

VAISHNAVA TRAINING ACADEMY

Level 2 (Full-time Training)

ISKCON Chowpatty
Mar 2023 –Mar 2024

INFORMATION BROCHURE



SRILA PRABHUPADA'S EMPHASIS ON TRAINING

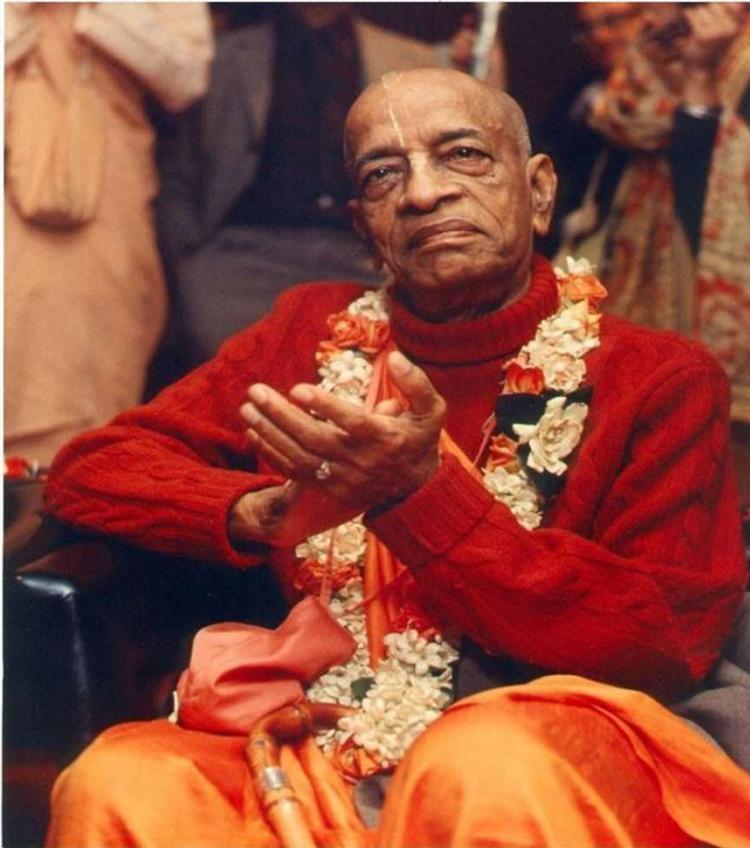


Letter to Hamsaduta, June 22, 1972

“Now we have got so many students and so many temples but I am fearful that if we expand too much in this way that we shall become weakened and gradually the whole thing will become lost. Just like milk. We may thin it more and more with water for cheating the customer, but in the end it will cease to be anylonger milk.

Better to boil the milk now very vigorously and make it thick and sweet, that is the best process. So let us concentrate on training our devotees very thoroughly in the knowledge of Krishna Consciousness from our books, from tapes, by discussing always, and in so many ways instruct them in the right propositions.“

SRILA PRABHUPADA'S EMPHASIS ON TRAINING



Transcendental Diary Vol. 3- Hari Sauri dasa

Çréla Prabhupāda was pleased to hear that new Indian devotees are joining.

This is something he has wanted for a long time. Still, he doesn't want to admit just anyone who comes along; in India many are simply attracted by the superficial material opulence of the western devotees. Prabhupāda therefore informed Gopāla how he could ensure a good standard of new recruits.

"Concerning the new bhakta program, unless one is educated, we should not admit anyone and everyone without discrimination. One who has got culture and education, he can be accepted."

