



Bala Mandir Research Foundation

cordially invites you to the

S. Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar - 2010

Values for Everyday Living

Welcome	9.30 a.m.
Ethics for Children Prabha Sridevan <i>Former Judge - Madras High Court</i>	9.40 a.m.
Schools and Value Systems Anna George <i>Former Principal - AMM Mat. School</i>	10.10 a.m.
TEA BREAK	10.40 a.m.
Values in the Context of Diversity S. Anandalakshmy <i>President - BMRF</i>	11.00 a.m.
The Family as a Source of Values Maya Gaitonde <i>Secretary - BMRF</i>	11.30 a.m.
Discussion	12.00 noon

Date: Saturday 18th December, 2010

Time: 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Venue: Bala Mandir Resource Centre
31, Prakasam Street, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

VALUES FOR LIVING

S. Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar

We live in a confusing world. Information in bits and pieces are scattered around us, even thrown at us, at meteoric speed from various sources: newspapers and magazines, the Net and networks, television channels and the cinema, the indispensable mobile phone and the latest harvest of Apples and Blackberries! For the young who are still at school and college, add the diet of the enormous curriculum, presented in sizeable chunks, with little thought for their absorption.

It is a challenge to make meaning out of all this. It is even more difficult to make decisions about everyday matters, which would be realistic, as well as just and ethical. Should children learn from the examples of 'successful' and rich people? Can people who live exemplary lives with modest means and integrity be role models for the young? Are real heroes found only in history books and traditional legends or does contemporary India offer any icons?

As we all know, parents plan furiously for their children's future, wanting the best for them, naturally. However, in the process, the definition of what is "best" tends to get distorted. Globalization and the Market offer choices, of course, but subtly define the very objective of our lives. The result is a condition that has been called "Affluenza"! This may perhaps refer to a narrow, upper segment of the population. The other end of the spectrum, where families eke out a sparse living, also calls for our collective and immediate attention. People at all levels of the economic scale aspire for a better future for their children, but they are mostly unsure about how to negotiate the demands of the Present with the expectations of the Future.

If one should just walk into a classroom of 10-year-olds and ask them to mention short words beginning with the letter S, they are more likely to come up with SCAM rather than 'skip', 'ship', 'soup' 'shot' or 'song'. We are bombarded with scams as they bounce like rockets off domes and terraces. We are left angry and helpless at the sheer immensity and dominance of dishonesty in all walks of life.

Do we, as concerned adults, have a responsibility to guide children? Can we help them to believe that it is possible to be principled and still lead a good life? Can they plan to make the world a better place? How do we ensure that the value for peace and living in harmony is inculcated among the young under our care? How do we engender compassion and helpfulness and a sense of shared humanity in children?