

A PALACE FOR THE POOR

120 Years of Legacy

1905-2025

"This life is short, the vanities of the world are transient, but they alone live who live for others, the rest are more dead than alive."

- Swami Vivekananda



RAMAKRISHNA MISSION STUDENTS' HOME

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“A Palace for The Poor- 1905 to 2025”

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FOREWORD

Swami Gautamananda

President,

Sri Ramakrishna Math,

Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

Date: - 10/02/2007

I feel it a privilege to pen these few lines regarding the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Sir P. S. Sivaswami Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

This Students' Home was started in 1905 by Swami Ramakrishnanandaji, the great Apostle of Sri Ramakrishna (Sashi Maharaj, as he was dearly addressed) who himself said that Sri Ramakrishna had given him 'a special mission'.

This great institution has achieved such wonderful results that on the occasion of the celebration of the Centenary (1905-2005), they have been narrated in detail in this book.

This book deals with the origin and steady growth of the Home over the years and the later developments in the institution. It gives brief sketches of Srmat Swami Ramakrishnanandaji Maharaj, the founder, Sri Ramaswamy Iyengar and Sri. Ramanujachariar, the Chief architects, about Sri Anna N. Subramanian and Sri T.S. Krishna Rao, who identified themselves fully with the Home, and about some of the personalities from the Home who attained eminence in state level, national level and international level.

The book also contains the recordings of some of the eminent visitors to the Home, various jubilee celebrations, about the life in the Home in general with greater emphasis on character formation.

I recommend this volume to all friends and devotees of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda and to the students of Ramakrishna Movement in general.

MESSAGE



Swami Gautamananda

President,

Ramakrishna Math and

Ramakrishna Mission

P.O. Belur Math, Dist. Howrah

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The Students' Home in Chennai is dedicated to the holistic development of its orphan students, providing them with accommodation, nourishment and education with great care and attention. Their growth is nurtured in physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual dimensions. For over a century, this Institution has shaped them into ideal citizens of the nation. The teachings of Swami Vivekananda, particularly his call to serve the needy, are brought to life through the work done at the Students' Home. It is in truth a living example of love, service and sacrifice.

I pray to Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda for their perpetual blessings on the Students' Home.



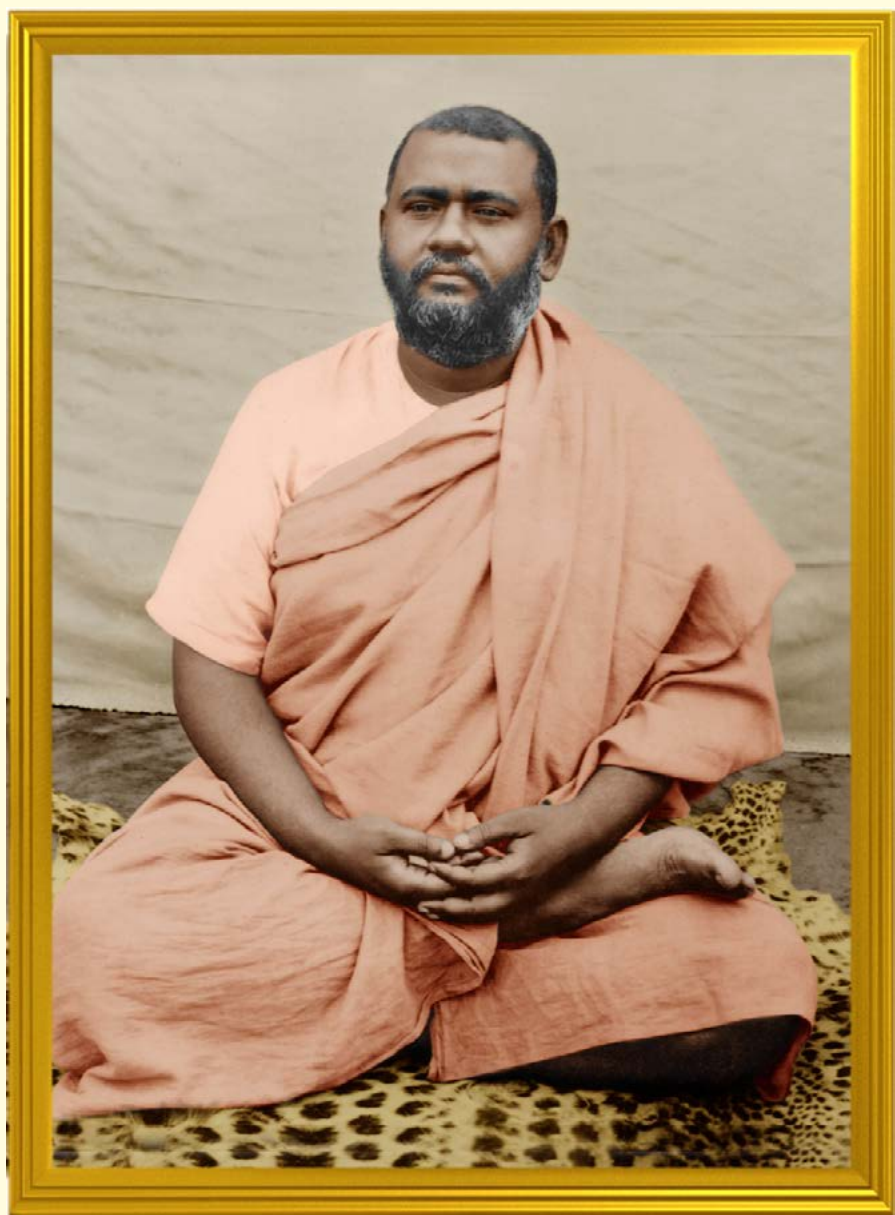
Bhagawan Sri Ramakrishna



Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi



Swami Vivekananda



Srīmat Swami Brahmananda



Saraswathi Devi in Main Prayer Hall



Srimat Swami Ramakrishnananda



Sri C. Ramaswami Aiyangar



Sri C. Ramanujachariar

PREFACE

To those of us who are familiar with social welfare activities, funded by the Government or otherwise, the true significance of the genesis of the Home may not be easily apparent. For a full understanding of its importance one must go back to the closing years of the 19th Century.

With the 1857 uprising finally subdued, the imperial power fulfilled the "White Man's Mission" with no let or hindrance by denuding the country of all its resources. Utter poverty stalked the land. It has been recorded in the Government statistics, that this land of plenty to which nations of the world set sail under the most hazardous conditions for trade, experienced between 1860 and 1900 three disastrous famines affecting about 10 crores of people, wherein more than 60 lakhs perished.

Pestilence and devastating epidemics like plague and typhoid added to the toll. Vast areas of the country looked bleak. Unemployment was high.

A clear picture of the socio economic conditions in the second half of the Nineteenth century is well understood. As may be seen therein, Hon. J. Ramsay-Mc Donald M.P. wrote in 1910 that 30 to 40 million families in India had an income, which did not exceed three pence (25 paise) a day. According to him, "the poverty of India is not an opinion but a fact".

A salary of rupees ten a month was a greatly sought after achievement for a man with a family. Eager children with bright eyes, but with empty stomach, were going from door to door asking for place to stay or for a single meal in a week, so that they could somehow attend a school.

When Swami Vivekananda returned from his triumphant tour abroad, the question upper most in his mind was how to rouse the population for a social awareness. In Madras, he found a congenial atmosphere for his Mission. In response to a query by "The Hindu" correspondent in 1897, Swamiji said "I want to start two institutions one in Madras and one in Calcutta". To this end he sent Swami Ramakrishnananda to Madras in March 1897.

To say that the public of Madras were enthusiastic to carry Swamiji's dreams into action would be an under- statement. The youth particularly were electrified and were eager to do something for the society.

C. Ramaswamy Iyengar who came under the influence of Swami Ramakrishnananda, by chance saw four Andhra boys. They looked forlorn and dispirited. He approached them and enquired about their plight.

Learning that they came from Guntur in the hope of finding food and education at Madras, but could find none to help, he at once decided to take them home and later find accommodation and food for them on a regular footing.

Compassion and humanitarian feeling for fellow men were thus the prime motivators for the founders of the Home.

Since then the Home has been growing under the affectionate care of not only those in charge of the institution but of a wide ranging public who had stake in the success of the Home.

As a pioneer and one of the foremost organisations under Ramakrishna Mission to care for orphan and destitute children in the society, this institution was a role model and a beacon light for other charitable organisations that were to come in later years.

This book deals with the 100 years' history of the Home, starting with its genesis and ending with the Centenary celebrations in the year 2005 and the opening of the Commemorative Centenary Building in 2006.

It gives an intimate account of the daily routines followed in the Home. It contains valuable data giving the cost of maintaining a boy over the entire 100 years. These data may be of use for research scholars engaged in economic history of India.

An attempt has been made to delineate the efforts made by the Home to create in the young minds love of God, untainted by sectarian ideas, but respecting all the ancient traditions of the Bharatiya culture.

The book contains life sketches of the principal architects of the Home, Swami Ramakrishnananda,

Ramaswamy Iyengar and Ramanujachariar. It also gives brief accounts of the early workers who identified themselves with the Home and established its traditions.

Select pictures are given of some of the renowned personalities who came out of the institution and have acknowledged their debt of gratitude to the Home, because of their training here. A more detailed enumeration of the old boys of the Home who attained a measure of success in their lives is given in a companion edition.

It is hoped that this Book will be of value to the coming generations to know about the great traditions handed down by their predecessors which moulded the character of innumerable generation in a society with rapidly changing values. Many of the students left their mark as great saints, administrators, scientists, engineers etc. May Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna continue to shower His choicest blessings on all.

We are thankful to our old students N. Venugopalan, S. Seshadri, S.P. Srinivasan and N. Nagarajan who have put in a lot of efforts in preparing this book, collecting several details connected with its preparation.

Our thanks are due to Sri S. Jagannathan for supplying many details and authentic information based on his long and intimate association with the Home and its leading authorities first as a student and later as Principal of the Technical Institute.

We thank Sri R.V. Chandramouly IAS (Rtd.), G. Swaminathan and M.K. Ramanathan, also old students, for their perusal of the materials and offering valuable suggestions for this book. We have taken a lot of valuable information from a monumental work, the Home Manual, written by Sri. Ramanujachariar.

It is thus a team work and we are grateful to all those who have directly or indirectly helped us to bring out this commemorative volume.

We also thank M/s Multi Craft owned by another distinguished old student, S. Sathiamoorthy, for printing this book and bringing it out in an excellent form at short notice.

Chennai
10th Feb 2007

Swami Deshikatmananda
Secretary

Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of this book, brought out in 2005 to commemorate the Centenary Year of the Students' Home, recorded the foundational struggles, ideals, and steady growth of this institution from its inception under Swami Ramakrishnanandaji Maharaj, a direct disciple of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna. That publication served as a tribute to the Gurukula spirit that guided the Home from a simple thatched shed to a well-respected centre of value-based education.

Now, two decades later, we feel blessed to offer this updated edition, encompassing significant developments that have taken place from 2005 to 2025. These years witnessed remarkable achievements - recognitions, infrastructural enhancements, green initiatives, the expansion of educational and skill development programmes, Vocational Training courses, rural development activities - tuition centers and medical camps, extensive relief operations during floods and famine and Women empowerment - all in the continued spirit of man-making and character building education, as envisioned by Swami Vivekananda.

The support of dedicated monastics, numerous well-wishers, alumni, volunteers, government agencies, and corporate partners through their CSR initiatives has played a crucial role in these advancements. We remain ever grateful to each of them.

We also offer our deepest gratitude to all our staff members—past and present—whose unwavering

dedication and silent sacrifices have shaped this institution "Palace for the Poor" into a vibrant and successful Gurukula model of institution. Through their tireless efforts, countless young lives have been nurtured, in both technical expertise and the timeless values of our cultural heritage, ultimately moulding them into responsible and enlightened citizens of our nation.

May this updated edition serve as a historical record and also as an inspiration to future generations—to serve with love, educate with purpose, and uplift with faith.

We are thankful to Swami Ramakripananda and other monks, our old student N. Venugopalan, other old students and volunteers who have put in a lot of efforts in preparing this book, collecting several details connected with its preparation.

We also express our sincere thanks to M/s Multi Craft owned by another distinguished old student, S. Sathiamoorthy, for printing this book and bringing it out in excellent form at short notice.

With folded hands at the feet of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi, and Swami Vivekananda.

Swami Dharmishthananda Secretary,
Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home,
Chennai.
July 2025



Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home

RAMAKRISHNA MATH & RAMAKRISHNA MISSION

OUR MOTTO

1. 'एकम् सत् विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति'.

Truth is one. The wise describe it in various ways. - Rig Veda
Sat-Truth is, Ekam-one only. Vipraha The enlightened/wise, bahudhaa-in various ways vadanti-describe.

2. आत्मनो मोक्षार्थं जगद्धिताय च

For the salvation of our individual self and for the well-being of all on earth - S.V

3. 'Shiva Jnane Jiva Seva'

Service to man is service to God

The Emblem Shows



Swan:- stands for the Spiritual Self

wavy water:- is the symbol of Selfless Activity

Lotus:- of Devotion

Rising sun:- of Knowledge

Coiled serpent:- of the latent Power within us

Service as a Way of life

1. Selflessness, Sacrifice, Love
2. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity
3. Excellence, Efficiency, Teamwork
4. Truthfulness, Honesty, Transparency
5. Social commitment without politics

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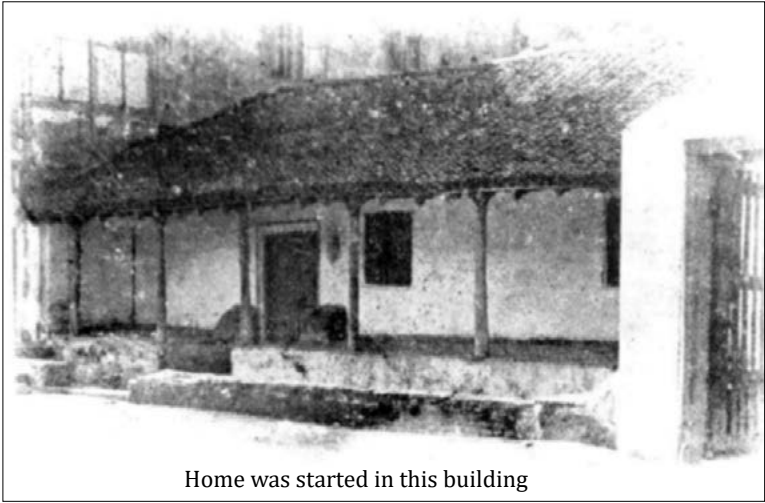
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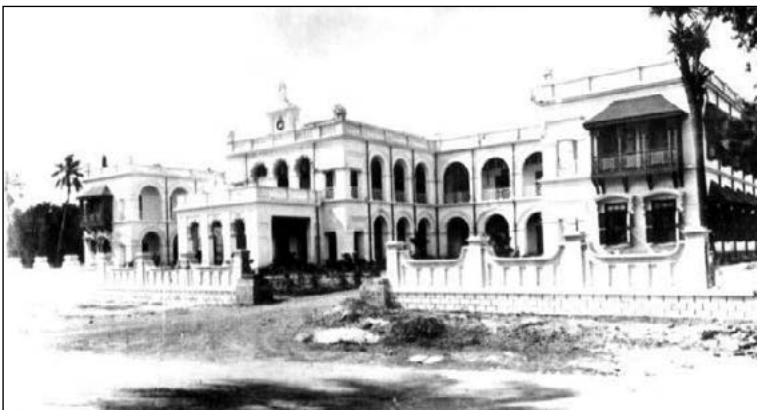
Section I

Origin and Growth



Home was started in this building

1905



Palace for the Poor - 1921

Chapter 1:

History of the Home

(a) Phase I (1905 to 1921)

The history of any institution which has served the society for one hundred years is bound to make an interesting reading. When it deals with an institution which was innovative, fulfilling the dire needs of the society and aimed at relieving distress at the grass-roots level, this history gains added significance. To the people in distress, accustomed to indifference and cynicism, it came out with a cheery note of optimism and hope. To the countless young boys who did not know where to go for their basic needs of food, shelter and education, the Home gave them all they needed but also gave them love and dignity. To the general public interested in social service it showed a direction and a way out.

Birth of the “Home”

When Swami Vivekananda returned to India after his triumphant sojourn in the West, the conditions prevailing in our country were in sharp contrast to the pervasive affluence of the west. The year 1896-97 saw one of the worst famines in our country. Poverty and ignorance were prevalent affecting a vast majority of the people.

In exhorting the people to be more caring to the plight of the poor, the Swamiji was very much concerned about the abject conditions prevailing in this land. He felt

elimination of hunger should be the most urgent need of the day. In addition, the people should be educated. He advocated a combination of the best features of both the western and eastern traditions to form man-making, character-building type of education. He believed in the resilience of our young men and called upon them to be self-reliant. Swamiji's words "Devoted service to God in the form of poor and helpless children is the final goal of human life for all men of action", really inspired young men in large numbers all over the country. Jiva Seva is Shiva Seva - this was the guiding principle.

Swami Ramakrishnanandaji Maharaj, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna was sent by Swami Vivekananda to Madras (now renamed as Chennai) in 1897 to start a Mission center in Madras. Sashi Maharaj, as Swami Ramakrishnanandaji Maharaj was known, was the very embodiment of love, compassion and service. The most pressing problem in his mind was how to help the numerous young boys who were eager for pursuing education but had no means of support.

In 1905 the Swamiji came across a boy whose parents had died in an epidemic in Mysore and the boy was taken under his care. Swamiji's loving concern for others formed the rich soil for the seed of compassion to grow, His keen desire for the provision of Annadana and Vidyadana to deserving students was practically put into concrete shape by Sri C. Ramaswamy Iyengar who too had a lot of sympathy and humanitarian feelings for the poor boys who were in dire need of material and moral support. The contemplation of the plight of such helpless orphans with no means of sustenance sparked the benevolence that ultimately led to the founding of the Home.

The following observation about the lot of poor Indian students by sister Deva Mata, an American lady who came to Madras to meet Swami Ramakrishnananda is very much relevant: "Few people of the world have such ardent longing for education as the Indians. They are willing to endure any hardship to get it. I saw boys go hungry and widowed mothers deny themselves food and all necessities of life so that their sons might procure it.

To help such boys is one of the most favoured forms of charity in India. Many students go through the preparatory and university courses never touching money. One gentleman lets them sleep in his verandah, another gives them clothes, and a third their books and tuition fees. There were families who were ready to share their modest daily meals with one or two such students".

Ramaswamy Iyengar met 4 boys under a tree, hungry and dispirited on a late afternoon. They had come to Madras from Guntur hoping to get help, but could find none. Ramu, as Ramaswamy Iyengar was affectionately called, took them to his home and then thought of making permanent arrangements for shelter and food for such destitute.

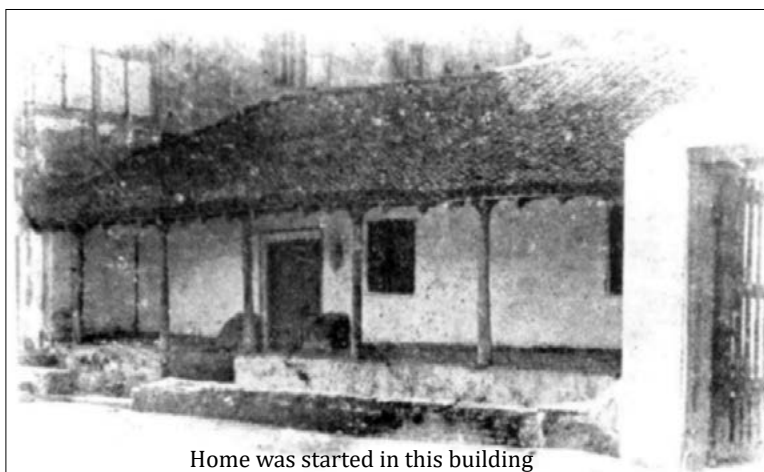
Next day Ramu met Swamiji to discuss the plight of these boys and how to go about giving succour to them. Swami Ramakrishnananda cautioned Ramaswamy Iyengar against taking up such tasks, which he would find impossible to continue later. But when Ramu said that he was confident of taking the responsibilities and carrying on if only he had the Swamiji's blessings, the Swamiji smiled and told him "Ramu you have the true

spirit and you will always have my love and blessings. Go on sincerely and bravely, never mind; money will come. A great thing will grow out of it surpassing your fondest hope". Having got the blessings of the Swamiji, Ramu was keen to start the Home for the shelter-less at the earliest. Thus compassion and humanitarian feelings for fellow men were his prime motivation.

When Ramaswamy Iyengar started approaching many well to do friends for monetary help there was no dearth of those who discouraged him with pessimism. But there were also people who were quite enthusiastic and offered help and support to his initiative. A determined and dedicated worker as he was, no challenge looked too formidable and no task appeared impossible to him.

Humble beginning:

Those of us who have experience of raising funds for a common cause, can easily imagine the problems faced by Ramaswamy Iyengar in its starting days. After all, the idea of providing a home for poor boys was novel.



Home was started in this building

Ramaswamy Iyengar had to get started only with help from his own relatives and friends known personally to him. He approached Dr. M.C. Nanjunda Rao to give him one of his houses on rent of Rs. 3/- and the doctor obliged him by waiving the rent altogether. He fixed a cook on Rs. 3/- a month, but had to accommodate two of the cook's sons in the Home as the cook had lost his wife. His own mother and a few well-wishers gave him the necessary cooking utensils. One petty vendor had enough consideration for the cause and confidence in him to give him the necessary provisions on credit.

To meet the expenditure Ramaswamy Iyengar had to collect funds in small bits and had to meet with disappointments on a number of occasions. He had to struggle hard through many ups and downs in the initial stages. How he overcame these initial difficulties with the guidance given by the Swamiji is indeed a fascinating story.

Ramaswami Iyengar was very keen to have the formal inauguration ceremony of the Home conducted by the revered Swamiji. After consulting the almanac, the Swamiji fixed the time in the evening on 17th February 1905 as the auspicious one. At the appointed time the Swamiji stepped into the building with seven inmates. He placed the holy picture of Guru Maharaj on the dais, sat in front of it, and after conducting the worship he meditated for a while. Arati was performed and prasadam was distributed. The hearth was lit and the boys had their first meal in what became from that hour their own Home.

V. Krishnaswamy Iyer



Dr. M.C. Nanjunda Rao

The elite and admirers of Swami Vivekananda in Madras including Dr. M.C. Nanjunda Rao and V. Krishnaswamy Iyer, passed resolutions to have a Vivekananda Memorial soon after Swamiji's Maha Samadhi. The proposed project was not moving forward

over period of 2½ years when the Home was started. V. Krishnaswamy Iyer who knew Vivekananda even in 1893, was a prominent member in the Reception Committee to receive Swamiji in 1897. Also, he devotedly facilitated the pilgrimages of both Holy Mother and Swami Brahmanandaji to and fro Madras - Madurai - Rameswaram - Madras. He specially commissioned Ramu during the trips to accompany them. A very close associate of both Swamiji and Sashi Maharaj. Dr. M.C. Nanjunda Rao was also treating the 'Home boys' till 1920, apart from giving other helps to the Home. Helping the poor was in his blood.

The Swamiji said "This Home has been named as Ramakrishna Students' Home in honour of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna for whose intense love for the poor this institution is intended to be a humble memorial". Ramaswami Iyengar was keen on laying down firm principles by which the Home was to be run. In this he was guided by Swami Ramakrishnananda. The aim was to follow Swami Vivekananda's direction to the youth combining the ancient wisdom of the East and the scientific approach of the West.

While starting on this venture, it was obvious that the impulses of the heart overwhelmed any cautious approach that could be dictated by the head. There was no planned approach.

To quote Ramaswamy Iyengar:

"It appears to me rather strange that an inception of an institution of this kind should have been so very

uncalculated. It has no influential friends; it had no rich persons to back it up in times of need. And day after day no one knew where the money would come from for providing the boys the next meal. What then was the sustaining Power? It is His unseen hand that has been guiding and shaping everything. It is His grace whose name the institution bears."

In the beginning there were people who doubted his bold initiative, yet Ramaswamy Iyengar was able to collect Rs. 430/- for that year to feed the seven boys and he strongly believed that it was His unseen hands that had been guiding and shaping the events. It was His grace whose name the Institution was bearing. Soon people began to realize the earnestness behind the Institution and the donations rose to Rs. 1050/- next year.

Ramu soon realized that more organized efforts were to be made for enlisting the sympathy and support of the public and then only the Home could be established on more secure basis. He had to meet a lot of influential persons of Mylapore area and convince them to part with some money that could be used to sustain the Home. With his persistent efforts he could collect Rs. 1300/- next year from nearly 50 persons.

As the Home entered the fourth year, its activities were also widely known and applications for aid also increased. With progressive increase in strength, the Home had to be shifted from one rented house to another, seeking more space each time.

The Home had started in a house in South Mada street around Keshava Perumal Temple, then moved to

Sannathi Street and in 1910 it was shifted to a house in Pelathope on a rent of Rs. 20/- per month.

Swami Brahmananda, the spiritual son of Sri Ramakrishna who was the first president of the Ramakrishna Mission paid a visit to Madras in the year 1908. While in Madras he came to know intimately about the affairs of the Home. As Sashi Maharaj used to say, **“whatever Swami Brahmananda touched became not only pure but also got the purifying power.”** He inspired Ramu and others with his indomitable faith to undertake any work for a good cause saying that men and money would come automatically and for such noble efforts, His grace would be available in abundance. With his blessings the Home started developing into a full-fledged institution with more students getting admitted each year. As the Home was soon seen to be fulfilling the needs of the poor and was becoming popular with both donors and the beneficiaries, the strength rose from 7 in 1905 to 25 in 1915. Consequently, the Home had to be shifted from one rented house to another, all in Mylapore.

The guiding principles for the day to day functioning of the Home consisted of the following:

1. The boys should get the modern education provided by the Schools and Colleges.
2. They should be provided with knowledge and training in the ancient heritage of India. They should get training in chanting of the Vedas, the Bhagavad Gita and devotional hymns of both Vaishnavite and Saivite traditions.

3. They should attend to all the works of the Home by themselves. Except for a cook no other servant would be employed.
4. The premises should be kept neat, clean and tidy - the boys should be made to understand the dignity of labour. All the cleaning works connected with the upkeep of the Home should be carried out by the students themselves.
5. The accounts should be maintained, both for income and expenditure, scrupulously.

These principles, when followed in practice, attracted the attention and admiration of many distinguished visitors, who recorded their appreciation.

Like any man of vision Ramaswamy Iyengar knew the significance of his initiative. So, although the 'Home' as housed in a small rented building and the number of inmates less than thirty, he succeeded in bringing visitors of great importance in the society, some from the Government but many who were great national leaders. The goodwill thus generated helped the growth of the Home and the construction of the Home building.

The early visitors included Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Annie Besant, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and others.

Mrs. Beasant recorded "I approve the way in which the inmates are brought up. I shall help the noble cause in my own humble way." Another visitor recorded "Institutions of this kind are largely required in all important centers of modern education so that the moral teachings of the ancient religion of the Hindus may well be combined

with the improved intellectual power acquired through western education. I wish the Institution every success," Details of the visitors and their recordings about the Home are given in a separate chapter of this book.

In the early days the boys had their food and shelter in the Home and attended one of the schools in Mylapore for study.

The Swamiji used to take classes on religion for the boys duly supplemented by Vedic Chanting. They attended prayers in the evening after the religious class. The Home aimed at harmonious development of body, mind and spirit in the formative years of the youngsters. Stress was laid on character formation with training in self-reliance and leadership.

As conceived by Sashi Maharaj (Swami Ramakrishnananda) the Home stands not only to help poor boys to better their positions in life, but train them so that in their turn every one of them might extend the same help to others in need and spread the message of sympathy and service for the poor and downtrodden. By its silent and unobtrusive service, the Home was soon able to establish its name and gain the confidence of its well-wishers. The annual donations too rose from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 6000/- by the year 1918. Leading personalities, like Sri V. Krishnaswamy Iyer who were earlier very sceptical about the long standing success of the initiative became staunch supporters of the cause. They suggested creating a permanent fund to make the Institution very stable. Many came forward to undertake the maintenance of

one boarder by contributing the amount that would cover the cost.

Inauguration of the "Palace for the Poor"

In July 1915, Sri S.G. Srinivasachariar, a District Munsiff, made a generous gift of a valuable building site of 15 grounds in Mylapore to the Home.



While giving with a heart full of love and humility, he wanted to remain anonymous. S.G. Srinivasachariyar He also took necessary steps to complete the entire legal formalities and paid for the registration expenses as well. The deed was completed and registered on 25 May 1916. Discerning people advised Ramaswami Iyengar that it would be better to acquire additional land adjoining the site so as to provide for expansion. Accordingly, he was able to negotiate successfully with one Sri K.V. Adiga to purchase 11 grounds of land adjoining the gifted land.

At this stage Ramaswamy Iyengar invited Alexander Gordon Carden, Member of Council, Government of Madras to the Home, which was housed in a rented accommodation in Kutcheri Road. Mr. Carden went through the activities and accounts carefully and asked many questions. He could not easily believe that a person, in not too affluent condition, could take up charitable institutional work with no benefit for himself. But at the end, he was satisfied and advised Ramaswamy Iyengar

to approach the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. J.H. Stone. Mr. Stone also visited the Home and was highly impressed by the working as well as by its aims.

Plans were drawn up for the Building. Many people advised that the Home for the poor boys should reflect simplicity and economy and suggested tiled sheds. But the authorities did not agree. In spite of the initial difficulties they thought that the poor boys should not feel the pinch of poverty. Dewan Bahadur AV Ramalinga Iyer, then Chief Engineer, PWD in the Government of Madras drew up the plans, according to which there were to be 36 rooms in 2 floors. A central hall in the ground floor and a Prayer Hall in the first floor were planned. Each room was to accommodate 3 boys so that the building would provide for 100 boys and their wardens. Even though the strength of the Home was hardly 30 then, yet with a lot of foresight the authorities planned to build a massive building with two floors. The estimated cost was Rs. 1,07,000/- (Rupees One Lakh and Seven Thousand).

The next great impetus to the building construction came from Srimat Swami Brahmanandaji himself who happened to come to Madras then. He laid the foundation stone for



Raja Maharaj & Sasi Maharaj

the main building on 6th May 1917 Vaisaka Pournima Day, the birthday of Lord Buddha. Swami Brahmananda inspired Ramu and encouraged him whole-heartedly to undertake the noble work.

Soon after the foundation laying, an appeal for building funds was prepared and issued under the signature of Swami Brahmananda as the President of Ramakrishna Mission. Some extracts from the appeal are worth recording, coming as it did, from one who was held in great reverence.

"Those who have been watching the progress and work of the various institutions in Madras that have been working for the amelioration of the student population and the environment under which they have to carry on their studies would not have failed to observe the notable results of the Ramakrishna Students' Home in Mylapore... That it has steadily increased in usefulness and grown into importance would be evident from the fact that the number of boarders has risen from 10 in 1908 to 30 in the present year and the annual income from public donations has gone up from about Rs.400 at the commencement to over Rs. 6,000 for 1916.

It must be a matter of keen regret to all lovers of education that an institution intended for the benefit of Hindu youths with such lofty ideals and with such a record of work behind it, has no permanent habitation which it could call its own... Fortunately for the Home, one of its ardent supporters Mr. S.G. Srinivasachariar, District Munsif, Panruti, has made a

generous gift of a big plot of land... and this encourages us to make an appeal to the public to come forward and supplement this help by liberal donations towards the construction of suitable buildings. The buildings should accommodate at least 100 boarders and for this purpose at least 36 rooms are necessary. The probable cost of the entire buildings is roughly estimated at a lakh of rupees and we venture to think that the estimate is far from extravagant. One of the several ways in which this scheme could be helped forward is by each donor undertaking to defray the cost of constructing one or two rooms. Appropriate brass tablets will perpetuate the memory of such generous help to succeeding generations."

This appeal greatly aided the collection drive. By its silent work for the amelioration of poor students, the Home was steadily increasing its usefulness to the society and naturally the appeal for building fund had an encouraging and positive response from the various lovers of education. Many came forward to bear the cost of constructing individual rooms.

After getting the necessary building plan sanctioned by the Corporation authorities, an application was made for Government grant through the Director of Public Instruction for the sanction of 50% grant from the Government.

Like a man with a Mission Ramaswamy Iyengar visited many towns like Ooty, Trichy, Tanjore, Madurai, Nellore etc. on a fund raising tour. He floated A proposal that any donor contributing Rs. 2000/-could have his

name engraved in a brass tablet which would be fixed at the entrance of a room.

Though the names of the donors are inscribed in brass plates, they should be deemed as etched in gold, for they were the pioneers in a venture, which was novel and had no definite assurance of reaching its goal. It showed how they had enough faith in the integrity and capability of Ramaswamy Iyengar.

As the construction progressed more problems began cropping up. The First World War had started During the War time along with scarcity of building materials, prices also shot up. During the War time along with scarcity of building materials, prices also shot up. However, one of Ramu's close friends, Sri Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer



Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer

who was then a leading advocate in Mylapore, later the Advocate General of the Government of Madras called many of his affluent clients and friends for a party in the Home premises and secured their promises to contribute enough funds to complete the construction of the main building. The cost of construction had escalated and what was estimated to cost Rs. 1,07,000/- actually rose to Rs.1,80,562/ and the government grant of Rs.90,281/- was received in good time.

The construction work was closely monitored. The contractor was paid for the labour he employed. The materials were purchased by the Home after taking great pains to get the lowest prices. Some of the students checked on the construction work as it progressed from time to time. Maharaja of Bobbili came forward to construct the "Bobbili Medical Ward" in memory of his son, who died prematurely. Also Pethachi Chettiar under-took to bear the expenses of the shrine. It is named "Pethachi Prayer Hall".

Once the main building was successfully completed Swami Brahmanandaji Maharaj declared open the new building on Akshaya Tritiya day, 10th May 1921, and aptly termed the Home as the "Palace for the poor". The Swamiji stayed in the Home for more than one month.

My son, if a thorn pricks your foot, it hurts me like a spear entering my heart. Never fear, and whenever you are in distress just say to yourself, "I have a mother."





Photo taken after The Consecration:
Raja Maharaj, Mahapurush Maharaj & Sharvanandaji



Raja Maharaj standing backside of the Main Building
on Consecration Day



Bobilee Medical Ward (1925)



Boys Nursing sick ones (1925)



Photo of main building 'Place for the Poor'

He created in the Home an atmosphere of love, peace and spiritual fervour, vibrant with purity and serenity. That they could conceive of a "Palace for the poor" is a true testimony as much to the founders' large-heartedness as to their vision.

The new building was conceived of as a Temple of learning and not as a charity asylum. It was not sought as a place for merely sheltering the poor but to enshrine the Goddess of Wisdom and to serve the young students at Her altar in a spirit of loving worship. Hence it is called the "Students' Home".

After opening the new building Swami Brahmananda advised Ramu, "Great is your responsibility now that the palace has been built. You must be on your guard lest luxury or sense of complacency should creep in your mind, for they will tarnish the ideals for which the Home stands." There were 68 boarders in 1921. Swami Brahmananda laid down the procedures for daily worship.

As an example of self-help, the Home attracted widespread attention. It was recognized and accepted as a pioneer educational institution promoting genuine feeling of brotherhood amongst the inmates belonging to different communities. Sir PC Ray after visiting the Home recorded "Here the students enjoy a happy atmosphere of brotherhood, unadulterated without even a trace of communalism." The Home was formally affiliated to the Ramakrishna Mission Head Quarters, Belur Math in 1918 as it was necessary to register the institution for receiving grants in aid from the Govt.



Main Pooja Hall

As a result of the affiliation the inmates could be under the guidance of monks of the order who had devoted themselves to the service of God in man. These great souls taught the boys more by example than by precept. Service and sacrifice were the driving spirit the boys were taught to inculcate. After the affiliation, what was known as "Ramakrishna Students' Home" was thereafter known as Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home".

The distinguishing feature of life in the Home from that in a paid hostel or an orphanage is the integrated development of the human personality. The training given includes traditional values, chanting of the Vedas and scriptures and religious classes. At the same time physical exercises, yoga and active sports like football, hockey are given due time and place. In these trainings the role of the monks was inestimable.

(b) Birth of the Residential High School - Phase II (1922-1956)

In the first few years the boys had their food and shelter in the Home and went for studies to the P.S. High School or one of the Colleges in the city.

The Home authorities soon realized that the real benefits of Gurukula system would be realised by the boys at a better level if a residential High School was started in the Home where there would be better opportunities for the students and the teachers to interact more closely. It was also realised that the school should have a distinct location and premises so that the formalities of a school education are observed.

And if the teachers could be provided with quarters nearby, they would take regular turns for observing the studies and habits of the inmates. And thus they could contribute the full value of the Gurukula system.

So a residential High School was started in 1922. For this, a case was made and was approved by the Government which undertook to bear 65% of the cost of science laboratories and 50% of the rest of the proposed residential high school. The part of expenditure to be borne by the Management was raised by donation mostly from Nattukottai Nagarathars, an affluent community, after whom the High School block was named. Monumental efforts put forth by Sri Ramaswami Iyengar to bring this institution to a position of strength and name are vividly brought out in his own narration titled "Reminiscences".



Nattukottai Nagarathar Vidyasala



Class in Progress - early days



Marching to Ramakrishna Math

The First Warden Swamiji – Anantanandaji with Rev. Swami Ranganathanandaji & Br. Shamanna (Later Somanathanandaji)

1. A Sannyasin of our Mutt now resides permanently at the Home helping and guiding the boys in all matters. Every step is taken to secure a harmonious development of the mental and moral faculties. (P-2, Annual Report for 1921); 2. Swami Anantanandaji, who was in-charge of the Home for 3 years from 1921-1924 has resumed office of general Superintendent and Warden of the Home in November 1929 and served for a couple of years in that capacity. (P-1, Annual Report for 1929 & P-7, Manual); 3. Swami Anantanandaji, who was the Warden of the Home at a very important period in the development of the Home... When the Home moved into its present premises in 1921, he had a great share in organizing every department of life in the institution and in systematizing the work... This and his devoted services to the development of the Home will ever be remembered (In Memoriam P-2, Annual Report for 1947).



Vijnananandaji Maharaj's visit to Home

In 1932 Swami Vijnananandaji Maharaj visited Sri Lanka, especially to our Batticola Centre as bid by Mahapurush Maharaj. On both to and fro Maharaj stayed in Madras. During one of the stays Maharaj visited the Home and sat in the hall below the Prayer Hall. Typical to his jokes and much amusements to the students assembled there, Maharaj 'removed his pancha koshas' uttering Annamaya Kosha etc., by removing one coat after another.



“Renunciation and Service” are the national ideals of India.
Intensify Her in those channels, rest will take care itself.

- Swami Vivekananda

When Holy Mother visited Madras in 1911, the students, staff and managers of the Home had a rare privilege of being blessed by Her.
(P-1, Annual Report 1953)



Premanandaji



Brahmanandaji



Sashi Maharaj



Turiyanandaji



Adbutanandaji

In 1906 Premanandaji Rs.10/-, in 1908 Brahmanandaji Rs.10/-, in 1909 Ramakrishnanandaji Rs. 5/- had donated. In 1920 Swami Turiyanandaji Maharaj donated Rs.5/- to Home in memory of Swami Adbutanandaji Maharaj. (Ref. Respective Annual Reports)

The Direct Disciples who had blessed the home by their visit



Sashi Maharaj



Brahmanandaji
1908, 1916,
1917, 1921



Premanandaji

1906



Abedhanandaji

1906



Mahapurushji

1921, 1924,
1926



Vijnananandaji

1932

Do the Master's work, and along with that practise spiritual disciplines too. Work helps one to keep off idle thoughts. If one is without work, such thoughts rush into one's mind.



LIFE IN THE HOME

Ramaswamy Iyengar - a surrogate parent

Right from the very beginning Ramaswamy Iyengar took up his task of bringing up the inmates of the Home with a rare idealism. He did not treat them as indigent boys desperately in need of help, though they were, in fact, more or less befitting that description. On the other hand, he thought of them as guests, who in our traditional approach, were to be given the highest respect.

The following quotation from his 'Reminiscences' will give a true picture of his attitude. "Is not the Hindu enjoined to worship the poorest guest, washing his feet with his own hands, feeding him sumptuously and then partake of the remainder as a sacrament?" He was also of the view that drastic changes should not be introduced in their (the students') way of life, different from what was acceptable to the society then.

We are all familiar with the teaching of Sri Ramakrishna that we have no right to be condescending (another word for "being compassionate") to those in need of help but should serve them as representatives of God. But how many can actually view their less fortunate brethren in that spirit? It was possible only for an advanced soul like Ramaswamy Iyengar to view his wards in that light.

True to this teaching of Sri Ramakrishna, Ramaswamy Iyengar showed love in abundance towards the boys under his care. He introduced the

system of recording the height and weight of the boys monthly. He personally supervised their food intake. When a boy wanted to go on leave on vacation, he was distressed and asked if there was anything wanting in the Home that the boy preferred going to his relatives.

Ramaswamy Iyengar enjoined on all the teachers and staff to adopt this loving attitude. Corporal punishment was out of question. There was no place for violence in the Home from any quarter.

There was no place for preferential treatment to any boy either. When he noticed some one bringing a fruit or sweet to his or her relative in the Home, he turned the person away saying that unless he or she brought such gifts to every one of the students, the intended gift could not be accepted.

This loving atmosphere created by the founder continues to guide the authorities to this day even after 100 years.

As years rolled by, Shri Ramaswami Iyengar noted the struggle of many of the boys to find a living after they completed their school and college education in the Home. The education, they had, had only a limited bread-winning potential and that too if they were lucky to find a berth as clerk either in Government departments or business houses. This led him to feel that education must be craft-based for the bulk of the people. So he decided to arrange and provide for training to the Home students in vocational occupations.

In the beginning this training was outside school hours and during holidays. He employed expert artisans in Rattan work, Carpentry, Cabinet making, Spinning, weaving and even goldsmithing, to train the boys in the respective handicrafts for which a student evinced an aptitude. Later these classes were included as part of the curriculum. It was a common sight to see a bullock cart owned by the Home loaded with attractive cane and wooden furniture manufactured by the boys of the Home being taken on Sunday mornings after breakfast for sale at the doors of prospective buyers.

This initiative evolved step by step. First the manual training was given as part of the curriculum and later it was found necessary to impart training in workshop practices such as smithy, carpentry, welding etc.

The Home celebrated its **Silver Jubilee** in 1930, with Sri P.S. Sivaswamy Aiyar, founder of P.S. High school, being the main speaker and presided over by Sir George Frederic Stanley, His Excellency, Governor of Madras. The foundation stone for a technical workshop was also laid in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of the founding of the Home by H.E., the Governor of Madras. This gave the start for a Technical Institute which has now developed as a Polytechnic College.

Sir P.S. Sivaswamy Aiyar, in his commemoration address during the jubilee celebrations observed, "The germ of this Institution was conceived in 1905 and few of those who were acquainted with its humble beginnings would have predicated its continued

existence or the splendid development which it has had with passing years. For an institution dependent so largely on charity its growth must be regarded as phenomenal."

T.Nagar Schools

There is a saying in the Upanishad: "Just as the fragrance of a blossom in a flowering plant or tree spreads far and wide, so too does the reputation (fragrance) of a meritorious deed spreads far and wide". There were many affluent individuals who wanted to put their wards under the care of the Home.

Thyagaraya Nagar, a new suburb, was just then developing. The residents wanted Ramaswamy Iyengar to open schools for them in that locality. Though not in the best of health, (for, by then, he was suffering from crippling Paralytic stroke for some years) Ramaswamy Iyengar accepted the challenge and started a school in a humble way in T. Nagar in June 1932 with a strength of 180 students in thatched sheds.



The Main School in Thyagaraya Nagar

By the time the end of Ramaswamy lyengar came in 1932, the Home reached a robust youthful stage. By his peerless devotion and unceasing labour he had evolved a unique type of educational endeavour which combined practicability of the west and the piety of the east. He insisted that he should breathe his last in the Home premises.

Before we move over to the next phase of the History of the home, it would be worthwhile to pause and take stock of the achievements till now since the very inception. The initial days of uncertainties, whether about finding the finances for the day to day running of the Home or for accommodating the boys were over. Without incurring any debt, the Institution achieved a magnificent building which it could claim as its permanent abode.

More importantly it established a reputation for imparting an enviable mix of character and training which even the affluent people wanted to give to their sons.

The distinguishing features of life in the Home are worth recording once again.

1. The premises as well as the persons should be scrupulously clean
2. All activities of the home should be carried out by the inmates only. No work will be considered below one's dignity. Devotion to duty and dignity of labour will be the hallmark of development.

3. Religious instructions and study of scriptures will form an essential part of education.
4. There shall be an atmosphere of peace and harmony. There is no scope for violence.
5. To cultivate a strong mind in a strong body all steps were taken for the physical well-being of the students.

The Home also achieved the vision of elimination of discriminations among the various sections of the society without disturbing the social conventions, which by their very nature were always in a state of flux. By adopting pragmatic steps from time to time, the Home was able to solve this uphill task of eliminating discriminations without appearing to break conventions at any stage. As a result, from the very inception visitors with diverse backgrounds observed that the Home was run on ideal lines.

In the matter of admissions also the Home adopted some principles early. This relates to the caliber of students to be admitted. The pioneers were very clear about the caliber of students to be admitted to the Home. They said clearly that merit and poverty will be the guiding principles, the poorest among the best being chosen. If a student, after having enjoyed all the benefits of the students Home, failed in the examination, he had to make way for another more deserving student who could benefit better. But even the failed student would be given chance to pass the examination and to rejoin the students' Home to complete the course.

