

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

SRI RAMAKRISHNA SEVA SAMITHI

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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 liberation of oneself and for the benefit of all!'

We present hereunder the various activities undertaken on several fronts during the financial year 2018-2019 : 1. Children's activities; 2. Youth Activities; 3. Construction of a new building for Youth Activities; 4. Narayana Seva, 5. Annual Competitions; 6. Publication of Books, 7. Rural works, 8. Spiritual activities, 9. Regular lectures; 10. Acknowledgements.

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. An

amount of 1,11,494.00 was spent on this programme during the financial year.



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.



Educational Excursions: The children were taken to local exhibition (22/8/2018) and were taken on a excursion (03/09/2018) to Chebrolu Temples, Uppalapadu bird sanctuary and Kondaveedu Fort. The lady devotees and young girls visited Sarada Math, Guntur and other place around Guntur on 17/2/2019.



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 5 kgs of food was served which was cooked in samithi along with fruits, juices, milk and curd. In addition to the above, well-wishers and devotees regularly send fresh cooked food for the children.



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. Volunteers of the Samithi under his leadership attended various schools and colleges and conducted free yoga classes.

Play equipment: The samithi premises has monkey bars installed for the children to play. Samithi also provides balls, raquets, carrom boards and other equipment for the children of various age groups to play. This year, an amount of Rs. 3,935/- was spent on various sports items.

Karate Classes: Six children are attending Karate classes. These children also attended a Karate Camp for 15 days for special training. These kids are being trained by Mr. Gopi Krishna, black belt, who was also a balavihar product.

Mridangam Classes: Eight boys of balavihar are selected to be trained in playing Mridangam. The classes are held for two days in a week. 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 (Yearly Rs.1,05,600/-)

Carnatic Classical Music Classes: Seven 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 by the samithi. (Yearly Rs.48,000)



Hindi Examination: The children of Balavihar were encouraged to attend the Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachara Sabha examinations. An amount of Rs.3870/- was spent on books, fees etc. Nine students were sent for this examination. (10-02-2019).



Certificate in Drawing of the Technical Board: Eight youth members attended this examination of which 3 for higher level and five for lower level. An amount of Rs 2,925/- was spent which included fee, boarding and travelling expenses to Guntur.



Yoga Dresses (Sports Wear) and School Uniforms: Eight children of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Suryalanka, Bapatla of Balavihar were provided with school uniforms at a cost of 5200. 50 children were provided with uniform dresses which are useful for practising Yoga (cost Rs.23,500/-).



2. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2k, 5k runs: "Strength is life and weakness is death" said Swami Vivekananda. Samithi conducted a programme of 2 km and 5 km "runs" for the public of Bapatla. The programme was conducted on 09/12/2018 which consisted of a 2 km and 5 km run. The competition was organized for different age groups of men and women separately and suitable mementoes and prizes were given away. The run was flagged off by Sri Ragala Madhu, sportsman and gymnast (Father/Coach of Sri Ragala Rahul of Commonwealth Gold Medal fame). He also gave away the prizes and mementoes.



International Yoga Day: International Yoga day (2018 June 21) was conducted in the samithi premises and in various schools and colleges around the town. 25 colleges and schools were covered by the volunteers of the samithi



who gave discourses on the importance of yoga asanas, demonstrated various yoga poses and gave a short training programme for the students.



Gymnasium: Swami Vivekananda laid much stress on physical culture. A gymnasium was established in the samithi, for the youth members to train in body-building. 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 17 sessions on 'menstrual hygiene awareness workshops for girls' in 11 schools and 2 colleges, in and around Bapatla town. During this year she, along with lady volunteers from samithi conducted sessions which benefitted 1800 girls.

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.1,62,171/- was disbursed as scholarship to several needy children, mostly from the Balavihar. The beneficiaries were Koti John Augustine (studying BFA, JN University of Architecture and Fine Arts, Hyderabad), M. Venkateswaramma (M.Sc.), L. Kaarunya (9th class), L.Naimisha (6rd class), Koti Eswar (7th class), Perumalla Durga Rani and Immadisetty Durga Bhavani (Diploma in Nursing), P. Vinod Ramakrishna (5nd class) and Sk. Mehboob Basha (10th class).



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 life-giving 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. Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad supplied a van for the purpose of displaying the books and a pictorial exhibition on the life and



message of Swami Vivekananda. More than 25 book-stalls along with the pictorial exhibition in various colleges and schools in Bapatla and surrounding areas were conducted. Regular book-stalls are conducted at APHRDA, Bapatla.

Afforestation programme: The volunteers of the samithi actively planted pongamia plants. The pongamia and other plants which were planted in the road-sides of Vijayalakshmipuram are being regularly watered by the volunteers and Balavihar children of the samithi. The palmyra seedlings planted on the beach of Suryalanka survived in good numbers and are growing. 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 99 monthly concerts by March 2019, celebrated the seventh anniversary this year on 27 January, 2019. On this occasion a special lecture on carnatic music was conducted by Sri Narasimhacharyulu garu, a Music Teacher and Retd.Engineer, ONGC, Guntur. Smt. G. Lakshmi, Music Teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Guntur conducted the programme. The participants of monthly programmes conducted during the year, gave a special music recital and were given away participation certificates and mementoes.



