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Happy families make a happy society



From the President's desk

Hello Friends

This month we observed the International Day of Families on May 15th. The more you talk about the importance of a family the less it may seem. This is because the importance of a family is something that goes beyond words. Family means 'a social unit living together' and a society is the sum of various social units living together. In the absence of a happy family, no society will be able to sustain itself for long. Today we witness a lot of disharmony in the society

that we live in. The reason could be the evolution that the value system is undergoing because of the impact of advanced science and technology over the last century and the speedy life style changes because of the changed economic models over the recent decades. About a decade or two back, one could not fathom the nature of the lifestyle that people are leading today. This has given rise to a whole set of new challenges at the micro level which individual families have to deal with on a daily basis. The disability to cope up with challenges that the contemporary times brings has led to numerous conflicts in families damaging the peace and happiness in families.

When you are disillusioned by external factors, your family is always there to fall back on. Your family always accepts you with all your mistakes and weaknesses and still loves. There is never a substitute for the love of a mother, father, wife, child or your siblings. . The feeling that there's

someone to count upon gives one the maximum peace of mind.

In the global happiness ranking list, India stands at rank 111. The Happiness report ranks nations on the basis of six key factors that include GDP per capita, **healthy life expectancy, someone to count on, perceived freedom to make life choices**, freedom from corruption, and **generosity**. Even if one decides to disregard the statistics, the current state of affairs is testimony to the fact that we have a long way to go before we become a happy society.

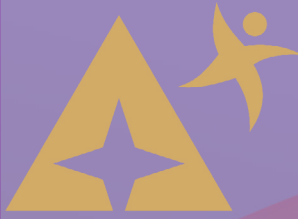
We, at Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, understand the urgency & priority involved. We have centered our efforts on micro-level enabling for every family to face the modern day challenges more effectively and be a happy family.

The effort of every human being is driven towards achieving happiness. Though happiness is subjective, to be happy is the core motive behind all human activity. A person can be happy only when he or she respects, trusts and loves the people around and greets circumstances with greater humility.

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Education

Top most Family Priority: Quality education for their children



All parents have realized that it is only education that will be the sole means for their children's individual as well collective development and growth. Every parent in India is spending a sizable portion of their in-flows for better quality of education for their wards. Children's education is a priority concern and matter of discussion in all families. In the last decade, the country has seen a remarkable rise in the number of private schools in the urban as well as rural areas. This is in direct response to the demands of a more quality conscious parent community. In an environment in which the monopoly of providing quality education is slipping out of the hands of a few established schools, it is becoming important for all private schools to create their own identity in order to stand up to the competition. It is imperative that private schools deliver what the market expects - the growing demands of higher education and the pressure to produce graduates with employability or entrepreneurial skills to fuel the growing economy - in return for the fees charged to the parents. Thus it is also a survival measure for schools to create a good public impression. In these circumstances, the family in particular and society in general needs a yardstick that can endorse whether private schools are actually delivering what they claim through the mass media, and to what extent they can fulfill the needs and aspirations of parents.

As you are aware Shri. Shantilal Muttha and Dr. Arun Nigavekar have launched a new venture Athena Advanced Learning Solutions with a core offering of a school process assessment and grading system, Athena-GPA. Athena-GPA inherits BJS experience and expertise in all types of Indian schools through its widely acknowledged school assessment model - BJS SAA. Dr. Nigavekar and Mr. Muttha envisioned Athena-GPA, as an extended solution of BJS SAA, making it more relevant in addressing the core need of every family for ensuring quality education. Athena-GPA provides schools a chance to authenticate their claims and gives parents the means to validate what impression about schools they may have gathered from arbitrary sources. Parents, in their quest for good education for their children want to know which school is good and what is the best option for them. Athena - GPA system for schools ensures the third-party evaluation of a school on pre-decided criteria. These criteria are especially decided to answer concerns from parent-centric perspectives.



Jain Minority Update

The Jain Community was accorded the Minority Status on January 27th 2014 by the Central Government. With the objective of educating all Jains about the Benefits of Minority Status, Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana has come up with a set of six books addressing the subjects of Minority Benefits to Students, Educational Institutions, Women, NGOs, Businesses and Religious Establishments. Around 7000 set of set of books have been purchased till now. You may call the Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana Head Office at 020 66050000 to place your order. You may also download the e books from <http://www.bjsindia.org/JainMinorityBooklets.php>. So far, 700 people have downloaded the e-books from the website.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Close ties with family helps cope up with everyday difficulties

The institution of family holds significant importance in the context of the Indian society. Certain factors in the traditional value system have potential to allow the family to nourish and grow in a healthy manner.

