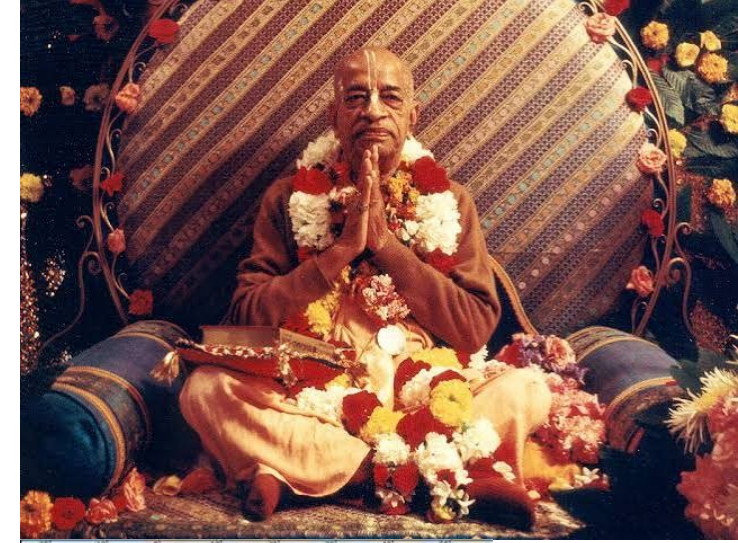
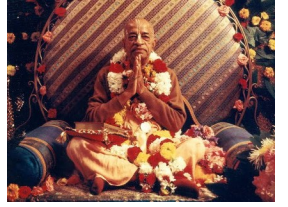


Overview Presentation on Vaishnavi Diksha Guru

**Presented On Behalf Of The
AFRICAN REGIONAL GOVERNING BODY (ARGB)**



Survey Overview



METHODOLOGY

A survey was conducted amongst the ARGB members.

13 responses collected during this period.

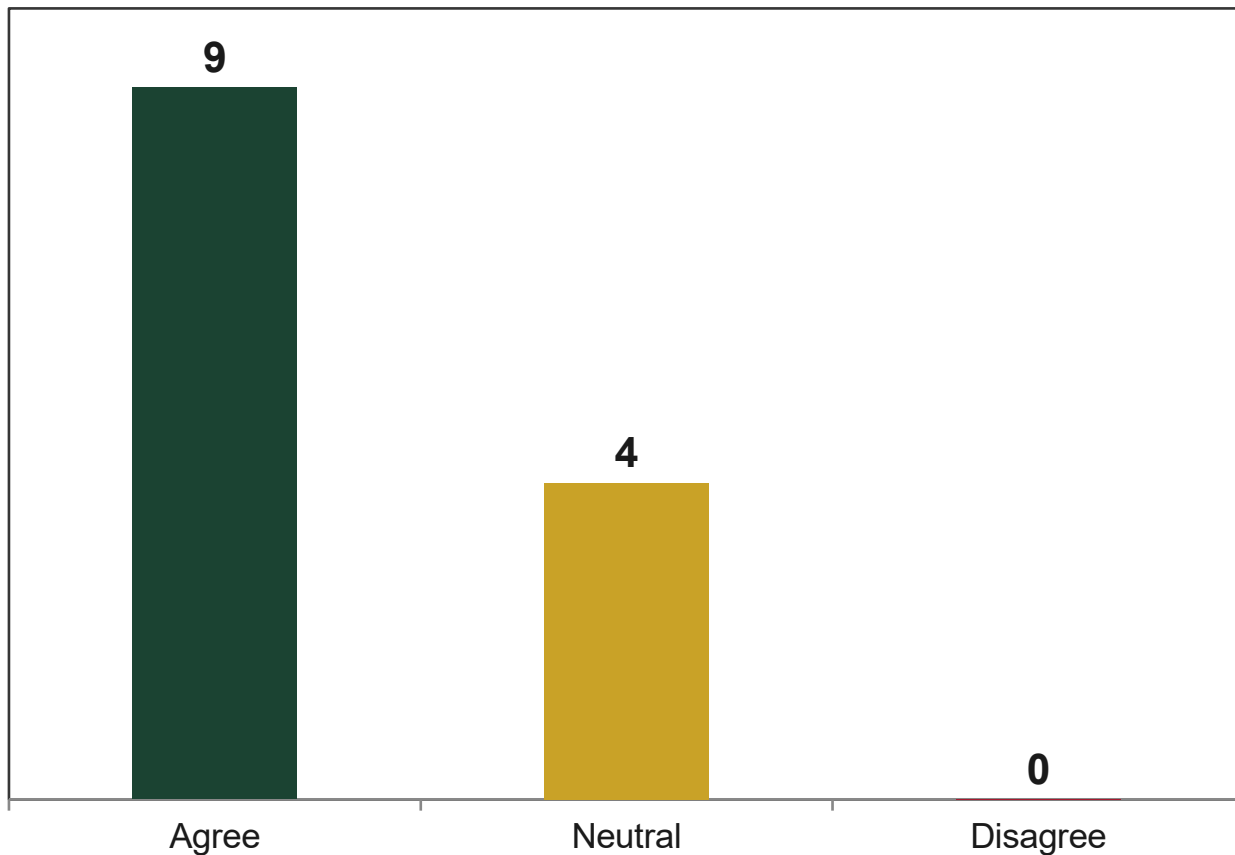
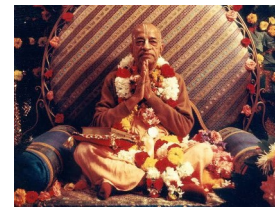
A few questions that the survey presented were :