One other issue that was experimented and settled relates to admission of students from well to do families, whose parents wanted the type of training the poor boys had, must be available to their wards also, in the manner of the ancient Gurukula system where the rich and the poor were studying together under a preceptor. Although there were some from affluent families who were prepared to undergo the discipline cheerfully and were benefitted by their stay in the Home, this experiment was abandoned after a few years as there were many among them who did not take kindly to the austere living of the Home.

Under Ramanujachariar - a period of sustained growth

1932 the year in which Ramaswamy Iyengar's end came was also the year in which C. Ramanujachariar, his cousin and life-long collaborator, retired from Government service as Under Secretary enabled smooth transition. He had full knowledge of the working of the Government machinery and had enormous influence which he brought to bear in the service of the Home.

By his sheer administrative ability, he was able to fulfill the evolving needs of the Home in a most admirable manner. His relentless drive brought forth a period of consolidation and growth. In several respects Ramanujachariar had abilities and attitudes complementary to his cousin brother. While Ramaswamy Iyengar used his personal contacts in generating funds, Ramanujachariar was not averse to using his official position for the benefit of the Home.



Next only to the role of Ramaswamy Iyengar, the most important contributor for the establishment of the Home was Ramanujachariar with his dramatic troupe. The Madras Secretariat Party and later the Kripa Amateurs, together contributed about Rs.9 lakhs at a time when the rupee value was very high

The photograph of the Madras Secretariat Party and details of each of the members are given in the opposite page.

Madras Secretariat Party

Sitting on ground-Left to Right

- 1.
2. S Jagannathan-old student (1935-42) LAE Became principal Technical Institute Retired as adviser (Projects) M/s International Instruments Limited (YENKAY) Bangalore - Managing committee member of the Home
3. TS Krishna Rao Old student (1913-1967) Madras State Co-operative Bank, Andhra, State Co-operative Bank Treasurer (Students' Home) and correspondent, Managing committee member () Assistant Secretary (1935-1948), Treasurer (1948-1967)
- 4.
5. Balasubramanian Master role-Home student.
6. R. Srinivasan Old student (1949) LAE Retired as senior Manager Mail Motor Service, P&T Dept, leading Male child actor and singer music student of Ramanujachariar
7. Rao Bahadur C. Ramanujachariyar Secretary Students' Home (1932-1956) Founder of the Madras Secretariat party and its Secretary Director, leading role actor, Musicologist, Manager - several roles rolled into one. Swami Brahmananda gave him initiation. Passed away in the Home on 4-11-1956 (One of the Founder Members of Vivekananda College and its Treasurer).
- 8.
9. Son of PS. Krishnaswami Iyengar, Actor
10. Son of PS. Krishnaswami Iyengar, Actor
11. Venkataramanan from R.K School T.Nagar Master Role
12. Srinivasan, Electrical Asst in stage lighting-store keeper in RMTI till 1964 international Instruments Ltd (YENKAY), Bangalore 1964-86

Sitting (chair) From Left to Right

1. Bakthavatsalam actor, Superintendent, Madras Secretariat.
2. S Sundararajan Asst. Secretary Madras Govt. leading female character actor.
3. Ayyadurai Iyer Superintending engineer Madras Govt PWD - Non Acting Member.
4. Swamy Chinmatranandaji, Treasurer (Home) Managing committee member warden, T.Nagar boys school Hostel
5. Dewarn Bahadur/Padma Vibhushan L. Venkatakrishna Iyer ISE. Chief Engineer Madras Govt. Kerala Govt and Andhra Govt-Non- Acting Member.
6. Swami Saswathanandaji President, R.K.Math, Madras (1944 to).
7. Shri Vasudevachariar Treasurer (Students Home (1905-1949) Correspondent T.Nagar Boys Schools
8. Swami Areshanandaji Warden of the students Home (1936) went to USA from the Home and stayed there till he passed away at Portland, Oregon.
9. AV Ramalinga Iyer, Chief Engineer, Chief Engineering Adviser of Ceylon Govt Designed & Supervised Construction of Students Home. Also contributed for the design of Belur Math Temple.
10. M. Subbaraya Iyer, leading income tax advocate non acting member Founder & Secretary of "R.K. Mission Vivekananda College Madras-4.
11. K Jagannathachari Librarian Madras Govt. Secretariat, leading Villain actor.

Standing (Third Row) - Left to Right

1. Parur Anantharaman, Violinist of the orchestra team and Professional eminent Violin Vidvan.
2. K.C. Sundaram, Assistant in Stage electrical Work Automobile Technician.
3. KC Venu, Assistant in setting up the stage Madras corporation sewage pumping station in-charge.
4. Krishnaswami, Actor in assisting roles, Son of Sri Rajagopala Iyengar.
5. Mannargudi Sambasivam, old student, Actor, musician disciple of Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer Famous Hankatha exponent.
6. K. Sundararajan, Supervisor corporation of Madras leading female character actor.
7. C. Varadarajan Youngest son of C. Ramanujachariar. Senior Executive of Binny & Co. Madras Leading Male character actor (Hero).
8. DS Krishnaswami, Supervisor, corporation of Madras leading Male actor (Hero).
9. Desikachari, Actor.
10. C. Gopalan son of Ramaswamy Iyengar, (Founder - Secretary)
11. Ador
12. Parthasarathy Chettiar, Harmonium Player of the orchestra group.
13. Sivagyanam, Office Superintendent, Govt of Madras printing press powder make up artist (incharge)
14. Jayarama Iyer, Tabala Artist

Last row (standing) Left to Right

1. Peon (Kothandon)
2. Teacher Centenary primary school, Actor Lady role
3. Parthasarathy Iyengar, Senior Advocate, Madras Senior Male character actor (Sakumi etc)
4. Vaidyanatha Iyer
5. Rao Saheb, S. Kishna Iyer Asst Secretary, Madras Govt, correspondent T.Nagar Boys Schools (Secretary, Students' Home (1956)
6. R. Annaswami Old student Assistant in the Home office.
7. N Subramania Iyer (Anna) - Head Master, Home High School (1934-1949) T. Nagar High School (1950-57) Asst. Secretary, Students Home. President, Students' Home Managing Committee, Chairman, RMTI, Governing Council.
8. P. Ethiraj, Driver (Hidden behind Anna).
9. C. Krishnamurthy, Second Son of C. Ramanujachariar, Proprietor, R.K. Printing Works, Leading Male Character actor.
10. Dr. C. Raghavachari, MD, FRCS- Eldest son of C. Ramanujachariar, leading male character actor.
11. N.S. Krishnaswamy, stage Lighting, in-charge, Govt Museum Maintenance (Electrical)
12. Subba Rao Assistant in Secretariat, Govt of Madras, Actor
- 13.
14. Make up in-charge, Velu
15. Adivarajahachariar Assistant, Madras Secretariat Leading Male character role
16. Thulakkanam, stage, screen, setup person.

The former's love and affection to the students were palpable whereas Ramanujachariar covered his genuine concern to the wards with a coat of fatherly sternness.

The strength of the Home was 141 when he took charge. He had been supportive of his cousin's efforts right from the beginning. He was a great organizer in addition to his enviable histrionic abilities. By staging quality dramas, the Madras Secretariat Party, under his leadership, was able to collect substantial funds (more than Rs.5 lakhs) which formed the corpus (endowment), the interest from which could be used to finance the Home's running expenses. After his retirement from Government service he took the role of fund-raiser more vigorously, as he was engaged whole time in the service of the Home. He started another dramatic troupe called Ramakrishna Kripa Amateurs through which he was able to collect another Rs.3.4 lakhs for the Endowment Fund.

The 1930s were a period of worldwide depression. Agricultural produce was selling dead cheap. By the same count, money was also hard to come by. The miserable conditions in the society had their impact on the Home too. The fund collection was getting difficult while the number of applicants, in appalling conditions of poverty, was large. Undaunted by such external factors, Ramanujachariar had a policy of increasing the number of boarders steadily. When questioned why he took on himself more responsibilities than the revenues permitted, he said that was the only means of keeping challenges ahead and striving continuously to put in more efforts.

The greatness of Sri Ramanujachariar lies in the fact that he devoted all his energies and talents, not for personal gain, but in the service of the Home. In 1932 the Maharaja of Travancore was celebrating a Jubilee function for which Ramanujachariar gathered all the eminent musicians of the day, took them to Trivandrum and after the celebrations collected Rs.3000/- for the Home. (See photograph).



Eminent Musicians gathered at Trivandrum

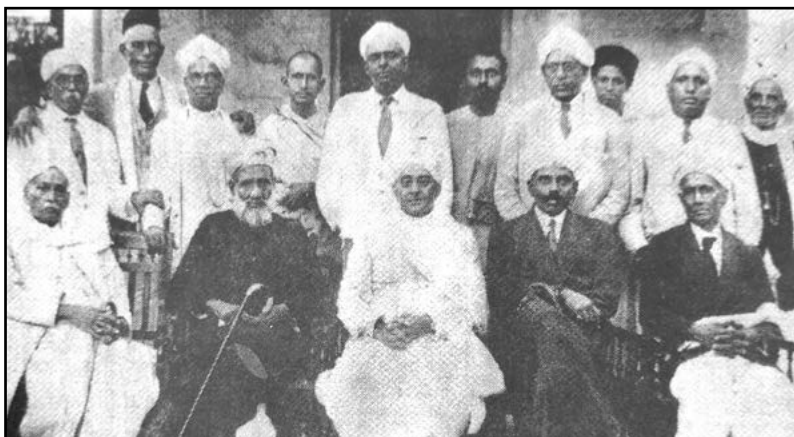
Musicians seated in chair (from the left) T Chowdiah (Mysore), Venu Naicker (Madras), Musiri Subramania Aryar, Palladam Sanjivi Rao, Saraswathi Bai, Anyakudi Ramanuja Aiyangar, Pudukkottai Dakshinamurthi Pillai, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavata, Palghat Mani, Kumbakonam Rajamanickam Pillai. The above prominent musicians of South India gave concerts in aid of the Home at Trivandrum and Nagarcoil during the Sri Jayanti season (September 10th to 17th 1932), under the patronage of their Highnesses the Maharajah and the Junior Maharanee of Travancore. Shri Ramanujachariar is seated on the ground. The net proceeds were about Rs 3000 for the Home.



Abdul Hakim Ward

In 1934 Syed Abdul Hakim a philanthropic businessman donated funds for the construction of a dormitory called "Abdul Hakim Ward".

The number of inmates rose steadily during his years as Secretary.



Photograph taken on the occasion of opening Sayed Abdul Hakim Ward. Sayed Abdul Halim, Sri. C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Dr. A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, AV Ramalinga Iyer, Ramanujachariar is 3rd from left in the standing row

In 1937 he took the Madras Secretariat party to the Federation of Malay States (Now Malaysia). He staged dramas in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Sarang, Singapore and other cities. Music concerts were also arranged. A small music troupe consisting of the then famous Musiri Subramania Iyer toured Rangoon etc on this fund raising Mission for the Home. Preparations were also made for a tour of South Africa on a similar mission. But this proposal was aborted by an unexpected development, the beginning of World War II.

Enlargement of Prayer Hall: The most important event for the Home proper between the Centenary of Sri Ramakrishna and the out break of World War II was this enlargement of Prayer Hall; though Home's other activities were also growing. The Prayer Hall was originally designed to accommodate 100 students when the Main Building was constructed. Since the inmates had almost doubled the present Prayer Hall was enlarged. Srimat Swami Virajanandaji Maharaj on the Holy Akshaya Trithiya Day in 1939 consecrated the newly enlarged prayer Hall.

The year 1939 saw the out break of the second world war prices of essential commodities kept rising. The British government launched a big drive for war fund collection. As the most famous fund raiser of Madras, Ramanujachariar was also included among the list of war fund collectors. Still he kept his loyalty to the cause of the Home alive and kept the collection up. The annexure shows the increasing number of students on the rolls during the war years. The annexure also shows how during the war time the cost of maintaining a boy rose and became double of what was obtaining in the earlier years. Undaunted by the economic depression Ramanujachariar worked with unmitigated zeal for the steady advancement of the Home.

During these years, the day to day care of the students was entrusted to the warden Swamijis while he concentrated on external affairs, and policy matters. A noteworthy decision in those days was the opening of the Licentiate in Automobile Engineering

course in the Technical Institute. It produced rich dividends in that the students of the institute found ready employment in the expanding automobile sector.

Only orphan/destitute students with good academic records were taken as college students. Many of them turned out to be distinguished ones who acquitted themselves creditably in their respective chosen fields.

A distinguishing feature of Ramanujachariar, when he was at the helm of affairs, was that he spotted talent among the boys and took all measures to improve on their abilities. Musicians, dramatists and those with a flair for social work were picked up and sent to suitable guides in the city. The Harikatha exponent, Mannargudi Sambasiva Iyer, the cine fame Gemini Ganesan were picked up by him and got their initial training in the Home. Oratorical contests and elocution competitions were encouraged.

Famous musicians were invited to give concert performances in the Home during the Navaratri festivals. This feature, which was started even before he took over the mantle as secretary was an eagerly awaited event for the general public both in Mylapore and outside. As the second world war progressed, the strain on the Administration of the Home increased.

Civil supplies broke down. Cereals, fire wood, kerosene and many other essential commodities were rationed and unavailable. Many families began moving out of Madras in the hope that life in the rural

hinterland would not be so bad. The easy course for Ramanujachariar could have been to send the boys away to whatever home they could gain access to. According to his strong dictum the children should not be allowed to starve even for one time.

Under the evacuation orders of the Government, the Home was shifted to Uthiramerur in Chengalpattu district in March 1942 and then to Athur on 3rd May 1946. When the Ramakrishna Math in Mylapore was apprehensive of the safety of Guru Maharaj's picture and the relics which were being worshipped, he took them personally to safety at the Uthiramerur camp.

1936 was the Centenary year of Sri Ramakrishna's birth. Ramanujachariar galvanized the entire Madras city in celebration of this remarkable event. All the dignitaries of Madras were inducted in a celebration committee. Famous speakers like Rajaji, Sir A Lakshmana Swami Mudaliar, M.R. Jayakar from Bombay were invited to deliver speeches on Guru Maharaj at various centers of the city. Guru Maharaj's statue mounted on a decorated vehicle was drawn by the Home boys accompanied by nadaswaram by the famous nadaswara vidwans.

The boys of the Music class in the Home sang the hymns at each center. Famous musicians gave performances in various localities. Confectionary dealers were requested to distribute chocolates to the students in all the schools of the city. All this was done with no expense to the Home. Witnessing such big events meticulously organized by

Sri C. Ramanujachariar gave ample opportunities to the students to learn how to organize such events.

Construction of Masters' quarters: - The early managers felt something more was needed. Along with the Warden Swami, to mould the life of inmates in Spiritual, Moral and Ethical Values the presence of Teachers was felt necessary. To the fulfillment of typical Gurukula, the teachers need to stay along with the boys. However, their families cannot live within the campus. So, the Masters' Quarters was also put up between 1928 and 1940. It was not Masters' Quarters but the provision for uninterrupted all round training of man-making in socio-economic, cultural values and spiritual traditions. Not only the strength of inmates increased steadily but the residential teachers too.

A total of 191 students from the entire erstwhile Madras Presidency were the inmates of the Students' Home. "With gradual increase from 6 teachers in 1931 to 12 teachers and Principal of the Technical Institute in 1940", besides the allied staff in quarters, the Home received laurels from all sections of the society.

This establishment of Staff Quarters for 'Modern Gurukula' where 'the taught is brought up by the teacher' was going to sustain the very orphanage/ Residential High School during the turmoil of II World War and parting of school buildings.

Training of wartime technicians

Although this does not form part of life in the Home during this second phase of Home's history, it is still valid

as an example of the positive approach Ramanujachariar adopted to augment the resources of the Home. When the war was on and the government was desperately in need of trained technicians, Ramamujachariar volunteered to train them in the Technical Institute of the Home. Shri S. Jagannathan who was a final year student of technical institute was asked to associate fully with the starting of war technician training centre at T. Nagar, as a branch of the technical institute. The Government of India allotted 10 acres of land in T. Nagar for the construction of a civil hostel to house the wartime trainees in 1942. A building was also constructed therein at Government expenses. In 1947 after the war ended Ramanujachariar went to Delhi and Shimla several times to get this land, building and equipment allotted to the Home free of cost.

This land in a costly central locality helped the Home when it was sold and the finances were added to the Home's resources.

Holy Mother's Centenary & Home Golden Jubilee:

The last two and important public events in which Sri Ramanuju pushed himself and spearheaded them were The Birth Centenary of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and the Golden Jubilee of Students' Home.

Holy Mother's Centenary was celebrated for six weeks from the beginning of November to middle of December 1954 with poor feedings, bhajans, lectures and processions in various parts of the City". One can imagine the amount of planning and execution. Of course, now, there are many Mission's branch centers unlike in Sri Ramakrishna's Centenary.

The Golden Jubilee of the Home was celebrated for three days from 4th-6th March 1955 with Sri. M. Patanjali Sastri (Retd.) Chief Judge of Supreme Court, Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, Vice Chancellor of Madras University and Bharat Ratna Sri C. Rajagopalachari, former Governor General of India, all participating in the grand functions organized. The commemorative address was delivered by Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, Vice Chancellor Madras University.

For the Golden Jubilee, Sri Ramanuju approached The President of India, The Vice-President and Prime Minister to be Chief Guest. They could not attend it on the said date. Even The Governor of Madras could not attend. Hence, Ramanuju went to his friend Rajaji. When Rajaji suggested to change the date. Ramanuju retorted, "Will you change your Father's Shraddha Ceremony?" The awestruck Rajaji bowed to the spirit of Ramanuju and Presided over the Golden Jubilee.

'A life of total dedication': Seemingly incapacitated in his last years, The Ramanuju silently shouldered the responsibility of carrying forward the noble works of Students' Home. Foremost among them are i) to bring back the Residential High School, ii) to purchase additional land as per Belur Math's guidelines, iii) to further improve the Technical Education because scope of War Technical Institute having become out of place and last but not least iv) to nurture the growth of the very Home which then had greatly shrunk in activities and scattered in administration.

Towards this end i) from period 1949-50 effective super structure was raised on the existing Main Building, ii) from 1953-56 period actually more than 24 grounds of land just adjacent to us was purchased from City Improvement Trust, iii) from period 1955-56 proposals were sent to Government of India under Second Five Year Plan for expansion of the Technical Institute including buildings for class- room, labs, and workshops (This was sanctioned in December 1956). To build a new Hostel for Technical Institute, Government of India was approached for an interest-free loan. iv) to nurture properly and also to ensure the good future of Home, he compiled a well-documented Manual. Its Preface opens with these lines: **"Tradition is to an Institution what character is to an individual"**. All these just sum up what is silently shouldering the responsibility.

Passing Away of Ramanuju: A gossip "Sri Guru Maharaj showed to Sashi Maharaj in a vision that Ramu and Ramanuju would help him in the work" was gaining momentum during the last years of Ramanuju. By writing an article in a popular weekly he cleared all the gossip that it was Ramu alone whom Sri Guru Maharaj showed to Sashi Maharaj. Even in 1893 Ramanuju had the blessed opportunity of seeing Swamiji walking down the Luz Church road to meet Justice Sir Subramania Iyer.

However, in his last days he had a rare vision of Sri Guru Maharaj beckoning him in an early morning in the dream. He was bedridden then but insisted on being taken to the shrine at Ramakrishna Math to pray. A few days later he passed away on 4th November, 1956. In his passing away, the Students'

Home experienced multi-dimensional void that could not be effectively filled up. The most pressing issue was the disquieting financial condition. In 1956, the Home incurred a deficit of Rs. 14,000/-.

(C) The Third Phase (1956 to 2006)

The third phase in the History of the Home consists of two parts. The earlier part 1956-1970 was one where Shri S. Krishna Iyer, Retd Asst. Secretary of the then Govt of Madras was the Secretary. The high school which was brought back to Mylapore



Sri Krishna Aiyer

in June 1958 is housed in the main buildings of the home. The classes are held mostly in the ground floor; the first floor and the second floor of the building are used as Dormitories. This was a period with not much significant change both in number of inmates and in the level of expenditure. However, during this period, a large auditorium commemorating the Centenary



Vivekananda Centenary Hall

of Swami Vivekananda's birth was constructed and commissioned on 6-6-1963.

In 1970 the Governing council of the Ramakrishna Mission decided that thenceforth the functions of the chief executives of the branches should be carried out only by the monks of the Ramakrishna order. The Administration, which earlier was dependent on the individual charisma of the founders was thenceforth guided by the principles and policies laid down by the Central Authority. With the reputation of the Mission and the instinctive respect the monks evoked in the minds of the general public, there were inherent advantages in the new dispensation over the possible stewardship by individuals, however eminent they might be.



Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj
President Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE STUDENTS' HOME



1930 - Silver Jubilee: Sir George Frederick Stanley, the Governor of Madras, Sir P.S. Sivaswami Aiyar

1955 - Golden Jubilee: Rajagopalachari and Chief Justice of India M. Patanjali Sastri



The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations were postponed due to 'Language Agitation' in 1965. Since normal condition did not return, it was celebrated in a very modest way. Sir. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar presided over it and unveiled the oil painting of Ramanuj.



1980 - Platinum Jubilee: Srimat Swami Vireswaranandaji Maharaj, President, Ramakrishna Math & Mission, Sri Sadiq Ali, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Sri M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu



2005 - Centenary Celebrations: Sri R. Venkataraman, Former President of India and Srimat Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj, General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math & Mission



राष्ट्रपति डा० ए पी जे अब्दुल कलाम बृहस्पतिवार 19 जून, 2003 को चेन्नई में रामकृष्ण मिशन के छात्रों के साथ परस्पर परिचर्चा करते हुए ।

Photo No. CNR-3385

Though the Home was visited by several very distinguished persons, it was for the first time that the President of India had visited the Home since its inception (Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 19.6.2003)

SWAMI NISHKAMANANDAJI MAHARAJ (1970-1976)

On 1st May 1970, Sri Krishna Aiyar was promoted as Vice-President and Swami Nishkamanandaji took charge as Secretary not only for Students' Home but also to Vivekananda College and Mambalam Schools (T. Nagar Ashrama). At all the three places, monks were made next immediate in-charges to Secretary. However, Anna helped the Secretary on all matters. Managing the day to day affairs of three different institutions with three different committees told upon the health of Swami Nishkamanandaji. Poor eye sight too added to his ill health. Therefore, he proceeded to Calcutta Seva Prathishtan, our huge hospital center, for treatment in the first half of 1976.

Finding that he would not be able to return to manage the administrative works, the Headquarters, in June 1976, made Swami Uddhavanandaji Secretary of Home and Mambalam Schools Branch. In addition to the duties of Warden, Swami Swatmanandaji was made as Asst.Secretary and was entrusted the day-to- day affairs of the Home. For Vivekananda College Swami Amritanandaji was made Secretary.

Swami Nishkamanandaji passed away on 15th September, 1976. Though he served in many places, his greatest work was in Ooty. He traced the spot where the Immortal Stenographer, a disciple of Swami Vivekananda, J.J. Goodwin's mortal remains were buried and erected a small yet befitting monument with a tablet.

SWAMI KIRTIDANANDAJI MAHARAJ

(1977-1980)

Not long after the passing away of Swami Nishkamanandaji, Swami Kirtidananda took charge as Secretary of Students' Home in 1977. During his tenure from 1977-80 he took up large scale construction of school building for Middle School at Malliankaranai.

In 1977 the dormitory facilities for the college-going students were improved by the opening of a separate block donated by the Rotary Club of Madras.

In 1977 Tamil Nadu was ravaged by cyclone. Thiruchhirappalli and Puthukottai Districts were hit badly. Students' Home Secretary was also the Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission (Relief), Madras. Swami Kirtidanandaji organised relief work in 43 villages of these two districts. As for rehabilitation, pucca concrete houses, 27 in Paraterur and 30 in Moovaraipatti with a Community cum Prayer Hall each were constructed. Even today the villages remember the Relief and Rehabilitation works.

It is during his period in 1978 in the Prayer Hall, photo images of Sri Ramakrishna and Holy Mother were enshrined in a vertically designed traditional and imposing Wooden Chariot on Akshaya Tritiya Day.

The Platinum Jubilee of the Home was celebrated in 1981 with Sri. Sadiq Ali, His Excellency Governor of Tamil Nadu, presiding and Sri.M.G. Ramachandran,

Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu delivering the key note address. Sri Ramachandran was highly appreciative of the character building training given in the Home, making special mention about some of the old students like Anna Subramaniam, Maj. General S.P. Mahadevan and a few others who had made their marks in their career.

**SWAMI VEETABHAYANANDAJI MAHARAJ
(1981-2005)**

To continue the narration in chronology, Swami Veetabhayananda took charge as Secretary in 1981 and served the Home for more than 24 long years. He was the third longest Secretary after Ramu and Ramanuju. Years of his period was spent in consolidating every facet of the Home one after another. He had a wonderful team of many old boys in the Management and many were on the Committee too. Sri P.R. Subramaniam, Sri T. Perumal, Sri S. Jagannathan, Sri S. Seshadri, Sri M.K. Balasubramaniam, Sri. M.K. Ramanathan, Sri G. Swaminathan (all old boys) and Sri A.R. Krishnamurthy are notable among them.

It is during his period, more monks were posted to look after the Home and its sub-center at Malliankaranai. With the help of monks and old students, he steadily consolidated the workings of the Technical Institute, Residential High School and the internal functions of the Home. With the help of Swami Pitambarananda, all the details of the 'Endowments' were restored and consolidated according to the then needs, keeping future needs in mind and also along

with the audit standards. Any visitor who goes round the corridor of the Main Building will be wonder struck with the maintenance of endowments from its First Endowment to till date.

It is also during his period not only the quality of food increased but also the kitchen and dining facilities were improved and modernised. New kitchen and dining hall with additional provision for dormitory was built in the place of 68 years old structure. During the period of consolidation, it was an important development.

It was also in his period that a monk was given full charge of the sub-center, Malliankaranai. As a result, the works left by Swami Kirtidanandaji were completed. A sea of change in agricultural development, hostel development and community development like getting proper roads etc., took place there on a greater scale.

At a time when the whole nation was facing the financial crunch due to sudden fall of interest rate on bank deposit, the Home supported the creation of full branch of its sub-center at Malliankaranai by parting away one-third of its general funds. Now it is known as Ramakrishna Mission, Malliankaranai.

A year earlier in 1980 one of the old students, Shri P.R. Subramanian, who retired as Chief Engineer and Commissioner of Transport Departments in Delhi, Rajasthan etc. joined the Home to assist in its administration. Thereafter the practice of allowing

retired old students to assist the Secretary in a variety of functions continued.

To begin with, the finances of the Home were inadequate. Many of the properties acquired during the days of Ramanujachariar's Secretaryship were fetching poor rent and the cost of maintaining them was high. It was therefore considered advisable to dispose of them and add to the Home's Corpus Fund. In 1983 Shri T. Perumal, who retired as Registrar in the Madras High Court, lent his services to the Home. With his experience in legal affairs several units of real estate were sold off and the resulting improvement in finance put the Home on a better footing.

Improvements in living conditions

When the financial position got better, the diet for the inmates was supplemented with milk, both in the morning and in the evening. The breakfast and the evening tiffin became more sophisticated. Instead of Pongal, Uppuma, Lemon Rice or Sundal of the earlier years the boys got Idly, Dosa or Bread. Because of inflation the per capita expenditure for food on each student rose from Rs. 136 in 1981 to Rs. 708 in 2004.

Earlier the inmates got only a dhoti and towel free on Deepavali days. In the eighties they were given banian and uniform dresses free, besides dhotis and towels on Deepavali as before.

In the earlier years the students were required to pay the tuition fees prescribed for the High School or Technical Institute. Many students found it difficult to pay the fees. There were many who could not pay

even the examination fees prescribed for appearing for the SSLC or Technical Board examination. To tide over the problem of tuition fees, the administration tried to help the boys by securing scholarships from the Government as well as from the public. Now efforts are being made to create a corpus fund out of whose interest all these payments can be made and the students can be fully relieved of financial worries.

In later years ties and shoes were also added to the sartorial equipment of the students. The purported aim was to make them confident while they go out into the world, without a trace of the poor background with which they entered the Home. Proposals were made to provide the boys with cots and quilts instead of allowing them to sleep on a mat on the floor, as they have been doing all these years. This proposal has been held in abeyance for the time being, as some members of the Managing Committee were not in agreement.

In the course of 20 years in the 1980-2000 the Students' Home, Mylapore spent a total of Rs. 48 lakhs in improving the land, buildings and various facilities in Malliankaranai. At the turn of the Century on 1-4-2000 Malliankaranai was made a separate branch of the Mission under a Secretary directly reporting to the Head Quarters.

To provide for its continued well-being the Home transferred Rs.1 crore to the account of the rural set up in addition to the Rs.48 lakhs already spent on its development since inception.

In the earlier era in the thirties it gave both financial and managerial support to the development of the several schools in T. Nagar. In the Forties it gave active support to the creation of the Vivekananda College.

This ceaseless creative energy of the Home has made it imperative to consider additional improvements in the existing set up. As a living organism the Home has to meet the changing demands of the times and this is to be borne in mind while charting the future course of action. So it was considered advisable to plan for a quantum leap in its service to the society by increasing the number of boarders, and by giving additional facilities for professional advancement.

Thus was born the idea of opening two new courses, in addition to the then existing Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. The Diploma in Automobile Engineering and Diploma in Computer Engineering courses lent themselves as obvious choices because of the increasing demand for trained hands in these two fields.

To provide for the necessary infrastructure by way of buildings, power and equipment, it was planned to construct a Centenary Block with adequate plinth area. That the plans were received well in the Government circles and private sector as well as among the public is shown by the spontaneous help it received in its execution.

The Home celebrated its Centenary in February 2005 and after Centenary Celebrations Swami Veetabhayananda was transferred to Ulsoor, Bangalore and Swami Deshikatmananda took over the stewardship as Secretary. The two new technical courses planned earlier were started from 2005 so as to enable the Home serve more orphan and destitute boys of the society. As a result, the combined strength of the Home has risen to 650 students. More than 7000 students have come out of this Institution.

The Home has thus completed 100 years of useful and meritorious service. The principal participants of the early years are no more now. But their principles, their dedication, service and sacrifice live forever and are fresh in the memory of succeeding generations setting their aims high. They were the torch bearers for the posterity to follow their footsteps. Such is the force of the tradition handed down to us.

The story of the Home bears testimony to the spirit of man to counter the abject conditions that prevailed amongst the poor and marginalised children of the society in the nineteenth century. It also shows how, when man is faced with a seemingly stupendous task, he can achieve significant success by starting with however small a beginning provided there is sincerity of purpose.

This book aims to record its historical growth & also the numerous issues of principles and policies which guided its affairs and which have brought to it the reputation of being a well-organized institution, following high principles. It also gives the principal

characters who founded and fostered its growth. Also mentioned are some of its products who made their mark in their lives owing great debt of gratitude to this Institution.

(d) Phase 4 (2006- 2025) - Post Centenary

Centenary Projects: The Centenary celebrations marked a pivotal moment in the Home's history. The main Centenary Building and the Medical Ward were some of the key projects undertaken during this period. Additional projects connected to the celebrations included producing a documentary film about the Home and other initiatives to commemorate this momentous occasion. A landmark event during this time was the visit of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India, to the Home in June 2003. This was the first time a sitting President visited the Home since its inception, further cementing the Home's reputation as a hub for nurturing young minds.

Swami Deshikatmanandaji Maharaj (2005-2009):

The foundation stone for Centenary Building block was laid on 10/02/2005 by Srimat Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Adhyakha, Ramakrishna Math, Chennai. The Government of India sanctioned 100% exemption under section 35AC of the Income Tax Act for 3 years for all donations to this project and renewed it for further 3 years. Many agencies, Banks, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Sector Units as well as munificent members of the public and alumni of the Home donated substantially towards this construction.

By the time Swami Veetabhayanandaji Maharaj handed over the responsibilities of the Home, significant progress had been made. Half of the estimated Rs. 3.68 crore required for the Centenary Block was raised. In December 2005, the Union Planning Commission granted Rs. 1.84 crore towards the construction cost through the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Government of Tamil Nadu, which was handed over by the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. On 14/12/2005 the Home Authorities Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj President, Swami Deshikatmanandaji Maharaj, Secretary of the Students' Home received the cheque from Ms. J. Jayalalitha, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The building is a 3 storied structure a Seminar Hall, an Exhibition Hall, Eleven Laboratories, a dormitory for the boys, Staff rooms, one spacious workshop and a large Prayer Hall with seating capacity of 500 persons.

The building was inaugurated on 06/12/2006 by Srimat Swami Atmasthanandaji Maharaj, Vice-President, Ramakrishna Math and Mission, Belur Math, Kolkata. There is now sufficient accommodation for all the three courses in the Polytechnic College in accordance with the norms prescribed by the AICTE.

A grand function was organized for 3 days from 6th December to 8th December 2006 in which several Swamis and speakers participated. All the major donors to the centenary block, the architect, engineers and workers associated with the construction were

duly honoured. In the evening on 6th December a public meeting was organized. Sri LK. Tripathi, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu presided. The benedictory address was given by Rev. Swami Atmasthanandaji Maharaj, then Vice-President of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.

There was a Baktha Sammelana on 7.12.2006 addressed by leading Swamijis of Ramakrishna order. There was a seminar on need based curriculum and value based skills in Polytechnic Colleges on 8.12.2006. The Commissioner of Technical Education, DOTE and Principals of several Polytechnic Colleges participated.

In addition, the construction work was taken up for the unfinished half of the second floor in the Technical Institute building. M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation met the entire cost of construction. This additional construction was completed and inaugurated in January 2007.

Construction of IOC Block: As the strength at the Home rose to 660, it became increasingly clear that additional infrastructure was essential to uphold the Gurukula model of education. Recognizing this pressing need, Swami Deshikatmanandaji Maharaj, who had by then taken over the mantle of leadership at the Home, initiated plans for the construction of additional staff quarters.

On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, dated April 20, 2007, the foundation stone for twenty-two new staff quarters was ceremoniously laid by

Srimat Swami Suhitanandaji Maharaj, Assistant General Secretary of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.

In 2009, due to a serious decline in Swami Deshikatmanandaji's health, the responsibility of leading the Home was entrusted to Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj.

Subsequently, on the sacred occasion of the 148th birthday of Swami Ramakrishnanandaji Maharaj in 2010, the twenty-two newly constructed staff quarters were formally inaugurated by Revered Swami Prabhanandaji Maharaj, General Secretary of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math. On the same day, Sri P. Rajendran, General Manager and Regional Coordinator of Indian Oil Corporation, Chennai, unveiled the commemorative plaque marking the "IOC Block" of the staff quarters.

On 20th February 2012, Swami Deshikatmanandaji Maharaj, the former Secretary of the Students' Home, peacefully attained mahasamadhi.

A heartfelt memorial meeting was held in his honour at the Home on 4th March 2012. The gathering was graced by Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, along with forty monks of the Ramakrishna Order and numerous devoted old students of the Home. During the solemn occasion, several speakers reflected deeply on the noble qualities and dedicated life of Swami Deshikatmanandaji Maharaj, offering tributes filled with profound respect, love, and gratitude for his enduring contributions to the development of the Home.

Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj (2009-2024):

True to the ideal expressed in this single phrase, "A Life of Dedicated Service" Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, before taking charge as the Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Maharaj served as the head of the Ramakrishna Mission Centre at Nattarampalli, where he rendered admirable service through educational, relief and rural development initiatives. Earlier, he had served in various departments of Chennai Ramakrishna Math, gaining rich experience in administration, organizing events and public service.

During his tenure as the Secretary of the Students' Home, the institution witnessed remarkable growth and earned several national recognitions and prestigious awards. His leadership was marked by a blend of administrative acumen, spiritual depth, and a heart deeply committed to Swami Vivekananda's ideal of "service to man is service to God."

From promoting green campus initiatives and solar energy utilization to strengthening academic and infrastructural standards both in Home and in rural tuition centers, Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj played a pivotal role in shaping the Home into a model institution rooted in Gurukula values. The Home has taken extensive relief activities during his tenure. His inspiring presence and tireless efforts left a lasting impact on the students, staff, and the larger community.

Awards: The Home earned national recognition for its excellence. In 2012, the Polytechnic College received the “Outstanding Educational Institution” Award from the National Institute for Quality and Reliability, presented by the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

In 2015, the Residential High School was conferred the prestigious Platinum Rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its eco-friendly campus, scoring 83/100. Swami Satyajnanananda, Secretary of the Home, received the award on June 12, 2015.

On April 26, 2016, the Home received the Excellence Award from the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy for its effective use of solar technologies in community cooking. The award was presented by Hon'ble Minister Sri Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.

When he took charge the Home was in dire need of funds. The Second Phase of the Centenary Project was to raise the funds needed to sustain the new initiatives requiring Rs.17 crores apart from installations of new machineries amounting to few hundred lakhs. This phase of the centenary project was being pursued vigorously. Government of India gave 100% tax exemption under 35AC.

Infosys gave 50 lakhs. Popular Tamil story writer of yester years Kum. Chudamani bequeathed one third of her assets to our Students' Home. While the immovable property fetched Rs.1.5 crore, her financial investments yielded Rs.2.1 crores totaling 3.6 Crores. Within few years all the amount successfully collected.

Infrastructure Developments

The need for more study space for high school students led to the construction of a third floor spanning an area of 6500 sq. ft. over the existing kitchen block. This was inaugurated on September 11, 2015, by Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Chennai.

Another significant infrastructure improvement was the construction of a new toilet block for the residential high school, which was inaugurated on November 15, 2019 by Sri Subba Rao, Chief General Manager, CSR, HPCL. The total built up area is 457sq. meters (4917sq.ft). at a cost of Rs.1.56 crore out of which Rs. 1 crore, was donated by HPCL under CSR.

Home Kitchen was equipped with new steam cooking system, new vessels & other modern utensils. Floor and walls etc., have been renovated, at a total cost of Rs.60 lakhs. The dedication ceremony was held on the auspicious Vijay Dashami day, Friday, 15th October, 2021. Justice Chitra Venkataraman, former judge of the Madras High Court and Chairperson, Govindu Naicker Trust, Chennai, had dedicated the new kitchen.

New labs were added, library in both high school and polytechnic college upgraded, science park, spoken English classes, IOT, Robotics, AI, kailaya Vadyam, Rural development activities and relief activities and many more are dealt in detail in their respective sections.

Celebrations:

150th birth anniversary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda: 2012-2013

Parliament of Religions Meet (11-09-2012):

Organized jointly by Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith (Vivekananda College), Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Vidyalyaya, and Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home. Hosted at Infosys Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Matriculation School, Chennai. Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj inaugurated the event. Leading speakers from Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Jainism, Islam, and Sikhism emphasized the unity of mankind through religious harmony. Swami Brahmeshanandaji Maharaj, a senior monk of the Ramakrishna Order, delivered the presidential address.

National Awakening Programme (2012-2013):

Organized one-day programs in 33 Polytechnic Colleges in and around Chennai for 33 consecutive days. Conducted by swamijis from the Home and teachers of the Polytechnic College. Exhibitions on Swamiji's life and teachings were displayed, different competitions are conducted, prizes were distributed in the concluding sessions in each college. It engaged a large number of students in discussions on Swami Vivekananda's philosophy.

Sustained Graded Value Education Programme (SGVEP): Implemented in 13 schools and the Polytechnic Colleges. A two-year structured moral education program with 70 classes per year,

benefited around 4,468 students. These programmes were Sponsored by the Central Government through Ramakrishna Mission Headquarters.

Swami Vivekananda Ratha Yatra (13-04-2013 to 08-01-2014): A massive outreach program organized by Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore, in collaboration with other Math and Mission centers in Tamil Nadu. Covered 25,000 km across Tamil Nadu, spreading Swami Vivekananda's message. The Home coordinated the event in Thiruvallur district from 21st-28th December 2013 and Mylapore on 30-12-2013. All the school students, devotees, and public officials, including the Tamil Nadu Minister for Revenue, the District Collector, and the Superintendent of Police participated in the programme. Books on Swami Vivekananda were distributed to all the students, and prasad given to all the 600 convicts at Puzhal Prison.

Musical Tribute to Swami Vivekananda (31-01-2014 to 02-02-2014): A three-day event was held at Adyar Mahaswamy Mandapam, Infosys Hall, T. Nagar, and the Home premises. Featured vocal concerts by renowned musicians, Nadaswaram, musical Hari Katha, and Thevara Thirumurai by Oduvars. Two books were released one in Tamil and the other is its English translation, highlighting Swami Vivekananda's musical prowess.



Swami Vivekananda Ratha Yatra (13-04-2013 to 08-01-2014)

150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Swami Akhandanandaji Maharaj – 12 October 2015: In remembrance of Swami Akhandanandaji Maharaj, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna and a pioneer in serving the poor and downtrodden, the 150th birth anniversary was observed with acts of devotion and service to the poor.

On 12th October 2015, the Students' Home organized the distribution of grocery kits to deserving families—70 at Perumalserry and 104 at Madayambakkam. The food articles were personally distributed by Swami Samahitanandaji Maharaj of the Home.

Gadadhar Balasangam, Kathivakkam (Ennore), organized a special Jayanti programme. Swami Buddhidanandaji Maharaj of Ramakrishna Math,

Mylapore, addressed around 100 students and their parents, highlighting the noble life of Swami Akhandanandaji. Gift packets worth ₹300 each were distributed to all the participating students, spreading joy in the spirit of service.

All India Alumni Meet at Belur Math: As part of the year-long celebrations commemorating the 125th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's historic address at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, an All India Alumni Meet was held at Belur Math on the 28th and 29th of December, 2019.

This momentous occasion brought together nearly 1,500 alumni from various educational institutions of the Ramakrishna Mission across the country, highlighting the enduring bond between the alumni and the spiritual and educational ideals of the Mission.

Accompanied by Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, Secretary of the Home, and Br. Madhava Chaitanya attended the program, along with 51 old students.

The two-day gathering featured five structured sessions aimed at fostering thoughtful discussions and the exchange of ideas between alumni and senior monks. The event concluded with a renewed collective commitment by the alumni to uphold the noble ideals of the Ramakrishna Mission and to serve society with devotion and integrity.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations: On 12th January 2022, the Home celebrated the 38th National Youth Day and the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, marking 75 years of India's independence. The event was held with enthusiastic participation by the students and staff of our Residential High School and Polytechnic College, with due compliance to the COVID 19 protocols.

The celebrations commenced with the recitation of the Swadeshi Mantra, followed by the Youth Day Oath-taking ceremony, bhajans, and a recital of Swami Vivekananda's teachings by the students. Literary competitions were held to encourage awareness and appreciation of India's heritage and the role of youth in nation-building. Prizes were distributed to the winning students.

The Students' Home building, known as the "Palace for the Poor," was illuminated to mark the occasion. Many swamis spoke and urged the students to contribute to the future of India in alignment with Swami Vivekananda's vision by reinforcing the ideals of service, knowledge, and spiritual growth.

I tell you one thing-if you want peace, do not find fault with others. Rather see your own faults. Learn to make the whole world your own. No one is a stranger, my child; the whole world is your own.





125th Anniversary of the Foundation of Ramakrishna Mission: was celebrated with great reverence on 1st May 2022. The grand event was graced by eminent personalities, monks, devotees, and well-wishers of the Mission.

The Chief Guest of the event was Sri T.S. Krishnamurthy, former Chief Election Commissioner of India. The principal speaker on the occasion was renowned Mathematician Sri Vittal, former Principal of Vivekananda College. The celebrations presided over by Most Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Vice President of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission and Adhyaksha, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai. He delivered the benedictory address, emphasizing the Mission's role in uplifting society through education and selfless service.

On this occasion, a special video in Tamil, titled "மனித நேயத்தில் மலரும் தாமரை," showcasing the Ramakrishna Movement, was released. This video was originally produced by the Headquarters with an English audio track and was translated into Tamil with the help of devotees. The function was also graced by Swami Padmasthanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission T. nagar.

Sri S. Gurumurthy, Editor of Thuglak and Director of the Reserve Bank of India, was the Chief Guest for the event. He delivered an insightful address on "Ramakrishna Mission and its Goal," highlighting the Mission's enduring contribution to society. The celebrations saw the participation of several dignitaries, old students, staff, and devotees.

As part of the Mission's humanitarian initiatives, grocery items worth Rs. 1,000 each were distributed to 25 poor widow mothers.



The centenary celebrations of the “Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School “and the main building “The Palace for the Poor”- 26.06.2022.

Chandi Homam was performed on 03.05.2022 by swami Natarajanandaji Maharaj with the help of other sadhus to commemorate the centenary of the School and the building.

On 26th June 2022, the Home celebrated the centenary of the “Residential High School” and the

main building, "The Palace for the Poor." A sacred 'Stupi' (pillar) was erected in fond memory of the 'foundation stone laying' by Swami Brahmanandaji Maharaj on 6th May 1917 and in fulfilment of founder Sri Ramaswamy Iyengar's wish. It was inaugurated by Most Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Vice President of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission. Palace for the Poor, the main building was renovated befitting the Centenary celebrations.

The grand centenary celebrations at Vivekananda Auditorium, featured four sessions, each graced by distinguished guests: 1st session was presided by Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu at 10.00 a.m. The other dignitaries were Most Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, Vice President of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Sri B. Selvakumar, Chief Post Master General, Tamil Nadu Circle, Sri S. Gurumurthy, Editor, Thuglak and Dr. Nalli Kuppuswamy Chettiar, Vice President of R.K.M.S Home. A commemorative Postal Special Cover to mark the Centenary of our Residential High School was released.

