

## Reformers

**Education Reforms: The need of the hour**

**An Interview with the great Indian Saint, Trividha Dasohi, Walking God**

**Sree Sree Sree Dr. Shivakumara Maha Swamiji & Sree Sree Siddalinga Maha Swamiji**

**Siddaganga Math, Tumkur, Karnataka State, India.**

**by Prof. Shekhara Gowd Mitta**

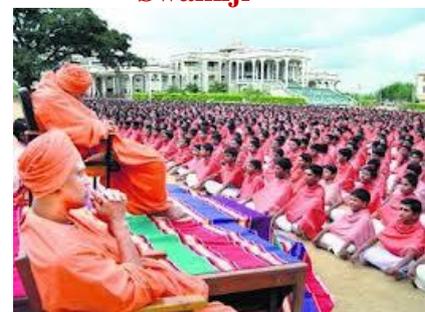
The India has one of the most ancient and the richest cultures & heritages in the world having great saints as philanthropists, social reformers, education providers who served the nation like a candle burning themselves and giving light to others. Spirituality is more effective even in the world of science and technology advancements. The problems or sorrows which could not be solved in the hospitals, courts, families related to health, crime, quarrels will solve at the feet or at the sight of saints with their yogic power. A lot of Indians believe and worship as Gods.

It is my privilege to introduce such a human being who is doing the reforms through education i.e grass root development that too poor, needy who cannot afford for a single meal a day, for them he is the God. He is Trividha Dasohi i.e Anna dasoha (food), Jnana dasoha (knowledge) and Vidya dasoha (education). For more than 10,000 people irrespective of their caste, creed & region. ( Dasoha means giving or charity, Trividha Dasohi means the person who is giving three food, knowledge & education)

His holy name is Dr. Sri Sri Sri Shivakumara Maha Swamiji of Sree Siddanga Math. The “Math is a place of where the devotees come to place for Darshan or visiting to solve their problems for getting peace and satisfaction with the blessings of the head like churches or monasteries. The Siddaganga Math is situated in Tumkur District of Karnataka State, India i.e. near to Bangalore i.e. 65 kms.



**Sree Sree Sree  
Dr. Shivakumara Maha  
Swamiji**



**Swamiji in Mass Prayer  
with 10,000 students**

Interview follows:

- About Math & Swamiji
- Opinions of Shri. S. Nijalingappa, Former Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, Shri A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Sonia Gandhij etc.,
- Opinions of close associates

**1. The Present Education system is producing the certificates / marks cards like factories but not personalities. What is your opinion? Swamiji.**

Ans: Yes. To some extent it is truth. The Samskara is required along with the education. Now a days Education is available everywhere but not the samskara. Someone says it is true that “End of the education is not obtaining certificates but the character.”

**2. None of the Indian Universities in Top 200. So is our Education system is good or to be changed ? Swamiji.**

Ans: No. May be the parameters differ. If Indians are not brilliant why Mr. Obama will give such a statement that “Buckle up, Indians are coming: Obama to Americans” He is having the threat from Indians in the knowledge and key positions.

We have the first universities like “Takshashila”, Nalanda and others. We have our own style of operations.

**3. Our students are unfit to employ, the industrialists say. What do you say? Swamiji.**

Ans: No. I won't agree. Even our students are continuously winning some of the competitions like spell-bee and others.

**4. Education is second to politics in corruption, So what measures to be taken to control this Swamiji?**

Ans: (Meaningful silence and smiled)

**5. From top to bottom corruption, adjustments, influences, recommendations in the systems so what is your advice on this Swamiji?**

Ans: As long as givers are there takers will be there. Sri. Abdul Kalam said truly that “We require Homepal not Lokpal”

**6. Is our education system teaching life leading values? Swamiji.**

Ans: No. Present education is a failure to teach life values. 100% marks not enough, at least we should reach 90% success in life. Nowadays we find that some of the excellent brains doing antisocial activities and



Swamiji with Sree Atal Behari Vajpayee



Swamiji with Sree Abdul Kalam



Swamiji with Smt. Sonia Gandhi



Swamiji with Smt. Prathibha Patil, Governor Shri. Bharadwaj & Shri. Yediyurappa

becoming Naxalites and so on. Whereas a poorly scored student can serve the nation.

**7. Was the Traditional Gurukula system was good or the present? What modifications are needed? Swamiji.**

Ans: Yes. To the changing environment we also should mix both ancient traditional and modern systems. Education should uphold the culture, norms, values & beliefs. Education should make the man, it should teach how to build the life with character.

**8. Education gives knowledge but the illiterates are better than present Educated people. Do you agree? Swamiji.**

Ans: Yes. In olden days almost all the people who were uneducated also they had a sensible knowledge. Now a days even by having the higher education they are literally failure in real life, because in olden days with the birth only they will get samskara from their elders. Whereas now it is disappearing by nuclear family concepts.

Some old people were scholars, philosophers, even though they were not literates.

**9. How far higher education is spoiling our culture like joint families, divorce rates? Swamiji.**

Ans: Yes. It is sad that present education is increasing egos, spoiling the relationships.

**10. What is essentially the need of the hour for Educational reforms? What is your advice to the globe Swamiji?**

Ans: Yes.

- **Quality:** Quality should be improved
- **Personality:** It should make good citizens
- **Values:** It should bring the values of the life.
- **Patriotism:** It should increase the patriotism
- **Duty consciousness:** It should make the people to perform their duties without choosing the wrong paths.
- **Respect towards parents, society etc.,** Education should teach the people to make their families to live happily with their parents.

**About Swamiji**

- Year of Birth: 1908.
- Place of Birth: Veerapura,
- Magadi Taluk, Bangalore District.
- Parents: Patel Honnappa and Gangamma.
- Primary Education: Nagavalli.
- Secondary Education: Government High School, Tumkur.
- Pre-University & Graduation: Central College, Bangalore.

**Daily Schedule:**

He is a light eater and a light sleeper. He sleeps only for three hours a day, from 11 pm to 2 am. His routine runs like this:

2 am - 3 am: Study.

3 am - 3:30 am: Bath.

3:30 am - 5:30 am: Meditation, Pooja and the singing of Bhajans, followed by breakfast.

5:30 am onwards: Participating in the prayer session of students, concentrating on the various development and administrative aspects of the math.

6 pm - 8 pm: Evening prayer session with students, followed by the singing of Bhajans.

8 pm - 11 pm: Devoted to the study of various philosophers.

**Awards & Rewards**

1965: He was granted an Honorary "Doctor of Letters" Degree by Karnataka University.

2006: The prestigious "Karnataka Ratna" award for 2006 in recognition of his yeoman services for promoting education in the state.

Proposals: The state Govt. has proposed his name for 'BHARAT RATNA' award also.

2013: Doctorate from Bengaluru University, Karnataka State, India.

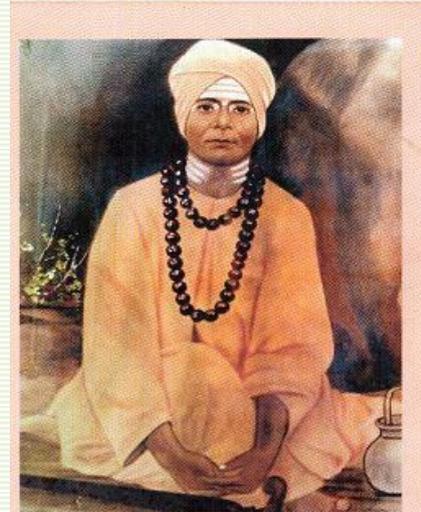
## Sree Siddaganga Math

### 1. The Math

Sree Siddaganga Math is an ancient ashram fostering a continuous line of illustrious “Siva Yogi Siddapurushas” dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. As per the recorded history, the Math was established by **Sri Gosala Siddeswara Swamiji** who belonged to “Shunya Simhasana”, a spiritual Academy of fame during the days of the social reformer Basaveshwara. The tradition goes to say that one of the disciples of Gosala Siddeshwara exercise his spiritual power and caused the pondlet in one of the caves of the overhanging hillock, adjoining the Math and hence it is called “Sidda Ganga”. While he was meditating on the rocky hill; it is home to many Siddhas (mystics), he found his third eye i.e sixth sense (yogis will have the knowledge of present, past & future) that one of the yogi in the cave is suffering from thirst and calling out to God for help. By using his spiritual yogic power, Swamiji pressed his knee to the rock and created a spring in the cave and mad the pond on the overhanging of the hillock of adjoining the mouth, thereby alleviating the yogi’s suffering and giving the hill its name, Siddaganga i.e Sidda means sage and ganga means water. Swami later founded the math which shares that name. The Math is situated amidst a divinely serene and colourful landscape at a distance of 65 kms from Bengaluru and has also, during these later years, developed into a much visited pilgrim centre. More than all, Sree Siddaganga Math has become a unique Gurukula providing education to more than 10000 poor children with free food and shelter, without any discrimination of religion, caste, creed and region.

