

I) Introduction

Due to worldwide preaching of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, there are millions of devotees all over the world who are following the teachings of Lord Caitanya as given by Srila Prabhupada.

There are many householder devotees all over the world who are facing the following problems -

1) How to protect their children from the onslaught of materialism which is spread everywhere in the modern society?

2) How to give the children a Krishna Conscious education so that they may become devotees of Krishna with all good qualities and also become economically self sufficient?

With the spread of modern technology in the form of T.V, internet, mobiles etc. it is **impossible to prevent the children from seeing the acts of illicit sex, intoxication, meat eating and gambling**. Even the schools are not safe as the other students and even the teachers do not take this very seriously. But the Krishna Conscious parents know that how dangerous it will be if at very early age the child is exposed to these sinful activities.

Even if we decide to keep the children at home (what we call home schooling now-a-days), it becomes difficult as the **children need the company of other children and moreover the parents cannot give full attention** and it is very difficult to give them a complete Krishna conscious environment wherein they can practice samo (controlling the mind), damo (controlling the senses), titiksha (tolerance), brahamcharya (observing complete celibacy) and engaging in devotional service to Krishna etc.

Also sometimes it is seen that inspite of sending the child to a “**so called Gurukula**” which is “**supposed**” to be running as per Srila Prabhupada’s instructions, the child **develops bad qualities**, becomes an ordinary householder engaged in sense gratification and ends up working for some karmi to earn his living.

What to do?

Where have we gone wrong?

As stated by Srila Prabhupada in a Letter to Satyabhama (23 Mar, 1973)

“I don't want our energy spent in that way, to develop a school at New Vrindavana.

Rather, all of our children should go to Dallas when they are four and begin their training program there. In Dallas, they have full facility approved by me...

Why should the parents not feel attachment for their children, that is natural. But our affection is not simply sentimental, we offer our children the highest opportunity to become trained up in Krishna consciousness very early so as to assure their success in this life to go back to Godhead for sure. That is real affection, to make sure my child gets back to Godhead, that is my real responsibility as a parent. **And I have seen that Gurukula offers this opportunity more than any other place anywhere.**

Another place Srila Prabhupada says in a Room Conversation (July 9, 1973, U.K)
Prabhupada: They don't send because **everyone knows that sending boys to the school means spoil them.** That's all. I have seen intelligent boys, they go to school and he is spoiled. Yes, spoiled. He learns how to smoke, how to have sex, how to talk nonsense, how to use knife, how to fight, these things. At least at the present moment. Yes. Simply slaughterhouse, **this so-called school is called slaughterhouse.** Yes, slaughterhouse.

So as we can see from the above quotes that the problem of training children in Krishna Consciousness obviously cannot be solved by sending the children to karmi schools nor it can be fully solved by home schooling or sending the children to so called gurukula which is not as per the instructions of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

The only solution is to go “BACK TO SRILA PRABHUPADA’S GURUKULA”.

We at Bhaktivedanta International Gurukula (BIG) and Bhaktivedanta International Varnasrama College (BIVC), Dist. Tonk, Near Jaipur, India are trying our best to run the Gurukula and Varnasrama college as per the instructions of Srila Prabhupada and by his grace we are getting good results.

Note: Whenever we will talk of **brahmana, ksatriya, vaisya or sudra in this book it is not by birth but by qualification.** Just like a son of a High Court Judge cannot be considered as a judge unless he acquires the qualification of a judge. This is also stated in Gita, 4th Chapter, 13th Shloka - “These four varna have been created by Me (Lord Krishna) according to guna (quality) and karma (work)”.

So, anyone can become a brahmana by training if he develops the qualities of a brahmana described in Gita 18th Chapter, 42 Shloka – “samo (controlling the mind), damo (controlling the senses), tapo (performing austerities), saucam (clean), janam (knowledge of Vedas), vijanam (practical application) etc.” So, **we are giving real knowledge to everyone irrespective of so called caste, nationality etc.** which will create the best citizen of brahminical type, clean, honest, law abiding, healthy and industrious.

Now, this book will help-

- 1) all intelligent and sober men to understand the importance of this Krishna Conscious education** and the falsity of the so called education in today's modern world.
- 2)the parents to understand the importance of sending their children to Gurukula** for Krishna Conscious education. It will also help them to develop the confidence that if everything is done as per the instructions of Srila Prabhupada than their children's future will be bright spiritually as well as materially.
- 3)the teachers and managers of Gurukula** to ensure that they are running the Gurukula as per the direction of Srila Prabhupada and hence ensuring its success. It will also help the devotees who want to set up new "Srila Prabhupada's Gurukulas"all over the world.
- 4) the students of BIG & BIVC and devotees in general** to know and implement the insructions of Srila Prabhupada in the Gurukula system of education given by him.

So we have dealt with each question which generally comes in the minds of parents, teachers, students and devotees in general in the following manner -

First the Question whose answers will help the teachers & students of Gurukula, parents and devotees in general to understand how Srila Prabhupada wanted the Gurukula and Varnasrama college to be managed is stated.

Then Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the question under consideration are given. Very important key lines related to the question in hand are made **bold** and **underlined**.

Finally comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC are given.

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So we invite all thoughtful men of the entire world to forget their differences and unite on this platform of ensuring a bright Krishna Conscious future of our children. Comments, suggestions are invited from all Vaisnavas on e-mail or they can even contact on phone.

Dayalu Nitai Das.

(Director – Bhaktivedanta International Gurukula and Varnasrama College).

II) Some Commonly Asked Questions

1) Why should the children be sent to Gurukula to be trained in Krishna consciousness? Why can't they be sent to ordinary karmi schools for education or be trained at home?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Letter to Satyabhama, Hyderabad, 23 Mar, 1973

Why should the parents not feel attachment for their children, that is natural. But our affection is not simply sentimental; we offer our children the highest opportunity to become trained up in Krishna consciousness very early so as to assure their success in this life to go back to Godhead for sure. That is real affection, to make sure my child gets back to Godhead, that is my real responsibility as a parent. **And I have seen that Gurukula offers this opportunity more than any other place anywhere.**

S.B.1.1.22 Purport (Questions by the sages)

The whole system of education is geared to sense gratification, and if a learned man thinks it over, he sees that the children of this age are being intentionally sent to the slaughterhouses of so-called education. Learned men, therefore, must be cautious of this age, and if they at all want to cross over the dangerous ocean of Kali, they must follow the footsteps of the sages of Naimisaranya and accept Sri Suta Gosvami or his bonafide representative as the captain of the ship. The ship is the message of Lord Sri Krishna in the shape of Bhagavad-Gita or the Srimad Bhagavatam.

Room Conversation - July 9, 1973, London

Prabhupada: No they say, they simply give primary education (indistinct) they can read, that's all. And (indistinct). They don't send because **everyone knows that sending boys to the school means spoil them.** That's all. I have seen intelligent boys, they go to school and he is spoiled. Yes, spoiled. He learns how to smoke, how to have sex, how to talk nonsense, how to use knife, how to fight, these things. At least at the present moment. Yes. Simply slaughterhouse, **this so-called school is called slaughterhouse.** Yes, slaughterhouse.

Lecture on Bhagavad-gita 16.10 - Hawaii, February 6, 1975

Therefore sastra says that “*pita na sa syat janani na sa syat, na mocayed yah samupetya-mrtyum.*” **A man should not desire to become a father and the woman should not desire to become a mother unless both of them have taken the vow that "I shall beget a child and stop his cycle of birth and death." This is the duty of the parents,** not that "I shall beget children like cats and dogs." There should be some meaning of the life... **Where is the university? Where is the college where this training is given that "We are spirit soul. This body is temporary,** And the spirit soul business is this, so that spirit soul may be purified, no more he accepts this material body"? Where is that education? Therefore “*alpa-buddhayah*”: less intelligent. They are simply busy with these bodily necessities of life. There is no education of the real living force. **That education you will get - this Krishna consciousness movement. Therefore it is unique.** It is the education to get people of the human society liberated from the animalistic ignorance.

Lecture on Bhagavad-gita 8.20-22 - New York, November 18, 1966

Human civilization, human society, should be so formed that they should have the opportunity. The human form of life is the opportunity to get this boon. So it is the duty of the state, duty of the parents, duty of the guardians, duty of the husband, duty of the father -- **everyone's duty is how to elevate a living creature who has got this fortunate human form of life to understand this “paramam gatim”,** highest perfection of life.

Lecture on Bhagavad-gita 16.2-7 - Bombay, April 8, 1971

Therefore it is the duty of everyone to train everyone. **Just like the parents. They should train their children to become Krishna conscious.** The state should encourage how people can become Krishna conscious. Then automatically all the good qualities will come.

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.19 - Honolulu, May 19, 1976.

It is the duty of the guru, the duty of the parents, duty of the government to train people in such a way that they may become pious, sinless. But they do not believe, even in the next life, that "If we act impiously, then we have to suffer next life." They avoid to believe that there is next life. But there is next life.

Letter to Mohanananda, Ahembdabad, 11 Dec., 1972

They may be certain their children will get the real knowledge which will create the **best citizens of brahminical type, clean, honest, law-abiding, healthy, industrious, all good qualities** they will have.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC

As we can see from the above quotes that it is the duty of the parents to train the children to become Krishna conscious and escape the cycle of birth and death. If the parents really love their children they should save them from materialistic way of life and give them a chance to go back to Godhead.

And as stated by Srila Prabhupada “**And I have seen Gurukula offers this opportunity more than any other place anywhere.**”

As everyone knows sending the children to **ordinary karmi schools means to spoil his character** and loose this chance of going back to Godhead in this human form of life.

As far as home schooling is concerned it may not be as bad as sending the boy to karmi school if the parents are Krishna Conscious. But if we really want the children to become self controlled, well read in Srila Prabhupada’s books, celibate etc. it requires a whole environment of living with the other devotee children, attending regular Krishna Conscious program in the temple, keeping away from T.V, internet, opposite sex **which can be offered by a gurukula if it is running as per Srila Prabhupada’s instructions.**

To become a strong brahamchari or an ideal grihastha devotee, preacher dedicated to Srila Prabhupada’s mission **requires a thorough training by experienced devotees in a Krishna Conscious environment.**

We at BIG & BIVC are committed to train the children as per Srila Prabhupada’s instructions so that they can learn to lead a sinless, pious life, become devotee of Krishna with all good qualities of and spend their life in serving Krishna thereby going back to Godhead escaping this horrible cycle of birth and death.

2) Who is the guru for whose vision/desires and instructions the students will work?
What is the role and mission of other teachers in the Gurukula?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Lecture at Krishna Niketan, Gorakhpur, 16 February, 1971

Prabhupada: **"Guru cannot be a conditioned soul. Guru must be liberated..."**

Letter to: Madhudvisa, Detroit, 4 August, 1975

Prabhupada: **"The GBC should all be the instructor gurus. I am the initiator guru,**
and you should be the instructor guru by teaching what I am teaching and doing what I am
doing. This is not a title, but you must actually come to this platform. This I want."

And if these instructor gurus deviate then we have the following instruction of Srila
Prabhupada to fall back upon –

Lecture on Bhagavad-gita 17.1-3 - Honolulu, July 4, 1974

Prabhupada: **"Siksa-guru does not mean he is speaking something against the
teachings of the diksa-guru. He is not a siksa-guru. He is a rascal.**

Lecture on Bhagavad-gita 13.3 - Bombay, September 26, 1973

So Krishna is advising that "I am in everyone's heart." You can take advice from Krishna.
Krishna is ready. Krishna's another name is "*caitya-guru*." Caitya-guru means the guru
who is situated within your heart.

**Krishna comes out as instructor guru or initiator guru outside, and he is sitting
within the heart as caitya-guru.** Krishna is ready to help you, help us, every one of us, in
two ways: by the external guru and internal guru. Internal guru, He is Krishna Himself,
and external guru, His manifestation, the spiritual master.

So we should take advantage of two gurus and make our life successful. This is
Krishna Consciousness movement.

Radio Interview - March 12, 1968, San Francisco

Prabhupada: Yes, **I am the spiritual master of this institution, and all the members of
the society, they're supposed to be my disciples.** They follow the rules and regulations
which I ask them to follow, and they are initiated by me spiritually.

Lecture on S.B 2.1.1, Delhi, November 4, 1973

This is Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission, that "I give you order. You, **every one of you become a spiritual master.**" "Oh, I have no qualification. How can I become spiritual master? It requires high knowledge, Sanskrit understanding." "No, you don't require anything. **Simply you speak Krishna-upadesha.**" What is Krishna-upadesha? Krishna says, "*sarva-dharman parityajya mam ekam saranam vraja*" [Bg. 18.66]. You simply go door to door and say, "Please surrender to Krishna." Then you are spiritual master.

Krishna Book - Meeting of Lord Krishna with Sudama Brahmana

Everyone should consider his father to be his first teacher because by the mercy of one's father one gets this body. The father is therefore the natural spiritual master.

Our next spiritual master is he who initiates us into transcendental knowledge, and he is to be worshiped as much as I am. The spiritual master may be more than one. **The spiritual master who instructs the disciples about spiritual matters is called siksa-guru, and the spiritual master who initiates the disciple is called diksa-guru. Both of them are My representatives. There may be many spiritual masters who instruct, but the initiator spiritual master is one.** A human being who takes advantage of these spiritual masters and, receiving proper knowledge from them, crosses the ocean of material existence, is to be understood as having properly utilized his human form of life.

Letter to Hasyakari (Howard Bernd), Rathangapani (Randy Buchert).

The essential point to remember is that you should try always to please your spiritual master under every condition. That means to follow his orders and instructions very carefully. **My first instruction to all of my disciples is that they should help me spread this Krishna Consciousness movement all over the world, utilizing their energy as best they are able to do it.** In this way, keeping yourselves always engaged in Krishna's business 24 hours, you will become free from all attachment to maya by Krishna's grace.

Just as when the darkness and light come together, the darkness cannot stand before the light, so maya cannot remain in the presence of Krishna. Always remember therefore to chant Hare Krishna and that will save you in all circumstances without any doubt.

Note – For more details in answer to this question one may refer to the book "The Final Order" by Krishnakant.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above quotes **Srila Prabhupada is the initiator (diksha) as well the instructor (siksha) guru** for all the members of our society if they follow the rules and regulations given by him.

The other teachers are also instructor gurus if they are teaching what Srila Prabhupada is teaching and doing what Srila Prabhupada is doing.

We at BIG and BIVC are committed to ensure that the devotees who will teach in the gurukula are fixed up initiated disciples of Srila Prabhupada having great love and respect for him & are following all the rules and regulations. **The aim of these teachers will be to act as senior godbrothers to the students and train them to become attached to Srila Prabhupada – his vani, his vapu, his desires, his mission, his activities.**

To ensure the above, Srila Prabhupada's deity is installed in the gurukula wherein all the students pay obeisances to His Divine Grace on rising in the morning and before going to sleep. The students personally dress and worship Srila Prabhupada every day, make garlands to offer him – like that engage in his **vapu seva**.

And more important the students **hear exclusively Srila Prabhupada's** audio lectures, see his videos, read his original books and become Krsnaized in Srila Prabhupada 's way. Passing **Bhakti Shastri course** is compulsory for all the students of Varnasrama College in which they study basic ten books of Srila Prabhupada (BBD, POY, EJTOP, RV, ISOP, B.G, NOI, NOD, TLC, Book on deity worship).

Brahmanas and Ksatriyas must clear the **Bhaktivedanta exam** in which they will study the 10 cantos of Srimad Bhagavatam translated by Srila Prabhupada and then brahmanas can go on to study Caitanya Caritamrata and get the title of **Bhakti Sarvabhouta**.

These students will save and propagate the original teachings of Srila Prabhupada all over the world and will be able to immediately detect any deviation from his original teachings and thus they will never be misled by anyone.

Our main policy at BIG & BIVC is that the teachers will work on behalf of Srila Prabhupada to ensure that students are becoming more and more attached and dependent on these two gurus – **Internal guru, He is Krishna Himself, and external guru, His manifestation, the spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada** and as a result they will preach the message of Lord Caitanya wherever they may go and their life will become successful as confirmed by Srila Prabhupada.

3) What is the main purpose or aim of Gurukula? What sort of training will be given to achieve the above aim?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the question under consideration

Morning Walk - August 14, 1976, Bombay

Prabhupada:[break] **By practice. We are training them to practice how to become devotees.** By superficial seeing the activities of Krishna, this is not... One has to practice. Just like we are going to start... **Gurukula means practice. "Brahmacari guru-kule vasan dantah"** [SB 7.12.1]. **How to become self-controlled, danta.** That is the... So our mission is to awaken the original consciousness, and that can be done by practice. Without practice, it is not possible

Evening Darsana - February 26, 1977, Mayapura

Prabhupada: Vasan danto guror hitam. The word is used, danta. Danta means sober. Children are generally restless, and the brahmacari-asrama means to **train him how to become peaceful.** That is the first training, not that to make him very good scholar in grammar. It is not said there. That is later on. **First thing is how to make him sober.**

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 7.12.2 -- Bombay, April 13, 1976

Danta means self-controlled. That is real teaching. Either a grihastha lives... If a grihastha lives, even he has got wife, he does not... One side, according to Vedic civilization, there is no sex life except for begetting a nice child, and that also with garbhadhana-samskara. In other words, whimsically sex life is completely stopped in Vedic civilization. There everything under regulation. **Therefore brahmacari means how to control the senses, to keep under his own control, not that "I am now sexually inclined. I must have immediately sex."**No. Danta. That is taught. Just like in our society, even grihastha, he is also under restriction, and what to speak of brahmacari.

Therefore brahmacari means living under direction of guru, "*guror hitam.*"... How he can be simply thinking of benefiting the spiritual master? Unless that position comes, nobody can serve guru. It is not an artificial thing. **The brahmacari, the disciple, must have genuine love for guru. Then he can be under his control. Otherwise why one should be under the control of another person?** Therefore it is said, "*acaran dasavat.*" Dasa. Dasa means servant. Not only servant, but menial servant. Menial servant means just like the sweeper, the cobbler, like that. They are called menial servants.

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.13-14 - New York, July 27, 1971

These are the different steps, how one person can become civilized. So first thing is tapasa. Tapasa brahmacaryena [SB 6.1.13], austerities. **Therefore in the Vedic civilization the children, they are taught from the very beginning brahmacarya. Tapasa brahmacarya. A small boy, five-years-old boy... That is Gurukula. "Brahmacari guru-kule vasan danto guror hitam"** [SB 7.12.1]. This is a way of life, to teach the brahmacarya, brahmacarya, celibacy, to restrain from sex life. That is brahmacarya.

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.5.18 - Vrindavana, November 6, 1976

So therefore it is our little attempt that to **train some boys to become first-class character. Samo damo titiksa.** That is required in the society. Simply all fourth-class, fifth-class men, how the society will improve? That is not possible...

