

Transforming self

Sathya Sai projects offer world-class quality and enduring relief to large systemic problems

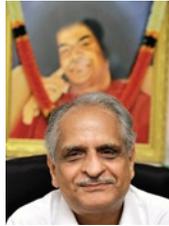
For over half a century, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations have been an international multi-faith, multi-cultural, socio-spiritual service organisation where divine love is the source, the path and the goal. With the divine inspiration of the founder, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, over a million active workers in over 20 states of India and across 2,000 centres in 125 countries, have been consistently rendering service to society while following the five tenets of Sri Sathya Sai Human Values – *Satya* (truth), *Dharma* (right conduct), *Shanti* (peace), *Prema* (love) and *Ahimsa* (non-violence).

Headquartered at Prasanthi Nilayam in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh, the Sri Sathya Sai Service Projects and Institutions have offered sustainable solutions to long-pending problems of our society in a time-bound manner. The uniqueness of the Sathya Sai Projects is that they are free to the beneficiaries, run by kind-hearted volunteers, offer world-class quality and provide enduring relief to large systemic problems. Among the most outstanding contribution of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust (public charitable trust established in 1972) has been providing drinking water supply to 1.25 crore people (1 per cent of Indian population) from 1,500 villages and tribal habitations across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu through four Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Projects between 1995 and 2007, at a cost of ₹700 crore. This is equivalent to providing water to the entire population of countries like Israel, UAE and Bhutan put together!

Besides drinking water supply, the primary focus areas of service have been education, healthcare and rural development.

EDUCATION

Sri Sathya Sai University: Our most tangible contribution in higher education has been the deemed university established in 1981 – Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council in 2003 at 'A++' level, this university is perhaps the first and one of its kind institution that provides high quality education at no cost to its students irrespective of region and religion. The focus of teaching and learning is on integrating secular education with human values such that the young minds are moulded into good citizens willing to serve their motherland with commitment and passion. Over the last four decades, over



NIMISH PANDYA

20,000 students have graduated from the four campuses of this University and taken responsible professional and entrepreneurial positions.

Sri Sathya Sai Schools: Over 50,000 students are currently enrolled in more than 100 Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar Schools across India. Affiliated to the respective State Boards, these operate under the guidance of the National Council of Sathya Sai Schools and the Institute of Sathya Sai Education, headquartered in Mumbai.

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini: Since 2010, hundreds of volunteers of the Vidya Vahini Project have effectively blended the use of IT in making the teaching-learning process in these 100-plus Sathya Sai Schools truly enjoyable and empowering while ensuring that the value of community service and citizenship are strongly ingrained in the students. Tata Consultancy Services has partnered with Vidya Vahini for customised IT-based offerings.

Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Programme: Complementing this formal education ecosystem is the nine-year diploma programme of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas that focuses on blossoming the human excellence within the future torch-bearers of India. By 2016, over 3.36 lakh students across 20 states were enrolled in the programme. Since its inception in the late 1960s, over 10 lakh students have been recipients of the Bal Vikas diploma and are currently holding eminent positions in society.

In recent years, two new projects have been initiated to extend the Sathya Sai Education Mission.

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Jyothi: The Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Jyothi (SSSVJ) Project was started in April 2016 with the primary objective of adopting 900 existing, semi-operational, makeshift, dilapidated schools pan India and turning them into fully operational, well-structured, collaborative schools that can operate as a healthy learning ecosystem. This is planned to be achieved by involving all stakeholders within the ecosystem – the students, the teachers, the parents, the school management, the villagers/community, the government and the volunteers. The School Transformation Strategy is planned in four stages: Energise, Empower, Equip and Evolve with over 81 different service activities encompassing all stakeholders.

Sri Sathya Sai Rural Vocational Training Centres: This national initiative is aimed at serving disadvantaged youth, mainly school drop-outs, who do not find gainful employment in our highly competitive society. The objective of the programme is to equip them with technical skills

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imbued with human values, thereby enabling them to become responsible, economically independent, and productive workforce. The skill training depends on the need of the community. We have today 32 such centres across India. Thus far, over 9,100 youth have been trained.

