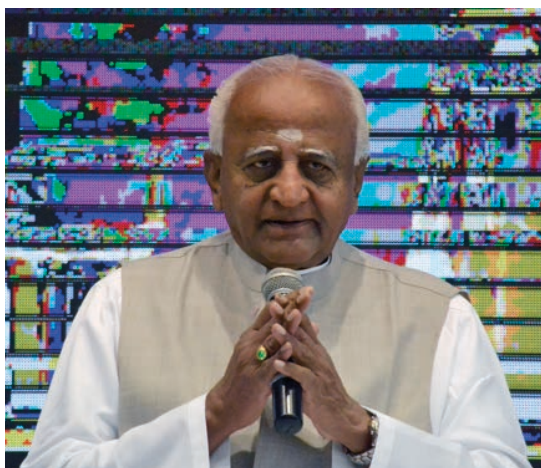


# 29–30 JUNE, 2019

## VICENTE LÓPEZ, ARGENTINA

### LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN VALUES EDUCATION SUMMARIES OF TALKS ON 29 JUNE, 2019

#### Sri B. N. Narasimha Murthy



It gives us very great joy and pleasure to see so many of the teachers, educators, and patrons of education to assemble here from all over Latin America. We also have many esteemed dignitaries on the stage who represent the government of Argentina, and also Indian Embassy. It is the need-of-the-hour, not only in Latin America, but all over the world that education needs to be given the right direction. First and foremost, education should make the students human, before one becomes a good teacher, or a good professor, or a good

scientist, or a good doctor, or a good engineer, one should become a good human being. It is to be observed in creation that all animals behave in a particular pattern which can easily be defined. A lion conducts itself as a lion; a tiger conducts itself as tiger; or a bird conducts itself as a bird; or an insect conducts itself as an insect. Among all creatures, it is only the human beings who do not conduct himself as a human being, unless they are trained to do so. Because the most important education that human beings, the children, the students should learn is to control their minds, that is the most important thing. Human beings who do not control their mind or senses, they easily descend to the level of the animals. A learner, a student of mind, one who have studied human nature all his life, a great psychologist by the name of Carl Young from Germany said these words about human mind, "There is nothing consistent with the human mind except its tendency to drift towards evil" he said. Unless human beings put in efforts to resist the evil tendencies of the mind, they naturally deviate into animal passions and animal behaviour. Therefore, it is very important in school and colleges, the children should remain aware of this art and science of control the senses and mind, so that they learn to be human beings under all situations. A human being needs to be loving and kind to fellow creatures. That is very important. Man or woman should be taught to live in harmony with oneself, first, live in harmony with other fellow beings in nature, and most importantly to live in harmony with Mother Nature. That is the importance of education in human values. On behalf of all our friends who have come from India and also there are many educationists who have come from Australia, from United Kingdom, even from America, that have come here in Latin America, even from Fiji, we also have our friends here. On behalf of all these friends, I would like to congratulate the organizers of this Latin American Congress of Education in Human Values. I also pay my respects to the respected dignitaries on stage who represent Latin America and also Indian Embassy and I conclude. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*



Invoking the blessings of our master and *guru* Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, whose eternal teaching of 'Love All, Serve All' inspires us and guide us all the way, we seek the blessings of the Almighty in the name of all the countries of Latin America and various countries of the world who have gathered here.

Respected dignitaries on the dais, esteemed guests off the dais, and all the brothers and sisters of different countries of this world, the essence of education as per the Indian thought can be summarized in these three verses:

*asato ma sadgamaya  
tamaso ma jyotirgamaya  
mrityor ma amritamgamaya*

(Lead me from untruth to the truth;  
lead me from darkness to light;  
lead me from death to immortality.)

Education that leads us from the untruth to the truth, from darkness to light, and from death to immortality is indeed true education. For all else is just information and not education. Therefore, as per Indian thought, every country must impart education which has two parts to it. One is the informative education that helps one to eke out his livelihood, and the other side is the transformative education that transforms humans into divine. Without one, the other is useless. Therefore, the effort of all the education in the world should not be merely providing information to children to earn a living, but also transformative knowledge to lead a good life.

