

HIJALDIHA VIVEKANANDA SEVA SAMITY

Sub :- Activities Of The Ashram in Brief

With all humility, we would submit that ours is a modest service centre (Seva Samity) built little by little over a span of last three straight decades and more running and it is situated here at Hijaldiha village which is at distance of about 18 km west of Matri Kandir Joyrambati - the holy abode of our Divine Mother, Sarada Devi.

In our school days, inspired by the fiery power and personality of our Hero, Swami Vivekananda and enthused by the unique vision unfolded by Him as to what staggering heights human lives could be lifted through self-less, ceaseless service to humanity as embodiment of divinity, we took the plunge and decided to dedicate ourselves to this cause in whatever way we could.

Way back in the year 1980, we, barely half a dozen local youth, began our endeavour in a small little hut here at Hijaldiha village with absolutely nothing to fall back upon except for our boundless enthusiasm and the burning desire to live up to the ideal set for the youth by Swami – “ He alone lives who lives for others.” The journey has never been a cake walk but hard and uphill all along. By the grace of Thakur, Ma and Swamiji, blessings of gracious Monks and Nuns of the Ramakrishna Order and Sarada Peeth and a few kind-hearted institutions and individuals we have never let up and struggled on in the face of woefully inadequate money men and material support to bring to fruition our desired goals.

Down the year, there has been a steady and sustained growth in our seva activities both in terms of enlargement of our area of works and also, in regard to the quality and texture of our service initiative. This has been made possible with the extension of support-moral and material – by caring devotees and considerate donors. In deference to the desire of Swamiji of according topmost primary on Education and Health together with empowerment of the women and the weak we with our modest means have set in motion the following service activities :

Education :

- 1) A school named Ma Sarada Sishu Niketan starting from Nursery up to standard IV th is successfully running for the last long 18 years. The school has a strength of 240 students on its attendance register and with the operation of mid-day-meal scheme the attendance is 100 percent on any given day. The school has gained remarkable reputation for its quality of teachings and also, for its value-based curricula adopted.
- 2) The school exclusively for Adivasi Girls : On a note of pardonable pride, may we be allowed to add that with a great deal of sustained effort, we have launched a school only for Adivasi girls. They all belong to Scheduled Tribe community and have had no exposure to literacy for successive generation. 50 such students attend classes regularly and it is absolutely free-of-charge.

Day time Coaching Centres :

It has come to be noted that students pursuing their studies at different school in nearby villages are not getting able and appropriate guidance and assistance in their

chosen subjects and are lagging behind others. In view of it, we have set up free coaching centres at twenty different places at convenient places for students and there are 20 such coaching centres in running mode benefitting the students like never before. Beside academics, classes for gaining proficiency in use of computers are also provided for. 25 students attend each such centre and thus the number of students covering all of twenty such centres add up to 500 inclusive of students of classes IXth and Xth.

Availability of scholarships and facility of Book-bank:

On strength of financial sponsorship extended by a few reputed charitable institutions as well as Donors abroad, we arrange for making available such scholarship and stipend to genuinely needy and meritorious students who are painstakingly screened for ascertain their eligibility.

We are happy to note that till date a total number of 300 students – a good many girl students as well- are pursuing their professional courses in engineering and medicine in premier Government-run centres of excellence around the country. They all have proved their mettle and quite a few on completion of their courses have earned a mark of distinction as a professionals of repute and are employed very satisfactorily.

Book-bank facility is also available and next and reference books are out to students for sufficient length of time for studies at home.

Gadadhar Chhatra Aabas:

We are grateful for the fact that a few benevolent persons came to be persuaded by our earnest appeal for setting up of a hostel strictly for utterly destitute children who having lost either or both their parents and have no one to turn to for sheer survival.

With tears of joy we submit that in the year 2006, this hostel named after Thakur-Gadadhar Chhatra Aabas has come up with painstaking perseverance on our part. Right now, a total number of 17 students reside in this hostel and every single need of theirs be it food, school dress, health care, provision for private tutor, recreation is taken care of. There is a crying need for such accommodation from many such students but we are helpless on account of paucity of fund.

Empowerment of the weak and the women :

Arrangement to the extent permitted by our very limited fund position have been made by us to impart vocational and job-oriented training to the women and the weaker sections. This includes training and skill development in diverse areas like tailoring, embroidery stitching, beautician course, mobile repair making of baluchari sarees, computer proficiency classes are held on a regular basis and so far 100 such women have thus been benefitted so far.

Social development activities:- Bankura is a socio economically backward district, with poor women literacy..... (Scan matter)

Health:

In conjunction with our tenacity and dedicated efforts to the cause of education and reaching it out to those who need it the most, we feel that we cannot miss out on the health-care front as well. We note with shock and sadness the lack of basic and accessible health –care for a many people living on the margins especially in back-of-beyond villages . Many people are simply ignorant of the basics of health care and

tragically seen to be dying avoidable deaths. Even students are compelled to give up studies mid-way for reasons of their inability to cover the expenses for a medical emergency in many cases eye-related ailments.

Against the backdrop of this state-of-affairs prevailing we sought out help and a **Ne Indor** based philanthropic institution helped out in the setting up of a modest eye-surgery facility inside our Ashrama. We have engaged specialist doctors to see and screen patients for advice and in cases where necessary do the operation in cataract removal.

This is done free-of-charge and the expenses are barely bearable and we are not yet in a position to purchase a pheco machined to facilitate advanced much easier and a lot less painful surgical interference. Therefore, there is an immediate need for having an in-house pheco facility and its absence in the present moment is felt to be a huge handicap. We are trying very hard for enrolment under RSVY but our effort are not fruitful as yet. On the positive side though, we are happy to inform you that 1400 persons including a good many women of very poor background have been successfully operated upon and related medicines and brand-new spectacles are given and post-operative care is also provided for.

In addition, we run a dispensary round-the-year where MBBS doctors cater to the need of outdoor patients and free consultation and medicines are given to the patients.

Devotional Worship:

Finally and pre-eminently the fact that needs to be underscored is the fact that our seva Samity has spirituality as taught by Thakur-Ma-Swamiji at its core and it is, in essence, a Seva –Ashram. Thakur is the source and sustenance of all our seva attempts and endeavours and end-of-day we all surrender before Him. Our spiritual calendar includes daily puja in the shrine, observance of birth anniversary of the Trio and special attraction is our annual Jagatdhatri puja which is observed with due solemnity and compliance with spiritual traditions. We are not political workers or social do-gooders but only foot soldiers who try and serve the noble cause of Shiva Jnane Jiva Seva as mandated y Swamiji.

It is in appreciation of this on-going wide range of activities that we approach you with all humility and make an earnest appeal that because of the fact that our Seva Samity survives and runs solely and strictly on strength of financial support and assistance of considerate and kind-hearted donors and devotees, may you spare a thought and extend your kind hand of assistance to ensure assured continuity of our services and enable to go the last mile and walk the extra yard to “wipe out a tear and win a smile “ of “ Gods playing fool as men (and women)”.

May God bless us all

Yours faithfully

Bikash Paladhi