The Governor spoke in detail about our Great heritage and the role the mission has to play in the 'Amirtkal' for the next few decades and how our country should emerge as "Vishwa Guru". He also spoke on Sanatana Dharma and how it is relevant even in the modern day. The session was concluded with honouring conservancy staff, drama artists, and poor widows totaling 100 each. They were all given dry ration items worth Rs.1000 each.

The 2nd Session from 12.00 noon was presided by Swami Padmasthanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, T. Nagar. Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama. Prof. E. Balaguruswamy, former Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, and Sri Rajagopalan, Senior V.P. Titan Company, Hosur, participated in the function.

In the 3rd Session started at 2.00 pm, Swami Shukadevanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapeeth (Vivekananda College) presided. Dr. Sudha Seshaiyyan M.S., Vice Chancellor, Dr. M.G.R. Medical University and Sri. T.T. Srinivasa Raghavan, Director, Sundaram Finance, were the main speakers. For the 4th Session from 5.30 p.m., the Chief Guest was Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT, Madras. Sri P. Raju Iyer, President of The Institute of Cost & Management Accounts of India. Dr. P. Seetha Raman, Former Group CEO, Doha Bank, both old boys of our Home were the main speakers. Books worth Rs.1000 per set were distributed to 100 school libraries. 100 tree saplings were distributed among villagers. About 300 students from other colleges visited the exhibition that was organized in our Polytechnic college as a part of Centenary Celebrations.

Recent Innovations and Technological Advancements

Mobile Robotic Lab: Empowering Under privileged Students with Technology. The Home continues its tradition of innovation through impactful educational initiatives. One such pioneering project is the Mobile Robotic Lab, launched in December 2022, with the generous support of the HCL Foundation.

This project is designed to offer robotics and Internet of Things (IoT) training to students in government and corporation schools, empowering underprivileged children with vital technological skills.

A specially customized bus, equipped with advanced robotic training kits, was developed at a cost of ₹63.5 lakhs. This mobile lab visits various government schools, delivering both theoretical and hands-on training sessions led by an experienced trainer. Through this initiative, students gain exposure to modern fields such as robotics, automation, and IoT, enhancing their future opportunities.

The Mobile Robotic Lab was inaugurated on 20th December 2022 by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice-President – Global CSR, HCL Foundation. The event was graced by Sri Srinivasan, Assistant Commissioner of Police, and Sri G.H. Rao, Senior Advisor, HCL Foundation, among others.

STEM Laboratory: Additionally, the STEM Laboratory in the Residential High School was inaugurated in March 2023, thanks to the support of the Infosys Foundation. This new facility, with an initial cost of Rs. 33 lakhs, offers students hands-on experience in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, further strengthening the Home's academic offerings. Sri Kiran N. G, Program Manager, Infosys Springboard (ETA), and Sri Santhosh.MM, Specialist Learner - Infosys Springboard (ETA), graced the occasion as Chief Guests along with other dignitaries, staff and students.

Digital Transformation through Ayanam 1.0 & 2.0: In a significant step towards administrative modernization, the Home implemented Ayanam 1.0 and 2.0, a comprehensive Student Management Software developed on the Zoho Creator platform. This digital system streamlines critical aspects of student administration, including admissions, attendance, and curriculum management, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of day-to-day operations.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of our dedicated volunteer, Sri Sriram Ramani, for his active involvement in the design of the software. The initial version, Ayanam 1.0, was developed by Zitrar Technologies at a cost of ₹6 lakhs. The upgraded Ayanam 2.0 project was executed by M/s RCI Digital, Chennai, at a cost of ₹23 lakhs, entirely funded by a generous benefactor, Mr. Kishore Kumar.

Farewell to Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj and welcome to Swami Dharmishthananda: On the auspicious occasion of Swami Ramakrishnanandaji Maharaj's Jayanti on 2nd August 2024, a farewell ceremony was held in honour of Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, who was transferred as the Adhyaksha of Chennai Ramakrishna Math.



On the same sacred day, Swami Dharmishthanandaji Maharaj, formerly the Manager of Chennai Math, formally assumed charge as the Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, marking a graceful transition of responsibilities in the spirit of dedicated service.

Inauguration of Machines and Equipment Sponsored by Tata Advanced Systems: As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), Hyderabad, generously sanctioned a grant of ₹31 lakhs to our institution. This support has facilitated the modernization of the Physics Laboratory, installation of essential equipment in the Basic Engineering Practice Department, and the addition of new lathes and milling machines for our workshop, significantly enhancing the practical learning infrastructure for our students.

The newly installed machines and laboratory equipment were formally inaugurated on 7th March 2025 by Revered Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, Adhyaksha, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai. Ms. Srikruti Gentela from the CSR Department of TASL dedicated the equipment to the Polytechnic College on behalf of the Organization. The institution gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Tata Advanced Systems, which will go a long way in strengthening technical education and skill development for our students.

Dedication of Project Skill-Up: Most Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, President, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission visited our Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai on the 26th March 2025 and dedicated the Skill-up project worth Rs 1.3 crore, covering the infrastructure development of our Residential High school and equipment of our lab Polytechnic College. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Madras Mount who had funded the project through Rotary-CSR grant.

Revered Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Chennai graced the occasion. Rtn. Mahaveer Bothra, District Governor, Rtn Isak Nazor, Rtn. L. Neela Kandan, Chairman addressed the gathering and inspired the students drawing similarities of the ideals of the Rotary Organization and the Ramakrishna Mission in spreading human welfare and universal peace.

The distinguished guest, Rtn. AKS Ram N Rama Murthy, more importantly an "old Student" of the Home and a member of the Management Committee of the Home, had donated the entire amount. As an elder brother, he inspired the present students about the bright future that awaits them. He exhorted how each one of them could grow in 'the Home' and ultimately contribute to the Society, just as himself, gratefully acknowledging the Home's contribution to his success. The occasion was rendered memorable by the participation of 59 Sadhus from various Centres.

Faculty Training Programmes (2024-2025)

As per the directive from the Commissioner Technical Education, Directorate of Technical Education (DOTE), a Training programme on Advanced Computer Numerical Control (CNC) was conducted at our Polytechnic College from 24.03.2025 to 01.04.2025. This training was conducted by the industrial trainer Mr.G. Venkatesan, Director, Primo Engineers Pvt. Ltd.



This initiative was arranged by DOTE with the guidance of Dr. M. P. Vijayakumar I.A.S. (Retd), Vice Chairman of Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE) who has emphasized the critical role of Skill Development Training, in equipping faculty with the latest industry relevant skills. The structured training included using the sourcebook, creating a daily assessment framework and creating advanced maneuverability of the technology. Twenty faculty members from ten government polytechnic colleges attended this training programme. The second such programme has commenced on 2nd April and will conclude on 12th April 2025.

Conclusion: As it celebrates over a century of service to the community, the Students' Home continues to evolve, with new projects, infrastructural upgrades, and an unwavering commitment to providing quality education and care to its students. Through the contributions of many dedicated individuals and organizations, the Home stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity for countless young aspirants.

The Students' Home has evolved from a humble beginning into a thriving institution committed to serving the underprivileged students. Its continuous development and expansion of educational and infrastructural facilities reflect the enduring vision of Swami Vivekananda and the tireless efforts of the Ramakrishna Mission. With continued support from well-wishers and philanthropic organizations, the Home will continue to promote an environment that fosters not only academic growth but also the holistic development of its inmates.

Strength, strength it is that we want so much in this life, for what we call sin and sorrow have all one cause, and that is our weakness. With weakness comes ignorance, and with ignorance comes misery.





Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home

Activities At a Glance - Our Institutions

Primary School

- 86 Year Old School
- class 1st To 5th Standard
- 63 Students
- Government Aided
- Tamil And English Medium

Residential High School

- 100 Years Old School
- Class 6th to 10th Standard
- 250 Students
- Tamil Medium

Polytechnic College

- 90 Years Old School
- 350 Students in 3 courses
- 3 Year Diplomas in
 - Mechanical
 - Automobile
 - Computer Engineering

Vocational Training

- Free Tally Training For Students and Unemployed Youth
- MOBILE ROBOTIC LAB For Govt. and Chennai Corporation School Students

Rural Development

- 7 Tuition Centers in 4 Villages, 350 Children Benefitted Annually
- 36 Medical camps in 7 Villages Per Year Around 7000 People Benefitted Yearly

The Home - Gurukula System Of Education

Special emphasis is laid on character-building and harmonious Development of the body, mind and heart. Classes on religious and moral instructions on the basic tenets of eternal values are held regularly.



When a man sees defects in others, his own mind first gets polluted. What does he gain by finding faults in others? He only hurts himself by that.



Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School

Started in 1922, The High School educates around 250 boys from 6th to 10th standards. Students live in proximity with teachers, mentors and monks and derive valuable training in gaining academic knowledge and developing practical skills. A time-tested daily routine helps the boys to achieve success.



Day Starts With Morning Yoga , Prayer and Study



If you have faith in all the three hundred and thirty millions of your mythological gods, and still have no faith in yourselves, there is no salvation for you. Have faith in yourselves, and stand up on that faith and be strong; that is what we need.

Special events in connection with the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda: 2012-2013



Parliament of Religions Meet (11-09-2012)



Musical Tribute to Swami Vivekananda
(31-01-2014 to 02-02-2014)



Swami Vivekananda Ratha Yatra
(13-04-2013 to 08-01-2014)

(SGVEP) Sustained Graded Value
Education Programme



Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations:

The centenary celebrations of the “Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School” and the main building “The Palace for the Poor”



Recent Innovations and Technological Advancements



Mobile Robotic Lab



STEM Laboratory



Digital Transformation

Farewell to Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharj



Inauguration of Milling Machine by Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj



Dedication of Project Skill-Up



Advanced CNC Training to the external faculties



Section II

Establishment of Educational Institutions



Chapter 2

(a) Residential High School in the Home

In the initial stages of the Home, the boys had their stay and food in the Home but had their studies in one of the local schools.

Once residential needs were firmly secured, the founders started working to have their own Residential High School since gurukula education was envisaged by Swami Vivekananda. The Managers were experiencing first hand that the ideals of the Home did not leave good amount of impression on the life and conduct of the boys if they merely stayed as free boarders and got their education elsewhere.

The decision of the authorities of the Home was immediately made practical by the support of the well-wishers of the Home and also by the enthusiastic co-operation of a few distinguished old boys who pledged their devoted services to the school and from among them Sri K. Vedanta Desikan became the first Headmaster and Scientist T.R. Seshadri (the only FRS India has produced in Chemistry as on date) became Science Teacher. With temporary arrangements for the classes, the Residential High School, with Forms IV, V & VI, was started on 26th June 1922.

From 1922 to 1925 the Residential High School was built on the lands acquired to the south of the Main Building and just before the full completion on 12.12.1924 Mahapurush Shivanandaji Maharaj, who too graced the consecration of the Students' Home along with

Raja Maharaj, 'dedicated' the Residential High School. It was formally opened by Rt. Hon. Viscount Goschen, the Governor of Madras on 13.7.1925. Before the formal inauguration, Their Excellencies paid a visit in March 1925 and observed: "... It has a special atmosphere of its own where charity, breadth of view, spirituality and practicality are combined in the common life. Students and boys of all creeds join together in the common life of the Institution.....Such a training influenced by the highest ideals should create character of great value to the country in which one day they will play their part".

Of the total cost of Rs.1,27,790/- the generous Chettiar Community known as Nattukkottai Nagarathars contributed Rs. 83,886/- and government grant was Rs. 69,910/-. The Residential High School Building was named after them as Nattukkottai Nagarathar Building. The 'mantle' of the school administration was given to bright and dynamic person Sri S.S. Vasudevachariar (later the Maharishi).



Residential High School Nattukkottai Nagarathar Building

Saraswathi Statue in Prayer Hall (Athur) (1952)



Hostel accommodation at Athur (1946)



Residential High School at Athur (1946)

In 1942 there was an apprehension of Imminent attack on Madras by the Japanese during the World War.

The Government advised all the institutions to move away from the city. As a result, the school was shifted temporarily to Uttiramerur and was accommodated in the District Board High School Building which was vacant then.

Accustomed to the comforts of a city life, both the teachers and students found that they had to face innumerable problems. There was no piped water supply. Bathing, washing and cooking had to be done with limited supply of well water. They had to study under kerosene lamps. They had the strange experience of living with insects, scorpions and sometimes even snakes. But there were compensations. The freedom of movement, the charms of rural life, were the compensations etched in the memory of students and staff of those days.

As the District Board wanted the Building back for its own use after a few years and as the Mission owned some land and buildings in the village of Athur near Chengalpattu, the Residential High School was shifted to Athur in 1946.

The Residential High School was later brought back to Home premises in 1958. The school functions since then in the Home premises itself.



High School Class Room

Residential High School from 2005 to 2025

The Residential High School has undergone significant development over the years, evolving from a traditional educational institution into a modern, technology-enabled learning environment. With strong emphasis on curriculum, infrastructure, extra-curricular activities, and holistic student development, the school continues to make strides in providing a holistic education to its students.

Academic Development

Smart Classrooms: All classrooms are equipped with smart boards, ultra-short throw projectors, and PCs with broadband internet to facilitate interactive and engaging learning experiences.

Mathematics Laboratory: Established in 2013 with sponsorship from HCL Technologies Foundation, this lab enables students to understand mathematical concepts through practical models and interactive modules. A state-of-the-art Mathematics Lab, at a cost of Rs. 5.85 lakhs, was inaugurated in the first-floor of front home. The inauguration was presided over by Sri K.V. Subrahmanyam, Vice President-Healthcare, and Ms. Srimathi Shivashankar, Associate Vice President, HCL Technologies Ltd. Other dignitaries in attendance included Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chettiar, Sri Chandrasekhar Bharathi (Vice President – Healthcare, Pfizer), and Sri N. Ramadurai (Vice President, NIIT). During the event, Sri P.R. Vittal, Former Principal of Vivekananda College, delivered a lecture on "Mathematics in Real Life," emphasizing the subject's practical applications.

Science Park: Outdoor Science Equipment was commissioned in the High School by Sri S. Natesan, a representative of Exnora Environmental Research Institute and a Trustee of Tamil Nadu Foundation, Chennai. This initiative aimed to enhance the students' hands-on learning experience in science by allowing them to explore scientific principles practically. This also allows students to explore scientific concepts practically using models and structured demonstrations, benefiting both the students of the school and visitors from other institutions.

STEM Laboratory: Inaugurated in March 2023, this Infosys Foundation-funded lab provides specialized training in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, encouraging students to develop innovative problem-solving skills, which is housed on the second floor of the main building. The initial setup cost was Rs. 33 lakhs. The inauguration was attended by Sri Kiran N.G., Program Manager, Infosys Springboard (ETA), and Sri Santhosh M.M., Specialist Learner, Infosys Springboard (ETA), along with dignitaries, staff, and students.

Computer Laboratory: Upgraded in 2023 with new flooring, tables, PCs and tablets, the lab trains high school students in basic computing, Microsoft Office, internet browsing, and email communication. The laboratory is now equipped with 25 PCs and 30 Tablet PCs. It is established on the second floor of the main building.

Library: A well-stocked library with thousands of books across various subject's fosters reading habits and self-

learning among students. Infrastructure was again upgraded in 2025 with the grants of Rotary club.

English Communication Training: The "Sarada-English-Connect" program provides spoken English and communication training to enhance students' language skills and confidence. Students are divided into 25 per class and the classes were conducted by ELF Trainers. The classes are held from Monday to Friday between 03:30-04:30 PM and Saturday classes are from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Each Student will get 2 Sessions per week.

Infrastructure Development

Dr. Abdul Kalam Block (2015): The third floor over the existing kitchen block was named Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Block. This structure, covering an area of 6500 sq. ft., was inaugurated by Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj on 11-09-2015. This block is an important addition to the school's infrastructure, providing additional space for academic activities and residential purposes.

Modern Toilet Block (2019): A modern toilet block for the Residential High School was inaugurated by Sri Subba Rao, Chief General Manager, CSR, HPCL. The building consists of a ground floor, first floor, and a terrace utility area, with a total built-up area of 457 sq. meters (4917 sq. ft.). The total cost of construction was Rs. 1.56 crore, of which Rs. 1 crore was donated under HPCL's CSR scheme. This block offers hygienic sanitation facilities for students.

Centenary Celebrations: The centenary celebrations of the Residential High School and the "Palace for the Poor"

were conducted on June 26, 2022 commemorating a century of educational excellence.

Playground & Sports Facilities: A dedicated sports area with coaching for various outdoor and indoor games promotes physical fitness and team-spirit.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Clubs & Competitions: The school has Tamil, English, Mathematics, and Science clubs that organize various competitions such as drawing, essay writing, speech, and quizzes.

Student Police Cadet (SPC): Implemented as per government directives, this program instills discipline, civic responsibility, and leadership qualities in students.

National Green Corps (NGC): The school's NGC unit focuses on environmental awareness, tree plantation, and waste management initiatives.

Junior Red Cross (JRC): Students actively participate in service and discipline-related activities during school functions.

Band Troupe: A well-trained band performs at major school events and competitions.

Kailaya Vadyam Training: A traditional temple music form, Kailaya Vadyam is taught to students and performed at major religious and cultural festivals. Weekly 3 days training is being given by Vidhvans to our boys. Kailaya Vadyam is performed during processions of Guru Maharaj, Holy Mother, Swami Vivekananda & Swami Ramakrishnananda Jayanthi days. Also, Kailaya

Vadyam is regularly performed in Mylai Car Festival and Sivarathri days. Our school Kailaya Vadyam-Vivekakalaikuzhu was selected for the state-level competition in the Kalaithiruvizha, conducted by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the academic year 2023-2024.

Music Training: Harmonium and Tabla classes are conducted weekly by experienced instructors and old students.

Educational Tours: 10th Standard students visit Tirupati Balaji Temple before their SSLC Board Exams. 6th & 7th Standard students take day trips to Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Uthiramerur inscription, and Mamallapuram Temple. 8th & 9th Standard students visit Vandalur Zoo, Golden Temple, Vellore Fort, and Rathinagiri Temple.

Achievements:

1. Tamil Nadu Government Kalai Thiruvizha – Third place in Street Play competition.
2. Ignite Foundation – First place in Dance competition and second place in Mathematics Quiz competition.
3. Bhoomi Foundation – First place in Adaptune competition.
4. Engal Mylapore – Second place in Street Play competition.
5. GENCAN - Recognized our Sri Ramakrishna Residential High school as one of the best performers in the GENCAN Climate Education and Action Learning Program. HCL foundation in association

with Centre for Environment Education(CEE), organized Generation for Climate Action (GENCAN), climate education and action learning program for grades 6th to 10th. In this program, our High School was selected as one of the best performers in National level for the academic year 2023-2024.

Holistic Development

Yoga Training: Daily 20-minute yoga sessions help students maintain physical and mental well-being.

Value Education: Moral classes conducted thrice a week to instill ethical values in students. Ramakrishna Vijayam, a Tamil monthly magazine of Ramakrishna Order, sent to all Staff, Parents/Guardians of our students at free of cost.

Counselling Sessions: Conducted thrice a week by Mrs. Ganga Chandrasekaran, these sessions offer emotional support and career guidance.

Special Training for Learning Disabilities: Max Academy provides specialized training and IQ assessments, helping students improve their academic performance.

Career Readiness Programs: Spoken English classes, computer training, and career counselling sessions prepare students for higher education & employment opportunities.

Social Responsibility: Participation in programs like SPC and JRC nurtures a sense of civic duty and empathy.

Conclusion

The Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School has made remarkable progress in infrastructure, curricular co-curricular and extracurricular activities striving to achieve holistic student development. The school's investment in modern learning tools, high-quality infrastructure, and comprehensive student welfare programs ensures that students receive a well-rounded education, preparing them for future success. The steady growth of the Residential High School has transformed it into a model institution that not only imparts academic knowledge but also ensures the all-round development of its students. The continued investment in infrastructure, technology, and student welfare programs reflects the Students' Home's commitment to excellence in education.

I am your true mother, a mother not by virtue of being your guru's wife, nor by way of empty talk, but truly the mother.





Computer Laboratory



Library



Science Park



Mathematics Laboratory



Dr. Abdul Kalam Block (2015)



Modern Toilet Block (2019)



Centenary Celebrations



Playground & Sports Facilities



Kalari



Kailaya Vadyam



Street Play



Tirupati Temple Visit



Prize received by students



GenCAN



Yoga Training

(b) Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College: Its Evolution

The founder-secretary, Sri Ramu, was deeply concerned about the lack of bread-winning opportunities for the inmates after they left the Home. The urgent need was 'to enable the boys to earn their livelihood even while they were still in school.' Ramu earnestly longed that every boy leaving the Home should have something to hold on to in life. This concern for the boys, more importantly those who could not fare well in the curriculum but had hidden talents drove Ramu to equip them for livelihood.

However, due to widespread unemployment, the job-oriented secretarial training did not yield the desired results. Moreover, Sri Ramu observed that boys who lagged behind in general studies often had an aptitude for manual work — and even excelled in it.

This insight led him to recognize the importance of vocational training, and he began experimenting in that direction. The boys' leisure hours after annual examinations were utilized by training them in "wicker-work first and carpentry".

Ramu had such a passion for this idea, that he even approached the government with the request that students with the aptitude for manual skills be treated as 'matriculates', a dream that is yet to fructify!!

Beginning: From the very inception of the Students' Home, the authorities envisioned Technical Education as a core objective. The First and Second Annual Reports expressed their desire to train inmates in the School

of Arts and Technical Institutions. By the seventh year, this aspiration materialized. In 1912, they proudly reported the commencement of technical instruction, enabling students to appear for Government Technical Examinations.

Though they initially aimed at engineering, the training offered was in Typewriting, Shorthand, and Commerce—taught within the Home and made compulsory for all inmates.

This continued until 1918. Between 1918 and 1921, five students stayed at the Home and studied in Government Engineering College!!

Vocational Training

Once the Home got housed in their own buildings the authorities were encouraged to take steps towards Vocational Training i.e. in Carpentry, Rattan Work, Spinning and Weaving Work. This Vocational Training Project was estimated at a cost of Rs. 30,000/-. Immediately Rs. 3,200/- was donated by 'Madras Secretariat Party.

'Sir' Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyer promised to support students by donating annually Rs.100/-. So, up with temporary arrangements, from 1922 summer onwards Vocational Training Classes were given to boys as part of Home activity, after the regular periods of the Residential High School.

Both Residential High School and Vocational Training were started simultaneously, and construction of buildings started with the promise of Government Grant and was completed in 1923.

Manual Training formed part of the School Curriculum



Weaving



Rattan Works



Carpentry

The milestone event of consolidating this unique and important feature of the Home slowly followed. The Member for Law & Education in the Cabinet Council (he was also Finance Member), Sir Lord Charles George Todhunter, who was sceptic to the very idea of technical education, visited the Home and said "I am quite a convert to the grant for vocational training about which I was sceptic until I saw Your Home". For, he approved this in academic curricular as part of general education and granted Rs. 15,500/- for the construction of buildings. After Construction the training classes, which conducted outside the regular class hours, were brought within the regular school hours with a whole afternoon for a class, once in three days.

Industrial School: With this advancement, the Home contemplated a separate and larger work-shop equipped with lathe and electric power etc., with the existing Rattan, Carpentry & others. Foundation for this Industrial School was laid by 'Mahapurush' Swami Shivanandaji Maharaj in 1924. The enlarged Work-shop having recognized by Department of Industries, the higher standard technical education thus the Industrial School came into existence. 'While formally opening the Residential High School Buildings, the Governor Viscount Goshen formally started the Industrial School too' in 1925.

Along with the previous mentioned subjects, wood carving, metal engraving, iron smithy and foundry etc., were added. Also, "a definite step had been taken to open a Mechanical Foreman and Fitters Section in the first instance". A regular syllabus was drawn up and got

approved by the Inspector of Industrial Schools. The course covered a period of three years. With the addition of more and more Mechanical Engineering subjects and giving up of weaving and carpentry, the course grew further from 3 years to 4 years and to 5 years.



Mahapurush Maharaj with Foundation Stone
(Swami L-R) Paramathmanandaji, Saswathanandaji,
Yatiswaranandaji, presumably Sharvanandaji

Licentiate in Automobile Engineering (LAE):

One more step, the government assigned 10 grounds of land for Automobile Workshop. In the year 1930 along with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Home, the foundation stone was laid by the then Governor of Madras Sir George John Frederic Stanley for a full-fledged Automobile workshop.

During the proceedings of the celebrations a staunch friend announced an endowment of Rs. 5,000/-



Silver Jubilee Workshop Foundation by
Sir George Frederick Stanley,
Sir Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayer at the extreme left

preferring to be anonymous. Winding up the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, Sir. G.F. Stanely, the Governor of Madras observed: "I can imagine nothing finer than to give in such a cause and would appeal most earnestly to those, who are well-endowed with this world's goods to contribute as generously as possible, because I am confident that they could not have a worthier object than to assist those who are not able to afford it to equip themselves for the struggle of life". From then on the Governor's Appreciation Grant was enhanced to Rs.500 and the Home continued to receive it till Centenary only with a 'two or three breaks' towards end of the Centenary.

By 1932 the Institute, though wished to become Diploma in Mechanical, with focused subjects apt

for Automobile became Diploma in Automobile Engineering. Thus Licentiate in Automobile Engineering (LAE) came into existence. Yet another 'Feather in the Cap' for Home's Technical Education was that the Government of India recognized our Industrial School as a Training Centre.

Paying Boarders scheme: Soon after the Residential High School and Industrial School had their permanent footings, a danger to the Home for its smooth conduct of the affairs again came from none other than their very staunch and benevolent donors. Unlike during the construction of 'Palace for the Poor', this time 'it was not of the quality of Gurukula available to the orphan and destitute students' but 'the non-availability of the same to their own wards'. For Ramu, who vouchsafed the support from them, it was a challenge. To those munificent benefactors, it was their crying need.

From 1925 a 'Paying Boarders' scheme was introduced. 'The number of paying boarders was restricted to 25 per cent of the total strength'. This system lasted till II World War evacuation. We give here few of 'those' old boys of our Home; Swami Vandananandaji, a former General Secretary of Ramakrishna Math & Mission-including being Interim President for a couple of months, C.R. Pattabhiraman, a former Cabinet Minister of India, Justice P Kailasam, a former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Sri Jagannathan, a former Governor, Reserve Bank of India, S.P. Mahadevan, a former Major General, Southern Command, AMM Arunachalam, one of the leading Industrialists of South India etc.

In 1932, Ramu passed away and Ramanuju tirelessly worked and established the Home & Technical Institute in firm footings. 'Maharishi' Vasudevachariar plunged in establishing Mambalam Schools from 1932 onwards. Due to increased work, in 1935 the need of sharing the responsibility as Asst. Secretary arose and an old student of the Home who elevated the 'dignity of labour into divinity of labour' Sri T.S. Krishna Rao shouldered it. Sri Vedanta Desikan was shifted to take charge of the Schools in Mambalam as Headmaster in 1935. Sri N. Subramanian (Anna, a saintly person) took charge as Headmaster of Home Residential High School".

The Automobile Engineering Course first batch was for 5 years and they came out in 1937, with a licentiate in Automobile Engineering Diploma. Subsequently the course was changed to 4 years with one-year apprenticeship. In 1949, as a measure of standardisation the Diploma Courses were reduced to three years without the necessity for apprenticeship.

As automobile engineering was the main objective of this Institute and as the workshop attached to the institute was fully equipped, the institute became highly popular with more than seven hundred students passing out of this institute during the 24 years of its existence up to 1961. Many of the students coming out of the Technical Institute with LAE diploma proved themselves professionally efficient and well-disciplined employees. As a result, there was a great demand for the services of the LAE diploma holders passing out of this Technical Institute. The planning and forethought that went into the decision were amply rewarded by a large number

of Home students turning professionals and coming off well in life.

Taking advantage of a generous offer by the Government of India under second five-year plan, which proposed to expand the technological base in the country, the Home applied for assistance in developing and improving the Technical Institute by introducing an additional diploma course in Mechanical Engineering (DME). This was started in 1958. An expert committee visited the Home to inspect the facilities and recommended financial assistance. They wrote "If any institution deserves support under this scheme, it is this Institution". Accordingly, the Government sanctioned grants.

Although erecting the super structure was completed in 1950 itself by Ramanuju, once the Residential School was brought back, the large number inmates of Technical Institute and College Section were to vacate their lodgings from the Main Building. Already Abdul Hakim Ward was full. Of the two phased development project of Technical Institute and a Hostel for it, the Government of India (GOI) first sanctioned Rs.8.3 lakhs for building and equipment to Institute. Two-thirds of the grant was given by GOI and the remaining one-third was equally shared by the State Government and the Management. This grant was received within a couple of months of Ramanuju's passing away. Subsequently GOI sanctioned an Interest Free Loan of Rs.1.5 lakhs repayable in 33 annual installments for the Hostel. An enhancement of the same was sought and the government granted Rs. 70,000/- additionally.

The construction of new Hostel was pursued immediately and vigorously with Home funds pending receipt of government loan. First Installment of interest free loan was received subsequently and the New Hostel with additional Second Floor was ready for occupation in June 1958. After paying back regularly 10 annual installments of the Interest Free Loan to Government of India for the New Technical Institute Hostel, the authorities sought a waiver of the balance amount and that too was granted.

However, the full time LAE was stopped in 1961-62 as per the advice of AICTE. This was replaced by a post diploma course of 18 months duration after DME. This arrangement of post diploma course went on for a few years. During this time officials of the government monitored 'Single Window Admission System' allotted admission to affordable non-orphan and non-destitute students' into our Technical Institute. The system was conceived and enforced by none other than Supreme Court itself. Therefore, the State Government negated our appeals for exemption from this system. The introduction of the 'Single Window Admission System' brought about a sense of anxiety akin to that experienced during a war-time evacuation, unsettling even our Residential High School.

Be not a traitor in your thoughts. Be sincere, act according to your thoughts, and you shall surely succeed. Pray with a sincere and simple heart, and your prayers will be heard.



When the somewhat disheartened authorities approached the High Court seeking a stay on the admission allotments under this new system, the Court initially granted an oral stay in favor of the institution and converted the stay petition into a writ petition.

The High Court then conducted a thorough and detailed examination of the ideals and provisions underlying the Single Window System. It delved deeply into the core issues and administrative practices that had caused the matter to escalate through multiple judicial levels. In its deliberation, the Court reviewed the interpretation and implementation of the new system as upheld by the Supreme Court and ultimately concluded that the system was not applicable to the "Students' Home."

As a last and most important step of developing the Technical Institute, the management under the leadership of Swami Veetabhayananda, discussed and initiated proposals for introducing two additional self-finance diploma courses to help approximately 275 more orphan-destitute students when the bank-deposit-interest-rate fell from 13% to 4% and after parting away of one-third of its general funds to the newly created full-fledged branch center at Malliankaranai.

As part of the Centenary Celebrations the Management of the Home commenced two new technical courses viz., revival of the diploma course in Automobile Engineering and introduction of the Diploma course in Computer Engineering with the approval of the Government since 2005. It was held that these two courses of studies were

greatly in demand, considering the job market. Each class could have a maximum of 40 students. As a result, the Home admits 80 boys additionally each year. The Technical Institute has consequently been upgraded as Polytechnic College.

While sanctioning the two new courses the Government decided

- a) The Diploma course in Automobile Engineering may be treated as an aided course with no additional financial commitment by the Government and
- b) The Diploma course in Computer Engineering will be permitted as a self-financing course

Efforts are made to find additional financial resources required by the Home, by appealing to the generous public to purchase the necessary equipment and to create a sufficiently large corpus fund to meet the recurring expenses.

Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College: 2005-2025

Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College has made significant advancements in education, skill development, and infrastructure with the generous support of various organizations and individuals. The institution has received several prestigious awards and has undertaken numerous initiatives to enhance the quality of education and student experiences.

Outstanding Educational Institution Award: Our Polytechnic College was adjudged as the Outstanding

Educational Institution in 2012 by the National Institution for Quality and Reliability. His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, presented this prestigious award. This recognition laid the foundation for various initiatives aimed at improving education standards and student development.

Infrastructure Development

Inauguration of the AIEMA Pavilion – A Leap Towards Industry-Ready Training: On 24th October 2012, our Polytechnic College marked a proud milestone with the inauguration of the AIEMA Pavilion—a major step in bridging classroom learning with industry demands.

Sri K. Sai Sathya Kumar, Chairman of the AIEMA Technology Centre, inaugurated the pavilion, setting the tone for a new era in technical training. Sri P.S. Ramesh, President of AIEMA, lit the traditional Kuthuvilakku, symbolizing the light of knowledge and collaboration. Adding further momentum, Sri G.S. Vijayaraghavan, Managing Director of Protel, Ambattur, switched on the CNC machine, while Sri A.L. Chidambaram, Chairman of the Assets Management Committee, brought the advanced VMC machine to life.

A special heartfelt thanks goes to Sri C. Jayaraman and the dedicated members of AIEMA, Ambattur, whose generous donation of ₹25 lakhs made the procurement of these machines possible.

Upgradation of Swami Vivekananda Library: The Swami Vivekananda Library, attached to our Polytechnic

College, was modernized with a generous donation of 14 lakhs from the Chennai Willington Corporate Foundation. The upgraded library was inaugurated on 28th March 2014 by Revered Swami Shukadevanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Chennai. The first book was issued by the Director of the Chennai Willington Corporate Foundation to a student.

Establishment of Smart Classrooms: To enhance learning experiences, the college installed four Smart Classrooms with ultra-short throw interactive projectors, whiteboards, and UPS systems, costing Rs. 5 lakhs. Students from DME, DAE, and DCE benefited from these smart classrooms. Additionally, one projector was installed in the workshop.

CIM Centre of Excellence: With the support of Rotary Club of Madras East and Rotary Club of Irvine, California, a CIM Centre of Excellence was established. This center was equipped with 15 computers and offline software for simulation, costing Rs. 71 lakhs, under the Rotary Global Grant Scheme.

Gym Equipment Donation: Sri Rajan Raghavan, a well-wisher, donated gym equipment worth 9 lakhs to our Polytechnic students' hostel through the Rotary Club of Madras East. The dedication ceremony was conducted by Ms. Ann Divya and Rtn. Suresh Krishnamurthy.

Donation of Scientific Calculators: On 9th August 2021, Rotary Club of Madras East donated 150 scientific calculators to newly admitted first-year and lateral-entry students.

Skill Development Programs

CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCNA) Course:

Recognizing the increasing demand for IT professionals, our college collaborated with CISCO Networking Academy. Since 2014, Coimbatore Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, CISCO Networking Academy, has been teaching CCNA exploration courses to III-year DCE students. Sri Arvind Seetaraman, President of Inclusive Growth, CISCO Systems, Bangalore, facilitated video conferencing- based CCNA training. He also arranged a donation of two routers and two network switches worth Rs. 4.85 lakhs, significantly enhancing networking education.

Robotic and IoT Training: All the students received 16 hours of robotic training and 8 hours of project fabrication. Advanced training on embedded programming, Arduino & Raspberry Pi boards, cloud & mobile programming, and 3D printing was provided. Entire first, second, and third-year students were trained in IoT.

Employability Skill Enhancement Training:

Conducted by Mahindra Pride Classroom for final year students for the past three years, preparing them for industry challenges and this training included soft skills training, technical enhancement programs and pre-placement lectures. Included soft skills training, technical enhancement programs, and pre-placement lectures. Special technical enhancement training for Final Year Mechanical and Automobile Engineering students was conducted online from 4th-13th January 2021.

English Access Micro Scholarship Program: The English Access Micro Scholarship Program, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, was inaugurated at our institution on July 17, 2013, by Ms. Diane M. Millar, Regional English Language Officer, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. This initiative was aimed to enhance the English language skills of our Polytechnic College senior students through a two-year intensive program conducted by expert English teachers.

This 400-hour language-building program is designed specifically for disadvantaged students and includes a 30-hour summer intensive camp for all Access Scholars. Among the 12 such projects running across India, our institution is proud to be one of the selected centers.

This program continues to empower students by equipping them with strong language skills and global exposure, paving the way for brighter academic and professional futures. This programme continued up to 2017.

Then institution started The Sarada-English- Connect (SEC) program, conducted by ELT-certified experts, offers special English and communication classes for students. A similar initiative, Ramakrishna- English-Connect (REC) both sponsored by HCL Foundation, provides 70 hours of training in offline modes.

Workshop on team learning: was conducted on November 28, 2014, in our Polytechnic College seminar hall by Sri Ramesh Srinivasan, an esteemed executive coach who has trained over 8,000 senior

professionals in problem-solving and decision-making techniques. Notably, he is the son of Sri S.P. Srinivasan, our distinguished alumnus and honorary worker at the institution.

Social Responsibility initiatives

Cyclone Gaja Relief Efforts 2018-2019: When Cyclone Gaja and the resultant rain played havoc during the 2nd week November 2018, in Nagapattinam, Vedaranyam, Mannargudi, Pudhukkottai and a few more districts in the state of Tamil Nadu the farmers were worst affected. Their agricultural lands were submerged and the agricultural diesel engine pumps got flooded and had to be repaired. With a commitment to social responsibility, our institution has extended technical assistance to farmers. Defective engine pump sets were brought in batches to the workshop of our Polytechnic College.

Starting from 5th Dec 2018 to 13th January 2019, replacing defective parts, rectifying the technical problems, complete servicing and testing were done by our Polytechnic workshop staff and students. In all 123 nos. of engines were handed over to the farmers. Ashok Leyland and Crompton Greeves rendered valuable support by arranging the transportation of the pump sets and by deputing their technicians to guide our staff & students, respectively.

COVID-19 Pandemic Support: Titan Company, Hosur, donated 300 Tablet PCs worth Rs. 26 lakhs to students for attending online classes. ZOHO Corporation provided multi-user software licenses worth Rs. 8 lakhs to manage these devices.

Similarly, HCL Foundation was magnanimous enough to fund for 330 Tablet PCs worth of Rupees 27 lakhs to our Ist year Polytechnic students and to our High school Students. The tablet PCs were distributed to the available polytechnic and High school students after the Vidhyarthi Homam on 11-Oct-2020.

Financial assistance of Rs 1,000 per student was given monthly from May 2020 until physical classes resumed.

COVID-19 Vaccination Camp was organized on 4th January 2022, with doctors from Greater Chennai Corporation, Zone-9, administering the vaccine.

Educational Events and Guest Lectures

Annual Foundation Day of NIPM: On 15th March 2015, the National Institute of Personnel Management (NIPM) held its Annual Foundation Day at our Polytechnic College. Swami Satyajnanananda, Secretary, delivered a lecture on Values, Vision & Leadership. Sri R. Santhanam, Managing Committee Member, welcomed the gathering and emphasized the importance of decent placements for students.

Special Observances and Competitions

NSS Day: 24th September 2021 conducted Literary competitions and tree plantation to commemorate the NSS day.

Youth Awakening Day: On 15th October 2021 Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's birthday celebrated as Youth awakening day.

National Mathematics Day: Every year 22nd December is celebrated as National Mathematics Day to Honour Srinivasa Ramanujan, this includes a fun- based Math quiz.

Public Health and Preventive Medicine: Awareness Generation meeting on Communicable Prevention and Control – Covid19 and Dengue organized by Corporation of Chennai, was conducted on 14-03-2022 for all the students of our Polytechnic at our SDC. The chief guest was Mr. Isaac Arul Kumar, District Health Educator.

Guest Lectures: Sessions on industry environment, customer satisfaction, quality engineering, self-employment, object-oriented programming, and job placement.

Infrastructure Development

Inauguration of Machines & Equipment Sponsored by TATA ADVANCED SYSTEM

TATA Advanced Systems Grant -2025: TATA Advanced Systems, Hyderabad, under their CSR initiative, have sanctioned about Rs.31 lakhs to our institution to upgrade the physics laboratory facilities, install equipment in our basic engineering practice department and add additional lathes & milling machines required for our workshop.

Lab equipments were Inaugurated by Revered Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, Adhyaksha, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai and Ms. Srikruti Gentela, CSR Dept., TASL Dedicated the equipments to the Polytechnic College on 07-03- 2025.

Dedication of Project Skill-Up: Most Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, President, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission visited our Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai on the 26th March 2025 and dedicated the Skill-up project worth Rs 1.3 crore, covering the infrastructure development of our Residential High school and equipments for our Polytechnic College lab. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Madras Mount who had funded the project through Rotary-CSR grant.

Revered Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Chennai graced the occasion. Rtn. Mahaveer Bothra, District Governor, Rtn Isak Nazor, Rtn. L. Neelakandan, Chairman addressed the gathering and inspired the students drawing similarities of the ideals of the Rotary Organization and the Ramakrishna Mission in spreading human welfare and universal peace.

The distinguished guest, Rtn. AKS Ram N Rama Murthy, more importantly an "old Student" of the Home and a member of the Management Committee of the Home, had donated the entire project amount. As an elder brother, he inspired the present students about the bright future that awaits them. He exhorted how each one of them could grow in 'the Home' and ultimately contribute to the Society, just as himself, gratefully acknowledging the Home's contribution to his success. The occasion was rendered memorable by the participation of 59 Sadhus and Brahmacharins from various Centres.

Faculty Training Programmes (2024-2025)

Advanced CNC Training to the external faculties:

As per the directive from the Commissioner Technical Education, Directorate of Technical Education (DOTE), a Training programme on Advanced Computer Numerical Control (CNC) was conducted at our Polytechnic College from 24.03.2025 to 01.04.2025. The structured training included using the source book, creating a daily assessment framework and creating advanced maneuverability of the technology. Twenty faculty members from ten government polytechnic colleges attended this training programme.

Placement: Every year, all our third-year students secure placements as permanent employees in reputed companies. This remarkable achievement is the result of the holistic training imparted at the Students' Home—encompassing both academic excellence and strong value-based education. The consistent 100% placement record is also made possible by the dedicated support of our alumni, who actively contribute to the efforts of the Placement Cell.

Placements

- Every year all the final year students (around 130) has been placed in various companies as a permanent employment.
- Few companies are listed here.

Logos of companies: Asher LeFlano, GCE, BDO India, Cognizant, DACAM, HCL, Bank Systems, AEGIS, Cognizant, IIT Madras, Rane, Real Image, Yamaha, TATA, TITAN, TVS, Wipro, Zoho.

18-08-2021

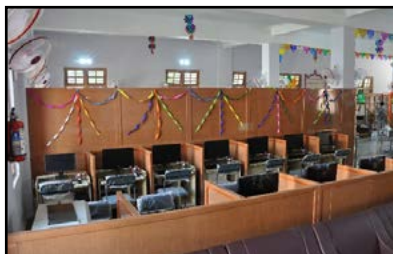
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Conclusion: Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College continues to strive for academic excellence, technical training, and community service. With unwavering support from various organizations and well-wishers, the institution remains committed to shaping professionals and responsible citizens.



Inauguration of AIEMA Pavilion



Upgradation of Swami Vivekananda Library



Gym Equipment Donation



Establishment of Smart Classrooms



CISCO Certified Network Associate



Robotic and IoT Training



Employability Skill Enhancement Training

c) Vivekananda - BPCL Skill Development Centre - Pride of the Home

Genesis:

In the year 2015 Our Home was looking to build a “State of the art” infrastructure for the Polytechnic students to upgrade their skills and acquire “Hands- on training”. This will make them “Industry ready” before their employment and also help them to cope with the current and future needs of the industry.

Our former secretary Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj came into contact with Sri S. Varadarajan, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, also an alumni of Vivekananda college and a staunch devotee of Sri Ramakrishna. He encouraged Our Home to approach BPCL with a detailed Project report for establishing a Skill Development center and a request for financial assistance under their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) scheme. Accordingly, the Project report was submitted and Sri S. Varadarajan was instrumental in getting its approval and sanctioning the entire sum of Rs.15 Crore, towards the total cost of the project.

Our Home is indebted to BPCL for making this project a top class facility among all the other Polytechnics in Tamil Nadu.

Foundation stone for the proposed SDC building was laid on 10/05/2017 by Swami Somanandaji Maharaj which marks the centenary year of the foundation day of the main building “Palace for the Poor” by

Swami Brahmanandaji Maharaj on Buddha Purnima day. construction work commenced in July 2018 and completed in August 2019. SDC was inaugurated on September 1st 2019, in the august presence of Swami Goutamanandaji Maharaj, Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore and Vice President, Ramakrishna Math and Mission, Belur Math and the top officials of Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Mumbai. The first training course for the students "Short Term Certification Training" was conducted in November 2019.

Purpose of starting the skill development Centre:

1. To meet the emerging necessity to develop and upgrade the skills of the Polytechnic students to make them "Industry ready "before their entry into employment as well as to compete with the growing need of the industry at large.
2. To impart every student with 'Hands-on' skill training individually instead of engaging them in groups, by leading professionals in their respective fields.
3. To continually upgrade the competitive skill of every student.
4. To bridge the gap in professional skill set between the Institution and the Industry evolving vocational type of curricula linked to prospects of employment for our Polytechnic students.
5. To enable the students to compete and meet the expectations of the industries when they face the campus interviews.

6. To train the trainers to improve the teaching methodology and the learning process.

Constructional and Architectural features:

1. Total area of construction is approximately 37,600 Sq. Ft. spanning Ground floor, First floor, Second floor, Third floor and the Terrace.
2. During construction, two well grown mango trees which were originally in the plot have been retained in the middle of the building at approximately 1600 Sq.Ft. OTS (Open to sky) area and the entire structure has been built around the OTS area. A garden has been developed in this area with bamboo and other native species for better environmental protection.
3. The building has been awarded the highest honour of “Platinum Certification” by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for the “Eco- friendly “construction, after their committee carried out a rigorous audit during various stages of construction. Salient requirements applicable to award Green building certification are given below. Our SDC has secured more than 90 out of 110 points which entitled it to receive “Platinum Certification” award.
4. Fire hydrants and portable Fire extinguishers have been installed in all the floors and rooms.
5. All the external chambers like Sewage, Rain water harvesting, Electrical earth pits, Electrical cable trench etc., have been properly marked for safety and future maintenance.

