



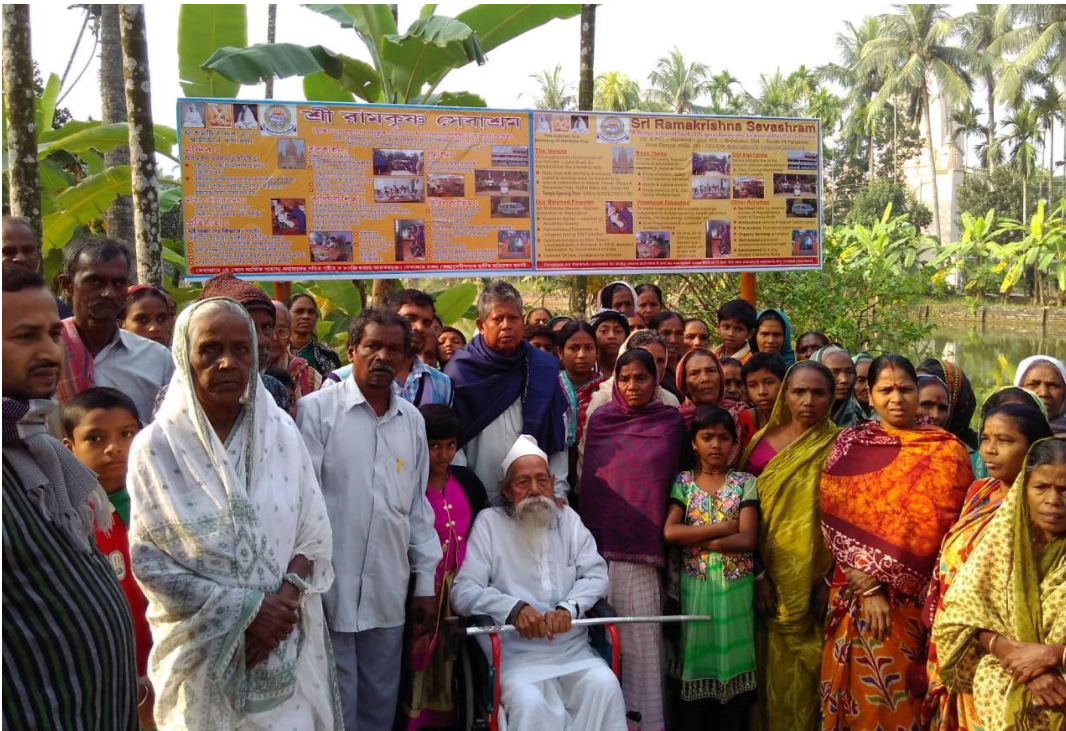
# ANUBANDH

*The journey of Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram*

***Daridra Deva Bhavo***

*We find God in the poor and needy.  
In serving the destitute lies our worship  
of the Almighty.*

*Our founder Late Sri Sudhanshu Biswas with his admirers. This picture was taken only days before he left for his heavenly abode.*



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## **Namaskar Mahasaya & Mahasay,**

It deserves special mention that this is the second issue of 'Anubandh' to be published post the demise of our revered founder Sri Sudhanshu Biswas. The Ashram dearly misses him and longs for his counsel. During the last four decades he has imparted values of selflessness, integrity and love for service. With these core principles as the basis for our seva work, along with the kind support of our well-wishers, we look forward to scale up our services offering.

In this issue, we elaborate on our efforts to increase farming work to meet internal demand for food. It also gives us much pleasure to publish an article in this issue by our friend Thiago, who recently visited us. We thank him for this initiative.

Despite us facing hurdles in obtaining the state government's monetary grant, benevolent support from well-wishers every month is taking care of the food expenses. To bring efficiency, serve the community better and use resources optimally – we held a two-day 'think tank' meeting between our committee members, youth volunteers and long-time patrons. The meeting brought out executive insights and drew valuable suggestions from participants.