resolution awareness, position, motivation, and unity suggestions.

THE RESPONDENTS WERE AMONGST:

- ARGB Chairman - a sannyasi and initiating guru
- Temple Presidents (Durban, Mombasa)
- Regional Leads and Zonal Supervisors
- Secretary and strategist-level leadership

Where ARGB Leadership Stands



9 of 13

respondents Agree with moving forward on Vaishnavi Diksa Gurus

0 respondents

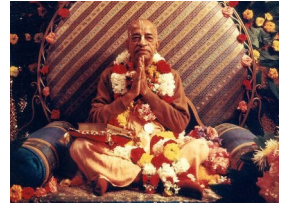
expressed outright disagreement – the 4 who did not agree – remain neutral on their position.

ARGB agrees to VDG!

Based on the responses – the outcome of the survey demonstrates a clear agreement to Vaisnavi Diksa Gurus in ISKCON from the ARGB by a 70% vote.

Survey of ARGB leadership, 13 respondents, collected as of 12 August 2026.

What do the ARGB Leaders Say?



AGREE — REPRESENTATIVE MOTIVATIONS

“Core philosophical principle of not being the body.”

— South Africa

“Fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's desire.”

— ARGB Chairman (Guru)

“There is Shastric evidence.”

— South Africa

“Matajis should be valued (Opportunity to become VDG).”

— Mauritius

NEUTRAL — RECURRING THEMES

More time, not opposition

“No real decision is necessary if, more time is needed to discuss this matter then let that take precedent..”

Regional discretion

Some suggest each RGB decide based on local / cultural context.

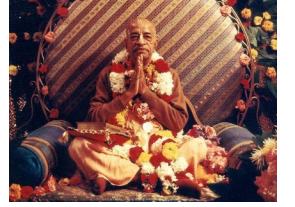
Prabhupada's own timing

A question of faith: why did Prabhupada not implement this personally, given the authority he held on raised in go

Process, not doctrine

Concerned centers on how unity is maintained through the decision, more than on the doctrinal question itself.

Do Vaishnavi Diksa-Gurus Uphold ISKCON's Seven Purposes?



To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life, to check the imbalance of values and achieve real unity and peace.



To erect a holy place of transcendental pastimes dedicated to Krishna.



To propagate a consciousness of Krishna, as revealed in Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam.



To bring members closer together for a simpler, natural way of life.



To bring the members together with each other and nearer to Krishna, developing the idea that each soul is part and parcel of Godhead.

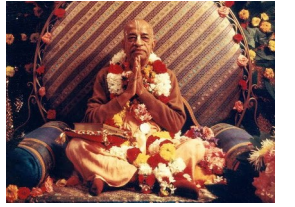


To publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books, and other writings.



To teach and encourage sankirtana, congregational chanting of the holy name, as taught by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

All seven purposes answer yes — nothing in a Vaishnavi's diksa-guru service falls outside the mission ISKCON was founded to carry out.



