

SRI RAMAKRISHNA SEVA SAMITHI

WB 3-292/1, RAMAKRISHNA COMPLEX ROAD
VIJAYALAKSHMI PURAM

BAPATLA – 522 101

e-mail: rksamithibapatla@gmail.com

For more details visit our web-site: www.unworldliness.org

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

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 2012-2013 : 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.



Samithi Members with Rev. Swami Atmashraddhanandaji Maharaj

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 13 March, 2013. Puja was performed in the morning. Sankirtan and lecture were conducted in the evening. The Birthday



Balavihar members beside the Ganesh Idol prepared

of **Sri Sarada Devi** was celebrated on 4 January, 2013 with Puja in the morning and by lighting of candles in the evening. The birthday celebrations of **Swami Vivekananda** were celebrated 3-02-2013.

On 19 September, 2012, **Vinayaka Chaturthi** was celebrated. The youth members made an idol of Ganesh with clay which was worshipped. In the evening



Rev. Swami Atmashraddhanandaji Maharaj addressing the devotees.

'Nimajjanam' was performed with sankirtan. On 13 November, 2012, **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 **Krishna Ashtami** (9 August, 2012), **Shiva Ratri** (10 March, 2013) **Christmas Eve** (24 December, 2012) were celebrated in the Samithi with special Puja in the morning and special Bhajan in the evening.

SPIRITUAL RETREATS

Two spiritual retreats were conducted during this financial year.

First spiritual retreat was conducted under the guidance of Revered Swami Punyatmanandaji Maharaj (Ramakrishna Math, Rajahmundry) on 26 August, 2012.

Second spiritual retreat was conducted by Revered Swami Atmashraddhanandaji Maharaj on 8 September, 2012.



Dr. P.Syamasundara Murthy, President of our samithi, addressing the devotees.

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 03 March, 2013, Narayana Seva was conducted on the occasion of the birth anniversary Sri Sri Guru Maharaj. 400 people were sumptuously fed.

Rev. Swami Aksharatmanandaji Maharaj with Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa beneficiaries.



4) CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The activity of children 'BALA VIHAR' continued as a very important activity of the Samithi. About 80 children from the nearby locality irrespective of caste and religion attend Samithi regularly and are actively 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 10 kgs of food is cooked and the children are fed.

5. Computer based teaching and computer learning classes were conducted for the children of Balavihar.

HINDI EXAMINATION

The children of Balavihar are encouraged to attend the Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachara Sabha examinations. Eight students passed the Madhyama Examination in Aug., 2012 and five students Rashtrabhasha in Feb., 2013 and one student passed the Praveena Examination in Aug., 2012.

GADADHAR ABHYUDAYA PRAKALPA

Gadadhar Abhyudaya prakalpa is a central government sponsored pro-gramme



Gadadhar Prakalpa: Play and feeding in progress.



Sri C.Sridhar IAS distributing toiletries



Moral lesson and Yoga classes in progress



commemorating 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, music and story telling classes inculcating good character.

The programme was inaugurated at our Samithi 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 upto 31 March, 2014. The children of the nearby Sitarama Municipal Elementary school and some of the eligible children of Balavihar are enrolled into this programme.

During the year, Revered Swami Aksharatmanandaji Maharaj, President, Ramakrishna Math, Rajahmundry visited our samithi on 15 Aug., 2012 to inspect the progress of the programme. Rev. Maharaj addressed the children and gave away some of the supplies. On the same day Dr. TGK Murthy, Out-standing Scientist Rtd., ISRO, Bangalore, who visited our samithi, interacted with the children.

On 7 Feb 2013, Sri C.Sridhar IAS (member of our samithi) addressed the children of the programme and gave away the supplies of the month.

5) YOUTH ACTIVITIES

RATHA YATRA OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary, a Ratha Yatra of Swami Vivekananda is taken up by the Ramakrishna Mission. A Ratham carrying beautiful idols of Swami Vivekananda is prepared and it is travelling all through Andhra Pradesh. Along with Ratham, a vehicle carrying an exhibition on Swami Vivekananda, a vehicle carrying a book stall of the literature of Swami Vivekananda also took part in the yatra.



On the 4 of October, 2012 the Ratham arrived at Bapatla. Various programmes were arranged on this occasion. Revered Swami Swasamvedyanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada, Revered Swami Raghunayakanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad, Brahmachari Uddhav Chaitanya Maharaj, Brahmachari Santhosh Maharaj participated in all the events.

The programme started at 8:45 am with procession through the Bapatla town from Municipal office to our Samithi in Vijayalakshmpuram. The procession proceeded with Mangala Vadyam and a running commentary by Dr. Narayanam Seshu Babu. The Municipal Commis-



sioner Sri M.Rama Rao inaugurated and participated in the procession. Several important persons of the town participated.