6. For emergency power, a 100 KVA Diesel Generator Set has been installed.

Facilities installed:

Floor	Name of the block	Description
Ground	Swami Brahmanandaji Maharaj Block	Automobile Chassis and Transmission Centre Robotics Centre and Computer Integrated Manufacturing Centre
First	Sister Nivedita Block	Mechatronics Centre Computer Aided Design Centre Automobile Engine Centre Autotronics Centre Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Centre
Second	Sri Ramaswami Iyengar Block	IT Infrastructure Management Centre Network Security Centre Software Development Centre Video Conferencing Centre
Third	Sri Ramanujachariyar Block	Solar Training Centre Multipurpose Hall Training Centre
Terrace	-----	67 KW Rooftop Solar PV Plant with Dynamic Tracking

Training activities: The types of training programs conducted at our SDC are:

1. Short term Certification Course for our Polytechnic students conducted during their semester vacation. For I, III & V semester students the courses are conducted in November / December. For II & IV semester students the courses are in May / June. These are conducted by reputed training institutes viz. NTTF, TVS, Cisco Academy, Alpha Training and Consultancy, G-Mac Technologies and IOT Consultants. Duration of each course is minimum 90 hours. In all each student will undergo 5 of these courses along with the Diploma course at the end. For these training course we have entered into an MOU (Memorandum of understanding) with our training partners. From the date of inception of SDC to till date 19 programmes have been conducted and around 1300 students have been benefitted.
2. Enhancement Hands - on skill training is an extension to the syllabus and these are conducted to the students along with their regular curriculum during weekends – Saturday and Sunday. These are conducted by In-house faculty or External specialists for 40 to 60 hours per semester.
3. “Train the Trainer “(TTT) Programmes for our Polytechnic and other Polytechnic faculties so far 8 programmes have been conducted and 140 faculty members from about 20 Polytechnics in and around Chennai have been benefitted. The programmes were conducted by NTTF and CEO Skill Foundation.

4. Training sessions in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for final year students.
5. Lectures in Solar Power, Fire & General Safety, 5S and College to Corporate Skills by eminent professionals in the respective fields.
6. When Michaung Cyclone combined with torrential rain had created havoc in Chennai and its suburbs from 1st to 6th December 2023, most of the places have been severely inundated and many people were rendered homeless and their belongings were severely damaged. Added to this their Two wheelers which are essential for them, also got damaged. At this juncture our Secretary Maharaj empathized with the sufferings of these 'Households'. In order to repair and service their Two wheelers to make them fit for use, he suggested that Our Home should utilize the resources available in our Polytechnic workshop and SDC to take up the Oil servicing of Two wheelers damaged. This work was carried out by our Automobile engineering students under the guidance of our Skill training partners TVS TS and few local mechanics known to us. In all around 220 Two wheelers of different makes, belonging to the Cyclone affected households, were repaired and serviced during the period from 13th to 18th December 2023.

Outcome and benefits derived by the students from the Training programmes:

1. 100% Job placement is being continuously achieved every year, due to the hands-on training imparted to the students and their exposure to industrial needs.

2. There has been a progressive increase in the average salary offered at the time of Job Placement from the time before SDC was established and thereafter. The percentage increase is around 10 and the average salary offered now is about Rs. 20,000/- per month.

Dignitaries visited our SDC:

1. Finland Education Minister, Ms. Anna-Maja Henriksson, ambassador to India Mr. Kimmo Lahdevrita and members of a Finnish-Indian higher education network visited our Home on 20th October afternoon. They were accompanied by Hon. Consul for Finland in Chennai Mr.M.Ct.P. Chidambaram.
2. Mr. Mylswami Annadurai, Director, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
3. Dr. Reghuraj, Managing Director, Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF)
4. Prof. Dr. Usha Natesan, Director, NITTTR (National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research) Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Future vision:

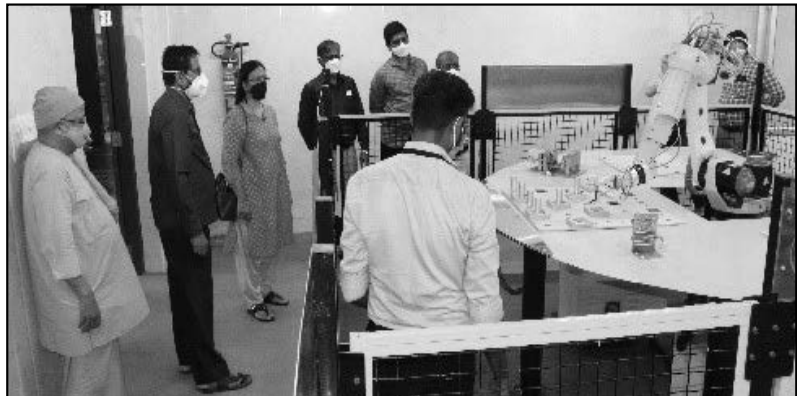
1. Optimal utilization of the excellent 'State of the Art' facilities installed.
2. Increase the number of Train the Trainer programme and impart training in pedagogical methods, innovative teaching techniques and latest industry trends. This will in turn improve the quality of

education in their departments and make them more effective in monitoring and guiding the students.

3. Engage professional trainers to train the students in the highly sophisticated equipment like CNC, Robotics, FMS (Flexible manufacturing system) and CMM (Coordinates Measuring Machine) installed in our SDC and AI (Artificial Intelligence).



“Train the Trainer “(TTT) Programmes



Dignitaries visited our SDC

d) Sri Ramakrishna Centenary Primary School

As part of the centenary celebrations commemorating the birth of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna, the Home Management decided to open a centenary Primary School in the year 1936. It is a primary school with classes from 1st standard to 5th. It was a non-residential school mainly intended to serve the students from slums of the adjoining areas.



High School Class Room

As it was well managed with dedicated teachers the school was quite popular. Subsequently the school was found quite useful to the poorer classes of the locality. In 1966-67 a regular two storeyed building was constructed by the Home for the primary school at a cost of Rs.4.5 lakhs with government aid. Even though more than 380 students were studying in this school in the initial years the strength of the school declined considerably over the years due to the fact that many of the families were

shifted away from Mylapore as result of Mass Rapid Transit System taking over the areas originally occupied by these people. The strength of this school as on date (year 2007) is 190 only inspite of free mid day meals, and free education of high quality. One other factor for the decline of the strength is the preference of the parents even of the poorer classes for English Education.

The Blossoming Journey of Sri Ramakrishna Centenary Primary School- up to 2025

Sri Ramakrishna Centenary Primary School has steadily blossomed over the past few years into a vibrant and nurturing temple of learning for young minds. Each passing year has marked a significant milestone in its journey of growth and transformation.

Infrastructure Development:

In 2021, the foundation of this renewal was laid with the comprehensive repair and upgrade of the school's playground. The grounds were re-laid with fresh sand, the play area refurbished, and the surroundings freshly painted — creating a cheerful and safe space for children to play and grow.

To further enhance cleanliness and reduce dust within the premises, the front portico and assembly area were newly laid with paver blocks, a simple but impactful addition that created a clean, neat, and welcoming entry point for students and visitors alike. A new flag mast was also installed, symbolizing the spirit of unity and the pride of the school community.

In the following year, 2022 attention shifted to enhancing the learning environment. The entire Primary School building — both exterior and interior — underwent a bright and inviting makeover. Classrooms, walls, benches, and tables were painted with colorful, theme-based illustrations aimed at stimulating curiosity and supporting visual learning. This joyful atmosphere brought a renewed sense of enthusiasm among the students.

A major infrastructural milestone was achieved on 12th July 2023, with the inauguration of a new Toilet Block, generously donated by Paramount Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, as part of their CSR initiative. Comprising 8 toilets, 10 urinals, and a hand-wash area, the facility, worth nearly Rs. 10 lakhs, was inaugurated by Sri A.V. Vijayakumar, Managing Director of the company. The program commenced with a soulful prayer by the students. Headmistress Smt. K. Rama extended a warm welcome, and Sri K.V. Varadarajan, Correspondent of the school, shared the details of the project. Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, honored the chief guest and company representatives, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their support.

Introducing English Medium School: Responding to the declining student strength, which had dropped to 30, a transformative step was taken in 2024 with the introduction of an English Medium section, running alongside the existing Tamil Medium. This strategic move quickly bore fruit — the student strength rose to 65, breathing new life into the school.

Starting LKG and UKG: Building on this momentum, the year 2025 saw the addition of LKG and UKG sections, accompanied by the appointment of new teachers. The school further expanded its care by renovating the kitchen, laying new tiles, and introducing morning breakfast in addition to the existing midday meals, ensuring better nourishment for all children. The strength of the students now stands at 85 and expected to rise in the coming years.

To improve the overall classroom environment, additional fans and lighting were installed, and the entire electrical system was modernized. These seemingly small changes made a significant difference in the comfort and learning experience of the students.

Conclusion: At the heart of this remarkable transformation is the unwavering dedication of Headmistress Ms. Rama and her team of committed teachers. Through their tireless efforts, the school has emerged as a beacon of quality education, blending academic excellence with cultural and moral grounding. This commitment to holistic development has not gone unnoticed — Many staff of Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home have begun enrolling their own children in the school, a testimony to the trust and respect the institution has earned. From a modest beginning to a flourishing center of early education, Sri Ramakrishna Centenary Primary School stands today as a living tribute to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna — nurturing young lives with love, learning, and light.

Sri Ramakrishna Centenary Primary school

89-year-old School, Established in the year 1936 on the birth centenary year of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna to meet the educational needs of the poor children in and around Mylapore.



It has Classes from 1st to 5th standard. At present 63 students are studying in both Tamil and English Medium.



"Atmano Mokshartham Jagad Hitaya Cha": "Getting one's own liberation by doing good to others", this is the philosophy behind all our service activities.

Sri Ramakrishna Centenary Primary school



Sri Ramakrishna Centenary Primary school -88th annual Day Celebrations



Swami Ranganathananda Maharaj has wonderfully said: “Manifestation of divinity takes place by radiating peace while doing meditation inwardly and worshipping the living God in the spirit of service outwardly.”

Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School

Mathematica lab, Science Park, Activity Clubs, Band Troupe, and Drama Troupe enhance their knowledge and skills. According to Swami Vivekananda, "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in the man."



Religion is realization; not talk, not doctrine, nor theories, however beautiful they may be. It is being and becoming, not hearing or acknowledging; it is the whole soul becoming changed into what it believes.



Section III

Vocational Training Courses



Chapter 3

Vocational Courses by Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home

The Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home offers a variety of vocational training courses, with a focus on enhancing career skills and providing technical education to unemployed youth. These initiatives are made possible through generous collaborations with various organizations and foundations, as well as the invaluable contributions of dedicated volunteers and mentors.

a). Tally ERP9 Training Program (Since 2014)

Collaboration with HCL Foundation: Since 2014, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home has partnered with the HCL Foundation to offer free Tally ERP 9 training classes. The program has been highly successful, providing students with a valuable skill set in accounting and enterprise resource planning (ERP).

Program Details: The training is offered for a 4-month period, free of charge. To meet growing demand, the program now offers two online batches and two in-person batches, covering the Tally Essentials Comprehensive Course. The training has reached around 6000 candidates through 108 batches of training. Due to the increasing demand, the program continues to run with regular batch after batch being arranged to meet the needs of unemployed youth and deserving students.

Special Acknowledgements: We extend hearty gratitude to the HCL Foundation for their continued support in making this initiative a success. We fondly remember Late Sri Narayanan, a dedicated volunteer and former inmate of our Home, who meticulously managed the Tally project and played an important role in its implementation. Late Sri Siva Kumar, a Chartered Accountant from Karra & Co, served as our honorary course director and his contributions were invaluable to the program.

This course is designed for unemployed youth, and the Home is able to train around 360 students per year in this program, equipping them with a vital skill for their career development.

b). Career Skill Development Training (2016- Present)

Collaboration with Reddington Foundation: In addition to the Tally ERP 9 training, the Home initiated a Career Skill Development Training program in 2016, in collaboration with the Reddington Foundation under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program.

Program Details: The program provides 3 months' training in various career development skills to eligible students. The first batch of training started on May 9, 2016, after receiving approval from the Headquarters.

This program aims to enhance the employability of students by equipping them with relevant skills for career growth.

C. Mobile Robotic Lab on Wheels (2022 - Present)

Bringing Robotics Education to Underprivileged Students: To bridge the educational gap in technical skills for students in underprivileged Government schools, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home launched the Mobile Robotic Lab on Wheels, with the generous support the HCL Foundation through their CSR grants of Rs 63 lakhs. This pioneering initiative aims to bring robotics and Internet of Things (IoT) education to students who have limited access to advanced technical learning.

Program Details: The program offers a 21-hour structured training course in Robotics and IoT for students in Grade VI to XII. A specially designed mobile lab, equipped with state-of-the-art robotics training kits, travels to government schools, making education accessible to students directly at their location. Experienced trainers conduct both theoretical and practical sessions, ensuring an engaging and interactive learning experience.

Inauguration and Impact: The Mobile Robotic Lab was formally inaugurated on December 20, 2022, by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCL Foundation. The event was also attended by Sri Srinivasan, Assistant Commissioner of Police, and Sri G.H. Rao, Senior Advisor, HCL Foundation. The initiative has successfully trained approximately 3000 students across various government and aided schools, providing them with foundational knowledge and hands-on experience in robotics and IoT. This program empowers

students with skills in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and helps prepare them for future career opportunities in the rapidly growing fields of robotics and technology.

Conclusion

These vocational courses are a cornerstone of Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home's efforts to empower youth and enhance their employability through relevant, modern skills training. The partnership with organizations like HCL Foundation and Reddington Foundation has been invaluable in supporting these initiatives. We extend our sincere thanks to all contributors, including our dedicated volunteers and professionals, whose efforts have left a lasting impact on the students' lives and their futures.





Tally ERP9 Training Program (Since 2014)



Career Skill Development Training (2016 - Present)



Mobile Robotic Lab on Wheels (2022 - Present)

Bondage is of the mind; freedom too is of the mind. If you say 'I am a free soul. I am a son of God who can bind me' free you shall be.



Section IV

Green Initiatives



Chapter 4

Green Initiatives

The Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home has made significant strides in incorporating sustainable, eco-friendly technologies to improve infrastructure, conserve resources, and reduce negative environmental impact. Below is an overview of the various green initiatives that have been implemented over the years.

1. Drinking Water Reverse Osmosis (R.O.) Plant

With the generous donation of Rs. 50,000/- from Sri K. Thirumalai, an alumnus of the Home, a Reverse Osmosis drinking water plant was installed at the Home. The plant, valued at approximately 2 lakhs, was commissioned in December 2005, with further financial support from Thirumalai Chemicals. This plant provides clean, purified drinking water at a rate of 250 liters per hour, ensuring a reliable and sustainable water source for the students.

In 2012 Mr. Ajay of Aqua Tech installed a New 500 lit/hr. RO plant on the first floor of the Front Home, costing around Rs 3 lakhs.

In 2023 Mr. Gopakumar of GRG solutions installed 1000 lit/hr. RO plant in the Back Home hostel premises, costing Rs 10 lakhs.

2. Waste Water Recycling Plant (2007)

A wastewater recycling plant with a capacity of 40,000 litres was commissioned on 26-02-2007 to reuse water from bathrooms, kitchens, and wash areas. The treated water is now used for gardening, toilet flushing, and other non-potable purposes. The Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) generously provided the treatment technology and activated carbon worth ₹8 lakhs. The total project cost was ₹18 lakhs, of which ₹5.6 lakhs was raised through donations from friends and well-wishers.

The successful implementation of the project was made possible through the generous contributions of companies such as M/s. Thirumalai Chemicals and Ultramarine Ltd., who donated pumps and blowers. M/s. Jayam Consultants and M/s. Protech Consultants extended their expertise free of cost for civil work design and engineering. The Home expresses its heartfelt gratitude to all donors, with special thanks to Sri K. Thirumalai for his outstanding coordination in realizing this eco-friendly initiative.

In 2024 the RC Plant was totally automated by M/S Nanneer Solutions for around 4 lakhs.

3. Roof Top Solar PV Plant (2013):

A Solar Photo Voltaic Power System was installed on the terrace of the Polytechnic College main building. This 5KVA grid tied solar power system was inaugurated on 10-03-2013. Dr. Sundararajan of Bangalore had heartily donated Rs.6,96,726 to realize this project.

A series of solar energy initiatives was introduced to reduce the Home's carbon footprint. The Home inaugurated a 100 kW rooftop Solar PV Plant with net metering on March 3, 2015, with a generous donation of Rs.80 lakhs from Sun Edison. The panels generate about 450 units of electricity daily and significantly contribute to meeting the Home's power requirements. The plant was inaugurated by Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj, with prominent personalities including Shri

M. Saikumar, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director of TANGEDCO, and Pasupathy Shankar Gopalan from the USA, present at the event.

A 100 kW rooftop Solar PV Plant with net metering, installed on the terrace of Abdul Kalam Block was inaugurated on April 26, 2017. The plant, valued at Rs.21.62 lakhs, was donated by Johnson Lifts Ltd., Chennai. This contribution helps the Home to meet a significant portion of its electricity demand through renewable solar energy.

In addition, a 100 kW rooftop Solar PV plant with a dual-axis tracking system was installed on September 2, 2019. This system enhances solar power output by 35%, enabling the Home to meet approximately 85% of its electricity needs through solar power. It is on the terrace of SDC building.

4. Solar Thermal Steam Cooking System (2013)

In an effort to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources, the Home installed a Solar Thermal Steam Cooking System named as Arun 100. This sustainable

system, costing of Rs.33 lakhs, was commissioned on October 14, 2013, by Clique Solar Ltd., Mumbai. The system is capable of generating 700kgs of steam using solar energy, which is stored and transferred to the kitchen for cooking, reducing dependence on traditional energy sources like LPG and their consumption.

5. National award for Excellence on Concentrated Solar Technologies (2016)

On April 26, 2016, Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, on behalf of the Home received the Excellence Award for effectively utilizing concerted solar technologies for community cooking. The award was presented by Sri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Power and Renewable Energy, Government of India, at a function held in New Delhi.

6. Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Rating (2015)

The Home's commitment to going green and sustainability was recognized when the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), affiliated with the Confederation of Indian Industries, awarded the Residential High School the prestigious Platinum rating. The Home received a commendable score of 83/100 for its efforts to make the high school campus green, sustainable, and eco-friendly. Swami Satyajnananda, the Secretary of the Home, received a plaque and certificate of merit from the IGBC on June 12, 2015, in recognition of these efforts.

IGBC-PLATINUM - 2015" A green building is one which uses less water, optimizes energy efficiency, conserves natural resources, generates less waste and

provides healthier spaces for occupants, as compared to a conventional building.

Our SDC has secured more than 90 out of 110 points which entitled it to receive “Platinum Certification” award. The building has been awarded the highest honour of “Platinum Certification” by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for the “Eco- friendly” construction.

7. Biogas Plant (2015)

A 20 cubic meter biogas plant designed by Laxmi Energy Environment Designs Ltd was installed at the Home, donated by Lakshmi Machine Works, Coimbatore. It was commissioned on April 28, 2015. The biogas plant was initially a valuable part of the Home’s sustainable energy efforts, but it was eventually dismantled after a few years of operation due to technical issues.

8. Rain Water Wells- 23 wells in our Campus (2014)

We collect and store rainwater into wells dug at low level areas throughout our campus. Sides of the wells are strengthened with circular concrete rings with a perforated concrete lid on top of the well. Rain water is collected in these wells during rains and percolates into the soil adding to ground water levels.

Akash Ganga, an NGO volunteered to augment rainwater harvesting arrangements within our Home premises by digging rain water harvesting wells at seven places inside the Home campus. The entire expenditure of Rs.2 lakhs was donated by M/s. CAMS under their Corporate Social Responsibility efforts. The above work was completed on 01-10-2014.

These green initiatives reflect the Home's serious commitment to sustainability and responsible resource management. With the continued support of donors, volunteers, and various agencies, the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home strives to create, an eco-friendly and energy-efficient campus for the benefit of its students and the community at large.

The Home records its hearty gratitude to all the contributors who have played a pivotal role in bringing these projects to life.



Waste Water Recycling Plant (2007)

You should remember that the heart of the devotee is the abode of God. He dwells, no doubt, in all beings, but He especially manifests Himself in the heart of the devotee. The heart of the devotee is the drawing room of God.





Drinking Water Reverse Osmosis
(R.O.) Plant



Waste Water Recycling Plant
(2007)



Roof Top Solar PV Plant
(2013)



Solar Thermal Steam Cooking
System (2013)



(IGBC) Platinum Rating
(2015)



Biogas Plant
(2015)

Recognition For our Green Initiatives



Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home was awarded first and the prestigious Platinum rated Green School in Tamilnadu & became the fourth school to be awarded with platinum rating in India in 2015 by The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CI). for our Eco-Friendly Green Campus Initiatives and is continuously monitoring and maintaining sustainable water practices, Conserving and harvesting energy. Health and Hygiene etc.



Producing steam to cook food for students through solar steam cooking system



Use of Rooftop Photovoltaic solar panels with net metering facility for electricity generation-230kva



23 No Rain Water Wells dug at low level areas throughout our campus. Sides of the circular wells are strengthened with circular concrete rings with a perforated concrete lid on top of the well. Rain water is collected in these wells during rain percolates into the soil. Because of this ground water levels are maintained.

Whatever you think, that you will be. If you think yourselves weak, weak you will be; if you think yourselves strong, strong you will be.



Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School



Students Awareness Program And Vidyarti Homanm



Teach yourselves, teach everyone his real nature, call upon the sleeping soul and see how it awakes. Power will come, glory will come, goodness will come, purity will come, and everything that is excellent will come when this sleeping soul is roused to self-conscious activity.



Section V

Home Digitisation



Chapter 5

Home Digitisation

In the past two decades, digital technology has transformed daily life, making information accessible instantly. This shift accelerated further after the pandemic, enabling seamless transactions and communication with minimal human contact.

Digitization of COVID Relief Kit Distribution Using Zoho Creator

To enhance efficiency and transparency in distributing COVID relief kits to home-quarantined patients, a digital solution was developed using Zoho Creator. This app automates the entire process, from patient registration to kit allocation and distribution approval.

Patients can register by submitting personal details and uploading COVID test reports, which are automatically validated based on the test date (within five days) and their location within the Greater Chennai Corporation limits. Once eligibility is confirmed, the system assigns kits and generates distribution approvals.

By leveraging Zoho Creator's low-code platform, the app integrates form automation, workflow triggers, and real-time reporting, significantly reducing paperwork and administrative delays. This digital approach has improved the speed and accuracy of relief efforts, making kit distribution more efficient and accessible for those in need.

Digitization of Admission system: Later Home implemented an online admission system in 2021. This streamlined the intake process, ensuring student data was readily available in digital format. The Zoho creator platform was used to deploy the online student admission process. Interaction between ZOH0 Corporation and Ramakrishna Mission Student' Home started during the pandemic in the year 2020.

Digital Learning: During the pandemic, lock-down when schools were closed digital tools played a crucial role in continuing education without interruption. Here again, we have to thank HCL Tech and Titan for donating 650 tablets costing around \$86,000 and Zoho corporation for donating the MDM application for running the tablets.

Development of "Ayanam -1" App: Following the success of online admissions, and online classes the institution developed the Ayanam App using the Zoho Creator platform with low-code Deluge scripting. This app was designed to assist teachers in managing administrative tasks throughout the academic calendar. Further, we developed the above mentioned Ayanam App with the help of a Zoho vendor viz., M/S. Zitraar Technologies at the cost of 6 lakhs.

Ayanam App was deployed only to the High School from the 2021-22 academic year, since it was felt that being an initial foray into the digital space it is better to tread cautiously, learn from the mistakes and then attempt at full scale digitization.

Ayanam App - Features: Dashboard with students count, teachers count, Student data base captured from the online application with documents, Class time table, Class Attendance, Hostel time table, Hostel Attendance, Examination marks, Multi skill activities time table and achievements, Students Discipline, Medical, Remarks, Reports.

The success of the Ayanam App gave the confidence to go for a full digitization of the entire student's home. Thus, we started the 2nd round of digitization exercise and the story unfolds as below:

2nd Round Digitisation"Ayanam -2": With the success of the Ayanam App for high school, it was decided to start the digitization process to cover the entire institution and its activities mainly focusing on the academic side. For the 2nd round, both the web portal and the App version were conceived.

Functions Covered Under Digitisation: Primary school, High school, High school hostel, Polytechnic departments, Polytechnic office, Polytechnic hostel (Senior hostel), Skill Development center (SDC), Maintenance. 2nd round work was kick started in the month of September 2023 by preparing an approach document. Once the approach document was approved by the Secretary Maharaj, various rounds of discussion were held with the departments to finalize the processes involved for digitization. Once the process document was ready, steps to identify a vendor to develop the digitization portal was initiated.

Since, M/S. Zoho corporation was involved with the development of the earlier Ayanam App, it was decided to appoint a Zoho vendor for the 2nd round also. Thus, M/S.RCI digital, Chennai was identified as the vendor for the project at the cost of 23 lakhs. The entire cost of the 2nd round digitization was funded by a benevolent donour, Mr. Kishore kumar. The portal and app of the 2nd round digitization was made live from 1st April 2024.

Internal Digital Initiatives by the Polytechnic College Computer Department:

Under the leadership of Mr. D. Dilip Kumar, HOD of Computer Department of the Polytechnic College has successfully developed several in-house digital solutions, enhancing efficiency across various domains.

Students have played a vital role in developing impactful digital applications that address critical needs in rural development and healthcare. Demonstrating their ability to innovate even in challenging circumstances, they contributed significantly to the creation of:

1. **Rural Development App** – Streamlining essential services and tracking rural development projects.
2. **Medical Camp Management App** – Automating medical camp registrations, patient record management, and healthcare service tracking.

These applications were built with minimal manpower using low-code platforms like Zoho Creator, enabling rapid deployment and ease of use. Students actively participated in scripting workflows and designing automation processes,

ensuring that key services were delivered efficiently in underserved areas.

This initiative showcases the power of student- led innovation in tackling real-world challenges. It proves that effective digital solutions can be developed with limited resources, creating a lasting social impact while fostering technological advancement in crucial sectors.

3. **Kitchen Records:** A partial digitization of kitchen operations was implemented with the support of M/S RCI Digital, who generously provided their services free of charge. This initiative aimed to enhance inventory management and operational workflow.
4. **Skill Development Center Management:** A digital system was developed to efficiently manage the Skill Development Center, focusing on: Maintaining a detailed database of equipment and resources.

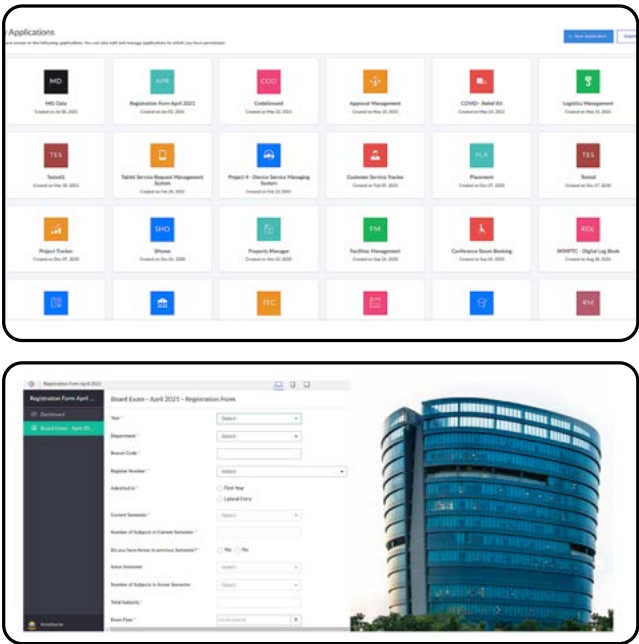
Tracking utilization details to optimize the allocation and maintenance of training tools.

5. **Tally Online Admission for Classes:** A Tally Online Admission System was introduced to facilitate seamless enrollment for online classes, making the process more accessible and efficient for students.
6. **Students Home Activity Report:** An internal system was developed to digitally document and track the various activities at Students Home, ensuring structured reporting and better organization of records.

These initiatives reflect the institution’s commitment to leveraging technology for operational excellence, fostering innovation, and enhancing administrative efficiency.

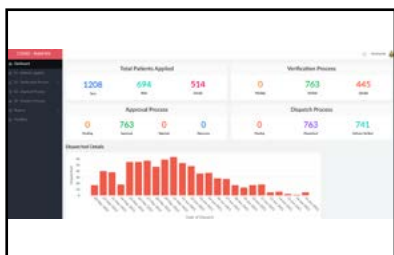
Conclusion:

The digitization efforts at RKM Students Home have significantly improved administrative efficiency and learning continuity, setting a strong foundation for future advancements in education technology.

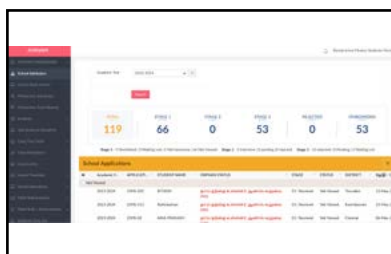


To work without attachment is to work without the expectation of reward or fear of any punishment in this world or the next. Work so done is a means to the end, and God is the end.

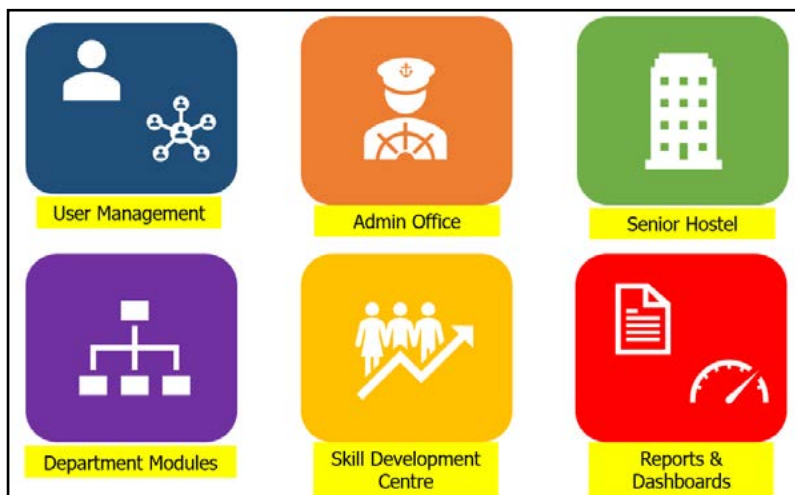




Development of "AYANAM" App



2nd Round Digitisation



Modules taken for digitisation

Tuition Center Photos



Old Boys Association Meeting



Live in the world like a waterfowl. The water clings to the bird, but the bird shakes it off. Live in the world like a mudfish. The fish lives in the mud, but its skin is always bright and shiny.



Alappakkam Rehabilitation Work



Distress rehabilitation Work - Providing 40 Huts to Irula Tribal Families and Alappakkam Tuition Center inauguration By Swami Bodhasaranandaji Maharaj



It is love and love alone that I preach, and I base my teaching on the great Vedantic truth of the sameness and omnipresence of the Soul of the Universe.



Section VI

Rural Development and Relief Activities



Chapter 6

Rural Development and Relief Activities

Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home:
Community Empowerment Through Education,
Healthcare, and Disaster Relief

Rural Initiatives: Free Evening Tuition Centers
& Medical Camps, Flood Relief & Rehabilitation and
Pandemic Relief

Introduction

Our Home, has been a beacon of service, extending its commitment beyond education to holistic rural development and humanitarian aid. Through its Free Evening Tuition Centers, the Home empowers underprivileged students with quality education, fostering academic growth and self-reliance. Its medical camps provide essential general preventive healthcare services to underserved communities, ensuring timely medical intervention and well-being. Additionally, the Home has been at the forefront of disaster response, offering critical relief and rehabilitation during floods, droughts, and the COVID-19 pandemic. With an unwavering dedication to service, it continues to uplift and support those in need, reinforcing its mission of compassion and social transformation.

Rural Initiatives

As part of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home implemented two key rural development initiatives.

The Vivekananda Swasthya Parisheva Prakalpa is a healthcare initiative aimed at combating child malnutrition and providing both preventive and curative medical care to undernourished children. Recognizing that a child's health is closely linked to maternal well-being, this project also extends care to pregnant and lactating mothers.

Key Interventions: Over 200 undernourished beneficiaries (both children and mothers) from Madayambakkam and Perumalcherry villages in Cheyyur Taluk, Kanchipuram District have benefited from this initiative. Regular health check-up camps provide free consultations and medications. Special nutritional supplements, including milk and vitamins, are provided. Immunization services for new-borns are conducted in specific locations. Beneficiaries participate in physical activities, games, and sports to promote overall well-being.

Hygiene & Environmental Care: Beneficiaries are provided with essential toiletries, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and oil. Children are trained in hygiene and sanitation, focusing on clean food habits, safe drinking water, and proper handwashing practices.

Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa (Integrated Child Development Programme)

The Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa is an initiative dedicated to the holistic development of socially and economically deprived children. Named after Gadadhar (the childhood name of Sri Ramakrishna), this project aims to foster the physical, mental, intellectual, and spiritual growth of children.

100 underprivileged children, aged 6-12 years, from slum areas near Kathivakkam, Ennore (Chennai), benefit from the program. Academic support is provided through coaching classes aligned with school syllabi. Children are given notebooks and essential stationery to aid their studies. Moral education is imparted through engaging stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and the lives of great personalities. Spiritual development is encouraged through prayer sessions and value-based teachings. Extracurricular activities, including arts, sports, and music, are promoted to enhance children's overall growth.

Healthcare & Medical Camps

Medical camps were organized in Madayambakkam and Perumalcherry villages, as well as Ennore, to provide healthcare services to underserved communities. A total of Rs.10,69,805 was spent on these initiatives. A government grant of Rs.9,10,945, secured through our Headquarters, supported these projects.

Rural Service Initiatives of the Students' Home After 2015:

Building on its vast experience in social service, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home has achieved remarkable milestones in rural development. As a leading NGO, the Home effectively collaborates with major corporations through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. A dedicated group of former students, trained in community service, plays a crucial role in these efforts.

The primary mission of the Students' Home is to provide quality education and healthcare to the underprivileged—an essential pillar of national development. In line with this mission, tuition centres have been established in economically disadvantaged and marginalized tribal areas around Chennai. These initiatives are sustained through the collective efforts of both current and former students of the institution.

At present, the Students' Home operates six tuition centres (eight units), while the Students' Social Responsibility (SSR) team, managed by alumni, runs an additional six centres across Chennai. Together, these initiatives benefit approximately 600 students (refer to the table below for details). The students receive free education, uniforms, nutritious food, and healthcare awareness training, ensuring their overall development. To date, nearly 5,000 students have benefited from these programs.

Selection of Tuition Centres and Students

Tuition centers are established in rural and underserved urban areas, prioritizing students who lack a conducive home environment for studying or do not receive adequate parental guidance. This ensures that the most vulnerable children receive the support they need to excel academically and personally.

How Former Students Give Back to Society

Under the Students' Social Responsibility (SSR) initiative, launched by Swami Satyajnanananda, our former Secretary Swamiji Old students have been voluntarily operating free tuition centres for underprivileged students for the past six years. These centers operate in villages such as Keelapudi, Bommachikulam, Keemalur, Padirivedu, Thathaimanji and Devaneri.

As of March 2025, this initiative supports approximately 250 students, with all expenses entirely covered by former students. Through the dedicated efforts and contributions of alumni, the Student Home now conducts free tuition-based educational training in 12 locations, benefiting around 600 students.

The contribution of former students to this initiative is immense. Their selfless efforts significantly impact the lives of many underprivileged children. The guidance and encouragement provided by the Secretary Swamiji continue to inspire and lead this mission of service.

Tuition Centres Managed by RKM Students Home

Sl. No.	Centre	Coordinators	Teacher	Cook	1-8th Std. Boys	1-8th Std. Girls	Total Students
1	Ennore 1	Mr Vijayakumar	Ms Lavanya	Mrs Deivanayagi	20	21	41
2	Ennore 2	Mr Vijayakumar	Ms Kalpana	Mrs Deivanayagi	21	21	42
3	Poovalambedu	Mr Velu	Mrs Manjula	Mrs Vijayalakshmi	23	25	48
4	Madayambakkam 1	Mrs Geetha	Mrs Rajeswari	Mrs Anitha	29	26	55
5	Madayambakkam 2	Mrs Geetha	Mrs Selvi	Mrs Geetha	26	22	48
6	Perumbakkam	Mrs Geetha	Mrs Elakkiya	Mrs Elakkiya	24	20	44
7	Thiruvidanthai	Mrs Santha	Mrs Divyabharathi	Mrs Santha	6	21	27
8	Alapakkam	Mr Karthi	Mrs Sumathi	Mrs Malar	11	14	25
Total == == >					160	170	330

Tuition Centres Managed by Old Boys

1	Keelapudi	Mr Panneer Selvam	Mr Shanmugam	Mrs Lakshmi / Kala			33
2	Bommachikulam	Mr Sambathkumar	Ms Devi	Mrs Ranjini			32
3	Keemalur	Mr Velu	Ms Divya				57
4	Devaneri	Ms Narmatha	Ms Rajalakshmi	Ms Alli / Kuppu			33
5	Padirivedu	Mr Veeraswamy	Mrs Swapna				41
6	Thathamanni	Mrs Meena	Mrs Preetha	Mrs Mariyammal			29
Total == == >							225
					Total		
Home Managed Centres					330		
Old Boysmanaged Centres					225		
Grand Total					555		

Monitoring and evaluation frame work:

A well-structured monitoring and evaluation system ensures the effectiveness of the tuition centers. Supplementary coaching is provided to strengthen students' academic performance. At the beginning and end of each academic year, students undergo assessments to evaluate their reading and writing skills.

To encourage students to showcase their talents, Jayanti celebrations, cultural programs, and value education classes are organized, instilling confidence and moral values. Daily nutritious snacks are provided to promote regular attendance, and monks or alumni

conduct value education sessions to inspire students. This initiative significantly enhances their self-confidence, academic aspirations, and leadership qualities, making them role models for future generations.

Talented students are offered admission to the Student Home's high school. So far, five students have successfully enrolled in this program. In addition, students from the tuition centres are taken on educational trips to Ramakrishna Math, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, and Vivekananda House to instil spiritual and moral values.

Annual cultural programs are conducted at all tuition centers, and periodic value education classes are led by monks or senior alumni. These initiatives motivate students, boost self-confidence, and improve academic performance.

Rural Women Empowerment Program

Tailoring training programs were successfully conducted in the villages of Poovilambedu and Thattamanji, benefiting 63 women. This initiative was generously sponsored by the Rotary Club, Gummidipoondi Industrial Area, with the objective of equipping women with vocational skills to support their livelihoods.

To further empower the beneficiaries, 63 tailoring machines were distributed free of cost by the Home, enabling them to become self-reliant and financially independent.

Medical Camps:

For the benefit of communities living in and around the tuition centre locations, free general preventive medical camps, as well as special eye and dental camps, are conducted at regular intervals. These camps are supported by qualified doctors, paramedical teams, and volunteer assistance from our Old Boys. Based on doctors' recommendations, quality medicines are provided free of cost. To date, more than 10,000 individuals have benefited from these medical camp initiatives

- 6 camps were planned for each centre once in 45 days
- 2-4 doctors, 1-2 nurse and pharmacist with volunteers from Old Boys Association Chennai Chapter volunteers and present students
- Medical camps were conducted after obtaining the necessary approvals and NOC from Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
- Treatment were given for general ailment with necessary medicines, Syrups.

My child, you have been extremely fortunate in getting this human birth. Have intense devotion to God. One must work hard. Can one achieve anything without effort? You must devote some time for prayer even in the midst of the busiest hours of the day.



Relief and Rehabilitation

Introduction

Our Students' Home, has consistently extended its service beyond education, standing as a pillar of humanitarian support during times of crisis. The Home has been at the forefront of disaster response, actively engaging in flood relief, drought assistance, and large-scale pandemic support. Whether providing immediate aid during natural calamities or offering sustained rehabilitation efforts, the Home remains committed to alleviating the suffering of affected communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it played a vital role in delivering essential relief, demonstrating its unwavering dedication to its ideal "service to man is service to god."

Flood Relief Activities - 1977

In 1977, Tamil Nadu was struck by a devastating cyclone, with Tiruchirappalli and Pudukkottai districts bearing the brunt of its impact. At the time, the Students' Home Secretary also served as the Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission (Relief), Madras. Under the leadership of Swami Kirtidanandaji, relief efforts were organized across 43 villages in these two districts. For rehabilitation, sturdy concrete houses were constructed—27 in Parterre and 30 in Moovaraipatti—each accompanied by a Community cum Prayer Hall. To this day, the villagers fondly remember the Mission's remarkable relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Home's Relief Efforts During the Devastating Floods of November/December 2015

Since 1897, when Swami Vivekananda spearheaded relief efforts during the plague in Kolkata, it has become a fundamental principle of the Ramakrishna Mission to be at the forefront of disaster relief wherever calamities strike. This commitment was once again demonstrated during the catastrophic floods that ravaged Tamil Nadu in November and December 2015.

Chennai, along with the coastal regions of northern Tamil Nadu, including Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Cuddalore districts, experienced unprecedented rainfall. In November 2015 alone, Chennai received three times its average monthly rainfall of 400 mm, marking the heaviest downpour in a century. The relentless rains caused severe flooding, displacing thousands and leaving vast areas submerged.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home swiftly mobilized relief efforts. Four dedicated teams, each led by a monk, were dispatched to the worst-affected areas: Ennore, Tambaram and its southern regions, the coastal areas of Thiruvallur, and Anakaputhur. From November 15 onwards, for 11 consecutive days, these teams distributed freshly prepared food packets, clean drinking water, and dry milk powder to stranded families.

Primary flood relief:

However, the situation worsened on December 1, when Chennai received a record-breaking amount of rainfall within 24 hours. The overflowing Adyar, Cooum,

and Buckingham Canal inundated low-lying areas, submerging homes, washing away huts, and leaving many residential complexes isolated under five to seven feet of stagnant water. The floods exposed systemic failures, including poor urban planning, inadequate drainage systems, and unchecked construction.

The first phase of relief work saw the distribution of food packets to 15,485 beneficiaries, along with 5,000 bread packets. Between November 15 and December 10, a total of 26,486 food packets and 38,022 bread packets were provided.

The Complexity of the Task

The relief teams were confronted with scenes of immense devastation. Families were left with nothing but slushy mud for floors and the open sky for shelter. Elders trapped in upper floors of buildings, children without milk, and families without food or water for over 24 hours painted a grim picture of human suffering. The enormity of the disaster demanded a strategic approach. Immediate priorities included providing drinking water, food, and milk. With the help of local volunteers, the teams ensured that relief reached every household in the affected areas.

The Students' Home served as the operational base for these efforts. Students from both the High School and Polytechnic sections worked tirelessly, cooking and packaging food without relying on external labor. Their dedication and hard work were commendable, offering them a unique opportunity to contribute to society while gaining first hand experience in disaster relief.

Second Phase of Relief Work

The second phase involved a detailed survey to identify the specific needs of affected families. Relief kits were prepared in the Vivekananda Centenary Hall. Subsequently, essential food supplies, including rice, various dals (toor dal, urad dal, chana dal), rava, sugar, oil, salt, tamarind, mustard, turmeric, pickles, chili powder, cumin, masala powder, vermicelli, soy, milk powder, fresh milk, and vegetables, were distributed. Drinking water bottles, kerosene stoves, and cooking utensils were also supplied to families in need.

Additionally, daily necessities such as bedsheets, sarees, lungis, towels, shirts, pants, plastic sheets, mats, clothing, woolen blankets, and solar lamps were provided to the affected individuals. The relief efforts were bolstered by generous contributions from corporate bodies, institutions, and well-wishers. ITC Limited, CAMS Chennai, Infosys Foundation, Hindustan Unilever Ltd., and others provided significant support in cash and kind.

Infosys Foundation alone donated relief materials worth Rs.1.23 crore, including rice, dal, cooking oil, sugar, spices, clothes, stoves, and vessels. On January 3, 2016, 4,000 relief kits sponsored by Infosys Foundation were distributed to families in flood-affected areas.

Statistics and Impact

The total value of relief materials distributed amounted to Rs. 2.35 crore, benefiting approximately 1,28,000 people. Of these, 68,000 individuals from

13,273 families received essential supplies, including cooking utensils and ingredients. Medical camps were also conducted in nine areas, providing care to around 3,000 people.

Medical camps

To address health concerns arising from the floods, medical camps were conducted over three days in nine locations, benefitting nearly 9,000 people suffering from flood-related illnesses

Rehabilitation efforts:

During these relief efforts, the team reached Thattamanji, a village in the Meenjur Union of Thiruvallur district, where 33 Irular tribal families had been severely impacted. Their entire settlement was submerged, and tragically, a child had lost its life. Upon visiting the colony, Swamiji and the relief team found 19 families had lost their homes completely, forcing them to live in makeshift shelters. Recognizing their dire condition, Swamiji resolved to rebuild their homes immediately.

Construction of New Homes

After surveying the village and consulting with local authorities, the decision was made to construct 19 houses with attached toilets and bathrooms for the displaced families. Additionally, 13 existing government-built houses in the area were provided with toilets and bathrooms.

To expedite the construction, precast concrete pillars and slabs were used instead of traditional brick-

and-mortar techniques, significantly reducing the time required. The first two model houses, each with a 12x12 ft living area (144 sq. ft.) and a 6x4 ft toilet and bathroom (24 sq. ft.), were built and approved by engineers before full-scale construction began. Each house took approximately five days to complete, including painting and finishing work.

