

SRI RAMAKRISHNA SEVA SAMITHI

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

BAPATLA – 522 101

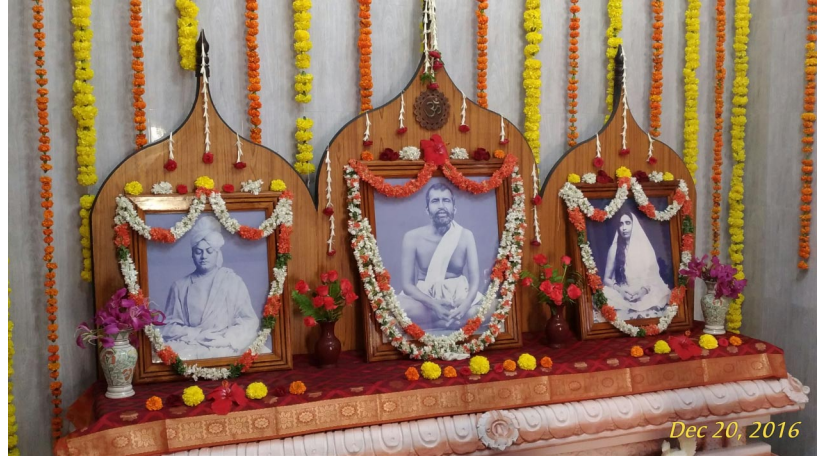
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For more details visit our web-site: www.unworldliness.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Our organization founded in the year 1970 as a registered society with the inspiration of monks of the Ramakrishna Order, continues to work upholding the twin ideals given by Swami Vivekananda - 'AtmanO mOkshArtham - jagaddhitAyacha' - 'For the freedom of oneself and for the benefit of all!'

We present hereunder the various activities undertaken on several fronts during the financial year 2016-2017 :
1. Children's activities; 2. Youth Activities; 3. Narayana Seva, 4. Annual Competitions; 5. Publication of Books, 6. Rural works, 7. Spiritual activities, 8. Regular Lectures, 9. Guest rooms/ class rooms, 10. Miscellaneous.



1. CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The activity of children - christened '**BALA VIHAR**' by our founder Sri BSR Anjaneyulu garu - continued as a very important activity of the Samithi. About 60 children from the nearby locality, irrespective of caste and religion, attend Samithi regularly and are actively involved in all kinds of activities.

Moral Classes and Informal coaching

Moral classes were conducted for the children which include narration of moral stories from Indian culture, life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda by using multimedia. The samithi publication "Pushpanjali" is extensively used for this purpose.

'Academic assistance' was given to the children by the volunteers of the samithi.

Supplementary Food

Every evening the children are provided with supplementary food. A common kitchen run by the volunteers is being maintained in the Samithi. Everyday 6 kgs of food was cooked and served along with fruits, juices, milk and curd.

Monkey-bars

With the financial assistance from Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad, five monkey bars, parallel bars and pull-up bars were fabricated and installed by youth members in the samithi premises. Srimat Swami Aksharatmanandaji Maharaj inaugurated the same on on 5 February, 2017.

Yoga Classes

Every evening, yoga classes for



the children were conducted by Sri P. Santosh Kumar, a qualified yoga trainer and a member of our samithi.

Mridangam Classes

Eight boys of balavihar are selected to be trained in playing Mridangam. The classes are held for two days in a week (Sunday and Wednesday). The classes are free. The teacher is being paid an honorarium by the samithi. A renowned Mridangam artist from Vijayawada, Sri Kamaraju Kishore garu is conducting classes.

One mridangam was donated by Sri Subrahmanyam garu, a musician of Vijayawada and Sri Vijayakumar garu, Vijayawada, donated two mridangams. Two more of smaller size were purchased. Hence, a total of five instruments are available for practice for the children.

Carnatic Classical Music Classes

Five girl children of balavihar are selected to be trained in Carnatic classical music. The classes are held for three days in a week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). These classes too are free. The music teacher, Sri Inupakutika Subrahmanya Sarma, is being paid an honorarium.

