

SRI RAMAKRISHNA SEVA SAMITHI

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VIJAYALAKSHMI PURAM

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An affiliate of Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Bhava Prachara Parishat, Andhra Pradesh

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Our organisation founded in the year 1970 as a registered society with the inspiration of monks of the Ramakrishna Mission, continues to work upholding the ideal given by Swami Vivekananda - 'Atmano mokshartham jagaddhitayacha.'

We present hereunder the various activities undertaken on several fronts during the financial year 2011-2012 : 1.Spiritual activities; 2. Regular Lectures 3. Narayana Seva 4. Children's activities; 5. Youth Activities; 6. Annual Competitions; 7. Publication of Books, 8. Others.

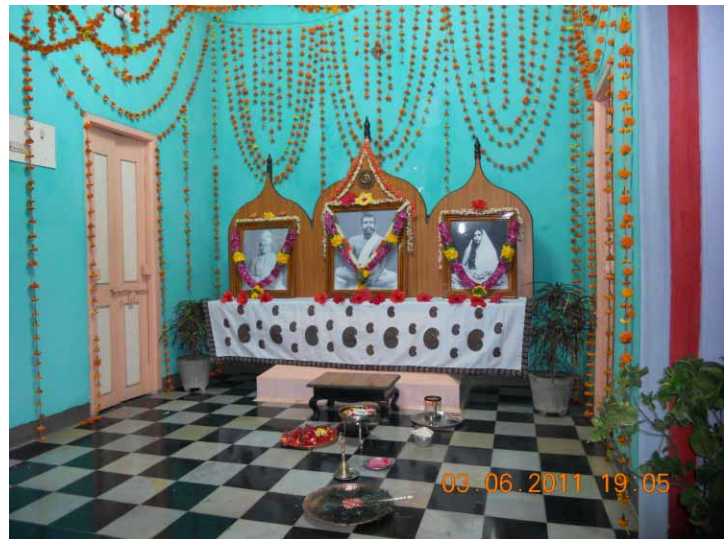
1) SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Daily Prayer meeting was held on all days throughout the year. On *Ekadasi* Days Ramanama Sankirtanam was conducted in the evenings.

Kalpataru Day was celebrated on 1st January with Puja in the morning and lighting of incense sticks and meditation in the evening. All the important celebrations like *Tithi Pujas* of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda were held with Special Puja in the morning and with Arati and a discourses in the evening.

Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti was celebrated on 23 February, 2012. Puja was performed in the morning. Sankirtan and lecture were conducted in the evening. The *Birthday of Sri Sarada Devi* was celebrated on 17 December, 2011 with Puja in the morning and by lighting of candles in the evening. The birthday celebrations of Swami Vivekananda were celebrated 15-01-2012.

On 1 September, 2011, *Vinayaka Chaviti* was celebrated. Bala Vihar children made an idol of *Vinayaka* with black soil and the idol was worshipped. In the evening 'Nimajjanam' was performed with sankirtan. On 26 October, 2011, *Deepavali* day *Lakshmi puja* was conducted in the evening. An effigy of 'Narakasura' was prepared by the children and the same was burnt in the evening. Later sweets and crackers were distributed among children. All the other important celebrations like *Sri Ramanavami* (12 April, 2011), *Krishna*



Ashtami (22 August, 2011), Siva Ratri (20 February, 2012), Christmas Eve (24 December, 2011) were celebrated in the Samithi with special Puja in the morning and special Bhajan in the evening.

SPIRITUAL RETREATS

Three spiritual retreats were conducted during this financial year. A spiritual retreat was conducted under the guidance of Srimat Swami Achintyanandaji Maharaj (Ramakrishna Math, Rajahmundry) on 3 July, 2011. A second retreat was conducted by Revered Swami Raghunayakanandaji Maharaj on 18 September, 2011. The third retreat was



conducted by Revered Swami Bhitiharanandaji Maharaj (Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad) on 30 October, 2011. Revered Maharaj spoke on spirituality and conducted Sankirtan.

2) REGULAR LECTURES

Throughout the year, Lectures on Geeta were conducted by Sri A. Naresh on Thursdays and lectures on Kathamrita were conducted by Sri A. Natarajan, Secretary of our Samithi on Sundays.

3) NARAYANA SEVA (FEEDING THE POOR)

On 26 February, 2012, Narayana Seva was conducted on the occasion of the birth anniversary Sri Sri Guru Maharaj. 400 people, including the children of local Sitarama Elementary School, were sumptuously fed.



4) CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Children activity '**BALA VIHAR**' continued as a very important activity of the Samithi. About 50 children from the nearby locality irrespective of caste and religion attend Samithi regularly and are involved in all kinds of activities.

1. Every evening a yoga class is conducted.

2. A singing class is being conducted. Children are learning to sing bhajans and patriotic songs.

3. Moral classes were conducted for the children which include narration of moral stories from Indian culture, life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda by using a computer for displaying various items. 'Academic assistance' was given to the children by the volunteers of the samithi.



4. Every evening the children are provided with supplementary food. A common kitchen run by the volunteers is being maintained in the Samithi. Everyday 4 kgs of food is cooked and the children are fed.

5. The leaf plates used for serving the food are being stitched in the Samithi as a part of the Earn While You Learn programme.

**GADADHAR
ABHYUDAYA PRAKALPA**

Gadadhar Abhyudaya prakalpa is a central government sponsored programme celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. This programme is to provide nourishing food, aids for cleanliness, bags, books, umbrellas etc for children below the age of twelve. A hundred children were selected from poor background and were provided all these amenities throughout the year. Along with nourishing food, they were given yoga classes, music classes, story telling classes inculcating good character.

The programme is inaugurated at our Samithi by Revered Swami Achintyanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Rajahmundry on 3 July, 2011. This programme is taken up by our samithi under the guidance and financial assistance of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur, Kolkata through Ramakrishna Mission, Rajahmundry and the programme is successfully conducted during this year. The programme would continue for two more years. The children of the nearby Sitharama Municipal primary school and the some of the eligible children of Balavihar are enrolled into this programme.

5) YOUTH ACTIVITIES

STUDY CIRCLE

Study circle is being conducted regularly. Teachings of Swami Vivekananda are the topic of discussion along with learning English and general knowledge, through reading, discussing, and watching documentaries on the computer. The youth are encouraged to practice yogasanas.



On 22 July, 2011, Sri C.Sridhar, IAS visited our samithi and addressed a special session of the Study Circle.

FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIPS:

1. Mr. John Augustine, a member of Balavihar, who passed his tenth class, joined in the College of Temple architecture run by TTD at Tirupati this year specializing in stone sculpture. Mr. K. Srinivas who is studying wood carving at the same institution, reached second year. Both these students were extended scholarship. (A photograph on the right shows the work of Sri P. Subbarao, who finished his study in the same institution.)

2. Mr. B.Venkata Rao, final year student of Agricultural College, Bapatla was given financial aid.

3. Ms. Lakshmi Tirupatamma who is pursuing BA (English) was extended scholarship.

4. Ms. S. Sravani who passed the Rashtrabhasha Praveen Purvardh exam was provided financial assistance.



EARN WHILE YOU LEARN PROGRAMME

Swami Vivekananda exhorted the youth of India to stand on their own feet. Samithi is making efforts to impart various skills to the youth attending the Samithi.

1. During the year the youth were trained in making leaf-plates which are being used for distributing supplementary food to the children. The youth also prepared The youth were paid a nominal amount as an incentive.

2. The youth were also encouraged to learn skills by plumbing, electric wiring, gardening and other maintenance works in the samithi on a voluntary basis.

3. The youth are encouraged to conduct book-stalls to spread the message of Swami Vivekananda by selling the low-priced books of Ramakrishna Math and the Samithi.

TRAINING PROGRAMME IN AGRI-BUSINESS

Extending the various training programmes to youth, we have constructed a small room and a hut in the nearby site owned by the samithi. The room would be useful as a tool-room and the hut is being used to raise chicken etc. Youth members are encouraged to take part in the activity and they are being trained in various methods of feeding, watering, vaccination and other care. Encouragement is being given to evolve new methods of producing larvae from kitchen waste, and vegetable/fruit market waste to be used as feed for the chicken.

AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME

A large number of *Pongamia* seedlings were being raised in the Samithi and this year, the plants were planted in the road-sides of Vijayalakshimpuram. The plants are being watered by the volunteers of the samithi.

CARNATIC MUSIC PROGRAMME 'SANGEETA JHARI'

With a view to encourage young learner's of Carnatic Music, monthly

programmes are arranged where young talent is showcased. The programme is entitled “Sangeetha Jhari” Every month two young singers would sing to accompaniment of drums and other instruments.

