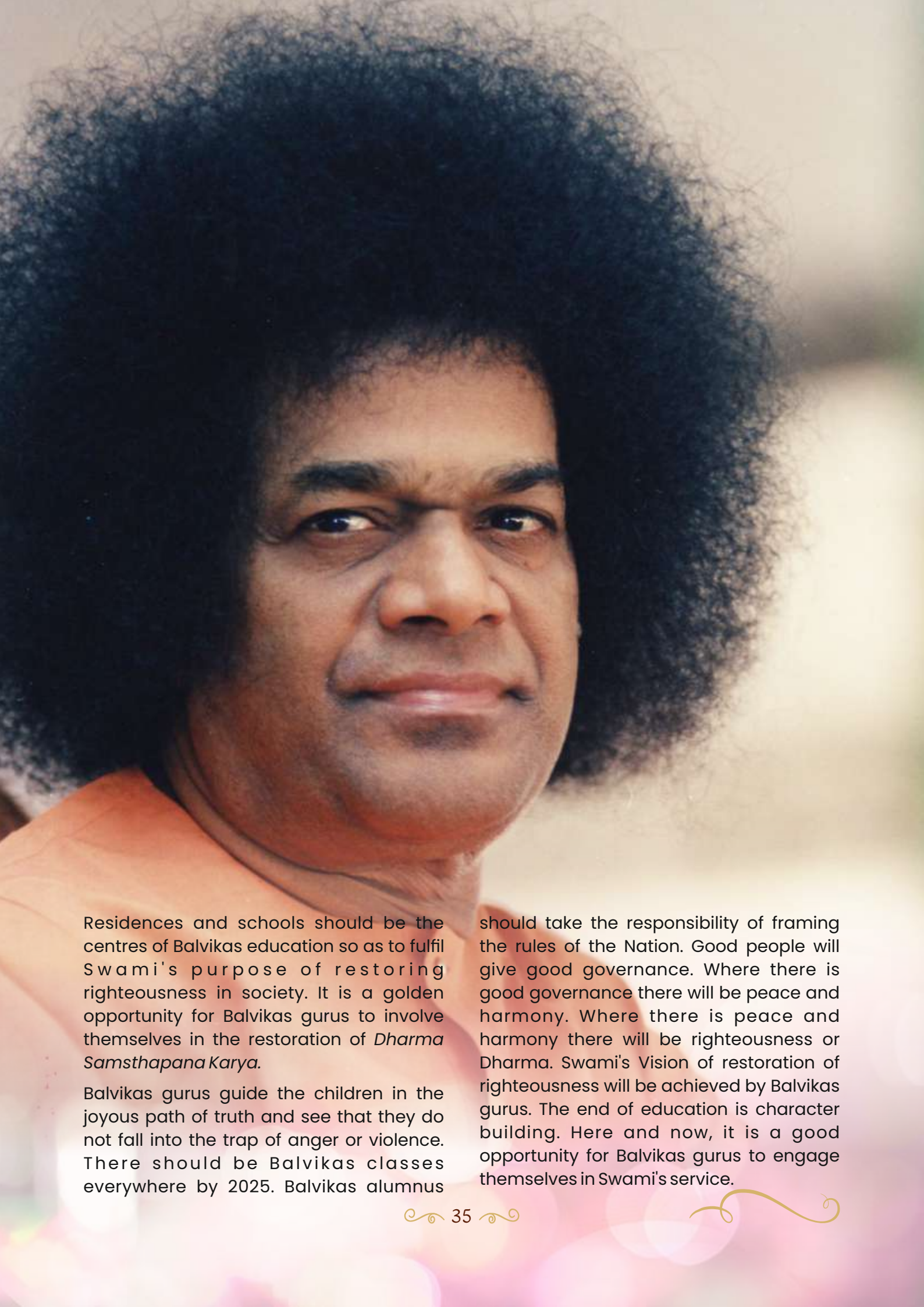
Need of the hour is to bring back the great heritage of Indian culture. Peace and harmony should prevail in the society. This can only be done by good teachers and good students. Only good children can become good citizens. In each and every field good, honest, peace loving, helpful, sincere, obedient persons are needed. Balvikas can give good, honest, sincere persons to the Nation.

Work is Worship, Duty is God...is the message of Bhagawan. It should be the ideal of each and every human being. Only such ideal people can rear the great Indian culture. The future of the Nation is in the hands of good Balvikas gurus and children. Good gurus mould the character of children.

Help Ever, Hurt Never...is another message of Bhagawan. Today, people behave in quite an opposite way. It is not their fault. If good education was given to them, they would have acted properly. They were not given good Balvikas education so they tread the wrong path. So, it is time for Balvikas gurus to take quick action to inculcate values in the children.

Catch them young is a proverb in English. If the children are trained properly they would be good individuals. Today, crisis prevails everywhere - no patience, no tolerance, no peace, nothing. It is time to teach patience, tolerance, peace and harmony. The future of the society is in the hands of Balvikas gurus who play a great role in moulding the character of children and making them good citizens. Balvikas gurus are the architects of good cultured nations. They are the creators of human values. Today, proper guidance is not given to the children. Balvikas gurus give good guidance to the children, teach the children to be faithful to their parents, as well as to the society. Balvikas gurus make your life worthwhile and make the life of children also worthwhile.

Love all, Serve all...is a one more significant message of Swami. Only Gurus can do this and make the students follow this. It is necessary to increase the number of Balvikas students as well as Balvikas classes. It is necessary to make the dream of Bhagawan real. By 2025, there should be Balvikas students in each house. In each school there should be Balvikas classes.



Residences and schools should be the centres of Balvikas education so as to fulfil Swami's purpose of restoring righteousness in society. It is a golden opportunity for Balvikas gurus to involve themselves in the restoration of *Dharma Samsthapana Karya*.

Balvikas gurus guide the children in the joyous path of truth and see that they do not fall into the trap of anger or violence. There should be Balvikas classes everywhere by 2025. Balvikas alumnus

should take the responsibility of framing the rules of the Nation. Good people will give good governance. Where there is good governance there will be peace and harmony. Where there is peace and harmony there will be righteousness or Dharma. Swami's Vision of restoration of righteousness will be achieved by Balvikas gurus. The end of education is character building. Here and now, it is a good opportunity for Balvikas gurus to engage themselves in Swami's service.



Sudeep Sudarshan Rana

Odisha

BALVIKAS - a tremendous saga of spirituality, being incorporated with the pride of scriptures, not only sows the seeds of love in the hearts of future beholders but also inculcates the basic human values. It's not just limited with that, but involves an evolution of a sacred Kingdom, whose soul is the ubiquitous God. It is an incipient era for cultivation of virtuous characters.