Today, as we gathered from all parts of the world to debate, discuss and have a dialog about human values in education system, this is our endeavour to understand how to teach our children lead lives of good human beings. And human values mean "that which gives value to the human", and to us the value of a human is the extent to which a human can love, and a human can serve. Therefore, the essence of education to us is to make better human beings who care, who share, who love and serve the fellow beings. I'm sure over today and tomorrow several deliberations to this extent, to this end will be made over here, and we'll wish you all the very best to come out with a model, with an idea as to how this kind of value-based education can be spread not just to Latin America but to all parts of the world, to make the world a better place to live in.

We reciprocate your warmth and love which has been extended to us this morning through your kind words and the musical band which has presented some of the very wonderful music of Argentina. Definitely, this makes us feel a part of you, a part of this global family called humanity.

Let the blessings of the Almighty be upon all of us as we endeavour to open a new chapter in the field of value education in the whole of Latin America. May God bless us with all the strength and abilities to achieve this.

Once again, conveying our gratitude to one and all, I conclude. (*Loud applause*)

## Sri Anand Kadali –Talk on Nutrition

Young people today are totally engrossed in social media. We are so glued to our phones that we do not even say 'good morning' to our own parents. We are interested in what our friends are doing elsewhere, but not what our dear mother is doing in the kitchen. The father works hard to make a living and earn money to take care of his children, but what are we as children doing for our parents?



This message is not for the people here today, because I am sure all of you have good habits. If we can expand this thought to others outside –our neighbours and friends – then we would have become more responsible. How can we transform them? The simple way is to just speak lovingly and softly, and pray to God to listen to us– but how many of us really have that patience? We think our neighbours or friends will not listen to us. That is wrong. First of all, we should think positively. Tell God, “Today I am going to do one *seva*: I am going to spread my love to my neighbour by speaking softly so that he also transforms. Please help me.” Let’s practice this! If all of us here today can do this, it will have a lot of impact on our neighbours, friends, relatives and anyone, for that matter.

You might wonder why I’m speaking about this topic, rather than the breakfast programme. Before Annapoorna started, this is the message Swami gave me. In 2012, He suggested we provide nutrition to needy school-going children, but before doing so, He advised: “In order to have joy, you need to first transform yourself. Always think of yourself last. Speak softly, lovingly and with a smile.”

Many mothers in India can’t provide breakfast to their children, because they are very poor. The Divine Mother sent people like us to schools to serve the children hot breakfast. While they were eating, we started crying. I was crying, because I could see God in them. How nice it is to see God being fed breakfast every morning! In the beginning, every morning, we served not 50 children, but 50 gods – and today, with Swami’s blessings, we are serving 200,000 gods! (Applause)

But I feel very humble because I am not the one doing this; *God in me* is doing it, so that He can serve God in the children. I am nothing; the hand, mind, eyes and ears are being operated by God. You can do the same. It is not hard to do. Take some time away from your mobiles. Instead of looking at Facebook or Instagram, take a packet of chocolates or a basket of fruits and go to a school and serve to the children there. You can take a picture, share it with your friends and tell them, “Today, I have started the day by doing service.” Spread this message to your friends, and make them participate, make them join, too. That is how good company starts. Before the child can smile, you will start crying. I have seen crying at the schools every day. Crying for what? The bliss of serving God.

Please, spread this to your brothers and friends and all who are outside. This is the simple way to make our lives worthy. This is the message I have inherited from my dear Lord: to be a little more kind, a little more loving and smiling more to make a difference in this world.



## Dr. Ron & Mrs. Suwanti Farmer – Talk on Education



**Suwanti:** *'Toogoolawah'* is an aboriginal word meaning 'A place in the heart'. We started this school 30 years ago for boys who are not welcome in mainstream schooling because of their behavioural, psychological or emotional problems. Each of them carries deep scars, because of abuse experienced during their early childhood. They express their pain in the form of negative behaviours, such as anger, depression, aggression, violence and sometimes even self-injury.

The motto of our school is: The most precious gift in education is character.

**Ron:** Three foundational principles guide all activities in the school. The first is that the children have a good character, which we regard as far more important than academic performance.

The second is that the five human values are already deeply implanted in the hearts of each child, for they are born with these values. That good character is witnessed to the extent of these values coming forward from the children.

The third is that the ideal environment for bringing forth these values is for all the adults in the student's life to be exemplars of the values.

**Suwanti:** Presently, we have 105 boys in our school, aged 8-15, and the curriculum is based in Education in Human Values, or Educare.

