Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada

Report of Activities: 2008 – 2011

Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada is a branch centre of the Ramakrishna Mission Headquarters, Belur Math. Started in 1956 and made a branch of the Mission in 2001, this Centre conducts its activities through two Units - (i) City Centre at Gandhinagar, Vijayawada, Krishna District and (ii) Ashrama at Sitanagaram, Guntur District.

ACTIVITIES

AT GANDHINAGAR

- Prayer-cum-Meditation Hall, evening Aratrikam and Devotional singing.
- Saturday & Sunday Religious classes on the Life and teachings of Ramakrishna – Vivekananda and Vedanta philosophy & practice.

Year	No. of Classes	Average Attendance
2008 - 09	112	30
2009 - 10	118	25
2010 - 11	109	26

- Showroom-cum-Sales Counter of Ramakrishna – Vivekananada literature, books on Vedanta Philosophy, Indian Culture, and Personality Development.
- Pictorial Exhibitions on the lives and teachings of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda.
- Vivekananda Study Circle for Young men on Sundays. Average Attendance: 19
- Occasional discourses on scriptures by monks.

AT SITANAGARAM

- Daily morning service and worship of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna and evening Aratrikam and devotional singing. Birthday Tithipuja Celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda with special puja, discourses, and bhajans.
- Ramanama Sankirtan on every Ekadashi day
- Discourses in Telugu and bhajans on festivals such as Guru Purnima, Sri Krishna Astami, Vijaya Dasami, Shiva Ratri, Rama Navami etc. Christmas Eve is observed.
- Occasional Spiritual Retreats and Japa Yajnas.

150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Swami Vivekananda

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Mission Headquarters is organizing various projects – for integrated child development, for the improvement of children's health by eliminating malnutrition, and for alleviating poverty. One such project is **Gadadhara Abhyudaya Sishu Sankshema Pathakam (Gadadhara Abhyudaya Prakalpa)** for harmonious overall development of children – physical, intellectual, and moral. The children are provided nutritious food, undertake physical exercise, and are imparted moral and cultural values through moral stories,

lives and teachings of great men and women, and bhajans. Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada started one unit of this ongoing project at Sitanagaram Ashrama in January 2011.

In January-March 2011, the total participants in this project were 130 (Boys 57 + Girls 73) and an amount of **Rs.1,85,693/-** was spent for distributing School Uniforms, Note Books, School Bags, Study materials, footwear and items for health and hygiene such as Milk, Biscuits, Upma, Pongal, etc.

Vivekananda Balala Sangham

Vivekananda Balala Sangham is a special programme for children on Sundays imparting moral values through chanting, bhajans, moral stories, etc. from the rich Indian cultural tradition in the light of teachings of Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother, and Swami Vivekananda and other holy personages.

Year	Place	Average Attendance
2008 - 09	Sitanagaram & Gandhinagar	110
2009 - 10	Sitanagaram & Gandhinagar	74
2010 - 11	Sitanagaram	31

Spiritual Discourses

Weekly and occasional spiritual discourses were conducted in the Ashrama. Monastic members on invitation lectured in functions organised outside the Ashrama.

	Number of Discourses			
Year	In the Ashrama (incl. lectures at Gandhinagar)	Outside the Ashrama	Total	Attendance
2008 - 09	170	66	236	14,617
2009 - 10	198	34	232	7,239
2010 – 11	132	45	177	13,528

Annual Youth, Teachers', and Parents' Conventions

In order to expose the student-teacher-parent community to the enlightening and invigorating teachings of the great Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada has been successfully organising conventions for Youth, Teachers, and Parents every year.

During the year	Youth Convention (No.of students) Participated			Teachers' Convention (No.of teachers) participated			Parents' Convention (No. of parents) participated		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2008-09	600	800	1,400	160	140	300	170	230	400
2009-10	375	3525	700	170	130	300	180	220	400
2010-11	460	340	800	200	300	500	80	120	200

Viveka Vahini

Viveka Vahini is a mobile unit equipped with audio – video equipment, pictorial exhibits and literature on the life and message of Swami Vivekananda. This Unit will go to different educational institutions and rural areas taking the life giving message of Swami Vivekananda to the young students and rural-folk for inculcating values. The project will also focus on personality development, national integration and other themes of national interest in the light of Swamiji's teaching. This Unit was launched on 12 January 2007 – the birthday of Swami Vivekananda and National Youth Day.

Year	No.of Edu. Institutions visited	No. of Films screened	No. of speeches	Ramakrishna–Vivekananda literature sold	Beneficiaries (Students)
2008 - 09	111	130	130	Rs. 3,30,285	44,665
2009 - 10	66	63	78	Rs.1,52,370	31,059
2010 - 11	61	56	61	Rs. 1,39,940	23,766

Ramakrishna Mission High School

- Govt. Aided - Telugu Medium school with classes from VI to X standard having 66 boys and 91 girls on its rolls providing **free education** for all the students
- Free distribution of uniforms, books and stationery to deserving students.
- Free distribution of Midday Meals to students daily.
- Scholarships to meritorious students and Silver medals to meritorious students of X standard.
- Free Sanskrit and Hindi coaching.