Balvikas - An educare for "lok-vikas", is the harbinger of a great movement to propagate "Dharma" in the world. The activities of Balvikas are nothing but significant steps towards the restoration of our charismatic traditions, upon which we are built. From the beauty of gallant monuments to the fragrance of lustrous flowers, all murmur one thing - the unconquerable eternity, which has been imbibed by Balvikas. From 1969 till now, it is a rip-roaring revolution to quench the desire of "Theism". So we all are blessed to be a very small part of such a monarch. Then what should be our vision?

Nowadays, the entire Nation's edifice, lies on the children, who are the unalloyed reflection of the future. Many innate abilities are hidden in them, we just have to ignite it. So, to mentor them in a right way, holds immense importance and Balvikas can certainly do that, as it paves the way to Self-transformation. We all know that children are pure at heart, soft in physique, tender in mind and nascent in intellect, but they are ignorant of this fact. So our motto is just to enable them to realise what they are and what they should be.

In addition to that, the divine dictum - Service to mankind is Service to God...very neatly enunciates that philanthropic and selfless deeds lead a person nearer to God. Thus, our vision is - there should be myriad number of "Sai-sevaks" who will reach each and every needy cottage. A logistic support to the society through our participation should be provided at any corner.

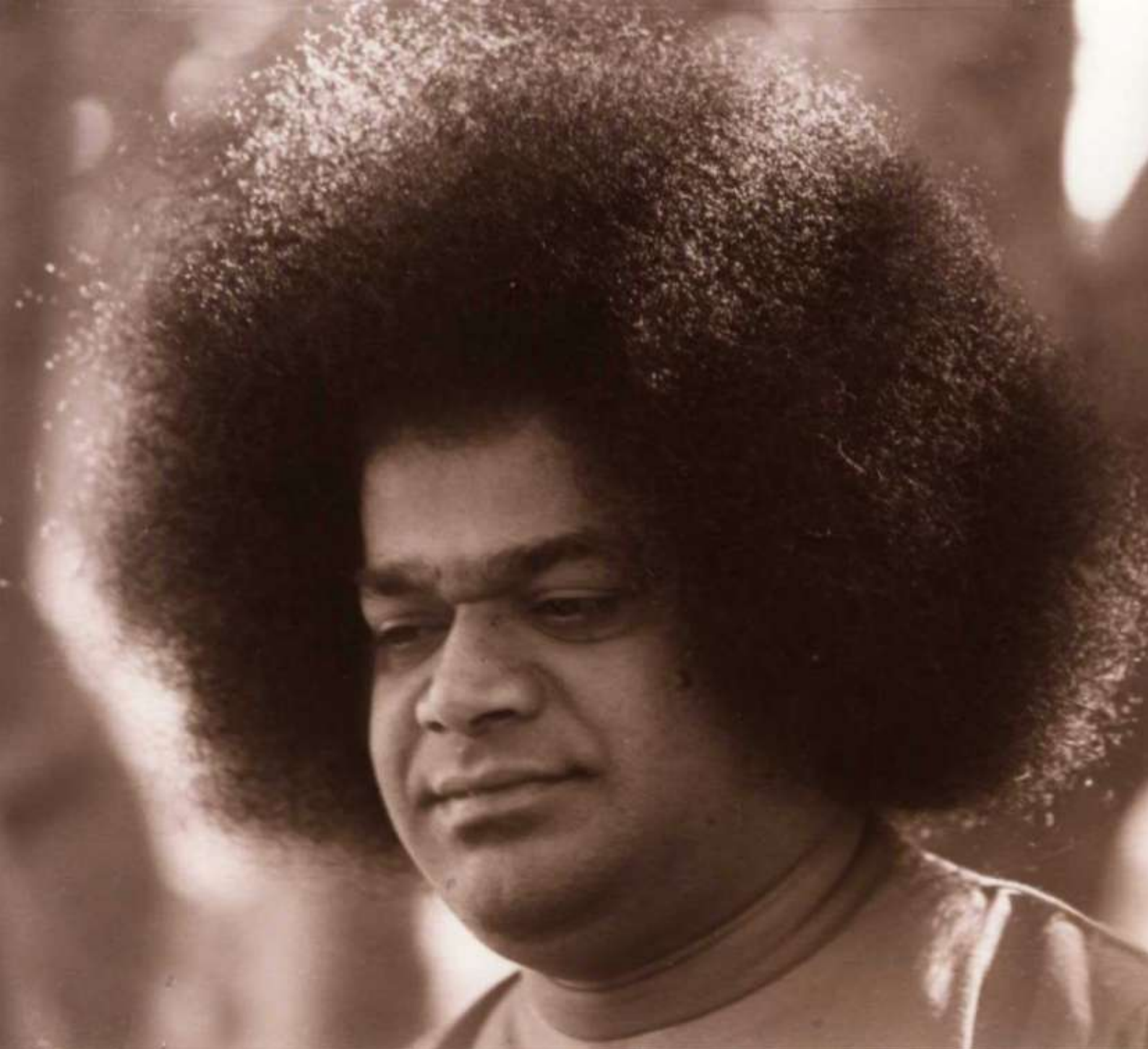
Today, we are reeling under the impact of the horrendous "Coronavirus", but we must remember that it is just the outcome of our heinous activities. For this reason, we should at least plan for a green mission and environment friendly measures.

In this connection, it can be stated that any ominous troubles or any threatful dilemmas can't break one's unshakable determination. So, if we are nurturing an unending thirst to devote ourselves in the stream of service, then no one can stop us, as God will help. Hence, our Baba says -

"Bear All and Do Nothing,
Hear All and Say Nothing.
Give All and Take Nothing,
Serve All and Be Nothing."

Again our vision should be like that:

In 2025, the country will be free from griminess. All the superstitions and barbarism will be curbed out. Rampant fanaticism will be wiped out from the picture of Indian heritage. Moaning for humanity will be no more. Not a single son or daughter will send his/her parents to old age homes. Society will be the



compendium of virtues, all the hearts will sing the symphony of truth. In each house, a tranquil-serenity will blush the peace-gripped homely ambience. But for that, we have to compile a firm resolution and with unflinching faith in God, we should walk along the "Nine Codes of Conduct" and "Ten Fold Path to Divinity".

So our ultimate vision for 2025 is –
"Every child is a Balvikas Student
and Every parent a Balvikas Guru."

And, also to reach that culmination, we have to make our journey from now to then under the benediction of God.

Therefore, let's start...





Amiya Ranjan Kanungo

Odisha

Swami started His Divine Mission with Balvikas at the age of 10 only. Of course the name was not Balvikas, but it was “*Pandhari Bhajan Group*”. The group consisted of about 16 to 18 village boys, dressed uniformly, each holding a flag in the hand and wearing anklets. They all danced to the tune of value songs written by our little Swami. Our little

Swami was the central figure of that group as - Organiser, Composer, Lead Singer and over and above as Guru...So, He was the first ever Balvikas Guru.