The total expenditure for the construction of the 19 houses and 13 toilets/bathrooms amounted to Rs.23.11 lakhs (Rs.2.31 million).

On January 31, 2016, during Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, the first two completed houses were handed over to the beneficiaries following a special puja for Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna. The remaining houses were completed and handed over in a grand ceremony attended by monks, devotees, and former students of the Home. The Irular families, who had never lived in permanent houses before, were overwhelmed with joy upon receiving safe and weather-resistant homes.

As a mark of respect and gratitude, the settlement was named 'Vivekanandapuram', with three new streets named Sri Ramakrishna Street, Sri Sarada Devi Street, and Swami Vivekananda Street.

The Inauguration of Vivekanandapuram

The construction work was completed within 60 days. On April 6, 2016, Swami Suvirananda Maharaj, Assistant General Secretary of Belur Math, visited the village to inspect the completed houses and participate in the inaugural ceremony.

For the Irular families, this was the first-ever celebration in their village. The entire settlement was decorated, streets were cleaned, houses were adorned with mango leaves, and villagers wore new clothes. Children played joyfully, and people from surrounding areas gathered to witness the historic event.

Construction of Sister Nivedita Community Hall

During the inauguration, Swami Suvirananda Maharaj emphasized the need for a community hall to support the long-term development of the village. Based on this recommendation, the decision was made to construct a multi-purpose hall named 'Sister Nivedita Community Hall', honouring Swami Vivekananda's disciple who dedicated her life to women's education in India. The project was completed at a cost of Rs.15.08 lakhs.

On December 20, 2016, the 164th birth anniversary of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi, the community hall was inaugurated by Swami Satyajnanananda Maharaj, Secretary of the Students' Home. Since then, it has been actively used for:

- Free evening tuition classes for students
- Vocational training for women
- Career guidance workshops for youth
- Monthly free medical camps for villagers

On January 1, 2017 (Kalpataru Day), the first tuition classes and medical camp were conducted in the hall, marking the beginning of its service to the community.

Our Home continued its flood relief efforts by rehabilitating affected families. A total of 76 low- cost shelters with attached toilets were constructed and handed over, primarily benefiting the Irula tribal families in Thiruvarur district.

Revered Swami Shukadevanandaji Maharaj inaugurated and handed over 14 newly constructed houses for flood-affected Irula community families in Kanchivoyal Village, Thiruvallur District.

On 27th October 2016 Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj officially handed over 40 houses built for flood-affected families in Poovalambedu Village, Thiruvallur District.

On 26th January 2017 as a part of our financial rehabilitation program, a mechanized fiber boat with fishing net accessories was donated to the flood- affected fishermen of Kallur village to support their livelihood restoration.

Drought and Flood Relief Activities in Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam Districts during June and July 2017

1. Drought Relief

In response to the severe drought conditions in Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home undertook extensive relief efforts during June and July 2017. The initiatives included:

S. No.	Particulars	Number
1	Deepening of village tanks	8
2	Digging new bore wells (200 ft. deep)	7
3	Hand pump bore wells (40 ft. deep)	49
4	T-joint bore wells (25 ft. deep)	16
5	Cleaning of village wells	3
6	Construction of concrete round wells with hand pumps	7

Impact:

Relief efforts covered 14 panchayats and 67 villages. A total of 7,485 people, including 300 school children, benefitted from the initiative. Total expenditure incurred Rs.17,46,450/-.

2. Flood Relief

Following the continuous monsoon rains in November 2017, which caused severe flooding and submergence in several villages of Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, in coordination with Tiruvarur Sri Ramakrishna Seva Sangam, promptly initiated flood relief operations from November 6th to 16th, 2017.

Key Relief Measures:

1. Cooked food distribution: Meals were served to 6,000 people daily from November 7 to 10.
2. Grocery kits: Essential provisions worth Rs. 1,000 were distributed to 1,000 affected families who had lost their homes and livelihoods.

Total expenditure incurred: Rs.14,91,974/-.

Through these relief efforts, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home has extended much-needed support to affected communities, embodying the spirit of service and compassion.

Infrastructure Development

3. Construction of Sister Nivedita Community Hall

With financial assistance from HCL Foundation, our Home constructed a community hall at Porur Poovalambedu, Thiruvallur District, at a cost of Rs.7.5 lakhs. This hall serves as a venue for tuition classes and periodic medical camps for the local community.



Even water, which has a natural tendency to flow downwards, is drawn up to the sky by the sun's rays. In the same way, God's grace lifts up the mind which has got a tendency to run after sense objects.



Relief Efforts for Cyclone Gaja Victims in Vedaranyam Taluk-2018

Cyclone Gaja, which struck the coastal regions between Velankanni and Vedaranyam on November 15, 2018, caused unprecedented devastation. Thousands of trees, electric poles, and transformers were uprooted, while the inflow of muddy and salty seawater severely damaged hundreds of diesel engine pump sets used by farmers for irrigation.

In response to this crisis, Ramakrishna Mission Headquarters, Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal, through its branch Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, launched a relief initiative. This effort was generously supported by Greaves Cotton Ltd, Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd, and Ashok Leyland Ltd, who provided technical expertise and spare parts for the restoration of diesel engine pump sets. Our students are also involved in repairing damaged diesel engine pump sets during Cyclone Gaja.

Affected Areas

The relief efforts were focused on the following villages in Nagapattinam District:

- Kovilpathu (Vedaranyam Taluk)
- Vettaikkaran Iruppu, Salli Kulam (Keelavedu Taluk)
- Vanavan Mahadevi

As the farmers' portable diesel-powered water pumps were rendered completely unusable due to the cyclone's impact, it was decided to assist them in repairing these essential agricultural tools.

Support from Partner Organizations

- Greaves Cotton Ltd provided spare parts and technical support free of cost.
- Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd offered free technical support and concessional spare parts.
- Ashok Leyland Ltd arranged free transportation, including trucks, drivers, and fuel.

The entire operation was efficiently executed under the leadership of the Principal of Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College, with students gaining valuable hands-on technical experience in the process. Several alumni, devotees, Rotary Club members, and volunteers from the affected areas also actively participated in the relief work.

A special acknowledgment is extended to Dr. Gopalakrishnan of Ramakrishna Seva Samithi, Thiruvapur, for his valuable assistance in assessing the cyclone's damage.

Status of Diesel Engine Pump Set Repairs

1. Total pump sets surveyed: 151
2. Pump sets brought to the workshop: 126
3. Repaired and returned to farmers: 123
4. Old pump sets returned (due to unavailability of spare parts): 3

Additional Relief Efforts

Distribution of Essentials

1. 93 bed sheets were distributed to 93 affected families in Ranguman Gadu village, Kovilpathu Panchayat, Nagapattinam District, on December 29, 2018.
2. Former students of the Students' Home organized the distribution of essential provisions, including rice (5 kg), dal (1 kg), sugar (1 kg), and cooking oil (1 kg), benefiting 150 affected families, with a total cost of Rs.2 lakhs.

Official Recognition

Dr. D. Jagannathan, IAS, Project Director of Gaja Cyclone Reconstruction & Rehabilitation (Government of Tamil Nadu), personally visited the Polytechnic College to observe the relief efforts. He highly appreciated the commendable work carried out by the students and faculty.

COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Work (2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges worldwide, affecting millions financially and emotionally. In India nationwide lock down severely impacted daily wage labourers, the homeless, and underserved communities, leaving them struggling for basic necessities.

Recognizing the urgent need for relief, Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home extended support to 10,404 daily-wage earning families, predominantly from Irula tribal and Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, across 22 districts of Tamil Nadu and one union territory (Puducherry).

Relief Materials Distributed:

Food essentials	Hygiene & Medical Supplies
47,654 kg of various dals	6,486 bars of soap
9,289 kg of sugar	3,024 toothpaste tubes
15,574 kg of rice	100 shampoo sachets
10,256 kg of flour	50 bottles of Dettol
10,070 litres of edible oil	24,788 face masks
10,010 kg of salt	55 litres of sanitizer
9,712.5 kg of vermicelli	100 notebooks and 2 thermal scanners for Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and government offices
4,995 kg of semolina	
4,992 kg of assorted spices	
3,125 kg of ragi flour	
180 kg of soybeans	
181 kg of tamarind	
2,344 kg of vegetables	
262 packets of biscuits	
11.2 kg of tea	
4,650 meters of cloth	

This extensive relief work was carried out from March 28 to May 10, 2020 across Tamil Nadu, including major districts such as Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, Tiruppur, Cuddalore, and Vellore.

Tablet PCs to Our home students to attend online classes during the pandemic

Titan Company, Hosur, was kind enough to sponsor 300 Tablet PCs worth Rupees 26 lakh to our 2nd and 3rd year polytechnic college students to attend online classes. These tablet PCs were physically distributed to around 25 students who were living in and around

Hosur who could attend the event at the premises of Titan, Hosur.

Similarly, **HCL Foundation** was magnanimous enough to fund for 330 Tablet PCs worth of Rupees 27 lakhs to our 1st year Polytechnic students and to our High school Students. The tablet PCs were distributed to the available polytechnic and High school students after the Vidhyarthi Homam on 11-Oct-2020.

For all the 630 Tablet PCs, **ZOHO Corporation** was kind enough to grant Multiple user Software license for MDM (Mobile Device Management worth around 8 lakhs. Monthly assistance of Rs.1000 per student was given to all our present students from May 2020 onwards while they were in their native places during pandemic lockdown period. This assistance enabled them to meet monthly internet charges to attend online classes, expenses for note books and other study materials, and food expenses.

COVID-19 Vaccination Camp

Following the reopening of our Polytechnic College in accordance with government guidelines, students were advised to receive the COVID-19 vaccination (Covishield/Covaxin). Those aged 18 years and above were eligible for vaccination. The vaccination drive ensured the health and safety of our students and staff as they resumed academic activities.

Nivar Cyclone Relief (Nov-Dec 2020)

The devastating Nivar Cyclone severely impacted many regions in Tamil Nadu. In response, Ramakrishna

Mission Students' Home, with the support of dedicated volunteers, extended relief to affected families:

- 184 families in West Tambaram
- 422 families in interior villages of Chidambaram district

Each family received dry ration kits worth Rs.1,000/-, ensuring they had essential food supplies during this difficult period.

Cyclone Michaung Relief 2023

From the morning of Monday, 4th Dec 2023, Chennai and its suburban areas were severely affected by Cyclone Michaung and the subsequent flooding. First time in the history of the Home, flood water entered the main building, auditorium, kitchen- dining hall block, ground floors of the back home, and medical wards. On the other side of the road, the ground floors of the staff quarters, and primary school were flooded. The whole playground was submerged in flood water. The next day afternoon flood water started to recede.

Cutting the fallen trees on the roads around the Students Home was carried out by the staff and students of the Home. Cooked food was served to 800 people in Thatthaimanji, Devaneri and Poovalambedu areas. Dry ration worth, Rs. 1000 each was given to 370 families in Vyasarbadi, Kathivakkam in Ennore, Thatthaimanji, Devaneri areas. `

Free Oil servicing of two-wheelers was also carried out by the Polytechnic College students from 13 Dec to 18th Dec 2023. 220 vehicles were repaired at the centre.

Alapakkam Rehabilitation Project for the Irula Community

In a heartfelt effort to uplift the Irula tribal community, our Home successfully completed a major rehabilitation project at Alapakkam Village near Uthiramerur.

As part of this initiative, 40 newly constructed huts were formally handed over to Irula families by Revered Swami Bodhasaranandaji Maharaj, Assistant General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math.

A key highlight of the project was the inauguration of the Sahodari Niveditai Community Hall, envisioned as a space for community gatherings, education, and empowerment. The entire project was executed and completed at a cost of ₹24 lakhs with the help of one of our dedicated volunteer Mr. AB Mani.

As part of the rehabilitation effort, each family received:

- Dry ration kits worth ₹1,000
- Household utensils worth ₹4,000
- Two sets of mats, bed sheets, and pillows
- Solar lamps worth ₹2,500

This initiative reflects our continued commitment to serve the underserved, providing not just shelter, but also dignity, security, and a renewed sense of hope for the Irula community.

Through various relief initiatives, Home has strived to bring meaningful change to the lives of the

underprivileged and disaster-affected communities. Whether through housing, essential supplies, or sustainable infrastructure, each effort reflects Swami Vivekananda's ideal of service. The collective support from donors, volunteers, and well-wishers has been invaluable.

Tuition Center Photos





Rural Initiatives



Rural Women Empowerment Program



Medical Camps



Relief and Rehabilitation Efforts



Medical and Rehabilitation Efforts



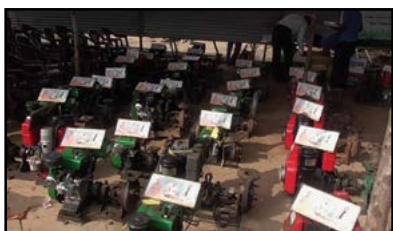
Construction of New Homes



Free Tuition Centres



Our students repairing damaged diesel engine pump sets during Cyclone Gaja



Nivar Cyclone Relief (Nov-Dec 2020)



Relief Materials Distributed to Each Family

Section VII

Establishment of other Educational Institutions



Nattukottai Nagarathar Vidyasala building



Dormitory built and donated by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation
(Mallikaranai)

Chapter 7

a) Ramakrishna Mission Schools, T. Nagar

Inspite of the world war and the resultant economic depression, the Home continued its activities and was even ready to take on additional responsibilities if the times warranted. So when a number of residents in a newly formed suburb, Thyagarayanagar, requested the Home authorities to start an educational institution in T. Nagar, a day school was started by the Home in 1932 with a strength of 180 boys, the school being housed in thatched sheds. To have a permanent building for the school, a land measuring 13.5 grounds was purchased from Corporation of Madras in 1933 and the foundation stone for the school was laid by Lord Erskine, the then Governor of Madras. He observed "It seems to be a fact that any undertaking to which the Ramakrishna Mission sets its hands forthwith flourished accordingly". This tribute, coming from a high dignitary of the Government of India, reflects the reputation the Mission enjoyed in the Government circles as well as among the public.

As the strength of the students increased year by year, branches were opened in the North T. Nagar and South T. Nagar in the subsequent years. Additional land for North branch school in Bazullah Road was purchased by the Home for Rs. 9533 and for South branch school in South Usman Road for Rs. 15000/-. These schools admitted boys in the classes VI to XII standard and Sri Vasudevachariar with his dedicated service was managing these schools for more than 20 years. The combined strength of these branches swelled to 2253 in

1939. The new building for the main school constructed on Venkatanarayana Road by the Home at a cost of Rs. 1.07 lakhs were opened in 1940. All these institutions were under the Management of the Home Committee till the year 1948, when a separate committee was constituted by the Mission to manage the current affairs.

Sri Sarada Vidyalaya

Sister R.S. Subbalakshmi Ammal, well known for her devoted service to women's education, started Sarada Vidyalaya in T. Nagar as a private school for girls and widows in 1921, As she was getting older she approached Ramakrishna Mission and proposed to transfer her school to be under the control of Home Management. The proposal was accepted and the girls' school was put under a separate Committee with Sri S. Vasudevachariar appointed as the correspondent.

b) Vivekananda College

When the leading citizens of Mylapore area decided to start a college in the name of Sri Sathyamoorthy, one of the famous freedom fighters from Tamilnadu, it was proposed that for its continued and efficient functioning this college should function under Ramakrishna Mission.

But Sri Ramanujachariar advised that if the college was to be part of Ramakrishna Mission, it should bear the name of the great saint Swami Vivekananda. This was agreed to.

As the Residential School of the Home was shifted to Uthiramerur/Athur in Chengalpattu Dist, and as the founders of the proposed college were in a hurry to start

the college, the Home authorities agreed to lend the Nattukottai Nagarathar Vidyasala building then vacant, on a temporary basis to college authorities. However, the College continued to function in this building subsequently. The Home parted with the building and adjoining playground areas measuring 10.3 acres at a nominal cost, to be paid in instalments.

The Home shifted the High School Library too, to satisfy the University authorities. Sri Ramanujachariar used all his personal influence to get this college affiliated to Madras University. The College started working from 1946. Sri M. Subbaraya Iyer, leading Income Tax Lawyer became the first Secretary and Sri Ramanujachariar the first treasurer. The Head Quarters agreed to take over the college under the control of the Ramakrishna Mission by a resolution dated 4.2.1947.

For some years the college functioned on a self-financing basis but soon the stark realities of financing the institution forced the authorities to seek aid from the local Government which brought with itself the usual constraints on admission and administrative policies.

c. Malliankaranai

The Home came to be associated with Malliankaranai because of a generous gift of 140 Acres of land in that village by Sri Venkatavarada Iyengar-a noble-minded philanthropist. In addition, 46 acres of land were vested with the Home in trust by him. Additionally, some more lands were acquired by the Home to make the area integrated and viable, making a total of 200 acres in that village.

The shifting of the residential High School to a place near Uthiramerur in 1942 gave the Home an opportunity to watch and take measures for the development of the estate at Malliankaranai. Late Sri Anna N Subramaniam who was the Headmaster of the Residential High School and others evinced keen interest in the development of this area.

Malliankaranai establishment now consists of three units.

1. Estate
2. School
3. Hostel

Estate

As a result of the recommendations, areas were earmarked for paddy cultivation and for pulses, Coconut and Mango groves, Casuarinas and Eucalyptus. Palm Nuts numbering 10000 were planted along the peripherals for demarcation of the boundary. Paddy is cultivated in about 50 Acres. Mango, Coconut, Guava, Sappota, Seetha pal, Wood Apple, Lemon, Nelli, Pomegranate are cultivated in another 100 Acres.

School

An elementary school was started in a thatched shed on 27/06/1945 through the efforts of Anna N. Subramaniam, as there was no educational institution in that area. It became a full-fledged Higher Elementary School with Government permission in 1948 intended to serve the rural areas around Uttiramerur. A big building in stone and concrete to house the school was dedicated on 9-7-1986. This was further upgraded to High School on 9-7-1997. While approving this School, the Government

stipulated that no additional financial assistance would be given for the High School. The salaries for the teachers had to be borne by the Management itself. Staff Quarters consisting of 4 houses were constructed in 1991.

Hostel

In 1949, a hostel was started with 20 boarders belonging to scheduled caste with a grant received from the Labour department of the State Government. The Central Social Welfare Board sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1000 for this hostel. With this amount a tiled structure was built for the hostel. This was declared open on 15/03/1964 by Srimat Swami Suddhasatwanandaji Maharaj, Manager, RK Math, Madras. Subsequently a dormitory cum Puja hall and Kitchen was built and was declared open by Srimat Swami Tapasyanandaji Maharaj, Vice President, RK Math and Mission, Belur Math, Kolkatta in year 1991.

M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd built and handed over a 2 storey hostel on modern lines at a cost of Rs.18 lakhs on 1-4-2000 for accommodating 80 destitute boys belonging to the Scheduled Caste and most Backward Classes. This is in addition to the expenditure incurred by the Home as indicated below.

Dr. V. Subramaniam an old student of the Home and a distinguished engineer in USA donated a substantial amount for improving the irrigation facilities in the estate and for the girls' education in the school.

Finance

For the construction of the School building and other constructions, the Home advanced an amount of Rs. 48 lakhs. In the year 2000, the Head Quarters decided that Malliankaranai be treated as a separate Center reporting to the Head Quarters directly. Rupees One Crore was transferred to this new branch from the Home Funds, in addition to all the expenses so far incurred for developing the area.

Conclusion

Malliankaranai was an isolated Village with little infrastructure facilities. The people in that area were in abject poverty as the land was not productive. A chance donation, big slice of land brought the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home into the picture. Considerable amount of time, money and voluntary service contributed by the Home authorities brought it to a sound position. Some of the girl students who performed well in their Matriculation go on to join College. Their transition from cattle grazing and agricultural work to a more intellectually engaging pursuit stands as a testament to the selfless service rendered by the Ramakrishna Mission.



Dormitory & Prayer Hall (Malliankaranai)



Tailoring Class (Malliankaranai)



Farm estate in Malliankaranai

Section VIII

Immovable Properties



Chapter 8

Immovable Properties

In 1905, the Home started functioning in a small house given free of rent by Dr. Nanjunda Rao. From there it was shifted from one building to another to accommodate more boys, till 1921.

a) Acquisition of Landed Properties

As already mentioned, when the Home was functioning in a rented house in Mylapore at 25 Kutcheri Road for a monthly rent of Rs.60/- a generous gift of a valuable building site on the Sullivan's garden Road, measuring 15 grounds was made by Shri. S.G. Srinivasachariar (then a Dt. Munsiff and later a Dt. Judge). It enabled the Home to look forward to an era of planned development. The frequent shifting of the Home in the earlier years, besides being irksome, did not allow the authorities to think of a stable abode and an orderly progress.

With commendable foresight the authorities thought that additional land would be required for expansion in the future. In the year 1916, when the strength of the boarders was only 30, the building, which was planned to be built on the land, was to accommodate 108 boarders. The authorities purchased an additional 11 grounds from a High Court Advocate Sri. K. Yagnanarayana Adiga for Rs.2750 in 1918 and also 14 grounds from two other sources in 1920 and 1921.

Not satisfied with this, a plot of land measuring 43 grounds and 827 sq ft was acquired under Land Acquisition Act, after a prolonged litigation from an unwilling owner in 1920. These acquisitions are a testimony to the remarkable foresight and the confidence of the authorities in the future growth of the institution.

For the land acquired thus, the Government of Madras gave a grant amounting to 50% of the cost of the land. These details from the Manual written by Shri. Ramanujachariar are reproduced in the annexe.

Again in 1923, when a separate building for the Residential High school was put up, the authorities decided to purchase a coconut grove adjoining the Home. But as the owner was not willing to part with it piecemeal. They approached Shri. S.G. Srinivasachariar again, who parted with his land, measuring 46 grounds and 2075 sq ft in 1924 for a sum of Rs.31,867/-

In 1925 it was decided to put-up suitable quarters for the staff of the Residential High school. A land south of the Residential High school measuring 26 grounds was acquired from the Government, at a cost of Rs.28529 in 1926 and the Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 14265/- being half the cost of this land.

After acquiring this land, the Home authorities thought it would be better to have the staff quarters outside the compound, in an area measuring 15 grounds located just across the road.

With the permission of the Government this was done through private negotiation for a consideration of Rs.9450 in 1927,

Workshop

As early as 1925, a workshop was built to give training to the boys who did not succeed in their matriculation examination, or even boys who did not get past their 8th or 9th standard. The training imparted was for basic skills such as smithy, carpentry, welding, etc. In 1930, on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the institution, foundation was laid by the then Governor of Madras Sir. George Frederick Stanley for a workshop and class rooms for an industrial school. Prior to this in 1929 steps were taken to acquire additional 10 grounds adjacent to the workshop for the reason that the industrial school needed more space. This was achieved with a grant of Rs.17600/- from the Government. As already stated this industrial school with workshop was later upgraded to a full-fledged technical institute in the year 1947. The first batch of LAE students passed out of the industrial school in 1937 after training for 5 years. Recognition was received for this course from the Government in 1935.

For further expansion anticipating future need, the Management made outright purchases of land from two owners of coconut gardens, lying in south west of the school area, to the extent of 6 acres at a cost of Rs.56402. This time as the authorities could not secure any financial assistance the entire amount was paid by the Home in 1940.

Additional Landed Property

As mentioned in the biographical sketch of Ramanujachariar, he was an institution builder. There was no event taking place in and around Madras, which

he did not utilize for the benefit of the Home. If he came to know of any family which did not have sons or daughters, he would go to them and persuade them to gift their landed property to the Home. One such case was the gift of a house and a large area of land around it by a Dist. Judge Sri. E. Gopalan in Gandhi Nagar, Adyar.

A large number of pieces of land, some house plots, some cultivable lands, were acquired over the years by the authorities of the Home. These came in handy to improve the financial conditions of the Home when their prices rose. The Home disposed of them in 1980s. Fuller details on this subject can be obtained from the Manual 1954. The acquisition of the vast estate in Malliankaranai, measuring 125 acres of "wet land" and 15 acres of dry land and another 46 acres of a Trust Property also comes under this category. Its development and evolution into a full-fledged branch of the mission is dealt with elsewhere in this book.

b). Building Activities

As the aim of the authorities was to build a "Palace for the Poor", a large, spacious, well designed building came up in spite of the severe constraints imposed by the First World war. The intricate art works carved on the door frames of the Prayer Hall, and the enchanting beauty of the Sarasvati-idol have drawn admiration and praise from succeeding generations. The cost of this building, which was originally estimated at 1,07,000/- was subsequently revised to Rs. 1,80,562 and the Government duly approved the revisions and made a final grant of Rs.90281/-in 1921. A kitchen Block and a

Medical Ward and out-houses added to the costs which came to Rs.2,10,180.

In accordance with the provisions of the grant in aid code of the Government, the building was mortgaged to the Government for 40 years. This building with its magnificent layout, its massive structure, high ceilings and spacious wards along with environmental

-friendly design allowing natural light and fresh air deserves to be designated as 'a Heritage Building'.

The High School

The construction of a separate building for the residential High School was approved by the Government in 1923 and on completion in 1925, at a cost of 1,27,789 the Government gave a grant of Rs 66,910/-, representing two thirds of the cost of a "Science Block" and half the cost of the remaining portions. This building was also mortgaged to the Government. The Nattukottai Nagarathar contributed Rs.83,886/- towards this building, which was appropriately named after them.

The Industrial School

This was started in 1925. Building works consisting of sheds for machinery, classrooms, office rooms etc. were executed and improved in stages till 1937 at a total cost of Rs.1,38,723/- and the total amount of Government grant came to Rs.55,964/-.

Staff Quarters

In 1928 the question of providing staff quarters was taken up and got approved by the Director of Public

Instruction and the Government agreed to share half the cost as grant. As a special case the Management was exempted from executing a mortgage deed for these quarters. Between 1931 and 1940 six sets of quarters were constructed (each accommodating two families) at a total cost of Rs.49,405/-. And government grant of Rs.17,844/- was duly received.

All this is mentioned to show how in the years of extreme financial hardship, the Management enjoyed the full support of the Government, which helped the Home at every stage of development.

In 1938 the building allotted for manual training was vacated by moving the classes to specially constructed asbestos cement roofed sheds and this building was used to house the increased number of students of the Technical Institute. In 1940 to provide for additional play grounds for the Home adjoining coconut gardens to the extent of 5.5 acres were purchased at a cost of Rs. 56600/-. As already mentioned, in 1942 the Government wanted all schools and hostels to be shifted out of Madras, as there was a danger of Japanese attack on the city. Consequently, the Residential High School was shifted to Uthiramerur leaving the High School building vacant. In 1946 when Vivekananda College was started, the founders of the Vivekananda College were keen on starting the College in the High School premises of the Home as no efforts seemed to have been made by them to find a long term solution for permanent accommodation. The High School building was "temporarily" handed over to the College authorities, along with 10.15 acres of land. This makeshift arrangement has unfortunately

become permanent with detrimental effects for both the institutions.

In 1958 a hostel for the Technical Institute students was constructed with Central Government interest free loan advancing it as an interest free loan repayable in equal early instalments for 33 years. Each year the Home was to return 3% of the cost. After paying regularly for 10 years, the Home appealed for a waiver of the remaining portion of the loan and this was granted.

In 1958 a new building for housing lecture halls and laboratories for the Institute was also constructed under Government of India second five-year plan to promote Technical Education. According to this the Government of India bore two thirds of the costs, the State Government one sixth and the Home paid balance one sixth of the total costs.

In 1963 Vivekananda Centenary hall, an auditorium, was constructed and commissioned to mark the Centenary of Swami Vivekananda's birthday. The cost of construction of this hall was nearly Rs. 2 lakhs and this building is being regularly used to conduct periodical seminars, music programmes during the Navarathri and Home Day functions. The acoustics in the Hall were brought to a satisfactory level, thanks to a kind donation by Dr. Nalli Kuppuswamy Chettiar. He has also undertaken to arrange, at his cost, discourses and music concerts during Navaratri holidays.

In 1986-87, a two storied kitchen block was constructed in place of the earlier tiled shed with provision for one more storey, at a cost of Rs. 21,11,016.

In 1989-90, a block to accommodate students of the college section ground plus two floors - was constructed at a cost of Rs. 5,22,770. Rotary Club of Madras financed this construction.

In 1991-92, one block of staff quarters (six apartments) was constructed providing accommodation to 6 staff members. The block was completed at a cost of Rs. 7,89,871.

In 1998-99, two additional blocks of staff quarters consisting of four flats in each block were constructed at a cost of Rs. 21,95,045 with provision for addition of 2 more flats in each block.

In 2001-02, Infosys block was built over the kitchen block at a cost of Rs. 30,30,639. Infosys foundation donated Rs 20 lakhs towards the construction. This is used as a dormitory for accommodating the increasing number of students.

In 2005-2006, centenary building was constructed at the cost of Rs. 4.01 crores.

In 2010, twenty-two new staff quarters were constructed at a cost of ₹5.28 crores, providing much-needed residential facilities for our staff. The quarters were formally inaugurated by Sri P. Rajendran, General Manager and Regional Coordinator, Indian Oil Corporation, Chennai, who also unveiled the commemorative plaque naming the complex as the "IOC Block."

On September 11, 2015, a new third floor, covering an area of 6,500 sq. ft., was constructed over the existing

kitchen block—now named as the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Block—to accommodate High School students.

Construction of a new toilet block for the residential high school, which was inaugurated on November 15, 2019 by Sri Subba Rao, Chief General Manager, CSR, HPCL. The total built up area is 457sq. meters (4917sq. ft). at a cost of Rs.1.56 crore out of which Rs. 1 crore, was donated by HPCL under CSR.

SDC was inaugurated on September 1st 2019, total area of construction is approximately 37,600 Sq. Ft. spanning Ground floor, First floor, Second floor, Third floor and the Terrace. BPCL has donated the entire sum of Rs.15 Crore, towards the total cost of the project.

"Life's fulfillment of peace, bliss and spiritual enlightenment can be achieved only by service to God"

Stand up, be bold and be strong. Take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders and know that you are the creator of your own destiny. All Power is within you; you can do anything and everything. Believe in that.

- *Swami Vivekananda*

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

SL.NO. LAND	R.S. NO.	EXTENT	VALUE	PARTICULARS
1	Land on which main building stands	R.S. No. 1605/1A, Collector's Certificate No.5852 15 grounds 1,166 Sq.ft.	Rs.4,500/-	Gift Deed Document No. 1415 of 1916 dated 25th May, 1916 by S.G. Srinivasachariar
2	Kitchen & Bathing Place	R.S. No.1605/1A2 11 grounds	Rs.2,750/-	Sale by Sri K. Yegnanarayana Adiga Sale Deed No.3373 dated 7.9.1918
3	Site between main building & Medical Ward	R.S. No. 1605/1A comprised in Collector's Certificate No.260 dated 24.07.1885 7 grounds 1140 Sq.ft.	Rs.4,273/8/0	Sale by A. Narayaanaswami Chettiar Sale deed No.3096 dated 16.10.1920
4	Medical Ward	1604/1A 6 grounds 1040 Sq.ft.	Rs.6,000/-	Sale by Sri U. Srinivasa Rao Sale deed No.348 dated 22.9.1921
5	Play ground on the western Portion	R.S. No. 1605/1A1 46 grounds, 2075 Sq.ft.	Rs.31,867/-	Sale by Sri S.G. Srinivasachariar Sale Deed No.685 dated 5.6.1924
6	Staff Quarters Land	R.S. No. 1702/3 16 grounds 200 Sq. ft.	Rs.9,450/-	Sale by M/S. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar and others (Trustee) of the Estate of Sarangaratham Iyengar Sale Deed dated 21.11.1927 Document No. 1723 of 1927 Land acquisition Award by Collector of Madras
7	Workshop	R.S. No. 1602/3 10 grounds 300 sq. ft.	Rs.8,750/5/7	Collector's Award No.A.2/1489-30 OF 10.4.1931

8	Land on which Senior Hostel building stands	R.S. No. 1602/1 of Mylapore	22 grounds 1 acre 762 sq.ft. + 92 grounds, 1768 Sq.ft.	Rs.50,544/- Rs.5,948 Total: Rs.56,402	Document No. 1110 of 1956 dated 28.8.1956 Sold by Selva Rajeswari- Document No.356 and 357 of 1940. Mylapore Sub-Registrar Sale by CIT Madras 1954
9	Land contiguous to Workshop	R.S.No. 1602/1 of Mylapore	2 grounds and 393 Sq. Ft.		Sale by C.I.T., Madras, 1954 Sale Deed Document executed by Chairman C.I.T. MADRAS
10	Portion of Blind Lane behind workshop	R.S. NO. 1601/2	2079 Sq.Ft.	Rs.1,589.25	By Collector of Madras, 1956 G.O.No. 724 LA dated 11-3-1961 and G.O.No. 3838 dated 14-9-1961
11	Malliankarana Wet and Dry Lands	125 acres 9 cents (wet) and 15.5 acres (dry)	"A" Schedule	Rs.20,000/-	Trust Deed No.147 dated 16.01.1932 Settlement Deed by R.Venkatavarada Iyengar and his wife together with 46 acres (wet) to be held in Trust for their Charities
12	No.320 - Malliankarana	46 acres wet land vested with the Home Trust R.S.NO. 1185	"B" Schedule Dry Land (Inam)	Rs.7,500/- Rs.7,500/- Rs.100/-	Sale by Annaa Achari & others Sale Deed Document No.429 dated 29-3-1932
13	No.319 - Kadalamangalam Village	R.S. NO 107, 108, 110, 111/1 AND 111/2	Wet lands - 2 acres 63 cents	Rs.140/-	Sale by K. Mani Iyengar of Uthiramerur Sale Deed Document No.340 dated 31.03.1932
14	No.319 - Kadalamangalam Village	R.S. 108,1108, 111/1	Wet lands - 2 acres 86 cents	Rs.120/-	Sale by Yolumalai Naicker & others of Maruthuvarnpadi Village Sale Deed Document No. 343 dated 31.3.1944
15	Kadala Mangalam Village	R.S. 1207 & 120/8	39 Cents, 24 Cents	Rs.35/-	Sale by Venkatavaradachariar Document No. 351/1945 dated 9.12.1945

16	New School site - Malliankaranai	RS 1194 & 1195	3.61 acres	No price said	Alienation by Board of Revenue, Madras vide BP/Misc/308 dated 18.4.194
17	Selayur Land	R.S. 377/H-C	2.16 acres	Rs.15,000/-	1972-Git by CM. Sarma, T. Nagar, Madras Document No.4181 of 1972 Settlement Deed dated 29.7.1972 To be shared equally by Home and R.K.Math Charitable Dispensary Sold to: Zion Matriculation School, Selayur
18	Land on which present V.College building stands	R.S. No. 1605/1B-1	1 cawnie 19 grounds 827 Sq Ft. (43 grounds)	Rs. 18,520/9/3	Land Acquisition Conveyance by the Secretary of State dated 5-12-1921 transferred to Vivekananda College in 1947 conveyance by Secretary of State, Madras
19	Ground to the South of of V.College building	R.S. No. 1605/5	1 Cawnie 6 grounds 50 Sq.ft.	Rs 28,529/13/6	Deed of conveyance dated 22-5-1926 Transferred to Vivekananda College in 1947
20	V. College Hostel Land and Play Ground	R.S. No. 1605/4 Later allotted R.S. No.1605/22	110 grounds 2560 ft. consisting of (1) 18 grounds 792 sq.ft. (2) 92 grounds, 1768 Sq Ft.	Rs.9,309/- Rs.47,093/- Total: Rs.56,402/-	Sale by Selvaraj - Eswari Ammal 2 Sale Deeds dated 21-2-1940 (1) 356 of 1940 (2) 357 of 1940 of Mylapore Sold to Vivekananda College in 1947
21	T.Nagar Industrial School (Branch)	R.S. No. 5258/2 No. 1067, 1068, 1069 & 1970 1071 and 418	29 grounds & 764 Sq.Ft.	Rs.19,856/-	Sale by N. Brithichand Sowcar Sale Deed dated 28.3.1943- Settlement No.700 of 1943 of Chingleput Sold to Kishore 140 others Doc. No. 140 Document No.573/83 dated 10.6.83 for Rs.31,23,450/- T.Nagar S.R.Office

22	Samadhi Garden Old No.11, Mambalam Rd.	R.S.No.11 Mambalam Rd., T. Nagar	63 grounds	Rs.31,250/-	Sale by Ganesa Gramani Sale Deed dated 25.2.43 Settlement No.P 781579 of 1948 of Madras-Chingleput Transferred to Boys School
23	Taylor's Garden	T.S. No.7956-Part of 4698 of Mambalam Extension	31 grounds	Rs.15,000/-	Sale by V. Venkatanarayana Rao and Minor Sons Sale Deed dated 15.4.43 Document No. 869 of 1949 of Registrar of Madras-Chingleput Sold to Staff of Ramakrishna Mission (Plotted out)
24	Taylor's Garden	T.S.No. Part of 4698 of Mambalam Extension	5 5/6 grounds	Rs.4,958/-	Sale by Savitri Ammal and Sold in 1964, 1984 & 1986 to M/S. Satyanarayana & Co. Kalyani Films & 10 Others Sale Deed dated 14.8.43. Document No.2221 of 1943 of Madras Chingleput
25	Taylor's Garden	T.S. No.Part of 4698 of Mambalam Extension	133 grounds	Rs.45,000/-	Sale by V. Venkatanarayana Rao Sale Deed dated 18.5.44. Document No.126 of 1944 of Registrar of T. Nagar, Madras
26	Athur Garden Bungalow	R.S. Nos.843, 844, 845, 846 847, 848, 849, 850, 851	45 acres, 67 cents (Thope) on the river bed of Palar River Bungalow and garden-306 x 222	Rs. 11,100 Rs.8,000 Total: Rs.19,100	Sale by V.D. Ramaswami & Bros. Sale Deed dated 31.3.44 Document No.1800 of 1944 of Madras Chingleput subsequently sold
27	Sathur Village, N.Arcot		Wet Land 2 acres, 64 cents	Rs.5,273	Sri K. Appaswami Iyer Sold in 1958
28	Wall Tax Road Godown Super-structure	Door No.101 & 102, Walltax Rd. R.S. 1272/1	2 Godowns Land owned by Corporation	Rs.2,000/-	Settlement by Sri G.R. Subbaramiah. Settlement Deed No.1794 dated 5.9/1924

29	Nannilam	In Nannilam Taluk	of Madras Super Structure Owned by settler 90 cents of wet land	Sold to Ramaswamy Udayar
30	Alandur Road, Guindy	R.S. No.180 (Zamin, Adyar)	85 cents (existing area)	Rs.100/- nominal value Rs.6,000/-
31	Brihadambal Estate (Kodambakkam Garden)	One half of the following:- 1. Coconut Garden, 2. Site 3. Site 4. Site 5. Grounds	10 acres, 30 cents 3 acres, 82 cents 1 acre, 90 cents 38 cents, 49 Sq.ft. 2 grounds	Gift by C.K. Viraswami Iyer Gift Deed 10.2.1933, Document No.207 dated 11.2.1933. Sold on 24.8.89 Gift by A. Venugopala Iyer Gift Deed dated 19.7.1933 - Document No.1114 of 1933, Saidapet Sub-Registrar Sold in 1956 (Rs.6,120/-) Gift by Ganapathi Sastriar, Trustee of the Estate in equal moieties for Sarada Vidyalaya and Home. Deed of transfer dated 27-10-1938 (7 acres since transferred to T. Nagar Boys' School
32	Land in Kodaikanal	17.5 cents		Rs.1,000 (nominal) Rs.33,225/-
33	House in Gandhinagar Adyar (Nitya)	22, 2nd Main Road, Madras - 2./		Gift by Sri K.C. GOPALAN, Rtd. District Judge Document No 841 of 1955-Regd. On 20.05.1955 Sold to Mrs. Radhaa Rao and 2 others Document No.3193
34	House in Rangier Street, T. Nagar			Gift by Raja Bai Ammal Sold in 1963

35	House No.233, Mint Street, Madras - 1				Rs.60,000/-	Will of Smt. Srinivasa Ammal Letter of administration 2.1.75 (OP No.267 - High Court of Madras 8.5.1975 Sold to Kamala Kotadia for Rs.1,55,000 Sale deed dated 24-5-1981
36	House No.6/9, Co-Operative Colony, Dindigul	Survey No.355/21	3,350 Sq.ft.		Rs.12,00,000/-	Gift by Smt. Vyjayanthi and Smt. Geeta Subraman Sold in May, 2007 for Rs. 15,00,000/- to Sri S. Subass Chandra Bose. Document No. 1341 dated 9.5.07
37	Plot No.23, New Fair Land, Chettipunniam Village, Chengulpet Taluk	Survey No.395/ 1A1A	2,400 Sq. Ft		Rs.1,56,000/-	Gift by Sri N. Narayanan (Old Student) Sold to Sri Ganesh Narayanan for Rs.1,56,000/- vide sale deed No. 10176 dated 23-8-2006
38	Agricultural Punja Land situated at No.90, Kattavakkam Village, Kanchipuram Taluk	Survey No. 369/7	2,400 Sq. Ft.		Rs.50,000/-	Gift by Sri N. Narayanan (Old Student) Sold to Sri Shanmugam of Kattavakkam Village vide Sale Deed No.10182 dated 15.11.2006
39	Plot No. 176, 'Santi Neketan', Old No.33, New No. 48, 4th Main Road, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-28.	Survey No. 3951/10 R.S. No. 3950/47	3976 Sq. Ft.		Rs.9,59,03000/-	Gift Deed Doc No.637/2016 dated 24-02-2016 by Mrs. Rajam Subramanian w/o. Sri PR. Subramanian
	Plot No. 176, 'Santi Neketan', Old No.33, New No. 48, 4th Main Road, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-28.	Survey No. 3951/10 R.S. No. 3950/47	160 Sq. Ft.		Rs.31 Lakhs	Sale Deed No. 1273/2016 dated 20-04-2016

40	Plot No. 176, 'Santi Nektan', Old No.33, New No. 48, 4th Main Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-28.	Survey No. 3951/10 R.S. No. 3950/47	390 Sq. Ft.	Rs.65 Lakhs	Sale Deed No. 4046/2022 dated 12-10-2022 by K.Ramesh & Smt. Ultrakumar
	Tenali Residential House 1-29-18/1, Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple St, Nazarcupet, Guntur, A.P.	T.S. No. 510/2 at 4-96	1737 Sq. Ft. Land with building 1290 Sq. Ft.	Rs.68,00,000/-	Will by Smt Chilukuri Balatripura Sundari, Registered Doc No. 95/2024 dated 03-06-2014. Sale Deed No. 3144/19 dt.27-06-2019
41	Flat 'D' Grahalaya Falgu Flats, 14, Muthalamman Kovil Street, West Mamabalam, Chennai.	Survey No. 192/2 T.S. No. 17	UDS 690 Sq. Ft of 2915 Sq. Ft.	Rs.44,01,650/-	Gift by Sri S Neelakandan, Registered on 2-5-2019, Gift Deed No. 1434/2019
42	Flat No. 6, 'Guru Kripa' Door No.3/2, Rangarajapuram Main Road, Kodampakkam, Chennai - 24.	T.S. No. 14/1 of B.N.49 Rangarajapuram	UDS 306.33 of 2825 Sq. Ft.	Rs.19,50,000/- Market Value	Gift by Sri S Neelakandan, Registered on 24-12-2021
43	Flat No. 'A' Ground Floor, "Lakshmi Apartments" Old No.15, N.No.86/1, Bhaktavatchalam Salai (Warren Road), Mylapore, Chennai - 4.	Survey No. 3660/13	UDS 436.36 Sq. Ft. of 4800 Sq. Ft.	Rs.45,00,000/- Market Value	Gift by Sri S. Ramachandran, Gift Deed Doc No. 4045 of 2022 dated 11-10-2022
44	Flat No. "F-3", First Floor, "Akshaya Apartments, Plot No.3, V.N.D.Avenue, Ram Nagar, First Main Road, West Urapakkam, Chennai - 603 202.	Survey No. 8 / 46	UDS 399 Sq. Ft. of 3352 Sq. Ft.	Rs.23,13,900/- Market Value	Gift by Mrs. Lalitha Suryanarayanan, Doc No. 6391/2023 dated 12-04-2023

45	Survey No. 180/4, Sevavpet Village, Tiruvallur Sub Division, Tiruvallur District.	Survey No. 180	3607.5 Sq. Ft.	Gift by Smt N. Susheela. Registered will dated 25-02-2014
46	Survey No. 180/4, Sevavpet Village, Tiruvallur Sub Division, Tiruvallur District.	Survey No. 180	3607.5 Sq. Ft	Sale Deed No. 1903 of 2025, 1904 of 2025, 1905 of 2025 dated 03-02-2025
47	"Kripa", First Floor, New No. 51 (Old No.28), PS Sivasami Salai Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.	Survey No. 1702/13, & T.S. No.1702/28	1248.58 Sq. Ft. with building 1560 Sq. Ft.	Purchase from Mrs. Rohini Ashok, Mrs. Ramya Raghunathan. Doc No.1132//2024 dated 28-03-2024
48	"Kripa", Ground Floor, New No. 51 (Old No.28), PS Sivasami Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.	Survey No. 1702/13, & T.S. No.1702/28	1248.50 Sq. Ft. with building 1510 Sq. Ft.	Purchase from Mrs. Sita Muralidharan, Mrs Nandini Muralidharan, Mrs Vaishnavi Muralidharan, Mr Krishna Muralidharan. Doc No.1142//2024 dated 30-03-2024
49	PRS Property 'Shanti Niketan' Old No.33, New No.48, 4th Main Road, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai - 28.	R.S. No.3950/47 & 3951/10	4526 Sq. Ft.	Sold to Dr S Arumugam. Sale Deed No. 1561/2024 dated 3-05-2024
50	"Rajadeep" bearing New No.35 (Old No.21), First Street, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.	T.S. No.1702/116	5,439 Sq. Ft. with approx. 8000 Sq.Ft. Building	Sale Deed No. 1118/2025 dt. 28-03-2025. Purchase from Mrs. Leela Narendran

b) Details of Building Activities

S.No.	Details	No. of Floors	Built-up area (sq.m)	Year of construction	Cost Rs.
1	Main Building(Res. High School + Hostel)	G+2	2454	1921	1,80,562-00
2	Kitchen & Library Infosys Dormitory Block Abdul kalam block	G+2 3rd Floor	1808.4 6500 Sq. Ft.	1988 2002 2015	21,00,000-00 20,00,000-00
3	Vivekananda Centenary Auditorium	G	315	1963	2,00,000-00
4	IOB Get well Medical Ward	G+1	291.2	2005	28,00,000-00
5	Centenary Block	G+2	6026	2006	3,68,00,000-00
6	Automobile Workshop	G	778	1937	1,38,725-00
7	Elective Block	G	139	1977	64,000-00
8	Technical Institute Block, GF, FF, Part SF Part of second floor (Donated by HPCL)	G+2	2449.6	1958 2007	2,60,822-00 16,38,977-00
9	College Hostel (Donated by Rotary Club of Madras)	G+2	612	1989	5,22,770-00
10	Senior Hostel	G+2	2979	1958	1,75,401-72

11	LPG Gas Room	G	30	2005	1,62,575-00
12	Centenary Primary School	G+1	718.23	1967	4,50,000-00
13	Staff Quarters Block I (West) 8 units Block II (East) 6 units	G+1 G+2	363.75 390	1999 1992	21,95,047-00 8,14,994-00
14	Waste water treatment & Recycling Plant	G	136.30	2007	20,00,000-00
15	Malliankaranai Dining Hall/Kitchen Dormitory/Puja Hall & Library Dormitory (HPCL) High School Monks' Quarters	G G+1 G+1 G+1 G	183.64 183.64 103.74 975.84 66.92	1986 1986 1991 1985/87 1993	10,00,000-00 18,00,000-00 20,00,000-00 15,65,932-00 4,00,000-00
	Office Ground Floor First Floor Tailoring/ Craft Room	G+1 G	58.09 58.09 154.65	1967 1981 1967	60,000-00 1,10,000-00 45,000-00
	Overhead Water Tank & Cycle Stand Cow shed	G G	30,000 Ltr. 92.94 371.75	2001 2001 2003	3,00,000-00 10,00,000-00
16	High School new toilet block	G+1	457 sq mt	2019	1.56 crore
17	SDC-Skill Development center	G+3	37600sq ft	2019	15 crore

Section IX

Chief Architects



Chapter 9

Life Sketches

a) Swami Ramakrishnananda

SASHI Maharaj as he was known, was born on 13th July 1863 as the eldest of 8 children and was brought up in spiritual surroundings by his saintly father Iswar Chander. His tremendous will-power, deep spiritual absorption and divine disposition made him altogether a different lad.