Without sense control nobody can make any progress in human life. Tapasya. That is called tapasya. The yoga is also another tapasya. Tapo. Tapasa brahmacaryena [SB 6.1.13]. **So any path you take, the brahmacarya first thing. Without brahmacarya there is no question of tapasya.**

"tapasa brahmacaryena, samena damena va tyagena satya-saucabhyam, yamena niyamena va" [SB 6.1.13]

Lecture on S.B 5.6.3 (Vrindavana, November 25 1976)

So that brahma-bhuta position can be attained. If we strictly follow the rules and regulation of brahmacari or brahmana, then it is possible. Otherwise it will be simply formality. Practical life, brahma-bhuta. And how do I know that he has become brahma-bhuta. **Prasannatma [Bg. 18.54], no more moroseness, always jolly in any condition of life. Not that "For want of this, one is suffering." There is no want. That, that mentality, that attitude, should be increased.** And when it is fully increased, then he's fully satisfied, atmarama. That is called atmarama

Letter to Jayatirtha - Mayapur 20 January, 1976

The Gurukula must be based on the principle of renunciation; vairagya vidya nija bhakti yogam [Cc. Madhya 6.254]. Bhakti is based on the principle of the renunciation of material desires beginning from the earliest age; **kaumaram acaret prajna dharman bhagavatan iha** [SB 7.6.1]. From the very beginning, a boy must be **trained to perform devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead**, and not to be attached as

the fruitive workers, the karmis, to the so-called fallible soldiers; “*dehapatya kalatradisu atma-sainyesu asatsv api tesam prammato nidhanam pasyanapi na pasyati*” [SB 2.1.4].

Therefore our young men must be trained at the earliest age to not be attached to so many things like the home, family, friendship, society, and nation. To train the innocent boy to be a sense gratifier at the early age when the child is actually happy in any circumstance is the greatest violence. Therefore; *brahmacari gurukulae vasan danto guror hitam* [SB 7.12.1]. The brahmacari lives at the place of the spiritual master and works for the benefit of the spiritual master by begging for his maintenance, by cleaning, learning the principles of Krishna consciousness, and engaging in the process of *bhagavata dharma*, whereby his life will have a firm, sane foundation with which he can overcome the forces of maya by strong training in the beginning.

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.22 - Honolulu, May 22, 1976

Up to twenty-fifth year you remain a brahmacari, learn from guru how to become brahmacari, Gurukula. *Brahmacari gurukule vasan danta*: how to practice self control, sense control. A brahmacari is forbidden to see even young girl, even the spiritual master's wife is young...

Anyone, any woman who is not your wife, except your wife, everyone, every woman is to be considered as mother. This is education. And that (indistinct) of education is defined by Canakya Pandita, that who is pandita, learned.

So brahmacari is taught that how he should behave in society, what is the aim of life. That is brahmacari. *Matrvat para-daresu para-dravyesu lostravat. **And other's property just like garbage.**... So *matrvat para-daresu para-dravyesu lostravat atmavat sarva-bhutesu.* All other living entities think like yourself. That means your pains and pleasure that you feel, you should take others pains and pleasure. Not that you protect yourself from all danger and you cut the throat of the poor animals on the plea that it has no soul. This is not education.*

Room Conversation, January 8, 1977, Bombay

Prabhupada: ...And try to organize this Gurukula as their world attraction. That will be your success. Simply teach them nicely English and Sanskrit. And our books are there. And regular habits:going to the Yamuna in procession, **timely get up early in the morning, attending class, clean dress, clean bedding, clean room.** Sikha-sutra.

The Vamanadeva gave this description. Where is that book?

Jagadisa: I don't know. Pradyumna may have taken it.

Prabhupada: **Cleanliness is the first necessity. That is hygienic, spiritual, and calm, quiet.** India has got special facility to remain clean. Only in this country you can take thrice bathing. In other countries...Easy there. In your country there is hot water. There is no difficulty if one practices. I think our men have such practice. **But this cleanness is this taking bathing at least twice. That keeps a man very clean.**

Letter to Aniruddha - Calcutta 7 March, 1972

I am very glad to learn that you are enthusiastic to teach the children. Most of your questions I have answered as above to Satsvarupa. **Simply follow the program of the elders,** let the children associate as much as possible with the routine KC program, and when the others go out for working and business matters, the children can be given classes as you describe. They can learn our method of Krishna Consciousness by rising early, cleansing, plus knowledge of Sanskrit, English, a little Mathematics, history, geography.

Morning Walk - November 17, 1975, Bombay

Prabhupada: Farce, yes. No education. **Amongst the Marwaris, the respectable gentlemen, they don't send. They keep private teachers, panditas, for learning Sanskrit, English.** They know that our, "My boy hasn't got to earn money. He has to sit here. That's all. Why he should be spoiled?" They know very well, "We can purchase these technologists."

Letter to Mohanananda (Ahemdabad, 11 Dec. 1972)

They may be certain their children will get the real knowledge which will **create best citizens of brahminical type, clean, honest, law-abiding, healthy, industrious, all good qualities they will have.**

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC

As we can see from the above quotes the **main aim of gurukula** is to train the child to control the mind, control the senses, observe celibacy, to become peaceful, sober, detached from so called society, friendship, love and become attached to serving Krishna as per the instructions given by our spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada.

And how we will achieve the above aim – As Srila Prabhupada is saying “**Simply follow the program of the elders, let the children associate as much as possible with the routine KC program, and when the others go out for working and business matters, the children can be given classes as you describe.**” How simple!!!

The result of such training should be that he will become jolly, no moroseness (*brahma bhuta prasanatma*), peaceful, sober, gentle, obedient always serving Krishna as per the instructions given by our spiritual master. Srila Prabhupada is assuring the parents that if the child is trained in this way he will get real knowledge which will create **best citizens of brahminical type, clean, honest, law-abiding, healthy, industrious, all good qualities they will have.**

Who will not like his child to become like this?

We should also note that Srila Prabhupada is even considering the basic knowledge of reading and writing in English/Hindi etc. also secondary to the above training!!! So **real education, training** is to make the child self controlled, celibate, obedient – overall a good devotee of Krishna.

We at BIG & BIVC are dedicated to train the child so that he develops all these good qualities and becomes a devotee of Krishna by following Srila Prabhupada’s instructions of rising early in the morning, attending mangala arti, chanting, reciting shlokas, taking bath at least twice, obedient to parents, elders, guru and Krishna etc.

One may think that are we not going to teach material subjects like English, Maths, science etc. This question is answered in the next section.

4) Other than self control, brahamcharya etc. will the students also learn other subjects like English, Maths, Geography, Science etc.?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Room Conversation - January 21, 1977, Bhuvanesvara

Prabhupada: Yes, Gurukula, Gurukula education.

Ramesvara: Still **we'll be teaching subjects like history and math.**

Prabhupada: **Oh, yes.** Without teaching, how the human society will exist? There must be.

Hari-sauri: No, he's talking about some of the subjects they teach now.

Ramesvara: Material science as well as spiritual science?

Prabhupada: **No. No, no. There is no need of so-called material science** - how to kill children in the womb. These things will be kicked out. Nonsense.

Letter to Satsvarupa - Paris 25 July, 1972

The children should be doing the same thing we are doing, plus giving them the playing facility, a little ABC, history, mathematics, geography, like that. They should not help in cooking, nor should they take part in any hard work, they must study. After initiation, then they can learn cooking. They should not be utilized for giving service to the elderly members, they should be given chance for reading and writing. So far marriage is concerned, they must be legally married.

Letter to Giriraja - Amsterdam 30 July, 1972

So far the school of Sumati Morarji, make the children into Vaisnavas through English medium of learning. We are not going to abide by the government schedule. They should be taught our books as soon as they can read and write. **The idea is that those who will later on accept service, they cannot be accepted by us for schooling, we cannot help them.** They must be the sons of rich and important men who will not be taking education simply to use it for eating and sleeping.

They should be taught just to do like the elders, that is, rise early, cleanse, attend mangala arti, read our literatures, chant, go for sankirtana, like that, and besides that, **a little ABC, mathematics, geography, history, that's all.**

And teach the small children to play Krishna games: one child is a cow, another is cowherd boy, they go to the forest, there are demons there, Krishna kills the demons, like that; in this way, let the children play Krishna games, then attend arti, then learn some ABC, then play some more, have kirtana, little ABC, and by keeping them always diversified they shall not lose interest and will keep their attention always focussed around Krishna...

Letter to Dinatarini - Bombay 4 January, 1973

So far geography and history are concerned, you may teach geography as it is, there is no harm to getting knowledge about our material earth planet, even up to learning all of the countries and places, names, landscape, production, natural resources, climates, oceans, deserts, everything should be there. **Krishna Consciousness devotees shall not be known as fools.** All of you nice boys and girls have had that kind of education, and you are preaching now Krishna consciousness in its pure form, so there is no hindrance for learning such things, just as you have also learned them as child. **So teach them in this way, exactly as you have also been taught geography, history and other things.**

So far history is concerned, we shall not teach the history as Darwin has given, but there is **no harm to learn what is the history of your country, just like Washington was the first president,** and after him came so-and-so, like that. If the modern historians have altered the story of history to fit their own view of things, that can be avoided, anything like opinion and speculation, but the bare facts as much as we know them may be learned by the young children, there is no harm.

Room Conversation - July 31, 1976, New Mayapur (French farm)

Jyotirmayi: You were saying that the children should learn these three, geography and these things, and **I wanted to know if they should also learn what they call biology,** that is how the body is working, what are the bones and blood and...

Prabhupada: What is the use?

Jyotirmayi: Just to have some general knowledge...

Prabhupada: **Simply waste of time, simply waste of time.**

Jyotirmayi: Even the basic of this?

Prabhupada: What is the basic? What you will know by that? Biology is going on, whether you study or not study. You are eating, it is transforming into blood, everyone knows. And how he's transforming into blood? What is the use?

Jyotirmayi: You were saying they should learn geography and history, just for general knowledge.

Prabhupada: **That is because you have to go from America to India. You must know.** (laughter) **You have to calculate two plus two equal to four, a little mathematics. But this biology and this "logy," they are useless...but when medical men are available by paying something, why should you waste your time?** There are so many things we purchase, you pay for them. Not that we have to learn everything. So many things we have to do. Does it mean that you have to learn everything?

Hari-sauri: There's lots of doctors, but there's no brahmanas, devotees.

Prabhupada: Yes. **So the principle is, don't waste time. If one has already learned medical science, all right, bring him to some service.** But not that our men have to go to the medical college to learn medical science. That is not the point.

Letter to Satsvarupa - Mayapur 28 February, 1972

Sanskrit should be compulsory for all our children to learn, and anyone who has elementary knowledge of alphabet and grammar can begin to teach it. In addition, English reading and writing, a little mathematics, history and geography or we shall be thought fools if we do not know - that's all.

Main thing is that by attendance of our routine programme, that is, rising early, cleansing, chanting, eating Krishna prasada, street Sankirtana, looking at books, etc., in this way, if the children associate with their elders in the regular schedule of devotional practices, that is best way to train.

Otherwise, hygienic principles must be very much practiced. The future preachers of KC Movement must learn to be suci, absolutely pure in all respects, & for this, practical cleansing is the basic teaching, e.g., not touching anything dirty to mouth. Mouth is dirtiest part, and infection can spread very easily by the mouth.

Room Conversation About Gurukula - November 5, 1976, Vrindavana

Prabhupada: Yes. Not any other language. **Hindi is essential, must be compulsory, Hindi. That is state language.**

Jagadisa: For the Western children also?

Prabhupada: Oh, yes, everyone ... **Hindi, Sanskrit, English compulsory.**

Morning Walk -- March 19, 1976, Mayapura

Prabhupada: Yes, that's nice. **But one thing is that if they can attend, even by hearing the Vedic mantras they'll be benefited. Even they... Therefore I give stress on chanting the mantra,** so that if one cannot chant and can under.... Simply by hearing, he'll be benefited. [break] Hm.

Room Conversation with Sanskrit Professor - August 13, 1973, Paris

Prabhupada: So there we have got very nice building, and, about, for the present, about near about hundred students. They're simply taught Sanskrit and English.

Professor: Nothing else.

Prabhupada: Nothing else. Later on, little geometry, geography, mathematics. **They're not meant for outside work. They're meant for as soon as they learn Sanskrit and English, they'll read these books.**

Morning Walk - July 13, 1976, New York

Prabhupada: Very nice. They should be trained up properly. Special care should be taken. That is the idea of my Guru Maharaja, a Gurukula. **Gurukula, we are not going to make some big, big scholars. We don't require scholars. We require ideal men by character, by behaviour, by Krishna consciousness.** Not by studying grammar. There are many grammarians. Let them study our books nicely, English, little Sanskrit, that's all. Gurukula organize like that. We don't want big, big scholars. Unnecessarily. There are so many scholars in the universities, drinking and woman-hunting, that's all...

Conversation with devotees, April 12, 1975, Hydrebad

Prabhupada: ...any language, you should submit, and you should feel that, that "I am worthless. My Guru Maharaja has given this chance to serve Krishna, to offer Krishna... My Lord, I am worthless. I have no capacity to serve You. But on the order of my Guru Maharaja, I am trying to serve You. Please do not take any offense. Accept whatever I can do. That's all. That is my request." That mantra is sufficient. Krishna says in the Bhagavad-gita, *yo me bhaktya prayacchati*. Krishna never said that "One who offers Me with Sanskrit mantra." *Yo me bhaktya prayacchati*. **Real thing is bhakti, feeling: "How to serve Krishna? How to please Him?" That is wanted. Not to see that you are a very good scholar in speaking in Sanskrit or English** or...

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC

As we can see from the above quotes, Srila Prabhupada wants that the children should be taught to read and write in English, Hind and little Sanskrit so that the they can recite shlokas and a little mathematics, geography and history which is practically required in this material world.

And as soon as he knows how to read and write in English and little Sanskrit he should study Srila Prabhupada's books!!! How simple!!! We do not even have to bother the child to become big scholar in Sanskrit, Vedas etc.

Another point to note is that Srila Prabhupada is saying that “**our children are not meant to work outside**” so if our children are not going to work outside then anyway what use is there in teaching science, biology, botany, complicated mathematics etc. etc. Simply theory - of no practical use in life!!!

Except for the sudra class of technologist etc. nobody (even the big businessman) use this complicated material education (alpha, beta, theat ...) in real life and even these technologists are using this material science till this complicated civilization based on flimsy things like petrol, electricity, machines, computers etc. is going on ...once this crashes this education will not be able to fetch them even food to eat!!!

And Srila Prabhupada has already predicted - “**This motorcar civilization will be finished within another hundred years.**”

- Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.2.15 - Los Angeles, August 18, 1972

Srila Prabhupada's mood is that he never rejects anybody but if we note carefully Srila Prabhupada is saying that “**those who are going to accept service later on we cannot help them**”!!!

That means accepting service or working for karmis is such a degraded position for a devotee and if we do not want our children to come to such a degraded position than what help will be this material education (so called science,biology etc.) be for him.

So, we at BIG & BIVC are teaching the students of **BIG (from 4-5 years to 10-12 years)** to read/write and speak in English and Hindi and a little Sanskrit wherein he can recite shlokas etc. We are teaching basic Mathematics, Computers, Geography, History and General Knowledge. No complicated science, Biology, Botany etc. required.

And students of BIVC (from 11-12 years to 20-25 years) will study Srila Prabhupada's books, specially Bhagavad-Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam which are full of knowledge in every field along with little more of English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Maths etc.

All the grown up boys of BIVC (between 11 to 14 years of age) besides studying English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Maths, Geography, History, Computers are also appearing for **Bhakti Shastri course** on the following basic 10 books of Srila Prabhupada -
1.BBD 2.POY 3.EJTOP 4.RV 5.ISOP 6.B,G 7.NOI 8.NOD 9.TLC 10.Book on deity worship. It is compulsory for all the students of BIVC to get at least Bhakti Shastri degree.

All of them are also undergoing practical training in the following modules -
1.Deity worship; 2.Cooking; 3.Lecturing; 4.Sankirtana; 5.Management; 6.Fighting skills; 7.Agriculture; 8.Cow Protection; 9.Trading; 10. Book Distribution; 11) Accounting etc.

Later on (from 15 to 16-20 years) according to their guna (quality) the students are being divided into studying more elaborately the above modules like 1,2,3,4 (for brahmanas); 5,6 (for ksatriyas); 7,8,9,10 ,11 (for vaisyas) and rest are assisting the others.

From 16 to 20 yrs onwards, they are practically working for few years under a devotee who is engaged in similar type of work and when they are experienced they start working on their own, except the general assistants who are assisting the others.

Vaisyas can start the above training at 16, ksatriyas at 18 and brahmanas at 20 yrs. of age. The exact age at which the above mentioned things will be implemented, will vary from case to case.

After the age of 25 years, if the student wants to get married, then by the permission & blessings of parents and teacher, who will select a suitable girl for him, he can enter grihastha ashram or he can choose to remain a naishtika brahmachari.

One may think that what we are saying is all right but what he will do for his livelihood if he does not work outside.This question is answered in the next section.

5) What will the students do after passing out from Varnasrama College? How will they earn their living or maintain themselves or their family (if they get married)?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Room Conversation - Varnasrama System Must Be Introduced

February 14, 1977, Mayapura

Prabhupada: Therefore varnasrama-dharma is required. Simply show-bottle will not do. So the varnasrama-dharma should be introduced all over the world, and...

Satsvarupa: Introduced starting with ISKCON community?

Prabhupada: Yes. Yes. brahmana, ksatriyas. There must be regular education.

Hari-Suri: But in our community, if the..., being as we're training up as Vaisnavas...

Prabhupada: Vaisnava is not so easy. The varnasrama-dharma should be established to become a Vaisnava. It is not so easy to become Vaisnava.

Hari-Sauri: No, it's not a cheap thing.

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Hridayananda: And there should... Should there be any material subject matters taught like in Gurukula?

Prabhupada: Yes. Just like material subject matter, ksatriya, or the brahmanas, ksatriya, as they are described in the Bhagavad-gita, what are the symptoms of brahmana, what is the symptoms of ksatriya. The ksatriyas should be taught how to fight also. There will be military training. There will be training how to kill.

Hridayananda: Oh.

Prabhupada: Yes. And vaisyas should be trained how to give protection to the cows, how to till the field and grow food. Practical...Business, this rascal business, no.

Nitai: No?

Prabhupada: Business means if you have got extra grains or extra foodstuff, you can sell where there is necessity, there is want. That is business.We are not going to open mills and factories and... ,That is sudra business. The real business is that you produce enough food grains, as much as possible, and you eat and distribute. That's all.

This is business. He does not require any so high technical education. Anyone can till the ground and grow food. Is it difficult? This is the business. The first thing is that everyone, man and animal, especially the cows, they must be properly fed so become very stout and strong. Cows will supply milk, and man will work hard, without being suffered by dysentery. He must work hard. Any capacity. **Work as a teacher or work as a ksatriya, work as a ploughman. Or work as general assistant. He must work.** Everyone should be employed. And his employment will be provided from any of these groups, according to his capacity. Either as a brahmana, or as a ksatriya, or as a vaisya, or as a sudra.

Hridayananda: What kind of training is there for a sudra?

Prabhupada: **Sudra is general assistant...** Order-carrier. He has no intelligence. He doesn't require intelligence. "Do this." That's all.

Satsvarupa: What would he learn at the school, though? ...

Prabhupada: Yes. That is also training, to become obedient. Because people are not obedient. What are these hippies? They are not obedient. So obedience also require training. If you have no intelligence, **if you cannot do anything independently, just be obedient to the other, higher three classes. That is sudra.** He must agree to abide by the orders of brahmana, ksatriyas, vaisya. That's all. So that nobody will be unemployed. Everyone should be trained up to sleep six to eight hours and attend meeting, chant, and arti. And balance - he must work hard. Not that sleeping unlimitedly...

Yaduvara: What class does the arts and crafts come under?