Siddaganga Math is a Virakta Peeta Math, where each successor is chosen from the eligible sanyasis rather than inheritance or from the pontiff’s blood relatives. The Anna dasoha tradition of feeding the poor was introduced long ago by Adavi Swami, up to now also thousands are fed daily. The Vidya dasoha culture was introduced when Adavi Swami’s

### Swamiji Parampare- A History Of 700 years



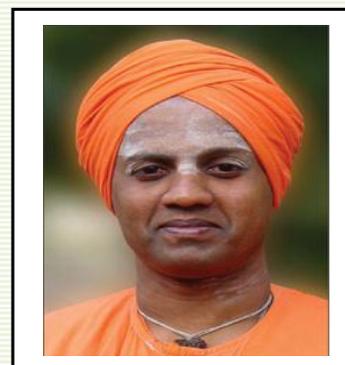
His Holiness  
Sree Sree UDDANA SWAMIGALI  
The guru of the Dr. Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamigalu

### His Holiness Sree Uddana Swamiji



### His Holiness Sree Sree Sree Dr. Shivakumara Maha Swamiji

### Photo of Siddalinga Swamiji



### His Holiness Sree Siddalinga Maha Swamiji, Present Head of Math

successor, Uddhana Swami, started a Sanskrit Gurukula in 1917 so that all children, irrespective of caste or religion, could learn our scriptures; now nearly 10,000 students belonging to all castes pursue Sanskrit studies here.

## 2. Dr. Sree Sree Sree Shivakumara Maha Swamiji & the Growth of the Siddaganga Math

Dr. Sree Sree Sree Shivakumara Maha Swamiji was initiated into the viraktashram order in 1930. The driving forces of Sree Swamiji's more than eighty decades of fruitful service to humanity are hard work, disciplined life, faith in Humanity and sincerity of purpose to help the poor and the downtrodden. Endowed with sound collegiate education in English and profound proficiency in Kannada and Sanskrit to the modern science and technology. With his catholic outlook Sree Swamiji has earned the goodwill and respect of people of all faiths and communities. In recognition of his yeomen services, Sree Swamiji was adorned with the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by Karnataka University in 1965. During his centenary year 2007. His holiness was conferred the prestigious award of the "Karnataka Ratna" award, the highest civilian award of the Karnataka State. It is his total commitment to the service of humanity that enables Sree Swamiji to go through the eighteen hours daily work schedule even at the age of 106.

## 3. Siddaganga Gurukula

The Siddaganga Gurukula was established by Sree Uddana Swamiji (the Guru of Sree Sree Shivakumara Maha Swamiji) in the year 1917. It consisted of a free boarding home and a Sanskrit paathasala with an intake of 40 students belonging to all faiths and communities. It is the secular outlook that has endeared Siddaganga Math to all sections of the society. The strength of the Gurukula when the present Swamiji assumed full responsibility in 1941 was about 200. The ceaseless and untiring efforts of Sree Swamiji spread over seven decades have resulted in the development of the Gurukula into its present magnitude accommodating more than 10000 children. The mammoth nature of the



Swamiji with Sree Dalai Lama

More than 132 educational institutions mostly in rural areas of eight districts of Karnataka. Nearly 45000 students (30000 boys and 15000 girls) are getting educated in these institutions. These institutions have provided employment to 1300 teachers and 700 supporting staff.

### No. of Educational Institution

Primary &	
Pre-Primary Schools	9
High Schools	55
Pre-University Colleges	9
Teachers Training Colleges	3
Sanskrit College	1
Sanskrit Schools	22
Kannada 'Pandit'	
Training College	1
First Grade Colleges	4
Junior Colleges	4
Higher Primary Schools	9
College of Education	1
Polytechnic	1
Pharmacy College	1
College of Nursing	1
College of Commerce	1
School for the Blind	1
Industrial Training Institutes	3
Center for Training Disabled	1
Institute of Business Management	1
B. Ed. College	1
College of Physical Education	1
Siddaganga Institute of	
Technology	1
Total	132

responsibility that is being shouldered by Sree Swamiji becomes striking when one comes to know that the Math does not have any assured source of income. The monthly recurring expenditure of running this mammoth institution comes to more than rupees one crore which is being met mostly by generous donations from the public. The government of Karnataka provides partial financial support in the maintenance of only destitute children numbering, the Math has still to go a long way in removing inadequacies in respect of infrastructural facilities like hostel space, sanitation system etc., necessary for the inmates of the Gurukula as well as about 4000 pilgrims who visit the Math every day. Sree Swamiji has also opened free General Hostels in various rural parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, for the benefit of rural children.

#### 4. The “Dasoha” Free Feeding

Swamiji’s labour of love is what, in religious parlance, called “Dasoha”. This has become Math’s way of life. The sacred fire lit 100 years ago in its kitchen is still glowing brighter, feeding thousands of men and women, day in and day out. In addition to feeding 10000 students of Gurukula, about four thousand pilgrims visiting the Math for worshipping the deities and for Darshan of Swamiji, are also provided with free food. Annually, for about a fortnight, tens of thousands of people, who congregate at the time of the Car Festival and the Cattle Fair, are also provided with free food. This is indeed a mega event of “Dasoha” requiring enormous quantities of food stuff, fuel, water facilities, a huge establishment, efficient organization and management. Sree Swamiji’s unreserved and unwearisome service to the society induces a spirit of philanthropy in the people even in these hard days, and attracts liberal contributions towards the “Dasoha” in the Math. Out of all the activities of the Math, Sree Swamiji attached utmost importance to “Dasoha” and he is very particular that nobody visiting the Math should go without taking food. This is indeed a case of unrivaled hospitality.

#### 5. The Social Life of Sree Swamiji



**Swamiji offers flowers during his daily shivpuja**



Holy scribe: Swami takes great care inscribing personal prayers on copper leaves, which devotees cherish

#### **Expenditure of Dasoha**

Particular	Quantity	Units
Rice	30 to 35	Quintals
Ragi flour	10	Quintals
Daal	3	Quintals
vegetable	6	Quintals
Onion	1.5	Quintals
Rava	6	Quintals
Salt	1.5	Quintals
Coconut	200	Nos.
Milk	300	Ltrs
Butter Milk	250	Ltrs
Groundnut Oil	280	Kgs
Tamarind	1	Quintal
Chilly Powder	85	Kgs
Masala Powder	85	Kgs

Sree Swamij as the head of a religious Math has created a cosmopolitan atmosphere in the Math in which people belonging to all religions and creeds can work together for common aims and objectives. Persons afflicted with sickness, worries or troubled with various kinds of problems, flock around him every day for counsel and he sympathises with them sincerely, and with endless patience gives them the much needed solace. People ardently desire his gracious presence in many religious, cultural, social and educational functions and conferences. Sree Swamiji's highly instructive and inspiring talks on such occasions, instill a spirit of righteousness and brotherly love among the people. The government and the public honour him by requesting him to be on important committees and panels on matters of religion, education and culture.