For two years Sashi visited Dakshineswar regularly and acquired great spiritual treasures from Sri Ramakrishna. He was irresistibly attracted to Sri Ramakrishna, who became the polestar of his life. He strongly believed his Master alone would satiate his spiritual hunger. Naturally Sashi preferred serving his Guru to preparing for his B.A. Degree examinations. Ultimately he gave up his studies and became full time attendant of the Master.

He was the embodiment of service and was fully convinced that service to his Guru was the highest form of religion. His purity and renunciation, his spiritual unfoldment and unselfish service and sincerity overwhelmed his Master and soon the Master started bestowing his love and affection on his disciple. Through

his subtle spiritual influence, the Master made a deep impression in his disciple's heart.

The stories of Swami Ramakrishnananda's love for his Master are now legends in the Ramakrishna Order. Sister Devamata, the American disciple wrote about Swami Ramakrishnananda's concept of religion; "If Ramakrishnananda was a conservative in his mode of worship, he was essentially a liberal in his religious conviction. Tolerance, universality of outlook and freedom from prejudices formed the key stones of his thought structure. "Never find fault with any form of religion. The kernel of every religion is God; to whatever religion one belongs, one worships the same God." These were the principles he believed in and propagated.

When Sri Ramakrishna became very sick and bed-ridden, Sashi preferred serving his Master by staying at his bedside. He practiced no spiritual disciplines, travelled to no holy places. Forgetting his personal comforts or rest, he was always ready to serve his Master. He said that his life's purpose was to alleviate his Master's sufferings. He was even prepared to give his own life if he thought that would cure his Master. Every one marvelled at his indefatigable energy, his endurance and his boundless love for his Master.

As per doctor's advice, the ailing Sri Ramakrishna was shifted to Cossipore gardens, a relatively quieter place. It was winter when the Master arrived in the Cossipore garden house. Sashi too moved to Cossipore to be by his Master's side to serve him. Once in the middle of a cold night Ramakrishnananda left the Master's room to clean

the commode. He wore only a thin cloth. On his return he saw that Ramakrishna, who was very sick, had crawled across the room and was reaching up for a shawl that was hanging on cloth store. At this painful sight Sashi thought to himself; "Alas in my hurry, I forgot to cover him sufficiently. So perhaps he is trying to get a shawl as it is cold", "What are you doing Sir?" Sashi asked him in a scolding tone. "The air is very chilly and you should not be up. Why did you not ask me for the shawl?" Filled with love and concern, the Master held out his shawl and said in a feeble voice "I felt cold as you went out almost bare bodied, so I picked up this shawl for you". Sashi was overwhelmed. By pouring his fountain of love on the disciples the Master captivated them forever.

Sri Ramakrishna breathed his last after a few months of struggle in August 1886. Sashi however, could not believe that his Master was no more.

When Swami Vivekananda and other disciples of the Master established the first Ramakrishna Math in a rented house in Baranagore, the relics of Sri. Ramakrishna and his picture were placed at the altar. The articles that Master had used were also preserved in the monastery. Ramakrishnananda kept the memory of the Master ablaze in the monastery by his wholehearted dedication and devotion for 11 full years. His scrupulous precision and regularity of service made everyone feel the living presence of the Master in the monastery.

On his return from the West in 1897, Swami Vivekananda wanted to give shape to his ideas of rejuvenation of India. The plans were two fold.

According to him, any process of development must have its basis on spirituality. The second was to create social awareness among the people.

For this he conceived of two organizations, one for Religious purposes and another for Social work. He did so with deep insight and understanding. The two have complementary roles in the body politic. Religious organizations with no social role, in course of time, deteriorate into a set of dogmas alienated from life. Social work with no guiding light or principles based on spirituality is apt to end in personality clashes and conflict of interests. That is why Swami Vivekananda prescribed the aim for the monks of the Order "Atmano Mokshartham Jagathitayacha" "for one's own salvation and for the benefit of mankind".

And to start with, he started two organizations, the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission. these organizations were to be located in two centers, Calcutta and Madras. While Calcutta was under his direct supervision, he chose Swami Ramakrishnananda for Madras.

Swami Ramakrishnananda arrived in Madras on 17th March 1897 and was accommodated in Ice House, the same premises where Swami Vivekananda stayed earlier. To start an organization from scratch in Madras was no easy task, although there were many who sympathized with the cause. There were for instance Dr.Nanjunda Rao and Alasingha Perumal who were devoted to Swami Vivekananda but still their support was not sufficient to give him the financial backing he needed to start a monastery.

Swami Ramakrishnananda was highly devoted to his Master, whose picture represented to him His person. When for some days he had to go without food, he was not sorry for himself but that he could not offer anything to Thakur.

His activities were confined to conduct worship at the shrine he established in the same premises and giving lectures on religious themes in various centers in the city.

In those difficult years, sincerity, patience and devotion to the cause were his only source of strength to overcome his problems and maintain his mission in life. There were days when after travelling a long distance he found there was no one to attend his class. On such occasions he would sit quietly in meditation during the scheduled time and return.

However in course of time he became popular and was called upon to deliver lectures in several centers like Trivandrum, Mysore, and Pune etc. He was learned and his lectures were homely. They bore the stamp of sincerity and devotion. Once the public got a taste of his discourses, the dignitaries in the respective places including Ministers, Chief Executives of the Govt and famous people thought it a privilege to attend and preside over his meetings. In Pune, the great patriot Bal Gangadhar Tilak presided over his meeting. Still these activities did not translate into sufficient funds to start a monastery.

Ice House is located on the Marina a few blocks from the Government offices housing Public Works

Department. Sri Ramaswamy Iyengar, was a clerk in one of the wings of the PWD. Ramu, as he was affectionately called by the Swamiji, used to visit the Swamiji every evening on his way back home from his office.

This chance encounter between the two great men produced the most admirable results for the Ramakrishna Movement in the city and later in the entire Madras Presidency.

The success of the students' Home in eliciting spontaneous response from the Government, the leaders and the general public was due to the confidence generated by the association of Swami Brahmananda and Swami Ramakrishnananda. So too the appeal for construction of the Math could elicit good response from the donors, who perceived it as a center doing great service.

Sashi Maharaj guided the affairs of the Home in matters of principle and practice. Ramaswamy Iyengar accompanied Swamiji in all the latter's fund raising trips.

Ramu Says: Sashi Maharaj wanted nothing as he was a prince among sanyasins. At the same time he was a prince amongst beggars too. For he was ever ready to take the begging bowl and go to the streets for the sake of others and for a good cause. He used to collect rice and money for feeding the poor on Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda Jayanthi Days.

During the years 1905 and 1906 Swami Ramakrishnananda continued in the Ice House Triplicane and he was attending to all the work in

Math by himself, cooking food, conducting the worship, meeting visitors and holding classes in several parts of the city. With all this, he undertook to go to the Students' Home almost every week to give religious instruction to the boys. After the Math moved in November 1907 to the new building in Mylapore on the Brodies Road, (now renamed Ramakrishna Math Road) the boys went to the Math every Wednesday. The Swamiji used to tell them stories from the Bhagavatha and talk to them on divine incarnations, on the lives of saints and sages and such other topics and always ended by earnestly exhorting them to put the teachings into practice.

One of the points on which he laid emphasis as an essential part of practical religion, was the understanding of the dignity of labour. He was a living example of that ideal. To him nothing was small, no work was mean. Whenever a novice came for spiritual instruction and wanted to stay in Math, he would test his fitness by asking him to sweep the floor or do something seemingly insignificant. He would say, "one who can sweep the floor well can also meditate well". Herein lies the great value of his teaching and his ideal of work, which the Home management had been making efforts all along to realize in the actual life of the Home.

Many of the guiding principles followed by the inmates of the Home were in fact, laid down by Sashi Maharaj.

He was extremely kind to Ramu and advised him, "Devote yourself wholeheartedly to the cause you have undertaken and success will be yours, by Guru Maharaj's

grace. As you have to deal with different types of men in various walks of life and seek their monetary help for the organization, you have to be sweet always". As the years passed by, Ramu realized the force of Swamiji's message, more fully reflected by Swamiji's own practice.

In Sister Devamata's words in the mornings of Jayanthi Days, "Swamiji used to be in the midst of large gathering of devotees of all sects and all classes of society. In his ardour of devotion he would rise up and dance wildly absorbed in God like a young boy, clapping his hands and singing hymns in praise of the Lord. He would continue like this for hours together, oblivious of the fatigue until sweat poured in torrents from his massive frame. There was divine radiance in his face and a rosy nimbus of glory about his person.

But when all is said there was still something in him, which no words can adequately describe. If that is also grasped by the mind, the incident mentioned above will help the reader to have a dim glimpse of his magnetic personality who had been from the beginning the soul of our Home.

Years of toil and privation had their toll on even the robust constitution of Sashi Maharaj. In 1911 Many of his friends advised him to return to Calcutta. But only after he received the message from the President to return to Calcutta for treatment, he did so. But he never recovered. A measure of the deep love the Swamiji had for Ramu can be guessed by the following words of Sashi Maharaj when Ramu went to see him during his last days. After speaking to Ramu for a while and after enquiry about

the Home, Sashi Maharaj said "Ramu, however painful it may be it is time for you to depart. For as long as you are with me I shall be tied down to this earth. Now I should prepare for the journey beyond".

Swami Ramakrishnananda entered into Final Samadi on 21st August 1911.

When the news of the death of Ramakrishnanandaji in 1911 reached Holy Mother, with tearful eyes she remarked "Shasi is gone. My back is broken". Swami Brahmananda remarked, "The guardian angel of the South had passed away. The southern side is covered with darkness." Swami Shivananda another direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna and the Second President of the Order says, 'Shasi Maharaj' was the true personification of love and purity. Such purity, both of mind and body, I have yet to see. His love and devotion for Sri Ramakrishna, the ideal and goal of his life, knew no bounds. His love and affection for his brother disciples Swami Vivekananda and Swami Brahmananda, whom he used to take as part and parcel of Sri Ramakrishna, bordered on worship. He came in this world for Sri Ramakrishna and served Him with his whole heart and soul and returned to Him. Swami Vivekananda appropriately named him Swami Ramakrishnananda, knowing Sashi's devotion to his master. His life was a glowing example of dasya bhakthi (devotion with attitude of a servant) and his devotion was so perfect.

b) Sri C. Ramaswamy Iyengar

Simple and austere in habits and extremely dedicated to any principled cause he took upon himself, Ramaswami Iyengar represented the spirit of a resurgent, self-reliant and caring India that was arising at the turn of the twentieth century. From humble beginnings, he rose to great



heights, not in wealth or position of authority, but in the esteem of the people of Madras as well as in the Ramakrishna Mission, by the strength of his character and by dint of service he rendered to the society. Silent and self-effacing as he was, there are few details available about his life.

Ramaswamy Iyengar was, born in 1874 in Colathur village in Chengalpat Dist. His father's name was Rajagopalachariar, his mother's Perundevi Thayar. They had other children but Ramu, as he was affectionately called, was very dear to them, because of some exceptional qualities he showed early in life.

When he was ten years old, he was brought to Madras by one of his uncles so that he could pursue his education. In 1891 he was a pupil of Native High School, Mylapore along with (Sir) C.P.Ramaswamy Iyer. After his matriculation he joined the Presidency College. Two of his cousins VC. Seshachariar and Sir V. C. Desikachariar took interest in his upbringing. As one of them married a cousin of his, he could move closely with them and imbibe several great qualities from these eminent men.

Sir V.C. Desikachariar was later the Treasurer of the Indian National Congress. Ramu learnt from him the principles of administering public funds and the importance of maintaining accounts scrupulously.

Endowed with a strong body and robust health in his youthful days, Ramu took keen interest in sports and College Union activities. Helping others came spontaneously to him. While he saw one of his friends, K.V. Varadachari, being washed away while bathing in the sea, he jumped in, unmindful of his own personal safety and was bringing him back to the shore when a second wave pulled the hapless body away leaving the rescuer and others alike dazed and distressed.

One day he happened to listen to a discourse by Angarika Dharmapala, who spoke about the inequities of Hinduism, particularly the ill-treatment meted out to the Panchamas (Harijans), by the caste Hindus. Moved by this, Ramu even while he was still a student, started a school with the cooperation of his friend Shri K.S. Ramaswami Sastri for the Panchamas in the East Mada Street, Mylapore. At one time the strength of the class was forty. While it was working, the school attracted enough attention from Social Reformers. C. Vijayaraghavachariar of Salem, who was the President of Indian National Congress, and Shri Biligiri Iyengar, a prominent social worker visited the school and encouraged him. He gave those students food and clothing. He taught them (as also their parents) the importance of personal hygiene, and inculcated in them the habit of daily bath. The school was run for seven years but eventually had to be closed down due to several unfavourable factors.

Like all young men of those days Ramaswami Iyengar was powerfully drawn by the speeches of Swami Vivekananda when the latter came to Madras in 1893 and again in 1897 after his return from America. The clarion call of Swamiji to the youth to dedicate themselves for social work struck a sympathetic chord in Ramu's heart. So when Swami Ramakrishnanandaji came to Madras, with a specific direction from the Swamiji to start Math and Mission work here. Ramu was naturally attracted to him and became his constant companion and disciple.

When Ramu was 25, he took up employment as a clerk in the office of the consulting engineer of the Railways (MSM-Madras and Southern Maratha), which was later transferred to the Imperial Government and called the office of the Chief Inspector of Railways. By dint of his efforts he later became Manager in the Office. Swami Ramakrishnanandaji was staying in a building nearby, the same building called "Ice House" where Swami Vivekananda once stayed. This gave Ramu the opportunity to visit the Swamiji daily after his office hours. The Swamiji used to read Gita for him on such occasions. He attended Swamiji's classes on Sundays and also accompanied him for collecting rice and money for the poor. He was also in the fore-front for collections for the R.K. Math in Mylapore.

The story of the origin and growth of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home is best narrated in his own words. But what is of great interest to the readers, but not given in his writing, is the abundant love he had for all the boys he took under his care. He saw to it that none of the inmates would like to leave the Home even

on festival days and that they were all cared for properly. It was a cardinal principle that no violence would take place within the premises. Corporal punishment was out of question.

On a night of lunar eclipse, when according to the orthodox customs the boys were not to take the night meal, he stayed with them till midnight and after the eclipse was over, got some light meal prepared and ensured that all had food before retiring to bed.

That in those days when people were going without food, he should conceive of erecting a magnificent building, calling it a palace for the poor should testify to the magnanimity of his heart and the breadth of his vision.

By relentless efforts and unflagging enthusiasm, he nurtured it. It is no exaggeration to say that he gave his blood and sweat to the Home. After the founding of the Home, he did not bother to visit his family and he made the "Home" his constant abode. Fortunately for him, his cousin, Sri C. Ramanujachariar, took care of his family and also lent a helping hand to Ramu in running the Home.

He was never tired of begging for the Home and in fact made it an art. His singular devotion to the cause he had taken up, the spirit of love and service, the accounting of the funds collected, and his capacity to pay attention to minute details had won the hearts of all.

Whenever there was a need for social welfare, or when a generous impulse welled up in the hearts of the

caring public of Madras, the first name that came up for its implementation was of Ramaswami Iyengar. So it was that when a Students' welfare fund was created to pay for the college and examination fees of poor and deserving students, he was made the Secretary of the fund, as long as it lasted.

His dedication to his master Swami Ramakrishnanandaji was total. The Swamiji was his mentor, friend, philosopher and guide. There was no issue of importance on which he did not seek the advice of the Swamiji and abide by. Swamiji filled him with noble thoughts and continued giving him instructions even while Ramu was away on duty at Ootacamund.

When Sashi Maharaj became seriously ill, he had to be shifted to Calcutta for treatment. During the touching farewell, the master blessed Ramu and told him about the vision he had years back in which Guru Maharaj appeared before him and took him to a handsome boy by hand and told Ramakrishnanandaji that he had brought the boy to help him. The Swamiji told Ramu that he was that boy.

When Swamiji's condition deteriorated, Ramu rushed to Calcutta and the Swamiji's parting advice to him was to continue to be sweet to others and also to remember the Math. As instructed by the Master, apart from looking after the Home, he organised famine and relief works as Secretary of the Madras Branch of Ramakrishna Mission.

By the time, Ramu was fifty he had completed the task of consolidation and establishing high standards for

the running of the Home. What remained to be done was to train young men to carry on the work. For his service to the public he was given the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal and was decorated with the title Rao Sahib by the then Government, though as a true Karma Yogin he was never after any awards.

Years of toil and his deep involvement in the problem of others affected his health. He compressed into a few years what would have taken several decades for others. In 1926 he was stricken with paralysis, which rendered him immobile, an ever active man who knew no rest, he was confined to one place. It was ironical that Providence should give him such a cruel punishment when he spent all his life for the good of others. He bore the pains calmly though, towards the end, his naturally sweet disposition occasionally turned sour and he was quick to lose his patience. He spent his last days in the Home, where he had spent the best part of his life. He refused to be taken to his house by his family. The end came on 17-6-1932. A great Karmayogin, a colossus who did mighty things braving all vicissitudes, left his mortal abode leaving behind a mighty edifice and a tradition that was an inspiring example for several social welfare institutions that were to follow. In the passing away of Sri Ramasamy Iyengar there was an exit from the mortal scene of an unobtrusive and selfless worker who was the first secretary of the Home and who by his peerless devotion and unceasing labour had evolved a unique type of educational endeavour which combined the practicality of the West and the piety of the East. More than the Institution, he left behind a high level of

principles and norms for others to follow in his footsteps in the field of social works.

A grateful public, among whom were the famous and discerning elite of Madras, erected a statue for him in front of the Home, so that posterity can remember that such a man existed once in this part of the country.



A moving scene - Srimat Sachitananda Pandara Sannidhi of Dharma puram Adinam hands over a sum of Rs. 2000/- to Ramaswamy Iyengar from his death bed to fulfill a promise

c) C. Ramanujachariar

Dynamic, talented, resourceful and versatile, Ramanujachariar (Ramanuju for his close friends) was a many-faceted personality, who dedicated all his energies to the service of the Home with single minded devotion. Born in 1875 in Colattur, Chengalput Dist he had his early education in P.S. High School and then in Presidency College, Madras for his B.A. degree. He joined the Madras Secretariat as a clerk but rose, by dint of his ability and strength of character to the position of Under Secretary in the Dept. of Law and Education. Although he accompanied his cousin, Sri Ramaswamy Iyengar, in many of the earlier pioneering efforts Ramanuju took over from where Ramu left.



Sri Ramanujachariar retired just in time from Government Service to become a whole time worker for the Students' Home. By living in the Home premises he was able to intimately move with the inmates which helped to shape their conduct and character. He used to take moral and religious instruction classes also for the senior students.

On 10th July 1932, after the demise of Sri C. Ramaswami Ayyangar, Srmat Swami Shivanandaji Maharaj, the then President of the Ramakrishna Mission and a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna wrote to Sri C. Ramanujachariar, as follows :-

"My dear Ramanuju, I received your letter duly. I was most glad to receive the newspaper cuttings about the opening of the Mambalam School. It was the last work of Ramu. You know our feelings about him. It is impossible to write about him without tears in our eyes. You loved Sri Guru Maharaj, when He appeared before you through Sashi Maharaj, grandeurless, a simple poor, unlettered Brahmin. You accepted Him then, being true Bhakta, who accompany Him always for His work on the earth. He has guided you so far for your good. Do you think He shall forsake now? Never. You are bound with Him with everlasting ties. Your body, soul and mind, everything are His. His strength is your strength. So have faith and love on Him. He made you conspicuous here; He will make you more conspicuous hereafter. Ramu and Ramanuju have become correlative terms. Who else will step into his shoes except you? Ramu gave his all to serve Him. You will also succeed in doing the same. My blessings and best wishes to you, May His light shine within you always. Affectionately ever Yours, Shivananda".

In a way the two complemented each other. Ramanuju brought to bear on his self-imposed duties, his undoubted organisational and administrative abilities born out of decades of experience in handling men, matters and situations.

Though he had an imperious appearance and a stentorian voice, he was equally soft inside. When a boy was in distress, Ramanuju would quietly take the necessary remedial steps. Instances were not wanting when boys, with their problems, suddenly discovered that some solution had been worked out silently by this

great man. His faith in Guru Maharaj was absolute deep and total surrender.

His capacity for leadership as well as friendship enabled him to get together a devoted group of about thirty persons from his colleagues in the Secretariat to work for an idea and an ideal. The idea was devotion to art, specially Drama and the ideal was to serve the community. He was able to draw out their hidden talents and build up an amateur dramatic troupe, called the Madras Secretariat Party, which carried on with a steady aim for over twenty years.

The idea that in the worst days of economic hardship and high unemployment he could visualise setting up an amateur dramatic society and thereby collect funds for charitable causes was unprecedented and phenomenal. The party visited every important city from Colombo to Sriakulam and from Calicut to Rangoon (in Burma "Myanmar") to give benefit performances in aid of noble causes. In the editing or writing of plays and in the methods of stage presentation, Sri Ramanujachariar strove to rouse the nobler emotions and to inspire the highest virtue, as will be seen from his choice of themes like Nandanar, Harischandra, Rama, the ideal son, Kabir Das, Mira Bai, Leela Sukar, Karna-Arjuna etc. He himself was one of the most versatile and impressive actors of his time. Though the party made contributions to various charities, to the War fund, to the relief of distress caused by fire, flood and earthquake, the main beneficiary was the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home. The contribution of the Secretariat Party became the bedrock for the financial stability of the institution.

The Home had only a few boys to start with. But he was never satisfied with a static strength. Increasing the in-take of orphan and indigent students, each year he created extra demands for money, for which amateur dramatic troupe in the name of the Madras Secretariat Party came in handy. In this troupe he himself was the Producer, the Director, the Music Director and the principal actor. His undoubted organising abilities and historic talents made great heroes of ordinary people.

After his retirement his influence on the Secretariat Party was naturally not the same as before and in 1945 a new drama party was formed, called the Ramakrishna Kripa Amateurs, membership Being thrown open to all those interested and inclined to help the cause. His interest in conducting dramatic performances through kripa Amateurs was mainly to raise funds for the Home. The new party added about Rs.3.2 lakhs to the Permanent Endowment of Rs.4 lakhs for the Home already created by the Secretariat party, Kalki Krishnamurthy permitted 'Kripa Amateurs' to stage his popular novel 'Sivakamyin Sabatham' for collecting funds for the Home. This drama by kripa Amateurs was selected as the best Tamil drama in the All India contest organised by Government of India amongst amateur troupes. The same drama was staged in Delhi also at the invitation of Government of India.

When C. Ramanujachariar retired from service he was invited by Rani Sethu Parvathy Bai in 1932 to join her Government in Trivandrum as an advisor. Ramanujachariar politely refused the offer saying that he was waiting for the day to fully immerse himself in

the service of our Home with which he was associated right since inception.

Once during the war-time rationing days, the store-keeper informed him that there was no food in the Home for the boys. He prayed to Guru Maharaj and said that as He did not want the children to starve, He should come to their rescue. So saying, he approached the Civil Supplies Commissioner Sri P.V. Subba Rao late in the evening, who made special arrangements by opening the godowns, out of office hours, and perhaps out of the bounds of strict rules, to issue semolina with which the crisis was tided over.

There was no chance development around, which he did not use to further the interests of the Institution.

During the war the Government of India was desperately searching for means to train war technicians. Ramanujachariar promptly offered to train them. For this he acquired land from the Government in T. Nagar, put up a big center in record time and started training technicians with the staff of Technical Institute.

When the war was over he moved the Government authorities and secured the land to the Home free of charge.

He also devised an ingenious method of acquiring property for the Home. Whenever he met a family who had no issues, he requested them to assign the property to the Home. A large number of such property came in handy to dispose of and augment the resources of the Home when it was in need of funds.

During war-time there was severe shortage of food items like rice, cereals, firewood, cloth, petrol and kerosene. The US organisation "Meals for million foundation" wanted to distribute free instant preparations like uppuma mix, kesari mix, food products out of oil cake and other nutritious mix to the needy in India. Ramanujachariar undertook the task of clearing the eatables from the port, stocking & distribution to various places in the country. The lady president of the Foundation, when she visited the Home to see the arrangements personally, was very appreciative of the service rendered.

Once the Chairman of the City Improvement Trust, Madras gave notice for extending the Sullivans Garden Road (now P.S. Sivasami Salai) right through the Home to join in the Mowbrays Road (T.T.K. Salai) possibly resulting in demolishing the southern half of our main building after acquisition. Sleepless nights followed till Ramanujachariar was able to get the above proposal cancelled using his personal influence with the Government.

He was deeply devoted to the purity of Carnatic Music, and was responsible for the conceptualisation as well as inauguration of the College of Music in the Annamalai University, then started by Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar. He, as undersecretary helped in the establishment of Annamalai University at Chidambaram.

His twin ideals of Bhakti and Music drew him to the songs of Saint Thyagaraja. For the first time, he compiled the Saint's songs and got them printed in the Devanagari

script with his own translations in English, so that the songs, could have a wide appeal. Dr.S. Radhakrishnan, who was later the President of India, described him in the Foreword to the book as a "Bhagavatha in every sense of the term". It was called the "Spiritual Heritage of Thiagaraja" and published by the Ramakrishna Math.

His knowledge in Carnatic music was deep. He knew how to sing several rare kritis of Thyagaraja well. This, as well as his amiable qualities, drew many musicians of repute to him. Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar and Musiri Subramania Iyer used to spend hours with him discussing music. Ramanujachariar turned his friendship with Musiri to good account, when he took Musiri with him for a fund raising tour.

In this connection we reproduce the Report that appeared in THE HINDU dated March 29,1935 under the heading MUSIRI IN MALAYA"

MUSIRI IN MALAYA

Madras, March28,1935-Vidwan Musiri Subramania Ayer and other artistes returned this morning from the Malaya states where they gave performances in aid of the Ramakrishna Mission students' Home, accompanied by Rao Bahadur C. Ramanujachariar.

They were given a rousing reception on their arrival at the Harbour.

Behind that brief write-up was an interesting tale. The Home was begun by C. Ramaswami Iyengar (Ramu), a clerk in the Public works and Labour, secretariat of Madras in 1905, when he came across a group of poor

students from Andhra Pradesh who had come to the big city hoping to find some sponsor for furthering their education.

Ramu obtained the blessings of swami Ramakrishnananda of the Ramakrishna Mutt and on February 17, the Home formally came into existence at Keshavaperumal south Mada street, Mylapore. Thanks to the efforts of Ramu and other munificent patrons, the Home grew from strength to strength, and by 1917, acquired its own property on Sullivans Garden Road, where it moved in 1921. Ramu was joined in the work of supporting the Home by C. Ramanujachariar, a cousin who, having joined as a clerk at the Madras secretariat rose to the post of Under Secretary.

In 1926, Ramu was afflicted with paralysis and it was Ramanujachariar who took on most of the work. Ramu died in 1932 and his cousin became the champion of the Home after that. Those were the years when Musiri Subramania iyer was at the peak of his performing career. A fellow Mylaporean, he knew Ramanujachariar quite well and before long he had allowed himself to be persuaded to undertake a fund- raising tour of the Federated Malay states or Malaya as the place was then called.

COURAGEOUS DECISION

It was a fairly courageous decision on the part of Musiri, for, while travelling to Rangoon (via Calcutta) and to Colombo (across the waters) was acceptable, going to Malaya was still taboo among the orthodox

community which frowned on people crossing the black waters. Musiri convinced a team of accompanists which comprised Madras Balakrishna Iyer(violin) Thanjavur Vaidyanatha iyer (mridangam) and Palakad Sacchidanandam Iyer(morsing) and the party duly set off.

The details of their tour do not appear in the popular press of the day, but Musiri, on his return, penned an article for the Ananda vikatan Deepavali Malar of 1936 on the subject, laced with his characteristic humour. From that piece we get to know all.

The party arrived in Colombo and gave a performance and the next day embarked on the French ship Aramis for Singapore.

Travelling by ship was the main reason for which some of Musiri's close relatives dissociated from him on his return, their claim being that he could not have performed his daily rituals in the vessel.

Musiri candidly observed in his article that unlike on land there were no distraction on board a ship and that was possibly the best place to perform one's rituals and contemplate on God. And, he added, when the ocean was turbulent and the ship was tossed from side to side, one's thoughts automatically turned to God and therefore it was the most divine spot on earth! Food was a problem on board the ship for the four vegetarians, but they had their own cook. Subramaniam, who went down to the ship's kitchen and prepared their mid-day meal much to the amusement of the ship's crew.

A friendly stewardess who knew only French brought them bread, fruits and milk each evening and as Musiri wrote, it was a sight to see the team communicating with her through signs. One evening on the journey, the passengers on board the ship persuaded Musiri and party to give a performance in the ship's auditorium.

The audience comprising several nationalities clapped and cheered probably out of courtesy, wrote Musiri, but the morsing stole the show and sent them into ecstasy. The cruise included a day's outing on Nicobar Islands.

Arriving in Singapore, Musiri and his friends went for sight-seeing and wandered into the naval base where they were refused permission. But an officer from Madras on discovering that this was Musiri, obtained the necessary permit.

The concert at Singapore's Town Hall was a big success as were the performances in Ipoh, Penang, Kuala

Lumpur and other cities of Malaya. The tour was happy one, both for the team and the cause it espoused."

(COURTESY...THE HINDU)

It is needless to add that Ramanujachariar was able to raise considerable funds through these music concerts for the benefit of the Home.

Saturday evenings were for Bhajan. After a few months of this routine, Ramanujachariar published a compilation of the Bhajan songs in Devanagari and

Tamil scripts titled 'Bhajanavali' the example of which was followed by some later publishers of Bhajan music.

He was uncanny in perception and vision. When Mr.V.L. Ethiraj the famous and prosperous lawyer of those days sought his advice for spending a large amount for a philanthropic cause, he threw his weight in favour of starting a college exclusively for women and used his position in the Govt. to facilitate its launch. To-day the Ethiraj College for Women is very popular for its high standards and useful service. In the development of the R.K.Mission Technical School and securing for it the recognition for conducting the automobile engineering course, his vision paid rich dividends by way of several generations of the Home students securing important positions in the transport and engineering sectors.

It was in 1936, during the birth centenary celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa that one could see the vast organising ability, the extensive high level contacts and the high standards of cultural attainments that Ramanujachariar possessed and could pool them together to bring about a magnificent performance. It could well be said that an event like that never took place either earlier or later in the history of Madras. For one full week, the celebrations gripped the entire city. All the great names of the time were involved. Their speeches were memorable both for the eloquence and for the loftiness of the themes and are worthy of being preserved for posterity. The list of the organising committee members reads like the 'who is who' directory of eminent personalities of those days. The top Nadaswara Vidwans of the time led the

procession which covered, over the week, all the main thoroughfares in all parts of the city. Great Musicians of the day and the exponents of Harikatha Kalakshepam entertained the audience. All these were labours of love, and no money was spent by the organising committee on them. Sweets were distributed to all the school children, the sweets themselves having been contributed free by the confectioners. The poor were fed in large numbers.

He was deeply involved in all social service activities, His deep involvement with leper settlement at Tirumani near Chengalput was a case in point. He used to put up a dramatic performance for them once in a year. On such occasions he would hug a leper to demonstrate his identity with them.

Ramanujachariar had his likes and favourites, though he never allowed his personal feelings to come in the way of his total dedication to the Home. When a loyal worker, an old student of the Home, who was working in the Technical Institute got an attractive job offer from the government, he went out of the way to block it lest the Institution's working should suffer.

While in service, the Government conferred on him the title 'Rao Bahadur' in appreciation of his services to the Government and public. He was also the recipient of Kaiser-I-Hind medal.

Though he carried on this work with a missionary zeal, Sri Ramanujachariar did not allow it to detract him in the least from his official duties while he was in service. This is borne out by the testimony of no less a person than the Minister for Education, Sir A. P. Patro

under whom he served. Unveiling Sri Ramanujachariar's portrait on the occasion of his Diamond Jubilee, Sir A.P. Patro observed: "During the period we worked together, he earned my respect and regard for his broad-mindedness, patriotism and loyalty in the discharge of his very responsible duties, no detail of any proposal would escape his industrious and vigilant mind. He is a man of few words, but of action. Work with him is life. Following the message of the Master, he has ever striven honestly and sincerely to serve mankind and carry on humanitarian activities, expecting no reward or recognition",

He completed a manual for the Students' Home, detailing the institution's history, assets, ideals, activities, and traditions, along with a summary of its rules and guiding principles for the information and guidance of future workers. In its preface, he observed, "Tradition is to an institution what character is to an individual." Earlier in 1938 the Sarada Vidyalaya which had been started by Sister R.S. Subbalakshmi was handed over to the Ramakrishna Mission. In its development at Tyagarayanagar into a network of Schools and Hostels for girls, Sri Ramanujachariar played a prominent part along with Dr. S. Ramakrishnan, the Correspondent.

In the development of the Boys' Schools at Tyagarayanagar also, Sri Ramanujachariar's part was equally important, though Maharishi Vasudevachariar was the person in immediate charge at the beginning. He initiated Sri S. Krishna Iyer, his close associate in the Secretariat, to assist him in the Mission work and made him look after the Boys' Schools in T' Nagar and

Sri S. Krishna Ayer became the Secretary of the Students' Home after him.

In the beginning of 1946, the Vivekananda College was started by some of the prominent public men of Madras and its management was handed over to the Ramakrishna Mission. Sri M. Subbaraya Iyer, a leading Advocate became its first Secretary and Sri C. Ramanujachariar its Treasurer. Sri Ramanujachariar was a veteran in the art of begging for good causes and Sri Subbaraya Iyer by following his example and with his help and guidance was able to raise in a short time Rs.5 lakhs for buildings and equipment and Rs.5 lakhs for endowment.

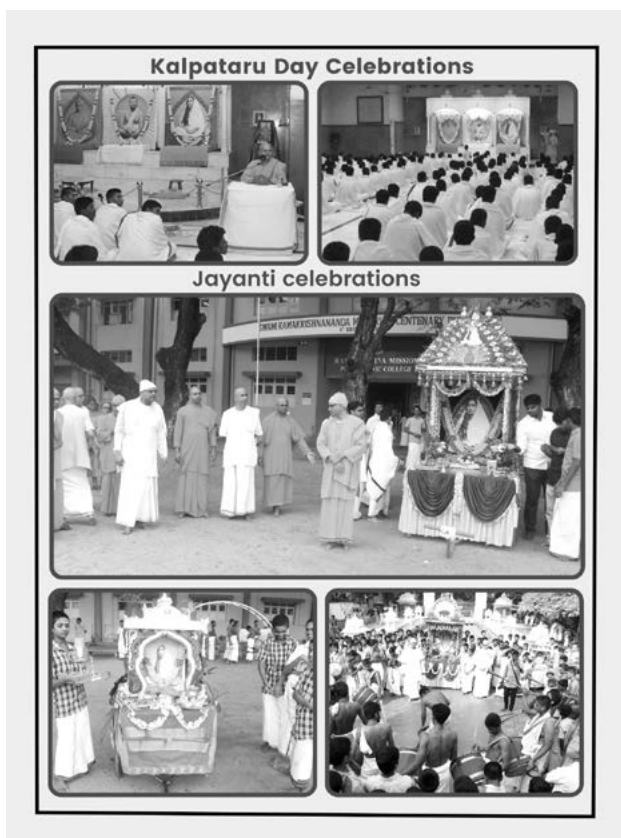
The hearty collaboration of both placed the College on a sound financial basis.

When he was seriously ill his sons wanted to take him to their house. But Ramanujachariar told them "Swami Brahmananda had told me to leave my mortal coils in the precincts of the Home. So I would breathe my last in the Home only".

After leading a full life according to his motto that every minute should be spent for the Home and for the Society at large, Ramanujachariar had a rare vision of Sri Guru Maharaj beckoning him one early morning in his dream. He was bed-ridden then but insisted on being taken to the shrine of Guru Maharaj in the Ramakrishna Mutt to pray. A few days later, he entered his eternal abode on 4th November 1956 at the age of 81.

In the words of Mr. Subbaraya Iyer, his life-time friend and companion, " The world has lost a Karmayogin in him, who by his own way of life over half a century, set an example of keeping oneself young by restless work and prayer. Meditation and worship were seen in every act of his life. He led the life of an ideal Trustee of God."

It is customary to say in the condolence messages that the departed personality left a void that could not be filled. In his case he created several voids which could not be filled and posterity cherishes his memory gratefully.



A glance at the scope of the Birth Centenary celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna brings out vividly the organizing capability of Sri Ramanujachariar and the esteem in which he was held by the elite of Madras. It can safely be said that there was no one of repute in South India, who was not involved in the celebrations in one form or another.

In the programme of celebrations the following famous musicians and artistes took part.

T.M.Krishnaswamy Iyer - Bhajan
Sri Rangam Satagopachariar - Harikatha
Gayanapatu Kirtanapatu Srimati Saraswathi Bai Hari Katha
Tiruppambaram T.N.Swaminatha Pillai - Nadaswaram
Musiri Subramania Iyer
Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer
Palladam Sanjiva Rao (Flute)
B.S.Raja Iyengar
Chittoor Subramania Pillai

Mridangam

Palghat Mani Iyer - Vidwan Venu Naicker-Nagarkoil Ganesa Iyer
Palani Subramania Pillai Venu Naicker
Gatam-Umayalpuram Viswanatha Iyer - Tanjore Vittal Rao, Dolak
Violin Papa Venkatarama Iyer

Speakers

Lord Erskine GCIE Governor of Madras
Justice Sri M.Venkatasubba Rao - M.R.Jayakar M.A.Barat Law Prof.
A.M.Wadia, Mysore University
Sri K.V.Reddi Nayudu Garu KCIE
Dewan Bahadur Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer
C.Rajagopalachariar -Rao Bahadur Dr.A.Lakshmanaswami
Mudaliar
V.V.Srinivasa Iyengar
T.P.Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai
Dewan Bahadur K.S.Ramaswami Sastriar
P.S.Sivaswami Iyer
S.Sachidanandam Pillai
T.R. Venkatrama Sastriar IE
Mylai Ratnasabhpathi Mudaliar

d) Sri. S. Vasudevachariar

The great ideal of any true worker for a noble cause is for the worker to be hidden behind, giving all the prominence for the work to speak for itself. Shri S. Vasudevachariar was the very embodiment of this ideal. Right from the inception of the Home in 1905 till his very end in July 1949, at the age of 79, he gave of his very best to the several institutions in Madras under the Ramakrishna Mission.



He worked in close cooperation with Ramaswamy Iyengar in starting the Home and was the Founder Member of the Managing Committee, warden in its early years and Treasurer for more than 40 years (1905-46).

Professor of Physics and later Vice Principal of Wesley College, his standing and reputation evoked respect and admiration of all his colleagues and pupils. In the days when English educated young men considered themselves superior and looked down upon the ancient traditional customs and pundits, Vasudevachariar set great store by our ancient principles and by his example influenced a large member of younger generation. His saintly personality, spotless character and his reputation as social worker contributed a great deal to the development of the Ramakrishna Mission Institutions in the city. The Swamijis held him in high esteem and he was addressed as 'Maharishi'.

He was, in addition to being the Treasurer of the Home, Correspondent and Treasurer of the boys' Schools in Theagarayanagar and Vice President of Sarada Vidyalaya. Earlier he had served the Home in several capacities as Accountant, Teacher, Moral & Religious Instructor etc.

He belonged to the group of prime movers who served the cause of education. He was the first secretary of the Madras Teachers guild and the South India Teachers Union. Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, with whom he worked closely, called him a True Karma Yogi.

He was an erudite scholar in Sanskrit and an able exponent of Visishtadvaita philosophy. He was the editor of 'Nrisimha Priya' a monthly journal run by the Ahobila Math for some years.

He attained the lotus feet of his Acharian Thiruvadi in 1949.

The Awakening

The longest night seems to be passing away, the sorest trouble seems to be coming to an end at last, the seeming corpse appears to be waking and a voice is coming to us, gentle, firm, and unmistakable in its utterances. Like the breeze of the Himalayas, it is bringing life into the almost dead bones and muscles, the lethargy is passing away and India is awakening from her deep long slumber. None can resist her any more; never is she going to sleep any more.

- Swami Vivekananda

Chapter 10

People who identified themselves with the Home

a) 'Anna' N. Subramanian (OB 1914-1918)

In 1914 when the young Subramanian entered the portals of the humble building in East Mada Street, Mylapore, which then went by the name of Ramakrishna Home, few would have realised that two parts of a single entity were coming together for a merger and fulfillment.



Right from the beginning, the young aspirant for a college education threw in his lot with the Home and looked after its affairs. So deeply involved was he, that he forgot his obligations to the curricular activities as well as to his large family of brothers and sisters. The Home in its turn drew a great deal from his personality and in a few years it became apparent that he represented in person the institution's ideals and moral values. The two became inseparable and this union has not ended even with his death on 15th August 1992, for he has left his indelible imprints on the minds and aspirations of several disciples and innumerable inmates of the Home of several generations.

'Anna' N. Subramanian was born on 18th September 1895 in Tiruchengode as the first son of a large family of six sons and three daughters. His father was an

elementary school teacher. Though he completed his matriculation meritoriously, receiving scholarship aid throughout, there was no means of his entering the college from his native place. Some one suggested that he should apply to the Ramakrishna Home at Madras. He used to claim that he was proving the Biblical saying "Blessed are the Poor" for, but for his poverty, he could not have come in contact with the Ramakrishna Mission and its order of monks, who exercised profound influence on him and put him on his spiritual path.

The 'Home' also brought him in close contact with two towering personalities, C.Ramaswamy Iyengar and S. Vasudevachariar. The latter was a Physics Professor and later Vice Principal in Wesley College, where Subramanian joined, as a demonstrator in Physics in 1919 after his graduation. Both these mentors, with their high principles and deep rooted love of the ancient Indian values, acted as powerful catalysts for his own natural propensities for religion and spirituality. He felt his own mission was firmly set in proper direction.

In 1921, the Home occupied the palatial main building which it occupies even today and soon thereafter the need for a Residential High School was felt, for which he was drafted as the first Assistant. Shri Vedanta Desikan was the Headmaster. In 1935 when Vedanta Desikan was transferred to the Ramakrishna Mission School in Thyagarayanagar, Anna became the Headmaster of the Residential School.

Anna evoked natural respect with his bright intelligent face, keen and kindly eyes as well as by his

spotlessly white khadi dress. He adopted Gandhian ideals in word and deed. To the student community he represented a role model, with his principled approach to every issue and his eloquent exposition of the noble ideals of Indian heritage. Naturally calm and collected, he did not fail to show anger when faced with despicable behaviour of some truculent boys. Yet he harboured neither hatred nor ill will to any one and was calm in disposition soon after boiling over momentarily in the face of such intransigence.