Prabhupada: Eh? Sudra.

Yaduvara: Sudra.

Prabhupada: They are sudras. Little arts and crafts can be trained up to the sudras. They, at the present moment, they have given too much stress on the arts and crafts.

Yaduvara: Hm. Yes.

Prabhupada: Therefore the whole people, population, is sudra.

Hridayananda: It is a fact.

Prabhupada: That is a... That is the difficulty. All people are being drawn by giving them, I mean to say, attraction for high salary, and they are taking so-called technical education, and all of them working in the factory. **Nobody's working on the field.** They are sudras.

Car Conversation - August 3, 1975, Detroit

Brahmananda: This varnasrama college...

Prabhupada: Yes. Varnasrama means everyone should be engaged. There will be no, I mean to say, (indistinct).

Jagadisa: Srila Prabhupada, what exactly do the... Do the vaisyas cultivate the fields or the sudras cultivate the fields? ...

Prabhupada: Actually it is the duty of the vaisyas, but the sudras can help everyone, the helpers. The sudras will help the brahmanas, the ksatriyas, as well as the vaisyas. Those who have no brain - simply they can carry out order - they are sudras. And those who have got brain, they can act as brahmana, ksatriya, or vaisya. They have got brain to take the initiative. **First-class brain, they should be engaged in studying sastras, writing books and in the worship of the Deity, lecturing enlightened people. This is brahmana.** They haven't got to work as ksatriya, as vaisya. They are simply intellectuals. This is brahmana, with good character.

Devotee (1): Distributing books?

Prabhupada: Yes. And the **distribution book can be done by the vaisya, trade.** It is a trade. Krsi-go-raksya-vanijyam [Bg. 18.44]. Krsi, agriculture, giving protection to cows, and distributing or trading. If you have got enough grains you can trade. **Make money. If you have got enough vegetables, you can trade. That is the business of vaisya.** So vaisya does not require any university degree or any... Nobody requires university degree. That is a false thing. And brahmana should be very highly learned scholar. **So the brahmanas will give advice to the ksatriya how to rule, and the ksatriya will levy tax, and vaisyas will produce food.** Then the society will be perfect.

Devotee: What kind of tax?

Prabhupada: Hm? Tax means... Everyone must have some income for maintaining. So brahmanas, they(?) doesn't require any... **They will live on the contribution of the society.** Because they are giving for free service, so valuable service, knowledge, so they are provided by the ksatriyas and the vaisyas. So they have no anxiety for earning livelihood. Things are coming. Just like we are maintained. At least people give to me contribution. So similarly, **brahmana will live at the cost of others' contribution.** That is source of income. **Ksatriyas, they'll levy tax. Ksatriya is given land. Now he divides the land.** I have got, say, two thousand acres of land. So I divide to the vaisyas, one thousand this man, one thousand this man, one thousand. So on condition that "I give you this land, You produce foodstuff or utilize any way. **You give me twenty-five percent.**"

Brahmananda: Twenty-five percent of the produce?

Prabhupada: Whatever you have produced.

Brahmananda: Not necessarily money.

Prabhupada: No.

Brahmananda: But the produce.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Brahmananda: The grains or the milk or whatever.

Prabhupada: Whatever, yes. "Give me twenty-five percent. You can utilize the land." So that is resource of the land.

Devotee (1): How does the ksatriya build a palace for himself or something like that?

Prabhupada: That will be done. To keep a prestigious position, they'll have building, servant, soldiers. Otherwise how they will fear? How they'll have respect?

Devotee (1): So the ksatriya is the predominator of the land.

Prabhupada: Yes. **Ksatriya is the owner of the land.**

Devotee (1): And he can take the stones and men and build a big, nice...

Prabhupada: Yes.

Devotee: ...palace.

Prabhupada: They, **sudras are there. Give him his eating, and some hand, pocket expense, hand expense, regular.** If one can eat, then he has no demand. So the laborer has to be given to eat sumptuously. "Eat and work, take some pocket..." They will be (indistinct). Not that you call professional laborer and you have to pay twenty-five dollars per hour. That is nuisance. They'll drink. That's all. And not that everyone should have nice house. Why? What is the use? Go in the village, live simple, produce food. That's all. Eat. Why this electricity and three-hundred story building and...? And then you don't produce anything, eat fish. "And let me eat..." Artificial. It is very easy to take the animals in the city and slaughter. A little vegetable and milk, they are satisfied.

Room Conversation with Allen Ginsberg, May 11, 1969, Columbus, Ohio

Prabhupada: From economic point of view, **if one man has got a cow and four acres of land, he has no economic problem.** That we want to start. He can independently live any part of the world. Simply he must (have) one cow and four acres of land.

Let the people be divided with four acres of land and a cow, there will be no economic question. All the factories will be closed...

Kirtanananda: On four acres you can do it.

Allen Ginsberg: You can get enough hay for a cow, for...?

Prabhupada: **Fodder. Yes. We grow.**

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Hridayananda: Not necessary. So in this varnasrama college there would be two divisions, varna and asr... Learning a materia...

Prabhupada: **First of all varna. And asrama**, then, when the varna is perfectly in order, then asrama. Asrama is specially meant for spiritual advancement, and varna is general division. It must be there in the human society, or they're on the animals. If varna is not there, then this is a society of animal. And when the varna is working perfectly, then we give them asrama. Varnasrama. That is later on.

Hridayananda: First they should be taught a skill.

Prabhupada: Yes. First of all, the whole society must be divided into four varnas. Otherwise, there will be chaotic condition. That is what is the position now. What is he, what he has to do, one does not know. And there are so many unemployment. **But if you organize the society into varnas, there will be no question of unemployment.**

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Hridayananda: Prabhupada, can you say something about the training for a brahmana.

Prabhupada: Yes. They are satyam samah damah. He must be truthful, he must control the senses, control the mind... *samo damah*,... He must be tolerant. He should not be agitated in trifle matters. *Satyam samo damah saucam*. He must be always clean. Three times he must take bath at least. All the clothing, all, everything is clean. This is brahminical training. And then he must know all what is what, knowledge, and practical application, and firm faith in Krishna. This is brahmana.

Hridayananda: **So what kind of practical work could we engage them in?**

Prabhupada: **They'll be teaching. They'll be all teachers.**

Hridayananda: Oh, they'll be teachers.

Prabhupada: Yes. Just like Dronacarya. He was brahmana, but he was teaching military art to the Pandavas. **General teacher class will be the brahmanas.**

It doesn't matter what he's teaching. But teaching, perfectly teaching, how to become a military man. Arjuna's fighting was due to Dronacarya. He learned it from Dronacarya. He was a brahmana. But because he took the position of a teacher, he thought very perfectly. A brahmana should be expert in every kind of knowledge. If requires, he'll become teacher. This is brahmana.

Hridayananda: So brahmana can teach how to fight?

Prabhupada: Yes. **Brahmana means intelligent, brain. So in intelligent brain one can learn anything and teach anything.**

Satsvarupa: This is all very new.

Prabhupada: Eh?

Satsvarupa: This is very new. It seems there'll be many difficulties. So we should try to start this school.

Prabhupada: What is the difficulty? If I teach you how to cook, is it very difficult?

Satsvarupa: Yes, we have to... No, we have to learn, though....

Prabhupada: But I must know everything because I am a teacher.

Hridayananda: So, for example, if I become a teacher at Varnasrama, say, the first teacher at the Varnasrama College, then I have to also become expert at how to fight, how to...

Prabhupada: Not all of you, but some of you must be, must learn the art of fighting also. But in a practical you are not going to fight. If required, you can fight. I say that we are above all these Varnasrama, but we must train others or yourself also for material activities, everything, under these divisions.

Visnujana: For example, in New Vrindaban we have brahmanas that are very expert at tilling the soil and taking care of cows.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Visnujana: And they could travel around and teach others how to do that as well.

Prabhupada: **Yes. That's right. He is brahmana, but he's teaching how to take care of the cows and ploughing.**

Hridayananda: It's not that one teacher has to teach everything.

Prabhupada: No, no.

Hridayananda: Oh, I see. So a brahmana teacher should become expert in a particular subject and then teach that.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Hridayananda: So we should encourage people, young people, young students to come to our college.

Prabhupada: They'll automatically come if you are ideal. Because they are being forced to poverty. So when there is a question of poverty, they'll come.

Hridayananda: Room and board and training.

Prabhupada: Yes. This poverty. **Why there is poverty? Because they are not producing food.** Everyone wants so-called comfortable life. So-called education. Sitting idle in the table and chair, and talking all gossips, nonsense, and sleeping. They have been trained up in this way, sudra.

Gurukula Inspection - June 26, 1977, Vrindavana

Prabhupada: And so-called education and last result is to become a hippie, what is the use? Simply waste of time. Education is meant for the first-class men. **A Kisana (farmer) does not require education. He should see how to plow, and he'll learn. This mistri (mechanic) does not require any... He should work with other mistri, and he'll learn. Architecture, this, that, so many..** Why? Why waste your time? This nice building has been constructed by these laborers. They have got training by seeing, by practice. They did not require university education. Of course, guide is there.

Of course... **So these big, big universities, allowing everyone to come and join school, college - simply wasting time and unemployment. Unemployment. This is not required.** Only brahmanas, ksatriyas, those who are being trained up as brahmana and ksatriya, they should be given book education. Otherwise practical. You see how the things are being done. Bas. A weaver, he sees "Kat, kat, kat." He's got it. Does it require M.A., Ph.D.? Simply waste of time. And that is going on. I don't want that, for "Kat, kat, kat," **M.A., Ph D. (Bengali) "To kill a mosquito, bring a gun." (laughter) Nonsense education. I don't like that education. All right.**

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC

So, if we are thinking that how our children will earn their livelihood, we can see that Srila Prabhupada is saying that “**if you organize the society into varnas, there will be no question of unemployment.**” and he is saying that if you do not do that then their will be unemployment!!!

We can practically see that lakhs of engineers, doctors and MBA’s are passing out from these colleges every year. Except a very small percentage most of them are unemployed and are struggling to just meet their ends. And even those who are employed with a very good salary are paying very high rents, high price of food, travelling etc. Finally they are also left with almost nothing. It is an illusion that he is getting a big salary!!! But at the end of the day he is also struggling to meet his ends, pay off his loans, medical bills etc.

Now as far as our students are concerned, let us consider this way.

There is no need to worry about the students with **brahminical** qualities as they will be teachers. Some of them will go out and preach Krishna Consciousness all over the world and thousands will follow them. Others will be engaged in worshipping the deities in the temple, guiding the devotee communities. Their life will be very simple and austere and **they will be maintained by public contribution.** They will be ideal men, independently thoughtful dependent on guru and Krishna. They will not only pave the way of their own life but guide thousands of other people. They will be respected and taken care of wherever they go.

The students who have **ksatriya** qualities are required to lead & manage this world wide society of devotees being created by the combined effort of all the devotees of Srila Prabhupada. They will protect the Vaisnavas, ensure strict standards, ensure everyone is following the regulative principles, punish the offenders, they will even fight elections to occupy important posts in the government etc as per the instructions given by Srila Prabhupada. All this they will do under the guidance of brahmanas.

They will own land which they will give to the **vaisyas** on lease for producing food, taking care of cows and trading. The vaisyas will give 25% of the produce (cash or kind) to the katriyas. That is how katriyas will be maintained. Either the devotees who are in the ksatriya profile buy their own land (if they have the resources) or the land owned by the trust will be given to them for giving in lease to the vaisyas. These katriyas will hold posts like temple presidents etc. but they will remain under the guidance of brahmanas who will not hold any posts but will have the power to remove them if they are deviating.

The vaisyas will grow food and take care of the cows, trade the products like ghee, butter milk, products made from go-mutra, cow dung, agriculture based products like gulkand, jaggery etc. and others will assist the other three classes. These general assistants will be given food and shelter and a small salary for their pocket expenses.

Our basis of livelihood is **land and cows**. We are growing enough food grains for the devotees and cows to eat sumptuously and if there is excess we are trading it. Since we are not using or using bare minimum electricity, gas, petrol etc. there is almost zero living cost and since the devotees are engaged practically on the field, rising early, chanting etc. disease is almost nil, education of children is free of cost. If the girl child gets married to a devotee there is a simple yajna without much expenditure and there are cottages to live (no heavy rents to pay). So there is no question of paper money !!! Devotees are living happily and balance time chanting Hare Krishna and preaching.

And, for paper money for some emergencies vaisya devotees are engaged in following activities -

They are selling milk, ghee and butter milk. They are using cow dung to make organic manure for agriculture and excess is being traded. Cow dung is being utilized to produce bio-gas for cooking etc. They are collecting and selling distilled cow urine which is used as medicine. They are growing vegetables and crops and the excess is being traded at very high prices since people are ready to give any amount of money for getting pure organic food items.

We are having cottage industries where furniture, bricks and many other products are being made from natural wood, mud, crops, trees etc. and help from congregation, general public and well wishers in the form of contributions is always there by Krishna's grace.

We at BIG and BIVC are trying to increase the above sources of income so that more devotees can live with us. Obviously for this we need more land and cows. We currently have 50 acres of land at Hare Krishna Village where BIG and BIVC are located and every month we are investing our money and buying more and more land and cows. We presently also have 100 good Indian breed milking cows.

In future we have plans to grow cotton and make our own cloth as per the instructions given by Srila Prabhupada. So, there is no question of unemployment.

Now the next question may be that somebody may not like to be general assistant
Can anyone become a brahmana ? This we have dealt with in the next section.

6) If the child grows up to do sudras work (general assistant) to others (brahmanas, ksatriyas or vaisyas) as per his guna (quality), won't he feel humiliated? Can anyone become a brahmana? What is the result of imitating others prescribed duty?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Hridyananda: From the very beginning we should teach Bhagavad Gita?

Prabhupada: Yes. **But our, our position is that we are above Varnasrama. But for management or ideal society, we are introducing this.** We, so far we are concerned, Krishna conscious men, we are above Varnasrama. But to show the people that we are not escaping, we can take part in any order of life. That is our position. Just like if I brush somebody's shoes, that does not mean I am shoemaker. My position is the same. But to show how to do it... Just like a servant is doing. The master is, "Oh, you cannot do. Just see." Just like I show you sometimes how to mop. So I am not a mopper, but I am showing how to mop. So our position is like that. **We do not belong to any varna and asrama...**

This is Vaisnava. He is doing everything, but his aim is to please Krishna. Similarly, even if we take to Varnasrama, we do not belong to any... Just like Krishna says, *maya srstam*. "I have inaugurated." But Krishna has nothing to do with Varnasrama. **Similarly, if we act as Varnasrama, still, we have nothing to do with the Varnasrama.**

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Parivrajakacarya: Would the...? The persons who would take part in such program, they would have to be devotees in the first place. Is that...?

Prabhupada: Devotees is... I have already explained. **We are all devotees. Past condition, we are all devotees. We are not, we do not belong to this Varnasrama.** I have already told you. Suppose I am mopping. So that does not mean I am mopper. But I am teaching how to mop. This is our position.

Parivrajakacarya: So the students, also, they must all be devotees.

Prabhupada: Yes. Devotees are... That is our life and soul.

Satsvarupa: And the idea is that after they've finished their schooling, they would take part in ISKCON, preaching in some way as vaisya or...

Prabhupada: Yes. This preaching is also required, to make the groundwork. Because nobody's taking care.... **So for Krishna's sake we have to accept any nonsense type of business. Or on the highest grade. Anything. But for Krishna we have to do that.**

Hridayananda: So, Prabhupada, in our temples, we have so many devotees ...?

Prabhupada: They should be engaged.

Hridayananda: Should they be trained in a particular...?

Prabhupada: Yes. Those who are not able to preach or to do other things, they must go to the plough department, agriculture.

Hridayananda: Those who cannot preach.

Prabhupada: **Yes. Those who are less educated, not very much expert in preaching, they must be acting as ksatriya or vaisya, or as sudra.**

Hridayananda: And sometimes...

Prabhupada: **Not he's sudra. Always remember that. But he has to act to fulfill the, fill up the gap. Proxy.**

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Prabhupada: **You should remain always sannyasi within.** Outwardly, for others convenience, you may do something. Similarly, we are accepting this Varnasrama. We are not Varnasrama; we are above Varnasrama. But to give others facility to come to the stage of Krishna consciousness, this program must be done.

Bhagavad Gita 3.36

It is far better to discharge one's prescribed duties, even though they may be faulty, than another's duties. **Destruction in the course of performing one's own duty is better than engaging in another's duties, for to follow another's path is dangerous.**

PURPORT

One should therefore discharge his prescribed duties in full Krishna consciousness rather than those prescribed for others. Prescribed duties complement one's

psycho-physical condition, under the spell of the modes of material nature.

Spiritual duties are as ordered by the spiritual master, for the transcendental service of Krishna. But both materially or spiritually, one should stick to his prescribed duties even up to death, rather than imitate another's prescribed duties.

Duties on the spiritual platform and duties on the material platform may be different, but the principle of following the authorized direction is always good for the performer.

When one is under the spell of the modes of material nature, one should follow the prescribed rules for particular situations and should not imitate others. For example, a brahmana, who is in the mode of goodness, is nonviolent, whereas a ksatriya, who is in the mode of passion, is allowed to be violent. **As such, for a ksatriya it is better to be vanquished following the rules of violence than to imitate a brahmana who follows the principles of nonviolence. Everyone has to cleanse his heart by a gradual process, not abruptly.**

However, when one transcends the modes of material nature and is fully situated in Krishna consciousness, he can perform anything and everything under the direction of the bonafide spiritual master. In that complete stage of Krishna consciousness, **the ksatriya may act as a brahmana, or a brahmana may act as a ksatriya. In the transcendental stage, the distinctions of the material world do not apply.** For example, Visvamitra was originally a ksatriya, but later on he acted as a brahmana, whereas Parasurama was a brahmana, but later on he acted as a ksatriya.

Bhagavad Gita 18.48

It is better to engage in one's own occupation, even though one may perform it imperfectly, than to accept another's occupation and perform it perfectly. **Prescribed duties, according to one's nature, are never affected by sinful reactions.**

PURPORT

One's occupational duty is prescribed in Bhagavad-gita. As already discussed in previous verses, the duties of a brahmana, ksatriya, vaisya and sudra are prescribed according to the particular modes of nature. **One should not imitate another's duty.**

A man who is by nature attracted to the kind of work done by sudras should not artificially claim himself to be a brahmana, although he may be born into a brahmana family. In this way one should work according to his own nature; **no work is abominable, if performed in the service of the Supreme Lord.**

The occupational duty of a brahmana is certainly in the mode of goodness, but if a person is not by nature in the mode of goodness, he should not imitate the occupational duty of a brahmana.

For a ksatriya, or administrator, there are so many abominable things; a ksatriya has to be violent to kill his enemies, and sometimes a ksatriya has to tell lies for the sake of diplomacy. Such violence and duplicity accompany political affairs, but a ksatriya is not supposed to give up his occupational duty and try to perform the duties of a brahmana.

One should act to satisfy the Supreme Lord.

For example, Arjuna was a ksatriya. He was hesitating to fight the other party. But if such fighting is performed for the sake of Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, there need be no fear of degradation. In the business field also, sometimes a merchant has to tell so many lies to make a profit. If he does not do so, there can be no profit. ...

But the merchant should not think that because he is engaged in an occupation in which the telling of lies is compulsory, he should give up his profession and pursue the profession of a brahmana. That is not recommended.