At 11:00 am there was a lecture meeting in the local Agricultural Engineering College.

At 2:00 pm, a meeting was held for the local school children in the Rotary Kalyanamandapam which was attended by 1000 children. The programme concluded with a playlet on the life of Swami Vivekananda by Sri Tangirala Raghava Sarma and party of Hyderabad which was well received by children.

At 5:00 pm, a meeting was held in the local Bapatla Women's Engineering college.

At 7:00 pm, a public meeting was held at Kona Prabhakara Rao Kalakshetram, which was attended by a large audience. The public meeting ended with an excellent Burra Katha on the life of Swamiji by Sri Gorrela Ramu and party of East Godavari district.

All through the day the Ratham was well received all over the town with children and college students constantly flocking it. Dr. KVS Acharya, Dr. PV Ramkumar, Sri Gopalam Ravindra Babu actively participated in the day's programmes.



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 yogananas.

On 07 February, 2013, 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 last year specializing in stone sculpture. During this year he is awarded a scholarship of Rs. 5,600. (A photograph on the right shows the work of Mr John Augustine in his first year of diploma.)

2. Mr. G. Srinivas who is studying wood carving at the same institution, reached final year. He is awarded a scholarship of Rs. 3,500.



3. Ms. Venkateswaramma, studying intermediate is awarded a scholarship of Rs.1,800.

An amount of Rs.5636 was given as scholarship to other deserving students.

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. The youth were also encouraged to learn skills by plumbing, electric wiring, gardening and other maintenance works in the samithi on a voluntary basis.
2. 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 Vijayalakshnipuram. 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 young singers would sing to accompaniment of drums and other instruments.

The anniversary celebration of this particular programme was conducted on 20 January, 2013. 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: 27TH 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 27th year of the competitions, they were conducted for school and college students separately.

SCHOOL LEVEL

From 07.08.2012 to 20.08.2012 competitions for school children were conducted from L.Kg to 10th class at 6 levels. Various events 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, model making 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 2200 children from 20 schools participated in the event.

On 26.08.2012 at 4 p.m. the school level VCAP prize distribution ceremony was conducted. Revered Swami Punyatmanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Rajahmundry graced the occasion, blessed the children and gave away the prizes and mementoes.



Competition in progress

COLLEGE LEVEL

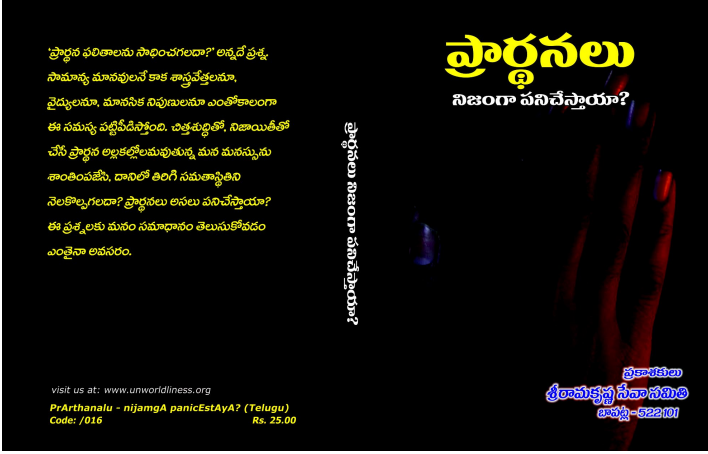
From 31.08.2012 to 02.09.2012 competitions for college students were conducted for intermedite and degree students seperately.

A Youth Seminar was conducted on 08.09.2012 on the topic, 'Will-power and its development' in which Revered Swami Atmashraddhandandaji Maharaj, Editor, Vedanta Kesari, Ramakrishna Math, Chennai spoke, answered questions of students and later gave away the prizes to winners of the competitions. Prof. K. Srinivas, Principal, Bapatla Engineering College, Bapatla was the chief guest.



7) PUBLICATION OF BOOKS

A new book entitled “prArthanalu nijaMgA pani chEstAyA?” (Prayers: do they work?) was published in March, 2013. The book discusses various aspects of prayer.



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 and Vivekananda Exhibitions at various places in Bapatla.

9) RURAL WORKS

Saradapuri: During the year, Samithi assisted in the conduct of the Annual Event of “Poleramma Tirunallu”, which was organised by the villagers of the Saradapuri colony.



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 numerous friends, well-wishers and donors for their continued 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, maintaining the accounts etc., in the samithi are done by the volunteers. We pray to the Holy Trio to shower their blessings on all the volunteers for their tireless efforts.

OM TAT SAT

SARVAM SRI RAMAKRISHNAR PANAMASTU

Date: 01.06.2013

Place: Bapatla.

(Amirapu Natarajan)

Secretary