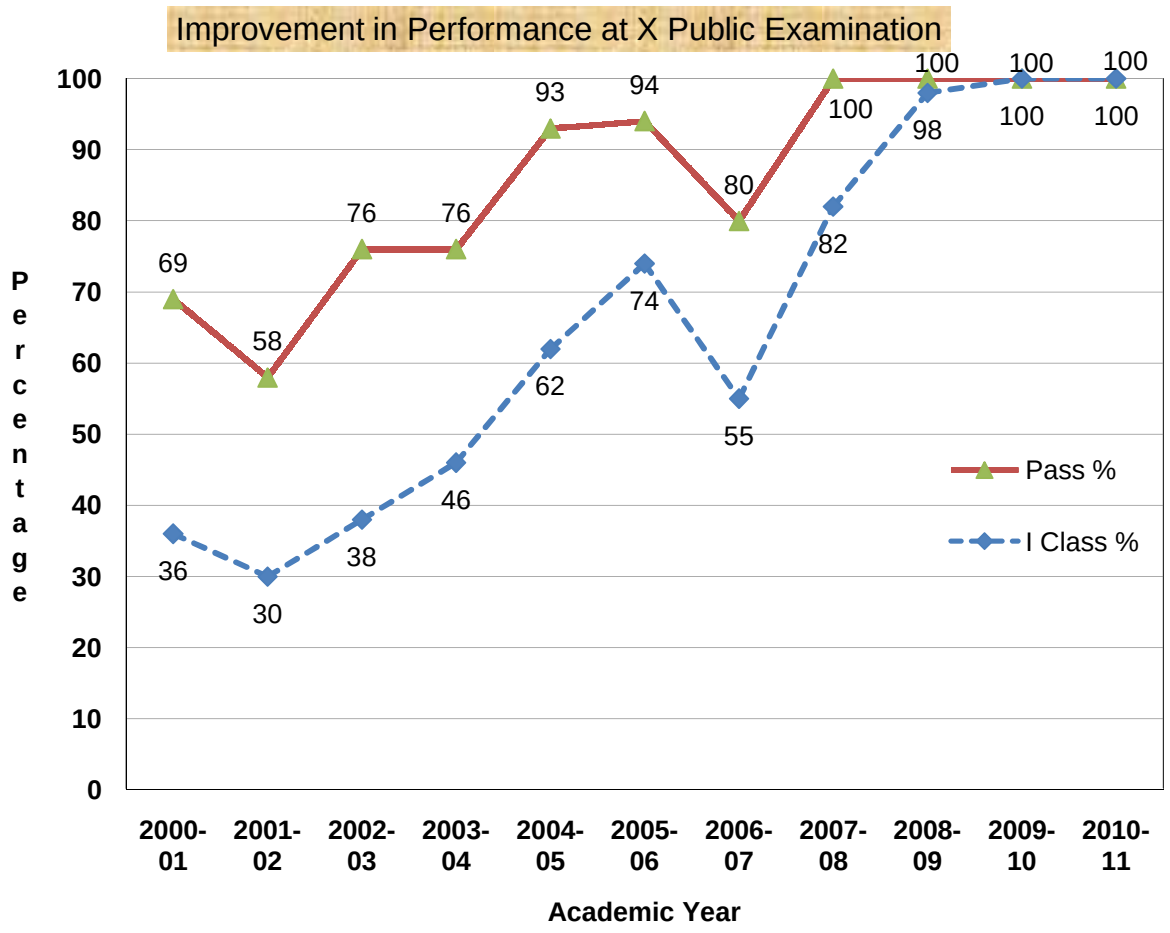
2010 - 11		
Name of the Examination	Students appeared	Students passed
Sanskrit Prathama	65	Result Awaited
Sanskrit Dvitiya	26	
Hindi Pradhamika	64	64
Hindi Madhyamika	20	20
Hindi Rastra	1	1
Hindi Praveshika	1	1

- Free coaching for Polytechnic entrance test and free Music classes.
- Basic Computer Training at nominal charges.

SSC Board Exam Results

Year	Appeared	Passed	First Division	Second Division	Third Division	Pass %	Highest Mark	75% & above
2000-01	160	110	57	29	24	69	546	12
2001-02	165	96	50	26	20	58	509	9
2002-03	130	99	49	46	4	76	511	10
2003-04	148	112	68	29	15	76	541	27
2004-05	100	93	62	26	5	93	550	26
2005-06	78	73	58	13	2	94	529	16
2006-07	56	45	31	8	6	80	533	14
2007-08	78	78	64	11	3	100	546	27
2008-09	44	44	43	1	0	100	544	25
2009-10	19	19	19	0	0	100	557	17
2010-11	22	22	22	0	0	100	562	18

The below graph shows the remarkable improvement in the standard of education since the Mission took over the school in 2000 – 01. The pass percent and percent of students securing first class have registered steady growth and both indicators registered **cent percent** in 2010 -11.