Whether one is a ksatriya, a vaisya, or a sudra doesn't matter, if he serves, by his work, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Even brahmanas, who perform different types of sacrifice, sometimes must kill animals because sometimes animals are sacrificed in such ceremonies. Similarly, if a ksatriya engaged in his own occupation kills an enemy, there is no sin incurred.

In the Third Chapter these matters have been clearly and elaborately explained; every man should work for the purpose of yajna, or for Visnu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Anything done for personal sense gratification is a cause of bondage.

The conclusion is that everyone should be engaged according to the particular mode of nature he has acquired, and he should decide to work only to serve the supreme cause of the Supreme Lord.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above quotes, Srila Prabhupada is saying that since these children are all working for Krishna, they are all devotees. They are above varnasrama.

Srila Prabhupada is saying - Following ones prescribed duty will free one from sins. One should not imitate others. This is dangerous. No work is abominable.

The conclusion is that everyone should be engaged according to the particular mode of nature he has acquired, and he should decide to work only to serve the supreme cause of the Supreme Lord.

Only in the transcendental stage, the distinctions of the material world do not apply. The ksatriya may act as a brahmana, or a brahmana may act as a ksatriya.

As Srila Prabhupada is saying “**Not he's sudra. Always remember that. But he has to act to fulfill the, fill up the gap.**”

So the teachers as well as the students and parents should understand this properly and propagate and preach this type of consciousness. Not that devotee doing the work of general assistant is being looked down upon.

So in conclusion if the **teachers and the students are trained to work in this consciousness** which Srila Prabhupada is preaching then there will be no problem.

Children or devotees will be engaged in all types of services for Krishna but mainly they will naturally engage in the work of their inclination.

Even to push on this Krishna consciousness movement everyone is required – brahmana, ksatriya, vaisya and sudra and since **everyone is engaged in Krishna's service** there is no question of high or low. Krishna is absolute so all the services are same being on the absolute platform. There is no material distinction. This is daivi varnasrama dharma and not ordinary varnasrama dharma.

This way if everyone serves Krishna according to his inclination he will feel enthusiastic, satisfied and peaceful and will be able to achieve the supreme goal of going back to Godhead even while being engaged in his occupational duty.

7) Is your Gurukula certified by any government authority? Do you teach conventional curriculum?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Roof Conversation, January 5, 1977, Bombay

Prabhupada: But if you have to work under government regulation, then you cannot do it. You won't get government help.

Indian lady: But I want to convert it into Gurukula on the basis of Hare Krishna consciousness.

Prabhupada: Our gurukula means how to teach them to become self-controlled. That is first business. This literary education secondary, grammar secondary. The first necessity is how to create them santa, danta, self-controlled.

Indian lady: But we have got from Punjab Board and education board...

Prabhupada: And therefore I say, **if you have to work under government control, it is very difficult. If you can work independently, then it is possible.**

Indian lady: It is independent. I'm independent. I'm doing everything.

Prabhupada: No, if you take government help...

Indian lady: But the students go for examination in the board also.

Prabhupada: Examination or no examination, if you, **they practice the rules, that is sufficient examination.** Suppose one of the items, that one has to rise early in the morning... So if one is rising early in the morning, then what is the examination? That is already examined. If one has to rise early in the morning, attend the mangala-arati, sitting in the class and reading Bhagavad-gita, chanting Hare Krishna... These are all practical. **There is no need of examination. If he is doing, then it is examination passed.**

Indian lady: But the parents want certificate.

Prabhupada: Therefore, if you want to satisfy the parents, the government, then it is not possible. You have to satisfy Krishna.

Indian lady: **They have to go in colleges.**

Prabhupada: **I know that. Therefore I said that if you have to satisfy so many masters, it is not possible.**

Dr. Patel: At the most she can give some sort of a cultural education along with those programs.

Prabhupada: What that cultural...? **If he does not practice, what is that culture? It is practice...**

Indian lady: Christian has their own government schools everywhere. And we can have our own Krishna consciousness school.

Prabhupada: **Yes. We are having our own all over the world. We don't follow the government regulations**

Conversation: "How to Secure Brahmacharies" - June 24, 1977, Vrindavana

Gopala Krishna: I was thinking, Srila Prabhupada, **we should get this Gurukula accepted by the government also...**

Prabhupada: **No, no, no. Never do that.**

Gopala Krishna: No, when our Gurukula children apply for entry visas, they should give them visas right away, because these kids from abroad will come to India for Gurukula...

Prabhupada: Our program is open. *Brahmacari gurukule vasan danto*. We are training like this, covered in the Bhagavata. **Never mind government.**

Tamala Krishna: If you get accepted by the government, you may have to change you curriculum so much.

Gopala Krishna: No, I mean, just this is a Vaisnava institute, so when our students apply abroad for an entry visa, they'll get it right away, and they can get a student visa for four, five years. I don't think the gurukula kids come from abroad and then train them six...

Prabhupada: No, no, the parents are prepared to pick up the expense. That's all. **Government curriculum is useless.** They'll enforce kids to take eggs, three eggs...

Tamala Krishna: That's right.

Prabhupada: ...in daytime, and four pounds flesh. Otherwise there will be vitamin, less vitamin. Or "...Don't go to Yamuna. It is polluted."

Yasodanandana: Even want to follow their textbook, follow their mundane textbook.

Prabhupada: **Keep this institution pure, not that we have to make it impure.** Fighting, we want fighting. If we don't get, it will remain vacant, but we don't want to introduce impure. That should be a principle.

Conversation: "How to Secure Brahmacharis"- June 24, 1977, Vrindavana

Prabhupada: The Englishmen used to say these men, craft and technolo..., "**educated laborer.**" They are laborer and little educated. There are uneducated laborer, just like carpenter. He doesn't require any education. If he knows how to rub on... What is called, that? **He doesn't require to become M.A., Ph.D.** All these laborers are working so nicely. So why they should spend, waste their time in going to school and college?

As soon as he's ten years old only, let him learn practically how to weave cloth, how to become carpenter, how become other craftsman. And in due course of time he can earn his... How to cultivate land... Why so many big, big universities for inviting everyone? There is no need.

Educated means brahmana, ksatriya. Brahmanas will give real knowledge, and ksatriyas will govern.

For vaisyas and sudras, there is no... It is waste of time. Formerly it was done so. The vaisyas, they have got a son, goes to a shopkeeper: "Please here let my son work with you. He doesn't want any salary." So he gets engagement. Then, by seeing, seeing, he becomes little important. And the proprietor gives him some hand expense. And then, one day, he becomes very expert. He starts his own business. That was the system.

Why he should go and waste time for education? A boy is given to a carpenter. He learns very easily. A weaver, he learns very easily. A shopkeeper, grocer, he learns very easily. That is education. **Why he should waste time for academic education and create unemployment? So long he's not educated, he has got enough employment.**

Tamala Krishna: Srila Prabhupada, I saw personally Hari-prasad Badruka in Hyderabad. He tried to send his son to college, and the boy kept failing. Finally he took him back, and immediately he took to business, because his father's a businessman...

Prabhupada: **This idea, that "My son should be B.A., M.A., Ph.D.," it is wrong idea. Why? What is there, Ph.D.'s? First of all one must earn.** Self-preservation is the first law of... But not... The Marwaris used to do that in Calcutta. Many pakora. No business - he was frying pakora and selling. Why unemployment? This is disastrous, unemployment. As soon as there is unemployment, there are so many devils. They'll plan. And the first plan will come-wine and woman. So we want to save the society from this downfall. At least keep one ideal. And that is our mission.

Room Conversation - July 4, 1972, New York

Atreya Rsi: And we let the parents know how the children is progressing? Do we have responsibility to parents, to let them know, **inform them about the progress of children?**

Prabhupada: **No, we have no time for such talk. If he, he or she can come and see.** We have no such. That is ordinary school. **Our progress is how the student is becoming Krishna conscious.**

Devotee: Jaya.

Prabhupada: That is our point. And because he has to read nicely, he has to speak nicely, he must be literate, not illiterate.

Atreya Rsi: To read your books?

Prabhupada: Yes.

Atreya Rsi: Jaya.

Prabhupada: **So that by reading the books they will have immense knowledge.**

Gurukula Inspection—June 26, 1977, Vrndāvana

Prabhupada: This nice building has been constructed by these laborers. They have got training by seeing, by practice. They did not require university education. Of course, guide is there. Of course... **So these big, big universities, allowing everyone to come and join school, college - simply wasting time and unemployment. Unemployment. This is not required.** Only brahmanas, ksatriyas, those who are being trained up as brahmanas and ksatriyas, they should be given book education.

Otherwise practical. You see how the things are being done. Bas. A weaver, he sees "Kat, kat, kat." He's got it. Does it require M.A., Ph.D.? Simply waste of time. And that is going on. I don't want that, for "Kat, kat, kat," **M.A., Ph D. (Bengali) "To kill a mosquito, bring a gun." (laughter) Nonsense education. I don't like that education. All right.**

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

So, we can see from the above quotes that **Srila Prabhupada is dead against the government curriculum.**

We at BIG & BIGVC are seeing practically that the children here are very happy and one of the reasons is that that they do not have to study this government syllabus, study complicated boring subjects like Physics, Biology, Complicated mathematics, non-sense general knowledge and give examinations, study and mug up big big books. Since they are relieved from all this unnecessary burden they are enjoying the austerity of rising early in the morning for mangal arti, chanting etc.

Just imagine if we make them study all these complicated subjects, tension of examination and excelling in the class and then ask them to wake up at 4;00 am for mangal arti and chant their rounds, how burdened they will feel!!!

And the process of devotional service which is actually “susukham kartum” (happily performed) will become a burden and to relieve the tension of this material education and competition their mind will become attracted to sense gratification and the whole purpose of gurukula will be finished.

And again anyway since “these children are not meant to work outside” as stated by Srila Prabhupada then what is the use of studying this government syllabus.

Somebody may think that society may ask that what degree your child is pursuing, for that **Srila Prabhupada is saying that “ we have our own schools all over the world”.**

We have our own studies, our own degree. Just like government does not recognize our degree, we do not recognize their degree.

Another point to note is that Srila Prabhupada is saying that even in India big big businessman do not care for this material education, they hire teacher to teach basic English, Hindi, Maths etc. and as soon as he is trained to look after his father’s business he starts working practically. And as far as these “Sudra Technologist” are concerned that they can employ by giving them high salary who will work under them as their servants.

Why our Krishna conscious children should be taught to work under these karmis?

So, we at BIG & BIGVC are not affiliated to any government program as Srila Prabhupada has stated “if we don’t get, it will remain vacant, but we don’t want to introduce impure. That should be principle”.

8) Is there any fee for students boarding, lodging and education? How will the Gurukula be managed financially?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Letter to Jagadisha, Mayapur, 22 January, 1976

I do not think the BBT can give this loan. **Actually it is the responsibility of the parents to maintain Gurukula. By taxing the Temples or taking loan from the BBT the parents are being allowed to avoid their responsibility. Before having a child the parents should see whether they shall be able to pay for their child's education.** The GBC should make an injunction that if they beget children, then whatever the expenses are for supporting Gurukula they must pay for it. In another letter to Jayatirtha I have suggested how the parents can earn money for their children's support. So you can discuss everything together and do the needful.

Letter to Mohanananda - Bombay, 13 October, 1973

In my opinion all Gurukula students should be educated free of charge, but outside students may be charged. Our own parents should without obligation contribute liberally, but we should not be hard with them if they cannot pay. Sometimes the parents get money from the Welfare Dept., so whatever money they get for their children must be paid to Gurukula.

It is not possible for me to tax my brain on every detail. The GBC should meet in Mayapur in March, and all details of management should be discussed. My inclination is to retire completely from management and devote my time to my books. Let all of you give me this chance and consult amongst yourselves regarding the management.

But, on the whole the Gurukula standard should be free education, boarding, and lodging. People shall voluntarily contribute as far as possible. That should be introduced. We cannot enforce that if you do not pay, then take back your child. Rather the opposite. We must give free education to our children. **We have to if need be provide money from the incense business or BBT, like that if sufficient income is not there.**

Sri Rama-Navami, Lord Ramacandra's Appearance Day - Hawaii, March 27, 1969

Guru-grha means teacher's house. Formerly, for being trained, there was no such big scale school and colleges. Every village... Still, fifty years before in India, in every village there was a small school conducted by the brahmana, and the village children would be trained up there. So he was sent for training. **And there was no school fee.**

The boys will go there, and on behalf of the teacher or spiritual master, they will go, brahmacari, door to door, and beg and bring forth alms, rice, dahl, grains, and everything. That was the system. There was no school fee. There was no problem how to send a boy to the school. *Samskara*. Now he's trained up. The teacher sees the psychology of the boy, in which way he should be trained. Either he should be trained as a vaisya or he should be trained as a ksatriya.

Morning Walk - October 21, 1975, Johannesburg

Prabhupada: He used to collect all these things for guru's cooking. Krishna went to collect with Sudama Vipra, and all of a sudden, there was cloud and rain, and there was too much water, and they lived upon a tree for the whole night. Then Sandipani Muni, other students, came and rescued them.

Pusta Krsna: Now we have to collect to pay the electricity bill.

Prabhupada: These things are wasted. It can be utilized. The children, they'll gladly collect it. It will be like their sports. All the children will come and collect. Just see. **Their energy is utilized, the nature's gift is utilized, and there is no expenditure.**

Pusta Krsna: Such a nice arrangement.

Prabhupada: Yes. **Why they should charge for education?** They'll not cut the tree. The dry branches or dead tree, they'll take the wood for utilization.

Letter to Satsvarupa - Mayapur, 28 February, 1972

The boys should be taught, and also all devotees should also be taught to wash own dishes, hands, mouth - that means always washing. They should be given only what they will eat, so that nothing is left over, and while bathing they can wash their own cloth. Your country, America, will become so much degraded that they will appreciate if we are revolutionary clean. Our revolutionary medicine will be experimented on these children, and it will be seen in America to be the cure. **So make your program in this way, and encourage nondevotees or outsiders to enroll their children with us for some minimum fee,** and you will do the greatest service to your country and its citizens by introducing this.

Letter to Dinesh Babu, England, 14 August, 1971

My idea is to **purchase land for agriculture so inmates may not depend on outsiders** but grow food there and things may go on nicely.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above quotes that the **overall principle is not to charge any fees for education but it is parent's responsibility to maintain the gurukula.**

So, Srila Prabhupada wants that parents should not become irresponsible and if they produce children they should provide for them but at the same time **no child will be denied education if the parents are not in a position to pay.** In such cases the parents can be engaged in some work for the society.

Parents who are working full time for the society without any remuneration need not pay for their children's education. In such cases the society will take complete responsibility of the child (boarding, lodging, clothes, food, books, medical, trips to holy places, education etc.).

So, in general the policy is that we inspire and sometimes enforce the parents to maintain the gurukula specially those who are working outside and earning money or are full time devotees but have some regular source of income in terms of Government or parental support or some other sources.

So, overall the decision as to **how much one has to pay for his child's education is taken case to case** based on the above guidelines given by Srila Prabhupada.

By the grace of Lord Krishna contributions from congregation and general public are always there to support the gurukula financially.

Moreover, since the gurukula is the centre of a farm community wherein a piece of land and sufficient number of cows (the quantity depends upon the number of students) is allotted to the gurukula and Varnasrama college campus.

As per Srila Prabhupada's instruction the students energy (specially the college students) is being utilized to take care of the cows and growing food which is giving us enough milk, curd, ghee, sweets, grains, vegetables, cow dung for cooking etc. so that it can take care of the daily needs of the children, the teachers and the grown up brahmacharis who are living in that campus without depending on outside. Obviously the grown up brahmacharis oversee all these activities of the children who do it playfully.

This way this institution for training children in K.C is being maintained easily.

9) What will be the qualification of the teachers who will be teaching the children?
Will salary be given to them?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Letter to Aniruddha - Calcutta 7, March, 1972

If they simply learn to rise early, cleanse, all hygienic principles, their study will be greater than any government program. Whatever the elder members are doing, the children should do if possible. **But for teaching the teachers themselves should be fixed up initiated devotees**, otherwise how the children can get the right information and example?

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Prabhupada: Yes, any education, from childhood. Yes. Education means from childhood. Hare Krsna. *Kaumara acaret prajno dharman bhagavatan iha* [SB 7.6.1]. The... How... **We are getting so many sannyasis, they should teach. Teaching should be done by the sannyasis.** Just like in missionary school, the fathers teaches.

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Hrdayananda: Prabhupada, can you say something about the **training for a brahmana.**

Prabhupada: Yes. They are *satyam samah damah*. **He must be truthful, he must control the senses, control the mind... samo damah,... He must be tolerant.** He should not be agitated in trifle matters. *Satyam samo damah saucam*. He must be always clean. Three times he must take bath at least. All the clothing, all, everything is clean. This is brahminical training. And then he must know all what is what, knowledge, and practical application, and firm faith in Krishna. This is brahmana.

Hrdayananda: **So what kind of practical work could we engage them in?**

Prabhupada: **They'll be teaching. They'll be all teachers.**

Hrdayananda: Oh, they'll be teachers.

Prabhupada: Yes. Just like Dronacarya. He was brahmana, but he was teaching military art to the Pandavas. **General teacher class will be the brahmanas. It doesn't matter what he's teaching.** But teaching, perfectly teaching, how to become a military man. Arjuna's fighting was due to Dronacarya. He learned it from Dronacarya. He was a brahmana. But because he took the position of a teacher, he taught very perfectly.

A brahmana should be expert in every kind of knowledge. If requires, he'll become teacher. This is brahmana.

Gurukula Inspection - June 26, 1977, Vrindavana

Gunarnava: The top portion also will be kept for gurukula purposes. We were thinking **the brahmacaris and sannyasis should move from the guest house and live on the top.**

Prabhupada: Oh, yes.

Gunarnava: So they can mix with the Gurukula?

Prabhupada: Oh, yes. Why not?

Yasodanandana: **What about householders and ladies?**

Prabhupada: **No, no. Not at all.**

Letter to Satsvarupa - Mayapur 28, February, 1972

Sanskrit should be compulsory for all our children to learn, and **anyone who has elementary knowledge of alphabet and grammar can begin to teach it.**

In addition, English reading and writing, a little mathematics, history and geography or we shall be thought fools if we do not know - that's all.

Room Conversation, July 31, 1976, New Mayapur (French farm)

Jyotirmayi: And what should the boys be taught from ten to sixteen?

Prabhupada: The principle is same, that when they grow up they learn the sastra. The more they read, the more they learn. Then they become preacher, teacher. **The grown-up children, those who are fifteen, sixteen, they can teach five-six years old.**

Jyotirmayi: Then they can take responsibility themselves.

Prabhupada: In this way. Elderly student... That is the way of Indian teaching, that there is one teacher, and how he's managing hundreds? **That means there are groups. One who is elderly student, he's taking some beginners:** "Write a or A like this."

That he can teach. What he has learned, he can teach. Similarly, next group, next group.

So in this way, one teacher can manage hundreds of students of different categories. This is organization. Not that everything I have to do. I cannot teach anybody to do it. That is not intelligence. Intelligence is that employ others to help you. That is intelligence. Not that "Oh, I was busy, I could not do it." Why? What about your assistant? Train assistant so that in your absence things can be done. So the elderly students, they could be... Everyone should be teacher and student.