Hindi Examination

The children of Balavihar were encouraged to attend the Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachara Sabha examinations. An amount of Rs.5,060/- was spent on books, fees etc. Eleven students in July 2016, thirteen in February 2017 and five students in March 2017 were sent for this examination.

Certificate in Drawing of the Technical Board

Two students passed the Drawing (lower) Examination conducted by the Directorate of Government Examinations (Technical Board), Government of Andhra Pradesh in February 2017.

Play equipment donated by the Income Tax Office, Bapatla

On the occasion of "Joy of Giving Week", the local income tax department under the leadership of ITO Smt. Anjani Devi garu donated play equipment worth Rs.5000/- for the children of Balavihar on 7 October, 2016.



School Uniforms and Yoga Dresses

In July, 2016, eighteen children of Balavihar were provided with school uniforms. In February, 2017, thirty three children were provided with uniform dresses which are useful for practising Yoga. In the month of March 2017, nineteen children were provided with school uniforms.

2. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Seminars in Colleges by the Monks of

Ramakrishna Order

Two youth seminars were organized in Agricultural College and the Agricultural Engineering College of Bapatla on 23 July, 2016. Revered Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj and Revered Swami Shashikanthanandaji Maharaj addressed the students and spoke on the topic of personality development and the message of Swami Vivekananda.

2k, 5k runs

"Strength is life and weakness is death" said Swami Vivekananda. Samithi conducted two programmes of 2 km and 5 km "runs" for the public of Bapatla.

The first programme was conducted on 20 November, 2016 which consisted of a 2 km run. The competition was organized for different age groups of men and women separately and suitable mementoes and prizes were given away. Sri Gopalam Ravindra Babu of Ravi Gardens, Bapatla, who is also a member of the samithi, flagged off the run and gave away the prizes.



A similar programme, for the second time, consisting of 2 km and 5 km runs was organized on 5 February, 2017. This programme was flagged off by Sri Khadar Vali (85), a yoga-guru, sportsman and gymnast of local repute. He also gave away the prizes and mementoes.



Gymnasium

Swami Vivekananda laid much stress on physical culture. A gymnasium was established in the samithi, during this year, for the youth members to train in body-building. Some of the items were purchased from the market and some of the items were fabricated by the youth members locally. This activity was organized by Sri P. Santhosh Kumar.

Menstrual Hygiene Awareness for Girls

Smt. M. Madhavi, a member of the Samithi and a qualified pharmacist, conducted 'menstrual hygiene awareness workshops for girls' in schools and colleges, in and around Bapatla town. During this year she, along with lady volunteers from samithi, covered 21 educational institu-



tions and conducted sessions for nearly 9000 girls. For this programme, samithi acquired a portable projector and a portable speaker system.

Study Circle

Study circle was conducted regularly. Teachings of Swami Vivekananda were the topic of discussion along with learning English and general knowledge, through reading, discussing, and watching documentaries on the computer.

The youth were encouraged to practice yogasanas.

Sri A. Natarajan, Secretary was conducting a special study circle by online conference from 8 to 9 pm on every Sunday. Around 10 youth members from across the globe were attending this meeting. Bhagawad Gita in the light of Swami Vivekananda was the main topic of discussion.

Financial Aid/Scholarships



In the financial year an amount of Rs.1,00,268 was disbursed as scholarship to several needy children, mostly from the Balavihar. The beneficiaries were Koti John Augustine (studying BFA, JNTU, Hyderabad), M. Venkateswaramma (B.Sc.), L. Kaarunya (6th class), L.Naimisha (3rd class), Koti Eswar (5th class), P. Durga Rani (Intermediate), P. Manoj Ramakrishna (4th class), P. Vinod Ramakrishna (2nd class) and Sk. Mehboob Basha (7th class).