We are keen to know your feedback on 'Anubandh' and urge you to promote the publication among your friends and family, as well as visit the Ashram when you can. We look forward to your support for us to be able to continue serving the 'Daridra Narayan'. May Bhagwan Sri Ramakrishna bless us all.

Yours truly,

**Executive Management Team - Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram.**

# ANUBANDH : Invitation to the Annual Function

## SRI RAMAKRISHNA SEVASHRAM

Regd. No. S/15296 of 1974-75

P.O. B- Ramkrishnapur, P.S. Bishnupur

Dist. South 24 Parganas, Pin-743610, West Bengal

A Member Ashram of South 24 Parganas

Ramakrishna - Vivekananda Bhab Prachar Parishad

(Advised by Ramakrishna Math & Mission, Belurmath, W.B.)

Regd. Office : 6, Baroda Thakur Lane, Kolkata-700 007

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### ANNUAL GENERAL FESTIVAL - 2019

#### FIRST SESSION (9-30 AM)

- President : **Srimat Swami Animeshanandaji Maharaj**,  
Ramakrishna Math & Mission, Belurmath.
- Chief Guest : **Srimat Swami Bibhatmanandaji Maharaj**,  
Manager, Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata.
- Special Guest : **Srimat Swami Suranathanandaji Maharaj**,  
Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narendrapur.
- Hon'ble Guest : **Sri Tarun Goswami**, Resident Editor, Millenium Post.
- Speaker : **Dr. Niharanjan Kayal**, Social Worker.

#### SECOND SESSION (2-00 PM)

- President : **Dr. Jnana Ranjan Kayal**, Geo-Scientist.
- Chief Guest : **Prabrajika Atmadip Prana Mataji**,  
Sri Sarada Math, Dakshineswar.
- Special Guest : **Sri Biman Banerjee**,  
Hon'ble Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

*Respected Sir / Madam,*

*To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sri Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sri Ma Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda a gracious function will be celebrated on Sunday (9 am - 5 pm) March 31, 2019.*

*On this auspicious occasion, we cordially invite you alongwith your family, friends & relatives to grace the occasion and be blessed with prasadam.*

Yours in the Lord

**Biswanath Purkait**  
Secretary

**Dr. Soumyendra Kr. Bagchi**  
President

Dated : February 25, 2019

## General Updates: Farming at the Ashram

With the state government grant delayed by almost two years, we decided to raise our game vis-a-vis farming work, to achieve the twin aim of going 100% organic in future, and produce all of the vegetable needs of the Ashram in-house. Suggestions on organic techniques and contribution of raw material would be appreciated.



*An elderly resident was delighted to enjoy the pure taste of vegetables after many years of city life.*



*On a lighter note, seeing the fresh vegetables in the kitchen, the kids do not complain of only veggies on their plate at meals.*



## Seva work continues with the love bestowed on us



On December 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, 40 blankets were distributed among the needy villagers from the neighbouring areas of the Ashram. The blankets were sponsored by 'Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Bhav Prachar Samity'. Swami Animeshananda ji Maharaj, from Belur Math - welfare department had kindly agreed to distribute the blankets and address the gathering. Tea and prasada was served to all.

We were glad to see the blankets bringing a 'warm' smile to the end beneficiaries.

Since 2015, Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram has been providing vocational training on paramedical, mobile repairing, sewing and electric wiring & repairing. On 30<sup>th</sup> December passing students were awarded the course certificate in a small function. This year, 24 rural youths completed the vocational course.



### GRASSROOT LEVEL IMPACT:

Almost all the students are earning from modest yet decent jobs and micro entrepreneurship. Sewing students success stories have been shared in this issue. Electrical students have found contractual jobs with real estate builders in Kolkata. Students of health assistance or para medical course are mostly catering the local health services and tied with rural pathological labs. Mobile repairing students are yet to get full time corporate jobs but working with repair shops and helping service engineers.



Swamiji's birth anniversary on January 12<sup>th</sup> was a fun-filled day with special puja, readings from his great life and quiz on his journey was conducted. The aim was to make the kids aware of the great life of Swamiji. The Ashram awarded new vessel to all the kids as a gift.