Morning Walk - December 4, 1975, Vrindavana

Prabhupada: Gurukula we require teachers for teaching the small children. **So our, these girls, they cannot take this charge of teaching?**

Aksayananda: Yes, one is already teaching now. One is already teaching children now.

Prabhupada: Who is he?

Aksayananda: Her name is Ruth. She's English. Every afternoon she teaches the children.

Prabhupada: Indian?

Aksayananda: No, English.

Gopala Krsna: There's also one in Bombay. She used to be a public school teacher in England. After the school is open she can come over here. And there's one in Mayapur, but she's teaching in Mayapur.

Prabhupada: **Similarly, other girls, they can take up this.**

Letter to David R. Schomaker - London 9, August, 1971

I am so glad to note that **both you, husband and wife, are qualified to teach** and are anxious to do so in one of our community situations. That will be very nice. So if you like, you can make suitable arrangements for going either to Texas or to New Vrindavan, where they may have need for such qualified teachers.

Letter to Satsvarupa - Los Angeles 16 June, 1972

So you find out some teachers from your zone and send there. **The women are best for teaching small children, especially if they are themselves mothers, and when they become brahmacaris at 5 or 6 years old then they may be instructed by the men.**

Letter to Yamuna - Allston, Mass, 23 May, 1968

Please accept my blessings. I received your letter a few days ago and I am very glad to learn that you are training the 2 boys in Krishna Consciousness. **I do not think you require an academic degree for training such boys. We are training Krishna Consciousness, which has nothing to do with academic education;**

I therefore wish that instead of wasting your time for 2 or 3 years for taking a degree, you may increase your scope of activities for recruiting such boys and training them in Krishna Consciousness. But if your state laws do not allow it to hold any class without such degree then you must get such degree. **On the whole you have got a very nice engagement for training children in Krishna Consciousness.**

And I think you are very fit for it. I am sure if you endeavor in this line of service, Krishna will be very much pleased and will shower His blessing more and more. you are very nice girl and I have got full faith in you and I wish that you can develop this line of service to the society.

Morning Walk "Varnasrama College" - March 14, 1974, Vrindavana

Hridayananda: Prabhupada, generally in colleges in the West, they charge some fee for going to the college. What is our position?

Prabhupada: **No, we don't charge any fee. There is no question of money. Because the brahmanas, they'll teach free. They require money because they have to give fat salary to these rascals. But we haven't got to.** And even we have to feed them, we produce our own grain. So where is the question of taking money? So therefore it is required, somebody must produce food. Then there is no necessity of money.

Room Conversation - June 11, 1974, Paris

Pusta-Krishna: And that is supposed to be the brahmana class too, the professors. They're the educated class of people.

Prabhupada: **No, no. They are not brahmanas. Those who give education in exchange of money, they are not brahmanas.**

Just like we are lecturing, educated, educating people. We don't say that "Give us salary." We simply ask them, "Please come." Therefore we are making food. I'll give you food. I'll give you good seat. Please come and hear. We are not asking money, that "First of all pay the fees. Then you come and learn Bhagavad-gita." We never say so.

So those, these so-called teachers, they first of all set up salary, "What salary you'll give me?" That is dog's business. That is not brahmana's business. Brahmana will never ask. Brahmana is eager to give lesson only. That's all. Brahmana is eager to see that people are educated. "Take free education and be educated. Be a human being." This is brahmana's business. I came here not to ask for any money. But I want to give lesson. This is brahmana's business.

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.21 - Honolulu, May 21, 1976

A sudra, actually those who are by qualification sudra... Sudra means lamentation, simply changing. They accept something, and then they find it useless, and they lament. The so-called scientists, philosophers, they're all sudras because they say, "We have discovered something," and after few years, "Oh, it is now useless." Another theory. Sudra. So **sudra cannot give you any education. That is not possible.**

Education has to be taken from brahmana. That is the Vedic system. Brahmana is the teacher because they are trained up - *satya sama damo titiksa arjavam, jnanam vijnanam astikyam brahma-karma-svabhava-jam* [Bg. 18.42]. Therefore in India still, not in the city but in the village, the brahmana is accepted as teacher, natural teacher. And there was... (aside:) You sit down properly. **Yes. Brahmana, they are teachers, natural teachers, and there is no fees. No fees. Just like we started this Krishna consciousness movement, teaching, but there was no fees. This is the teaching, real teaching. So brahmana should not charge anything, but they can take charity.**

Morning Walk - October 16, 1975, Johannesburg

Pusta Krishna: Now the incentive in modern society to become educated or to become engineer is money. What is the incentive in Vedic culture?

Prabhupada: **There is no need of money. The brahmana teaches everything free of charge.** There is no question of money.

Anyone can take education as a brahmana or a ksatriya, as a vaisya. There is no... Vaisya doesn't require any education. Ksatriyas require little. Brahmana require. But that is free. Just find out a brahmana guru and he will give you free education. That's all. This is society.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

So following is the summary of quotes of Srila Prabhupada on teaching -

- For teaching the teachers themselves should be fixed up initiated devotees,
 - Teaching should be done by the sannyasis. Just like in missionary school, the father...
 - General teacher class will be the brahmanas. It doesn't matter what he's teaching
 - The grown-up children, those who are 15-16, they can teach 5-6 years-old
 - The women are best for teaching small children up to 10 years old.
-

And we have also summarized the quotes of Srila Prabhupada on giving salary to teachers as follows -

- So those, these so-called teachers, they first of all set up salary, "What salary you'll give me?" That is dog's business. That is not brahmana's business.
 - The brahmana teaches everything free of charge. There is no question of money
-

So we here at BIG and BIVC transfer the grown up boys (more than 10 years of age) from BIG to BIVC and they are further taught and trained by fixed up initiated devotees, brahmanas and sannyasis.

And older students teach the younger ones as per the instructions given by Srila Prabhupada. That way everyone is student as well as teacher.

Smaller boys and girls of BIG are being taught by matajis who are also fixed up initiated devotees. Girls and boys of smaller age (up to 8 -10 years) study together in BIG but they live separately. Mostly girls live with their parents who reside in the same campus. Only in special cases the girls live under the care of elderly matajis.

Grown up girls (more than 10 years of age) living as well as being trained separately from the boys. For more quotes of Srila Prabhupada on girl education and training please see answer to Question No. 16.

And as far as giving salary to the teachers is concerned it is out of question since all the teachers are fixed up initiated devotees and **brahmanas who do not charge for giving education** and these brahmana teachers are maintained by whatever comes in charity by the grace of Krishna.

As we can see Srila Prabhupada was saying that householders and ladies should not mix with grown up boys of varnasrama college but brahamacharis and sannyasis should. The spirit is that the basic aim of BIVC is to **teach them brahamcharya, renunciation so to do that the teachers themselves should be examples of this.**

So, we at BIG and BIVC have allotted **separate campus for BIVC** wherein only grown up boys , other brahamcharis, sannyasis or sometimes vanprasthas (only men) and the teachers are staying. This campus is physically away from the community of devotees where grihasthas and small children (BIG) are living and where the main temple is there which is visited by all kinds of devotees all day long.

For morning sadhana (mangla arti to Darshan Arti/ Guru Puja) everyone assembles in the main temple hall. Everyone attends the Srimad Bhagavatam Classes together except the small children of BIG who have a separate class which is more elementary and is given with more example and stories so that they can comprehend and also their interest in studying Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam is kept alive.

After that the teachers and the grown up students (boys) of BIVC go to their BIVC campus for the classes and services for the rest of the day.

10) How many number of children should be there in Gurukula? How many children should be taught by one teacher & how many managed by one manager?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Gurukula Inspection - June 26, 1977, Vrindavana

Yasodanandana: First we have to get the ISKCON students first.

Prabhupada: ISKCON or FISKCON, bring students. (laughter)

Conversation – “How to secure Brahamcharis” – June 24, 1977, Vrindavana

This is going on. Knowingly they are drinking poison, and we are trying to save them. Very difficult task. *Janiya suni*... This Narottama dasa's song, a very practical and very easily applica... *Janiya suniya*... Nobody drinks poison knowingly, but these people, we are all drinking poison knowingly. They're refusing to take Krishna consciousness. So little difficult but very responsible task. **So at least bring five hundred students. Then it will be very nice, gradually.**

Room Conversation, January 31, 1977, Bhuvaneshvara.

Satsvarupa: Should have one teacher, not just one teacher for all of them.

Prabhupada: At least ten students one teacher.

Conversation – “How to secure Brahamcharis” – June 24, 1977, Vrindavana

Tamala Krishna: Srila Prabhupada, you gave that example: If you want to kill a mosquito, use a gun. What does that example show...

Prabhupada: Means four student and three hundred managers. That is mosquito and gun. (laughter) Student, you have got four. And managers? Three hundred. One manager requires three rooms, another four rooms. This is waste. **One manager, first see at least fifty students. Then you can become manager.**

Tamala Krishna: Anyone who wants to call themself a manager, they have to maintain 50.

Prabhupada: Oh, yes. So what kind of manager? But I am sure you can get students from outside, if not Indian students.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

So, as we can see **Srila Prabhupada wants at least five hundred students** !!! And he wants that not only the devotees children should study in the gurukula but we should get students from outside also from respectable families.

Srila Prabhupada is also saying that if we are not getting students from India than we should try to **get students from outside India.**

And one manager devotee is enough to manage fifty students. Not that four students and three hundred managers!!!

And Srila Prabhupada is saying that one teacher can take care of ten children.

So, we at BIG and BIVC are trying to follow all the above instructions of Srila Prabhupada and at the time of writing this book (March 2016) we already have around 30 students. We have got 2 students (boys) from Russia who are getting trained in Krishna Consciousness and they are coming out to be very nice devotees. More students from other countries like Germany, Singapore, China, U.S.A are expected to join soon.

We have one manager who is managing all these children and 2 brahamchari brahmanas (second initiated) to take care of 20 children of BIVC at the time of writing this book that is March 2016.

2 matajis are taking care of 10 children of BIG (as of date March 2016) since smaller children (specially of the age of 4-6) have to be given personal attention even in their personal work of taking bath, getting ready etc. other than studying basic ABC, Maths etc., playing and attending the routine Krishna Conscious program of the temple.

11) What is correct age for entering the Gurukula? When do the students enter college? Till what age will he be given education?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.12, Honolulu, May 13, 1976

These are the different steps, how one person can become civilized. So first thing is tapasa. *Tapasa brahmacaryena* [SB 6.1.13], austerities. Therefore in the Vedic civilization the children, **they are taught from the very beginning brahmacarya. Tapasa brahmacarya. A small boy, five-years-old boy...** That is gurukula. *Brahmacare gurukule vasan danto guror hitam* [SB 7.12.1]. This is a way of life, to teach the brahmacarya, brahmacarya, celibacy, to restrain from sex life. That is brahmacarya. So this is the beginning of civilization.

Press Conference - July 16, 1975, San Francisco

Bhaktadasa: Srila Prabhupada, there was one question. They would like to know why is it that the children are separated from their parents and sent to Gurukula?

Prabhupada: And what is the benefit of remaining with the parents to become hippies? For training. We are trying to train first-class men. So if, from the very beginning of life, one is trained... That is the Vedic civilization. *Kaumaram acaret prajno dharman bhagavatan iha*. "One should be trained up to become God conscious from the very beginning of life," kaumara. Kaumara means after five years. **Up to five years the children may have all freedom. Whatever he likes, he may do. But when he is five years old, he must be under training.** That is the old system. Gurukula means to send the boy, especially boy, not the girl, to be trained up at the place of the spiritual master or teacher. Just like what is that public school? They also send their small children to the public school. Montessori?

Room Conversation - July 4, 1972, New York

Prabhupada: Everyone is of age. That is all right. It is not that there is no age limit. Anyone who can remain, that is the best thing. But with very small children, **I think nowadays after three years children can begin.**

Devotee (6): After three? After three? Jaya.

Vrindavana, March 14, 1974 - Morning Walk

Prabhupada: Varnasrama College means for grown-up students. College means for grown-up students.

Hridayananda: Is there a minimum age for beginning such a college?

Prabhupada: **Yes. Ten to twelve years.**

Hridayananda: They can start at ten to twelve?

Prabhupada: Yes. **From five to ten years, gurukula. And after ten years, they should go to the Varnasrama College.**

Bhagavad-Gita 8.28 Purport

After the student studies the Vedas under the master for some time - **at least from age five to twenty** - he may become a man of perfect character. Study of the Vedas is not meant for the recreation of armchair speculators, but for the formation of character.

Lecture on Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.22 - Honolulu, May 22, 1976

Up to twenty-fifth year you remain a brahmachari, learn from guru how to become brahmachari, Gurukula. *Brahmachari gurukule vasan danta*: how to practice self control...

Talk with Bob Cohen - February 27-29, 1972, Mayapura

Prabhupada: No, no. There are so many marriages. He is married. Marriage is no barrier. I told you, there are four different orders of social life: brahmachari, grhastha, vanaprastha, and sannyasa.

So after brahmachari, one can marry. But that is not obligatory. He may remain naisthika-brahmachari for whole life. But a brahmachari can marry. So after marriage there is Vanaprastha life. Means little aloof from family. Live - husband and wife - separately. That time there is no sex life. And then, when he's fully renounced, detached from the family life, he takes sannyasa.

Letter to Chaya – Calcutta, 16 February, 1972

Complete separation from the boys is not necessary for girls at such young age, so I don't require that they should be educated separately. What do they know of boy or girl at such young age?...So, when they are grown up, **at about 10 to 12 years, then you can make separate departments for teaching also.**

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above quotes the **training of children should start from the age of 5 and in some special cases it can even start from the age of 3 or 4 also!!!**

So, we are training children (both boys and girls) from 5 to 10 years of age in Bhakivedanta International Gurukula (BIG)

Boys and girls (from the age of 5 to 10 years) are **studying together but they live separately**. The girls normally live with their parents who are living in the grihastha ashrama area which is next to the BIG campus or in some special cases the girls are living under the care of elderly matajais. **There is no separate hostel for girls.**

After 10 years of age the girls and boys are separated even for education. The grown up boys (more than 10-12 years of age) are sent to Bhaktivedanta International Varnasrama College (BIVC) where they will be trained according to their varna or quality. For details of this training refer to quotes of Srila Prabhupada and comments in answer to Question No. 5.

After 25, if he wants he can get married or remain a naishtika brahamchari.

And the grown up girls (more than 10 years of age) are **trained up in cooking, cleaning, stitching, faithful to husband by staying and associating with other elderly matajais** who are themselves role models for them. The grown up girls can also be given further education in English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Maths etc. and they will obviously attend the regular temple program and read Srila Prabhupada's books since we are following **daivi** varnasrama dharma and not ordinary varnasrama dharma. For more details on girl education please refer to quotes of Srila Prabhupada and comments in answer to Question no. 16.

12) What will be the daily schedule of the children at Gurukula and Varnasrama College?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Room Conversation with Dr. Theodore Kneupper - November 6, 1976, Vrindavana

Jagadisa: **First thing, I wanted to go over the daily schedule.** According to the schedule, the boys get up between 3:30 and quarter to four.

Prabhupada: Why so early?

Jagadisa: Why 3:30 and quarter to four? That's what time we all get up.

Prabhupada: We are holding mangala-arti at five. So why 3:30?

Jagadisa: Well, they do japa before mangala-arti.

Prabhupada: No, no. It will be too early for them. They first of all...

Jagadisa: They're accustomed to getting up at...

Prabhupada: Eh?

Jagadisa: They've been getting up at that time for years.

Prabhupada: If they are accustomed, that is all right. But otherwise it is not needed, so early. When they go to sleep?

Jagadisa: At 8:15.

Prabhupada: Oh, then it is all right. That is all right. **At least they must have rest, six hours, complete.**

Jagadisa: Oh, they get more than that.

Prabhupada: Then it is...

Jagadisa: Then they get ready, bathed and dressed, by about 4:10. So they chant japa from 4:10 until five o'clock under the supervision of their teacher. Then arti, tulasi worship. And after tulasi worship they again have japa up until guru-puja, greeting the Deities.

Prabhupada: Hm?

Jagadisa: From the time tulasi worship is over until the time of greeting the Deities.

Prabhupada: How long it is?

Jagadisa: That's an hour and fifteen minutes. Altogether they have japa time amounting to...

Prabhupada: And who... They will... The small boys, they can devote so much time?

Jagadisa: Well these are not small boys. These are...

Prabhupada: Oh, teachers.

Jagadisa: At least ten years, nine, ten years old.

Prabhupada: Still...

Devotee: Nine years old to fourteen years old.

Prabhupada: **They should be engaged in chanting, not sit down and japa. That will not be possible for them.**

Jagadisa: The problem is that some of the boys are fourteen, fifteen, or thirteen. They should chant japa because they are required to chant sixteen rounds a day. Many of them are initia...

Prabhupada: Sixteen rounds, it requires, utmost two hours, two and a half hours.

Jagadisa: Some of the younger boys chant six or eight rounds instead of sixteen. They chant that much during that time and then they study. Then they attend the temple program, guru-puja and Bhagavatam class. And then after that, they go upstairs, wash their clothes and clean the asrama. That takes them about an hour, to wash their clothes and sweep and cleanse the floor, cleanse the shower room, wash their clothes...

Prabhupada: **Now, when they chant the mantras?**

Jagadisa: Brahma-samhita?

Prabhupada: Or any...

Jagadisa: Any mantras. At... Right now they're chanting from nine until 9:30 in the morning with Yasodanandana Maharaja.

Prabhupada: Not in the, early in the morning?

Yasodanandana: In the early morning I take some of the boys in the Deity room between 5:30 and six the boys and the Deities.

Prabhupada: Why? Why? Deity room? Within the Deity room there is no need of chanting. Who told you this? There is no need. Eh? Within the Deity room? You told?

Jagadisa: When we hear the chanting, that's where it's coming from in the morning.

Prabhupada: **Oh. They can chant outside, yes. The Deity bathing or whatever, dressing, may go on. You can chant not within the Deity room.** That you can do outside. Then when their reading, writing begins?

Jagadisa: That begins at 10:15, after prasadam. They take prasadam at 9:30, and then at 10:15 their English class begins.

Prabhupada: Just after taking prasadam?

Jagadisa: Yes. Fifteen minutes after.

Prabhupada: Hm. What begins?

Jagadisa: English class, that goes for one and a half hours. Then there's math class which goes for forty-five minutes.

Prabhupada: Not continually. They should be given a recess ten minutes. Then again come to the class. And a class should not be more than forty-five minutes. **One class should not be continued more than forty-five minutes, then ten minutes recess, then begin another class.**

Jagadisa: For the English program it is required, in order for them to have enough time to read and write, then they would require an hour and half, so they would have two classes.

Prabhupada: In the meantime, one and a half? You give ten minutes recess.

Jagadisa: And during the recess what should they do?

Prabhupada: Nothing. They'll be free. Nothing to do. **Recess means nothing to do.** That is brain, I mean to say, rest. All continually you cannot do that. That is not good. Utmost, forty minutes or forty-five minutes. Then give them ten minutes freedom. Then begin another. Not more than forty to forty-five minutes at a time, reading, writing.

Jagadisa: After class, then, by 12:30 they bathe again, second time. ...

Prabhupada: Not needed. **After prasadam they should not take bathing at least for four hours.** ...

Jagadisa: No.

Prabhupada: So why not? **They are children. They must have some breakfast.**

Jagadisa: They have three meals. One at... This is the way the temple program is scheduled. The temple eats at 9:30 in the morning, so the boys also get prasadam at that time because everyone eats the same...