One is struck, at first sight itself, by Swamiji's graceful humility and blissful simplicity of life. Incessant and hard work is the way of his divine life. It is amidst this ceaseless and tiresome work that he has to find time to rest and one will have to really wonder about his unmatched capacity to devote himself in the service of the community. On the whole, he is an institution by himself in the cause of humanity.

With his great personality Swamiji earned the respects of all the dignitaries of the Nation and also abroad. Many delegates of the Nation visited the Math seeks his blessings.

### **Dream into Reality:**

Thousands of students who studied under the benevolent shelter of the Math, now are in respectable positions having high profile in Government, Public & Private sectors. To get themselves actively involved in all the functions and activities of the Old Students of the Math, with the gracious consent of their Guru, formed an "Old Students' Association" in the year 1954. At the request of the students, Sree Sivakumara Swamiji has been guiding spirit as its President. The Association volunteers to take up the entire responsibility to organize any program at the Math, and they are in turn giving back to society what they themselves received in kind from it - and this was the main concept of Sree Sivakumara Swamiji.

### **Expansion**

Now he has lit the candle of educating poor rural children and making them asset to this nation. His one



Swamiji reads newspaper and books without spectacles.



**Swamiji with Animals**

### **Important Places in Math**

- Temple of Sree Siddalingeshwara & Sree Siddagangamma
- Old Math
- Sree Uddana Swamiji Gaddige
- Sree Sree Shivakumara Swamiji Gaddige
- Sree Sree's Shivayoga Mandira
- Guest House which was built by Kempahonnaiah
- Sree Uddana Swamiji Gaddige
- Dining Hall & Hostel Block
- Goshala
- Mass prayer at the Math
- Sree Sree's office at the Math
- Room of Darshan, Kalyani

remaining dream is that this effort and vision should be carried forward to further distances.

### **Where service flows from love of God Siva DR. Shivakumara Maha Swamiji is hailed as a Walking God.**

A practitioner of ashtanga yoga, he is a strict disciplinarian who works tirelessly over 20 hours a day, from 2 am till past 11 pm. Without any assistance, he performs the rigorous three-hour Ishtalinga Puja in the morning, the afternoon puja and the evening puja. “Puja gives strength to life and new chaitanya (higher consciousness),” Swamiji says. “In spite of modernization and new lifestyles, puja is the primary essence of our tradition and culture, our foundation to leading a good, purposeful, spiritual life. We must unfailingly adhere to it.”

He lives a frugal lifestyle: no fancy gadgets or cars, no pomp or show. His food habits are meager, and he eats only after worshiping his Siddalinga. If he misses his pujas due to travel, he fasts completely, without even water, even for two full days.

Swami travels out of Tumkur and goes for three or four padapujas continuously, not taking even a morsel of food till he returns to the Math, no matter what the time. Renukaradhya explains that “the padapuja brings in more devotees to the Math, and charity naturally follows, which will help the children. Even a swami has to earn the prasada he consumes, his guru told him. Swamiji believes in earning his food so long as his body is able.”

Sree Sree Dr. Sivakumara Swami is the personification of Siddaganga Math. He inspires all who encounter him. Thousands of children growing under his shadow watch him closely and are motivated to serve and live a virtuous life. No wonder he is called Living God.

Millions of indigent students have received free shelter and education at Siddaganga institutions. The Math runs 29 free hostels and orphanages in Karnataka and three more in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. More than 45,000 students—from kindergarten to post-graduate, professional and pedagogic schools—study in its various branches.

Swamiji is determined that the most eligible of the poor get this opportunity and use it well. At the beginning of each academic year, he screens nearly a thousand applications and personally interviews parents of the selected children. During the year, he makes surprise visits to the hostel to exhort lazing students to study.

The Math’s jnana dasoha centers around lectures, discourses by scholars and religious heads, recitations of Vachanas (Veerashaiva sacred writings) and events highlighting our Hindu traditions and Sanatana Dharma. Every day 10,000 students assemble at 6am for puja and prayer. Swamiji unfailingly sits through the half-hour rites and blesses the students. In the evening he again attends the prayer and talks to students about dharma, tradition and culture. The Math also promotes spiritually oriented cultural activities; guided by Swamiji, the Siddaganga drama group enthralls people with performances based on the lives and philosophies of the Veerashaiva saints.

Swamiji keeps tabs on every activity, every visitor and all matters related to each and every project. He inspects the kitchen, store room and dining room several times a day to ensure hygiene is maintained and the children are well looked after. Siddaganga Math provides health care, not only to its students but to many who come seeking help.

Even in those early days Swamiji was intellectually curious and erudite, holding graduate degrees in Sanskrit, Kannada and English. In 1965 he was given an honorary Doctorate in Literature by the prestigious Karnatak University. He taught Mathematics, Sanskrit and English at the Siddaganga institutions for 65 years, until the age of 90. Knowing the value of education, especially in this modern age, he has passionately steered the Math to bring education to those who cannot otherwise afford it.

### **Educating the Underprivileged**

Growing from the tiny Sanskrit Gurukula founded by Uddhana Swami, today Siddaganga runs 132 institutions, ranging from primary school to engineering colleges. Barring a few, most provide free education; priority is given to the lowest strata of society. If a student is unable to pay, the donation and even the fees are often waived.

### **Successorship**

Dr. Shivakumara Swami has trained his presumptive successor, Sree Sree Siddalinga Swami, just as he was trained by Uddhana Swami. And though Swamiji has never left India, he recently sent his successor to Australia and the US, explaining that since he will have to carry on the Math's activities in this modern age, he must see the world, broaden his experience and learn.

Swamiji speaks sanguinely of the Math's future: "It was my guru who inspired me on this path. I am only continuing his work. I have confidence in my successors; they will take this work forward. Our goal is to serve and to uplift the children."

The headship of Sree Siddaganga Math was transferred by Sree Sivakumara Swamiji on 04-08-2011 to Sree Siddalinga Swamiji who works as the President of Sree Siddaganga Math under the guidance of his Guruji.

#### **i) The Sanskrit College**

Sree Swamiji extended and developed the Sanskrit School started in 1917 by his predecessor into a home of eminent scholars by elevating it to the status of a college as early as 1937. At present, about 9000 students belonging to all communities are pursuing their studies in different branches of Sanskrit learning in this college which is, perhaps, the biggest of its kind in the country. Hundreds of graduates (Vidwans) from this college are serving the cause of Sanskrit learning all over the country at various levels. The library of the college has grown into a Research Centre in Oriental Studies with its rare and valuable collections. Of late, Sree Swamiji has started a number of Sanskrit Schools in various rural parts of the State of Karnataka to popularize learning of Sanskrit among the rural folk. The college has also been fostering learning of Kannada, side by side, in its Kannada wings.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Siddaganga Gurukula and Sanskrit College was celebrated in April 1982 along with the Golden Jubilee of the assumption of the Holy Order by Sree Swamiji.

#### **ii) Siddaganga Institute of Technology**

Being fully aware of the trend of times and realizing the importance of Technology for the development of the country, Sree Swamiji started Siddaganga Institute of Technology in 1963. The institute spread over an area of 65 acres has now grown to a full-fledged campus providing educational facilities for about 4850 students from all parts of India and abroad who pursue studies in 12 branches of engineering like Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Electronics, Instrumentation Technology, Computer Science & Engg., Industrial

Engg., and Management, Information Science & Engg., Telecommunications, Architecture and Biotechnology. It also runs twelve post-graduate programs- M. Tech. In Structural Engg., Transporting Engg. And Management, Chemical Engg., Thermal Power Engg., Manufacturing Sc. And Engg., Computer Science & Engg., Computer Networks, Singal Processing, Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Digital Communications including Master of Computer Applications and Master of Business Administration. Research programs leading to Ph.D degrees are going on in 13 departments. The institute has earned good reputation in India and abroad for its high standards of Education, value systems and educational ethics.

