

PRACTICAL RESPONSES ON WOMEN IN KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS – ELM 2014

The plan(s) should be regarding how you will improve the situation of women in your area of service, be stated in the positive, be specific as to time, place, and circumstances, be specific in terms of activity, thoughts, and feeling, and with all due considerations for costs (in terms of any and all difficulties or possible negative consequences).

Doyal Govinda Dasa (Germany):

As for now I like to make devotees aware of the fact that we need a lot of improvement in our dealings amongst each other, HG Urmila Mataji correctly said, that we are a family, so we have to take care.

In my area of temple responsibilities I will present the paper of HG Jyotirmayi Mataji and discuss it with the devotees on november 2nd. In particular we will focus on the times as His Divine Grace was present and on the happenings after His departure, then we will focus on how we act in our community and see where we can improve. With this first step there are no costs involved.

On the level of German leaders I like to present this issue to the National Council Executive Committee and ask senior devotees of their experiences. The next step should be to figure out how to make temple leaders aware of the situation and to point out where there are misconceptions. Also reliable devotees in regards to marriage service and motherhood will be announced.

These are my first steps which I like to develop more and more by the help of senior Vaisnavas or Vaisnavis respectively.

Syamasundara dasa (UK):

I will be putting on the temple council agenda to discuss more involvement with ladies at the temple programmes. to ensure they lead all the temple songs at least once a week and develop it from there.

Ladies should give class at least once a week for starting off and develop from there

Ladies should stand next to men at deity greeting and now behind and wait as they are doing now.

Krsna kirtan das (Poland)

1. What do we want - Proper training/taking care of women/ Ladies coming to our temple, so that they feel taken care - by qualified lady.
2. Within our control - Make regular meetings for women in our temple from temple and from congregation.
3. Specifics: We want mataji in our yatra to feel being educated, protected in terms of some spiritual culture and share this experience with others coming coming With mataji coming .
4. Specific succes: Ladies taking care of ladies. Spreading and nurturing spiritual culture and training within the female congregation. Creating need to further create strong bonds, sharing the KC in a proper way. Feeling the family mood.
5. Price to pay: Organizationally - to manage it happen once every time - time, place that is good for all. Dangers... Possible disagreements among ladies, stressed female issues. Maybe will not last forever?

We have found very nice passage in SB to give balance to some sastric statements about women:
SB.3.14.19-26

The wife you is the source of the three perfections of liberation.

As one can cross over the ocean with seagoing vessels, one can cross the dangerous situation of the material ocean by living with a wife.

O respectful one, a wife is so helpful that she is called the better half of a man's body because of her sharing in all auspicious activities. A man can move without anxiety entrusting all responsibilities to his wife.

As a fort commander very easily conquers invading plunderers, by taking shelter of a wife one can conquer the senses, which are unconquerable in the other social orders.

O queen of the home, we are not able to act like you, nor could we repay you for what you have done, even if we worked for our entire life or even after death. To repay you is not possible, even for those who are admirers of personal qualities.
