

A photograph of two women sitting outdoors, looking at an open book together. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a yellow polo shirt and red pants. The woman on the right is wearing a colorful, patterned sari and has a red bindi on her forehead. They are both smiling and appear to be engaged in a conversation about the book. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting with greenery.

SUSTAINING THE INVESTMENT ON SEVA

This is part of the ongoing series on *seva* (service to plants, animals, humans and spirits)

So far in our ongoing series on *seva*, we have discussed different ways of serving others – from feeding insects, birds, animals and people to nurturing greenery, doling out compassion at the workplace, taking care of our parents while they are alive and doing deeds in their name, when they have passed on.

Every form of *seva* needs the active involvement of one's time and physical effort. Hence, *seva* can be considered an investment of one's fast depleting personal resources. The question to ponder is - in which way can we ensure that

our *seva* multiples even if our physical efforts wane, whether due to age or ill-health?

One of the ways of sustainable *seva* could be supporting the education of the less privileged either through monetary aid or by imparting skills that would enable them to carve a career for themselves. Once you teach people monetizable skills, not only are you uplifting the quality of their lives but also becoming a link in their abilities to fend for food, shelter and clothing, for themselves and their dependents.

In almost all countries of the world and especially in India, a teacher is attributed the highest honour of service. A teacher nurtures, mentors and shapes our attitudes, imparting life skills, be it at either professional, personal or spiritual level



or at all levels.

Each one of us can bring about this change in our small little way. It could be a dedicated few hours every week to teach at a nearby NGO, helping the less privileged aspire towards their dreams with the means to achieve them. It could be by mentoring someone around you, at work or otherwise, to upskill them. It could also mean helping someone crack a job through resume reviews or interview preparations. As all these ways of doing seva have a lasting effect, beyond the initial effort of time, energy and money that you as an individual have put in.

I am sure we all have had multiple such guides and mentors who we owe our successes to, in different aspects of life. Let us now return that favour by helping others and in-turn creating a chain reaction that will not only allow us to



do seva, but also allow our mentors and guides the same through us. More than that, it may become an inspiring habit for those who have been helped by you and maybe someday, they'll pay it forward too.



By Hingori

The thoughts expressed in this article are inspired by the philosophy of Gurudev, a spiritual guide extraordinaire. You can read more about his philosophy in the Hingori Sutras www.hingorisutras.com

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this article. Mail us at feedback@theeagletribe.com