## **6. Extra Curricular Activities of the Gurukula**

### **i) Thontadarya Vidya Varadhini Sabha**

This association, which was started in the year 1932 provides a platform for students to develop their skills in music, dancing , public speaking, quiz etc, The Anthyakshari Competition that is practiced by the inmates of Siddaganga Gurukula is very interesting in that it involves the recital of only Sanskrit slokas from the texts they study in the Sanskrit college.

### **ii) Sree Siddalingeswara Drama Troup**

This drama troupe, which was started with the objective of nurturing the talents of students and staff, organizes shows in the Math as well as in rural areas. These shows are meant to educate people in developing values, which very much desire for healthy living in a multireligious and multicultural society. A masterpiece among the many dramas staged by the troupe is Jagajyothi Basaveshwara which highlights the life and achievements of that great saint- reformer of 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D Sree Basaveshwara. This drama which has seen more than 1000 stage shows in various parts of Karnataka has captivated the hearts and minds of thousands of spectators with its appealing theme which deals with the rejection of all kinds of superstitions, in particular, that of untouchability, which gives equal status to men and women and which upholds the dignity of labour.

### **iii) Mass Prayer Sessions**

All the 10000 children of the Gurukula participate in these sessions twice a day at 6:30 a.m. in the morning and in the evening. Witnessing these sessions is a feast to the eye, ear and the mind. Prayer songs are recited in chorus in praise of God the Almighty, involving His Blessings for the good of humanity. Every evening session ends with a discourse by His Holiness on a topic meant to improve the general knowledge of students and which will help them cultivate value-based practices in all their activities.

### **iv) Shramadana (Social Service)**

Every student and every teacher of the Gurukula will be busy with one or the other item of social service in the Gurukula campus. It could be keeping the premises clean, taking part in the sowing or harvesting of crops in the Gurukula fields, transportation of building materials to the construction site, serving meals in the dining hall etc., The biggest motivating factor in this process that His Holiness himself will take part in the social service activities.

The experience that a student gets through the shramadana process will instill in him a very healthy work culture and free him from the white collar attitude which comes in the way of country's progress.

## **7. The Exhibition and Cattle fair**

Maha Shivarathri festival and cattle fair are held every year in the premises of the Math for about a fortnight. The daily assemblage is of the order about seventy five thousand persons and fifty thousand cattle from all over the state and during these days, all the pilgrims are provided with free food. A large sized Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition is also organized during this Jatra for fifteen days. Many Central and State Government Departments, Industrialists, Manufacturers and Merchants participate in this Exhibition. The exhibition though held in this rural area, compares very well with any other Exhibition organized in big cities. Cultural activities like dramas, music, classical dance programmes are also arranged during this period. Thus, by providing entertainment during the jatra i.e car festival time in a religious atmosphere Sree Swamiji brings about cultural and social awakening and a spirit of reverence for values in the common people.

## **8. The Siddaganga Publishing Wing**

Under the guidance of Sree Swamiji, a monthly magazine.” Siddaganga” in Kannada is edited and published by the Old Boys Association of the Math. It contains many useful articles of permanent values and Dharmic ways of life. Books published by the wing include Basaveshwara and his contemporaries (and its kannada version), Subhashita Kusumanjali, Karmayogi Siddarama, Pourusha panchajanya, Kartarana Kammata (It’s English version “Maker’s Mint”), Shivayogi Uddana Yateeswara, Vachana Ganga and Vachana Bilwa.

## **9. Old Boys’s Association**

Old boys of the Gurukula formed this association in the year 1954 with the sole objective of being of some service to the Gurukula which has helped them in the hour of their need and made them good citizens of the country. The President of the Association is His Holiness Dr. Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji and the Vice President Sree Sree Siddalinga Swamiji (the present head of Sree Siddaganga Math). The other functionaries of the association get elected once in 2 years. There are also some regional associations functioning in Bangalore, Mysore, Hassan and Bellary.

The association has a life membership of more than 12000. There are many more who are waiting for enrollment. The motto of the association is “Service to the almamator”. The association takes part in activities like fund raising, publishing of the monthly journal “Siddaganga”, organizing of the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition in Siddaganga Math every year during the Jatra i.e car festival that takes place during Feb- March every year for about three weeks.

It was the privilege and pleasure of old boys to work as volunteers during special congregations at Siddaganga Math like the Guruvandana Program of His Holiness (in the month of April every year), Sree Samiji’s Silver Jubilee Celebrations (1972), Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1997), and Centenary Celebrations (2009). The general body of the association meets once a year in the month of December under the presidentship of His Holiness Sree Sree Shivakumara Swamiji. This day, each year, is the one which is very much looked forward to by thousands of old boys. On this occasion, they will not only get an opportunity to meet their old pals but also be able to have the Darshan and blessing of their Guruji. This

occasion is also the one which brings immense happiness and satisfaction to His Holiness as he will be able to see and hear about the progress made by thousands of his students who have been mentored by him. On such occasions, the advice of His Holiness to the products of his Gurukula is : “Wherever you are, whatever job you are called upon to do, discharge your duties with honesty, integrity and compassion, and thus establish a brand name for the products of Siddaganga Gurukula”.

Influenced by the kind of useful work being done by the Old Boys Association of Sree Siddaganga Math, many public persons (who have not studied in the Gurukula) have volunteered to take part in the service activities of the association. For this reason, the nomenclature of the association has been changed into “Sree Siddaganga Old Student’s and Well Wisher’s Association”, thus enabling the willing and the like minded public to become members of the association. Thus, the association constitutes a unique component in the service chain of Sree Siddaganga Gurukula.

### **Opinions.....**

#### **A Divine Sanyasi- Sri S. Nijalingappa, Former Chief Minister of Karnataka, India.**

Honesty, service, determination, fortitude, purity, magnanimity, tenderness, truth, love, compassion and a lofty aim- any one of these qualities renders an individual honourable in the eyes of society and capable of safeguarding humanity. But Sree Sivakumara Swamiji of Sree Siddaganga Math is a confluence of all the virtues mentioned above. This can be deemed to be the good fortune of the country at large. Added to these, he has learning and dispassion. Naturally honour, affection and admiration have been showered upon him all over Karnataka. Eagerness to seek his Darshan and blessings is all too evident. A deluge of people approaches him all the time to listen to his thought provoking and soul stirring words and find inspiration to better their lives.

Sree Swamiji’s Math is not too big in size. The property of the Math is not considerable. His predecessors devoted all their time to asceticism and worship. They conducted as much “dasoha” as they could. Small contributions were made towards this by people living in the vicinity.

Learned, virtuous and talented even in his student days, the present Swamiji assumed his holy office some in 1930. Instead of devoting himself to religious practices fulltime, he also plunged into the service of humanity. For the country to make headway, a transformation must be effected in the lives of ordinary men and their intellectual horizons must be widened. This change can come about only on the basis of education of all children. Sree Swamiji decided to set up primary and secondary school first and colleges later. The rich, experience no difficulty getting their children educated. The poor, on the other hand countenance a host of problems. In rural areas children are compelled to earn cooli to help and maintain the family. One more morsel of food, an inch more of clothing that is all they hope to contribute to the family. Apart from this, they have no other future. Realizing this plight, Sree Swamiji arranged for free education, boarding and stationary material for them. This privilege has been extended to them for well over five decades.

Sree Swamiji is too broad minded to be cribbed and cabined in a narrow cast though he is a Guru of a Veerashiva Math. Educational facilities have been extended to all non-

Veerashaivas also including harijans. The credit for his goes entirely to Sree Swamiji. His sacred mission has won him accolades and cooperation from the have's and have not's alike. The mat is not in possession of too considerable a property to boast of. The sphere of Swamiji's activity as burdened little by little and now includes an Engineering college producing thousands of graduates and hundreds of engineers. Such an achievement is a rarity. It is to be noted that Swamijees of other faiths are emulating his example in establishing similar institutions. But most of them are endowed with great affluence and enjoy the support of many rich followers. Sree Swamiji of Siddaganga Math has no such privileges. Thanks to his divine personality and his achievements eclipse those of others. The fact that Sree Swamiji's activities are diversified bears testimony to his competence and rectitude.

