

Our Secretary's Message: 2017-18

Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram or fondly called by the younger generation as SRKS has been rendering service for last 45 years to individuals and the community. The center of all activities of the Ashram is the newly built Sri Ramakrishna Temple. The Ashram is blessed by the Holy trio i.e. Paramhansa Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Maa Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda. The temple is our guiding light and inspiration for all seva work.

Primarily, we have three streams of service. The boys home provides education, shelter and food to on an average 35 kids. These kids are either orphan or destitute. Then the old age home houses 10 senior citizens. Regular medical check-up of the kids and senior citizens were conducted. Kids are encouraged to pursue at least one sports. Games are a special focus area in SRKS. We are happy to see our Ashram kids getting prizes in the annual sports meet in their respective schools. Owing to the philanthropic help of Rescue & Relief Foundation, Kolkata every month we could run the boys home and old age home. Although the Ashram is facing huge financial difficulty because of delayed grants from the State government – benevolent souls like Sri Uttam Nayak and others have been providing support to continue nutritious food to the Ashram inhabitants.

Next, we have our newest program the Vocational training program. Every Sunday classes are held on mobile repairing, electrical works, health assistance and sewing. Higher classes students and the Youths from the nearby villages are the participants of vocational classes. They attend to these classes, get trained, write the examination, gets certified and mostly find a job. It is encouraging to see that we have nearly 50% of the students as women. Vocational training is sustaining due to the benevolent help from three benevolent people – Sri Ramesh Kacholia, Caring Friends, Mumbai, Smt. Ramya Nageshwaran, Focus India Forum, Singapore and Sri Anirban Datta, Kolkata.

In our Ashram, there are 11 employees including teachers, cook, farmer and security guard.

Regular festivals such as Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja, Diwali & Holi were celebrated. Special days like the Independence Day, Republic day, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday and Gandhi Jayanti were held in the right spirits in the Ashram premises.

In December 2017, our beloved founder and the Ashram committee members showed gratitude to the long-standing employees and volunteers of the Ashram. They were given a certificate and monetary award for their committed service for long years. 18 such persons were felicitated.

Also in January 25th, Government of India announced Padmashri to our beloved founder Sri Sudhanshu Biswas. The Ashram committee members, well-wishers and villagers felicitated this great man on February 25th, 2018. Nearly 200 people attended the function. Sri Dilip Mondol, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of West Bengal, Bishnupur – 1 constituency, Sri Sagar Chakraborty, Administration Development, South 24 Paragans. Dr. Sankar Prasad Naskar, national award-winning professor were the distinguished guests with many others. The MLA sir donated a 1000 feet deep tube well. The local administration assured us that the kuccha road outside the Ashram will be made pucca soon.

The boundary wall of the Ashram was 45 years old and it fell this year. So, a 400 feet boundary wall was newly constructed with 40 columns to support it. We are also planning to renovate

another part of the boundary wall measuring 600 feet. Generous help was provided by Smt. Ramya Nageshwaran, Focus India Forum, Singapore, Prof. Shankarnath Mukherjee and Sri Anirban Datta, Kolkata

This year in the first floor of the boy's hostel a conference hall was constructed to conduct Ashram functions. Vocational training classes are also held in the newly painted hall with electrical wiring. By the benevolent help of Prof. Shankarnath Mukherjee, a home theatre was purchased, this is to be used for the educational purpose of the Ashram inmates.

The internal path of the Ashram was laid with concrete construction. The ground was levelled first and then more than 200 meters of an internal road was constructed. Dr. Nihar Ranjan Kayal, helped the Ashram by covering the labour charge expenditure. Dr. Kayal also extended help for the flower garden development.

To use resource efficiently, our big pond in the Ashram was leased and we conducted pisciculture. In the coming days, this fish farming will meet our internal consumption and help bring regular finance to the Ashram.

We used to face sitting difficulty whenever a large crowd gathered for a function. The Ashram purchased 60 chairs with the help of Sri Anirban Datta, Kolkata and many other kind persons.

The stage named 'Vivekananda Mancha' was renovated this year. It is at front of the old age home in our ashram. It would be used for multipurpose events.

The Ashram committee members also purchased 16 feet ladder worth Rs. 11,000 for cleaning the newly built temple. We also renovated the car shed area and now there is space for 2 vehicles i.e. the ambulance and the donated car. Sub Marshal pump and water connection work were completed to the temple and adjoining areas. This is useful to water the crops and vegetables.

Lastly, our founder's life and Ashram activities were covered by Zee Bangla's 'Dadagiri' TV show. The channel and the winner of the show donated one-month grocery ration, stationary and chair-tables for our office room.

We are blessed to be part of this Ashram and we thank all our well-wishers for their wisdom, support and time for the seva work.

Jai Sri Ramakrishna Ki Jai !!

Jai Sri Maa Sarada Devi Ki Jai !!

Jai Swami Vivekananda Maharaj Ji Ki Jai !!