In the afternoon, 'Rescue and Relief Foundation' sponsored a special lunch for all Ashram inmates.

Students of Department of Zoology from Vivekananda College Thakurpukur in Kolkata brought joy as they spent an entire day with Ashram inmates. They brought good quality food for the Ashram inmates. They spent fun filled time with old age home seniors. Kids in the boys' home were overjoyed to play games with them and also the basic interactions turned into a fruitful one. All had lunch together and clicked candid photos.



## Success Stories: Rural Women Empowerment



*Smt. Shyamali Mondal busy at work, while her daughter stands proudly smiling.*

Seeing the plight of the rural youths in getting a decent livelihood, Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram (SRKS) started its vocational training program in 2015. Out of the current 4 courses, the sewing course generated a lot of interest among the rural women from the neighbouring villages. In the last few years, this course has trained dozens of aspiring women willing to get trained and start their own business. We are delighted to bring to you 2 stories of hope, conviction, micro-entrepreneurship and future growth.

Siuli Majhi lives in Taapukur village in South 24 Paraganas district. Siuli lost her husband in a tragic accident and post that came back to stay with her aged parents along with her 10 years old daughter. She knew basic tailoring but it was not enough to support her family. In another village nearby was Shyamali Mondal resident of Ramakrishnapur. She aspired to scale up her sewing business and play a pivotal role in her family's income.

The vocational training at SRKS taught Siuli and Shyamali high skilled sewing. At the start of the course, their work was confined to repair work. Over the 1 year, they learnt stitching entire garments, designing and embroidery work. They gained knowledge in raw material selections and improved speed of work too. Post training, the change is that both of them confidently accepts work directly from the customers rather than via any shop or middlemen. They are masterfully stitching high priced items like *Patiala* clothes, frock, new blouses, etc. Both of these SRKS students monthly income have more than doubled now. With the initial 'nudge' from SRKS – both of this rural women are grateful for the vocational training.

We are thankful to the sewing teacher and our well-wishers, especially our long-standing kind donor from Narendrapur who have made the vocational training program sustainable. It is immensely satisfying to us. Thank you ALL.

## ANUBANDH : Visitor's Column

Our Ashram welcomes new ideas and supports literary research. We are thankful to Sri Thiago Formolo Dalla Vecchia, a Brazilian researcher from University of Bologna – Italy. He is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Orientalist History. He is researching on the Metaphysical Nature of Seva, as developed through the Practical Vedanta frame within the Ramakrishna Mission.

It was an wonderful experience hosting Thiago between September to December, 2018. We are happy to publish his article highlighting his stay in the Ashram.

*Everybody that sees Akhtar's smile is immediately overwhelm with a sense of joy. He is the youngest boy at the sevashram and can be seen here hanging on my neck, carrying the same smile. Rupanta, seated on my left, is one of the best students here and have a serene and polite way to behave with all the people he interacts. He is a discrete kid that don't search to be the center of attention. Avishek is joyfully seated on the floor. He comes every morning for exercising at 6 am at the big pond stairs and, after just one month, he already corrects and guide his little brothers to get to the right position. He is also one of the few boys that come to the west side of the pond – where the Old Age Home is – and the seniors knows him by name. Rujinsao, the only boy here that lost both father and mother is seated on my right, doing one of his hundred's face expressions. We both like to play on doing funny faces to each other. Last but not least, is our photographer, Krishna, that rolled in the ground as a true professional to find the best shot. Krishna is also a kind of official drummer at the ashram's celebrations and festivals. All the boys recognize his skills and rhythm and none of them dares to takes his earned position. There are other nineteen stories like these inside the ashram's walls. I am living here since September 26 and seeing Akhtar's sweet smile every day, is impossible to avoid the question What about these boys' future? What happens when any of these boys reach their eighteens and leave? I've found the perfect response when I've met Sagar.*