Sree Swamiji has set a very good example in purity, sincerity, administrative competence and farsightedness. Other Maths will do well to emulate his example. I sincerely hope that Sri Swamiji's service to the panic stricken society will continue for years to come.

**Address by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee on the occasion of 83<sup>rd</sup> Samkritotsava of the Sanskrit college at Sree Siddaganga Math ( On January 3, 1999)**

May the New Year be auspicious to you. But, along with this desire for the progress in the coming year, we will also have to work hard for making the coming year a happy one. In Siddaganga, one observes several Gangas flowing. There is the Ganga of 'Karma' – work, the Ganga of Knowledge, the Ganga of consideration and also the Ganga of compassion. There is a day and night 'Yajna', of knowledge going on here for several centuries.

Sree Swamiji, I am seeing him today again after many years. No change at all!. Swamiji is reading without spectacle, I need the glasses! Sree swamiji kept standing throughout his speech. I, while speaking, am feeling that it would be nice if I sat down! A spiritual power in the form of Swamiji is charging the entire environment. This is not the play of the body alone. At its root is the inspiring moral force.

Years ago, when the weak, the oppressed and the so called backward people were denied the study of Sanskrit, here a social revolution was brought about by providing easy accessibility to the studies in Sanskrit and the Vedas to one and all. Thus, a blueprint was prepared for the construction of New India. Doors of knowledge are open here to all. Special attention is given to children, the little one coming from the rural areas who are denied of opportunities for education. Even if opportunities are available for education, how will their physical needs be met?

In the ancient days, we had 'Gurukulas'. Without any discrimination, opportunities for studies were available to all. At the Gurukula of Rishi Sandipan, Krishna and Sudhama studied together. The same scenario is observed here in this Gurukula. There are facilities for studies. Free lodging and board is provided too. How would doors to bright future open for the economically weaker people, if they do not get an education from their childhood? J.H.Patel was telling that such work cannot be done without the cooperation of non-government organizations. Government has limited resources; so many essential things cannot be achieved by such limited resources. Thus here non-government organizations have

a role to play. Siddaganga is a brilliant example of this, the entire nation should try to follow its example.

It is perhaps a rare thing that the study of Sanskrit language and literature is done on such a large scale. Here Siddaganga has beaten other hollow! But, knowledge is not limited to the study of Sanskrit language and literature alone. It is essential to study modern science along with the ancient wisdom. Just now Swamiji in his talk threw light on the issues related to science and technology, but also warned that the absence of spiritual training can cause destruction. Science is like fire. Fire can be used to cook food, it can also be used to set the house on fire. Science should be put to good use. What is the difference between a crook and a good man? If good people are educated, they will be useful in furthering the knowledge. If the crook has knowledge, he will get argumentative, he will generate quarrels, and he will refuse to acknowledge even the truth. He will misuse knowledge. If a good person has money he will do philanthropy. He will help the poor. He will help the people as per their needs. But, if the crook gets it, he will show vanity, he will destroy the wealth. He will show off his money. He will misuse his money. Money is the same, knowledge is the same, the question is who has acquired them. If a good person has powers, he will be useful in protecting the others. If the power goes to the crook, he being already a crook, will get drunk with the powers in his possession and will trouble others, will generate unhappiness.

Now, how will a person become good? One is training, the other, proper upbringing (Samskar). Our government schools do provide training, but not the Samskar. These two are different thing. You can get the certificate from the college, but not the value system and the wealth of cultural values that come out of Samskar.

Places like Siddaganga are holy places for us. This place, through its ambience, generates such moral impact, which the history needs very much.

I am blessed by Sree Swamiji. He provided me several occasions to visit Sree Math. May this great celebration be a success, this is my inner wish. This is the tradition of those who work for the society. May we progress fast. Sree Basaveswaraji has taught us that we consider work as worship- work itself is heaven. Let us work hard with honesty. We should not shrink from working with hands.

Today, the literate youth expects a job in an office, wants to sit on the chair. These days, there are many who aspire for sitting on the chairs. Fighting goes on because of this. But, one cannot do farming sitting on a chair. Industries can not be run sitting on a chair. No work is inferior. Work is worship. We shall move together, we will speak together, we eat together. Not alone. Eating together will need to be organized to ensure that no one is left hungry. While eating together, we shall have to keep a count so that all are included. This is a Vedic concept about eating together and needs to be revived and practiced.

We will work together to create a Bharath where there is no hunger, no fear and no corruption. Sree Swamiji is our ideal for this. I am gratified by the Darshan of Sree Swamiji today.

You all have come in large numbers. I express my thankfulness to you all.

**Namskar.**

**Address by his excellency Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, Hon'ble President of India on 07-04-2006 on the occasion of 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations of Dr. Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji**

I am delighted to be in this divine environment and participate in the 99<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of Dr. Sri Sri Shivakumara Swamiji of Sri Siddaganga Math. My pranams and respects to Swamiji and greetings to all the participants in this function. Today is a very important day. I am seeing in our country, a great sage, who has been performing “Tapas” for the last 76 years. Through the intense tapas. He has freed himself passion, anger, love and hate. The presence of such great souls in the country, spreads peace and promotes spiritual prosperity. He is a beacon light that attracts and spreads the spiritual message to the people and society. The topic I am going to discuss to the experienced and young audience is “ The Englightened Life”

In present time, establishing peace in the world torn by the distress and hate is of immediate concern for everyone. Peace has its origin in compassion. For this Swamiji says “ If something when done be found harmful to you, desist from doing it, lest it harms others. If you desire for everyone’s love around you then give your love to everyone that desires it”. Swamiji is a towering source of knowledge that purifies every soul that comes into contact.

On this day of celebration of the 99<sup>th</sup> birthday of Swamiji and his entering the 76<sup>th</sup> year of monkhood, I would like to give my respects by reciting one kural(couplet) from classic composed over 2200 years ago by Thiruvalluvar. The saint poet has devoted one full chapter of 10kural out of 1330 kural. With the power of Tapas, if one discards the attachment to ones own life and I the “ahankar” in him, then all lives in the universe will bow before him. The message of this couplet truly reflects the characteristics of Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji. Our youth indeed will find in Swamiji the inspiration with divine blessing.

When I am in this divine campus of Swamiji, I would like to share with the audience the power of proper education and its dimensions.

Ultimately education in its real sense is the pursuit of this truth. It is an endless journey through knowledge and enlightenment. Such a journey opens up new vistas of development. Such a journey opens up new vistas of development of humanism where there is no scope nor room for pettiness, disharmony, jealousy, hatred or enmity. It transforms a human personality into a wholesome being. A noble soul and an asset in the Universe. Universal brotherhood in its true sense becomes the sheet anchor for such education. Real education enhances the dignity of a human being and increases his or her self respect. If only the real sense of education could be realized by each individual, and carried forward in every field of human activity, the world will be so much a better place to live in.

I am delighted to be in this divine environment and participate in the 100 th birthday celebration of His Holiness Sree Sree Shivakumara Swamiji, the sage of Sree Siddaganga Math.

I am seeing in our country, a great sage, who has been performing “ Taps” for the last 77 years. Through the intense Tapas, he has freed himself from passion , anger, love and hate. The presence of such great souls in the country, spreads peace and promotes spiritual prosperity,. He is a beacon light that attracts and spreads the spiritual message to the people and society.

The Almighty integrated the man and Saithan . God said that oh! Humanity , I am giving you a mission” and He gave the following message:

“ I have created the human being with brain and thinking faculty. I command all my creations that use your faculty with reasoning to reach My image.”