Spoken English Classes

Spoken English classes for Samithi volunteers were conducted by Sri B. Srinivasa Raju, Joint Secretary and Dr. N. Ramagopal, Treasurer. A total of ten members attended for a period of three months. This programme may be extended to the general public in future.

For this programme, the portable projector and the portable speaker system mentioned earlier were used. The videos of Sri J. Balakrishna English Classes, were used as course material.

Computer Lab

Sri C. Nagesh, Chennai, a well-wisher, arranged a donation of 15 used/old computers along with chairs and tables. A Lab is established in one of the rooms of the samithi. The same were used for the Spoken English classes also.

Earn while you learn

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

Book-stalls

Book-stalls to spread the message of Swami Vivekananda by selling the low-priced books of Ramakrishna Math and the Samithi were conducted by the youth members. A nominal incentive was paid to the volunteers. Twenty five book-stalls in various colleges and schools in Bapatla and surrounding areas and books worth Rs. 82,000/- were sold through this activity.

Afforestation programme

The volunteers of the samithi actively planted pongamia plants and Palmyra seeds in the Suryalanka Beach of Bapatla. The pongamia and other plants which were planted in the road-sides of Vijayalakshampuram are being regularly watered by the volunteers and Balavihar children of the samithi. More than three hundred saplings were planted during the year.

Old water bottles of 20 litre size are being used to grow pongamia saplings in the samithi premises.

Carnatic Music programme 'Sangeetha Jhari'

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



“Sangeetha Jhari”, were arranged on the last Sunday every month, where young talent is showcased. In this, Young singers would sing to accompaniment of drums and other instruments played mostly by youngsters.

The programme which completed 75 monthly concerts, celebrated the sixth anniversary this year on 29 January, 2017. On this occasion a special lecture on carnatic music was conducted by Smt. V.S.D. Syamasundari Devi garu, Retired

Principal, Bandlamudi Hanumayamma Womens’ College, Guntur. Sri C. Sridhar IAS. and Smt. G. Lakshmi, Music Teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Guntur also participated. The participants of monthly programmes conducted during the year, gave a special music recital and were given away participation certificates and mementoes.



3. NARAYANA SEVA

Narayana Seva (Annadanam)

On 12 February, 2017, Narayana Seva was conducted on the occasion of the birth anniversary Sri Sri Guru Maharaj. 450 people were sumptuously fed.

Homeo-camps (Monthly)

Homeo camps were conducted by the Samithi on first Sunday of every month. Dr.N.Aruna Kumari, DHMS, a renowned homeo-physician, was treating the patients. All the medicines were provided free of cost. The activity received good response from the citizens of the locality. Nearly 70 to 100 patients were attending each camp and were availing the services.

4. ANNUAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUTH: 31ST VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL AWARDS PROGRAMME

Annual Competitions were conducted for students of School and college under the name Vivekananda Cultural Awards Programme. During this year, the 31st year of the competitions, they were conducted for school and college students separately.

School Level

From 03.08.2016 to 16.08.2016 competitions for school children were conducted from L.Kg to 10th class at 4 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 2000 children from 20 schools hailing from Bapatla and surrounding areas, participated in the event.

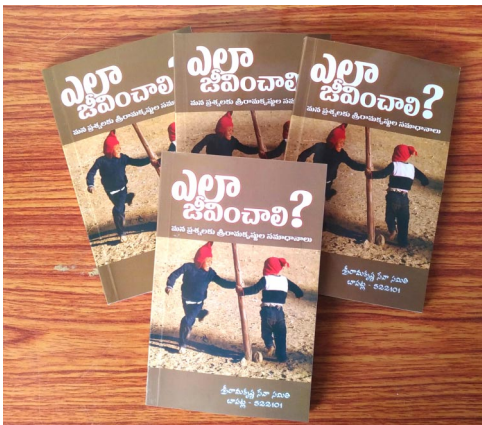


On 21.08.2016 at 4 p.m. the school level VCAP prize distribution ceremony was conducted. Revered Swami Bhitiharandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad graced the occasion, blessed the children and gave away the prizes and mementoes. Prof. P. Syamasundara Murthy, our president, presided over the meeting.

