

EDUCATION TODAY

Sathya Sai Education in Human Values

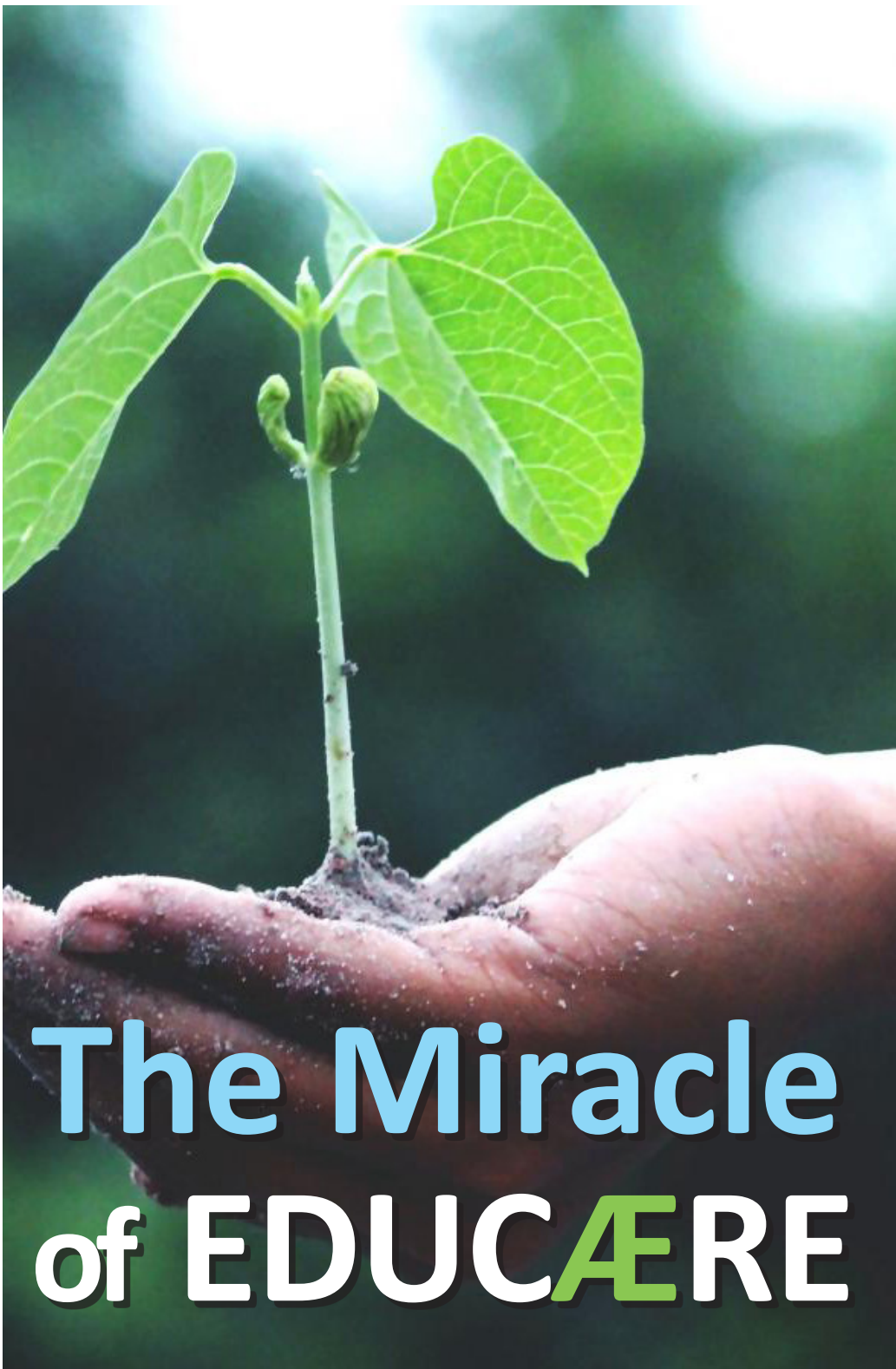
NEWSLETTER

10

April 2025

A Tiny Seed: Drawing Out Inner Wisdom and Strength

HIGHLIGHTS



The Miracle of EDUCÆERE



- SAI 100 -
Look To
Alumni Students



EDUCÆERE

Linking Hearts
in schools to live
IN PEACE

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"Today the world is facing ruin and disaster because people have lost confidence in their true Self. Self-confidence alone is capable of granting peace and prosperity to each person. People with Self-confidence receive good everywhere and are honoured in all places. Whatever they touch becomes gold. When people have no faith in themselves, how can they place faith in others? So Self-confidence is a must for every student."

