

INTRODUCING EDUCARE

Educare is the philosophy of education that underpins SSEHV. The word “Educare” has a double meaning. At one level it refers to education with care – that is teachers caring for students, students caring for teachers, students caring for each other and teachers caring for each other. At another level, it is the Latin work “Educaré”, which means to elicit or draw out that which is within. It is concerned with reaching deeply into the child’s higher levels of consciousness and bringing out the values and divinity that are inherent there.

The following statement outlines the essence of Educare:

“Educare is not the learning from books by rote, to be vomited in the examination halls. But it is the learning from life, which is absorbed into living and transforming. This gives a new meaning to dull mathematics and geography, a new vitality to language, cosmic understanding to science and an enhanced beauty to music and art. It is not to be stuffed from without into the ears of innocent children. Rather it comes from within. It is the release of the inherent intuition and divinity, which is within every individual. ... Educare is also the art of ensuring a perfect constant balance of the five elements within, by managing the mind and the inputs from the five senses, so that the surge of the Divine energy from within flows uninterrupted. In other words, a harmony between thought, word and deed has to be achieved in such a manner that the physical world is perceived as an extension of the spiritual world.... Educare is when we have sensitized ourselves, when we sensitize our children to begin to respond and become caring people.”

Sathya Sai Baba

In Educare the pupils:

- are encouraged to appreciate the five basic human values of Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non-violence as essential to the development of character,
- learn the cultures, customs and religions of other people along with their own, in order to appreciate the brotherhood of man,
- acquire decision-making skills, which helps to facilitate development of moral learning,
- develop a sense of responsibility for the consequences of their actions and act with regard for the rights, life and dignity of all persons,
- develop self-discipline and self-confidence necessary to promote the fulfillment of their potential – by enhancing their moral, physical, social and academic achievements,
- develop value skills needed for personal, family, community, national and world harmony,

- develop a caring attitude towards all forms of life and to value the need for preservation, conservation and general care of the environment.

To bring out these qualities, teachers are constantly examining all of their activities and interactions with their pupils, by reflecting on the questions:

- Does it go to the child's heart?
- Does it have practical application?
- Does it help the child transform?

“Does Educare entail a new curriculum or a new course content? Once again the answer is ‘No’. The answer lies in our implementing this technology in our lives. Am I able to control my desires? Am I conscious of the inputs of five senses in my mind? Am I able to turn my mind inside? Am I able to experience the power of love within? These are the questions that all of us have to ask. Because we are not communicating knowledge, we are not communicating words, what we are really communicating is experience.”

Sathya Sai Baba

The children are taught two important ingredients for life. One is that whatever thoughts come into their heads they think about and examine in their hearts before they act. This is referred to as 3HV, the harmony of head, heart and hands. The other is concentration and inner stillness. The main ingredient is love and through love they are helped to become self-reliant, self-confident, self-sacrificing and hence eventually self-realised.

Not all the outcomes of SSEHV can be measured easily because the transformations that come about in children are often very subtle and quite often don't emerge until they have left school and entered into adult life. Even as adults, like the rest of us, they will probably still make mistakes. But the big gift given to children by Educare is that they can pick themselves up from their mistakes and move on.

“The character of the children must be made strong and pure. Give them all the confidence they need to become good, honest and self-reliant children. It is not enough if they learn something by which they can make a living. The manner of living is more important than the standard of living. The children must also have reverence for religion, their culture, their educational attainments and their country. They must learn well their mother tongue, so they can appreciate well the great poetical works and epics written by the seers of their land. This will give them valuable guidance in the stormy days ahead.”

Sathya Sai Baba