



Institute of Sathya Sai Education Australia
National Education Conference 2011

Workshop For Education Conference - 20th – 21st August 2011

Steering the Future Generation Into Acquiring Knowledge and Practice of Human Values: an essential requirement for a peaceful society

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To enable participants to understand the need to promote the five human values among all students in as many schools as possible.
- 2) To provide participants with useful ideas and strategies for the introduction of SSEHV in schools.
- 3) To equip participants with the knowledge and skills required for addressing likely issues in the introduction process.

OUTCOMES:

At the end of the workshop participants will:

- 1) Feel more confident to take necessary steps towards the introduction of SSEHV into schools
- 2) Have strategies to equip them to organise the processes required to introduce SSEHV into schools
- 3) Be able to engage in discussions about the need for SSEHV in schools, the hurdles likely to be encountered when introducing the program and the ways of overcoming these hurdles.
- 4) Actively dwell on ways of making the SSEHV program inspiring and vibrant for students and teachers.

A. Self-Introduction and ice-breaker (5 minutes)

To find out the make-up of the group and for them to know the backgrounds of each other ask some general questions such as:

- 1) How many of you are professional teachers?
- 2) How many teach in a primary school? How many are high school teachers?
- 3) Any teachers teaching in private or Catholic schools?
- 4) How many of you have some kind of values program already being taught in your schools?

B. Brainstorming (10 minutes)

To set the scene for our workshop today let's brainstorm what you think are the values that children in the secular system of schooling are already aware of and maybe understand. Please don't think of your SSE students or Sai Devotees' children. Record answers on white board.

There should be some general (easier) values like sharing, responsibility, respect, honesty, caring, kindness, which participants will feel the children know.

But not ones like tolerance, consideration, compassion, gratitude, inclusion, citizenship, loyalty,.....

Summarise the results into above two groups. Question if they really think children understand the more difficult values.

C. Sequential Questioning (20 minutes)

Lead on question which each one will answer sequentially.

Do you think human values are absolutely necessary for children to learn about now than any other time? Why or why not? Share your thoughts.

The participants' responses will ensure the workshop is pitched at the correct level.

What should become evident and conveyed as a summary is the desperate need of help from parents to raise their children with awareness about values, what they are, why they are needed and how they can be imparted. Parents today don't have the extended family support system, the religious influence or the time that used to exist in the past- and this is evident among all cultures. Children today do not have clear directions and guidance as parents are busy with work commitments, their own social networking and household chores. Children have to learn values from somewhere and school seems the most appropriate place despite many teachers feeling it's another extra subject to be taught.

D. Group Work (25 minutes)

Divide participants into 3 or 4 small groups and give them a different question to discuss among themselves and then report back to the rest of the group. (10 minutes to discuss and 15 minutes to report)

1. What are the children of today lacking? Describe what we can witness in many children today. What are they like?
2. Why would a school want to have a sustainable, working, user friendly values program?

3. What are some hurdles you think one will come across when introducing SSEHV into schools?
4. What steps and procedures need to be considered to ensure that SSEHV program is sustainable and not become insignificant or non-existent after a couple of years after the introduction? List as many as your group can think of and state reasons.

After each group reports back invite comments and additions and then inform and give my own examples of the characteristics of today's children in school, why the need for values, the hurdles I faced and the sustainability issue at the moment.

E. Summary and Insights (10 minutes)