A Word on the Suniti Objection — and the Answer

THE OBJECTION

SB 4.12.32, Purport

Srila Prabhupada notes that Sunīti, being a woman, and specifically Dhruva Mahārāja's mother, could not become his dīkṣā-guru.

THE ANSWER

SB 4.8.18, Translation

Sunīti said: My dear boy, whatever has been spoken by Suruci is so, because the King, your father, does not consider me his wife or even his maidservant. He feels ashamed to accept me. Therefore it is a fact that you have taken birth from the womb of an unfortunate woman...

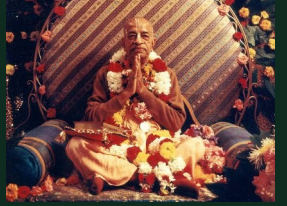
SB 4.8.25, Purport

The Supreme Lord, present in everyone's heart, sends His representative once He sees a living entity is serious about devotional service — as He sent Nārada to Dhruva Mahārāja. As Caitanya-caritāmṛta confirms: guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bīja — by the grace of guru and Kṛṣṇa, one enters devotional service.

SB 6.18.42, Purport

A woman is to be protected and cared for by her father in childhood, her husband in youth, and her grown sons in old age.

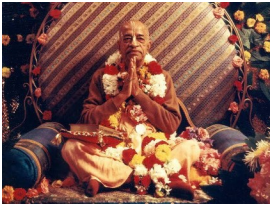
Read together, the 4.12.32 purport underlines a son's duty of protection and care toward his mother — it would go against this principle for Sunīti to initiate her own son and later take shelter of him. The restriction is specific to the mother-son relationship, not a categorical statement about women in general.



A Live Scriptural Question

Gender-neutral qualification texts (SB 11.3.21; CC Madhya 8.128) point one way. The restrictive reading of SB 4.12.32 points another. Both are held sincerely, by devotees serious about scripture.

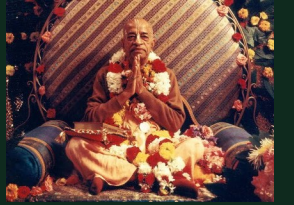
This is not a dispute to be won on this side - it is precisely the kind of question suited to regional discernment, not a single global mandate.



The Shape of Possible Structural Paths

Listed to help organize discussion — not a menu the committee is confined to.

Full restoration	Reaffirm and fully implement the 2019/2021 framework as written; treat the philosophical question as settled since 2005 and the remaining work as implementation.
Narrowed criteria	Maintain philosophical acceptance but tighten the 2019 conditions — addressing the SB 4.12.32 scope question explicitly within the resolution's own text.
Extend the siksa-guru compromise	Formalize and expand the Feb 2026 elevated siksa-guru category as the long-term structure, rather than an interim holding position.
Regional self-determination, formalized	Build on the 2021 Culturally Sensitive Resolution mechanism permanently — each region settles VDG for itself under shared minimum standards.
Further deferral, with a defined mandate	Extend the committee's work with a specific charge to resolve open questions before any policy proposal goes to the GBC.

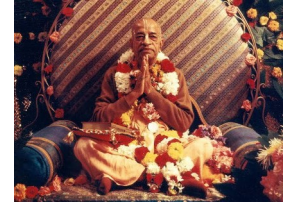


Regional Self-Determination, Formalized

Build on the 2021 Culturally Sensitive Resolution mechanism explicitly and permanently — treating VDG as a matter each region settles for itself under shared minimum standards, rather than seeking one worldwide answer.

A structural answer suited to a live scriptural question — not a global mandate imposed overnight, and not a door left permanently ajar.

Conditions for VDG Acceptance & Institutional Procedure



CONDITIONS TO SPELL OUT

- Explicit conditions for a Vaishnavi to be accepted as diksa-guru reinforced
- A defined procedure for ISKCON to adopt in institutionalizing VDG
- Clear regional accountability under the shared minimum standards framework
- Maintain the initial qualifications spelled in the earlier proposals (Age, Status, Qualifications)
- A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote majority by each RGB to approve a prospective Vaisnavi Diksa Guru

THE “NOT SO MANY” MECHANISM

A mechanism is needed to cater for a small, gradually-growing number of Vaishnavi diksa-gurus rather than an open, unbounded expansion:

- By proportion — a fixed ratio relative to existing diksa-gurus
- By nominal representation — a set number per region
- By any other statistical measure the committee finds workable