In the Indian context, a family plays an important role in guiding and shaping the lives of its younger family members. The family is profoundly important for the developmental, emotional and cognitive growth of a child. In today's dynamic scenario, the role of the family has become even more vital to facilitate right directions for our children.

Growing up has never been easy and it never will be. Between the ages of 14 and 21, adolescents undergo a transition and it is during this time that they form their opinions about life. Today, growing up has become more complex than before. With the onslaught of media and technology, youngsters are vulnerable to drift away. Constant exposure to internet, mobile phones and television along with peer pressure coupled with the desire to fit in, have taken over the young minds.

The present onslaught of media and technology is most likely to take toll on inter personal relationships. The youth is bombarded with messages that are often inconsistent with the parents'

values and behavioral standards. There is also an increasing generation gap between children and parents leading to a lack of communication within the family. Youngsters between the ages of 14 and 24 are likely to be vulnerable and take decisions which may affect their life in the longer run.

To prevent youngsters from succumbing to vulnerabilities, it is of utmost importance that parents encourage an open environment of communication such that children can turn to their parents in times of trial. Recent studies show the alarming increase in the number of suicides by working professionals in the services sector. This shows that youngsters often choose to fight their battles alone rather than confiding in family members.

In such testing times family must be the light that guides one out of their darkness. Perhaps it is parents who need to change ways with changing times so that the youngsters feel more confident to keep the communication open.

Empowerment of Girls and Empowerment of Couples programmes by Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana have impactful modules to drive these messages for both parents and youngsters through participation of both the generations.

BJS offers programs to address and tackle concerns of modern day family

For the last three decades, Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana has worked ceaselessly to create awareness about social issues affecting individuals, families and the society at large. We have been successful in leveraging the existing means to improve the general quality of life and thus facilitating transformation to suit to the contemporary developments. BJS has seen the concept of family evolve from a traditional joint family set up to a contemporary nuclear set up. With a thorough understanding of factors that affect family life, BJS has closely studied forces that influence family dynamics and lead to complexities.

Three decades back, there were very few who could foresee challenges that modern day families would have had to face and Shri Shantilal Muttha was one of them. After being able to anticipate contemporary concerns, Mutthaji forged ahead to start BJS and designed programs that would serve as practical solutions to resolve these issues. He reflected upon the life of an individual right from childhood and designed programs to facilitate every step.

Going to school is one of the very first milestones of a child. Going to school is a privilege where the intelligence and abilities of every child are being tested to the utmost. As the child reaches class IV, it becomes imperative for parents to gauge the emotional, social, physical and intellectual growth of the child. BJS designed and developed a test called as Student's Assessment Program IV test (SAP IV) which enables teachers and parents to get a better understanding of the child's holistic growth. Designed by the highly professional in house team of BJS, SAP IV a simple and enjoyable test of three hours, for which the student requires no preparation.

When the child reaches class VIII, it becomes essential that we carry out a thorough assessment of the potential & aptitude to know his/her interests, likings & weaknesses in order to groom the

child to utilize his/her full potential for the career. SAP VIII results give the details of the student's aptitude, areas of interest, and lacunae in the aspired field thus facilitating to enhance the abilities and skills to help him/her select the right career.

After class ten, every student is at a crossroad where he/she needs to decide which career path to take. While some might be clear about their interests and likes, there might be others who are lost and need career guidance. It would be wrong if a student chooses a particular line just because of peer pressure or because of his/her parents' expertise in that particular line. Ten years ago, one could not imagine that the youth of today, would have so many career options to choose from. Similarly, the youth of today should be able to choose their career line appropriately which will suit their interest and which will help them sustain themselves one or two decades down the line. The career guidance sessions offered by BJS helps students to identify their strengths and needs and builds a plan based on their personal profiles. It helps students recognize their goals and work towards achieving them in a constructive manner.

As an individual chooses his stream of interest, he/she is introduced to college and the outside world. This is the golden period of everybody's life but it is also the time when one might tend to get carried away and take decisions which will negatively impact their future. With the increasing influence of media and technology in our daily lives, youngsters face several challenges due to external factors in the society, as well as internal factors like attitudes, beliefs, awareness, and thinking. The Empowerment of Girls' is a certificate course for young girls between the ages of 14 and 25, aims at providing learning opportunities to think and become aware of self and social realities. This helps them to make appropriate choices which will empower them to take responsibility of their own safety and wellness while dealing with demands and challenges of every-day life.