HEALTHCARE

Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals:

The Sri Sathya Sai Institutes of Higher Medical Sciences at Puttaparthi and Bengaluru are models of humanised healthcare providing world class tertiary level medical care at no cost to the beneficiaries. Over a quarter century since their inception, the Sri Sathya Sai Medical Institutions have invested over ₹500 crore in capex and ₹700 crore in revenue expenses to provide treatment to over 25 lakh outpatients and surgical interventions to 2.5 lakh patients from across India and SAARC countries in various super-specialisations.

Sri Sathya Sai Medical Mission: Inspired by the healthcare initiatives under the direct and physical guidance of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations extend the Sri Sathya Sai Medical Mission in 20 states of India. These services are rendered on a weekly basis, and are guided by six Sai Healthcare Principles that are globally practised by the organisation.

The range of medical services include free medical centres established all over India, medical camps, specialty camps, integration of medical activities with Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme, individual doctor clinics, Sathya Sai Mobile health services, and many more, with the objective of providing the finest quality of health care in the most inaccessible parts of India.

It is noteworthy that doctors from all parts of India render voluntary medical service and surgeries at the Sathya Sai Hospitals throughout the year. Many doctors with their own private hospitals/diagnostic institutions in Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu have also come forward to offer beds free of cost for the benefit of the poor and needy all through the year.

In 2016 alone, over 20,000 medical camps, mobile healthcare projects, free clinics and veterinary care camps were conducted across India by the Sathya Sai Organisations benefitting over 22 lakh patients. More than 14,000 doctors, 40,000 paramedics and 100,000 volunteers offered services in these camps. In terms of present market value, a conservative estimate places the expenses at over ₹37 crore. This has been met without the support of any government funding or CSR contributions.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Launched in 2007 with a focus on family as a unit of the village, the Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme (SSVIP) offers a spectrum of

seven service activities: spiritual care, individual care, medical care, education care, employment care, agri care and socio care to the adopted villages.

Furthermore, feasible technology group initiatives are being adopted in the areas of providing healthy drinking water with introduction of mobile RO plants. With the help of the technology group, every village is planned to be transformed into a digital village by digital connectivity mapped with self-employment drive, promoting digital payments, tele-medicine, networking and such initiatives.

SSVIP had embraced nearly 1,400 villages in 303 districts of India and nearly 1,30,000 families at the time of launching the project. Over the decade through 2017, nearly 1,800 more villages have been adopted and about 200,000 families have been benefited. From October 2017, the Organisation has adopted 100 villages across India to develop them as Model Villages by 2020.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation was among the first to reach and serve the tsunami hit areas of Tamil Nadu in December 2004. The practical knowledge gained over the past decades during flash floods in West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh; earthquakes in Gujarat and Maharashtra; landslides in Northeastern states, and tsunami and cyclones in Tamil Nadu, were structured as a training module with three variants:

- ♦ Disaster management intensive training for youth and volunteers
- ♦ Disaster awareness camp conducted in colleges/companies/villages
- ♦ Disaster preparedness programmes conducted for companies and students.

Training has been imparted to several professionals including police personnel, fire and rescue persons, armed police team in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu special police commands, fishermen, paramedical and nursing staff, corporates, NSS and NCC volunteers, and the forest department officials. Between 2005 and 2017, more than 810,000 people across India benefited from these by the Sai Organisation.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba's splendorous example in service to mankind continues to inspire his admirers and devotees alike. As the river that flows towards the ocean takes into its fold many rivulets, in its fulfilling journey of selfless service, the Sai Organisation warmly welcomes voluntary participation and resource contribution from individuals and institutions that share our commitment to nation building and human well-being. We pray that the legacy of Baba's Universal Message of 'Love All-Serve All' continues to be a beacon light to humanity. ♦