Ramakrishna Mission School

Started in the academic year of 2004-2005, this English medium school is now having classes from LKG to IX with 200 boys and 140 girls. The first batch of students will appear in the X public examination in the year 2011 – 12.

The school provides affordable education to students from poor financial background. The school is equipped with Science and Computer labs, Library, Sports material etc., providing quality education for the all-round development of the students.

Vivekananda Vidyarthi Nilayam

Attached to the High School, a free Hostel for poor High School Boys was started in the academic year of 2009-10 with five boys. Boys studying V standard in Telugu Medium, State Syllabus, are eligible for admission to VI standard. Annual intake is limited to five. Admission tests are held in April-May every year. At present, 15 boys are enrolled.

Free Coaching Centre

Free coaching is provided to students of Ramakrishna Mission High School for ten months every year.

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
2008 - 09	87	133	220
2009 - 10	56	95	151
2010 - 11	66	91	157

Educational Help

Year	School uniforms / notebooks given to No. of students			Regular Mid-day meals / refreshments provided to No. of students			Educational aid in Cash		
	Boys	Girls	Amount (Rs.)	Boys	Girls	Amount (Rs.)	Boys	Girls	Amount (Rs.)
2008-09	862	982	3,00,760	72	118	1,10,805	15	21	65,970
2009-10	498	752	72,300	43	86	2,15,807	18	26	78,150
2010-11	540	586	1,64,425	66	91	2,20,068	13	31	1,25,255

Grand Total : Rs. 13,53,540.00

During the year 2009 – 2010, 55 School Benches (4 seater) worth Rs.55,000/- were given to deserving schools in most backward areas of Vijayawada city.

Flood and Cyclone Relief

Relief Type	Region	Period	Villages covered	Families benefited	Items Distributed	Amount Spent(Rs.)
Flood Relief	Krishna & Guntur Districts of AP	08 – 21 Oct 2009	17	2,004	5550 kg Dal, 1968 kg edible oil, 870 kg tamarind, 760 kg pickles, 1960 kg sugar, 4053 blankets, 3966 towels, 15 saris,15 lungis and 1970 sets of steel utensils (each containing 2 plates, 2 tumblers, 2 ladles and 1 milk vessel) and 3940 aluminium cooking-pots	17,27,905
Laila Cyclone Relief	Prakasam District of AP	May 2010	7	1013	2026 kg Dal, 2026 kg edible oil, 2026 Duppats, 2026 steel meal plates, 2026 aluminium cooking pots, 2026 steel serving handles	7,34,658

Pecuniary Help to Poor Old People

Year	Amount (Rs.)	Male	Female	Total Beneficiaries
2008 - 09	7,500	1	2	3
2009 - 10	5,100	1	2	2
2010 - 11	14,250	3	2	5

During the year 2008 – 2009, Dhotis / Sarees / Blankets / Towels worth of Rs. 55,284/- were given to 294 poor people (male 68 and female 226).

Medical

- Free Homoeopathy dispensary on every Wednesday and free Allopathic dispensary on every Friday

	Cases treated		Total Patients			Free Cases
Year	New	Old	Male	Female	Child	
2008 - 09	301	1,153	451	852	151	All
2009 - 10	86	88	66	86	22	All
2010 - 11	101	710	176	573	811	All

- Occasional free medical camps for school children

  In the year 2009 – 10 Rs.22,250/- was spent for Medical help for conducting Eye check-up for 678 school students covering 10 Schools in Tadepalli Mandal, Guntur District. Prescription glasses / medicines were provided to 95 students (Boys = 64 + Girls = 31)

Visit of VIPs

Most Revered Swami Suhitanandaji Maharaj, Assistant Secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission visited the Ashrama in December 2009.

Most Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Trustee, Ramakrishna Math and Mission, and Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Chennai visited the Ashrama in December 2010.

Proposal : Residential Quarters for Essential Staff

As heavy vehicles are not allowed over the Prakasam Barrage which connects Sitanagaram with Vijayawada in the shortest route, transport to reach Sitanagaram is increasingly becoming difficult for teachers and devotees. As Sitanagaram is not on the main road from Vijayawada to Guntur, one has to walk inside for nearly two kms to reach Sitanagaram village. Sitanagaram village, a well-known settlement area, is peculiarly situated behind a hill where people fear to go alone after sun set. The Mission runs two schools here. To get experienced and good teachers, and supporting staff we have to mainly depend upon Vijayawada. In the absence of proper transport facilities, connectivity and also proper accommodation at Sitanagaram, we are unable to get the required staff. As a remedy, we propose to build residential quarters for staff in order to accommodate the essential staff and teachers within the school premises at Sitanagaram.

Rough Estimate: The proposed residential quarters for staff are designed (ground + two floors) for accommodating 18 families with an area of 16000 sft and is estimated at Rs. **One crore twenty lakhs** at the rate of Rs. 750 per sft.

Donations can be sent in the form of Cheque/DD favouring "Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada" to The Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Vijayawada – 520003.

Insist for receipt whenever you donate to the Mission or its authorized agent. Donations to Ramakrishna Mission are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.