This is how He started the BalaVikas Movement. He planted the tiny Sapling of Balvikas in 1936 and now it has become an Aswattha Vriksha, *which has its roots in the Atmatatwa, its branches are Buddhi-Vikash, Deha-Vikash, Mana-Vikash, Bhava-Vikash, and Atma-Vikash; the flowers are Thoughts-Words-Deeds of Love; Sathya-Dharma-Shanti-Prema-Ahimsa are the fruits; And the Sweetness in these fruits is Seelam, Good Godly Character.*

This Aswattha Vriksha is ever expanding. Day-by-day, BV is offering more and more Good-and-Godly Envoys having **Heads** filled with Noble Thoughts, **Hearts** filled with Compassion, and **Hands** capable of doing good only ...

This Divine Mission goes on and on...giving due importance to its expansion. More and more BV Centres are emerging in cities, villages, slums, schools, tribal areas, and other such places.

“You don't have to do anything else...You are certainly making your life a worthy

existence.” Responding to this Sublime Call from Swami, countless are coming forward and taking upon themselves the task of moulding and shaping the character of young ones as BV Gurus.

Our State Organisation is getting ready to have 2025 BV Centres during 2021-2025 with about 40000 BV children in the loving care of 4000 BV Gurus. *Our Vision 2025 is Astounding.* In a letter written by Swami to BV children in 1981, He states, **“Every child is a flower in the garden of Sai.”** Consequently, every Revenue Block in the state will be blessed with such a Sai Garden. Every Sunday will reverberate with *Nagar Sankirtan-Bhajan-Veda Mantras* by tiny-tots making the entire state spiritually vibrant.

To enthuse the BV militia based upon the twin-dictum, *Ashraddha Paramam Paapam* and *Shraddhavan Labhate Gyanam*, there will be BV Libraries, Teaching-Aid Banks, Value-Games Repository and BV Digital Archive in all the 200-odd Samitis in our state. To empower all BV personnel in our state, the next Five Years will indeed see our resource base strong enough with varied publications on Health and Hygiene, Ashtottara Shatanamavali, Suprabhatam, Vedic-Prayers, Parenting, etc.

Swami says, “The quality of work is more important than the quantity...”

Our Vision 2025, therefore aspires for qualitative improvement in BV through Orientation/Refresher Programmes for BV Gurus, Formation of BV Symphony/Vedic-Choir, Walk for Values, Dynamic Parenting,



Parthi-Darshan for Parents, Festival of Joy/Values, Summer Orientation for Gurus-Children-Parents, Exposition of Innovative Skills, and other such pioneering activities.

During His school days, Swami used to lead the School Assembly with the Prayer for *Brotherhood of Man* -

*Aha Raha Tava Ahwana Pracharita Suni
Taba Udara Vani*

*Hindu Boudha Sikha Jaina Parasika
Musalmana Kiristani*

*Purava Paschima Ase Tava Sinhasana
Pase*

Prema Vahini...

We have seen its concrete implementation. The Divine Call has reached every nook-and-corner of the society. And, needless to say that BV in general and School BV in particular have contributed a lot in achieving this. Now, the effort will be more intensified during 2021-2025. An over-ambitious goal is to be met. About 2000 Teachers, nay Gurus, and 20000 Children from 100 Schools - Sathya Sai Schools, Vidya Jyoti Schools, Vidya Vahini Schools, and other Sai Ideology-

based Schools will be initiated into the all-embracing BV irrespective of their caste-colour-creed-religion-language.

BV is not just a Programme, but a Noble Movement. It has taken many forms - Urban BV, Rural BV, Slum BV, School BV, Tribal BV, and so on. There should be no deviation from what Swami has prescribed for BV. Modus-operandi may be different. There should be continuous effort in a scientific way to decide the modus-operandi for each of these different forms of BV. Therefore, we humbly pray to Swami to bless us with a Divine Tool in the form of a State-of-the-Art State Level Institution - the **Sri Sathya Sai Institute for BV Research**...which will work in this direction. His Institution is to be offered at His Lotus Feet on the occasion of His Birth Centenary in 2025.

Walter E Disney coined four words:

THINK-BELIEVE-DREAM-DARE

Accordingly, we must THINK - Think about BV; BELIEVE - Believe in ourselves based on the thinking of BV; DREAM - Dream about the things that can be based on our belief in BV; And DARE - Dare to make our dreams become reality. Let our Vision 2025 be a Reality!



Rayna Singla

Punjab

Spiritual education is not a distinct and separate discipline; it is a part and parcel of all types and levels of education, in fact, it is the very foundation on which a lasting edifice can be built.

- Baba

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas is a culture that is everlasting and should be inherited in each and every soul.

In the coming years, Balvikas will secure the future of children with its positivity and strength. There will be a sea change in 2025 Balvikas classes. Things will be more systematic and streamlined in the next 5 years and the classes will be conducted in the Community Halls of Temples. These spiritual classes will be practiced and recommended worldwide. The teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba will reach every soul and impact their lives. 2025 will see a world showcasing a firmer belief in prayers and God's Presence and people will witness miracles and be blessed by the almighty God.

The path of spirituality will lead to heaven. Positivity will reign supreme. The injured, poor, marginalized and underprivileged will get their due. Capabilities and potentials of each and every one will be recognized. People will be more humane. There will be respect for life, nature, culture, religion and love for the nation. May spirituality and soulful voices prevail and the world forever and ever stay blessed by Sri Sathya Sai Baba!





Sai Medha R

Kerala

My humble salutations at the Lotus Feet of our most Beloved Sai Maa.

"Children must grow up in the atmosphere of reverence, devotion, mutual service and cooperation," says Swami. This is what our Balvikas Gurus have been helping us to achieve for the past five decades.

The first class of Balvikas dates back to 1969, one year after the formation of Mahila Vibhag. Swami named this class for children as Balvihar and provided every teaching material and technique to the Gurus. Lucky were the Gurus of those times to get trained directly by Bhagawan! Balvihar was later renamed as Balvikas by Swami in 1971.

It is at the age of six that children start to develop the ability to have complex thoughts. Their curiosity about the world around them starts increasing. Instilling in them proper values at this age is important and that is why Swami chose six as the age for children to join Balvikas classes. Beyond education, this is a communication with the self within. When a child completes Group 3 of Balvikas, he/she is not only prepared for future academic pursuits but is also mentally strong to face upcoming obstacles with confidence and a wide smile.