There are five teaching strategies, designed to bring forth from within the human values of love, truth, right conduct, peace and non-violence inherent in each child.

The first is Quiet Time. Every morning, the students start their class by sitting quietly in a circle. One student comes forward, kneels in front of the altar and lights a candle while saying: "As we light this flame, we light also the flame of love, truth, right action, non-violence, and peace which lie within us all."

**Ron:** This is just one of many sacred rituals that we use in the school.

The second teaching strategy is Storytelling. Throughout history, wisdom has been imparted by telling moral stories. Each week, one of us tells an inspiring story of a historical figure and all of the boys listen.

The third teaching strategy is Quotations and Prayer. Posters of wise sayings can be found all over the school, like 'Love All, Serve All'.

The children also say a number of prayers during the day, like: "We start the day with love, we fill the day with love, we end the day with love. This is the way we live."

**Suwanti:** The fourth teaching strategy is Mindfulness, where the students focus, are mindful of and regulate their breath.

The fifth teaching strategy is Peaceful Mind and Open Heart, where the children are taught to be aware about their thoughts, their feelings and their body, and their reactions to certain situations, so that they can learn to articulate and have a peaceful mind and a heart open to compassion and love.

## **Sri B. N. Narasimha Murthy – Talk on Education**

The quality of education in any school or university does not depend on its buildings, laboratories or equipment, but on the quality of its teachers. The educational system in any country is what builds the nation, and a nation is strong when its inhabitants are strong. More than physical or intellectual strength, or professional excellence, for individual happiness and prosperity and harmony in society, what is important are emotional and spiritual strength, along with individual character and social responsibility.

An educational system can be said to be successful only when it creates students who have academic excellence, professional excellence and social responsibility, based on individual character – and for this, teachers are most important.

If you are either a parent or a teacher, to inculcate human qualities in children, you do not have to wait for the government; all that is needed is, first and foremost, for you to impart human values in your life.

Selfless love is the essence of a teacher. Teachers should love the students and be examples. You may teach any subject; if you are loving and kind to the students, you are imparting value education.

Therefore, teachers are crucial and training teachers is essential. As one of the leaders of the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, to all the brothers and sisters of Latin America – especially the teachers in collaboration with this Latin American Institute for Human Values – we want to join you in training teachers in this country and all over Latin America, wherever it is possible. We extend a hearty welcome to any teachers who can come to India, to stay with us in our hostels, completely free of any charge, and learn how the children conduct themselves, how the teachers look after them and how they are imparted human values, which makes the children real angels.

There is a consensus globally that moral and ethical values should be taught in schools and colleges, but we must understand that spiritual values are the foundation of moral values. Without love for God, morality cannot exist in society. Why? Because to practise values consistently, to do the right thing at all times in our lives, we require willpower. Wishing to become good is not enough, we also need the willpower to practise good values in life. This is the crux of value education: cultivating in ourselves and in our students the willpower to always do the right thing. And that willpower comes only when we experience the divine joy and bliss within our heart.

Prayer is the easiest way to connect ourselves with God, who is in our heart, and who can give us willpower. Therefore, to teach human values in the home, the family, at school or the university, we must bring God back into the schools, the family, the universities. God is beyond religion. Every religion has God, but God has no religion! We all have to sit together and devise a framework of spiritual and moral values on the basis of the essence of all religions.







# 29–30 JUNE, 2019

## VICENTE LÓPEZ, ARGENTINA

### LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN VALUES EDUCATION SUMMARIES OF TALKS ON 30 JUNE, 2019

#### Sri C. Sreenivas – Talk on Health



I want to tell you how proud I am that each of you had gathered here because you have four distinctive energies in you. The first is you have a heart that feels, which is the most fundamental ingredient of life. Why do we say 'heart' for anything that is beautiful, enduring or divine? Have we ever thought about it? When we say, "This is such a heart-moving gathering," or we say, "My heart is full of joy," or when you have pain or suffering, you say, "Heart-wrenching pain." We feel each other's pain, joy or happiness, and we find solutions to each other's problems. So that is the first ingredient all of us have: a heart that feels.

The second distinguishing feature that each of us has is a mind that envisions. A Nobel prize winner from India beautifully said: "We have 100 problems in different parts of our world, but when all people who have hearts that feel gather, there will be 150 solutions to those 100 problems." We are sitting here to understand the challenges and issues that we face in every part of our world with a heart that feels and a mind that envisions. That is the result of this conference.

With a heart that feels and a mind that envisions, each of us truly has a capacity to endeavour. Feeling, thought, must translate into action. All of us gathered here to go back with some thought, to envision what will be given as a conclusion this evening as a course of action.

I'm so happy that the Organizers of this conference have integrated health with education. In human life, health addresses disease and sickness and prevents and perpetuates wellness. So, combining health with education is extremely important.

There are three parts to health: first is preventive health care, or how to keep the body healthy. This includes *pranayama* or *yoga*. *Yoga* is defined as the heartbeat in a human being resonating and linking with the beat of the universe. When the beat of the universe and the beat of the human heart align and synchronise, you are in a state of wellness.

Human wellness is an extremely important part of education, because the wellness of an individual leads to well-being in society. So, there is a beautiful link of health, beginning with wellness, going into family or community wellbeing, resulting in world or national welfare.

## Sri Madhusudan Sai – Closing Talk



I speak on behalf of our Master, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who has taught us this path of love and service. The ancient Indian prayer from the *Rig Veda* says, “*Aa no bhadrakritavoyantuvishwatah*,” meaning, “Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions.”

The idea of a global family was first conceived on the soil of Mother India. It gave out the message of ‘*vasudhaivakutumbakam*’, which means, “The whole world is one single family.” So, we are here again to celebrate this great Indian thought, that all the world is one family, and let all the noble thoughts come to us from all directions.

Today, we are witness to a manifestation of these two thoughts – that the world is one family, and that noble thoughts must come to us from all directions, in the form of this conference. So many of you, from so many parts of the world, have come together to contribute to this thought, that how can we make our education more human in its approach. We are so glad to participate and to be able to contribute in whatever little way to this great endeavour.

This is just the first step, as Dr. Berra put it, for intentions without actions are useless, and actions without good intentions are dangerous. We have intended well through this conference, and now it is time to act. The first step towards this inclusive understanding of a global family has been taken, as he announced the opening of the Latin American Institute for Human Values. Again, with the feeling of letting noble thoughts come from all directions, let us all contribute to this idea of an Institute, where we can come together, discuss, deliberate and act upon this great idea of human values-based education.

Several human values have been discussed, along with ideas about how we should implement them. All this has been deliberated upon over the past two days. However, the need of the hour is to work together in unison, without any differences whatsoever. Only when all the five fingers come together, can the hand do any work. Let all the countries in Latin America come together as the fingers of one hand, and work together towards this cause of giving value-based education to our children, our future.

We from India are more than happy to associate with this institute. The Chancellor of the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is here, Sri Narasimha Murthy, and I am sure he is more than happy to be a part of this endeavour.

Doing good has this unique capability of attracting goodness to itself. Whenever we start on a good path, we can rest assured that more good will come to us on its own. So, when we have intended in a good way and are acting in a good way, we can be assured that the whole world will associate with us, will support us and will encourage us in what we have set out to do.



When I came here, the first thing I told the devotees of Argentina was, “Let us empty the jails and fill up the schools.” When we develop our schools to give the right kind of education to the right kind of children, there will be no need for jails. That is the situation, not just in this country but in the whole world. When people are driven by human values, when goodness is their very nature, there will not be a need for law or force to keep them on the right path. Such goodness that emerges from within, from the source, will stay, whereas that which is caused by force will not. Therefore, a human with values is a human being who is good. When we think of others before ourselves, speak for others before ourselves and do for others before ourselves, then we are good. The world today needs more good people than great people. Let us leave this world better than what we have inherited. A better world than we inherited is what we can leave behind when we leave this world.

Wishing everyone that you may succeed, may you all find more happiness and more joy in doing this good work that you have embarked on.

May this institute grow, prosper and spread to all parts of Latin America to provide the right kind of education – values-based education – to all children without exception. All who think that we have a purpose in life – to make this world a little better than what we have received, to make our children lead a life of purpose and goodness – are welcome to this Institute, to this endeavour.

Thanking all the organisers and people who have supported this conference, we express our best wishes and I conclude.







**VALORES**  
**PARA**  
**UNA**  
**NUEVA**  
**HUMANIDAD**

