

Parents and character education in children

Discussion

' The obligations of parents do not end with providing food, schooling and knowledge of worldly matters. The children should also be provided with right values. It is the duty of parents to set children on the right path from their early years.

Sathya Sai Baba, 5 Feb 1984

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#17, Discourse 3

<http://www.sssbpt.info/ssspeaks/volume17/sss17-03.pdf>

' More than all, the character of the children must be made strong and pure. Give them all the confidence and courage they need to become good, honest, 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.

Sathya Sai Baba, 18 Apr 1966

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#6, Discourse 12

<http://www.sssbpt.info/ssspeaks/volume06/sss06-12.pdf>

' Children should not be made to think that the acquisition of wealth is the be-all and end-all of life. Wealth does not accompany one when he leaves the world. Wealth is necessary only for meeting one's essential needs. Too much wealth is an embarrassment like an over-size shoe. Too little of it is likely to be painful, like a tight fitting shoe. So, it is desirable to have only that amount of wealth that is adequate for one's basic needs. It is deplorable that today, in the mad pursuit of money, people are forgetting all human qualities.

Sathya Sai Baba, 5 Feb 1984

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#17, Discourse 3

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' While science and technology may appear, to confer many benefits, they also have many harmful effects. We must have the wisdom and discrimination to make the proper use of scientific knowledge. Students must learn how to use their learning to lead worthy and noble lives. Education must be regarded as a sacred process and a preparation for unselfish service to society.

Sathya Sai Baba, 5 Feb 1984

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#17, Discourse 3

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Activity

In the quotes above, List the values Swami is emphasizing that we, as parents, inculcate in our children?

Questions

1. Which among these values resonates with you and why?
2. Why do you think swami says that the parents are the most responsible for character education for our children? Should we feel that since children attend SSE classes, they will learn all their values there? Why or why not? How should parents supplement and complement SSE gurus in teaching children values? Give examples and share stories.
3. Swami compares wealth to a shoe. He also says that it is desirable to have only that amount of wealth that is adequate for one's basic needs. According to you, how easy or difficult it is to practice this ourselves in today's materialistic world and also to teach and role model this for our children?
4. In today's gadget crazy society how can we develop the wisdom and discrimination to make proper use of technology and also teach our children to use it appropriately? Share strategies that you have used successfully yourself.