Prabhupada: **But early in the morning they should have some, at least munch of sweetmeat, something like that.**

Bhagatji: Like chewra.

Prabhupada: Mangala-arti sweets, they should be distributed amongst the children, little sweets. Then they can take 9:30 prasadam.

Jagadisa: Full prasadam.

Prabhupada: Yes. Then? Again they are taking bathing at what time?

Jagadisa: The scheduled next bathing is 12:30.

Prabhupada: Then what is the... 12:30, then?

Jagadisa: After bathing they take a little prasadam.

Prabhupada: Yes, that's nice. Then it is all right.

Jagadisa: Then at 1:30 they take some rest.

Prabhupada: Yes, that's nice. How long?

Jagadisa: One hour.

Prabhupada: That's nice.

Jagadisa: Then they have Sanskrit class from 2:30 until four.

Prabhupada: Hm. 2:30, four, that's all right.

Jagadisa: One and a half hours. So there should be a recess in between.

Prabhupada: Hm?

Jagadisa: That's one and a half hours, so there should be recess in between.

Prabhupada: Ten minutes at least.

Jagadisa: Then at four o'clock the chanting party leaves for the Yamuna procession.

Prabhupada: **In process...(ion). That's nice.**

Jagadisa: And they return by six for darsana in the temple room.

Prabhupada: No, let them return by 5:30.

Jagadisa: Then the boys would come for the chanting and recitation of Srimad-Bhagavatam.

Prabhupada: What time?

Jagadisa: 5:30 to 6:30.

Prabhupada: **No, 5:30 we begin class. In that class they can chant.**

Jagadisa: Kirtana.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Jagadisa: Yes.

Prabhupada: That's nice.

Jagadisa: And then, at 6:30, there will be arti and they'll stay for arti. Then, after arti, they take a little prasadam and then take rest.

Prabhupada: That's nice. That's all right.

Jagadisa: And as far as everyone's duties are concerned, Rupa-vilasa is the English teacher. He teaches English, and math, and, of course, Pradyumna teaches the Sanskrit program. And Dhanurdhara Prabhu has been. He works in the asrama, overseeing the boys...

Prabhupada: Taking care.

Jagadisa: Yes. And Yasodanandana Maharaja will...

Prabhupada: **Recitation.**

Jagadisa: Recitation.

Yasodanandana: And I also help with getting the boys through japa and kirtana and getting them more enthusiastic.

Prabhupada: That's nice.

Jagadisa: It's nice to have a sannyasi involved.

Prabhupada: Oh, yes.

Jagadisa: He can be a good example.

Prabhupada: Very good.

Letter to: Satsvarupa -- Los Angeles 16 June, 1972

So far the children are concerned they should know simply four things:

- 1. Simply think of Krishna always**
- 2. Become Krishna's devotee**
- 3. Offer Krishna worship**
- 4. Offer Krishna obeisances**

These four things should be taught and everything else will follow nicely and they will be learned persons. Give them nice food, let them play. Some can be cowherd boys, some can be cows, like that. Play and take food and be Krishna Conscious. As soon as they begin playing they will be inspired, only one has to direct how to play, that's all.

They should attend the regular aratis and dance before the Deities, just like the children are doing in Los Angeles, and **there should not be separate special aratis for the children, although they may also learn how to do arati in the class before one picture.** They must all go to bed by 9 pm and arise at 4 am for mangala arati, and in day-time a little rest.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above conversations, Srila Prabhupada is saying **children should do what elders are doing but they should get more frequent prasadam, little time to play and when the elders go out for preaching or other work they can learn English, Maths etc.** How simple!!!

We at BIG and BIVC follow the following daily schedule (little changes may be there according to time, place and circumstances) -

4:00 a.m	Wake up (college students wake up at 3:30 a.m & chant at least 4 rounds before mangala arti)
4:00 to 4:30 a.m	Get ready, go to main temple for mangala arti
4:30 to 5:15 a.m	Attending Mangala Arti, Narasimha Arti & Tulsi Puja
5:15 to 5:30 a.m	Mangala Arti Sweet Prasadam
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5:30 to 6:30 a.m	Chanting at least 8 rounds under the supervision of teacher
6:30 to 7:00 a.m	Chanting Mantras like Brahma Samhita etc. (recitation)
7:00 to 7:30 a.m	Milk and grains or fruits prasadam
7:30 to 8:00 a.m	Free time or chant balance rounds (for those who are initiated)
8:00 to 8:45 a.m	Darshan Arti, Guru Puja, Kirtan & dancing
8:45 to 9:30 a.m	Srimad Bhagavatam class (separate class for BIG & BIVC) and Shloka Recitation
9:30 to 10:00 a.m	Prasadam (Chappati, Dal, Rice, Sabji, curd, butter milk, sweet etc.)
10:00 to 11:00 a.m	Clean their ashrama, cupboards and get ready for classes
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11 to 11:45 a.m	English/Hindi/Sanskrit (2 days each in a week)
11:45 to 12:00	Free time
12 to 12:45 p.m	Maths/Geography/History (2 days each in a week)
12:45 to 1 p.m	Free time
1:00 to 2 p.m	Rest
2:00 to 3:00 p.m	Wash clothes etc.
3 to 3:30 p.m	Take Lassi/fruits etc.
3:30 to 4 p.m	Free time
4:00 to 5 p.m	Playing games
5:00 to 6:00 p.m	Take bath & get ready
6:00 to 6:30 p.m	Prasadam (Dal, Sabji, chapatti)

6:30 to 7:00 p.m Tulsi Puja & Gaur Arti, Kirtan,Dancing
7:00 to 7:45 p.m B.G class or SP video (separate class for BIG & BIVC students)
7:45 to 8:00 p.m Shayan Arti, Kirtan
8:00 to 8:30 p.m Hot Milk
8:30 to 9:00 p.m Read Krishna Book and go to sleep.

Note : Sundays we take them for outing to visit temples etc. At least twice in a year we take them on tour to holy places.

We can note that in the above schedule the children are being fed sumptuously milk, fruits, fresh food etc. and also have free time to play. They have no burden of studying complicated subjects like Physics, biology etc. and give examination. So, they are able to execute happily devotional service to Krishna.

As far as playing is concerned it is natural for the small children to play but their playing spirit can be utilized very nicely by engaging them in play connected to pastimes of Krishna. As Srila Prabhupada is saying “**Only one has to direct how to play**”.

In hot summer months of May and June these children are taken to Uttranchal (where there is nice pleasant climate) with their teachers wherein they will learn some skills like cooking, deity worship, milking and taking care of cows, growing food and making some cottage industry products from natural wood etc. It is like a spiritual picnic for them as this place is amidst hills, rivers and natural beauty with pleasant climate.

The grown up boys of BIVC are further trained in English, Hindi, Maths etc. (from 10 to at least till 14 to 16 years of age) and **all these boys also go through basic training in following modules –**

1) Deity worship, 2) Cooking, 3) Preaching (giving classes on Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam), 4) Sankirtan, 5) Management, 6) Fighting Skills, 7) Book Distribution, 8) How to keep accounts, 9) Cow Protection, 10) Agriculture and 11) Trading etc.

Everyone has to pass Bhakti Shastri Course on the basic 10 books of Srila Prabhupada 1.BBD; 2.POY 3. EJTOP. 4. RV. 5. ISOP. 6. B.G; 7.NOI; 8. NOD; 9.TLC and 10.Book on deity worship.

After the age of 14 or 16 years we divide the students of BIVC into 4 groups (brahmana, ksatriya, vaisya and sudra) according to the guna or quality that is their varna is decided.

Now, **brahmanas** are further trained in module no. 1,2,3 and 4 (at least up to 20 years of age) specially reading Srila Pabhupada's books more deeply and passing Bhaktivedanta (Bhakti Shastri Plus entire S.B) and Bhakti Sarvbhouma (above books plus C.C) tests.

Ksatriyas are further trained in 5 and 6 (at least up to the age of 18 years).

Vaisyas are further trained in 7,8,9,10 and 11 (at least up to the age of 16 years).

Others work as general assistants to either brahmanas, ksatriyas or vaisyas.

Then all the students work with respective senior devotees who are engaged in duties of the particular varna for few years and then the brahmanas, ksatriyas and vaisyas can work independently and the others can assist them.

Maximum by the age of 20 everyone will have a source of income for maintaining the body and soul together and after attaining the age of 25 the student can get married or choose to remain a naishtika brahamchari.

Brahmanas will guide the ksatriyas and ksatriyas will guide the vaisyas and the Vaisyas will guide the sudras. Brahmanas themselves will be directly guided by the spiritual master and the Lord that is if he does a mistake the Lord will directly punish him.

As far as ashramas are concerned the brahmanas are expected to accept all the 4 ashramas (if they are married) that is brahamchari, grihastha, vanprastha and sannyasa. The ksatriyas must accept at least 3 that is brahamchari, grihastha and vanprastha and vaisyas must accept at least 2 that is brhamchari and grihastha and sudra can accept only one that is grihastha (that is no brahamchari training for him, he is is just trained to be obedient to other 3 classes). Obviously naistika brahamcharis can directly accept sannyasa without going through grihastha and vanprastha ashrama.

The division of varnas is for material upkeep of the society that is earning one's livelihood and ashramas are for gradual spiritual upliftment of the entire society. First varna should be decided than the ashrama. For different rules of different ashramas one can refer to B.G.

The exact age at which the different activities will be done may differ from person to person according to time, place and circumstances.

And obviously everyone will work for Krishna as per the directions given by our spiritual master His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

13) What level of austerities will be followed as far as living in the Gurukula is concerned? Why Gurukula living is austere? If the child is not used to these austerities, how will he cope up? Why children are separated from their parents at such an early age?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Letter to Jayatirtha - Mayapur 20 January, 1976

Therefore our young men must be trained at the earliest age to not be attached to so many things like the home, family, friendship, society, and nation. **To train the innocent boy to be a sense gratifier at the early age when the child is actually happy in any circumstance is the greatest violence.** Therefore; *brahmacari gurukulae vasan danto guror hitam* [SB 7.12.1]. The brahmacari lives at the place of the spiritual master and works for the benefit of the spiritual master by begging for his maintenance, by cleaning, learning the principles of Krishna consciousness, and engaging in the process of bhagavata dharma, whereby his life will have a firm, sane foundation with which he can overcome the forces of maya by strong training in the beginning.

The karmis cannot accept this because they are too much attached to their bodies and cannot tolerate any austerities. **Since they are too attached to their children they are even more insistent that the child be drowned in bodily consciousness so that he may avoid all types of austerities and enjoy life to the fullest, thereby going to hell at the earliest age; mahat sevam dvares ahur vimuktes tamo-dvaram yosita sangisangam .**

Those who associate with the mahatmas through service to them become eligible for liberation whereas those who are associating with woman or those who are too attached to woman are paving their way to hell. Therefore the school systems require so many codes and regulations so the children will not feel any inconvenience. The training is geared to producing cats and dogs who will feel quite at home in a society of sense gratification.

Therefore how can they accept our school system which teaches that the young men must undergo tapasya to become purified? *Tapo divyam putraka yena sattvam suddhyed yasmad brahma saukhyam tv anantam* [SB 5.5.1]. They will never accept **that one must undergo austerities to break the influence of the modes of material nature upon the living entity in order that he may experience the transcendental bliss on the platform of pure goodness.** Therefore they see our school as a threat and a cruel punishment to the children. If we were to run our school as it was actually to be run, they would close it down, and factually they will place more and more codes and restrictions as the school develops to water down the process until it becomes unrecognizable and useless.

Room Conversation - July 31, 1976, New Mayapur (French farm)

Bhagavan: Our restrictions? Yes, they are impressed. **They sometimes write about the Gurukula that we are treating roughly the children by making them so austere. But every time they show the picture, the children are always happy.**

Prabhupada: They have standardized their happiness on these principles - illicit sex, meat-eating, gambling. That is the standard. And if you deny that, they say, "Oh, it is impossible. These are the primary principles of life." Yes. Such a big man like Rolan(?) said, he said, "Oh, it is impossible." He was a big man, philosopher, very nice gentleman; still, he said "Oh, it is impossible."

Press Conference - July 16, 1975, San Francisco

Bhaktadasa: Srila Prabhupada, there was one question. They would like to know **why is it that the children are separated from their parents and sent to Gurukula?**

Prabhupada: **And what is the benefit of remaining with the parents to become hippies? For training. We are trying to train first-class men.** So if, from the very beginning of life, one is trained... That is the Vedic civilization. *Kaumaram acaret prajno dharman bhagavatan iha.* "One should be trained up to become God conscious from the very beginning of life," kaumara. Kaumara means after five years.

Letter to Satsvarupa- Delhi, 25 November, 1971

That is a good proposal, that parents should not accompany their children. Actually that is the gurukula system. The children should take complete protection of the Spiritual Master, and serve him and learn from him nicely.

Letter to Satyabhama - Hyderabad, 23 March, 1973

Why should the parents not feel attachment for their children, that is natural. But our affection is not simply sentimental, we offer our children the highest opportunity to become trained up in Krsna consciousness very early so as to assure their success in this life to go back to Godhead for sure. **That is real affection, to make sure my child gets back to Godhead, that is my real responsibility as a parent.** And I have seen that Gurukula offers this opportunity more than any other place anywhere.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC

As we can see from the above quotes the simple austerities of rising early in the morning, taking bath twice a day, chanting little japa, lying on the floor, washing one's own clothes etc. **are not burden for children but they do them playfully and happily.**

The main point to note is that Srila Prabhupada is saying that “**at an early age the child is actually happy in any circumstance**”. This we have noticed here at BIG that there are some children from so called comfortable homes and others from already austere backgrounds but both groups are enjoying all these austerities happily and playfully.

Moreover Srila Prabhupada is saying that these simple austerities are required to break the influence of the three modes of nature **so that he can experience transcendental bliss.** By regulated habits, doing one's own work, rising early, bathing keeps them **almost free from diseases and they feel happy.**

We at BIG and BIVC also understand that there will be children from different countries and backgrounds who may not be able to tolerate the extreme hot climate of India specially Rajasthan so as per the instructions of Srila Prabhupada we shift all our gurukula and college students to Uttranchal during 2 months of extreme heat (May and June) where the climate is very pleasant.

So we at BIG and BIVC are not introducing any unnecessary austerities and the simple austerities recommended by Srila Prabhupada actually makes the child happy.

As far as the question of separating the child from the parents at such an early age is concerned, we at BIG & BIVC have seen that the **bond between the children and parents becomes sweeter since service to Krishna is the centre.** Children respect their parents. Parents feel extremely satisfied seeing their children growing up happily in Krishna Consciousness whereas in the material life where child is trained in a life of sense gratification there are clashes between parents and children at very early age specially as soon as there is some hindrance in the sense gratification of the parents (if the child is not performing materially according to their expectation) or the child (when the parents are not supplying his demands for sense gratification). **We can clearly see that on one side there is love and the other side there is lust which can never be satisfied!!!**

So, the decision is ours whether we love our children or we want to use them for our sense gratification. Children are innocent they can be moulded either way!!!

14) What level of strictness will be followed if the child is not following the rules?
Will the children be beaten to discipline them?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Letter to Vibhavati - Los Angeles, 15 July, 1969.

The basic idea of raising children as they are described in the Vedic literature is that from birth till the age of 5 yrs the parents may be very lenient with the child. From the ages 6 to 10 they should tighten the discipline of their child, and **from the ages of 10 till the 16 yr. the parents should be as strict as a tiger with their child so that he will be afraid to be disobedient at all. Then after the 16 yr. the parents shall treat their child as a friend,** and the child is allowed to gradually develop his adult responsibility and independence.

Lecture on S.B 7.6.6-9, Montreal, June 23, 1968

And as soon as he is on the fifth year, **you must be very strict on the child, on the boy, so that he may not be spoiled. Very strict.** Simply engage him in proper education. *Tadayet dasa varsani.* And *prapte tu sodashakam varse.* And as soon as he is on the sixteenth year...*Sodashakam* means sixteenth year. *Prapte tu sadashakam varse putra mitravat acaret:* the son, the boy should be treated as friend. No more punishment. Then there will be reply. So there must be restraint.

Lecture on S.B 7.6.1, San Francisco, March 6 1967

You should give all freedom to your child for five years, and then, next ten years, you should be very strict, very strict, so that the child may be very much afraid. And as soon as he attains sixteen years of age, then you should treat him like friend, not, I mean to say, so strictly." These are the moral instruction by Chanakya Pandita.

Lecture on S.B 2.9.4, Japan, April 22, 1972

Always find out mistake." Don't be angry, but it is the business of the teacher and the father simply to find out your mistakes, not to find out your good things. *Lalayet* means patting: "Oh, my dear son, my dear boy, you are so nice. You have done..." Sometimes it is done, but it is the business of the teacher and the father to chastise. Never recognize the disciple's business or son's business as very good.

Then they will spoil. That is the injunction of Chanakya Muni. *Lalane bahavo dosanu* - "If you **simply pat, then there will be so many faults.**" *Doṣāḥ* means faults. *Tādane bahavo guṇāḥ:* "**And if you chastise, oh, they will be very much qualified.**" ... So, so far we are concerned, when our spiritual master used to chastise, we took it as blessing. That was very nice. And he would chastise like anything. "Damn rascal, foolish, stupid," anything, all good words. (laughter)

Letter to Rupa Vilasa - Hyderabad, 18 November, 1972.

Forcing will not make me agree. But if there is love, oh, I shall gladly do it. That is bhakti, that is Krishna Consciousness. So similarly, if we train children by developing and encouraging their propensity to love Krishna, then we shall be successful in educating them to the topmost standard. Then they shall always very happily agree to do whatever you ask them. So I have heard that there as been some beating with sticks on the children. Of course I do not know, but that should not be. **You may show the stick, threaten, but better art is to somehow or other, even by tricking them, avoid this matter of force and induce them to obey out of loving spirit.** That is success of disciplinary method.

Letter to Brahmanya Tirtha, Ahemdabad, 10th Dec. 1972

Regarding your question should force be used on children, no, there shall be no forcing the children to do anything. Child should not be forced. This is all nonsense. Who has devised these things? If we want them to become great devotees, then we must educate the children with love, not in a negative way. Of course, if they become naughty we may show the stick but we should never use it. Child is nonsense, so you can trick him to obey you by making some little story and the child will become cheated in the proper behavior. **But never apply force, especially to his chanting and other matters of spiritual training. That will spoil him and in the future he will not like to do it if he is forced.**

Letter to Bhanutanya - Hyderabad, 18 November, 1972

If a child is trained properly in Krishna Consciousness, he will never go away. **That means he must have two things, love and education.**

So if there is beating of child, that will be difficult for him to accept in loving spirit, and when he is old enough he may want to go away - that is the danger. So why these things are going on marching and chanting japa, insufficient milk, too strict enforcement of time schedules, hitting the small children?... **They should run and play when they are small children,** not forced to chant japa, that is not the way.

Letter to Svati - Unknown Place, January 1972

We should avoid as far as possible any physical punishment to train children. It is better to use sweet words or if it is absolutely necessary to punish then you may bind with ropes in one place or show the cane, but do not use - like that. ...The most important thing however is to see that somehow or other the children are always engaged in some kind of Krishna conscious activity, then they will naturally develop a taste for it and think it great fun even to work very hard for Krishna's pleasure.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above quotes students from **5 to 10 years must be tightened to be disciplined and from 10 to 16 years of age we should be very strict** with them so that all doasas (bad qualities) are removed or they do not develop in them. And after 16 we should treat them like our friend.