The EoG courses thus help families be rest assured about their young family members. This eventually helps maintain harmony in the family.

After getting settled in their career, the next obvious decision that every adult has to take is that of marriage. Previously, the elderly persons of the family chose life partners for the young adult in the family. Back then, the criteria for marriage were less complex. Today, youngsters have different criteria which the parents might not be able to understand completely. To help a family tackle this, BJS provides the most suitable platform in the form of Parichay Sannam, where young girls and boys are likely to meet a like-minded partner whose beliefs and values match with theirs and with whom they can spend the rest of their lives.

They say that starting a relationship is easy, but sustaining it is the tough part about it. A marriage is bound to go through ups and downs. But at times, these ups and downs that can give way to minor tiffs between couples might pose to be a threat to the marriage, thus taking a toll on their other interpersonal family relationships too. To help a couple sustain their marriage in the dynamics of the modern society, BJS offers the Empowerment of Couples course which will help couples establish a better bond with each other and the entire family by enhancing understanding, trust and love. BJS also offers family counseling sessions for those who need it. BJS has a family counselors training program for eligible members designed and rolled out with the intention of creating a pool of counselors across locations looking at the need of many of the families.

Going a step further, BJS has recently launched some developmental tours for entrepreneurs and educational tours for students across the country. For helping students get a better understanding of the cultural heritage of the country more closely, BJS has organized a national tour in October. Further to the career guidance programs, BJS has also arranged for career guidance sessions in prime cities of the country, to be conducted by noted career trainers who will tell students what is it that they need to do to recognize their calling and make it big. BJS has an Entrepreneurship Development program and has arranged sessions in various cities by noted and distinguished trainers. This will help entrepreneurs enhance their skills which will provide them the much needed cutting edge in the industry. When you are leading a business, it is equally important to network with others from the same field as it broadens your knowledge horizon. With an objective to facilitate networking and more, a Business Exposure tour has been designed to help entrepreneurs expand their business.

By offering direction with the above mentioned programs, BJS aims to eliminate all stress related factor in a person's life which would have otherwise taken a toll on their family lives. Family is always at the nucleus of all our efforts to bring about change. BJS sincerely looks forward to being an indispensable part of the machinery to ensure progress at an individual and national level.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Parichay Sannam

Highly Educated Parichay Sannam - Pune
25th May 2014

Contact- Shri. Shripal Lalwani, 9823977472
MOC- Shri. Prafulla Parakh, Pune

2. Empowerment of Girls Workshop

MH-Vitha, Sangli, 2-4 May 2014

Contact- Shri. Sanyam Shah, 9028434403
Trainer- Shri. Ratnakar Mahajan, Hingoli.

KA-Banglore, 24, 25, 26 May 2014
Contact- Shri. Suresh Doka, 9341066908

Trainer- Shri. Rajendra Lunger, Erode
MH-Sangli, 30, 31 May 1 June 2014

Contact- Mrs. Jyoti Malu, 9326862865

Trainer- Mrs. Ratna Gosavi, Pune

3. Trainers Training Program for educational institutes & members from community

EOG - Indore- 5 to 8 May 2014

Contact - Shri. Dilip Doshi , 9406609998

Trainer- Mrs. Amita Jain, Ujjain & Mrs. Ratna Gosavi, Pune

EOG - Indore- 6 to 8 May 2014

Contact - Shri. Dilip Doshi , 9406609998

Trainer- Shri. Sanjay Singhi, Raipur

4. Career Guidance Program by Dr. Yugai Rayalu, Nagpur

TN - 9 to 11 May 2014

Cuddalore, Sivakasi, Coimbatore, Conoor, Salem

KA- 12-14 May 2014

Chitradurga, Shimoga, Bellary, Hospet, Hubli, Balgaum

5. Business Entrepreneurship Program

KA - Hubli -9 May 2014

Contact - Shri. Goutam Bafna, 9844054592

Resource Person - Shri. Chakor Gandhi, Pune

6. Jain Minority

Training Program at Head Office on 31 May 2014

Lecture by Shri. Sudarshan Jain, Amaravati

MH- Mumbai, Sangli

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