Today, in a world where human connections are tapering, Balvikas is an essential strand of hope for the generations to come. By attending Balvikas classes, children develop good character. Practicing such basic human values at a young age leads to the formation of good human beings, which in turn leads to a better society. Better societies evolve into

better countries and thus the whole world prospers and love is spread throughout. This is the vision of Balvikas.

My first Balvikas Guru was my mother. When my brother and I were around three or four years old, she would sing bhajans, teach slokas and narrate stories to us. We made sure we never missed our prayers wherever we were. These practices inculcated a strong belief in Swami and the abundant grace He showered.

At the age of 10, I joined Balvikas classes in our nearby Samiti. I enjoyed immensely the games we played, the skits, and the 'prasadam' at the end. It was indeed a ground of learnings. Balvikas fostered in me the courage to face audiences and was a practical session of how to apply values in our day-to-day life. Activities like visiting old age homes and doing 'Seva' made us truly feel that we were Swami's instruments.

Looking back at my upbringing, I can't help but notice the positive changes that Balvikas has brought out in me. Balvikas teachings have helped me keep stress at bay through the soothing Bhajans, positive Quotes of Bhagawan, divine vibrations of Veda chantings, calmness during Jyoti Meditation and so on. Living my life as per Swami's will is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Today, we have come a long way from the time of inception of Balvikas. The curriculum of Balvikas now includes indispensable lessons for the overall



development of a child. The number of Balvikas units have increased world-wide and all gurus are looking forward to spreading these teachings of Bhagawan even more. In this process of blossoming, it is our responsibility to make sure that apart from the increase in number of Balvikas students, they should also be receiving quality training from Gurus.

Balvikas Vision 2025 aims at sowing the seeds of values and enjoying its fruits of bliss. By 2025, we set our sights on having resource banks with books on Swami, starting parenting institutes and strengthening the Balvikas Alumni as much as possible. For achieving this, Samiti to State level Gurus have already started activities. An awareness of Swami and the Balvikas Mission will be provided to non-devotee parents with the help of senior Gurus, and new Gurus will be trained to join the mission. As an alumni, I will also be a part of this by helping my mother with her Balvikas classes, teaching students bhajans and Veda chantings and supporting my Samiti to grow their Balvikas units.

Through these guidances at the micro level, Balvikas matures to Lokvikas which is the progress of mankind for universal welfare. As Lokvikas advances, we will be fulfilling the Vision of Swami. "The joy that we cause in the heart of God is the only worthwhile achievement."

Offering my words at His Divine Feet.





Swaranjali Chettri

Sikkim

Balvikas is the smallest yet the most powerful phenomenon that can restore dharma i.e., righteousness. I personally compare children with 'dough' where we can mould these children into a pure and clear conscience from the very beginning stage.

Our organization has mainly three wings - Spiritual, Service and Education, in which Balvikas comes under the Education wing. But I feel that Balvikas is the main pillar of our organization and along with it there are many other wings. The second thing which is most important is today's young generation - the 'youth'. In today's age, we need to psychologically support and motivate them with good thoughts, while inspiring them through many of the service or cultural activities and involving them in IT sectors to build and show their hidden talents.

Let us all see a vision for five years from now - 2025, wherein we see human values being inculcated to maximum number of children not only in our state but in the whole country so as to be guided by the teachings of Bhagawan for a value oriented life.

For this to be happen, we need to follow the 4 'Es' - Expansion, Encouragement, Empowerment and Execution. We need to expand the teachings of our Beloved Bhagawan while reaching it to each and every young person by Encouragement, Empowerment and Execution.

We should aim to expand our Balvikas centres by inculcating the teachings of our

dear Bhagawan in samiti levels, district levels, SSSVIP, Vidya Jyoti, and in centres which are in schools, along with the expansion of Balvikas gurus, students and youngsters inculcating these values within these five years.

We need to encourage and inspire the new and young generation to be a part of our organization by means of involving them in cultural, service, spiritual and educational activities.

We need to inspire the children to attend Balvikas classes without missing it; by making the classroom more lively and friendly and ensuring that there is no dropout in any of the groups. And further, we need to empower them to be a Balvikas guru or serve as a pre-sevadai or sevadai in the organization. Parents play an important role in this major mission, as they need to know the essence of Balvikas.

Even after completing the Balvikas course, we still need to stay in touch with them, so that we are not misguided in our life. The students should be empowered to take part in the activities which are organized by the organization. The IT sector is the main thing in today's generation and it is a huge platform. We can encourage the youth, alumni and group 3 students to take part in the trainings and satsangs conducted online.

Selfless-service is the significant ideal which we need to impart to youngsters. We should encourage them to take part in service activities conducted in the samiti, or take them to old age homes, orphanages and even inspire them for tree plantation activities which serve our Mother Earth.

We should be able to transform every single 'youth' into 'Sai youth' within these five years. If we practice 'BE, DO and TELL' then Swami will surely help us and bless us to achieve this.



Monica Pandey

Sikkim

When I started Balvikas, I did not know what it was and how it would shape me. While children my age played and watched television every Sunday, many of us would head for Balvikas class all decked up in whites. Balvikas for me personally was a place where I would meet everyone who was like me in different ways. After I completed 3rd Group, I got busy with board exams and moved out of the home to a new state, a new city, and soon lost touch with Balvikas friends. I meet them once in a while as an acquaintance and all of us are scattered throughout the country. Some are grateful and some of us just carried on in life without the Organisation as our part. Though Sathya Sai Organisation was still part of me, I would have to look through various sources when I wanted to seek something. After a few years, the internet got cheaper and also free when I could listen to Swami's discourse and be in touch despite being physically away from my tribe. Today, I have questions that I didn't have back then and get answers easily. I talk to Swami, call my Sai Sisters, and just connect for everything that I am looking for. I got the right guidance, I got gurus and sisters who would push me, call me sometimes, and gather me if I ever got scattered. But, not all of us are lucky.

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas in 2025 would be a happy place where all of us are lucky, with all the alumni connected virtually at the Samiti level irrespective of where we are. We have alumni meet at National Level but at the Samiti level or District level, we must have something where we keep in touch or

at least know where our tribes are. To elaborate on this, when students move out of their hometown they can also be connected to the Samiti that is closest to their new location. The digitisation of data, records, registration at all Indian levels which can be accessed by each student, gurus, etc...is what I can envision for 2025. Each student having an individual login id and getting everything in one place.

Once a student, always a student. And, Balvikas is a journey, not a destination which is why we all need a continuous focus on our spiritual journey. As we move from teenage years to adulthood and the idea of freedom changes, many of the students start looking at themselves as someone who is an individual and independent, which of course is good, but sometimes boundaries are created and many drift apart. To address this, a connection can be built to help and relate each one by workshops, seminars, etc. This is also the time when questions arise and logic is sought in everything. So, Balvikas in 2025 will also have sessions where students are taught to question, asked to raise doubts and a bridge between young generations and old generations is built that will connect someone who has met Swami in Physical Form and someone who just listens to Swami's stories.