But in the background there should be love and education otherwise when they grow up they will not like to follow. To correct some children sometimes stick may be shown but they should not be beaten up. Best is if teacher can discipline them on the basis of love and education without using force.

Smaller children of BIG (upto 10 years of age) should not be engaged in giving service to the elders or do some work other than their routine K.C program, classes and playing but the grown up boys of BIVC can be engaged in various practical services as per their guna.

So, we at BIG and BIVC follow the above policy given by Srila Prabhupada to discipline the students.

In order to ensure this the first thing is that the teacher himself should be happy in Krishna Consciousness, his senses should be under his control, mind should be peaceful, and he should be tolerant that is basically he should be a true brahmana with all the good qualities of *samo, damo, titiksha, karunika* etc. Then he can train the children without becoming irritated. If he himself is irritated, disturbed how he can treat the children properly.

Also the teacher must have love and respect for Srila Prabhupada because ultimately he has to transfer that to the children so that they develop the greatest love, respect and gratitude for their spiritual master His Divine A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. The teacher should clearly understand that he is just guiding them to become more and more attached to Srila Prabhupada who is their real spiritual master and well wisher.

Obviously if the teacher is working in this consciousness then he is also their best well wisher and children will love to follow what he is saying.

So, we at BIG and BIVC are putting the best of the devotees as teachers in the gurukula to ensure proper training of the children. We are not enforcing time schedules very strictly on the children; they are given sumptuous food, milk at regular intervals and also time to play ensuring their happy growth.

15) At what age will the children get initiated, engage in deity worship, cooking etc.? What will be the method of initiation? What is the role of Temple President and senior godbrothers, sannyasis or GBC's with regard to initiation?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Letter to Svati - Unknown Place, January 1972

Regarding your other questions: **Children may be recommended for initiation when they are twelve years old.**

Letter to Satsvarupa - Paris 25 July, 1972

Regarding your questions about children at Gurukula, above ten years old they can be initiated first time, and after one year of perfectly chanting 16 rounds and observing the other regulative principles, they may receive second initiation...

After initiation, then they can learn cooking. They should not be utilized for giving service to the elderly members, they should be given chance for reading and writing. So far marriage is concerned, they must be legally married.

Letter to Laksmimoni - Bombay 1 May, 1971

Deity worship can be learned at not less than ten years by children. Before that they can assist. They can learn how to bow down, how to dance and chant, how to make garlands, clean arti utensils, etc. In this way they can be engaged. These are also different parts of Deity worship.

Letter to Karnadhara, Surat , 1 January, 1971.

Regarding your proposal that recommendations for initiations should be approved by the GBC members, that is not a good idea. Such recommendation is for the local President to make from first hand observation.

Letter to Sukadeva, Bombay 28, December 1974.

In regards to your question about how the relationship between a sannyasi and the temple president should be, my hope is that you will all be able to cooperate together.

The temple president is in charge and the sannyasi should not contradict the instructions. Although if he does see something wrong or if he sees a fault or defect he should bring it out directly to the temple president. And then work it out in a Krishna Conscious way. **Not that he will try to over-ride the temple president's authority.** I want that you all work together cooperatively.

Letter to Mr. Arora – Vrindavana, 20 August, 1974

Regarding initiation, it is required that you be recommended by one of our temple presidents to me and then I shall consider it. First of all, one must have followed the regulative principle for at least six months without deviation. It is not necessarily required to live in the temple, but you must observe the rules.

Letter to Hanuman Prasad Poddar - Los Angeles 5 February, 1970

When someone is very interested and recommended by the Temple Commander, for becoming initiated, I accept him and give him first initiation in the form of Harinama in a regular ceremony with fire sacrifice.

I chant Hare Krishna Mantra on the 108 beads and then the beads are offered to the disciple with a change of name as Krishna das. He is advised to strictly follow the regulative principles of **1. no eating of meat, fish, or eggs; 2. no taking of intoxicants including coffee, tea, and tobacco; 3. no illicit sex-life; and 4. no gambling .**

In this way, after six months at least, when he is found habituated to the Vaisnava principles, then he is initiated for the second time with the sacred thread.

Letter to Revatinandana - Bombay, 4, January, 1973

So I think now you may be appointed by me to give first initiations to new disciples by chanting on their beads on my behalf. In America Kirtanananda Swami is doing that. So now if there are two of you that will give me great relief... **They shall, of course, still be considered as my disciples, not that they shall become your disciples,** but you will be empowered by me to chant their beads and that is the same effect of binding master and disciple as if I were personally chanting. They may continue to send me their letters of request, along the **President's recommendation,** and I shall give them name and it will be entered by my Secretary in our records, only I will send my letter of reply to you and you will purchase beads there and chant them and send, along with my letter to the new initiates.

Letter to all G.B.C, All Temple Presidents, Vrindavan, 9 July, 1977.

Recently when all of the GBC members were with His Divine Grace in Vrindavana, Srila Prabhupada indicated that soon He would appoint some of His senior disciples to act as "ritvik" - representative of the acarya, for the purpose of performing initiations, both first initiation and second initiation. His Divine Grace has so far given a list of eleven disciples who will act in that capacity...

In the past Temple Presidents have written to Srila Prabhupada recommending a particular devotee's initiation. Now that Srila Prabhupada has named these representatives, **Temple Presidents may henceforward send recommendation for first and second initiation to whichever of these eleven representatives are nearest their temple.** After considering the recommendation, these representatives may accept the devotee as an initiated disciple of Srila Prabhupada by giving a spiritual name, or in the case of second initiation, by chanting on the Gayatri thread, just as Srila Prabhupada has done. **The newly initiated devotees are disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupad, the above eleven senior devotees acting as His representative.**

After the Temple President receives a letter from these representatives giving the spiritual name or the thread, he can perform the fire yajna in the temple as was being done before. The name of a newly initiated disciple should be sent by the representative who has accepted him or her to Srila Prabhupada, to be included in His Divine Grace's "Initiated Disciples" book.

Letter to Jadurani – New Vrindavan, 4 September, 1972

The spiritual master accepts the sinful activities of his disciples from the first initiation. I may give initiation very easily, but what can I do? I am prepared to go to hell for service of Lord Caitanya.

Note: for more details on the method of initiation one can refer to the “The Final Order” by Krishnakant.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

Qualification for First and Second Initiation →

Those children who are chanting 16 rounds for more than 6 months and are more than 10 years can be given first initiation following the ritvik procedure as given by Srila Prabhupada if they are ready for initiation.

Minimum qualification for first initiation is that the devotee is chanting 16 rounds for at least 6 months and following the 4 regulative principles of No meat eating, No illicit sex, No gambling and No intoxication under the direct supervision of the temple President, and is at least 10 years old.

If the devotee follows the same rules for another 1 year and is fixed up in Krishna Consciousness with all brahminical qualification then he can be given second initiation. Then they can be engaged in deity worship and cooking for the deities.

Procedure for first and second initiation as was being followed before 1978→

As we can see from the above quotes of Srila Prabhupada that initially (till 1973) Temple President would recommend to Srila Prabhupada for first and second initiation and Srila Prabhupada would chant on the beads or the thread, give spiritual name and hold the fire sacrifice and the devotee will become bonafide disciple of Srila Prabhupada.

Later on (in 1973) Srila Prabhupada appointed Kirtannanda, Revatinanadana and other senior devotees to chant on the beads of the devotees to be initiated on his behalf on temple president's recommendation and the fire sacrifice was being done by any brahmana preferably the temple president. The names were however still being given by Srila Prabhupada and the devotees chanting on the beads were ritviks – representative of the acharya, acting on behalf of Srila Prabhupada.

Then on July 9, 1977, just before his departure he appointed 11 ritviks who would act as his representatives & will chant on the beads and also give spiritual names on the recommendation of the T.P on behalf of Srila Prabhupada. For second initiation he or she will hear the gayatri in the right year from Srila Prabhupada's audio tape and other formalities will be same as for first initiation. The newly initiated disciples will be disciples of Srila Prabhupada and not of the ritvik.

But unfortunately this order of Srila Prabhupada was not followed by GBC (till current date i.e March 2016). Instead of playing the role of ritvik they became full fledged diksha gurus without any authority or order of Srila Prabhupada which became the cause

of great confusion and fall down of Iskcon as these “so called gurus” could not even keep up to the moral standards and were found engaged in sinful activities because of which thousands of sincere devotees left Iskcon. **Unfortunately this unauthorized guru system is still going on in Iskcon and we can only pray to Krishna that GBC again comes in line with Srila Prabhupada’s original instructions** on initiation, DOM (direction of management etc.) then all devotees can be again united under the umbrella of Iskcon.

Procedure for first and second initiation being followed by us at BIG & BIVC→

Since the current GBC appointed by Srila Prabhupada has disobeyed him by not following the ritvik system of initiation, they are disconnected from him.

As Prabhupada once wrote to Brahmananda (14 October, 1967) - “I have already written you to inform you that somehow or other he (Kirtananada Swami) has become crazy; otherwise he would not have disobeyed me to go directly to N.Y. **For the time being he has cut all link with me, therefore any instruction given by him is unauthorized & should at once be rejected.** He has no right to dictate as he has without my sanction.”

So, currently since there is no GBC which was appointed by him who are following the July 7 letter on how the first and second initiations should be conducted and the new gurus who are being appointed by these unauthorized self made gurus have **no connection with Srila Prabhupada and our Gaudiya Vaisnava Parampara, so taking initiation from them does not link up the devotee to our unbroken disciplic succession.**

So, till the current GBC comes in line with Srila Prabhupada’s original instructions we are falling back to the original system when Srila Prabhupada asked the Temple President to recommend to some senior devotee or in some cases he (T.P) himself could act as ritvik and give initiation on behalf of Srila Prabhupada by chanting on the beads and giving them spiritual names if they are fulfilling the minimum criteria for initiation.

The vow of following the 4 regulative principles and chanting of at least 16 rounds of Hare Krishna Maha Mantra daily is taken by the devotee getting initiated to Srila Prabhupada by going in front of his deity during initiation ceremony.

Now the devotee is formally a disciple of Srila Prabhupada. Obviously he has to follow the promise which he has made to Srila Prabhupada which was witnessed by the Deities, and so many Vaisnavas, otherwise the connection between the disciple and the spiritual master is considered to be broken. Therefor Srila Prabhupada says - **“The real initiation is the determination to follow the order of the spiritual master.”**

16) Will the girl child also go to school? What type of training she will get?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the above question under consideration

Press Conference - July 16, 1975, San Francisco

But when he is five years old, he must be under training. That is the old system.

Gurukula means to send the boy, especially boy, not the girl, to be trained up at the place of the spiritual master or teacher. Just like what is that public school? They also send their small children to the public school. Montessori? What is that?

Morning Walk - November 26, 1975, New Delhi

Harikesa: It's a college. It's a girls' college.

Prabhupada: [break] How to kill child. This is education. Huh? **Educated girl means how to divorce husband, how to kill child.** Is it not? Educated, modern educated girl means how to become unfaithful to the husband, how to divorce and how to kill child.

Gopala Krishna: How to get equal rights.

Prabhupada: No, equal rights, that's all right. This is the education. **The uneducated girls do not do this.** [break]

Room Conversation – January 8 1977, Bombay

Prabhupada: There were two books. Woman... **Girls should be taught how to become faithful wife, how to learn nice cooking, cleansing, dressing. Simple method. There is no objection of their becoming scholar, but that is not necessary.** They have got natural inclination to give service by cooking, cleansing, dressing. Cleanliness is the first necessity. That is hygienic, spiritual, and calm, quiet. India has got special facility to remain clean... But this cleanness is this taking bathing at least twice.

Room Conversation - July 31, 1976, New Mayapur (French farm)

Prabhupada: Once Sarasvati said that "We have no sex with woman." (laughter) So, innocent, she does not know. That is, if they are kept separate, they remain innocent. And they are taught that all women should be addressed as mother. Whatever self-control. **And female children should be taught how to become faithful to the husband, and to learn the arts of cooking, arts of painting** - that should be their subject matter.

Jyotirmayi: Painting?

Prabhupada: Yes. Sixty-four arts, Radharani did. Then She could control Krishna.

Jyotirmayi: So after they have learned all the academics, reading, writing, all these.

Prabhupada: **Academic is ordinary, ABCD, that's all. Not very much. But these arts. They should learn how to cook nicely.**

Letter to Chaya - Calcutta, 16 February, 1972

Complete separation from the boys is not necessary for girls at such young age, so I don't require that they must be educated separately, only that they should live separately. What do they know of boy or girl at such young age? There was one question by a little girl like Sarasvati to her father: "Father, when you were young were you a boy or a girl?" **So when they are grown up, at about 10 to 12 years old, then you can make separate departments for teaching also. But while they are so young, although they must live in separate boys and girls quarters, they may be educated sometimes together, there is no such restriction that little girls should not have association with little boys, not until they are grown up.**

All the children should learn to read and write very nicely, and a little mathematics, so that they will be able to read our books. **Cooking, sewing, things like that do not require schooling, they are learned simply by association. There is no question of academic education for either boys or girls** - simply a little mathematics and being able to read and write well, that's all, no universities. Their higher education they will get from our books, and other things they will get from experience, like preaching, SKP, etc. Alongside the regular classes in reading and writing, the other routine programs they should also participate in, like arti, kirtana, preaching, Sankirtana, like that.

You ask about marriage, yes, **actually I want that every woman in the Society should be married.** But what is this training to become wives and mothers? No school is required for that, simply association. And it is not necessary to say that women only can instruct the girls and men only can instruct the boys, not when they are so young. At 12 years, they may be initiated.

A woman's real business is to look after household affairs, keep everything neat and clean, and if there is sufficient milk supply available, she should always be engaged in churning butter, making yogurt, curd, so many nice varieties, simply from milk. The woman should be cleaning, sewing, like that. So if you simply practice these things yourselves and show examples, they will learn automatically, one doesn't have to give formal instruction in these matters.

Morning Walk - July 10, 1975, Chicago

Satsvarupa: Srila Prabhupada, you were saying that in our society the women shouldn't cook privately for their husbands.

Prabhupada: Huh?

Satsvarupa: You were saying that everyone should take the Deity's prasadam. But it sounds like the women are being trained to cook, so...

Prabhupada: No, no, no. No, no. The thing is that Deity or at home, **she must be very first-class cook. That is wanted.** That is according to convenience. If possible, they can take prasadam in the temple. If not possible, they must cook. But she must be first-class cook. That is wanted, either in the temple or outside. In India still, 80%, 90%, they are very happy in their family life, never mind one is poor or rich, because the **wife knows these three things: to remain chaste and faithful to the husband, and she knows how to cook nicely.** (pause) And women and men should live separately. That is also essential.

Room Conversation with Dr. John Mize - June 23, 1975, Los Angeles

Jayatirtha: Now the crime rate amongst the women is...

Prabhupada: Now they have been trained up. What can be done? Woman is not trained up now to become a chaste wife. That is the defect of the civilization. **Formerly, woman was trained up only to become, remain faithful to his husband, that's all. Nari-rupam pati-vratah:** "Woman's beauty is how she is faithful to her husband." That's all. That is beauty, not personal beauty. "**Vidya rupam kurupanam:** "A black man or ugly man, if he is educated, that is his beauty." **Kokilanam svaro rupam**". Kokila, the cuckoo is just like a crow, but everyone likes because his voice is so sweet. **Kokilanam svaro rupam vidya rupam kurupanam nari-rupam pati-vratam.** Like that, he has given a list. These are the beauty. **If a woman is trained up not to talk with any other man except her husband, that is her beauty. That enhances the beauty and prestige. This is Vedic knowledge.**

Room Conversation with writer, Sandy - July 13, 1975, Philadelphia

Prabhupada: (laughs) This is all physiological. And we have seen, studied, that any big man of the world, **behind that big man is either a strong mother or a strong wife.** That is the general statistics. And Canakya Pandita says, **mata yasya grhe nasti bharya ca priya vadini. If there is no mother at home and the wife is not very suitable, does not speak very nicely with husband, disrespectful, then he is recommended to leave home and go to the forest. Aranyam tena gantavyam yatharanyam tatha grham.** Such person should immediately leave home and live in the forest because for him the forest and home is the same. **Mata yasya grhe nasti bharya capriya-vadini.**

So women should be trained up to be very faithful and chaste. Then the life will be very happy. That is the only education for woman. And man should be educated how to become first-class man, a brahmana. Then the whole atmosphere will be very happy...

And Canakya Pandita says another place, “*dampatyoh kalaho nasti tatra srih svayam agatah*”. If there is no fight and disagreement between husband and wife, in that home the goddess of fortune automatically comes." They haven't got to search out where is goddess of fortune. She will come automatically. So that is now lacking. In most cases the husband and wife does not agree. And the other day I was reading in a paper that one woman in two weeks or three weeks...?

Room Conversation with Allen Ginsberg - May 13, 1969, Columbus, Ohio

But richness, generally, sometimes glide down to wine, women, and intoxication. So by bad company he became woman-hunter, prostitute-hunter. So he was too much addicted to one woman, Cintamani. So his father died, and he was... He did not marry. **In your country it is called girlfriend, and in our country it is called prostitute.** So he was that about that prostitute, Cintamani. So he was performing the rituals, but he was thinking of his girlfriend, that Cintamani, "When I shall go there?" Bilvamangala Thakura?

Letter to Satsvarupa - Montreal, 12 July, 1968

I understand that you are trying to organize a brahmacarini asrama. A brahmacarini asrama is certainly a great necessity because there are so many girl devotees who are attached to our Krishna Consciousness movement. **Those who are married couple, there is nothing to be said -- simply to live together as husband and wife. But those who are not married certainly such brahmacaris and brahmacarinis should not live together.** That is a special restricted term of our cult. But because in your country there is no distinction between boys and girls, or man and woman, they can freely mix without any restriction, **I did not give too much stricture on this point because by such stricture they might be annoyed, and whatever Krishna Consciousness they are trying to develop might have been checked.** But factually if you can organize a brahmacarini asrama, it will be very nice idea. And I think that our Jadurani or similar other girl students of a little bit advanced, they can manage such asrama

Morning Walk - May 14, 1975, Perth

Devotee (1): Srila Prabhupada, one boy in Sydney, he has been a devotee for a few years, three or four years, but now he has fallen away because of lusty association, I suppose, or bad association. So is this unwilling or willing, because he has become attracted to women again?

Prabhupada: **That is one of the defects, our society, that women are there, and one falls victim of these women. And it is not possible to keep the society strictly for men. That is also not possible. But actually no woman should live in the temple.** That is the...

Amogha: They call them brahmacarini?

Prabhupada: Yes. Because nowadays almost every girl is unmarried. **So they have devised this asrama** that "Come here." And women can be sold at any cost. People are lusty. So one woman supplied, he pays hundred rupees, two hundred rupees. Business is going on.

Conversation with Vedic Astronomer - April 30, 1977, Bombay

Tamala Krsna: In our centers, though, there are so many brahmacarinis, and even sometimes **they're encouraged to remain brahmacarini.**

Prabhupada: **That they cannot. As soon as they will find opportunity, they will become vyabhicarini.**

Tamala Krsna: They'll become what?