This is the mission of the human life. Science is the best boon. God has bestowed upon mankind. Science with reasoning becomes the capital of the society. In whatever field we work, be it science, technology, medicine, politics, policing, theology, religion or judiciary. We have to remain in the service of the people whose well being is central to all human knowledge and endeavor. His Holiness Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji is an example of spreading the message of “giving”. He has been on a tireless mission of socioeconomic development and eradication of the evils of illiteracy and discrimination through giving. He saw education and the alleviation of hunger among the masses as an effective means to enrich the human capacity which in turn would contribute to national reconstruction. His Holiness Swamiji has followed the footprints of his Guru of providing a free boarding home to the students which is now serving the needs of over 8,000 students. In addition 2000 pilgrims and visitors in the Math also provide food every day. During the last seven decades Swamiji is the founder of well over hundred and twenty five educational institutions ranging from nursery to institutions of technology, pure science, arts, management, vocational training and performing arts.

In conclusion the Hon’ble President recited a poem composed by him which runs as follows.

#### **The radiating message from Sree Siddaganga Math**

You, in front of you, see a sage,  
Wearing beautiful spiritual blessings, the sage.  
Every day, the Almighty has given this sage,  
A precious of life.

The sage, strung over thirty six thousand,  
Diamonds into a priceless garland of Tapasvi life.

With the message to humanity:

“O my fellow citizens,  
In giving, you receive happiness,  
In Body and Soul.

You have everything to give.

If you have knowledge, share it.

If you have resources, share it with the needy.

Use your mind and heart,  
To remove the pain of the suffering,  
And, cheer the sad hearts.

In giving, you receive happiness.

The almighty will bless all your actions.”

(The poem was translated into Kannada by writer Shri Goru Channabasappa, music composed by Shri Narasimhalu Vadivatti and rendered by Ms. Kasturi Shankar).

**May God bless you.**

**His Excellency prefaced his address to the parliamentarians with the following recitals of the above poem on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First War of Independence, New Delhi on 10-05-2007.**

**Again on 23-05-2007 while participating in the presentation of Kabir Puraskar and National Communal Harmony Awards for 2006, New Delhi his excellency the President of India ended his speech by quoting the “Radiating message on giving “ in the following terms:**

His Holiness Sree Sree Shivakumara Swamiji of Sree Siddganga Math of Tumkur is an example of spreading the message of “giving”. He has been on a tireless mission of socioeconomic development and eradication of inequalities in education . He saw education and the alleviation of hunger among the masses as an effective means to enrich the human capacity which in turn would contribute to national reconstruction . His Holiness Swamiji has followed the footprints of his guru of providing a free boarding home to the students which is now serving the needs of over 8,000 students. In addition 2000 pilgrims and visitors in the Math also provide food every day. During the last seven decades Swamiji is the founder of well over hundred and twenty five educational institutions ranging from nursery to institutions of technology, pure science, arts, management, vocational training and performing arts.

During the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of his holiness Sree Sree Shivakumara Swamiji –a message of “Giving” came to my mind celebrating his contribution , which I would like to share with you :

**Radiating message on Giving**

“O my fellow citizens,  
In giving , you receive happiness,  
In Body and Soul.  
You have everything to give.  
If you have resources , share it with the needy.  
Use your mind and heart,  
To remove the pain of the suffering,  
And, cheer the sad hearts.  
In giving, you receive happiness.  
Almighty will bless all your actions.”

I have come across many incidents where people have, irrespective of their normal professional affiliations, have come forward for great societal missions by giving . Our educational system should lay the foundation among the young for evolving a conflict free, happy life resulting in an attitude of “giving”. Let this tribe of citizens grow and grow.

**Address by Her Excellency  
Smt.PRATHIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL  
Hon'ble President of India on 02-02-2009  
On the occasion of  
Centenary Celebrations of  
Dr.Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji**

Ladies & Genteleman, I am happy to be in Tumkur and to have the opportunity to meet. Dr. **Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji**, who has completed hundred years and spent his entire life in the service of mankind. He has been able to work so dedicatedly because of his strong adherence to self-discipline and his unwavering faith in humanity. He continues to remain sharp and agile, and still follows a rigorous work schedule.

Swamiji is a living illustration of the ancient philosophy of India, where the work is considered to be worship. He has been working ceaselessly for the upliftment of the people, particularly the rural poor and the downtrodden. Performing work with this motivation is the need of the nation. If everybody does their work with dedication and to the best of their ability, It would result in increased efficiency and better productivity as also in a better social environment. Whether It is students or teachers; doctors,engineers or scientists; officials or those working in the fields, factories or running their own enterprises-if all were to work devotedly what a difference it would make! Swamiji has correctly said that work is the prayer for the welfare of the world. I would call on all of you to make this a rule while going about your daily activities.

It is said in the Vedas that Vidya Daan and Anna Daan are admirable acts. Knowledge removes ignorance and food banishes hunger, thus enriching a human being. Knowledge gives the ability to understand the purpose of life and food give the physical nourishment necessary to work towards that purpose. In fact, the basic objective of the UN Millennium Development Goals, Adopted by all countries, is to remove widespread hunger and ignorance that is prevalent in the world. Work undertaken by the Siddaganga Math is an important contribution in the fight to free people from the scourge of poverty and hunger and to make their lives better through education.

I am informed that the Sree Siddanganga Education Society, established more than forty five years ago, is today running one hundred and thirty educational institutions in the Guruula, eight thousand students, mostly hailing from rural areas and coming from diverse communities, are provided free education, food and shelter. In the Sanskrit instiuite, Sanskrit is taught up to the post-graduation leave, making it one of the few such institutions in the country. Besides, there are institutes of technology, industrial training, business management and also colleges of pharmacy, nursing and education. Thus, education is imparted in a range of disciples covering not only ancient studies but contemporary subjects as well.

All this has been possible because Swamiji, as the head of the Math established in the 15 th century, is committed to carrying forward the tenets of a great spiritual legacy. This is also on account of Seamiji's background of being a graduate, who has studied [physics and Mathematics. It shows how magnificent results could come out, if spirituality and education the necessary experiences to impart education in various disciplines. I am confident that those who pass out from Siddagang institutions will progress in life and become good citizens of India.

Educating our youth is an important responsibility. Swamiji looks at education as a debt to be paid by the present generation to the future generation. It should be our effort to work towards ensuring that all young boys and girls of India receive the gift of education that prepares them to be productive human beings, and imbibes in them a value system that will bring peace and harmony in the world and progress and prosperity to mankind. They should, from a young age, be taught about compassion and a caring attitude towards each other and showing respect towards elders. A person's conduct with others, often speaks about the upbringing and value system. Much importance is attached to the way we deal with other Basavanna has summed this well in these words- It is heaven if you say- Sir, and it is hell if you say- you fellow.

The feeding of all pilgrims who come to this Math is a manifestation of our great tradition, which tells us that as you eat, see to it that others do not go hungry. The sharp rise in food prices last year has negatively impacted on efforts to eradicate poverty. It is estimated that an additional 100 million people now face the prospect of starvation. This brings me to the important topic of food security in the country and globally. The world population is growing. In the fifty years between 1950 and 2000, it grew from 2.5 billion to 6 billion and in the next fifty year, it is expected to rise to 9 billion. Even our population is growing at the rate of 2.1 percent per year, as per the latest census in 2001. As China has stabilized its population, it is expected that we will surpass the population of China, in the near future. Therefore, we may need to ensure that food availability is increased. That can only happen if food production and productivity are augmented. Productivity can be enhanced by making available to our farmers, better seeds, necessary irrigation facilities and marketing linkages. Scientists must constantly work with farmers to acquaint them with better agricultural practices and at the same time our research efforts in the field of agriculture must continue. We need to have another Green Revolution which will be an evergreen revolution where agricultural production would be on a continuous upward curve. I am told that as a part of the Centenary celebrations, an agricultural conference is also being organized here, where I hope some of these issues will be discussed.