The anniversary celebration of this particular programme was conducted on 22 January, 2012. On this occasion a special ‘lecture-demonstration’ on carnatic music was conducted by the famous music teacher Sri Nallanchakravartula Bucchayacharyulu garu, lecturer, Govt. Music College, Telugu University, Hyderabad. The participants of this years programmes gave a special music programme and were given away participation certificates and mememtoes. Dr. KVS Acharya, a renowned poet and orator of Bapatla, presided over the programme.



6) ANNUAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUTH: 26TH VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL AWARDS PROGRAMME (VCAP)

Annual Competitions were conducted for students of School and college under the name Vivekananda Cultural Awards Programme. During this year, the 26th year of the competitions, they were conducted for school and college students separately.

SCHOOL LEVEL

From 10.10.2011 to 23.10.2011 competitions for school children were conducted from L.Kg to 10th class at 6 levels. Various competitions like Essay writing, Elocution in English and Telugu, Quiz, Recitation of Poems, Slokams and quotations of Swami Vivekananda, Spot painting, Singing devotional songs, patriotic songs, making models of science, and vocabulary tests, group discussion were conducted. For several of the competitions the Samithi publication Pushpanjali was used as a source book. A total of 2500 children from 20 schools participated in the event.

On 30.10.2011 at 4 p.m. the school level VCAP prize distribution ceremony was conducted. Revered Swami Bhitiharanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad graced the occasion, blessed the children and gave away the prizes and momentoes.

COLLEGE LEVEL

From 9.09.2011 to 11.09.2011 competitions for college students were conducted for intermedite and degree students seperately.

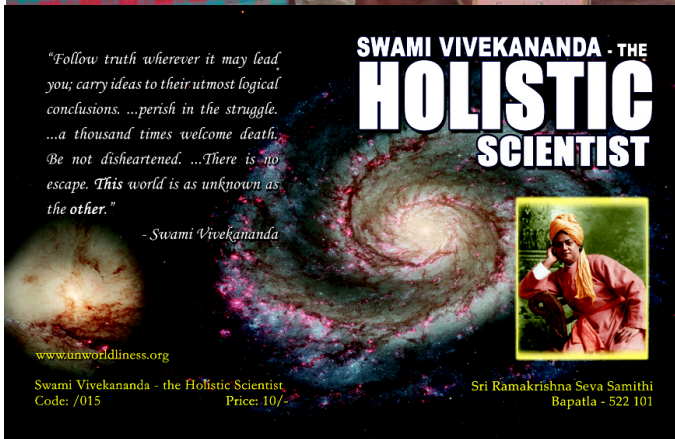


A Youth Seminar was conducted on 18.09.2011 on the topic, 'How to face mental stress' in which Revered Swami Raghunayakanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad spoke and later gave away the prizes to prize winners of the competitions. Seven students from various colleges participated in the programme by reading papers on the topic of the seminar. Prof. V. Sankara Rao, Associate Dean, Agricultural College, Bapatla was the chief guest.



7) PUBLICATION OF BOOKS

During the year a new book on the scientific outlook of Swami Vivekananda and his holistic approach to deciphering the laws of nature is published by our samithi. The book which was entitled "Swami Vivekananda - the Holistic Scientist" was authored by Dr. TGK Murthy, Fellow of Indian Science Association, Bangalore. This book published in English is the 15th publication of the samithi.



During this year all of the publications were re-printed and all of them continued to receive good response from public.

8) OTHERS: BOOK-STALLS AND VIVEKANANDA EXHIBITIONS

During the year young members of the Samithi took pains in conducting book stalls at various places in Bapatla and surrounding towns like Chirala and Guntur.

9) RURAL WORKS

During the year, The Poleramma Temple at Saradapuri was painted and given maintenance repairs at an approximate cost of Rs.25,000.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the monks of the Ramakrishna order for their continued guidance and patronage. We thank our auditor Sri Karumanchi Krishna Murthy garu, Chartered Accountant for auditing the accounts of the Samithi. We also thank the several friends and donors who continued to patronize the Samithi. May Sri Sri Guru Maharaj bless them all is our constant prayer.

Since the year of its inception in 1970 there are no paid servants in the Samithi. All the maintenance work like sweeping, dusting, cooking food for children, cleaning the vessels of the kitchen, maintaining the accounts etc., in the samithi are done by the volunteers. We pray to the Holy Trio to bless all the volunteers.

OM TAT SAT
SARVAM SRI RAMAKRISHNAR PANAMASTU

Date: 01.05.2012
Place: Bapatla.

(Amirapu Natarajan)
Secretary