Anna was not only a philosopher, he was, forever, a man of action. Frequently in the neighbourhood, there would be fire in the cluster of huts. Exhorting the boys to follow, he would be the first to rush with a bucket of water. He was keen on heading excursions and pilgrimages where he turned out to be a walking University, educating the boys as much by his vast erudition as by his words of advice and by example.

No wonder the pupils spread over 50 years adored him. While in the Residential High School he published the Home Magazine regularly. After his retirement as a teacher and Headmaster, his contribution to the world of religious literature increased. Daily from his versatile pen poured forth expositions and translations of Gita, Upanishads, Bhagawatam and the Itihasas. The total number of books by him exceeds sixty. The Ramakrishna Mission's ideals gave him a poise above all the sectarian controversies and he saw the good features in every branch of philosophy and in every Acharya. This again went well both with the pupils and the public and he was soon deemed an Acharya. The Paramacharya of Kanchi

Kamakoti Peetam used to refer many aspiring Upasakas to him for initiation. Though he did not take Sanskrit in his school studies, he learnt the language by himself and was recognised as an authentic scholar when the Madras Sanskrit Academy honoured him for his contribution to religious literature.

Though a follower of Sankara and well versed in Advaita, he was an ardent Sri Vidya Upasaka. His poojas were inspiring experiences for him as well as for the many devotees who participated in them.

A chance posting in Uthiramerur, Chengalput Dt. during war time gave him an opportunity to devote his attention to the neglected rural community. He started a school for the poor and backward children in Malliankaranai and this has since blossomed into a High School. He also took keen interest in developing the estate.

The Ramakrishna Mission valued his services highly, as his whole life was dedicated to its cause. He renounced all the royalty of his numerous books in favour of the Math. And when he travelled abroad and people gave him presents for his personal use, he turned all the amount to the Ramakrishna Home saying that Guru Maharaj had taken care of him all those years and He would look after his welfare in future as well.

With his meagre income as a Teacher or Head Master he had no means of building enough resources for the marriage of his 3 daughters. But true to the Gita precept in which he believed fully.

"Ananyas chintayanthomam yejanahparyupasate |
Thesham nithyabhiyukthanam yoga kshemam
vahamyaham" ||

meaning "For those who are immersed in thought of Me constantly with no other thought in mind I look after all their needs" funds were raised by his numerous admirers, friends and students and marriages of his daughters were duly celebrated.

He was a great scholar and an able speaker. As a disciple of Mahapurusha Maharaj he clothed himself with humility and kindness with unalloyed devotion to the ideals of Guru Maharaj. A true Sanyasi in white clothes, his unruffled, ever smiling peaceful face shed joy around.

On an occasion of the visit of His Holiness, the Paramacharya of Kanchi Sankara Math to Madras in 1958 during his daily discourses after the puja he spoke about Anna's simplicity, modesty and worship of Devi on one occasion. He paid rich tributes to Anna's dedication to Sri Ramakrishna Mission and called him "Asthika Anna" to distinguish him from the well-known political leader by this name.

Swami Vandananandaji, himself an old student of the Home, wrote about "Anna" from Belur Math in Dec 1992:

"Through example and precept, 'Sri Anna' endeared himself to all the boys of the Home, from the youngest to the oldest and superbly encouraged and energised their moods and motivations towards achieving excellence

not only in our immediate goal of academic studies but also in the culture of heart and soul, and cultivation of duty, discipline and selfless service.

He was, to us, a living embodiment of the ideals taught in the Bhagavad Gita, and thereby Anna's dignity of bearing and nobility of purpose in all things he said and did unfailingly helped us, young boys from various homes, to acquire man-making education and character-building behavior.

The spiritual goals and values taught by Indian scriptures and saints, especially by Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda, were always reiterated and regenerated in the minds and hearts of the Home inmates by Anna Subramanian.

His contribution is ample in bringing out many of the best products of students from the Home great scholars, engineers, administrators, patriots, even monks, and dedicated workers like 'Anna' himself.

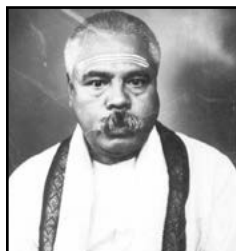
Anna N. Subramanian will ever continue to remain, in memory and spirit, as an unforgettable and peerless 'Institution' of the Home."

One must perform work. It is only through work that the bondage of work will be cut as under and one will acquire a spirit of non-attachment.



b) T.S.Krishna Rao (OB 1913-1918)

Sri T.S. Krishna Rao was born in Thirukattupalli in 1897. He was the third amongst six sons. He had his early education Thirukattupalli High School, He lost his father early in 1910. The family had no support.



His mother had the responsibility of bringing up the boys and educate them. He completed his school education and as a bright poor student he got admission in Ramakrishna Students' Home in 1913 and joined Presidency College to pursue his higher studies.

Even during his student days, the Home was everything to him. He started devoting his life for the Home as a mark of gratitude. Ramaswamy Iyengar started liking T.S.Krishna Rao and Anna N. Subramaniam, as trusted and devoted students and utilized their services in the running of the Home.

During the construction stage of the main building of the Home, Sri Krishna Rao associated himself fully with every activity by assisting the PWD Engineer.

After Ramaswamy Iyengar's death when Sri. C. Ramanujachariar became the Secretary, Krishna Rao enjoyed the full confidence of him too. He was even allowed to sign the papers on his behalf.

In the early years of the Home, the institution was run mainly on the collections through donations from the public. It was indeed a Herculean task to raise the required money.

Krishna Rao used to write personally hundreds of letters with his own hand (The Home could not afford to have the services of a stenographer in those years) to various individual donors and institutions seeking their help and donations.

Later when Ramanujachariar started Kripa Amateurs a drama group to stage quality dramas (like Sivakamiyin Sapatham etc. - Kalki's Creations) for collecting funds for Home, Krishna Rao had the knack of selling tickets for these dramas.

He used to go to the VIPs in the town and entrust them with the job of selling tickets for the dramas. He similarly utilized the services of Motor Vehicle Inspectors (majority of them being ex-Home students) to sell tickets. These all required enormous amount of patience and perseverance. Sri S.Y. Krishnaswamy, I.C.S. naturally used to call both Ramanujachariar and Krishna Rao "Subscriptionanandas" of the Home. All these activities Krishna Rao did silently and in an unassuming manner. During the war time he was deputed to Bombay for collection drive.

Even though it was very difficult to convince individuals, with lot of effort and sincerity Krishna Rao could persuade the philanthropists to contribute their mite for the Home.

Fund collection, delivery of local post, sale of products of manual training section, preparation and distribution of Home annual reports were all organized by him unobtrusively year after year in a very meticulous manner. He owned a 5 ground plot in Griffith Road in T.Nagar.

He was magnanimous to give it to Ramakrishna Ashrama, T.Nagar at the price he paid even though the price had escalated considerably by then and he knew would go up even further. After retirement he stayed in the Home throughout except for taking his meals. He was Asst. Secretary of the Home from 1935 to 1948 and Treasurer from 1948 till his death in 1967.

On the birth days of Guru Maharaj, Holy Mother and Swami Vivekananda and Ramakrishnananda poor feeding used to be organized in the Home. Krishna Rao used to be in the forefront and keep awake right through the night to supervise the preparations of food items.

Once, the advisor to the Governor of Madras State had seen these poor feeding operations personally and was really impressed by the organizing ability of Krishna Rao and others.

When there was acute drought and famine conditions in Ramnad district in 1939, Ramakrishna Mission organized massive relief works there. Krishna Rao was deputed with a few sanyasins to organize these relief operations.

When Vivekananda College was started in 1946 Krishna Rao was specially deputed by Sri M. Subbaraya Iyer, the then Secretary of the College to Belur Math to get the college affiliated to the Ramakrishna Mission.

He had a parental affection for all the inmates of the Home and was their friend, philosopher and guide. Boys would rather confide in him and unburden all their woes to him than to their own parents. He had a sympathetic

ear for all of them and would work out practical solutions to all of them. In cases of financial needs, he would direct the boys to philanthropists known to him and arrange for solution to the problem. But what endeared him to all the Boys, young and old, was his ready wit and humour. His cherubic face and friendly attitude made him very popular.

When Krishna Rao died on 9th August 1967 the body was brought to the Home and there was not even a single inmate in the Home who did not mourn the irreparable personal loss and shed tears.

Anna N. Subramanian who was his best personal friend, philosopher and guide, organized with more than 120 boys of the Home chanting of Vishnu Sahasranamam throughout that day. He was indeed all to all the boys of the Home, taking more than a father's loving interest in their wellbeing.

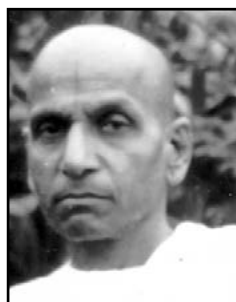
By the passing away of this great good soul the Home had indeed become poorer. For several generations of the Home boys there was always a special niche in their hearts for Krishna Rao, full of affection and admiration.

“Don’t be afraid. Human birth is full of suffering and one has to endure everything patiently, taking the Name of God. None, not even God in human form can escape the sufferings of the body and mind.”



c) Ranga Iyengar

Among the various factors of the Home in its formative years Ranga Iyengar had a unique place. Both loved and feared he had a kind loving heart hidden behind a stern outlook. He had a flair for Carnatic music and took classes regularly for senior music class. But his real personality was unveiled when he was the Headmaster of the Residential High School during the 1950's in Athur. He shared the travails of translocation of the Home with all the boys and their problems to a rural area with few facilities. There were two incidents which revealed his strange mixture of sternness and love to all boys without any bias or discrimination.



One night a set of boys slipped away for a night show at a cinema theater in the neighbouring town. They were hoping that the Blanket-covered pillows that they left behind on their beds would mislead the warden into thinking that they were still inside. But to their utter dismay they were greeted on their arrival at the entrance, by Ranga Iyengar himself who very gently told them to stay at the gate for the night. The cold weather coupled with swarms of mosquitoes drained whatever pleasure they thought they had by playing truant. Day break and still no orders from the chief. At 10 clock in the morning Ranga Iyengar told them they could have a wash and their morning breakfast. "Sir, we have already had our meal", "Where?" asked Ranga Iyengar "In your house, sir." In the morning Mami (Mrs. Ranga Iyengar) called

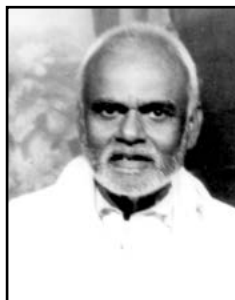
us and gave us food. We went in by the back door, "Oh, so you had a toast today." The boys knew that nothing could be done in the house without his knowledge and approval. "Do not repeat the mischief. You will not get the same treatment next time" was his reply.

In one year the SSLC examinations were postponed as the question papers were found to have been leaked out elsewhere before the examination. Ranga Iyengar wanted to utilize the time available before the public examination by preparing the 10th standard boys thoroughly. The vacation was cancelled and they were given model tests repeatedly, Once, twice thrice and the boys felt they had had enough. So the next time the test was given they all returned blank papers. For the strict disciplinarian that Ranga Iyengar was, this was too much. So he asked them all to go back to their houses and turn up before the examination date. Some of the boys had no place to go and for those who had houses, the parents or guardians turned them back as they could not relish their wards being disobedient.

So very soon they all gathered at the Railway station not sure of how they could go back to the Home and with the youthful pride which prevented them from owning their mistake, they stayed at the station without water and without food. But then when they were feeling desperate a cart arrived with Ranga Iyengar with packaged food and water for them. When he called each one of them by name and distributed their food packets, there was no one among the students who did not shed tears from their eyes and bowed to the Master at his feet.

d) C.V. Ratnaswamy Iyer (1911-1912)

C.V.Ratnaswamy Iyer studied in the Home from 1911 for 1 year. In this acquisitive and competitive world, there are few persons who apply themselves heart and soul, beyond their calls of duty, in the service of their fellow beings without expecting anything in return.



Sri C. V. Ratnaswamy Iyer belongs to that rare tribe. He stayed in the Home as a student for only for a short period but his subsequent services to this institution were immeasurable. There were many in the formative years of the Home who were in the lime-light but Ratnaswami Iyer preferred to stay in the background and be its sheet anchor attending to the many duties that formed the substratum for the wellbeing of its inmates.

He was an eminent horticulturist conversant with the botanical names of many plants though he was not a botanist and tended the gardens with great affection and care. Year after year the Madras Horticultural Society declared the Home gardens as the best in the city and gave it prizes mostly in the form of ever new varieties of garden flower plants, which enhanced the standard of the garden and increased its eligibility for securing prizes in each subsequent year.

He looked after the medical ward as well. While a qualified doctor visited the Home for an hour or so in the evening, he was the resident doctor of the Home taking care of all the boys all the hours of the day. Many a time

he was called to tackle an emergency when someone ran high temperature of 104° or more. With none of the modern medicines available then, he used to administer enema and usually the temperature came down. He would himself dispense medicines preparing the mixtures for most of the common ailments. For this he used to keep a record of Dr. Nanjunda Rao's prescription listing the symptoms and the prescribed medicines. Invariably he was successful in his dispensations.

Salaries for the teachers in the Residential School were minimal, and he had a family with two daughters to maintain. He never complained nor would anybody know his financial constraints. But one could guess his dire circumstances from the fact that he could not afford to pay Rs. 2/- pm towards electricity (meter) charges and was all along managing with kerosene lamps.

He was a multifaceted personality.

He had many more talents, all of which he offered at the altar of the Home. That was the time when Tamil Typewriter was introduced. Ramanujachariar gave him all the drama scripts to type and take multiple copies. It was a stupendous job but he did it all cheerfully taking no respite.

CVR's interest extended to electrical and plumbing fields too. He used to do fresh wiring by himself with the help of students and also attend to other minor electrical problems. Likewise, in plumbing, he could lay additional pipelines, repair leaking taps etc. Thus he saved a lot of expenditure for the Institution, teaching the wards, in the process, by example.

CVR's method of teaching appealed to everyone. He taught the students how to do mathematical problems mentally. His short cut methods to addition, multiplication, division etc. was so fascinating that the boys liked them and improved their mental abilities. He was known as a best maths teacher who could solve the most difficult problems in no time mentally.

He inculcated discipline among the boys. Though he was a strict disciplinarian and would spare none, he showed fatherly affection and encouraged students to bring their problems freely to him at any time and redressed them by taking appropriate steps. He used to stay back at the Home to supervise and guide the weaker students on many occasions.

CVR was essentially a "Karma Yogi" who used to live a simple and frugal life. By dint of hard work, he produced remarkable results. His end came in 1967. He left an indelible impression in the minds of everyone associated with the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home as a reliable guide for any emergency.



Boys transporting provisions by cart

e) P.R. Subramanian

Sri P.R. Subramanian – A Life of Devotion, Integrity, and Silent Service. Sri P.R. Subramanian, affectionately known as PRS, stands tall among the most illustrious old students of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home. His association with the Home began in 1931 when he joined as a young student in IV Form, and it continued unbroken until his passing in 2018—a span of over eight decades of steadfast dedication.

He studied in the Home from 1931 to 1939, completing his education up to the Licentiate in Automobile Engineering (LAE). Even as a student, he was deeply admired by peers and staff alike for his absolute integrity, humility, and sincerity. These values, instilled in him during his formative years at the Home, remained the guiding principles throughout his life and career.

Professionally, Sri P.R. Subramanian built a distinguished career in the Transport Department, serving in key administrative roles across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi. His impeccable service record and leadership earned him the position of Transport Commissioner, a post he held at the time of his retirement. Despite his high official standing, he remained deeply grounded and rooted in the ideals of service and simplicity.

But perhaps his greatest legacy lies in his selfless devotion to the Home. After retirement, he dedicated his life wholly to the institution that had shaped him. He served as a member of the Managing Committee and later rose to the position of Vice President, a role he held with distinction until his demise. His administrative

acumen and composed demeanor made him a valuable guide and mentor to the then Secretary, Revered Swami Veetabhayanandaji Maharaj, especially in overseeing the management and development of the Polytechnic College.

PRS was known for his calm, quiet, and balanced approach to all challenges—resolving issues with clarity and grace, never seeking recognition or limelight. His contribution was not just of service, but of sacrifice. In an extraordinary gesture of gratitude and commitment, he donated his entire housing property—located in the prestigious Raja Annamalaipuram area, measuring about two grounds and valued at nearly ₹8 crores—to the Students’ Home. It was an offering from the heart, embodying the spirit of tyāga (renunciation) and sevā (service).

Revered Swami Srimathananandaji Maharaj, General Secretary of the Ramakrishna Math & Mission, once remarked during a visit to the Home:

“No PRS, no Ramakrishna Mission Students’ Home.”

This simple yet powerful statement captures the immense role and silent sacrifice of Sri P.R. Subramanian in sustaining and nurturing the Home through some of its most crucial phases.

Sri P.R. Subramanian passed away on 17th July 2018, leaving behind a legacy not just of generosity and service, but of a life lived in quiet dedication to an ideal. His memory continues to inspire generations of students and staff at the Home to live with values, integrity, and a spirit of giving.

f) S. Seshadri

Sri S. Seshadri – A Life of Service, Scholarship, and Silent Dedication. Sri S. Seshadri was born on 26th December 1921, and his long and impactful journey with the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home began in 1934, when he joined as a student in the IV Form. He continued his education at the Home until 1941, eventually completing his B.A. Degree. His formative years at the Home deeply shaped his values, character, and lifelong commitment to service.

After completing his education, Sri Seshadri began his career in the Telephone Department as a Junior Engineer. Through diligence and technical expertise, he rose through the ranks to become a Divisional Engineer, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike. He later took up an assignment abroad in Kuwait, gaining valuable international experience.

Upon his return to India, Sri Seshadri chose not to retire into comfort but to devote his time and energy in selfless service to the very institution that had nurtured him in his youth. For over 30 years, he served the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home as a dedicated volunteer, rendering invaluable service in various capacities. His commitment extended beyond routine work—he was a mentor, a guide, and a source of quiet inspiration to students, staff, and fellow volunteers.

He was also an active member of the Home's Managing Committee for nearly two decades, offering his wisdom, administrative insight, and balanced counsel during times of planning and decision-making. Despite

advancing age, his enthusiasm to serve the Home never diminished.

A man of vast knowledge and intellectual curiosity, Sri Seshadri was a voracious reader and prolific writer. He had the rare ability to write insightful articles on a wide range of subjects—technical, literary, philosophical, and social. He was a regular contributor to the Annual Souvenirs of the Home and maintained a deep connection with the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda literature by subscribing to publications like Prabuddha Bharata and Vedanta Kesari.

In recognition of his professional excellence and lifetime contributions, he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Institution of Engineers, New Delhi, during the year 2014–15—a fitting tribute to his enduring service to the engineering profession and society at large.

Sri Seshadri passed away on 20th February 2022, at the remarkable age of 100. His sudden passing was deeply felt by the entire Students' Home family. Those who had the privilege of working with him or sharing a conversation cherished his warmth, humility, and wisdom. His life was a testament to the spirit of karma yoga—quiet, selfless, and deeply purposeful.

His memory remains etched in the hearts of everyone at the Home. He will forever be remembered as a gentle guide, a committed volunteer, and a lifelong devotee of the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi, and Swami Vivekananda. The loss of Sri Seshadri is immeasurable, but his legacy continues to inspire generations to come.

g) S. Jagannathan

Sri S. Jagannathan was born on 11th June 1921 and entered the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home in the year 1935, joining in IV Form. He continued his studies in the Home and completed the Licentiate in Automobile Engineering (LAE), thus laying the foundation for a long and fulfilling career in the field of technical education.

A deeply sincere and loyal individual, Sri Jagannathan began his professional career in various technical roles outside the Home. However, his innate attachment and sense of gratitude to his alma mater brought him back to serve the institution that had shaped him. He returned to the Ramakrishna Mission Technical Institute—this time not as a student, but as a lecturer. With his hard work, clarity of vision, and passion for education, he rose to become the Principal of the Institute.

Under his dedicated and visionary leadership, the Technical Institute expanded in multiple directions—both in terms of academic programs and infrastructure. He ensured that the institute kept pace with evolving industry needs while remaining rooted in the values and discipline imparted by the Home's unique Gurukula model. His tenure as Principal was marked by quiet efficiency, systematic development, and a deep commitment to student welfare.

Beyond his professional role, Sri Jagannathan actively contributed to the broader mission of the Home. He was a long-standing member of the Managing Committee for nearly a decade, and later served as the Vice President of the Committee. He was also the President of the Home

Seva Praveena Samithi, a role he carried out with devotion and grace, coordinating voluntary service activities and inspiring others to participate in the Home's growth.

Sri Jagannathan was more than a teacher or administrator—he was a model of humility, discipline, and devotion. He was always eager to assist the Home administration in every possible way, whether through planning, execution, or mentoring younger staff. Those who worked with him remember him as a gem of a person—unassuming, dedicated, and completely identified with the ideals and ethos of the Students' Home. He remained committed to the service of the Home till the end of his life. His self-effacing nature, combined with unwavering dedication, made him a pillar of silent strength within the institution. Sri Jagannathan passed away on 30th January 2011, leaving behind a legacy of tireless service and educational upliftment. His contributions have been instrumental in shaping the Technical Institute and nurturing generations of students. His life stands as a shining example of Karma Yoga—work performed with devotion, selflessness, and a sense of sacred duty.

h) Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chettiar

Padma Bhushan Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chettiar – A Life of Values, Vision, and Service. Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chettiar was born on 11th June 1940 in Kanchipuram into a traditional weaving family steeped in culture and service. His early education was shaped by the value-based environment of the Ramakrishna Mission, where he imbibed ideals of discipline, humility, and selfless

service. As a proud alumnus of the Ramakrishna Mission, the influence of the mission and its focus on character-building left an indelible mark on his life.

At a young age, he took charge of his family's textile business and went on to transform Nalli Silks into a household name in India and abroad. Even as he built a business empire, he remained deeply committed to spiritual and cultural values. Known for his simplicity, integrity, and humility, he became an iconic figure not just in the textile industry but also in the fields of education, arts, and philanthropy.

Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chettiar was a multifaceted personality—an industrialist, writer, scholar, and above all, a philanthropist. He authored several books in Tamil on leadership, ethics, and social values, inspiring countless readers. He actively supports classical arts, serving in leadership roles in many cultural organizations. However, his heart always remains with educational and service institutions, particularly the Ramakrishna Mission.

His love for the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home was deep and enduring. He contributes generously to the Home's development, often extending help silently and without fanfare. For every Deepavali he distributes new clothes to all the students and He is the main sponsor for all the cultural events during Navaratri celebrations. His role as Vice President of the Home's Managing Committee reflected his deep involvement in its welfare. He also mentored and guided successive generations of students, serving as a living example of how one can combine professional excellence with personal values.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to trade, industry, education, and culture, he was conferred numerous honors, including the prestigious Padma Shri and later the Padma Bhushan.

Dr. Nalli Kuppaswami Chettiar's life is a glowing example of how early grounding in spiritual and moral values can lead to a life of greatness. His connection with the Students' Home remains a source of pride and inspiration.

A few details about Dr. NalliKuppaswami Chettiar's school education and his association with the Ramakrishna mission students' home.

Dr. NalliKuppaswami Chettiar began his education at the Ramakrishna Mission School, T. Nagar, in the year 1947, when he joined Class III at the age of around 7. He continued his school education there, completing his SSLC (Secondary School Leaving Certificate) from the same institution, around 1955-56, based on the standard academic progression of the time.

The T. nagar main school was under the Management of the Home Committee till the year 1948, then a separate committee was constituted by the Mission to manage the current affairs.

From the above details we understand that during the beginning of his study in T. nagar Ramakrishna Mission school, it was under Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home.

Chapter 11

Some outstanding products of the Home

Here below are given life sketches of some of the outstanding personalities who acknowledge the influence of the Home for their success. The accounts relate to persons in several fields of activities for each one of which a representative is chosen. A wider coverage of old boys, who did well, is given in an addendum to this book.

a) Swami Sarvajnanandaji Maharaj

(Sri Kanakasabhai) (1921-1924)

Born in December 1902 in a village near Kancheepuram Swami Sarvajnanandaji Maharaj was named as Kanakasabhai by his parents. Kanakasabhai joined the Home in 1921 and studied for 3 years. Impressed by his devotion and bhakthi, Ramaswamy lyangar used to send Kankasabhai often to Ramakrishna Math.



Once Swami Brahmanandaji Maharaj and Swami Shivanandaji Maharaj had come to R.K. Math from Calcutta during Navaratri festival time.

There was Devi Puja and devotional music was played. During the puja Swami Brahmananda attained Samadhi stage. This scene created a deep impression

in the boy Kanakasabhai's mind. He was very much attracted towards the detached lives of Sanyasins.

After leaving the Home he joined Ramakrishna Math, as a Brahmachari. Swami Shivananda named him as Bajahari. He became Sanyasin in 1930. Being a compassionate and service minded person he started "Thondar Sangam" in 1931 in Mylapore, which used to organize "Thanneer pandals" (Water Spots supplying drinking water) in Mylapore Mada Streets during Sixty-Three Nayanmars festivals (Arupattu Moovar festival) in the Kapaleeswar Temple. As the festival attracted thousands of devotees, the Thondar Sangam used to distribute fresh water, jaggery water and butter milk to thirsty people freely. As this became a successful and a very popular service, the Swamiji enrolled the services of the students of the "Home" during the festival days.

He chose a slum area for social service, which he named Ramakrishnapuram and he undertook various development works in the slum. He built a small hall and installed Guru Maharaj's photo there. Every evening, classes were conducted for the children in the area to make them literate. Swamiji made use of the services of the Home boys extensively and familiarised them in this type of work. On weekends Bhajans were also conducted. Later Swami Sarvajnanananda was posted to Coimbatore Ramakrishna Ashram where he worked for a number of years. He played an important role in the development of Coimbatore Ashrama. Swamiji was also editor of Ramakrishna Vijayam for 2 years.

The Swamiji used to keep in constant touch with the old students of the Home, particularly those working in

Government services and big companies and seek their help for the Ramakrishna Mission. His last posting was as the President of Natrampalli Ramakrishna Math Centre, near Thirupattur. By his sheer hard work he was instrumental for the all-around development of the centre. He was very much popular among the masses and was known as "lantern swamiji". He made it a point to serve the poorest of the poor especially in the villages by extending medical facilities and taught them ways of hygienic living.

When Ramakrishna Math organised relief works in cyclone affected Vedaranyam and Rameswaram areas, Swamiji took the lead and did commendable service in those places. When there was acute shortage of drinking water in Natrampalli, he arranged to deepen the well of the Math and kept awake throughout the nights to ensure free supply of water to all the affected people of the area.

He prepared slides on Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sri Saradadevi and Swami Vivekananda and showed these slides in all nearby villages with Tamil commentary. Later when films on the Holy Trinity were taken in Bengali he took these films to various villages in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and showed them to the people with Tamil commentary. He had a special soft corner for the poor Harijans and slum dwellers. He once admitted nearly 30 Harijan boys in Natrampalli Math to feed them and educate them.

By his tireless efforts he completed the construction of Ramakrishna Temple at Natrampalli even though his

health was failing and his vision in both his eyes were impaired. When he died in 1988 the entire Nattrampalli town participated in his funeral procession.

Revered Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj visit to Students' Home

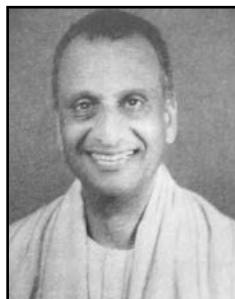


b) Swami Vandananandaji Maharaj

(Sri Narayanan) Date of Birth: 05-01-1915

Sri Narayanan was an inmate of the Home for one year in the year 1933 in college section. He was a keen hockey player. The manner in which he got initiated into sanniyas is vividly portrayed in the account given by him.

Swami Vandananandaji Maharaj said:"My mother met Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi when she went to Bangalore in 1911 and was initiated by her. At that time my mother was not married. She expressed a desire to become a Nun like Holy Mother herself and live with her in Calcutta. Holy Mother thought for some time and said that there was no facility for women to stay in the Monastery.



She asked her to settle in householder's life and remarked that someone else in her family would become a monk and I have the fortune to fulfill Her prediction."

"My maternal grandfather also took Sannyasa Diksha from Swami Sivanandaji and was named Swami Srinivasananda. It was he who introduced me to the Ramakrishna Math and Mission. When I was studying in the College he took me to Belur Math and got me initiated by Revered Swami Vijnananandaji Maharaj, the then President of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission. After the initiation, Swami Vijnananandaji asked me,

'What is your plan in life? What do you intend to do?' I replied that I have not yet thought about it and there is a possibility of my joining the Ramakrishna Math also. He jocularly quipped back, 'Do you also want to make the same mistake which we have done?' I did not understand that it was simply a joke. But I had to join the Order very soon. After initiation, Swami Srinivasananda took me on a pilgrimage to North India. In Benaras it was almost decided that I would join the Mission when we met Revered Swami Vireswaranandaji Maharaj. Swami Vireswaranandaji said that I should join Mayavati Centre, since my qualifications would be useful in the editorial work of 'Prabuddha Bharata'. From Benaras we went to Delhi where we met Swami Pavitranandaji, a disciple of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and the President of the Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati. He agreed to take me to Mayavati and admit me as Brahmachari there. Along with me another Brahmachari also joined and all the three of us went by transport up to a certain point. After that the path was very narrow. Swami Pavitranandaji rode on a horse and we two Brahmacharis walked behind him. This is how I joined the Math and Mission".

Swami Vandananandaji joined the order at Mayawati Ashrama in 1938 and had his sannyas from Swami Virajanandaji in 1947. He was the editor of Prabuddha Bharata from 1950 to 1954. In 1955 he was sent to the Vedanta Society of Southern California Hollywood USA where he served as the Assistant Minister till 1969. He was appointed the Head of the order's New Delhi centre in 1970 and a Trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission in 1973,

He was the Head of the Mayawati Centre for one year 1976-77. In 1977 he became the Assistant Secretary of the Math and Mission in Belur Math. He was elected the General Secretary of the two organisations in 1979, in which position he served till 1985.

After relinquishing that position, he spent a few years at Kankal, Dehra Dun etc., and then returned to Belur Math, where he stayed till the end.

With the Swami's erudition and eloquence combined with his affable manners, he had a large number of friends and admirers. He was highly duty conscious and was a tower of strength to the Order.

He attained the lotus feet of Guru Maharaj after reaching the venerable age of 92.

Gurukula Ideal

The Home stands for the "Gurukula Ideal" which is fragrant with the perfume of innumerable noble lives of sacred traditions and memory. Under the influence of that ideal the students, sons of princes and peasants alike lived in their Masters' Home like brothers of a single family and learnt their lessons, not for any formal examination but for life, giving in their daily routine the first place to seva or service to the community as forming an integral part of education.

c) Professor T.R. Seshadri, F.R.S.

(OB 1917-1920)

Sri T R Seshadri was born in Kulitalai, Trichy Dt., on 3rd July 1900. He was the third son of a school teacher and belonged to a deeply religious family, which factor was dominant throughout his life - in work as well as in his daily activities.



After completing his school education in Srirangam, and intermediate classes in National College, Tiruchirapally, Seshadri joined Presidency College in Madras in 1917 for his degree.

As the cost of living in Madras city was high, it had its impact on the financial strains of his family. Consequently, his father admitted him in Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home as a residential day scholar.

During his studies in Presidency College he used to win several prizes. After Honours degree he joined the same college as a Research Scholar.

The simple living, the discipline, the training to stand on one's own feet that he found in the students' Home Reinforced Sri Seshadri's traits that had already been formed by his austere family back ground. His thirst for knowledge both scientific and spiritual, respecting others' views, sense of social responsibility, sympathy for the needy and compassion for the weak scrupulous honesty and total absence of self-interest, shaped him into a very unusual combination of scientist, humanist and spiritualist.

After post-graduation from Madras University, he worked in Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home for one year. Later he went to England in 1927 with Overseas Technical Scholarship from Madras University and obtained his Ph.D., in Organic Chemistry from University of Manchester, U.K., in 1929. After visiting London, Austria and important Chemical centers in Europe as a research scientist, Sri Seshadri returned to India in 1930.

Discarding other possibilities of employment in more lucrative positions, Seshadri preferred teaching and research career. In 1934 he joined Andhra University as the Reader and became Professor of Chemistry in 1937.

The vice Chancellor of Delhi University, Sir Maurice Gwyer invited Seshadri to take charge of Chemistry Department when Post Graduate teaching and Research was to be organized in the University, as he wanted to make the University a premier Institution in India.

Sri Seshadri joined Delhi University and faced many difficult situations in the University initially but with characteristic determination and strength of character he was able to tackle all of them. Soon he was able to make a large number of gifted and highly motivated young men and women rally round him with deep sense of dedication and hard work.

To them Seshadri set the pattern not only for Chemistry but also for devotion and dedication. They forgot the clock and gave up holidays in order to follow the Teacher. He was the only Fellow of Royal Society (F.R.S) from India in the field of chemistry. As one of the

outstanding scientists with international repute, he won many prestigious prizes and awards. The admiration and high esteem in which the students of Chemistry throughout the world held Seshadri had no parallel. His students celebrated his 60th, 65th, 70th & 75th birthdays with lot of gaiety and enthusiasm.

He took keen interest in moral and spiritual education. Along with Revered Swami Ranganathanandaji Maharaj, the then Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Centre, Delhi, he started Delhi University Vedanta Samithi in 1960, which held regular Sunday morning sittings. This is continuing even now.

To his great credit, he had trained more than 30 batches of Post-graduate students many of them taking their Doctorate Degrees under his guidance. He published more than 869 research papers of high international standard.

In 1963 Government of India conferred on him the "Padma Bhushan Award". On his retirement at the age of 65, the University of Delhi did him the unique honour of making him the first ever Emeritus Professor. His dedication to Chemistry was such that he continued to guide and take active part in Research for almost 10 years after retirement.

d) Engr. A. Srinivasan

(1919-1928)

One of the eminent products of the Home Sri Srinivasan studied in the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home for 9 years from 1919 to 1928 and was an outstanding graduate in Engineering with brilliant academic records. The influence of the upbringing in the Home had a great bearing in his day to day life. His discharge of duties, scrupulous honesty, devotion to work were noted by various leaders. The way he dealt with other people, the support he extended to his co-workers were legendary.



Recognizing his immense capability Govt. of India, and Govt. of Tamilnadu entrusted him with various responsibilities and he was soon able to make his mark as an administrator cum engineer.

He had the distinction of heading three prestigious projects viz. Lower Bhavani Dam, Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Paradeep Port. All the 3 projects which he undertook from start to finish, serve as outstanding monuments to his extraordinary ability and portrayed him as a man possessed with abundant practical wisdom. He was a man of principles and was known for his tenacity, hard work and fearlessness. Work was always worship for him. With dynamism, dedication and leadership qualities, he set an example to others for hard work and efficiency.

The Lower Bhavani Dam was the first earthen dam in the country and was a unique project. Even though there were many senior engineers he was specially chosen to lead this project in recognition of his superior talents, leadership quality and technical competence.

To begin with, there were sceptics who doubted the feasibility of mining lignite in Neyveli area. The lignite seams were floating in water under high pressure.

The German Engineers who were brought as consultants declared that the project would not work. In the face of such prospects of gloom, Srinivasan declared he was confident of working the mines, although, he had no previous experience in mining.

When he drilled the test pit pumping out the gushing water and brought out the first briquette, there was a unanimous acclamation and the project was proved feasible. The Government of India accorded the sanction.

Srinivasan continued to execute the project taking a holistic view of all the issues involved apart from lignite production. The project included, generation of electricity, extraction of fertilizers, creating a township with roads, housing medical facilities, transport, schools, and several other issues for the township.

He interacted with several contractors both foreign and Indian and also attended to the labour problem. As long as he was there, he was the kingpin of the projects. He faced all the challenges that came up from time to time with calmness and confidence.

Once there was a sudden collapse of a precast RCC shed in the night in Neyveli plant when he was Deputy

General Manager. On being informed of the mishap, Sri Srinivasan took personal control of the whole situation.

He got the area cleared of all the debris, and fallen materials before the dawn as he did not want anybody to make a hue and cry over the mishap and ensured that the contractor re-erected the whole shed with columns and trusses perfectly within a week's time, at no extra cost to the management.

In Neyveli plant many foreign engineers were working - Germans in mining, Italians in Fertilizers, Australians in Carbonizing, Russians in Thermal station. Sri Srinivasan was able to coordinate the work of all of them with remarkable capability, keeping each of them accountable in discharging their respective responsibilities.

He was invited by Biju Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Orissa to take up construction of Paradip Port. It was a difficult assignment, in an area prone to cyclones and storms. It was the first of its kind in India.

For him also it was a novel experience. Accepting the challenge on condition that he should be allowed to work freely reporting only to the Chief Minister. He completed the work in record time.

After retirement, Sri Srinivasan identified himself with the activities of the Home and was its advisor in all technical matters.

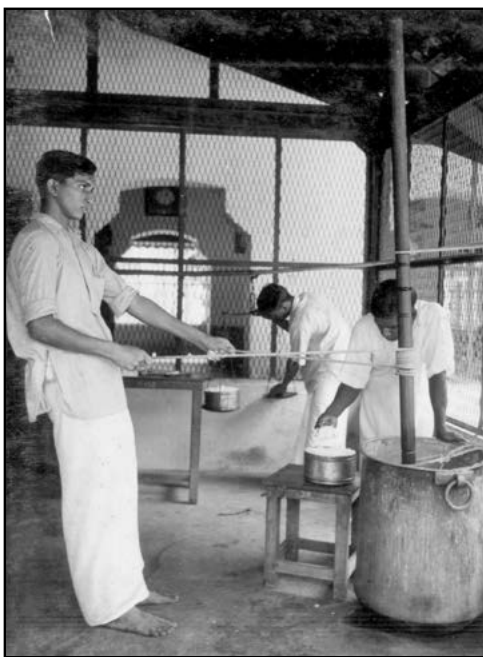
He introduced job-oriented training scheme in the workshop and also on the spot preventive maintenance

service of tractors. For this he was able to arrange foreign aid from 'Central Agency of Evangelical Church' in West Germany.

With this aid the Home was able to acquire a mobile workshop with appurtenant equipment with which technical institute staff with the technical institute students were able to visit in a phased monthly schedule various villages in and around Maduranthakam and carry out preventive maintenance service to agricultural tractors. This servicing at their door steps had proved a great boon to agriculturists owning tractors.

The life of this dynamic personality came to an end in 1978.

A SCENE FROM THE OLDEN DAY



A forgotten art. In those days curd was churned to get butter

e) Sri T.M.P. Mahadevan (1922-1929)

Philosopher

Sri T.M.P. Mahadevan was born on 24.8.1911 in Madras. He joined the Home in 1922 and studied for 7 years. From the beginning Mahadevan was spiritual inclined leading a simple and austere life. As a young boy he came under the influence of Swami Rajeswarananda. As a student of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School, Mahadevan had the benefit of the spiritual atmosphere provided by the sanyasins of Sri Ramakrishna Math.



Later he came under the influence of Ramana Maharshi and His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Chandrasekharendra Sarasvati of Kanchi Kamakoti Pitham. Nothing was so dear to him as the life and teachings of these two great Advaita Masters - the Sage of Tiruvannamalai and the Sage of Kanchi.

After securing First Class and First rank in the B.A (Honours) in Philosophy of the University of Madras in 1933, Sri T.M.P. Mahadevan did his Ph.D. on Advaita Vedanta with special reference to Bharatitirtha-Vidyaranya in the Department of Philosophy, University of Madras in 1935 under the guidance of Professor S.S. Suryanarayana Sastri, an astute metaphysician and a renowned Advaita scholar.

He worked as a Lecturer in Raja's College, Pudukkottai (1935-37) and later as Professor and Head

of the P.G. Department of Philosophy, Pachaiyappa's College, Madras (1937-43). He succeeded his own teacher, Professor Suryanarayana Sastri, as Head of the Philosophy Department in the University of Madras in 1943. When the Department of Philosophy was upgraded into a Centre of Advanced Study in Philosophy in 1964, he became its first Director and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1976.

In recognition of his scholarship and academic contributions Professor Mahadevan was awarded 'Padmabhushan' in 1967.

During 1948-49 Dr. Mahadevan was a Visiting Professor at Corneill University. During his stay in the U.S.A., he participated in the Goethe Bicentennial Convocation at Aspen, Colorado and the Second East-West Philosophers' Conference in Hawaii in 1949.

He participated in the UNESCO Round Table Discussion held in New Delhi in 1951, and in the European Forum at Alpbach in Austria in 1962.

Under the exchange programme for University Professors, he went to West Germany in August, 1963. He attended the International Conference on Central Asia organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO held in New Delhi in 1969. He was elected member of the Institute of International de Philosophy in 1971.

He was invited to participate in the meeting of the IIP held at Mashad, Iran, in September, 1975. At the

invitation of UNESCO he participated in the Symposium on 'Education and Development of Man' held in Paris (1970). He attended the First World Conference for Religion and Peace held at Kyoto in 1970.

He went to Louvain, Belgium twice, once for the Preparatory Committee Meeting and the second time to participate in the World Conference in 1974. He participated in the Colloquium on 'Traditional Modes of Contemplation and Action' at the Rothko Chapel, Houston, U.S. A. in July, 1973.

Dr. Mahadevan was greatly attracted by the teachings of Socrates and Plato, and Greece was his favourite country in Europe. At the invitation of the Royal National Foundation, Dr. Mahadevan attended the Second Athens Meeting in 1966 and lectured on the 'Heritage of India'.

At the suggestion of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Jayendra Sarasvati, Sankaracarya of the Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha, Dr. Mahadevan organized a World Hindu Conference in Madras in 1976 and a World Conference on Religion, Philosophy and Culture in Madurai in 1977.

The philosophy of Advaita is the main theme of Dr. Mahadevan's lectures in academic forums and public platforms, in religious gatherings and social service groups. He spoke and wrote on Advaita with conviction and clarity. He explained the doctrines of Advaita with marvellous analytical skill. In the 'postscript' to his autobiography, 'A Philosopher Looks Back' (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, 1982), Dr Mahadevan says: "Advaita, to the exposition of which I have dedicated my entire life, is not a school of philosophy, nor can it be

limited by what we now-a- days call 'philosophy'. Advaita is a symbolic name for the principle of non-duality... To the understanding and exposition of this experience which is the culmination of all enquiry and research, I have offered all my attention, be it academic, human or spiritual. It is that which sustains me."

In his life, Dr. Mahadevan exemplified the Indian view that Philosophy is not only theory but also practice. Not only did he preach the philosophy of Advaita but also practised it.

The 'Sankara Vihar' which he founded in North Madras for the purpose of propagating the message of Advaita - the non-duality of Brahman-Atman, the non-difference between jiva and Brahman and the non-reality of the world-is a standing monument to the identification of Dr Mahadevan with his life's principles and practice.

One has the feeling that Adi Sankara himself is visibly present when one sees the beautiful portrait of Adi Sankara - the like of which cannot be seen elsewhere-which adorns the lecture hall in the Sankara Vihar. And in this Sankara Vihar, Dr. Mahadevan conducted classes and discourses on Advaita and the five-day Sankara Jayanti celebrations for several years for the benefit of the devotees of Sankara.

Professor Mahadevan authored many books which are useful for scholars and laymen. A number of them, e.g., The Philosophy of Advaita, Gaudapada, Sambandha-Vartika of Suresvara, Pancadasi, etc., have gone through several editions.

Dr. Mahadevan was made a National Professor in 1982. He had the unique honour of being the first and so far the only Professor of the University of Madras who was invited to deliver the annual Convocation Address of the University of Madras.

Professor Mahadevan died on November 5, 1983 after an illustrious and eventful life of more than seventy years.

'Human birth, longing for liberation, and association with great persons' - these three which are rare, declares Sri Sankara, are vouchsafed to one through the grace of God. Professor T.M.P. Mahadevan was fortunate enough to be blessed with all these three.

He himself was great having achieved remarkable heights in the National and International levels. Above all he practised what he preached:

A SCENE FROM THE OLDEN DAYS



Ramachandra lift

f) Commander V.S.P. Mudaliar (1929-1939)

V.S. Ponnurangam joined the Home in 1929 in First Form (VI standard) and stayed for 11 years till he completed the diploma course in Automobile Engineering in 1939.



After a short stint as Assistant Mechanical Engineer in Kanpur, he went to U.K. as a Bevin Boy. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, after graduating in aeronautical engineering from their premier institution located in HENLO, England.

He was trained in the Royal Training Centre at Portsmouth, along with Duke of Edinburgh, who was then a cadet. He was made a King's Commissioned Officer in 1942. As an officer of Royal Air Force (RAF) he took part in the "Battle of Britain" against Germany and was in the forefront when Hitler's fighter bombers bombarded England.

While in Britain, he joined the Flying Club and picked up enough hours to secure a civil Pilot's Licence.

On returning to India after the War, he was in the fore front of all developments in naval aviation in India

In 1947 the Air Force in India was renamed as RIAF and later IAF. During the partition he handled Air Force Planes at Ambala and safeguarded Indian interests during the turbulent times. He took charge of all the Army vehicles allotted to IAF in Delhi and in Madras, for which his thorough training in LAE in the Home stood him in good stead.

An aviator holding a UK flying licence with international endorsement, Mudaliar was instrumental in establishing Naval Aircraft Organisation (NAO) in Kochi, Kerala. He was the Station Air Engineer, INS Garuda and Staff Air Engineer with COMCHIN. For about two years in the early 1960s, he headed this premier aircraft repair yard, which repaired and overhauled aircraft engines and components of both western and indigenous origin, used by the Fleet Air wing of the Indian Navy.