*I've met Sagar Roy on a sunny Sunday here at the ashram. He was a resident for about seven years of his younger age. Now a 32 years old, he lives in Dubai, working as Group Leader at one of the biggest hotel chains in the world. "Here I've learned how to be a child and how to believe in myself" he said.*

*Sagar recalls his time here with no electricity and very little resources,*

*Despite that" he remembers, "it was a very happy time for me. We have a big pond to play and swim, the food was good and, if you wanted a mango, you just needed to climb a tree and have a bit". Roy also remember the day he ran from the ashram with four other friends saying "It was a child's thing. We wanted to know where did the train goes, you know?" He ended that day at Sealdah Station, and next day he was part of Don Bosco Kolkata Trust, a philanthropic institution where he stayed for the next twelve years.....*



## ANUBANDH : Visitor's Column

.....For Roy, Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram was the place where he learned to be a child. Dom Bosco connected him with the world.

The SRKS's executive members are trying to create this connection to the world through the Vocational Training Courses. All the teachers are great and the kids love them. Currently there are about 25 boys and girls from the surrounding communities – six boys from the ashram – receiving training and improving their skills for a better future. This project have the potential to build bridges from the ashram's gates to the real outside world.

Every single day I see beauty and infinite potential in this boy's eyes. Here they have shelter, three meals a day and a safe and natural environment to play. Donations are most welcome for SRKS. But I would suggest that you visit the ashram, during week days if possible. See the daily life and the routine and get involved. Use your skills and creativity to build new projects or to improve the current ones. YES! Bring some sweets, new clothes and play with them. But overall, help us to think on the long term, on the day after. Vivekananda's ideal of education used to talk about the 3 H's: Head, Heart and Hands. Intellect, emotions and work. There is a whole universe of possibilities to be developed in these three levels here at Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram. So much have been done, but so much more is just waiting to become. So check how you, your friends, colleagues and family can help. The dream of a better India from a freedom-fighter cannot die.

And please, don't forget to give a special attention to the seniors on the other side of the pond. They need your attention too.

**Thiago Formolo Dalla Vecchia**



*Thiago loved and embraced Indian traditions, culture and spirituality – a global citizen*



*Thiago taught many good things to the Ashram kids*



*With Sagar, one of the most successful alumni of the Ashram*

## Renovation of Dining Area

The Ashram is under financial distress. With the state government grant being held due to pending activities by the Government officials – our entire donation is being spent on regular expenses like food, farming, teacher salary, staff salary, educational expenses, lodging costs, etc.

We are left with no amount to be spent on infrastructural upgradation. However, the dining place of the Ashram is in a sorry state. The dining place hosts daily 60 to 70 people three times a day. The current needs are lighting, storing, support structures, placing of neat marble slabs, fresh wall paintings, electrical wiring, renovation of store house and large almirahs for the cooking vessels & monthly stationaries. Owing to the broken and old structure the area looks un clean.

We seek your benevolent support on this front. It will be of great help if you can share this pressing need among your circle or introduce us to corporates for CSR funding. Below we provide a broad level costing of the construction and other needs:

- **Painting of the dining area, kitchen & store rooms = Rs. 1 lakh**
- **Large almirah for vessels : Rs. 40,000**
- **Placing of marble slabs on the eating area = Rs. 30,000**
- **Modern electrical wiring & Lighting: Rs. 15,000**

*Any one time donation above Rs. 50,000 will be acknowledged with a marble plaque citing the donor name or name as per donor's wish – that the dining area was renovated due to her/his philanthropic help.*



**Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram, Vill. & P.O. – Ramkrishnapur, P.S. – Bishnupur, Dist. – South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin - 743610, India. Phone: +91 8335012165 & 9433350418**  
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**Donations are eligible for tax exemption under Section 80(G) of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961.**

Syndicate Bank, Branch: Dakshin Durgapur – Baruipur, A/c Number: 95792200064883, IFSC: SYNB0009579

**May the blessings of God be ever with you and yours.**