College Level

From 24.08.2016 to 28.08.2016 competitions for college students were conducted for intermedite and degree students seperately.

A Youth Seminar was conducted on 04.09.2016 on the topic, 'Youth and Purposeful Living' in which Revered Swami Anupamanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Tirupathi spoke, answered questions of students and later gave away the prizes to winners of the competitions. Prof. P. Syamasundara Murthy, our president, presided over the meeting.



5) PUBLICATION OF BOOKS

New Publication

ela jIvinchAli? - mana prashnalaku gurudEvula samAdhAnAlu (How to live? - The answers of Sri Ramakrishna to our questions) is the 19th title added during this year. It is a compilation prepared by our President Prof. Pannala Syamasundara Murthy garu and Sri Madireddy Dada Rao garu, comprising the teachings of Sri Ramakrishna in the context of modern life.

Reprints

During this year several of our publications were reprinted and all of them continued to receive good response from public.

6) RURAL WORKS

Saradapuri

Saradapuri is the village that was reconstructed by the samithi after the severe cyclone of 1977 by construction of 99 pucca houses, a cyclone shelter and a temple for the local diety 'Poleramma'. The temple is being maintained by our samithi on a regular basis by painting etc. Samithi is also actively participating in helping the villages to conduct the anniversary "Tirunallu".



This year, the iron grills of the temple, which rusted in places over four decades, were removed and repaired extensively. The entire temple was repaired for leaks etc. comprehensively and the grills were newly painted and rest of the temple was coloured with distemper. An amount of Rs.73,046/- was spent for the purpose.

The villagers also pitched in to replace flooring and applied tiles to some

of the walls.

Revered Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj and Revered Swami Shashikanthandaji Maharaj visited Saradapuri on 24 July, 2016 and addressed the local villagers. Their speeches were suitably translated into Telugu.

7) SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Daily Prayer meeting was held on all days throughout the year. Vivekananda Ashtottara stotra is read on Mondays, Ramakrishna Stotra on Wednesdays and Sarada stotra on Fridays along with Sankirtan. On **Ekadasi** Days Ramanama Sankirtanam was conducted in the evenings.

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, sankirtana and discourses in the evening.

The Birthday of **Sri Sarada Devi** was celebrated on 20 December, 2016 with Puja in the morning and by lighting of candles and a lecture meeting in the evening. **Kalpataru day** which was celebrated on 1 January, 2017. The birthday celebrations of **Swami Vivekananda** were celebrated 19 January, 2017. **Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti** was celebrated on 28 February, 2017. Puja was performed in the morning. Sankirtan and lecture were conducted in the evening.

On 5 September, 2016, **Vinayaka Chaturthi** was celebrated. The youth members made an idol of Ganesh with clay which was worshipped. In the evening 'Nimajjanam' was performed with sankirtan. Dasara was celebrated with daily chanting of "Devi Saptashati" and **Vijayadasami**, which happens to be the anniversary of our samithi, was celebrated on 11 October, 2016 with puja in the morning and Sankirtan and Bilwa leaf offering in the evening. On 29 October, 2016, **Deepavali day Lakshmi puja** was conducted in the evening. An effigy of 'Narakasura' was prepared by the youth members and the same was burnt in the evening. Later sweets and crackers were distributed among children.

All the other important celebrations like **Shiva Ratri** (24 February, 2017), **Gurupurnima** (19 July, 2016), **Krishna Ashtami** (25 August, 2016), were celebrated in the Samithi with special Puja in the morning and special Bhajan in the evening. **Christmas eve** (24 December, 2016) was celebrated with a christmas tree, a speech on the life and message of Jesus Christ and children erected a christmas tree and sang christmas carols.

Spiritual Retreats

Four spiritual retreats were conducted during this year, 2016-17.