— Sathya Sai, Vidya Vahini

EDITORIAL

A Tiny Seed: Drawing Out Inner Wisdom and Strength



The power of self-discovery is often unlocked in adverse circumstances through guidance and encouragement. A recent experience with one of my graduate students reaffirmed this truth. In the early weeks of her clinical rotation, a situation overwhelmed her to the point of wanting to quit. She felt too weak for the task, doubting her ability to continue her academic

training. This student had already conquered immense challenges—being the first in her family to attend college, pursuing postgraduate studies, and coming from a broken home where her mother worked as a cleaner at the very university she now studied. Yet, in that moment of struggle, she felt incapable. When she returned the following day, I engaged her in a simple activity which was based on Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teaching that a small instrument can accomplish great tasks out of proportion to its size due to its inherent strength. Size is seldom an accurate measure of function or potential. Sri Sathya Sai Baba said, for

example, a tiny seed has the innate potency to grow into a towering tree or a small torch has the power to light your way back home. So, I asked her to draw a seed and a tree, a boat and the ocean, a plane and the sky, feet and the human body. As we were reflecting on the capability of each instrument to perform their task, the student began to slowly come to the understanding that true strength lies within. Over the next few weeks, there was a subtle yet perceptible change in her demeanor and steadily her confidence grew. She completed her training successfully and was chosen as the student speaker at the graduation ceremony.

This experience highlights an essential truth: each of us carries a light within. Through the process of educære—drawing out inner wisdom and strength—we illuminate not only our own lives but also those of others around us. As educators, mentors and community members, if only we nurture this belief in our children from an early age, imagine how much brighter and more compassionate our world would become. A world where people recognize their potential is a world filled with growth, compassion, and success for all.

Aparna Murali
EC Member

EDUCÆRE

The Oxford English Dictionary states that the word "Education" has a double Latin root. The first is "educare" which means to foster, to nourish, to feed. The second is "educere", which means to elicit, to call forth and bring to light. Both approaches, according to SSEHV, are necessary and complementary to each other. Of the two, the art of 'drawing forth' not only the skills and talents within the child, but that hidden treasure of Human Values, which are inherent in the individual, is of paramount importance. This maieutic art, similar to the renowned Socratic method, has been repeatedly emphasised by Sri Sathya Sai Baba as the main goal of education".

"There was once a pilgrim who reached a jungle at nightfall. He found that he had to go through five miles of jungle before he could get shelter in a village. He had a small lantern in his hand; he lit it, but found to his dismay that the flicker could light only a yard ahead of him. How can I walk five miles with the help of this tiny circle of light, he lamented. A wise passer-by saw his plight. "My dear fellow, hold the lantern in your hand and walk on. You can go five miles or fifty, and you will always be in the circle of light around the lantern." In the same way, a man can safely cross the ocean on a raft made of two logs tied together. The instrument may be small, but the work it can do may exceed its size. A small torch will help a man get through a thick forest. The little raft or the small torch can be equated with the name of God, which may seem like a small word but when recited with Love the greatness of Divinity can be realised. A tiny seed contains within itself the potency to produce the huge tree." SSSS, V5, #1. January 1965

LINKING HEARTS IN SCHOOLS TO LIVE IN PEACE

The **VIII International Meeting on Integral Education in Human Values** was held online from September 16 to 18, 2024 and was attended by teachers, school directors, ministerial officials, DECE staff (Student Counseling Department), parents and the general public interested in education and the well-being of society. The event shared experiences of educational institutes in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru focusing on understanding the importance of heart-to-heart, person-to-person relationships: teacher-student, student-student and teacher-parent, and of facilitating their transformation through guiding them to recognize each other as human beings. Five organisations partnered in the planning and presentations: the National Board of Education in Values of Ecuador, the Ministry of Education of Ecuador, the Sathya Sai Institutes of Education in Human Values of Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, the Sathya Sai Fiscal-Missional School of Bahía de Caraquez, and the Ecuadorian Network of Pedagogy. Daily keynote lectures presented experiences and practices, emphasizing how by “linking hearts in schools”, Peace, both inner peace and world peace, can be upheld and fostered. Speakers included ministers and former ministers of education, university professors, theologians, lawyers, entrepreneurs, school and institute directors and representatives of Institutes of Sathya Sai Education. A range of topics was addressed, all aiming to ensure that the participants recognized the importance of bringing out the best in themselves in order to contribute to oth-

ers and achieve the full blossoming of their personalities. The topics were:

- No more: Let's Stop Normalizing a Country of Anti-Values
- Three Decades Promoting Human Understanding
- Classrooms in Peace: Coexistence and Socio-Emotional Development in Contexts of Violence
- School and Family for Greater Inclusion- Model Learning Communities
- Education, Transformer of Society
- Educating from Trust: The Experience of the Gimnasio Moderno School of Bogota
- Why Don't They Teach Us How to Develop Quality Relationships?
- Nature and the Human Heart
- The Self is Reborn in an Encounter
- The Power of Talking about What is Not Talked About
- Proposal for a Classroom for an Education for Peace
- Education as a True Tool for Transformation

More information can be accessed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/IgbjeGYKyk4?si=EjBpevyq33rVCPu1>

<https://www.youtube.com/live/sRsNJO3m7lw> (Day 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/live/7RES3Qpofwc?si=Bkgm1xS3pXTCex5H> (Day 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/live/7RES3Qpofwc?si=Bkgm1xS3pXTCex5H>

<https://youtu.be/ovhgp8IAfeo> (Day 3)

<https://youtu.be/ovhgp8IAfeo> (Day 3, cont'd)

FOR SAI 100, LOOK TO ALUMNI STUDENTS!

A call to action for Sathya Sai Schools

The expansive service of fostering human values in the students of 39 Sathya Sai Schools and numerous Sathya Sai Education in Human Values programmes, is inspired by the Love and Wisdom of its Founder, Sri Sathya Sai Baba. November 23, 2025, marks an important date for those who have embarked on the Journey of Human Values as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of his birth. Many Sathya Sai Schools are in their third decade of continuous operation. Numerous students have passed through the school halls absorbing the lessons that helped them realise the human values within themselves. They are now making their way in young adult life with human values as their touchstone. Their memories and views about their school days could inform and enlighten us, and boost our service in these schools today. Alumni students have the potential to support and advocate Sathya Sai Schools. To commemorate the forthcoming 100th Birthday, all Sathya Sai Schools are encouraged to arrange outreach activities involving school alumni and their families. These public events may include concerts, music festivals, dramas, seminars, talks

on their transformational journeys, or service programmes. Let us reach out to alumni students!

*For those of you already reaching out to alumni students, please consider sharing your experiences with the editorial team (ec@sssio.org) for publication in future editions of **Education Today**.*



HUMAN VALUES AT KEIPENE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – A FOLLOW UP

Human values are the light that guides us through life, creating harmony between heart, mind and action. They teach us that these values are the basis of our existence and mission on Earth. We are here to learn, love and serve others, to create a world where compassion and truth drive.

The 7th issue of "Education Today, Sathya Sai Education in Human Values", introduced a small rural school in Latvia, **the Keipene Elementary School**. Over the years the school has grown, united by the same path and goal. Almost all elementary school and preschool teachers have participated in Human Values seminars organized by the **Institute of Sathya Sai Education of North Europe (ESSE)**. As a result of this close cooperation, which began in 2020, it has now officially become a Sathya Sai Partnership School. It is thanks to this process that the teachers have found a unified approach to help their students bring forth their inherent beauty and goodness. They are integrating what they have learned into their personal growth, working with the students and the local community.

"We follow our hearts", says Maija Grosa, one of Keipene's teachers, "raising children with respect for themselves and others. Through daily work, conversations, and attitude, we strive to create an environment in which every child feels heard, understood, and loved. Our path is to be genuine, sensitive, and loving. Breaking our ego is something we learn every day, and we teach our children, because only in this way can we bring light to ourselves and the world".



The school's 5-day value-focused summer camps are a great opportunity to have fun, participate in various creative workshops, attend cultural and entertainment events, consolidate academic knowledge and simply experience a happy childhood. *"We learn so much during these days! How to concentrate on the present moment, to be "here and now", seeing the beauty in simple togetherness, huddled together around a glowing campfire, feel love in the wonderful nature, gain strength and get closer to ourselves, our own heart's voice again. We grasp the happiness that lives within us and gratitude for life, for "being". Watching our children in action, when they are not aware that someone is watching them, marvels and delights us. One child lags behind the group to carry a lost snail across the road, the "stylish" guy ties a little girl's shoelaces without hesitation, someone else opens the door for the teacher and treats her with an apple from his garden, and so on and so forth", says Maija, who continues to share her love, enthusiasm and experience with us.*

"At the end of September 2024, some of our teachers went to Spain as part of an Erasmus programme, where we were warmly welcomed by Ms. Raksha Mahtani, who acts both as teacher and the Director of Human Values at Green Valley School, a British International School in Palma de Mallorca. Throughout the week, we participated in values lessons at school and preschool, learned about various methods, songs, and stories that we can adapt and use in our own school. The week was unforgettable and so deeply valuable! When we left, we took with us good impressions and a rich bounty of experience and methods, which we are gradually integrating into our school. Human values are seen in actions, not in words. Neighborhood clean-up efforts, working with seniors, social work, reading fairy tales to young preschoolers, and more, and more... Sometimes in the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we fail to notice the broad hearts of children, but looking back, we must say that human values live not only on the school flag. They live in the heart of every student and are expressed in their actions and decisions. We sincerely hope that our children will not get lost, will not lose this light in their hearts, and even if that happens, that they will be able to find it again to continue sharing it with the world".



The Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO) is a spiritual and humanitarian organization active for over 50 years and in over 110 countries. The SSSIO Education Committee supports and promotes Sathya Sai Education worldwide including 39 Sathya Sai Schools, 28 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education, and programmes of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) and Sai Spiritual Education (SSE). For more information please contact: ec@sssio.org

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