Keeping a spiritual diary should be encouraged which will help students keep a check on themselves, their thoughts and also connect to God within them in their own way. Summer courses and winter



courses are part of many states, yet, if we can extend this as a collaboration with other states and allow inter-cultural mixing and bonding, this will create a friendship for a lifetime. This is how unity in diversity will also follow.

Since many students join Balvikas late and some cannot complete it due to various reasons, such as migration; virtual medium or an alternative medium to help them complete Balvikas should be introduced. We can also make a system where a student can carry forward their credit to wherever they move and begin where they left irrespective of their locations. Balvikas hasn't reached many parts of the country and it should be our aim to see Balvikas even in remote areas that do not have accessibility. The system of learning is pre-defined and we have exams every year. The usual question and answer during exams can be improvised to increase imagination. A question that makes us think and wonder, the question which has no right or wrong answers should be

increased. In this, the real challenge is faced by gurus because it is they who need to adapt and accept and at the same time help students to channelise their thoughts, if they observe certain patterns which need to be addressed.

Balvikas builds leaders and it is beyond the syllabus or what is taught in class. It is an awakening to the godliness in us which will build a country. The current global crisis such as climate change, poverty, health, etc. needs leaders with positivity who have a balanced view of everything and this can only be developed with spirituality. Balvikas is the vision for the future and it inculcates values such as a ceiling on desire, self-sacrifice and a sense of renunciation. It is an institution that can dilute all the boundaries existing in the world and help practice "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam."

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas of 2025, for me, is this global village where I can see only love and positivity. It is the ideal world that reflects Swami words – **Your life is My Message.**





L Nandhini

Tamil Nadu

Humble Pranams at the Divine Lotus Feet!!

To set out on a journey, we have to know where we are going and how we intend to get there. Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas is destined to take many of the world's children on the most remarkable journey ever attempted by the human race.

It is a journey within, to discover the awesome splendour of our innate qualities as human beings. It is also a journey of great responsibility. In a letter to students on 10 March 1988, Bhagawan wrote:

"You must equip yourselves to be the guardians of the society and the pillars of the nation. You must fill your consciousness with a sense of responsibility."

(Prema Dhara, 1994)

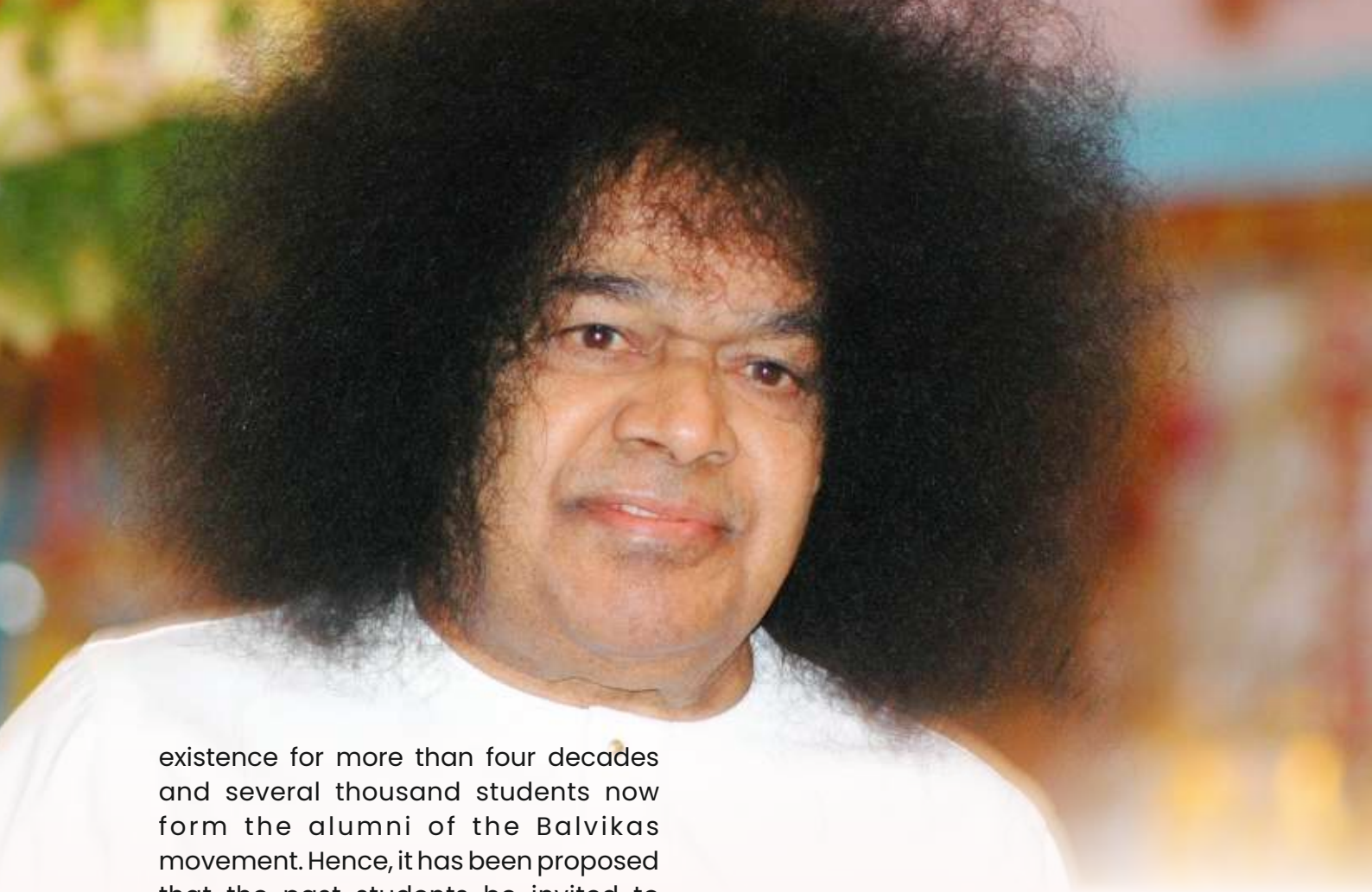
Vision and Mission of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas 2025

A major aim of Sai Education is to foster the spirit of selfless service in all children, and so we must set in place opportunities for all Balvikas students to be of service to those in need, to society and to the environment.

Some of the practical steps and measures which can be taken to bring into fruition the aims of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas movement are listed below.