In rural areas, particularly those which are located in far-flung areas, health and education facilities are limited. It is important to create awareness among the people on various socio economic issues. I have often called on civil society and NGOs to go to villages for social work and to have regular and constant interaction with the local rural population. I would urge social workers to create awareness amongst the population. I would urge social workers to create awareness amongst the population living in rural areas, to extend them to support in capacity building and to guide them about the various government scheme designs for their welfare. I once again convey my good wishes to the SreeSiddaganga Math and respected Swamiji. Their work for the welfare of humanity and promotion of goodwill between people is commendable. Once again I pray my highest tribute to Swamiji, who has completed 101 years. It is said that it is not important how long one has lived, but how one has lived. Swamiji has lived a life in which he has always helped others. I once again convey my best wishes to all of you. I end with a saying of Basavanna. One must have compassion towards all living beings, Compassion is the basis of all religions. I hope the people of our country follow this message in their lives.

**God bless you**

**Thank you.**

**Jai Hind.**

**Address by Smt. Soina Gandhi, Member of Parliament & Hon'ble President- Indian National Congress Chairperrson, National Advisory Council on 28-04-2012 on the occasion of 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations of Dr. Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji.**

His Holiness Dr. Sree Sivakumara Mahaswamiji, Sree Sree Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji, Dr. Sree Sree Balangadharanatha Mahaswamiji, Sree Sree Siddalinga Mahaswamiji, Distinguished guests, & Friends

I am honoured to be here in the hallowed premises of the Siddaganga Math as we celebrate 80 years of dedicated service of Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji to the cause of humanity.

It is a privilege to congratulate the revered Swamiji on completing 105 years, on having witnessed 105 springs of nature, of life in its varied hues and colours. May Swamiji continues to inspire lakhs and lakhs of people across this state, across our country and indeed across the world in the cause of education, social service, philanthropy and spirituality.

The Sree Siddaganga Math, with its recorded history of over 600 years, is truly unique. Its achievements in the field of education are outstanding. Thousands of boys and girls from poor families are given free food, shelter and schooling. Its colleges and institutions of higher learning have acquired a national reputation.

Over the past centuries, Karnataka has given birth to many radical social reformers who have transformed the very fabric of our society. Foremost amongst them is Basaveshwara who advocated the cause of a casteless society, who championed the cause of equality of opportunity, and who fought tirelessly for social justice almost nine hundred years ago. His teachings have had a profound impact on millions, including the Siddaganga Math, and continue to resonate even today.

Education is, no doubt, about academic learning. It is, no doubt, about acquiring the qualifications to ultimately find security and fulfillment in life. But surely there has to be something more basic to education, if it is to serve as an effective instrument of nation-building.

Education must inculcate a respect for the wonderful diversity of our society. It is this diversity that has given us strength. Beneath it lies the continuity and unity of our great nation. An open, participative, representative democracy is its anchor. Nothing exemplifies India's diversity better than Karnataka itself, where people belonging to different cultures, believing in different faiths and speaking different languages have lived and worked in peace and harmony with each other through the ages. Education must instill in our youth a deep respect for our secular heritage and traditions, so that we can stand up to the forces that seek to divide us, whatever form they may take.

Education must lead a deep sensitivity to social justice. It is education that has led to the empowerment of weaker sections of society that is so very apparent in many parts of our country, especially Karnataka. Nevertheless, the sad reality is that there are still so many of our countrymen and women who face discrimination, who live in poverty and deprivation. Now that primary education has been made a fundamental right, it is for all of us to ensure that the right is asserted and enforced.

Education must develop what Jawaharlal Nehru used to often speak about--- a scientific temper. This is a spirit of ceaseless questioning and relentless inquiry. Indeed, we had ancient centers of learning, individual thinkers and philosophers in our country whose

work led to a path-breaking discoveries. We also have great cultural, spiritual and intellectual traditions based on the wisdom, learning and experience gained over the millennia. True education combines respect for these traditions with a progressive, contemporary outlook that meets the challenges of our times.

Swamiji's life mission is an embodiment of this. The institutions he has inspired and created seek not only to provide young people with a conventional education but places equal emphasis on character-building and moral values. The students who emerge from these institutions will, I have no doubt, be well-suited to meeting the challenges of adult life and contributing to nation-building and a better society.

Swamiji exemplifies hard work and self-discipline. That he preserves in his mission even at this age is a remarkable lesson in itself. For Swamiji “work is worship”. Each one of us would do well to imbibe this spirit and make it part of our own lives.

Over the centuries we in India have had the special blessing of being shown the right path by sages, reformers and teachers of different faiths and persuasions. We are privileged to walk the path that they have illuminated for us. Swamiji has shown us the path of selfless service, of righteousness and universal brotherhood.

Friends, let us continue to derive guidance and inspiration from his life, teaching and works.

### **Jai Hind**

#### **In the words of Mr. Parameshwarappa a retired chief engineer and close devotee who spends a lot of time with Swamiji-**

**Trained by Hard Master:** “Uddhana Swami was a hard taskmaster,” he notes. “Shivakumara Swami had to perform all the chores and tasks at the Math, besides attending to his guru and learning. One afternoon, returning from the hill exhausted from collecting firewood in the scorching sun, he retired for a brief nap. On learning the young monk was resting, Uddhana Swami summoned him. ‘Did I bring you here and give you sanyas so you could sleep in the afternoon? A sanyasi should not sleep during the day; it is against seniors Dharma.’ Swamiji endured this grueling training unswervingly for 11 years, from 1930 to 1941.” To this day, Dr. Shivakumara Swami follows his guru’s instructions in toto and has passed on the same values to his successor. He was initiated into the viraktashram order in 1930.

#### **In the words of Dr. Vijayalakshmi**

I asked Swamiji the secret of his longevity. He gave a mischievous laugh. “If indeed there were a secret, how can one reveal a secret?” His elderly devotees told me his disciplined ways and dedication are the secret of his long life. Dr. Vijayalakshmi attempted to explain: “Our Rishi munis lived a very long life, spanning 150, 160 years. Now our lifespan is shorter because of mechanization and modern lifestyle. We are less active, while stress and strain are increased. Swamiji follows the two tenets of Veerashaivism, kayaka and dasoha. He believes in working endlessly and performs service to mankind as seva to God. He has no desire and eats very frugally. He lives for others and has surrendered himself to service. That is the secret of his longevity.”

### **In the words of Mr. Shivarudraih**

Swamiji's calendar is astounding. On average he attends 15 padapujas a day (reverential bathing of his feet by devotees), up to 30 during festivals. There is no fixed donation for the seva; he has instructed his staff not to charge a fee for any seva or seek money from devotees. "He accepts even ten rupees,"

### **In the words of Mr. Parameshwarappa, a senior devotee serving the Math:**

**To Swamiji, children are God;** he places their well-being and development above all else. Whenever he finds time, he teaches the children Sanskrit and English. His face and eyes light up with joy when he is among them. He gave up drinking milk because it would deprive the children of buttermilk. He practiced walking silently, worried the sound of his wooden sandals would wake the sleeping children. He ensures that the children receive all the warmth and caring of a home and never feel they came from a destitute background. "Even when he is among dignitaries," "if a child approaches him, he gives all his attention to the child. Recently during a function he was walking to the dais with the President of India. He called me and instructed me to give some money he had left at his table to a student who would come for it, a young man who had to remit his exam fees."

### **In the words of Mr. Renukaradhya, a senior devotee serving the Math:**

Swamiji makes himself available to each of the thousands of devotees who come to Siddaganga every day from near and far. If not in his chamber, he reclines on a cot in the open verandah outside, where he remains for hours at a stretch until all devotees have had darshan. Devotees throng the Math till late at night, even 11 pm, and no one returns home without his blessings. They have faith that their problems will be alleviated with his blessings. "There are innumerable instances when people have had their wishes fulfilled or problems have vanished and health improved," says Renukaradhya, a senior devotee serving the Math.

