



Ministry of Education

International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness

Founder Acarya: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT 2021

Submitted by: Ministry of Education

1. Please write a summary of the achievements in your Ministry during 2021 in the following categories:

a. Education and Training

- The Study and Teach program provides our leaders and active preachers an opportunity to become Bhakti Sastri and Bhakti Vaibhav certified. As the name suggests, we accomplish this goal by enabling temple management and congregational preachers to simultaneously study and teach the Shastric course they are pursuing certification in. Over 64+ leaders from around the world have responded to our call for action, and enrolled into the Study and Teach program. The Ministry has arranged a complimentary teacher training for all these leaders. 10 of them are already engaged in a comprehensive 10-day ISKCON teacher's certification program. Our goal is to assist many of these leaders to systematically study Srila Prabhupada's books and become Bhakti Shastri and Bhakti Vaibhav. Leadership adoption of this program will pave the way for local educational communities.
- The Teachers Board is a body created by the Ministry of Education with the goal of encouraging more devotees to teach ISKCON approved courses. We do so by enabling them to take online training and then in turn teaching others in the art of teaching. We are also trying to organize and consolidate all ISKCON educators into a database. This database will provide clarity to leaders and the Ministry on the health of our educational landscape. We hope to start the recording process within Q1 2022.

b. Publications

- The Ministry of Education conducted over 18 international panels, featuring prominent preachers and dynamic leaders from several geographies across the globe. These panels facilitated a candid evaluation of the challenges our Sankirtan movement faces in each region, while also providing inspiring conversations for devotees to enjoy, as each leader shared the personal impact daily reading Srila Prabhupada's books had in their lives.
- Since the first Books are the Basis Festival in September 2020, as a legacy project we have interviewed over 75 senior Prabhupada disciples and leaders within our movement to share the impact that daily reading Srila Prabhupada's books had on their lives. We have also published these in-depth interviews every week since inception, alongside other original content that we created, with the singular goal of inspiring our subscribers to increase their



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readership of Prabhupada's books. Since September 2021, we have further expanded on this effort by uploading daily videos entitled "One Minute Nectar Drops" that share a specific realization from a leader. Each Nectar Drop focuses on one of the many galvanizing moments.

- As has become a tradition for us, in 2021 we celebrated our 3rd annual "International Education Symposium". We adapted through the global pandemic and hosted the entire event on Zoom. Almost 20 educators shared their invaluable perspectives on different aspects of education. The seminars were attended by over several hundred devotees. We further expanded on last year's Symposium by allowing educators to use our platform to network with and kick start their own educational projects. Every session from our Viplavah Symposium has been published, and made available to the public on our YouTube channel.

c. Website/E-mail

- The Ministry of Education has created a Digital Certification system for the efficient issuance of Shastric diplomas. Institutions shall continue to have the option to receive physical certificates alongside their digital counterparts. This system shall serve as both a certification and record keeping/centralized Database. This will allow the Ministry greater insight into participation of devotees in Shastric education, while also enabling the Institutions to grow at a greater pace, as student certifications can now be generated within 24 hours.
- The Ministry started its online social media presence and is publishing daily content on YouTube, Telegram, WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook. Our online presence is very important to us, and as such we have hired a staff member solely dedicated to our online growth. It has only been a short while since the newest addition to our team, but we have enjoyed success such that close to 2000 devotees have subscribed to the Ministry YouTube channel.

d. Resources

- We have expanded on the operations of our website with the addition of Shastric resources. These include quizzes, question banks, presentations, study guides, curriculums, and much more. We hope this material will facilitate the systematic study of Srila Prabhupada's books within our ISKCON communities. The compilation of these resources coincides with our novel Study & Teach program. These are valuable additions to our already extensive database of educational materials.



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e. Challenges

- 2021 has been a fruitful year for our Ministry. We embarked upon many new projects, and dedicated a lot of time and financial resources on developing innovative systems, along with a focus of expanding our online presence. However, with all this progress we need to ramp up the staffing of our Ministry. Maintenance our existing projects, while finding the time to build momentum for our newer initiatives all requires manpower. Hiring more devotees is contingent on having adequate funding.

2. Please share your vision for the activities of the Ministry for 2022.

a. Vision

- The Ministry of Education's foundational ethos is "Books are the Basis". Our purpose is to enhance the culture of reading Srila Prabhupada's books in ISKCON temples and congregations. Our Vision is to make Srila Prabhupada's books the most widely read spiritual literature on the planet.

b. Progressive goals

- We strongly believe that the consistent reading of Srila Prabhupada's books is the cornerstone of a robust Sadhana. We also believe that the propagation of daily reading is the most valuable service we as a Ministry can offer. This is why, for the year of 2021, we focused on cultivating the Study & Teach program, and formed the ISKCON Teachers Board. The Study & Teach program provides the opportunity for devotees to systematically study Srila Prabhupada's books under the guidance of their community leaders. The ISKCON Teachers Board facilitates the systematic study of Srila Prabhupada's books by certifying Teachers, who will in turn encourage their local Yatras to enroll in Shastric courses and engage in daily reading. Both of these endeavors tie in to our vision and overarching mission for the Ministry of Education.

c. Needs

- We ideally seek increase in our funding if not at least return to our normal level of annual funding. 50% reduction in funding during 2021-2022 created limitations to be able to expand at the pace we would like to. We would sincerely like to hire more staff who can dedicate sufficient amounts of time and energy into expanding our



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Study and Teach program, while also overseeing the operations of the Digital Certifications systems. Both of these programs are of paramount importance to our Society as a whole. The Study and Teach program increases the readership of Srila Prabhupada's books amongst local yatras, while the Digital Certifications system enables ISKCON Shastric institutions to adopt the efficiency of 24 hour diploma generation, a major facilitator for their long term growth. We have several other projects we would like to develop at the Ministry if we had the funding to do so.

3. If you have any message for the GBC Executive Committee, please write it here:

We thank the GBC EC for their support during the Books Are the Basis week. In general and like most other ministries we request higher funding to hire new staff with the ability to expand our newly established programs. We remain grateful to devotees around the world for their appreciation, support and prayers. It is a pleasure to be able to serve the Ministry that His Divine Grace established himself.