

Attending Sangat from a young age, I can say that the Nirankari Mission has shaped my ideals, values, and morals. It has taught me the importance of staying grounded through simran, having faith in the Lord Master, and living my life according to the path which has been set out for me. Over time, I have been able to listen and learn from other saints, and voice some of my own thoughts along the way, instilling a sense of appreciation and faith in this mission.

As a youth, Sangat is essential in shaping who I am. And therefore, empowering youth about this path, is the next step to advancing the goals of the mission. Youth empowerment can take many forms. To start, the Baal Sangat aspect of Sangat is a great way to get kids involved in the mission through discussion, readings of the Avtar Bani, and opportunity to ask questions. From my experience, Baal Sangat has been helpful in translating some of the heavier material discussed in Sangat, to a more condensed and comprehensible form for students. Another way youth has been involved has been through welfare organizations and community service, such as the blood donation camps. This instills a sense of service (seva) and humility, all important aspects of being a satsangi. It establishes selflessness for the world we live in and the people around us, regardless of their caste, race, origin, etc. Developing an appreciation for all living beings is the first step in achieving equality and making the world a better place.

Some new ideas I have for youth empowerment include perhaps a more detailed outline/class for students to actually grasp the concept of god knowledge, Nirankar, and simran. Often, these topics can be inferred, but not specifically addressed to the youth, and may leave them confused. Perhaps being more explicit with discussions/vichars in Sangat, will help youth gain a deeper understanding from the start, and find a sense of belonging in the mission. Also, youth should be exposed to material outside of Sangat, perhaps literature on the mission, or the history of the mission. This will instill a greater sense of understanding in the purpose of Sangat, Seva, and Simran.

As a student, asking questions are the most important thing I can do to learn and grow. Addressing youth's questions and welcoming them are the first step we can do as a mission to empower youth to invest in it.