### **In the words of Mr. Vishwanath, Administrative officer, Siddaganga Math**

- **Chaturvidha Dasohi:** Swamiji does Wisdom, food, Education and Health Dasoha i.e charity. Because education only gives the bookish knowledge, here the samskara taught. People come here to solve their health problems with a lot of trust and confidence. Where the court can't solve the problems Swamiji solve.
- **Initiator:** Swamiji is the first mover, initiator, starter to do the things or to take responsibility in the Math like lifting water, cooking, labour work. He believes in participatory and team work.
- **Does as he says:** Swamiji not only speaks but also do. In his life more than theory practical is more.
- **Helps without Expectations:** Swamiji helped a lot thousands of people, but he never expected returns. After achieving success in the life, the people will come to Math and tells that Swamiji helped while studying or while in problems.
- **Healthy Person:** Even at the age of 106 also swamiji doesn't have any diseases. No blood pressure, No Diabetese.
- **His power is only Pooja i.e Meditation:** Swamiji's power is only pooja no external powers. He believes inner power. Swamiji when he comes out of pooja we find a illumination, Prakasha Jyothi i.e bright light.

- **Blessings for all:** He gives the solution for all types of problems who came to him. He also blesses for the people who doesn't have children. He guides to go and have Darshan of "Ganga" on the hill and have the bath of that Ganga water for 3 weeks, and with his cosmopolitic power a lot of people got children.
- **His Hand & Legs:** Surrounding all people who would like to open new business, they believe that if Swamiji puts hand in the cash box, for them they never face problems. If Swamiji padapooja done, then there will not be any problems.
- **Respect in the Peers:** Swamiji has great respect with all the saints in India.

**In the words of Mr. Veerabhadraiah, Retd Teacher, Siddaganga Math**

Retired Teacher, Veerabhadraiah, who taught here for 36 years, is one of those who has returned to serve. "We have seen Swamiji lift stones and gravel for construction," he recalls. "He has worked so hard to nurture and look after us. He has cooked food for the students and served them personally. There is no work he has not done. He has brought up all of us and the institution by his hard work. We came here with nothing and have reached high positions in life. All the children of Siddaganga employees have received education to the highest level they can reach. Once a person steps into Siddaganga, he's on the road to prosperity, especially in the values he imbibes."

- **Grass root Development of Math:** When Swamiji took the incharge, he had only Rs. 300/-. He does not have the money even to attend the devotees place. He used to take a loan from the students and after returning back, he will pay from out of charity he received. At time he doesn't have money to perform the poojas like Guru Aradhana and other Math programs, Swamiji used to take loan from the people and perform. He used to stay in villages for bhikshatane i.e. fund raising , after getting the charity from devotees like rice, daal, ragi etc., Swamiji doesn't had the money to transport to Math, so devotees used to get them by bullock carts.
- **First Question to Devotees :** Where did you come from? And Have Prasadam. (Food) even at midnight also.
- **No expectations:** "There is no need to give any charity to Sree Math, if you become good citizens, brings respect to the nation, live without effecting to the personality, living respectfully in the society that is the charity to Math.
- **Voracious Reader:** Swamiji day starts with reading, He spend minimum 30 minutes at 2:30 a.m and also digested the great philosophers biographies like Sri Aravinda, Ramanashree, Vivekananda etc., He marks the important points with different colors for different preferences. He does not waste a minute. He reads throughout the journey without a break. He not only read him selves but also the underlined one's shows the others to read those lines and say how good they have written?
- **Consistent Position:** At times for hours together he doesn't shift his position or take his eyes off what he is reading.
- **Physical fitness:** Reading without spectacles, visiting wherever devotees called, walking like mercury, Trividha Dasohi, to such a Sree Siddaganga Shivakumara Mahaswamiji, can we call as the old man?- Creator also astonish by seeing Swamiji's life and style of living. To become the great person there is no need of any course, but it requires internal force.

- **Dharmo Rakhathi Rakshithaha:** Swamiji often says that “Now we remember the great scholars and their words than the persons who won the kingdoms and world.” Which reveals that power & money is not permanent but only Dharma is permanent.
- **Food Wastage:** Swamiji say “Do not waste single cereal grain of food” Behind every single cereal grain there is a labour work of thousand’s of people.
- **Education & Wisdom:** It is not enough to become only educated but also becoming wise is necessary.
- **Power of Prayer:** There is a lot of power in prayer, so in the Math two times prayer morning and evening.
- **Realistic:** Swamiji says it is not great to tell quotes but implementation is essential.
- **I saw but noticed:** It is not easy to understand the Swamiji as appears, in every action there is a meaning and thought. One has to Swamiji means they have to spend few days and observe the activities. How best he manages the situations, people.
- **There is no sin other than wasting the time:** Swamiji says one should not waste time, and one should not be inactive.
- **100 Years wealth to Math:** Swamiji made Math to run for another 100 years without any financial hazards.
- **No advertisement:** Swamiji dislikes the procession, addapallakki (lifting the people on shoulders), awards & recognitions.
- **No Abroad:** He is not interested to fly other countries, Swamiji says that what should I do by going abroad? Here only a lot of work is there.
- **Love & affection on Children:** Swamiji rarely stays at other places because his hearts beats for children even Swamiji not waited for the convocation ceremony after receiving the doctorate in Dharawad. He also loves the kids fight, when kids are fighting he will not get angry. He also brings crackers for the occasions and give to children, when the children are firing he used to enjoy by seeing their faces.
- **Loves Animals and Birds:** He loves cattle, animals, birds. In the Math a lot of cows are there by which milk and buttermilk used for Dasoha. He also loves Monkeys, peacocks, Dogs, Cats etc.,
- **Sacrifice for Children:** When Swamiji comes to know that there is a less milk on a particular day, he won't take the milk on that day, his calculation is one glass of milk gives 9 glasses of buttermilk which will feed to 9 children.
- **Save Water:** He baths within 9 mugs of water. He says that let the others do a bath.
- **Swamiji & Devotees:** The people who came to visit Swamiji with bare foot and all the problems, now they are very happy with the luxurious life and vehicles.
- **Walking God:** He used to travel 30 miles per day at times for societal development, now devotees gifted 5 vehicles.
- **Have you seen the God?-** To this question Swamiji. Yes. I have seen the God in the faces of children. I see the Children in “Ishta Linga”- Shiva i.e. God. He does the pooja from 3 a.m to 6 a.m and pooja is very simple.
- **Excellent Memory:** Swamiji memory is excellent he quotes the excellent by recalling, even he remembers the interior roots, turnings of villages & coffee estates and guides the persons while travelling.

- **Self Confidence:** Swamiji says self confidence moulds the their personality not any external force.
- **Tantra & Mantra:** A lot of people ask Swamiji, even at this sage you are following the superstitious practices. Swamiji replies that this is the psychological treatment, What way the people are expecting in that way we have to treat and restore their power and faith.
- **Versatile personality:** We can not explain what Swamiji is, he has so many faces.
- **What is Swamiji's Secret of Success?**

Lingapooja Nishte i.e Meditation

Self Confidence

Bramhacharya

### Conclusion:

“**Work is Worship**” who is proved and practicing, one must visit such a holy person in the lifetime, instead of temples. He is the Walking God to solve the problems of devotees, He is the best doctor who can solve the problems of the visitors which are not solved, He is the best judge at the times of decisions between two parties, He is the Good Teacher who taught for 80 years, He is the Unselfish, doing service to society, He is not a politician, He is not a luxurious person, He is a simple man, He is doing Trividha Dasoha i.e Food, Education and Wisdom. He is the best Manager who is monitoring 132 institutes.

According to Swamij Education should teach life values and make the personalities. He is Sree Sree Sree Dr. Shivakumara Maha Swamiji. Hats off to your service to mankind.

With the warm Regards,

### Prof. Shekhara Gowd Mitta

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