First spiritual retreat was conducted under the guidance of Revered Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj (Senior Trustee, Ramakrishna Mission and Secretary, Sarada Peeth, Belur Math, Kolkata) and Revered Swami Shashikanthanandaji Maharaj (Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada) on 24 July, 2016.

Second spiritual retreat was conducted by Revered Swami Bhitiharanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math,





Hyderabad on 21 August, 2016.

Third spiritual retreat was conducted by Revered Swami Anupamanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Thirupathi on 4 September, 2016.

Fourth spiritual retreat was conducted by Revered Swami Aksharatmanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Chengulpet, Tamilnadu in the evening of 5 February, 2017 from 6 to 8 pm.



Visit of Revered Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj

A visit by Revered Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj (Senior Trustee, Ramakrishna Mission and Secretary, Sarada Peeth (Vocational College), Belur Math, Kolkata) on 23 and 24 July, 2016, is the highlight of this year. Revered Swamiji heard about the activities and visited the samithi. As can be seen in this report, the Revered Swamiji participated in various programmes on those two days. Along with the programmes in Bapatla, Revered Swamiji visited the nearby Samithis in Karlapalem, Chirala and Timmarajupalem and addressed the devotees and enquired about their activities.



Visits of Swamis of the Ramakrishna Order

In addition to the above programmes, the swamis of the Ramakrishna order visited Bapatla samithi on various occasions.

Revered Swami Raghunayakanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad visited our samithi in the evening of 20 February, 2017 and interacted with devotees and youth members.



Revered Swami Shashikanthanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada; Revered Swami Sukritanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Kadapa and Revered Swami Bodhaswarupanandaji Maharaj, Belur Math, Kolkata visited our samithi on the evening of 17 March, 2017 and interacted with devotees.

Revered Swami Sannivasanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada visited our samithi on 7 November, 2016.

Revered Mataji Dharmatmaprana Mataji, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Guntur along with a Brahmacharini of the order, visited our samithi on 15

January, 2017 for a review of the Balavihar activities.

Visits of Important Guests

Sri C. Sridhar IAS, Sr. Deputy Director, LBSNAA, Mussorie, Uttarakhand (previously a youth member of the Samithi), visited our samithi on 30 January, 2017 and interacted with youth from local colleges, children of the Balavihar and participated in the anniversary of Sangeetha Jhari programme.

8. REGULAR LECTURES

Throughout the year, Lectures on Geeta were conducted by Sri A. Naresh on Thursdays and lectures on Kathamrita were conducted by Sri B. Srinivasa Raju, Joint Secretary, on Sundays. Dr.N.Ramagopal, Treasurer, conducted talks on the life of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi on Fridays. Smt. BPNV Ramani, member, spoke on the birthdays of the direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna on their life and message.

9. GUEST ROOMS/CLASS ROOMS

Two rooms with attached baths were constructed on the terrace of the second building in the samithi premises. These will cater to the much needed necessity of guest rooms for the Swamis and others who visit our samithi. However, these rooms would be used as class rooms and also for practicing Yoga.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

Our auditor Sri Karumanchi Krishna Murthy garu, who had been lovingly serving our samithi over four decades, passed away this year. The samithi condoles his death and would remain ever thankful for his selfless service.

Our samithi appointed Sri P. Chandrasekhar, Hyderabad as our new auditor. We thank him for auditing the accounts of 2016-17.

During the Samithi recieved Rs. 6,98,074/- as general donations, Rs.1,55,000/- as donations for building fund. A total of Rs.8,90,401/- worth publications were sold. An amount of Rs.2,57,254 was spent on the children's activity - 'Balavihar.'

Samithi buildings are painted during March, 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the monks of the Ramakrishna Order for their continued guidance and patronage.

We also thank the numerous friends, well-wishers and donors for their continued support for the Samithi. May Sri Sri Guru Maharaj bless them all is our constant prayer.

Since the year of its inception in 1970, there were 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: 01.07.2017
Place: Bapatla.

(Amirapu Natarajan)
Secretary

