



# ESSE Institute Newsletter

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## Haiti Outreach Project Educare (HOPE)

The ESSE approach in Haiti for a sustained SSEHV Programme



Figure 1 EMNJ: 2 classrooms under a tin roof without partitions...

Since the devastating Earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the Sathya Sai International Organisation has been actively engaged in serving the people in this country, and the children in particular, in various ways. Medical Camps were conducted on a weekly basis for the first year; thousands of destitute children were given free warm meals every day for 5 years; and two local schools, which provided free education to more than 240 children continued to be supported.

The two Schools mentioned above received not only financial and moral support from SSIO volunteers, but also materials and training for integrating value based education into their curriculum. Between 2010-2011, and again in the summer of 2016, the teachers, youth and volunteers in these schools received extended sessions of SSEHV training.

The training in 2016 was conducted by two European SSEHV facilitators from the ESSE Institute. Thirty Haitian teachers and volunteers participated, and 200 children benefitted from the SSEHV activities, which were conducted by these teachers under the guidance and supervision of the facilitators. It was heartening to note the strong interest in SSEHV training and activities amongst these local people. The values seemed to correspond seamlessly and naturally with the culture and religion of the people of Haiti, and the philosophy and methods of SSEHV helped to provide important tools while raising deeper awareness. Thus Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with its great need for sustained development, offers us a great opportunity to utilise the principles of SSEHV in helping people develop themselves and participate effectively in nation building.



Figure 2 - A meal for the students at EMNJ

As a result of this, the Haiti Outreach Project Educare (HOPE) was approved as an official outreach project of the ESSE Institute in November 2016 in order to make it possible for many more to join in this mission of love and to help teachers and students of the two schools in Haiti to receive and spread Sathya Sai Education in Human Values.

**SSEHV teachers or ESSE trainees** can join a team of experienced facilitators, and use the knowledge and training gained in various practical ways through providing lesson material, support to the teachers and assisting with children's activity in Haiti.

Individual devotees, SSIO Centres and Groups can also participate in the HOPE Project in various ways to help these schools in the poorest of the poor country; for example, by providing education materials, scholarships, 'adopt a teacher' lectureships, nutrition grants for free meals etc. through the personal practice of Ceiling on Desires Programme.

*Please contact the ESSE Institute via: [esse@serveall.org](mailto:esse@serveall.org) for further information and to share your intentions on how to help spread HOPE in Haiti.*



Figure 3 – SSEHV activity with Mr Leonel, the director, and a teacher from ABC for Life

### Background information on SSEHV for two schools currently supported in Haiti



Figure 4 - SSHEV Silent sitting

**ABC for Life** was started in February 2011 by a group of highly motivated high-school students and youth, under the guidance of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation representative in Haiti at the time. This group of volunteers is well aware of the needs of their community and wants to help the children in particular. The name ABC for Life refers to the fact that in addition to basic education the real education is for life: Character Education. Today, one of the high-school students has become a certified teacher while others are in university. Out of these youth, a stable team of 4

teachers, a director and a custodian care for the 40 children presently enrolled. Other youth continue to be actively involved as volunteers. In addition to Kindergarten and primary school grades 1-6, they have been running a special program for illiterate street children and adults aged 12-24. They are able to motivate these youngsters to come to school to learn to read and

write. From the recent visit in 2016, it is clear that these young teachers, besides offering values classes, integrate what they have learned since 2011 about the human values in their lives and in the various aspects of the school. Every Saturday afternoon they also offer a 'Talent and Values Club', which reaches out to 40 children from the neighbourhood.

***Ecole Mixte de la Nouvelle Jérusalem (EMNJ)*** has grown from a tent school to a school with 200 students thanks to the unceasing efforts of its director, Mr Joseph, to motivate parents to send their children to school. Starting with a number of volunteer teachers, the school has survived through great sacrifices from all. None of them have received any salaries until September 2016, when Mr Joseph received a small stipend for the first time. Due to the poverty, it has been a miracle that the teachers, like their students, have been able to survive even physically. Motivated by the desire to save children through education from delinquency, the goal is not just to teach reading and writing but to love: To love oneself, one's family, community, country and God.

With Loving Regards  
The ESSE Team

