

Simple Principles of a Simple temple

Introduction

- Principles
- Foundation
- Attitude
- Application

Principles

- To serve the physical body, emotional mind and the spirit soul
- To take shelter of Hearing and chanting
- To lead by personal example
- To love and serve each other with spiritual purity
- To offer education, training and care to each devotee
- To ensure that every devotee remains in the movement throughout his life

Foundation

- Perform our “Prescribed Duties”- Eg. Chota Haridas
- Follow Vaishnava Etiquette
- To try to serve in the mood of Servant of Servant of Krsna (Gopi pada kamala....)

Attitude

- Grihastas genuinely honor and respect the Renounced order
 - Preaching in China...Radha Damodar party
- Renounced order genuinely honors and respects the Grihasta order

Example: Book distribution, Grihasthas take charge of temple and Brahmacharis do distribution

Application

- Brahmacharis try to respect everyone women as their 'Mother' not as 'Maya Devi'
- Enthusiastically preach to the public and serve the congregation
- Everyone including the Temple President's has to do menial service like mopping floors, cleaning toilets etc.

The Grhastha Ashram

- Need for Grhastha counseling system
- Purpose of Grhastha counseling system
- Attitude

Need for Grhastha Counseling System

- Husband and wife ignorant of Krishna Conscious family life
- Misconceptions

Purpose Grhastha Counseling System

- Senior Grhastas to help junior to spiritually grow through dealing with their problems.
- Deal with obstacles in a Krsna Conscious way
- Educate the couples to adjust with one another
- Balance Sadhana and Service with Occupational and Domestic duties
- To provide a framework of personal care and attention to each devotee.
- Counselors also become advanced by guiding others.

Attitude

- The relationship of counselor and counselees not managerial but personal.
- Management and the counselors work cooperatively to help each devotee
- No enforcement of any rules amongst the counselees.
- Be a loving friend and guide

Functioning of Counselor System

Functioning of Counselor System

- Qualification of counselor
- Responsibility of a counselor
- Function of board of counselors
- Counselor for counselors
- Counselee meeting format
- Choosing counselor
- Training principles for counselees

Qualification of Counselor

- Counselors should have a nice understanding of the philosophy and practice of Krsna consciousness.
- They should be able to give balanced advice according to time, place, and circumstance.
- They should not be prone to taking extreme and controversial positions on issues.
- They should be willing to extend themselves to help others and should have a spirit of sacrifice.
- Counselors should be compassionate and should have a genuine concern for the welfare of devotees.

Qualification of Counselor

- Counselors should be good listeners—they should at least be able to listen to the people they are trying to serve.
- Counselors should be mature and sober persons.
- They should have been active within ISKCON for a reasonable length of time.
- Counselors should demonstrate a good standard of sadhana, etiquette, behavior, and commitment to serving the mission of Srila Prabhupada.
- Counselors should be stably situated within their own ashram.

Responsibility of Counselor

- Counselors should be a friend and guide in Krsna consciousness.
- They should be an elder spiritual brother or sister and should take personal care of devotees in their group.
- They should encourage and inspire their counselees in Krsna consciousness and monitor their progress.
- They should provide Krsna conscious training to their counselees.
- They should not only counsel their counselees in spiritual matters but also in all personal and domestic matters whenever necessary.
- They should look into the overall welfare of the lives of their counselees

Responsibility of Counselor

- **Counselor is a Preacher**

- Preaches exemplarily role model (Quality)
- Preaches effectively (Quantity)

Responsibility of Counselor

- **Counselor is a Mentor and Trainer**
 - Gives spiritual guidance
 - Train practical skills
 - Assess and correct
 - Convey knowledge
 - Instills in others the value and principles of real spiritual life

Responsibility of Counselor

- **Counselor is a friend**
 - Cares for emotional well being
 - Listens to problems and finds best possible solutions
 - Accessible and open minded
 - Ensures ongoing personal development of the counselees

Responsibility of Counselor

- **Counselor is a Manager and Facilitator**
 - Provides manpower for the temple services keeping that as priority
 - Inspires them to perform practical services

Responsibility of Counselor

- **Liaison between temple management and Counselees**
 - Ensures a communication flow between those in his care, other counselees group and temple management
 - Ensures that there is cooperation between those in his care, other counselee groups and management

Responsibility of Counselor

■ **Sadhaka**

- Chants 16 rounds attentively especially in public
- Strictly follows 4 regulative principles
- Studying Srila Prabhupada's books
- Attending morning program on a regular basis

Responsibility of Counselor

- **Psychologist**

- Basic counseling skills
- Knows when and whom to send the counselee to, when the problem is beyond his scope

Function of Board of Counselor

- They meet once a month
- Temple Presidents and Brahmachari counselors also attend the meeting
- Discussion on Sadhana, reading Prabhupada Books etc.,
- Discussing on “caring of devotees”
- Managerial policies discussed.

Counselor for Counselors

- A very Senior Grhasta elected to be the counselor of all counselors
- Counselors also counseled by other counselors
- Meeting itself provides counseling for the counselors

Counselee meeting format

- Meeting, once every two weeks
- One of the counselees gives a presentation on what he / she has prepared
- Sharing of realizations
- Discussion on improvement of Sadhana, family, Vaisanava Etiquette, etc.,
- Regular exams on various topics

Choosing a Counselor

- Announcement on Sunday for new devotees to accept counselors
- Change of counselor is alright

Training Principles for Couselees

- Couselees should be ideal grhastas by keeping Krsna in the center.
- They should maintain proper devotional standards while at home, in the kitchen, and on the altar.
- They should be a proper wife, husband, or parent.
- Children receiving counseling should behave nicely, in accordance with the teachings of our scriptures.
- Couselees should balance economic and social responsibilities with spiritual vows.
- Men should know how to deal with their wives, the wives of other men, and unmarried women.

Training Principles for Counselees

- Women should know how to deal with brahmacaris, sannyasis, their husbands, and the husbands of other women.
- Counselees should have a proper attitude towards the other ashrams and should understand the proper way for grhastas to deal with brahmacaris, sannyasis, and vanaprastas.
- Counselees should understand how to deal with family members who are not devotees.
- Counselees should know how to relate with materialistic people.

The Committees

- Children's committee
- Women's committee
- Marriage Board
- Housing Committee
- Yamuna Kinara (Bank of Yamuna)

Children's Committee

- To train children in Krishna consciousness and engage them accordingly
- Once a month a special children's program conducted by children themselves
(Dramas, story telling, sloka recitation, kirtans, puppet show, etc)

Women's Committee

- Look into women issues (problems, services etc.)
- Discussion on saintly women like Kunti, Draupadi etc.,
- Sharing realizations
- Meeting once a month

Marriage Board

- Consists of 3 grhasthas couples who assist to find partners
- Maintains data bank for boys and girls.

Yamuna Kinara

- Bank run by devotees for the devotees
- Devotees can invest and also get loans
- Professionally run

Housing Committee

- Help for accommodation, by searching for a place or financial help
- Temporary Shelter in need

Examples

- Devotees helping a 60 year old poor devotee for heart operation
- Devotees' help, change of the heart of a Jain fanatic opposing Krsna Consciousness

Conclusion

- Concentrate on genuinely serving the devotees
- Develop a spirit of sacrifice
- The leaders committed to the caring of the devotees as top priority
- Share Love and Trust

Thank You

**Srila Prabhupada Ki
Jai**