WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?

WORLDLY AND SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE

The true aim of education is to make explicit the innate powers of man. These are of two types. One relates to the knowledge of external things, and the organ that manifests this power is the head (brain). The organ that enables one to bring out the inner knowledge is the heart. The former relates to physical existence while the latter to higher learning or living in its true sense. Life will become ideal only when both these types of knowledge are made to manifest in harmony.

TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE

There are four kinds of knowledge. The first is bookish knowledge, i.e., superficial knowledge. The second is general knowledge, the third is discriminatory knowledge, the fourth is practical knowledge. You have to arrive at the level of practical knowledge. But frequently, people fall into error even in discriminatory knowledge. There is individual discrimination and fundamental discrimination. Individual discrimination is based on selfish gains. It is not right. Fundamental discrimination is based on the well-being of all people. The marks that students get in the examination are not true marks. True marks arise from the heart. Your conscience should assert repeatedly and firmly what you are doing is right.

SUPERFICIAL KNOWLEDGE

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

THOUGHTFUL KNOWLEDGE

PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE

STAGES OF SPIRITUAL KNOWING

Firstly you must learn about the precious truths contained in the sacred texts from experts in the field. This will lead you to developing an urge to visualize these. This is the first stage of knowing called Jnatum.

The second stage is that of visualisation, in which you carefully peruse, examine and collect such sacred texts, and with steadfast perseverance enquire, comprehend and visualise what you have read. You derive joy and satisfaction from the feeling that you have discerned certain profound truths. This stage is called Drashtum.
It is not enough if you make progress up to here; you must experience what was thus known and seen. If one lies down after eating, it will lead to indigestion. However if one consumes the requisite quantity of food and also undertakes some physical work, the food will be digested and converted into nourishment and energy.

In the same manner, you should translate your knowledge into experience and action, and use it for the progress of our country and for the welfare of humanity. This is the final stage called Praveshtum.

Sathya Sai Vahini, Ch 21: “Inner Inquiry”.

In the name Ganapathi, "Ga" stands for Guna (virtue) and "Na" for Vijnaana (wisdom). When Ga and Na are joined we have the combination of Vijnaana (worldly wisdom) and Prajnaana (Spiritual wisdom). It is out of the combination of Vijnaana and Prajnaana that Sujnaana (Supreme knowledge) emerges.

Sathya Sai Baba, Prashanthi Mandir, 31 Aug 1992

Knowledge without personal experience is futile. You should gain wisdom through experience. Knowledge is sanctified only when it is translated into actions which promote the good of humanity.

Sathya Sai Vahini, Ch 21: “The Inner Inquiry”

WHAT IS LEARNING?

“The heart cannot be transformed by lessons in a classroom. The world cannot be changed by mere preaching. Only through action and practical example can the impulse for change be intensified.’ When one leads a disciplined and regulated life, the lesson will be learnt without any teaching. The people will follow of their own accord. This applies to human values. Only when they are practiced by teachers and elders will students practice them. Those who seek to impart the values of Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa to others, must first try to practice them themselves wholeheartedly…If transformation is to be effected in students, the process must start from a very early age.”

Sathya Sai Speaks XX, 9-26-87
...Students may behave well in class, i.e. for the length of class, but how do they behave once they are outside the class? How is their behavior at home and outside? How is their conduct in school and with their friends? Your students’ conduct should be exemplary; both in your class, at home, with friends and outside. Divine Guidelines for Bal Vikas, 78-79

SATHYA SAI EDUCARE

“The rainbow in the sky is formed by dispersion of one single pure white ray by raindrops. It symbolizes multiplicity in nature caused by the prism of the mind. The diversity of the five elements in creation has its origin in the pure Divine Light within. Revelation of this Truth is Educare.” Sri Sathya Sai Baba

“Religion is realisation of your Self. Spirituality also is discovering who you really are... Educare means to bring out from within. The Atma is our innermost reality. That is what educare should bring out...Therefore, there is no difference between religion, spirituality and educare.” Sathya Sai Baba, SSS 34 - 21

To be happy in this world, one needs secular education.
To be happy in the next world, one needs spiritual education.
Sai Discourse 09/30/2000

One should acquire spiritual awareness, while seeking mastery over secular subjects. So even as you acquire secular knowledge, do spend some time everyday meditating on God.
Sathya Sai Vahini, Ch 21:“The Inner Inquiry”.

THE FIVE VALUES AS THE POWER OF LIFE

These five values are verily the five life-breaths of man. One who consider human values as his life-breath alone is a true human being. These five values are the fundamental powers of human life. Forgetting these fundamental powers, man relies more on worldly power. Our ancients realized that these five values are meant for the peace and prosperity of the world. Without understanding the significance of these values, one
cannot understand humanness at all.

Human values are not something that you need to acquire anew. They are born with you and are innate in you. As they are hidden in an iron safe, within man’s body lie the valuable jewels of human values. They are covered by the door of the heart. You must earn the key of Love for it. When the safe vault of the heart is opened by the key of love, the valuable qualities of human values emerge.  

