

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Mandir

Dharmakshetra is surrounded by slum colonies of people with low educational, economic and living standards. Therefore, by the Grace and inspiration of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Vidya Mandir was inaugurated on 19 June 1970 to meet the educational needs of the children of the residents of this area. The Marathi medium school was gradually upgraded over the years.

On all His visits to Dharmakshetra, Bhagawan Baba has taken keen interest in the School and Bless the students. Students have put up plays and gymnastics, and have organised exhibitions, which Bhagawan has lovingly witnessed.

In 1975, the school was raised to Secondary level. By providing 10 year schooling to these children, it was realized that the impact of Sri Sathya Sai programme of Education in Human Values will be promoted in these children. The first batch of the school appeared for the S.S.C. examination of the Board in 1987. For the past seven years, the results of the Board exams have always exceeded 97% success.

These children come from economically and culturally deprived families. The school provides them with scholarships and grants by way of textbooks, notebooks, stationary, uniform, etc. The curriculum is broad-based and the students have regularly performed well



A student all full of joy with Bhagawan Baba in conversation with her at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition organised in school in 1995.



Sri Sathya Sai Vidyamandir (Dharmakshetra) Vanamahotsava Procession with saplings on head. (2004)

Be lamps of love. That contains all.
Then, there is no need for japam or thapas.

Guard of Honour presented to Bhagawan in Dharmakshetra By Balvikas students 1995

By 1979, the programme had practically reached every district of India. Over 50,000 children were receiving education under 3,400 trained teachers. The curriculum was spread over 9 years in three groups consistent with the age group of children. Text materials were developed and translated into several Indian languages. Training Courses were organised for Bal Vikas Gurus; the activities and instructional methodology were well defined and tested in Bal Vikas classes.

An aspect of the expansion of the programme was the starting of a number of educational institutions all over the country; the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Mandir in Dharmakshetra was one of them. This helped to establish the vital link between the non-formal programme of Bal Vikas and the formal system of education. The contribution of the Bal Vikas in the field of education had also been accepted.

Swami extended the role of teachers and the programme to cover a wide section population of the student community - from Bal Vikas to Lok Vikas. The two concrete steps Baba took to lead us on the path were firstly, the formation of the Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Educational Trust in Mumbai. Secondly, he constituted a committee to evolve a curriculum for education in human values suited for introduction in all schools. In 1981, during Swami's visit to Mumbai, the first of the EHV books was placed at the Lotus Feet in Dharmakshetra.

Where money is collected and kept, misunderstanding grows,
factions are rampant and love departs.