- Conducting Outbound Training Programs - OBT (Gurukula Type) for group III and II students to give them the feel of a life blended with human values and personal sadhana

- Giving Specialisations in three wings by making them do projects on any one of the three wings for group III or pre sevadals
- Teaching Spiritual Defence Techniques as Self Defence techniques for teens and youth to prepare them to face adversities
- Story telling sessions by Parents to other BV children of that Unit
- Mass cooking by BV children along with parents in Samiti centre for Narayana Seva
- Sports meet, Cultural meets blending urban and rural Balvikas students
- Conferences/Balvikas Symposiums for schools, involving the Principals
- State level/District level lesson plans for Group II & III syllabus and also framing calendar events every November for the forthcoming year and practising it uniformly
- Field study by Balvikas students, by doing research, interviews, questionnaire on effect of Balvikas on transformation and thereby submitting findings. The students will be guided by Mentors, who are in corporates and also devotees of Bhagawan
- The Balvikas gurus should visit Puttaparthi once a year on a state wise pilgrimage to experience the Divine Presence, for there can be no greater motivator than Bhagawan Himself
- The Balvikas movement has been in



existence for more than four decades and several thousand students now form the alumni of the Balvikas movement. Hence, it has been proposed that the past students be invited to become the mentors of the present Balvikas students and a formal mentoring programme be set up for implementation

- Encourage children to place a "ceiling on desires", so that they have an opportunity to show consideration for others and to discover their innate joyous nature

Divine Guidelines

On one occasion Swami said:

The Balvikas children whom you are guiding and inspiring will be the leaders of tomorrow in this land. The virtues you implant in them, the counsel you are providing them and the examples you place before them will remain carved in their memories and transform their outlook and behaviour in days to come.

('Divine Guidelines to Balvikas', 1990, page 10)

Journey Together

Happiness, success, failure and regrets are all a part of life's journey. What we experience is largely based on our attitude, values and morals. The journey depends on the path we take. Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas is itself a journey that the young minds take, holding the hands of Beloved Bhagawan.

Remember the confidence you had as a child, knowing that your mother will help you cross the road. That is the kind of confidence Balvikas students have on Bhagawan throughout their life!

End of Balvikas education is character. If one is endowed with noble character, one can achieve any mighty task. One never stops being a Balvikas student. The bliss never stops. I am holding the hands of my Beloved Sai Maa, crossing the roads together...together forever!!



Smt. Indira Siva

Telangana

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas Vision 2025 – this year will mark the hundredth year of Advent of our Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

As an Alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas, I understand the importance of bringing children into this system by teaching the values required. Since its inception, I have seen a great change in the generation who have undergone the diploma programme. We have seen children's performance in various streams with tranquillity and ease compared to the non Balvikas cadre. We are blessed by the Master of the Universe to have initiated this programme in His Divine Sankalpa.

We have seen need based modifications and implementations, time and again, in the Balvikas programme by the elders of the Organisation, who have been nurtured by the Lord Himself.

I visualise the Year 2025 to be an Illumined stage for our Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas where:

1. The Children of this great country Bharat would forge ahead and lead our country in different walks of life professionally and personally.
2. Every Alumni would take the responsibility as a member of the Sai Family to extend it to every city, street and village.
3. It will be ensured one parent among 5 would become a Balvikas guru.

4. Alumni will bring in digital technology to promote this flagship programme to encourage many to join and educate themselves.

5. There will be campaigns wherein Balvikas students belonging to a particular School would participate and speak about their journey of self-transformation in order to spread awareness about the programme.

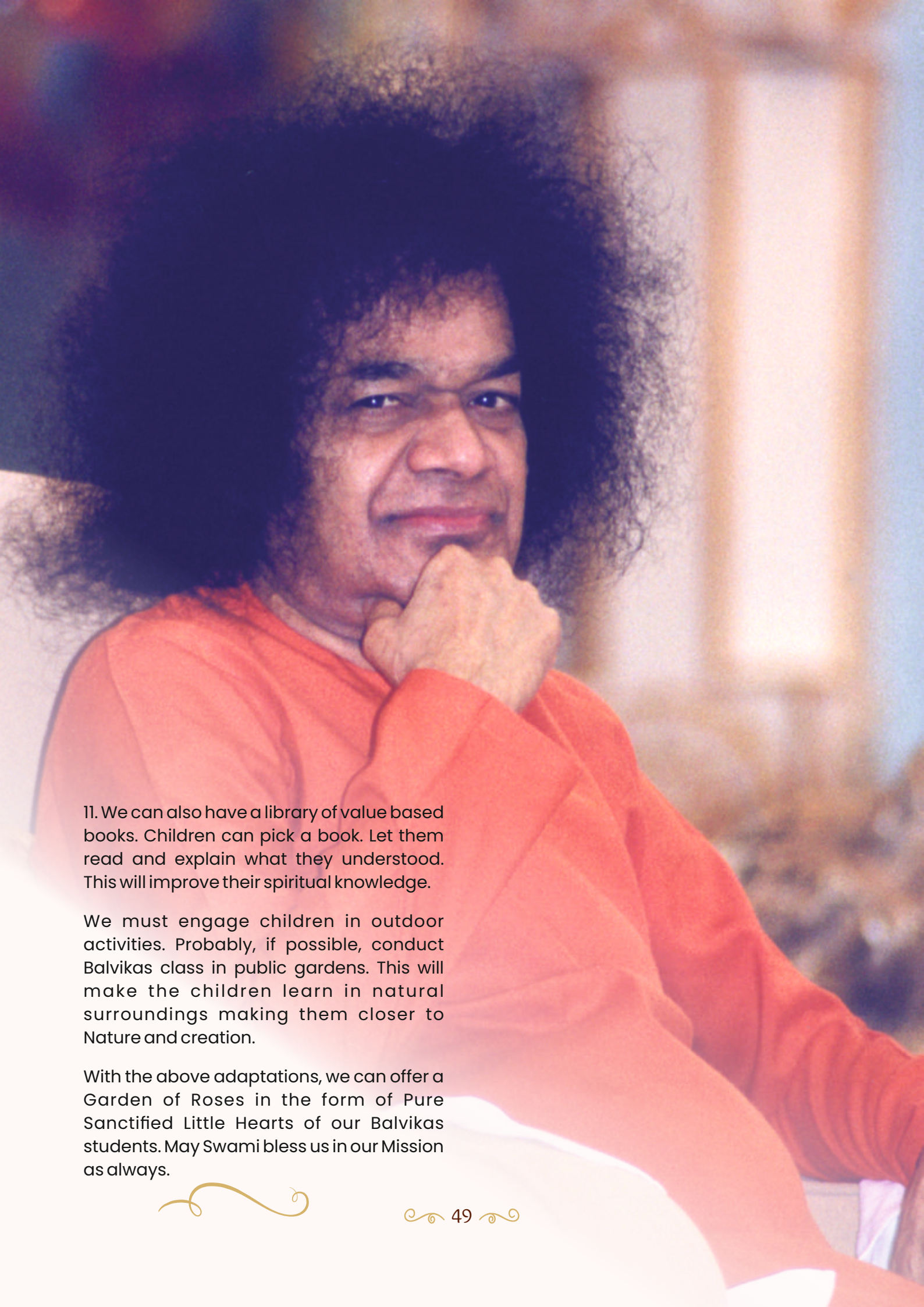
6. Children would consider Seva as the next level of the curriculum by sharing their love and compassion to the deprived in the society.