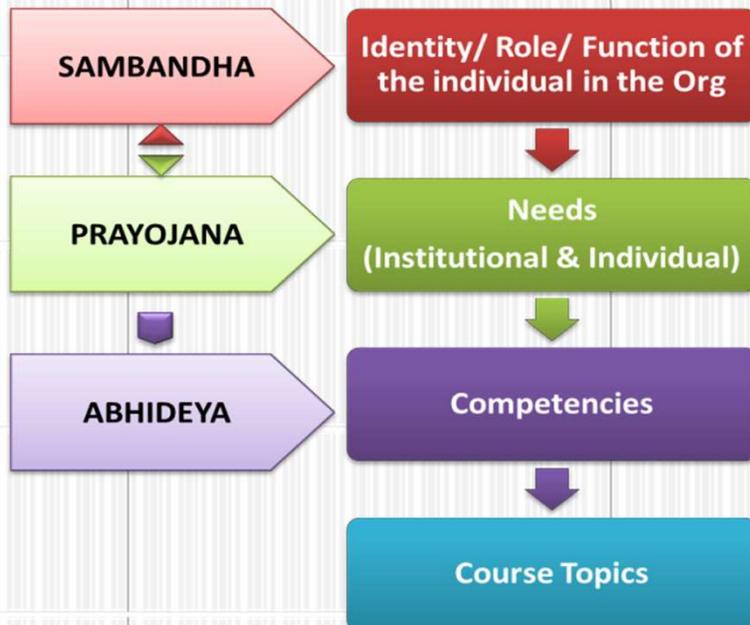
VISION

To expose the trainees to *brahmacari* training based on service, submission and shastra leading to cultivation of a self-inspired and self-disciplined personality who is capable of taking a responsible decision for situating oneself in a favorable (*brahmachari/ grihastha*) ashram with an aim of leading a stable and satisfied Krishna conscious life till the last breath.

OBJECTIVES

1. Become self-inspired and self-disciplined to practice sincere Sadhana for the rest of their lives.
2. Develop aspiration to exhibit complete submission to the will of Guru & Vaishnavas
3. Exhibit chastity to the foundational principles of Ashram life
4. Develop an aspiration and constantly practice to acquire the qualities which are characteristic of a Vaishnava *especially co-operation etc.*
5. Exhibit basic skills in terms of Book Distribution, Deity Services, Team work
6. Exhibit clear knowledge of philosophy of Krishna consciousness in connection with the basic books Bhagavad Gita, NOD etc.
7. Maintain high standards of personal health & cleanliness
8. If joining *grihastha* ashram after training, as per traditional *varnasrama* standards, able to lead ideal *grihastha* life based on pre-marriage *brahmacari* training.

STAGES IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT



VTA LEVEL-2 TRAINING NEEDS

**Identity/ Role/
Function of
the individual
in the Org**

- Sadhaka Trainee
- Ashram Trainee- Learning to act as legs of the society
- Future leader of the movement

**Needs
(Institutional
& Individual)**

- To become self-inspired, self-disciplined & self-sufficient to serve for ones lifetime in Ashram
- To imbibe the principle of strong Sadhana*
- *To imbibe the principle of submission and servitor-hood*
- *Knowledge of and chastity to Ashram principles esp. 10 instructions*

**Core
Competencies**

- Spiritual strength:* Strong in MP, Chanting, Hearing, Reading; *Values:* Behavioral traits of Vaishnava esp. submission to authority, co-operation; *Skills:* Book Distribution, Deity Services, Team work; *Knowledge:* Ashram principles, Philosophy, Verses, Vaishnava Bhajans

SCHEDULE : MONDAY TO SATURDAY

#	From	To	Activity	Comments
	4:20AM		Temple hall cleaning	Attendance
1	5:00AM		Mangal Arati	Attendance
2	6:00AM	7:15 AM	Japa	Attendance
3	7:45AM	8:15 AM	Guru Puja	Attendance
4	8:15AM	9:15 AM	SB Class	Attendance
5	9:15AM	10:00 AM	Rest	
6	10:15AM	10:45 AM	Prasadam Serving	
7	10.45AM	01:00PM	Personal Sadhana/Cloth cleaning/ Lunch/Rest etc	
8	01:10PM	02:15PM	Vani seva	
9	02:15PM	3:25 AM	Cleanliness	
10	03:30PM	04:10 PM	Musical instruments practice / SP Books Reading	Music instrument and SP book reading alternate days
11	4:15PM	5: 10PM	Yoga / Exercise	
12	05:15PM	06:15PM	VTA2 Class including Q&A	Attendance
13	06:30PM	07:00PM	Dinner	
14	7:00PM	7:35 PM	Gaura Arati	Attendance (Not leading Kirtan, can lead if no one is available; Can lead Narsimha Arti)
15	7:40PM	8.10 PM	Shloka Memorization	
16	8:00PM	8.30 PM	Krishna Book reading/ Vaisnava Bhajans	Alternate weeks
17	8:30PM - Onwards	Night rest		

Remarks:

Trainees will be subjected to a strict mobile/internet policy.