Sai Discourse Strengthening Values Education 9/26/00

FIVE HUMAN VALUES

TRUTH

“First of all, you should understand the truth that the changeless and eternal bliss is within. It is described as attributeless, beyond delusion, ancient, final abode, eternal, pure, unsullied, immortal, and free from bondage. What is meant by Truth? It is changeless. Truth, Wisdom and Eternity is Brahma. It is mistake to think that truth is related to speech alone. Truth is that which remains changeless in all the three periods of time. So, Truth is God.” - Sri Sathya Sai Baba, September 26, 2000

RIGHT ACTION

“What is meant by righteousness? It does not mean actions of charity and rituals like Yajnas and Yagas. It does not mean good actions alone. Dharma is that which sustains. True Dharma is to put into practice the Truth that originates from the heart. When Truth is translated into action, it becomes Dharma, Right Action.” - Sri Sathya Sai Baba, July 4, 2001

PEACE

“Peace is the reflection of Dharma. Man prays for peace and performs various spiritual practices aspiring for peace. But, so long as he has desires, he can never attain Peace. Mind is the basis for desires…. When the mind is controlled, it remains silent. Such a state of thoughtlessness is true peace. What is Peace? It is the feeling one experiences at the time of attaining Nirvana. Peace is the crown that man should wear. Everybody wants peace in this world. Where is Peace? It is within you.” - Sri Sathya Sai Baba, July 4, 2001
LOVE

“The fourth human value is Love. It has originated from the principle of Atma. Love is the manifestation of Truth. It is pure, effulgent, attributeless, formless, ancient, eternal, immortal and nectarine. These are the nine qualities of Love. Love hates none, unites all. Experience of the One, non-dualism is Love.” - Sri Sathya Sai Baba, July 28, 1999

NONVIOLENCE

“Nonviolence shines as the undercurrent of the remaining four values, namely, Truth, Righteousness, Love and Peace. That which leads to violence cannot be Truth, Righteousness, Love or Peace.” - Sri Sathya Sai Baba, September 26, 2000

Sai’s Directive

If human values are not there, humanity will be destroyed. Our life itself is human values... Manifestation of latent human values is Educare. Human values have come from inside not from anywhere outside. The very name is human values. They come out of the heart. That is what the term Educare means. “To bring out” means to translate them into action. There are valuable ideals within us. You have to develop them more.

Sathya Sai Strengthening Values Education Conference 09/26/00

FIVE HUMAN VALUES

TRUTH: God, the Love Principle, is dancing in every atom of the Universe.

RIGHT ACTION: Actions come from the unity of Head, Heart, and Hands. 3HV.

PEACE: Good actions and harmony of senses result in Peace.

LOVE: Love is the unifying force. Love is God. Love is Truth.

NONVIOLENCE: Unconditional Love for all creation.
“The five elements have inner peace, harmony, and beauty in them. When in balance there is peace in the world. The 5 elements are maintained in balance by the 5 senses and are directly related to the senses. Balance in life and balance in nature. Both are equally important and interrelated. A ceiling on desires should be placed on the consumption of the human resources. The 5 elements were created by the One Divine Principle of Love from Chaitanya (Universal Sat-Chit-Ananda). The 5 elements and the 5 senses will be kept in harmony by the practice and integration of the 5 Human Values.”

International SSE Conference 07/04/01

“Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry can be learnt from books or by experiments in labs. But these human values cannot be learnt that way. It is not something that can be acquired from books. It cannot be taught by a teacher by mere oral instruction. It is like training in physical exercise. Athletes can be taught only by example. The drillmaster shows the actions and makes the learners to follow the steps. It is like training in physical exercise. Athletes can be taught only by example. The drillmaster shows the actions and makes the learners to follow the steps.

A loving teacher dedicating his life to his profession becomes the model for his admiring students. A teacher can make or mar the future of the student for he is the hero whom the student desires to emulate and imitate in dress, habit, style of living and thinking.

SACRIFICE

The Vedhas tell us:

- *Na karmanaa*—not by acts
- *Na prajayaa*—not by progeny
- *Na dhanena*—nor by riches
- *Thyaagena ekena*—only by renunciation
• *amrithathwam anasuḥ*—can Immortal bliss be achieved

So renounce, renounce! Serve and give your knowledge, your delight and your love gladly to the children. Serve thus the society and the people.

**Selfless Service**

“Service is the highest spiritual exercise, for God Himself takes human form and comes down to serve humankind and lead humanity toward the ideals it has ignored. Therefore, consider how delighted God will be when man serves man!...The Lord sets the example for the devotees to follow.”  Sathya Sai Baba (SSS 10:100)

**Removing Six Vices**

To transform these evil thoughts and actions into good ones, it is necessary to infuse love into all thoughts and actions. When the mind is filled with Love, all actions get suffused with Love.