3. NEW BUILDING FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

A new building at a cost of 80 lakh rupees was neared completion this year. The building has a built-up area of approx. 4000 sq.ft with a hall of 1975 sq.ft. It would fulfill the long standing need of the samithi for extra space for conducting youth activities, classes, meetings and other cultural events. The foundation stone for the building was laid on 24 July, 2016 by Rev. Swami



Divyanandaji Maharaj, (Senior Trustee, Ramakrishna Mission and Secretary, Sarada Peeth (Vocational College), Belur Math, Kolkata). The actual work started on 12 March, 2018. Whenever possible the youth members of the samithi are doing voluntary work for the construction. We expect to inaugurate the building by November, 2019.

4. NARAYANA SEVA:

Free Homeo Medical camps (Monthly): Homeo Medical 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. Narayana Seva (Annadanam) On 24 February, 2019,

Narayana Seva was conducted on the occasion of the birth anniversary Sri Sri Guru Maharaj. 450 people were sumptuously fed. (Cost Rs.15,846/-)

5. ANNUAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUTH:

33ND 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 33rd year of the competitions, they were conducted for school and college students separately. (Total expenditure Rs.18697/-) **School Level:** This Years competitions were held on the theme "The 125th



anniversary of the Historic Lectures at the Parliament of Religions, Chicago by Swami Vivekananda in 1893." From 01.08.2018 to 14.08.2018 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 2500 children from 18 schools hailing from Bapatla and surrounding areas, participated in the event. On 19.08.2018 at 4 p.m. the school level VCAP prize distribution ceremony was conducted. Prof. Er. A.Mani, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering, Bapatla was the chief guest and gave away the prizes and mementoes. Prof. P.Syamasundara Murthy, President of Samithi, presided over the meeting. College Level From 23.08.2018 to 27.08.2018 competitions for college students were conducted for intermediate and degree students. A Youth Seminar was conducted on 01.09.2018 on the topic, 'What is the way to achieve our goal' in which Revered Pravrajika Tyaganishtaprana Mataji, Sarada Math, Guntur, spoke, answered questions of students and later gave away the prizes to winners of the competitions. Four students presented their papers on the topic in the seminar.

2ND VIVEKANANDA YOGA COMPETITIONS: The second annual Vivekananda Yoga Competitions was held for the school students of Bapatla. The event was held on 2 Dec., 2018. The competition was held for three levels - 5 & 6; 7 & 8; and 9 & 10 classes. Judges were invited from various places. Around 100 participants attended the event. In the evening prize distribution was held at 11 AM. Sri Mamidala Santosh, Sri Khadar vali and other judges gave away prizes.

6. PUBLICATION OF BOOKS

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

7. RURAL WORKS

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".



8. SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Visit of Revered Dayatmanandaji Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Ulsoor, Bengaluru: Revered Swami Dayatmanandaji Maharaj visited our samithi on the evening of 29 September, 2018. A spiritual retreat was conducted under his leadership in the



morning. Revered Swamiji gave harati in the shrine, spoke to the devotees and blessed the devotees.



Daily and Annual 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 28 December, 2018 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, 2019. The birthday celebrations of Swami Vivekananda were celebrated 27 January, 2019. Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti was celebrated on 08 March, 2019. Puja was performed in the morning. Sankirtan and lecture were conducted in the evening.



On 13 September, 2018, Vinayaka Chaturthi was celebrated. The youth members made an idol of Ganesha 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 19 October, 2018 with puja in the morning and Sankirtan and Bilwa leaf offering in the evening. An idol of the mother



was made by Chi. Koti John Augustine which was installed in the shrine worshipped and Nimajjanam was done in the evening for the idol. On 07 November, 2018, 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. Sweets and crackers were distributed among children. All the other important celebrations like Shiva Ratri (04 March, 2019), Gurupurnima (27 July, 2018), Krishna Ashtami (02 September, 2018) were celebrated in the Samithi with special Puja in the morning and special Bhajan in the evening. Christmas eve (24 December, 2018) was celebrated with a speech on the life and message of Jesus Christ and children erected a christmas tree and sang christmas carols. Spiritual Retreats A spiritual retreat was conducted by Revered Swami Dayatmananda Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math, Ulsoor, Bengaluru on 29 September, 2018. Second spiritual retreat was conducted by Revered Pravrajika Tyaganishtaprana Mataji, Sarada Mission, Guntur on 1 September, 2018.

9. 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, Sister Nivedita and the Memoirs of Swami Vivekananda on Mondays and Fridays. Smt. BPNV Ramani, member, spoke on the birthdays of the direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna on their life and message.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: M/s Chandrasekhar & Co, Chartered Accountants, Hyderabad, audited our accounts. We thank them for the same. During the Samithi recieved Rs. 6,30,707/- as general donations, Rs.5,21,817/- as donations for building fund. A total of Rs.13,61,499/- worth publications of Samithi and the of the Ramakrishna order were sold. 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 RAMAKRISHNARPANAMASTU

Date: 01.05.2018

Place: Bapatla.

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Members of the Managing committee:

1. Prof. P. Syamasundara Murthy, President
2. Sri K.S.S. Prasad, Vice-president
3. Sri Amirapu Natarajan, Secretary
4. Dr. Nemmani Ramagopal, Treasurer
5. Sri Bethalam Srinivasa Raju, Joint-secretary
6. Prof. (Smt.) Ch. Chiranjeevi, Member
7. Sri A. Naresh, Member
8. Sri V.V. Sastry, Member
9. Sri Polimera Santosh Kumar, Member

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(Amirapu Natarajan)

Secretary

Some More images:
Balavihar Activities:



