THE INSTITUTE PROCESS

Extracts from the 28th of December 2010 Letter from the Universal House of Justice

This study aid consists of extracts from the 28th of December 2010 letter that refers to the Institutions of the Faith. As it is extracts from the letter, one needs to refer to the letter for a fuller understanding of the background, setting and the context from which the extract is taken from.
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INSTRUMENT OF LIMITLESS POTENTIALITIES

§ 3 As made clear in our Ridván message [§28], in the system thus created to develop its human resources, the community of the Greatest Name possesses an instrument of limitless potentialities. Under a wide diversity of conditions, in virtually any cluster, it is possible for an expanding nucleus of individuals to generate a movement towards the goal of a new World Order.

STIMULUS TO GROWTH

§ 4 A study circle made up of a few friends or colleagues, a class offered for several neighbourhood children, a group formed for junior youth during after-school hours, a devotional gathering hosted for family and friends—any one of these can serve as a stimulus to growth.

... devotional gatherings, children’s classes and junior youth groups are being maintained by those progressing through the sequence of institute courses and committed to the vision of individual and collective transformation they foster.

This initial flow of human resources into the field of systematic action marks the first of several milestones in a process of sustainable growth.
SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT OF LARGE NUMBERS

§ 6 ... but the unfoldment of an educational process that has begun to show its potential to bring about the spiritual empowerment of large numbers.

EFFECTS OF THE INSTITUTE PROCESS

§ 8 Specifically, the sequence of courses that we have recommended for use by institutes everywhere, which is facilitating so effectively the process of transformation under way,

− is designed to create an environment conducive at once to universal participation and to mutual support and assistance.

− ... such an environment is not without its effects on the administrative affairs of the Faith.

EVEREXPANDING AND SELF-SUSTAINING SYSTEM

§ 9 It signals the maturation of an everexpanding, self-sustaining system for the spiritual edification of a population:

− a steady stream of friends is proceeding through the courses of the training institute and engaging in the corresponding activities,

− which serves, in turn, to increase the number of fresh recruits into the Faith,

− a significant percentage of whom invariably enters the institute process, guaranteeing the expansion of the system.

− This constitutes another milestone that the friends labouring in every cluster must, in time, reach.

TRANSFORMATIVE EFFECTS OF THE INSTITUTE PROCESS

§ 16 Clearly, in all such clusters, strengthening the educational processes set in motion by the training institute, each with its own requisites—regularly held classes for the youngest members of society, close-knit groups for junior youth, and circles of study for youth and adults—is of paramount importance.
Without exception, having witnessed the transformative effects of the institute process first hand, the friends in such clusters are striving to gain a fuller appreciation of the dynamics that underlie it—

- the spirit of fellowship it creates,
- the participatory approach it adopts,
- the depth of understanding it fosters,
- the acts of service it recommends, and, above all,
- its reliance on the Word of God.

Every effort is being exerted to ensure that the process reflects

- the complementarity of “being” and “doing” the institute courses make explicit;
- the centrality they accord to knowledge and its application;
- the emphasis they place on avoiding false dichotomies;
- the stress they lay on memorization of the Creative Word;
- and the care they exercise in raising consciousness, without awakening the insistent self.

**INSTITUTE PROCESS AND SOCIAL ACTION**

§ 25 Eventually the strength of the institute process in the village, and the enhanced capabilities it has fostered in individuals, may enable the friends to take advantage of methods and programmes of proven effectiveness, which have been developed by one or another Bahá’í-inspired organization and which have been introduced into the cluster at the suggestion of, and with support from, our Office of Social and Economic Development.

**FOSTERING SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS**

§ 35 The educational process associated with the training institute is, of course, helping to foster the spiritual conditions to which the Guardian referred in The Advent of Divine Justice, along with the many others mentioned in the writings that must distinguish the life of the Bahá’í community—

- the spirit of unity that must animate the friends,
– the ties of love that must bind them,
– the firmness in the Covenant that must sustain them,
– and the reliance and trust they must place on the power of divine assistance, to note but a few.

That such essential attributes are developed in the context of building capacity for service, in an environment that cultivates systematic action, is particularly noteworthy.

EXTENDING HABITS FORMED IN STUDY CIRCLES

§ 37 We hope that the habits the friends are forming in study circles to work with full and complex thoughts and to achieve understanding will be extended to various spheres of activity.