Prabhupada: Vyabhicarini. For woman, protection.

Tamala Krsna: So you don't advocate this remaining single, these women remaining brahmacarinis.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above quotes co-education of girls and boys' studying together is out of question. In principle they should be separated from the very beginning but **very young girls (up to 10 years) may study together with the boys but they should live separately,** from the very beginning that is from 5 years of age.

Girls should be trained to be faithful to the husband, nice cooking which they can learn by association with their mothers and other elderly ladies of the family or the society of devotees in which they are living. There is no objection in teaching them a little English, Hindi etc. and basic Krishna Conscious life of chanting, attending arti and hearing class is there for all the members of the society.

So, we at BIG and BIVC admit the girl child for training only if both or one of the parent is ready to live with her in the society of devotees where the gurukula is situated and other grihastha families are living.

If for some reason the parents are unable to stay full time in the association of devotees then they can give this training to her at home. In special cases when such opportunity is not available for the girl at home and parents are very keen to train her in a way Srila Prabhupada is suggesting, **we can keep the girl with the elderly matajis of our community to be trained.**

Somebody may raise the question as why girl is not being given education, in answer to this **this so-called education is not being given to boys as well as the girls. Basic ABC is given to the boys as well as to the girls. After 10 years boys are further trained in brahamcharya, sense control and work according to their varna for Krishna and girls are trained to cook, faithful to husband etc. in the association of other senior matajis who are themselves examples of these qualities. How simple !!!!**

And Srila Prabhupada is saying that if boys and girls are trained in such a way then their combination will be very nice and the Gurukula will be successful.

17) What will be the future of the girl if she does not get conventional education?
Who will marry her?

Srila Prabhupada's Quotes related to the question under consideration.

Morning Walk - July 10, 1975, Chicago

Prabhupada: We shall teach the girls two things. **One thing is how to become chaste and faithful to their husband and how to cook nicely. If these two qualifications they have, I will take guarantee to get for them good husband. I'll personally...** Yes. These two qualifications required. She must learn how to prepare first-class foodstuff, and she must learn how to become chaste and faithful to the husband. **Only these two qualification required. Then her life is successful. ...**

Devotees: Yes. [break]

Prabhupada: Educate the girls how to become faithful, chaste wife and how to cook nicely. Let them learn varieties of cooking. Is very difficult? These two qualifications, apart from Krishna consciousness, materially they should learn. There are many stories, Nala-Damayanti, then Parvati, Sita, five chaste women in the history. They should read their life. **And by fifteenth, sixteenth year they should be married. And if they are qualified, it will be not difficult to find out a nice husband.** Here the boys, they do not want to marry because they are not very much inclined to marry unchaste wife. They know it, that "I shall marry a girl, she is unchaste." ...

Brahmananda: Yes.

Prabhupada: This is psychology. **If woman is chaste, even though she is not very beautiful, she will be liked by the husband.** So train them in that way: very chaste, faithful wife and knows how to cook very nicely. Other qualification, even they haven't, that's all right. **And Krishna consciousness is being trained up.** Then there will be no difficulty. And boys should be first-class man. **Then our Gurukula will be successful.**

Morning Walk - January 24, 1977, Bhuvaneshvara

Prabhupada: For the girl, find out a boy who is hard worker or a little educated. Bas. That's all. That was the selection. Then fortune. **You give a daughter under the care of the boy who can work hard. That's all.** They then will earn their livelihood. Even there is no education, a hard worker will do. A boy, as soon as has got the sense that "I have got a wife to maintain," he'll work. That is impetus to give him to work for the family. And if a boy gets wife without any hard work, they why he should marry? And if he has got responsibility that "I have to maintain my wife; then I can enjoy," then he becomes responsible.

Comments by Prabhupadanuga devotees of BIG & BIVC.

As we can see from the above quotes of Srila Prabhupada that if the girl is trained to be chaste and cooks nicely she will have no problems in getting a good husband.

Srila Prabhupada is promising to personally get such a girl married !!!

We at BIG & BIVC have personal experience of this - many devotees and even karmis from good respectable, wealthy families approach us to suggest some girl who would be chaste to the husband, who is not having any affair with another boy, never mind other qualifications !!!

Because even in India now it is hard to find a girl who has not been involved with a boy before marriage. So such girls who have been trained to remain faithful to husband, knows how to cook nicely etc. will become very rare and people are realizing that these are the things which make a home happy apart from Krishna Consciousness.

How can a girl be totally chaste who has not even thought of any other man other than her husband if she is allowed to mix with boys in the name of so called education.

So, we at BIG & BIVC feel that if we follow the simple rule of training the girls to become faithful to the husband, cook nicely with a little ABC (i.e. English, Hindi etc.) and the basic Krishna Consciousness routine of chanting, attending classes is anyway common to all the members of our society as per the instructions of our spiritual master then she will grow up to be a first class girl and will live happily with her husband in Krishna consciousness.

And this she can learn by remaining with her parents and in extraordinary circumstances where such opportunity is not there for the girl and the parents want her to be trained like this we may consider to keep her with the responsible matajis of our community to be trained as per the instructions of Srila Prabhupada.

And as far as marriage is concerned we will follow Srila Prabhupada's instruction "**And by fifteenth, sixteenth year they should be married. And if they are qualified, it will be not difficult to find out a nice husband**"

III) Inspirational Quotes for devotees involved in Gurukula Project

Letter to Dayananda, Nandarani - Calcutta 27, January, 1973

So if you both wish to serve at Gurukula, if Karandhara and Satsvarupa and Mohanananda all agree then certainly you should go there. You have already proven your ability in this field by raising two nice Krishna Conscious children. **So if you can help now to raise hundreds and thousands of children in Krishna Consciousness, that will be the greatest service to Krishna and certainly you shall both go back to home, back to Godhead, by doing this.** But before any new service, be certain that your absence shall not cause any harm to our Los Angeles Temple. After all it is you who first worked so hard in the beginning and should see in the future how it would expand...

Gurukula is our most important project. If the children are given a Krsna Conscious education from early childhood then there is great hope for the future of the world.

I have already given instruction on how the teaching should be conducted there, and this you can learn from Satsvarupa, Mohanananda, and the other senior teachers. Whatever service we do, our enthusiasm must always be kept strong. So Krishna is giving you guidance from within. So if you go to Gurukula, try to help develop things there and make it the model educational institution in the world.

Letter to Satsvarupa - Vrindaban 5 November, 1972

But best thing is to discuss with Karandhara and other GBC men to find a permanent manager of Dallas school, who will not suddenly go away; of course we cannot prevent that someone may suddenly go away, it may happen to anyone, but so far as possible impress upon the leaders what is their duty. **That school is very, very important business,** and the best man must be found out for taking charge there and developing it nicely, and if he sticks and works hard to build it up, **that will please me very much.**

Letter to Mohanananda, Ahemdabad, 11 Dec. 1972

I had suggested him to get a full-time manager, some grhastha, nice husband and wife together, to manage the things, and that he shall expect that **such person will stay tightly and develop it and make that his life work. It is the most important preaching work, to train our children in Krishna Consciousness education of life.** And I think that you are just the right man to do it. Krishna has given you the right idea, just see! I was also at Dallas school last summer and I was very much impressed with these children, how nicely they are becoming preachers ... One day they will turn the world by their preaching. Let the small children from all good families in your country come to our Gurukula School...

IV) Policies at BIG & BIVC, Dist. Tonk, Near Jaipur, India

1) To inspire the grihastha devotees and outsiders to send their children to gurukula by giving them the knowledge given by Srila Prabhupada about this **education system based on daivi varnasrama dharma**. To achieve this objective following steps are taken -

(i) We preach about the importance of gurukula education one to one as per the teachings of Srila Prabhupada to the concerned devotees.

(ii) Translate this book “Back to Srila Prabhupada’s Gurukula” in as many languages as possible and distribute the hard copies to the concerned parents and devotees and people in general.

(iii) Make this book “Back to Srila Prabhupada’s Gurukula” available online and spread it all around on different websites, facebook etc. so that people may know what Srila Prabhupada had said about gurukula system of education.

2) The ritvik system of initiation will be followed as given by Srila Prabhupada for initiating the students of varnasrama college.

3) The main aim of gurukula will be to teach the students how to control their mind, their senses, be very clean, obedient, disciplined and become devotees of Krishna by serving Him as per the instructions given by Srila Prabhupada.

4) Knowledge of English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Maths, Geopgraphy, History etc. will be given which is practically required to get work done in this material world.

5) Once students are well versed with English they will study Srila Prabhupada’s books. Passing Bhakti Shastri course on basic 10 books of Srila Prabhupada including Bhagavad gita will be compulsory for everyone.

6) Students will be trained according to their guna (quality) in varnasrama college and maximum by the age of 20 they will become economically self sufficient.

7) Gurukula will not be affiliated to Government curriculum.

8) The gurukula or college will never deny education to any child if his parents are not capable of paying for the child's education. But parents who are capable will be inspired to support the gurukula financially according to their capacity.

9) Only devotees who are fixed up initiated disciples of Srila Prabhupada will teach in the gurukula. Matajis will teach children only maximum up to age of 10 years in BIG .

Brahamcharis, Sannyasis and qualified brahmanas will train the students of BIVC (above 10 years of age) to become Krishna Conscious. Basic knowledge of English, Maths etc. can be given by older students of gurukula to the younger ones.

10) Teachers will be fixed up initiated brahmanas so there is no question of giving salary to them. Their life will be very simple and austere and they will be maintained by public contribution.

11) One teacher will take care of maximum 10-12 children and there will be one manager to oversee 50 students.

12) Children from 5 to 10-12 years of age will study in BIG and after that they will be sent to BIVC for further training which will go on maximum till 20 years of age.

13) The students will be sumptuously fed – at least 2 times pure cows milk, fresh chappati, dal, sabji, curd, butter milk, sweets and fruits. The food will be prepared in pure ghee made out of cow's milk.

14) Small children will not be engaged in serving the elders or doing any heavy work. They will attend regular K.C program in the temple, study and balance time play. However the grown up boys of BIVC will be engaged in practical work according to their varna (quality/guna/inclination) other than attending regular program in the temple.

15) Children from the age of 5 to 16 will be dealt with strictly to discipline them but in the background love and education will be there. After 16 years of age teachers will only give friendly advice and not be very strict with them.

16) Children can be initiated after the age of 10 years if they are chanting 16 rounds and following 4 regulative principles, at least for a period of 6 months and if they continue to follow the above rules perfectly for another 1 year then they can be recommended for second initiation.

After initiation they can be engaged in cooking for the deities and doing deity worship etc. The ritvik system of initiation will be followed as given by Srila Prabhupada for giving initiation.

17) Girls will be mainly taught to be faithful to husband, cooking and cleaning other than basic English, Hindi, Maths etc.

Till 10 years girls and boys can study together but after that even their training will be separate. Girls will live with their parents or elderly matajis. There will be no separate hostel for girls.

18) BIVC and Brahamchari Ashrama will be together (physically) and will be at a considerable physical distance (at least 1 to 2 Kms) from the place where grihasthas are living and the main temple is there where general people are visiting.

19) After attaining the age of 25 the boys can choose to remain naistika brahamchari or get married. The girls should be married by 18 years of age.

20) And everyone will attend the regular morning and evening program in the temple and work for Krishna. **This is daivi varnasrma dharma.**

Appendix

I. Shlokas Quoted with their meaning in this book

1. *“pita na sa syat janani na sa syat... na mocayed ye samupetya-mrtyum”*

One should not become a father or a mother unless one is able to save his children from the impending clutches of death. (SB 5.5.18)

2. *“Brahmacari guru-kule vasan danto guror hitam”*

A student should practice completely controlling his senses. With a great vow, the brahmacari should live at the Gurukula, only for the benefit of the guru. (SB 7.12.1)

3. *“tapasa brahmacaryena, samena ca damena ca, tyagena satya-saucabhyam, yamena niyamena va”*

To concentrate the mind, one must observe a life of celibacy and not fall down. One must undergo the austerity of voluntarily giving up sense enjoyment. One must then control the mind and senses, give charity, be truthful, clean and nonviolent, follow the regulative principles and regularly chant the holy name of the Lord. (SB 6.1.13)

4. *“Brahma-bhuta prasannatma”*

When one is self-realized he becomes happy. [Bg. 18.54]

5. *“Kaumara acaret prajo dharman bhagavatan iha”*

From the very beginning of life, from the age of five, children should be instructed about bhagavata-dharma. (S.B 6.16.43 Purport)

6. *“dehapatya-kalatradisū, atma-sainyesu asatsv api tena pramatto nidhana, pasyan api na pasyati”*

Persons devoid of ātma-tattva do not inquire into the problems of life, being too attached to the fallible soldiers like the body, children and wife. Although sufficiently experienced, they still do not see their inevitable destruction. (S.B)

7. *“matravat para-daresu”*

One should consider another's wife to be one's mother. (Chanakya Pandita)

8. ***“krsi-go-raksha vanijyam vaisya-karma svabhava jam”***

The proper engagements for vaisyas, according to their nature, are to farm and to protect cows. (B.G,18.44)

9. ***“samo damo tapo saucam, kshantir arjavam eva ca
janam vijanama astikyam, brahma-karma svabhava-jam***

"Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, wisdom, knowledge, and religiousness - these are the qualities by which the brahmanas work." (B.G, 18.42)

10. ***“tapo diyam putraka yena sattva,
suddhyed yasmad brahma-saukhyam tv anantam,”***

In the human form, the living being must engage himself in Krishna consciousness to purify his existence. [S.B, 5.5.1]

11. ***“Lalane bahavo dosau”*** - "If you simply pat, then there will be so many faults."

“Tadane bahavo gunau” - "And if you chastise, oh, they will be very much qualified."

“tasmad” – therefore

“putram ca sisyam ca tadayen na tu lalayet” - "simply chastise. Don't pat"

12. ***“Lalyet panca varsani, tadyet dasa varsani,
prapte tu sodashakam varse putraa mitravet acaret”***

"You should give all freedom to your child for five years, and then, next ten years, you should be very strict, very strict, so that the child may be very much afraid. And as soon as he attains sixteen years of age, then you should treat him like friend, not, I mean to say, so strictly."

13. ***“Kokilanam svaro rupam vidya rupam kurupanam nari-rupam pati-vratam”***.

The cuckoo is just like a crow, but everyone likes because his voice is so sweet. A black man or ugly man, if he is educated, that is his beauty, Woman's beauty is how she is faithful to her husband.

II. More references of quotes of Srila Prabhupada on questions given in this book.

Question 1

- 1) S.B 2.3.14-15 -L.A, May 31, 1972;
 - 2) Room Conv. B. F. Skinner;
 - 3) Room Conv. - July 4, 1972, New York;
 - 4) S.B 2.3.14-15 -L.A, May 31,1972;
 - 5) Pandal Lect. - Delhi, Nov 12, 1971;
 - 6) S.B 7.6.1 purport
-

Question 3

- 1) S.B 7.9.35 - Mayapur, Mar 13, 1976;
 - 2)S.B 7.5.23-24 - Vrnd., Mar 31, 1976;
 - 3) Letter to: Rupanuga - L.A, 8 Aug, 1969;
 - 4) S.B 6.1.48 - Dallas, July 30, 1975
 - 5) Pandal Lect. - Bombay, Jan12, 1973;
 - 6)Arrival Lect. - Dallas, Mar 3, 1975
 - 7) Room Conv . with Mr. Wax, - July 5,1975
-

Question 4

- 1) Room Conv. -July 4,1972, N.Y;
 - 2) Letter to Giriraja -12 Apr,1972;
 - 3) Letter to: Satsvarupa – L.A 19 Apr, 1973;
 - 4) Pandal Lect -, Jan12, 1973
 - 5) Room Conv.- June17,1976,Toronto;
 - 6) Letter to Pusta Krsna - 5Aug, 1972
 - 7) S.B 7.5.23-24 -Vrnd.,Mar 31,1976;
 - 8) Morn.Walk - Oct 18,1975
-

Question 5

- 1) Vrnd, Mar 12,1974 -Varnasrma Walk;
 - 2)Johannesburg,Oct.16,1975 -Morn.Walk
 - 3) Rome, May 27,1974 -Morn. Walk
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Question 6

- 1) Hyderabad, Apr 20,1974 -Morn. Walk;
 - 2) Hyderabad, Apr 20,1974 - Morn.walk
 - 3) Vrnd. , Mar 14,1974 - Varnasrama Walk;
 - 4) Room conv. B. F. Skinner
-

Question 7

- 1) Letter to: Aniruddha – Calcutta,7 Mar, 1972;
- 2) Letter to: Citsukhananda - Alhbd,10 Jan,1971;
- 3) Geneva,June 6,1974,B.G13.35

Question 8

- 1) Letter to: Jayatirtha -Mayapur ,Jan 22,1976;
 - 2) S.B 6.1.21-Honolulu, May 21, 1976
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Question 9

- 1) Lord Nrsimhadeva's Appearance Day- L.A, May 27, 1972
-

Question 10

- 1) Letter to: Jagadisa -Bombay, Nov 20, 1975
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Question 12

- 1) Letter to: Harsarani -Mayapur ,28 Feb,1972;
 - 2) Letter to: Satsvarupa -Calcutta ,16 Feb, 1972;
 - 3) Letter to: Stokakrsna -L.A. 13 June,1972
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Question 13

- 1) B.G 4.21-Bombay, Apr 10, 1974;
 - 2) Room Conv. with the Mayor of Evanston -July 4, 1975, Chicago;
 - 3) Letter to: Stokakrsna -L.A 20 June, 1972
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Question 14

- 1) Letter to: Stokakrsna -L.A.20 June, 1972; 2) Room Conv. July 4, 1972, N.Y
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Question 15

- 1) Letter to: Saradia-Nairobi, Sept 25, 1971;
 - 2) Letter to: Satyabhama -Hawaii ,Mar 30, 1969
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Question 16

- 1) S.B 2.1.3, Paris, June 12, 1974
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Question 17

- 1) Letter to: Naiskarmi -Bhaktivedanta Manor 28 July, 1973
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III. Thanks Note

I would like to thank **Raghav Pandit Prabhu** (Secretary, Hare Krishna Community) for providing wonderful **photographs of Srila Prabhupada** to be included in this book which has made this book appear very lively.

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Maitrey Muni Prabhu (faculty at BIVC) prepared Appendix 2, - **“More references of quotes of Srila Prabhupada on Questions in this book”** which will give the reader more insight into the subject.

Finally, I would like to thank **Vrinda Devi Dasi** (Principal BIG) for formatting and getting this book printed without which it could not come in your hands in the form it is now.

I, personally thank Srila Prabhupada to give me guidance and inspiration to organize his teachings related to Gurukula for the benefit of everyone.

And all of us (family of devotees at “Hare Krishna Community”) **dedicate this book to Srila Prabhupada on the auspicious day of Gaur Poornima** (23rd March 2016) at Jaipur, India.

We also invite all the Vaisnavas to give us suggestions or comments wherein we can improve this presentation of Srila Prabhupada’s teachings regarding Gurukula system of education. You can mail your suggestion to dayalunitai108@gmail.com or call me personally on +91-9829134512.

Your servant in the service of Srila Prabhupada,
Dayalu Nitai Das.
(President – Hare Krishna Community).

Note: You can also visit www.harekrishnacommunity.org or www.bigvc.org for more information about “Hare Krishna Community” and “Bhaktivedanta International Gurukula and Varnasrama College”.