7. BV would progress one step further and introduce in Group III, a certificate programme in Veda.

8. Educating our children on a weekly basis through short spiritual movies on the life of our saints, like Sant Gyaneshwar, Tukaram, etc. as visuals would help them to absorb better.

9. Emphasis on common traditions should be made to promote individual sadhana. Live demonstrations in terms of seminars and symposia once in a quarter should be made letting the children participate.

10. We can have a Spiritual picnic every 2 months where children can play value based games. Our ancient games can be included which would improve concentration and agility.



11. We can also have a library of value based books. Children can pick a book. Let them read and explain what they understood. This will improve their spiritual knowledge.

We must engage children in outdoor activities. Probably, if possible, conduct Balvikas class in public gardens. This will make the children learn in natural surroundings making them closer to Nature and creation.

With the above adaptations, we can offer a Garden of Roses in the form of Pure Sanctified Little Hearts of our Balvikas students. May Swami bless us in our Mission as always.





Mrs. Gunjan Sahani

Uttar Pradesh

Balvikas is a movement launched by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to blossom today's children to citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

Balvikas 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 start BalaVihars 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 storytelling, enacting plays, singing Bhajans, etc.

Bhagawan later changed the name of BalaVihar into Balvikas in 1971, redefining the education system created by Him as the system aiming at the Blossoming of Human Excellence. As time passed by, slowly and steadily the Balvikas Programme designed by Bhagawan for children between 6 years and 15 years of age, in three groups, took shape and with the formation and expansion of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Balvikas spread far and wide. Training modules were developed, research went in deeper, and with Bhagawan's active and continuous guidance Balvikas 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.

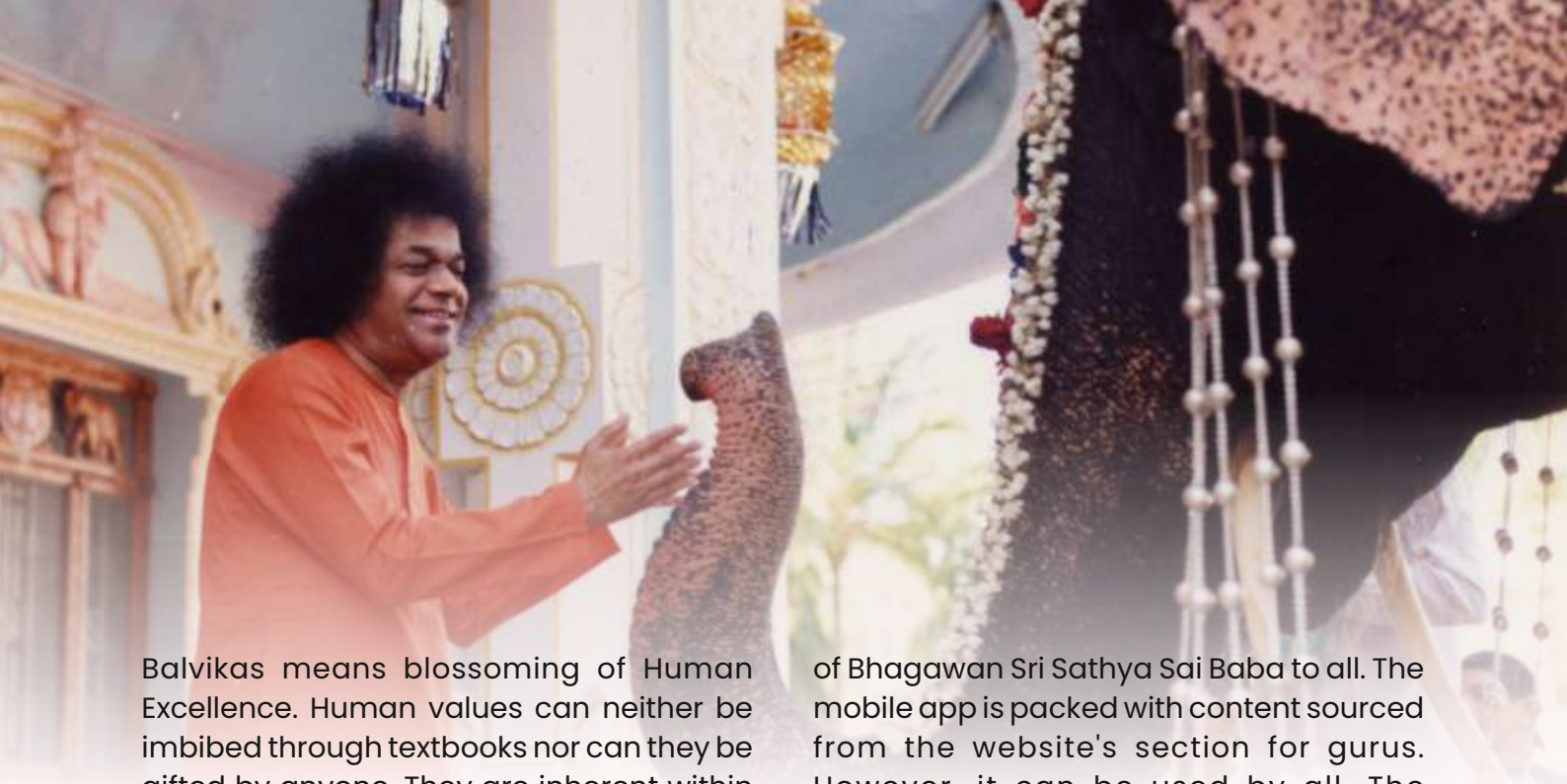
Swami says, "Children's minds are innocent and pure. Each child is like white marble for

the teacher and the parents to sculpt into an image of God, a bud to be helped to blossom in all its Divine Glory so that it becomes a worthy offering to God. Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas (SSS-BV), the programme of Education in Human Values (EHV), has proved to be the ray of hope for the future as it promotes that each child is unique, unrepeatable and creative being and when treated as such, learns to recognize his or her own worth and to give respect to all."

