

# "Service Before Self"

## गतिविधियां

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Mr. and Mrs. Kooner

"The concept of Family is universal. The important components being a man and a woman with marital ties and children as offspring whereas the couple shoulders the responsibility of their rearing. Sociologically there are three types of families unlike in many parts of the western world. These are the Unitary family or the Nuclear family, the Joint family and the Extended family. In India the larger part of the population still lives in the rural areas and majority of them are engaged in agriculture as landowners, farm workers or those dealing in retail sale/purchase of agricultural products. Over a period of time formulation of Panchayats and other institutions like cooperatives in the rural areas have significantly undertaken the responsibilities of improving the social and economic conditions. Family however continues to be the primary institution to look after the social and economic interest of the individual by way of providing food, shelter, clothing and immediate healthcare. Every sensible person therefore wishes to be born in a "Family", live in a "Family": and die in a "Family".

It has been observed that in the absence of appropriate social security services and the current rate of unemployment the joint families have still the relevance to provide all the basic requirements to the newly married couples in the

patriarchal social system. In the joint family system the father still continues to remain the "Head" to shoulder the responsibilities of providing food, shelter and clothing beside education, marriage, employment and additional housing not only to the married couples but also the grand children. Instances can still be found in both the rural and urban areas where three generations or may be even four generation including ladies, gents and children are living together in one household having one kitchen and members playing supportive role according to their capacity and capability for a healthier socio-economic life.

Mr Gurdial Singh Kooner with his his wife Gian Kaur and three children—Jyoti, Raj and Gagan migrated to Australia from Punjab in the year 1984..Mr Kooner and his wife were both educated and qualified teachers. Taking into consideration the responsibilities of the early childhood of the three children – two daughters and one son aged 5; 3 and one, MR Kooner remained the sole earner in the family whereas his wife undertook the major responsibility of rearing the children, looking after their education and other household activities. All three children were well taken care of. They received adequate education, good health care and developed a disciplined way of life..Subsequently the two daughters and a son got married according to the Indian culture and tradition.

Mr and Mrs Kooner have now attained the retirement age but they are fortunately enjoying good physical and mental health and retain a positive outlook of life. They have their religious convictions and love to go to the GURUDWARAS and voluntarily participate in KARSEVA and LANGAR. When asked about their normal schedule of activities they narrated as under:

**11.00 am to -1.00pm** Visited younger daughter Gagan and her newly born baby-boy at Hillside and offered her rest and relief during her post natal

phase. Also took care of the 3 month old Milan for his food requirements, toilet and bath etc. Assisted Gagan in washing, cooking and general cleanliness of the house. Also utilized the available time in knitting and sewing of the garments for the little child.

**1.00pm to 2.00pm** Visited the house of the son Raj who is staying in the same locality to look after general cleanliness and maintenance his kitchen garden during his absence on account of his visit abroad with his newly married wife. In addition took care of the pair of pet dogs and provide them the feed..

**2.00pm to 3.00pm** Return to the own house in Taylors lakes for Lunch Break.

**3.00pm to 6.00pm** Visited the house of the older daughter Jyoti during her and her husband's absence due to professional commitments. Received her mentally retarded son Angad back from the correctional institute. Provided him the required assistance in changing the dress, have food and adequate rest..

Mr Gurdial Singh Kooner and his wife Gian have thus been providing benefit of their accumulated knowledge and experience to help and support the various activities in the three families of their son and daughters. Their example of living relationship ties has been a greatest stimulant in running a very smooth life of their offspring who are all working. Collectively the formation of four unitary families has resulted in crystalizing an Extended Family where each of the 8 adult members has volunteered to sacrifice his individual interest and contribute his might and mind for the benefit of all—the underlying principle being:

"LOVE, AFFECTION, MUTUAL RESPECT, SERVICE AND SACRIFICE"

J.L. Malhotra

## Events at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir



The BAPS annual Akshar Cup Cricket Tournament 2012 ended on a nail biting final match between the top two teams. This tournament was a great show of talent and brotherhood amongst the players and youths of BAPS.

Ultimately, it was a highly competitive environment but the tournament was played in a manner of great amicable spirits and we eagerly await next year's fifth anniversary of the tournament.

To commemorate the 62nd Pramukh

Varani Din, the day when the young Shastri Narayanswarupdas (His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj) was declared the president of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan

Sanstha (BAPS) by his Guru Brahmaswarup Shastriji Maharaj on 21 May 1950. BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Mill Park organised a special celebration to mark this event on 27 May 2012. Special prayers were offered for the 92 years old Pramukh Swami Maharaj's good health, and peace and

prosperity in society.

Mandir will be celebrating Guru Purnima on Sunday 8 July and Raksha Bandhan on Sunday 2 August with grand pomp and fanfare. Devotees will also get the opportunity of daily Hindola Darshan from 5 July to 3 August at the Mandir. For more information please contact the Mandir on 03 9437 6767.