Lectures will be based on scriptures with focus on application

SCHEDULE: SUNDAY

#	From	To	Activity	Remarks
1	4:55 AM	10:00 AM	Standard Temple Morning Program Schedule	
2	10:15 AM	10:45 PM	Serving	
3	03:00 PM	3:30 PM	Shloka Test	
4	3:45 PM	4:45 PM	Maha cleaning of VTA2 area	Attendance
5	4:45 PM	5:45 PM	Vaishnav Etiquette/ Ista gosti	
6	5:45 PM	7:00 PM	Contemplation: Reflecting in life from classes heard in the week	
No menial services				

SCHEDULE OF YATRAS & CAMPS

1. Yatra will be conducted based on principles of book distribution and sankirtan.
2. Camps will be conducted focused on topics viz. japa, sadachar, servant-leadership forgiveness etc.

DRESS CODE

The devotees should follow high standards of cleanliness including.,

1. Take minimum 2 baths per day.
2. Wear fresh clothes viz. dhoti, kurta
3. Not keep moustache, beard, long hair etc.

DO'S

- ✓ Should treat this facility as a solid training ground in Krishna consciousness.
- ✓ Should attend morning program from 4:20 AM onwards, failing which a fine will be applicable
- ✓ Should be present in the temple hall from 5.00 AM to 9.15 AM except during breakfast time.
- ✓ Should try to maintain high levels of spiritual consciousness and avoid gossip/mundane talks.
- ✓ Should display sincerity and eagerness in rendering any allotted service in the temple.
- ✓ Should align with the temple rules and follow them strictly.
- ✓ Should keep premises clean.
- ✓ Should keep all their belongings in the allotted locker ONLY. No bag, suitcase etc. should be kept in premises.
- ✓ Clothes and other articles kept outside will be confiscated. Confiscated items will be returned after paying stipulated fine.
- ✓ One must get prior permission from VTA Admin for leave, whenever one leaves temple campus overnight.

DON'Ts

- Should not engage in unnecessary gossip.
- Should not borrow/ lend money from fellow trainees.
- Should not invite his non-trainee friends into premises or ashram area.
- Should not request use of temple e-mail/ computers, fax/ telephone etc.
- Should not keep their clothes and other items hanging here and there.
- Should not stay overnight outside, without prior permission from Admin.
- Should not sleep in lockers area during the night.

ASHRAM TRAINING - LEVEL 2

Eligibility criteria – Successful completion of VTA Training (Level 1 at SSRG temple.

Note - Based on observations made during training period, recommendation will be made by training department regarding suitability of candidate for future ashram (brahmachari/ grihastha). The trainee candidate can consider this advice from experienced devotees seriously and take decision accordingly. After VTA-2 training ends, there will be no binding on training department to induct trainee in the brahmacari ashram.

TENURE AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Candidate is expected to spend maximum time undergoing training during this period. Minimum Presence (90%)
- Maximum leaves allowed are 22 (2 per month) with valid reasons.
- Training Starts 25th Mar 2023.
- VTA-2 training ends by 26th Mar 2024.
- Admission will be based on submitting an application forms (A – Candidate personal information, B- Counselors recommendation, C – Parent’s permission), and then a personal interview.
- Last Date for Applying: 18th Dec, 2022
- Interview Date: Will be intimated to applied candidates personally.
- Interested Candidate or preachers can email us for more information and application forms. email:
 - vtassrgm@gmail.com with subject “VTA Level-2”