The schools of today provide physical, intellectual and emotional growth of the child but Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas provides all-round development of the child so that he/she can face the challenges in life with dignity, confidence and strong character. Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas aims at inculcating good habits in the child so that he/she grows up into an ideal citizen – an asset not only to his parents but to the society, nation, and world at large.

Bhagawan Baba says, "You must study to become steady. See to it that the Divine Love in your heart is steady. The goal of education should not be to just acquire theoretical knowledge but to practically apply it in your life. Birds and animals lead life without 'studying', but your education must result in you developing a strong and good character."

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas has thus been initiated and founded on the Divine Dictum – The End of Education is character.



Balvikas means blossoming of Human Excellence. Human values can neither be imbibed through textbooks nor can they be gifted by anyone. They are inherent within each individual and the Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas programme provides the right environment for these latent human values to blossom and empowers each child to unfold the innate values within oneself to the highest perfection.

Since the focus is on bringing an intrinsic transformation within each child. The Balvikas classes are conducted as a part of the Global Mission of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation to direct the children of today – the torch bearers of tomorrow's society, into the path of self-enquiry and self-discovery.

Through the judicious use of simple teaching techniques such as: Prayer, Group Singing, Meditation, Story Telling and Group Activities, the Balvikas gurus encourage children to become conscious about the latent potential within and orient their lives on the trajectory of human excellence. This, in short is the sum and substance of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas Programme.

Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas, initiated and blessed by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, has now gone digital with website, mobile apps and even online classes. The app is yet another tool that will take the teachings

of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to all. The mobile app is packed with content sourced from the website's section for gurus. However, it can be used by all. The advantage of the app is that the audio can be downloaded and used offline. Users can listen to the audio on vedas, bhajans, and slokas anytime, anywhere. It will be a ready reckoner for gurus, parents or any spiritual aspirant who is interested in Balvikas, its lessons, methods of learning and teaching, and human values in daily life. This app does not in any way replace the Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas Guru or the paramount importance of the Guru in the Balvikas programme and the intense bonding between the guru and child.

The seed that was sown in 1968 by our Beloved Swami has now grown into a rock solid tree with its roots deep down in human values and branches of upright character spreading across miles. In another five years this tree will only grow further to bring millions in its fold and spread divinity across borders. Technology has bridged all gaps between lakhs of Balvikas alumni spread across continents. By the year 2025, this strong network of Sri Sathya Sai Balvikas students will be a step closer in fulfilling Bhagawan's Mission of setting up a Global Community standing tall on the pillars of Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa.





Priya Mukhia

West Bengal

Adi Guru Shankaracharya in the Bhaja Govindam said – “There are three things which are rare indeed and are attained by the grace of God, namely, a human birth, desire for liberation and the protecting care of a perfected sage.” Swami has bestowed His special love on Balvikas children as we got the Lord Himself as our Guru since a very tender age.

Swami started BalaVihar in 1969. Bhagawan later changed the name of BalaVihar into Balvikas in 1971, which aimed at the Blossoming of Human Excellence. Today, as I think of my Balvikas journey, I am transported back to my Balvikas classes where the medium of instruction was love and love alone. My gurus told us moral stories, taught us prayers and played value-based games. Balvikas uses a 5 step teaching technique namely – silent sitting/meditation, prayer recitation, storytelling, group singing and value-based games. These techniques subtly infuse the moral, spiritual lessons without the child’s awareness. Sunday Balvikas was a much-awaited break from the week-long school education. It would not be wrong to say that Sunday Balvikas classes used to energise us and prepare us for the week-long school learning.

Balvikas classes and the activities built in us confidence, coordination and more than that it made us acknowledge the Divine Presence in every activity of our lives. Balvikas education has rejuvenated and authenticated the process of education by incorporating the highest spiritual principles, thus breathing life into old

methodologies often found in the educational institutions.

Swami says – Education is head-to-head which focuses on mere exchange of information, whereas Educare is heart to heart, which focuses on transformation of human heart. Reading books and gaining knowledge is not great. That is only bookish knowledge. Educare means bringing out the latent qualities and values from the core of human being.

Balvikas has to expand to each and every corner of the country and the world. To ensure this, we need to make sure all the children have access to Balvikas education.

Balvikas in every locality

There are still few areas in our cities and towns where children do not have access to Balvikas classes. Thus, we need to ensure that new Balvikas centres are available in every locality. Samiti must ensure that their old units and Balvikas centres help the new centres and supervise them in terms of classes, parent contact programme and books.

Guru Training

Guru training has to be given periodically to strengthen the teachers to handle the problems at the ground level. Online guru training should be provided in such a way that all the gurus in every corner of the country are in the same level. Further gurus from every unit/mandali should be given adequate chances of participation in the training programmes.



Parents Participation

Parents add an important dimension to the Balvikas education. Evidences are adequate to reveal that children whose parents are involved in Balvikas, those children have shown great development in their respective personality. There are many parents whose children have completed or are pursuing Balvikas classes. Such parents need to be identified and tagged with the Mahila Vibhag. Such parents need to be motivated to become a Balvikas guru.

Technology

During the pandemic crisis, online Balvikas classes have become a necessity. Training should be given to the gurus to handle the technology for conducting online Balvikas classes.

Alumni Association

Balvikas alumni are spread across length and breadth of the country. Alumni can be traced out and utilised to create classes for value-based songs, stories, video presentation of stories and games and puzzles that can be used by the gurus in their Balvikas classes.

Conclusion

By 2025, Balvikas centres have to expand, so that no child is deprived of Balvikas education. Old Balvikas centres should train and supervise the new Balvikas centres. Parents, alumni, gurus and all samiti should work in collaboration to provide education to all. It's time that we share the same love and blessings with others which Swami bestowed upon us. Let us join more and more people in our journey towards SAI. Let us inculcate and practice our attitude of gratitude towards our Guru and make this mission a grand success – Education by all and education for all.

It is only when there is a close relationship and connection between the teacher and the student, that whatever is taught will take the shape of spiritual knowledge.

- Baba



Bal Vikas (Sai Spiritual Education) is the primary basis of the great movement to restore righteousness (dharma) in the world....The ideal of the program is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and clear conscience.

- Baba



Education must aim at providing the child, not livelihood, but a life worth living. Faith in one's self and in the Divinity of one's self are absolutely essential.

- Baba



I bless you that you succeed in the great task you have imposed on yourself, and that you will be able to light the way for the children of this land into the glorious region of everlasting joy.

- Baba





For an enlightened way of living, granting the grace of precise direction and elevation for the human race, this luminescent flow of Divine Words do the Vision and the Mission perfectly define, inspiring and encouraging a relentless worldwide movement that steadfastly makes:

**Every home a Balvikas Home.
Every Mother a Balvikas Guru.**

- Baba



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations - India