

# EDUCATION TODAY

Sathya Sai Education in Human Values

NEWSLETTER

# 14

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Sathya Sai Human Values and School Management

## HIGHLIGHTS



A School of  
EXCELLENCE

VISION  
& MISSION

We are lighthouses  
to each other

INSTITUTIONAL  
Awards and  
ACHIEVEMENTS

ECONOMIC  
Sustainability

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*“Each person in primary school should have a feeling of brotherhood towards everyone. Consult with whoever is engaged in the task of developing, nurturing and caring. Let there be harmony in the headmaster’s office, the classrooms, the dormitories, the dining room, and the playground. And when anyone is asked to do or not to do something, make sure that those persons know the importance and purpose of that action.”*

*Sathya Sai, 1993*

## EDITORIAL

### Sathya Sai Human Values and School Management



Allowing children to struggle through hardship and only then learn to live in alignment with their true human nature ultimately wastes precious years of their lives. Introducing Human Values at home and in school is a desirable, natural approach, since personal growth is the foundation of social transformation. This is why most SSEHV programmes have been designed for use in the classroom. Effective teaching strategies and age-appropriate lessons are instrumental in reaching the programme’s goals, helping children transform external guidance on good behaviour into natural expressions of their own humanness. Experiences in Sathya Sai Schools showed, however, that this “magic” of SSEHV actually depends on something else: the wider school atmosphere. The Education Committee Guidelines highlight a loving environment as a defining feature of a Sathya Sai School. Yet, creating such an atmosphere is a large component of the

challenge. Anyone used to the routine of a school knows how challenging it is. There are always issues to be dealt with, taking into consideration the needs and growth of children, teachers, staff, parents, and authorities. A similar environment is built gradually. This leads to the next question: who creates the school atmosphere? For this, true leadership is essential, which brings us to school management. A loving, values-based environment cannot flourish under a leadership whose words and actions contradict those very values. SSEHV is not a discourse or a set of paperwork and templates:

it is the way the school operates. Creating this atmosphere requires mature leadership—personal, emotional, and spiritual—of principals, academic directors, and school or trust boards. This maturity can be understood as an aspect of consciousness. We could draw up a set of values that outwardly reflect this inner growth. Such maturity, however, does not appear suddenly, nor can be acquired through cours-

es or formal training. It is an inner process that develops gradually as each person moves closer to their true Self. What are the values typical of the management of a Sathya Sai School? An initial list would include a deep Self-appreciation (or appreciation of the Self), Self-confidence, Self-esteem, determination, unconditional love for people, children, education, and others’ well-being, along with patience, firmness, self-discipline, and commitment. This reshapes the role of school principals. Beyond paperwork and daily management, principals should be there to inspire and support. Sathya

overly formal environment. Rhythm, responsibility, and academic content are necessary, but they are far from enough; the secret lies in how we get there. Leaders must act as a source, not with force—helping, never hurting. Being bossy is easy; inspiring others in challenging moments requires true maturity. Teachers are expected to be lighthouses for children, guiding them to avoid dangers along their path. But who guides the teachers? Principals, as leaders, support and inspire them, drawing out the inner strength of the whole team. And who guides the principals? The school board or trust board plays that role, offering support and inspiration. Ultimately, we are all lighthouses for one another, while Sathya Sai Baba and his teachings remain a constant source of inspiration. In a nutshell, school management and humanness are closely aligned. SSEHV is not a curriculum, a set of lesson plans, or a discourse on method. It is the lived reality of how a school operates, how it relates, and how it leads. Only then can the loving atmosphere of human values truly flourish.

**Introducing Human Values at home and in school is a desirable, natural approach, since personal growth is the foundation of social transformation.**

Sai Baba often said, *“Out of Source, not out of force.”* A source of what? Of love, dedication, tenderness, determination, patience—of all deep human qualities. A source of inspiration. This is a beautiful standard for school managers and trust boards. If these qualities are not natural within us, how can we guide others on the path of human values? A loving atmosphere cannot grow in an authoritarian, harsh, or

*Dr. Dalton Amorin*  
Education Committee  
Board Member

## The Sathya Sai School of Funza - A Model and Leader

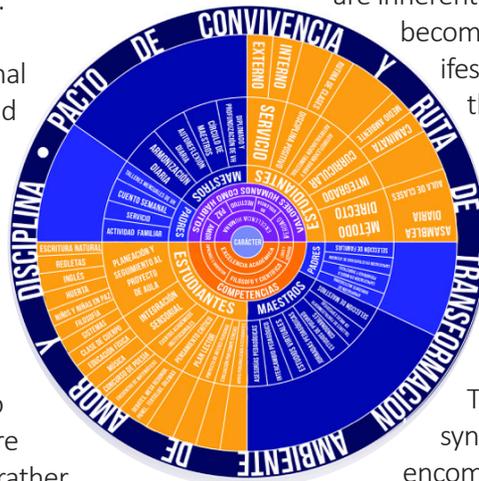
It is a formal educational institution located in the municipality of Funza, 24 km from Bogotá, the capital city of Colombia. Founded in 2010, it offers private and tuition-free education for preschool and primary levels. Its objective is to help children flourish in academic and human excellence, so that they become pillars of support for their family and an engaged member of society. As a school that promotes the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values programme taught by its founder, Sathya Sai Baba, it applies the Educære model, which involves parents, teachers and, of course, the students.

The implementation of this educational project has faced many challenges and obstacles, ranging from operational aspects to more subtle dimensions. In practical terms, the institution has managed the location and acquisition of the land, the physical construction, and the procurement of the necessary funds for its execution. Likewise, it has been essential to define the school's character to ensure it remains a solid pedagogical model rather than merely a social assistance project. The critical task of finding a director who combines pedagogical expertise with a personal example of human values was successful. Finally, one of the most impactful challenges has been ensuring that the directors and the entire school staff live in total coherence with the principles taught to

the students. In this way, the goal is for the adults within the institution to become the primary benchmark of “*being love in action*”, inspiring the children through their living example.

The **Sathya Sai School of Funza** has developed its Institutional Educational Plan (PEI), titled “Being Love in Action,” based on two fundamental concepts: **human excellence and academic excellence**. This plan is grounded in the Educære model, which recognizes that human values are inherent to the human being and that one must become conscious of them in order to manifest them in daily life. Likewise, it values the child's prior knowledge as a starting point to explore and expand their vision of the world. The PEI strictly complies with the regulations established by the Ministry of Education, and meets the expected standards, and in most cases exceeds them.

The PEI is summarized in a diagram which synthesizes the curriculum: an outer circle encompassing two internal semicircles. The outer circle indicates that all learning is sustained by an environment and a culture of love. The upper semicircle details the activities carried out to develop human excellence among students, parents, and teachers. Meanwhile, the lower semicircle presents the activities focused on achieving academic excellence for these same groups.



**Human excellence** can be synthesized in this table, which outlines key human values, the habits that express them, the inner power behind each value, and the tools that help bring them to life. When children understand that these values — and the power within them — already exist inside themselves, they become able to live them with confidence, because they know they *can*. This is why, at the Sathya Sai School of Funza, when children leave their space untidy after finishing their tasks, they are not ordered to clean up. Instead, they are invited to **tap into their inner power to be clean and orderly**. It is truly inspiring to witness children awaken this power and take the initiative to tidy their surroundings.

On the other hand, **academic excellence** is achieved through pedagogies that develop the four pillars of learning identified by the Delors Commission (UNESCO): “*Learning to Know, Learning to Do, Learning to Live Together, and Learning to Be*”.

Human Values	Love	Truth	Right Conduct	Peace	Nonviolence
HV Habits	I am clean and orderly.	I am an intentional listener.	I am responsible and punctual with my contributions.	I am calm. I am the solution.	I am another you, you are another me.
Power	I can love myself.	I can maintain attention and concentration.	I can feel safe.	I can stop.	I can give.
Tools	Song Environment of Love. I see the good in you.	Quote or famous phrase Pause: silence and body awareness. Recognition of emotions.	Story Environment of Love. No judgement.	Silence or Meditation on the light Pause Stillness	Group activity Service

To ensure the greatest possible consistency among the adults supporting the children's development, the school offers Human Values training sessions aligned with its institutional philosophy. This training is provided to both teachers and parents: all administrative, leadership, and teaching staff participate in a weekly workshop every Friday. Additionally, for parents, there is a mandatory monthly workshop held on the last Sunday of each month.



## Institutional Awards and Achievements

The school's educational mission has been recognized by various national and international organizations, highlighting its commitment to excellence and the community:

### Institutional Honours

- "Country Builders" Award (2018): Winners of this recognition granted by the European Union, the UN, and Javeriana University.
- Leading Educational Organization Award (2023): Recognition from the Mayor's Office of Funza for significant contributions to education in the municipality.
- Third Place-Environment (2023): Award granted by the municipality to pedagogical projects with a positive environmental impact.



In 2023, the Sathya Sai School of Funza was awarded the prestigious "Funapresai" for the category "Leading Educational Company".

### Academic Excellence and Student Leadership

- Certificate of Academic Excellence (2024): Honoring former students Ángel Acosta and Gabriela Ramírez for their outstanding performance in the Saber Exams.
- Youth Counsellor (2025): Alumna Samantha Gutiérrez was elected by popular vote as the municipality's first Youth Counsellor.

### Artistic and Cultural Talent

- First Place in Theater: Winners of the municipal children's theater contest, including Best Play, Best Director, and Best Lead Actress. (2025)



Teachers and Staff of the Sathya Sai School of Funza

## ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The **Sathya Sai School of Funza** is supported by donations from corporations and individuals. It offers the opportunity to sponsor a child, a teacher, or a programme through one-time or recurring donations. The institution believes that a school's role, beyond serving as a pedagogical model, is to spread the message of Human Values to the community. This is why it shares information for implementing classroom programmes, as well as healthy recipes, mindfulness break techniques, and other tools that promote the practice of human values in daily life.



Community Service Activity in Funza, Colombia

Front cover: Students from the Sathya Sai School of Funza, Colombia



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 programs of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) and Sai Spiritual Education (SSE). For more information please contact: [ec@sssio.org](mailto:ec@sssio.org)

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