In 1952, when India was engaged in " police Action" against the Nizam of Hyderabad, he flew reconnoitering flights and detected arms smuggling by a British Air Craft and got it stopped.

He established the Naval Air Base at Cochin (INS Garuda) and was the first Naval Air Craft Engineer to receive and service the air craft carrier INS Vikrant. In 1968 V.S.P. Mudaliar retired as Commander.

In 1985, when USSR celebrated its fortieth year of victory in World War II and in 2005 during Russia's 60th year celebrations, Commander VSP Mudaliar was honoured as the war veteran from India. On those occasions Michael Gorbochev and Vladimir Putin, showed special honours to him as the representative from India. He received a medal and a watch from Mr. Gorbachev.

Commander Mudaliar is a Chartered Engineer and is Associate Fellow of the Royal Aeronautic Engineers' Society. Even in the advanced age Commander Mudaliar was mentally and physically active. He was the Chief

Development Engineer in developing engines for the two and three wheeler vehicles of the Birla Group.

He was Vice President of Ex-Service Men's Association looking after the welfare of retired service personnel and their families. He was the Director of several automobile ancillary units, six in Tamil Nadu and two in Bangalore.

His automobile spares manufacturing factory in Chennai kept him very busy even at the age of 90. He used to wake up at 4 o'clock every morning and perform yoga. A pure vegetarian and complete teetotaler, his simple and nutritious diet included lots of fruits, milk and vegetables.

Mudaliar attributed his ability to pursue his active life style to the training he had received as a student in the Home. The dedicated teachers of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Technical Institute had not only educated the students but also trained them to lead an organized and disciplined life. The Home is proud of the achievements of this old student, a war veteran who reached remarkable heights in his service to the country.

Through spiritual disciplines the ties of past karma are cut asunder. But the realization of God cannot be achieved without ecstatic love for him.



g) Maj Gen S.P. Mahadevan (1939-1942)

Sri S. P. Mahadevan joined the Home in 1939 and left in 1942 after completing his B, A. honours degree.

Sri Mahadevan joined the Army as Lieutenant and served in different places. He took part in World War II. He retired as Major General. He was also a member of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Congo.

He served as Chairman, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. While in Army he was of immense help in erecting a memorial for Swami Vivekananda in Almora.

He was also State President of Sri Satya Sai Seva Organisation for south.

The training he underwent in the Home made him stick to his principles as a total vegetarian and teetotaler even under trying circumstances he faced in military life.

Sri Mahadevan writes about his life and training in the Home as follows.

"I firmly believe that Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home in Mylapore, Chennai has been 'a cradle for leadership', in that one ex-student had become the Governor of Reserve Bank of India, many other students I know had become IAS officers, IPS officers, Army officers like me, business tycoons, captains of industries, pillars of administration and eminent academicians. I was fortunate to be a student in the Home from 1939 to 1942. During that period many events took place in the Home and outside which are still green in my memory. Evening lectures by eminent Swamijis from

the Ramakrishna Order like Swami Sarvagnanananda on spirituality and Swami Chidbhavananda on his pilgrimage to Mount Kailash are most unforgettable and still inspiring. I was so impressed and inspired by their divine discourses that I wanted to join the Ramakrishna Order as a Brahmachari and after completion of the strict disciplined training for the stipulated period, wanted to become a Swamiji like them. Even my hostel warden Swami Asheshananda was willing to help me in this connection. But my mother was dead against me becoming a monk; instead she and my father wanted me to become a lawyer like Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer.

The teachings inculcated in the Home, the self-discipline, the self-confidence and the dignity of labour we learnt in the Home, apart from the sense of "Duty, Discipline and Devotion" driven into us stood me in good stead as a guide and guard to me both in peace and war, both in India and in foreign countries during my thirty six years of service as an Army officer, six years in public service as the Chairman of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission and now in spiritualised service as the Central Co-ordinator for Southern State in Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation.

As a student of Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, I developed the will power not to smoke, not to drink liquor and not to eat non-vegetarian food during my entire service both in India and abroad. Even when I was the General - Officer Commanding of a Mountain Division in the snow - covered and high altitude area of Ladakh in Kashmir which included Leh, Dras, Kargil, Chorbatla, Turtok and the Siachen Glacier where the

temperatures used to go down as low as minus 44 degrees Celsius, and also when I was serving in the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Congo (Africa), where liquor, cigarettes and non-vegetarian food were provided free to us by the United Nations, I kept up this with will power though with difficulty.

In the good company of the pious boys in the Home (Sathsangh), I developed the virtue of being God-conscious all the time by getting into the habit of doing Namasmaran (Chanting God's name always). This saved my life many times in World War II in Burma front, in Kashmir War 1947-48, (where I was wounded), in 1960 in the liberation of Goa War, in 1963 in the Chinese aggression, in the battles in Congo as part of UN Peace keeping Force and also in 1965 War with Pakistan.

Thus I learnt a very valuable lesson in life, namely if we offer everything to God-offer our thoughts, words and actions at the Lotus Feet of God, He will make it a point to take over the responsibility of looking after our well-being also, as Krishna assured Arjuna in the Bhagawad Gita."

It is idle to expect that dangers and difficulties will not come. They are bound to come. But for a devotee they will pass away under the feet like water.



h) Sri S. Jayaraman (1964-1968)

Sri S. Jayaraman studied in the Home from 1964 to 1968. He was a Science Graduate from Madras University and a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India. Born on 10th May, 1948, he has to his credit nearly 32 years of experience in the public sector companies, and has held varied assignments both in finance and administration, of which he is in Board level assignments for the past 18 years.

His first senior level assignment was with NALCO where he had many successful assignments in different capacities which paved the way for him to become Director (Finance) of MECL (a Public Sector Company) at the comparatively young age of 40 in the year 1988. He subsequently joined NMDC, also a Public Sector Company, as its Director (Finance) in the year 1993. He joined NLC, a Schedule "A" Public Sector, as Director (Finance) in Schedule 'B' Scale, in January, 1998.

As part of the Top Management team, he has been closely associated with setting proper targets and plans, extending all the guidance and assistance to projects for achieving the physical and financial targets. He has played an important role in preparing long term corporate plan, detailed investment plans, annual plans, etc.

At NLC, his innovative dynamism has helped the Company to register a persistent growth in the post- tax profit successively for the four consecutive years. In his very first year of joining as Director (Finance), NLC, the

Company was able to declare a maiden dividend and the growth of the Company has since been commendable.

It was yet another milestone in his career when on the 1st of July, 2002 he took over charge as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of M/s. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. NLC has a stupendous task of bringing up nine new projects in the X Plan period at an outlay of Rs. 14,633.58 Crores, and is well poised to reach its goals with him at the helm of affairs.

He has attended Strategic Management Programme conducted by Henley, the Management College, Henley-on Thames, a prestigious Institution in United Kingdom. He has also attended various training programmes in the earlier part of his career on subjects ranging from Financial Management, Management Accounting, Foreign Exchange, WTO, etc. He has visited many countries which include United Kingdom, United States of America, France, Japan, Mauritius, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, etc. All these coupled with the solid foundation of character he developed in the Home, with sincerity, integrity, and capacity for hard work are sure to bring even greater laurels in his professional career.

i) Dr. A. Appadorai, (1895-1975): An alumnus of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, was a renowned diplomat and scholar who played a key role in shaping India's foreign policy and international relations. Educated in law and international affairs in London, he began his career as a teacher and author, with his book "The Substance of Politics" becoming a widely used text.

He later joined the Indian Foreign Service and served as Secretary-General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). He represented India at the United Nations, promoting decolonization, non-alignment, and Asian-African cooperation. Known for his clear thinking and scholarly depth, his legacy continues through his writings and contributions to diplomacy and international studies in India.

j) Jagannathan, ICS (1914–1999): An esteemed alumnus of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1970 to 1975. A member of the Indian Civil Service, he held several key positions in the Government of India and represented the country at the IMF and World Bank. Known for his integrity and economic expertise, he played a vital role in shaping India's financial policies during a critical period.

k) C. R. Pattabhiraman (1906–2001): Chetput Ramaswami Pattabhiraman, born on 11 November 1906 in Madras (Chennai), was a lawyer-turned-politician and alumnus of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai. He earned his LL. B from the London School of Economics, qualified at Middle Temple, and began legal practice before entering public life. He was elected twice to the Lok Sabha from Kumbakonam and held various ministerial portfolios, Deputy Minister for Labour and Planning, Deputy Minister for Information & Broadcasting, and Minister of Law & Company Affairs. An enthusiastic sportsman, he founded the Mylapore Recreation Club and helped establish the Madras Cricket Association.

l) Justice Palapatti Sadaya Goundar Kailasam (1915 –1986): Born in Salem, Tamil Nadu, Kailasam completed his B.Sc. in Botany from Presidency College and his LL.B. from Madras Law College.

He was also an alumnus of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, where he studied alongside P.S. High School, Mylapore during his formative years. Enrolled as an advocate in 1938, he served under P. V. Rajamannar (Madras HC) and K. Subbarao (SC).

He became a Judge of Madras High Court in October 1960, and was Chief Justice from 1976, to 1977 Supreme Court of India. He was then appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on January 3, 1977, serving until his retirement on September 12, 1980.

m) A.M.M. Arunachalam: A prominent Indian industrialist and member of the renowned Murugappa family, has played a pivotal role in shaping the growth of the Murugappa Group, one of India's leading business conglomerates. With vast experience in diverse industrial sectors, he served as Executive Chairman of the Murugappa Group, and currently holds leadership roles as Chairman of Parry Enterprises India Ltd. and Cholamandalam Home Finance Ltd.

A strong advocate for education and community welfare, Arunachalam served as Chairman of the Board of Governors at IIT Madras (1978–1981) and continues to support educational excellence through the AMM Foundation, where he serves as Managing Trustee. Under his leadership, the Foundation has contributed significantly to schools, hospitals, and rural development.

n) Shri R. V. Chandramouli, IAS (1932-2023):

Born in Rajamadam village, Thanjavur district, in 1932, Shri R. V. Chandramouli was a distinguished civil servant and former Home Secretary of Gujarat. He joined the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, in 1943 and spent nine formative years there, receiving both education and values-based training.

Thanks to the Home's support, he became the first in his family to attend college, graduating with B.A. (Hons.) in Mathematics from Vivekananda College. The teachings and role models at the Home instilled in him honesty, integrity, and courage, which guided him throughout his civil service career.

o) P. V. Krishnamurthy, IA&AS: who served as Chief Accountant General of Tamil Nadu. A senior officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS). A proud alumnus of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, he credited the Home for shaping both his personal and professional life. During his formative years at the Home, he imbibed the spirit of community living, discipline, and selfless service. The ideal of "seeing God in all human beings and serving them as such" became a guiding force in his career in public service.

p) Shri M. K. Balasubramanian, IAS: A senior officer of the Indian Administrative Service, served as the Commissioner of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. A distinguished alumnus of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, he was known for his balanced and inclusive approach to religious administration.

His selection to this sensitive and spiritually rooted post was influenced by the values he absorbed during his formative years at the Home—particularly the harmony of religions, respect for all sects within Hinduism, and the belief in serving all with impartiality. These ideals helped him treat temples and religious institutions across different traditions with fairness, dignity, and reverence.

Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home
Activities At A Glance



Ramakrishna Mission Students Home provides free food, clothing, accommodation, and education, both school and polytechnic college, to around 600 orphan and destitute boys. Founded in the year 1905 by Sri C. Ramaswami Ayyangar with the blessings and guidance of Revered Swami Ramakrishnanandaji Maharaj.



"The Palace for the Poor", inaugurated by Swami Brahmanandaji Maharaj strives to empower the poor by imparting value-based, Man-Making, Character-Building Education, according to the ideals of Swami Vivekananda through its Gurukula system of education.

Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School - Tirupati visit



Students with The Governor of Tamilnadu



You see many stars in the sky at night, but not when the sun rises. Can you therefore say that there are no stars in the heavens during the day? O man, because you cannot find God in the days of your ignorance, say not that there is no God.



Section X

Recognition and visits by eminent personalities



Chapter 12

Appreciation recorded by eminent visitors to the Home

Appreciations recorded

The experiment in education that was followed in the resurgent India received wide spread attention. The Home was soon recognized and accepted as a pioneer educational institution.

Some of the leading dignitaries in the then British Government and the great national leaders - right from Dr. Annie Besant, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru. Dr Sarojini Naidu, various governors of the states visited this institution and acquainted themselves with the silent work done here in the cause of social upliftment. The then President of India Dr.

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited the Home on 19-6-2003, got a firsthand acquaintance of its activities, interacted with the students and expressed his high appreciation.

Expressions of appreciation by the eminent leaders of both India and abroad after visiting the "Home" and seeing the activities going on here are reproduced below:

I have visited the Ramakrishna Home with much pleasure. There is no service to the motherland, which is greater than the bringing of Her youth in Her great religion hand-in-hand with western knowledge. Only then, can the English-educated and the Sanskrit

educated be drawn together, and the great inspiration, which came from Sri Ramakrishna, through his noblest disciple Swami Vivekananda, be made effectual in the uplifting of India.

- Annie Besant in 1914



I am exceedingly glad at being able to see this Institution. There is no lack in enthusiasm displayed by those managing the Institution and experience will show the many ways in which students may reap benefit.

- Mahatma Gandhi in 1915

I wish all success to the Students Home, which is the academy of the future servants of India, trained to a harmonious expression of life and service through the vital influences of great ideals and common aspirations.



- Mrs. Sarojini Naidu in 1917



I had the very great pleasure of seeing how things are managed in the Home... The institution deserves the support of all public-spirited men.

- C. Rajagopalachariar in 1917

Lady Willingdon and I visited the Ramakrishna Home and were immensely struck with its excellence.

There were many things that struck me, among others the fact that here at all events the communal

spirit is entirely absent, for I find that both subscribers and students belong to many different castes and creeds. Then again the management is all done by the boys themselves, an admirable thing for instilling character and responsibility into their lives. They can confidently rely on further Government assistance, should funds permit.

- *Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Willingdon in 1922*

Lady Godchen and I visited the Ramakrishna Home today. It is unlike any other Institution with which I am acquainted. It has a special atmosphere of its own where charity, breadth of view, spirituality, and practicality are combined in the daily life of students and boys of all creeds join together in the common life of the Institution, the various departments of which are managed by them in turn. Such a training influenced by the highest ideals should create character of great value to the country in which one day they will play their part.

**-*Rt. Hon'ble Viscount Goschen,
H.E. The Governor of Madras in 1925***

I have today seen the RKM Students' Home... The authorities have tried to bring together in one plane, religion, education, art and industries. Hence the authorities deserve to be highly congratulated for their having found out the real cause which has hampered the progress of Indians and have tried to apply a suitable remedy to it. (Translated from Urdu)

**- *Muhamad Syed Suleiman Nadvi Bahadur Secretary,
Dru-ul-Musannifin, Azamgarh, U.P. in 1927***

It gives me very great pleasure to record my impressions of this institution. The foundations... are unique and it is such silent work of love which contributes most to the uplifting of the nation. It works on the principle that all work is worship.



- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan in 1930

A quarter of a Century of strenuous work has ushered in to existence and brought to its present position an Institution which, while endeavoring to impart secular education on up to date lines, retaining the ideal of Gurukula, has given it a modern garb; and which strives to train students to live a life of Bramcharya, instilling into them the wisdom self-help and the dignity of labour.

- Sir George Frederick Stanley H.E. the Governor of Madras (Silver Jubilee Oration in 1930)

On visiting this Vidya Mandiram named after Sri Ramakrishna, our mind is filled with delight; at the evidence of the many good features such as sound education, good conduct, devotion, and general ability amongst all students; at the treasure of talented teachers that adorn it.... May God bless with long life and with ever increasing prosperity... (Translated from Sanskrit)



- H.H. Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal, Kanchi Kamakoti Math in 1932

The spirit of service and the idea of dignity of labour, taught and practiced in the Home appealed to us particularly.

- Lady and D.H. Boulton Esq. Secretary, Education Department in 1933.

My wife and I have derived great profit from our visit to the school. We hope that we will be able to inspire in the boys who come into our charge at the new Indian Public School some of the high ideals and spirit of service and the appreciation of the relative value of spiritual and material things that we see being planted in the minds of the boys here.

**- A.E. Foot, Esq.
The Doon School, Dehra Dun in 1935**



The Ramakrishna Mission has become the symbol of quiet and efficient social service in India. I have come across its institutions and relief centers in all manner of odd places and always I have found this spirit of service underlying all their work.

The Students' Home in Madras is an ambitious venture run on a big scale but behind it also there is the same spirit. I was impressed by it and its efficiency. I wish it all success.

- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1936

Those who send good wishes and greetings to the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home of Madras on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee in March 1955 honor themselves.

The saints (and good men working single-mindedly for good causes are saints) who have worked for and brought up the Home to its present condition are justly proud of their achievement. It is one of those rare Jubilees that are really golden and not called so by mere computations of time.

**- Sri C.Rajagopalachari,
Ex. Governor-General of India.**

Many years ago, I visited the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home at Mylapore, Madras and I was much struck by the good work that was being done there. Since then, the Students' Home has grown and is now catering for about 300 students of all classes.

I should like to send my good wishes to it on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee. I have often expressed my admiration for the work done by the Ramakrishna Mission in various parts of India and abroad. This Students' Home in Mylapore is one of their biggest centers for carrying on this fine work. I wish it every success.

- Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India.

I am glad to know that the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. On this auspicious occasion, I send my warm greetings and felicitations to all in charge of and responsible for the good work.

The Ramakrishna Mission has indeed been rendering unique service in diverse fields of social well-being and national regeneration. The missionary zeal that

animates its members and the lofty ideals which inspire them to undertake welfare work in difficult conditions, are highly held in great respect by the people at large.

- *Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras.*

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, I send my greetings and my best wishes.

The Home was inaugurated by Swami Ramakrishnananda and owes its original inspiration and inception to Sri Ramaswami Aiyangar, one of the most strenuous and far-sighted of Indian social workers. It has become not only an institution to render assistance to the poor and deserving students by way of board and lodging but a center of the right type of discipline and it aims to produce the correct attitude to life in consonance with Indian traditions and free from dogma or intolerance. The Ramakrishna Mission has brought into existence a great group of Educational Institutions, academic and technical, but the Students' Home is the nucleus of all these far-flung activities, and by reason of its formative character is a national asset. Under the fostering guardianship of Sri Ramanujachariar it is maintaining its traditions nobly.

I wish the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home all prosperity and success.

- *Dr. C.P.Ramaswami Aiyar, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University and Banaras University, Diwan of Travancore.*

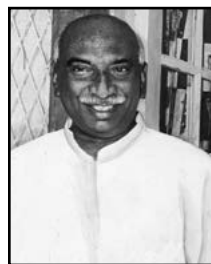
On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, the founders of

this Home can look back with pleasure to the progress made during this half century. The Home, started as a new venture, has given shelter to many a poor lad and equipped him to face the future with confidence. The service rendered by Mr. Ramanujachariar in this and other ventures started in the name of Ramakrishna Vivekananda cannot but elicit the admiration of all who have watched the progress of these institutions. I hope and trust that the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home will continue to flourish and serve the great cause for which it was founded.

**- Dr. A.Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar,
Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, Madras.**

The Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home has a tradition of selfless devotion to duty.

The Students, the staff and authorities have my very best wishes for success and happiness in their high endeavors.



- Sri K.Kamaraj, Chief Minister of Madras.

For the holy purpose of readjustment of human relationship, Sri Ramakrishna has chosen and will continue to choose from all over the world, men of sterling character and unswerving devotion. It has been the blessed privilege of your revered brother, the late Sri C. Ramaswami Iyengar and of yourself to be among those fortunate few. The names of both of you will ever remain associated with the astounding work that has been done in Madras.

It is only through worthy institutions that nations grow and prosper. In our task of national reconstruction, the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home in Madras will always induce emulation in many an institution that is to come up. In its noble task of preserving some of the rich traditions of the land, and in its motherly attitude in serving the needy students, may the Home be ever prosperous is my earnest prayer to the Lord.

**- Swami Chidbhananda, Tiruppalathurai,
Tiruchirapalli Dt. addressed to
Sri C.Ramanujachariar, Secretary of the Home.**

I am inspired by the Mission of Ramakrishna Mission Home.

My best wishes

Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam 19-06-2003



"I thank the teachers and entire staff of Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home for the great respect and honour conferred on me. I will never be able to forget this during my lifetime. I earnestly hope that one day, striving for the progress of our Country, the students of this school will be in the forefront. Thanks. Jai Hind."

**Shri Yogender Singh Yadav, Recipient of Param
Vir Chakra, 18, Grenadiers: 30.06.2012**

"I visited Home – real home-coming for me, as I studied in Vivekananda College (1968-71). Addressed the students of Polytechnic college who were inducted to Rotaract Club. My sincere best wishes to the students. May Godspeed in all their endeavours.

R. Nataraj, IPS, Chairman, TNPSC, 28.07.2012

“Today, I had the occasion to visit the Home and spend some time with the students. It was a great, exhilarating experience. The discipline and culture of the institution was inspiring. I found it as a revelation in my life. I wish all the best for the institution, which is already having a glorious history of 100 years, all the Best.”

Mr. V. Irai Anbu, 16.09.2012

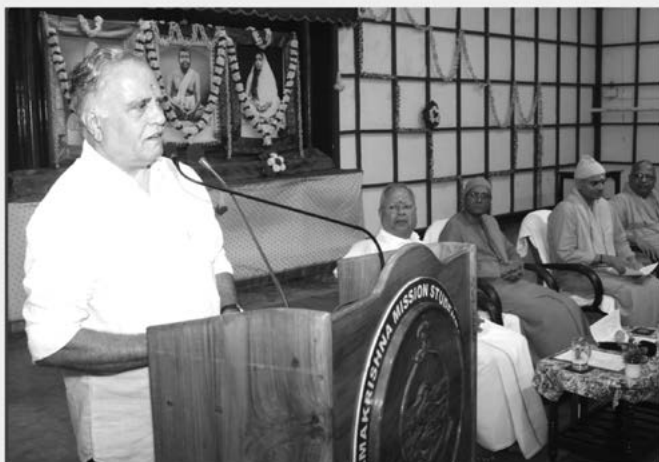
“A wonderful opportunity to be part of the Centenary celebrations of the RKM Students’ Home. Every time I come to the Home, a serene feeling surrounds and gives extreme peace and joy. Thanks once again for this experience. Wishing the Home greater heights.”

***Dr. Sudha Seshayyan, Vice-Chancellor, The TN
Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai, 26.06.2022***

“I am very excited, to visit the Ramakrishna Home. I am a silent observer of this Home, being its neighbor, for the last 50 years. A big beneficiary of many publications of Sri Ramakrishna Mission, there is never a day that passes without seeing the holy emblem of Sri Ramakrishna Mission and remembering Sri Anna Subramanian ji. The Home teaches the kids at their formative age, importantly, discipline, devotion and patriotism. Proof of this wonderful effort is seen, when I met students of the Home, who studied several decades before. These proud alumnae are occupying very high position in the society, and the only reason is the disciplined life and quality education that the Home has provided in addition to; food and shelter. I wish the Home many, many more centuries of service and looking forward to participating in the 125 year celebrations of the Home. I will be with God’s grace 78 years old then. Whatever help I can enable through IIT Madras, we shall take it forward.

Shri V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras: 26-06-2022

**Honoring Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj By Padmasree
Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chettiyar**

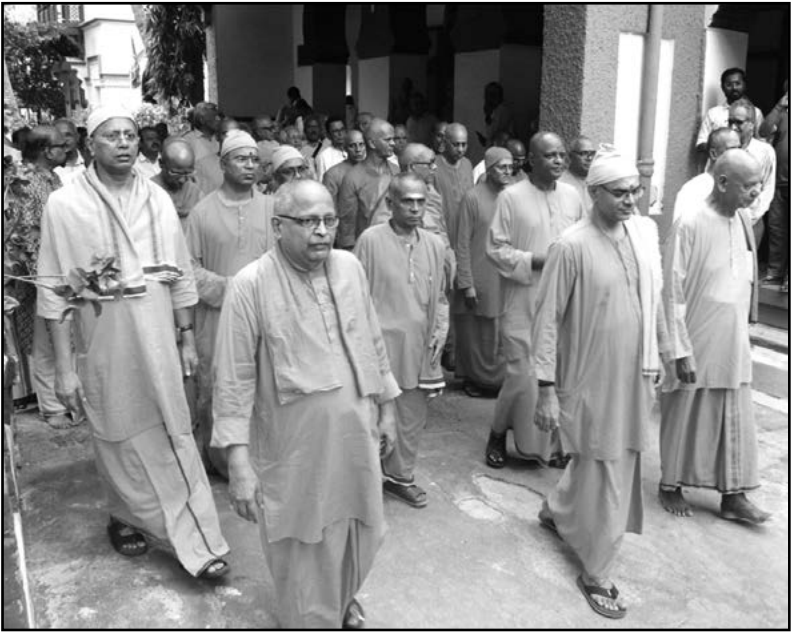


I tell you one thing - if you want peace, do not find fault with others. Rather see your own faults. Learn to make the whole world your own. No one is a stranger, my child; the whole world is your own.



Section XI

Administrators



Chapter 13

1) Presidents of the Home Management Committee



Swami Ramakrishnananda
(1905-11)



Swami Sharvananda
(1911-25)



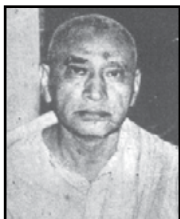
Swami Yatiswarananda
(1925-32)



Swami Amriteswarananda
(1933-35)



Swami Saswatananda
(1936-43)



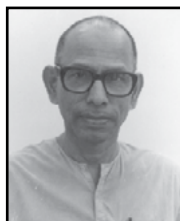
Swami Kailasananda
(1944-70)



Sri C. Raghavachari
(1971-78)



Sri Anna N. Subramanian
(1978-92)



Swami Smaranananda
(1992-96)



Swami Gautamananda
(1996-2024)



Swami Satyajnanananda
(2024-till date)

b) Secretaries of the Home



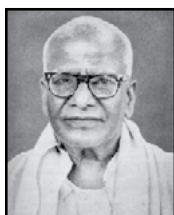
Sri C. Ramaswamy Iyengar
(1905-32)



Sri C. Ramanujachariar
(1932-56)



Sri S. Krishna Iyer
(1956-70)



Swami Nishkamananda
(1970-76)



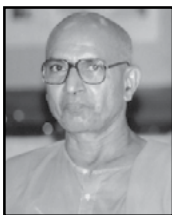
Swami Uddhavananda
(1976-77)



Swami Kirtidananda
(1977-81)



Swami Veetabhayananda
(1981-05)



Swami Deshikatmananda
(2005-2009)



Swami Satyajnanananda
(2009-2024)



Swami Dharmishthananda
(2024 - till date)

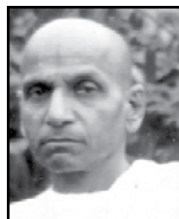
c) Headmasters Ramakrishna Mission Residential High School



**Sri K. Vedanta Desikan
(1922-35)**



**Sri N. Subramanian (OB)
(1935-50)**



**Sri C. Ranga Iyengar
(1950-59)**



**Sri J. Vaidyanathan
(1959-71)**



**Sri A.R. Subramanian
(1971-74)**



**Sri A.S. Kulathu
(1974-90)**



**Sri V. Arumugam
(1990-98)**



**Sri Kuppuswamy
(1998-1999)**



**Sri Kothandam
(1999-till date)**



**Sri N. Sriram
(2008-2016)**



**Sri N. Thaayumanavar
(2016-2023)**



**Sri Ashok Kumar
(2023- till date)**

d) Principals of Technical Institute



E KP. Subramanian
(1947-48)



Sri S. Sangameswaran
(1948-49)



Sri P.V. Sankara Iyer
(1950-52)



Sri Jagannathan
(1952-63)



Sri S. Ananthakrishnan
(1963-67)



Sri H.S. Parameswaran
(1967-80)



Sri P.K. Padmanabhan
(1980-98)



Sri Chellappa
(1998-02)



Sri Surendra Babu
(2002-06)

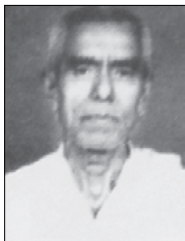


Sri Shanmughavel
(2006-2016)

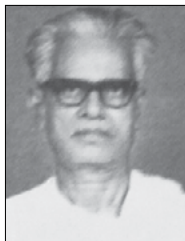


Sri M. Sugumaran
(2016-till date)

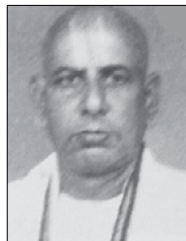
e) Headmasters/Headmistresses of Centenary Primary School



Sri K. Kuppuswamy
(1935-41)



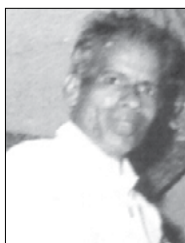
Sri S. Madhava Rao
(1941-64)



Sri K.C. Padmanabham
(1964-73)



Sri R. Ganesan
(1973-83)



Sri M. Krishnamachari
(1983-85)



Smt V. Jayalakshmi
(1985-88)



Smt R. Jayalakshmi
(1988-99)



Sri. J. Sampath Kumar
(1999-07)



Smt. K. Rama
(2007 onwards)

Section XII

Statements



Chapter 14

Statements of expenses over 100 years

(Total and per boarder)

Here below is given a consolidated statement of expenditure over the past 100 years.

These have been compiled from the annual reports issued by the management each year.

Statistics below also show the cost of living for food items alone over the period.

The overall expenditure per boarder includes cost of food per boarder per year plus the cost of maintaining the buildings and other expenses connected with the boarder's stay.

STATISTICS SHOWING EXPENSES ON PROVISIONS AND FOR OVERALL MAINTENANCE PER BOARDER PER YEAR

1	2	3	4	5	6
Year	Strength of boys	Articles of consumption	Average food and fuel	Total maintenance	Expenditure per boarder in the year
		Rs. Ana. Ps.		Rs. Ana. Ps.	Rs. Ps.
1905	10	241-13-06	24.11	390-0-8	39.00
1906	12	411-6-9	34.28	738-14-3	61.57
1907	15	548-1-7	36.54	957-2-4	63.82
1908	16	490-1-3	30.64	944-11-10	59.04
1909	16	637-13-5	39.86	1,110-6-2	69.41
1910	16	767-1-10	47.94	1,452-13-5	90.76
1911	22	971-2-6	44.14	1,725-12-7	78.44
1912	25	1171-3-2	46.85	1,909-12-4	76.39

1913	23	1294-6-10	56.28	2,368-4-8	102.96
1914	26	1260-4-11	48.45	2,712-10-2	104.33
1915	24	1249-12-1	52.51	2,995-3-11	124.79
1916	30	1070-11-11	35.69	3,608-5-6	120.28
1917	30	1715-2-2	57.17	4,522-11-11	150.74
1918	37	2296-9-4	62.07	5,379-1-0	145.38
1919	40	3742-11-5	93.57	6,969-6-4	174.24
1920	45	4772-13-11	106.06	8,525-2-6	189.47
1921	68	6179-12-5	90.88	11,570-0-9	170.15
1922	97	9292-3-7	95.80	29,842-5-1	307.67
1923	109	10539-4-1	96.69	40,302-7-0	369.74
1924	125	12662-13-5	101.30	45,119-2-0	360.95
1925	122	12670-13-10	103.86	40,535-9-0	332.25
1926	122	12991-3-9	106.49	45,294-6-11	371.27
1927	121	12290-15-7	101.58	43,980-13-11	363.47
1928	137	12282-8-5	89.65	44,101-5-5	321.91
1929	142	12605-7-8	88.77	49,070-4-4	345.57
1930	134	12868-15-9	96.04	45,802-11-1	341.81
1931	138	12328-15-1	89.34	42,733-2-2	309.66
1932	141	8707-8-4	61.76	41,762-15-3	296.19
1933	138	7897-2-8	57.23	38,305-13-10	277.57
1934	154	8565-12-11	55.62	39,651-10-11	257.47
1935	165	9747-13-0	57.08	46,469-10-3	281.63
1936	167	9352-0-8	56.00	45,702-9-9	273.67
1937	176	9825-8-11	55.83	47,094-3-11	267.58
1938	182	10087-5-3	55.43	51,946-6-9	285.42
1939	181	11785-5-7	65.11	55,708-10-10	307.78
1940	191	11288-10-7	59.10	54,116-2-4	283.33
1941	199	11288-10-7	56.73	59,726-5-3	300.13
1942	220	18354-4-11	83.42	70,409-10-2	320.04
1943	257	31769-9-3	123.62	86,470-9-7	336.46
1944	270	30419-10-10	112.67	89,638-8-5	332.00
1945	269	35,533-1-11	132.09	73,408-7-5	272.89
1946	296	40857-11-10	138.03	86,318-6-11	291.62
1947	279	49537-4-5	177.55	95,754-1-7	343.20
1948	255	50448-9-0	197.84	98,887-9-3	387.79
1949	248	48788-15-0	196-7-3	97,001-13-8	391.14
1950	253	50165-7-5	198.28	1,01,639-12-3	401.74
1951	268	49503-8-6	184.71	1,05,429-0-3	393.39

1952	269	55126-1-1	204.93	1,06,843-11-10	397.18
1953	294	57886-6-6	196.88	1,10,549-8-1	376.01
1954	300	43143-1-7	143.81	99,511-11-3	331.70
1955	320	39398-9-6	123.12	1,04,301-7-11	325.94
1956	321	49115-4-9	153.00	1,14,619-7-7	357.07
1957	336	48,042.33	142.98	1,08,910.84	324..14
1958	299	60,070.51	200.90	1,26,557.71	423.27
1959	303	64,584.32	213.15	1,31,503.26	434.01
1960	275	80361.23	292.22	2,65,160.45	723.16
(Dec. 59 to Mar 61)					
1961-62	273	57554.17	210.82	1,86,325.15	682.51
1962-63	281	55552.44	197.70	1,91,518.71	681.56
1963-64	276	61521.50	222.90	1,89,386.09	686.18
1964-65	293	62751.31	214.17	1,90,061.90	648.67
1965-66	299	86756.75	290.16	1,90,154.60	635.96
1966-67	306	92797.61	303.26	1,93,322.20	631.77
1967-68	300	94274.29	314.25	1,93,083.20	643.61
1968-69	318	86448.22	271.85	1,94,976.02	613.13
1969-70	317	90060.48	284.10	1,97,451.24	622.87
1970-71	299	111684.56	373.53	2,16,234.59	723.19
1971-72	312	121097.55	388.13	2,65,013.33	849.40
1972-73	329	136268.37	414.19	2,91,033.27	884.60
1973-74	323	151985.00	470.54	2,96,584.00	918.22
1974-75	316	183405.95	580.40	2,98,764.55	933.64
1975-76	320	184291.66	575.91	3,28,071.42	1,025.22
1976-77	317	155790.21	491.45	3,22,969.67	1,018.83
1977-78	332	185473.12	558.65	3,41,697.97	1,029.21
1978-79	355	198427.77	558.95	3,80,613.65	1,072.15
1979-80	334	231669.51	693.62	4,92,006.54	1,473.08
1980-81	330	292232.06	885.55	6,93,655.41	2,101.99
1981-82	327	355673.98	1087.69	7,06,620.54	2,160.92
1982-83	324	339874.44	1048.00	8,73,159.84	2,694.94
1983-84	320	490531.41	1532.91	11,44,375.50	3,576.17
1984-85	335	641646.60	1915.36	11,62,500.14	3,770.15
1985-86	335	738708.46	2205.10	12,81,415.42	3,825.12
1986-87	313	725199.46	2316.93	11,01,655.10	3,519.66
1987-88	331	812267.20	2453.98	13,05,696.88	3,944.70
1988-89	347	911185.98	2625.90	14,60,715.01	4,209.55
1989-90	329	945918.13	2875.13	15,87,973.47	4,826.66

1990-91	345	990611.90	2871.34	15,69,369.48	4,548.89
1991-92	339	1153224.00	3401.84	21,70,919.23	6,403.89
1992-93	327	1197342.00	3661.60	23,00,228.90	7,034.34
1993-94	334	1369080.00	4099.04	26,40,539.80	7905.80
1994-95	339	1631071.00	4811.42	29,04,393.28	8,567.53
1995-96	332	1898223.00	5717.54	36,85,400.21	11,100.60
1996-97	324	1969553.00	6078.87	40,96,090.10	12,642.25
1997-98	315	1651803.85	5243.82	39,16,975.15	12,434.84
1998-99	316	1978920.95	6262.41	49,91,246.77	15,795.08
1999-2000	329	2255580.15	6855.87	49,81,188.55	15,140.39
2000-2001	309	2072911.86	6708.45	54,71,067.48	14,469.47
2001-2002	325	2412975.70	7424.54	57,82,206.10	17,791.40
2002-2003	372	2513326.93	6756.26	64,93,387.09	17,455.34
2003-2004	394	2812113.69	7137.34	87,64,341.47	22,244.52
2004-2005	403	2854065.30	7082.05	89,52,588.00	22,214.85
2005-2006	429	2821894.05	6577.84	85,87,686.65	20,017.92
2006-2007	520	3738929.80	7190.25	1,09,40,552.91	21,039.52
2007-2008	634	4605050.75	7264.00	1,25,94320.33	19,869.86
2008-2009	655	5478200	8363.66	12594320	19227.97
2009-2010	659	4912924	7455.12	11343570	17213.31
2010-2011	654	4468391	6832.40	16158022	24706.46
2011-2012	635	5217002	8215.75	20855248	32842.91
2012-2013	637	6996557	10983.61	23139136	36325.17
2013-2014	644	7270564	11289.70	29616987	45989.11
2014-2015	639	8526723	13343.85	35493951	55546.09
2015-2016	629	10202762	16220.61	40766214	64811.15
2016-2017	615	8388622	13640.04	41480775	67448.41
2017-2018	638	8941114	14014.29	40444547	63392.71
2018-2019	620	8824481	14233.03	42050938	67824.09
2019-2020	626	9468799	15125.88	50075519	79992.84
2020-2021	630	3863339	6132.28	39300618	62381.93
2021-2022	630	7754460	12308.67	49668718	78839.23
2022-2023	600	16534490	27557.48	74413838	124023.06
2023-2024	589	6752509	11464.36	64461835	109442.84

The expenditure in col. 3 and 4 relate to food expenses only.

Yardstick used in taking the statistics.

1. Hostel students of Malliankaranai not taken.
2. Number of students who stayed in the greater part of the year is taken.
3. Nomenclature "Articles of consumption" has been taken from annual reports under Head of accounts named as "Boarding", "provision" and also as "Food and Fuel" in the various years of the period.
4. In the earlier years and in the intermittent periods also expenditure on "Fuel" was taken from the column. "Light and water" and hence the appropriate proportion has been taken for fuel.
5. $\frac{1}{3}$ of energy expenditure and light consumption is taken and in the same way $1\frac{1}{2}$ of water consumption is taken from "Light and water" column of the annual reports reflecting actual expenses for food preparation alone.

Figs in col. 6 include board, lodging and other expenses (1) uniform (2) supply of books & stationery (3) electricity & water charges (4) cultural & pooja expenses (5) scholarship (6) maintenance of building (7) transport, etc.

Section XIII

Old Boys Associations



Chapter 15

a) Home Day and Old Boys' Associations

The Home day is a unique occasion for the reunion of the old boys and the new ones. On the Home day the old boys of the Home assemble in large number and exchange notes. Old boys' Association serves as a vital link between the past and present alumni of the Home. For preserving the healthy traditions of the Home in unbroken continuity and for promoting its growth, the Home is in living touch with its alumni in day to day activities.

Old boys' Association branches are opened in places like Chennai, Hosur and Hyderabad and these association meetings are regularly held which are attended by Secretary Swamiji and senior old boys.

Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We must have life-building, man- making, character-making assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library. If education is identical with information, the libraries are the greatest sages in the world, and encyclopaedias are the Rishis.

- Sawmi Vivekananda

RKM Students Home Old Boy's Association

Currently three chapters of RKM home Old boys association are active:

- Chennai Chapter
- Hosur-Bangalore Chapter
- Hyderabad Chapter

Chennai Chapter:

Starting from 2016, members of old boy's association and office bearers of association involve in various support activities for the Tuition Centers Run by Home, including selection of location, creating necessary infrastructure, Selection of local tutors, preparing and monitoring Schedules and Progress of students.

From 2020 onwards some of the Tuition Centers are run by old students of students' Home (Silver Jubilee batch and Current outgoing batch jointly operate), totally 13 tuition centers are in operation benefitting 600 students in the current year

Relief activities: Members of old students Association Chennai actively involved in all relief works organized by our Students Home.

Health – Medical Camps: From 2016 onwards regular medical camps were conducted in rural villages. Qualified Doctors and medical staff attend the camps. Prescribed medicines were given free of cost to all patients. Old boys association volunteers participate in the weekly camps. Special eye camps and dental camps are also conducted from time to time.

Satsang: Spiritual Satsang events were conducted at the residences of sponsoring old students in and around Chennai. Guru Maharaj ashtothra archana, bajans, spiritual talk by senior monks from home and other RK mission centers. Old students attend the sessions with their family members.

Subsequently the program was conducted in online mode which widened the reach beyond geography with participation of old students' families from Bangalore, Hosur and overseas counties. This event stopped temporarily.

Hosur-Bangalore Chapter:

This chapter is initiated by Most Revered Swami Veetabayanandaji Maharaj during 1996 started by Sri Bhawanishankar who is our founder president. The Chapter gives us a chance to remember of our sweet memories during our Home days sharing with new comers and to show our gratitude to the Home.

Activities undertaken

- Monthly meeting on first Wednesday every month
- Sathsang – Alternate month 4th Sunday
- Tribal villages Kodagiri & Bettamugilalam visits collaborating with SRSA (Two times per year)
- Distribution of collected old cloths and food grains.
- Celebration of National youth day collaborating with SRSA
- Doing services as needed to Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram – Mathigiri.

b) Milestones in the History of the Home

Salient incidents/important events that have influenced the shaping and progress of the Home are mentioned below:

- 1905 : Founding the Home-A humble beginning with the blessings of the Saint Swami Ramakrishnananda, with the help of Ramu and Ramanujachariar.
- 1908 : Swami Brahmananda's first visit to the Home
- 1911 : Passing away of Swami Ramakrishnananda, the first president of the Home
- 1915 : First visit to the Home by Mahatma Gandhi
- 1916. Donation of 15 grounds of land by S.G. Srinivasachariar
- 1917 : Foundation laying ceremony for the current Home building by Srimat Swami Brahmananda, President of Ramakrishna Math & Mission, Belur.
- 1918 : Affiliation of the Home to Ramakrishna Mission, Belur
- 1921 : Dedication ceremony of the "Palace for the Poor" by Swami Brahmanandaji Maharaj
- 1922 : Starting of Residential High School
- 1932 : Starting of Ramakrishna Mission High School, T. Nagar with 180 students, under the Home Management. Passing away of Sri. Ramaswamy Iyengar. His cousin Ramanujachariar assuming as Secretary.

- 1936 : Starting of Ramakrishna Centenary Elementary school of the Home. Opening of High School branches in South T. Nagar and North T. Nagar.
- 1939 : Strength of boys in all the 3 branches of T. Nagar Schools rose to 2253.
- 1941 : Training of War Technicians in Industrial School of the Home at Mylapore
- 1942 : Shifting of Residential High School from Mylapore to Uthiramerur under evacuation scheme due to World War II.
- 1946 : Shifting of High School Section to Athur from Uthiramerur.
- 1948 : The Management of the School in T. Nagar was transferred from the Home to a separate committee.
- 1949 : Passing away of Sri S. Vasudevachariar, a saintly personality. He had been serving the various institutions in Madras under Ramakrishna Mission in a most dedicated manner. He was Treasurer of the Home for 40 years.
- 1955 : Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Home
- 1956 : Passing away of C. Ramanujachariar
- 1958 : Shifting of High School section back to Madras from Athur. Introduction of Diploma Course in Mechanical Engineering.
- 1962 : Construction of Vivekananda Centenary Hall in the Home.
- 1965 : Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Home

- 1967 : Passing away of Sri. T.S. Krishna Rao
- 1970 : Decision of Mission Head quarters to post only a member of Monastic Order as Secretary of the Home
- 1981 : Platinum Jubilee of the Home celebrated
- 1987 : 150th Birth Centenary of Sri Ramakrishna was organized in a grand manner in the Home for 4 days.
- 1992 : Passing away of Sri Anna N. Subramanian
- 2000 : Malliankaranai sub centre became an independent centre.
- 2003 : Visit to the Home by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, President of India.
- 2004 : One year Centenary Celebrations of the Home commenced.
- 2005 : Concluding functions of the Centenary Celebrations. Commencement of two new Diploma Courses DAE & DCE.
- 2006 : Opening of the Centenary Block Building with Prayer Hall.
- 2009 : Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj took charge as Secretary, in place of Swami Deshikatmanandaji Maharaj.
- 2010 : 22 additional staff quarters inaugurated.
- 2012 : The Polytechnic College received the Outstanding Educational Institution Award from the National Institute for Quality and Reliability.

- 2012 : Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations
- 2015 : Dr. Abdul Kalam Block (3rd floor over the kitchen) was inaugurated. 150th birth anniversary of Swami Akhandanandaji Maharaj.
- 2019 : Inauguration of a Toilet Block for Residential High School.
- 2021 : Renovation of Home Kitchen with modern steam cooking setup. 38th National Youth Day and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- 2022 : 125th Anniversary of Ramakrishna Mission. Centenary celebrations of Residential High School and "The Palace for the Poor".
- 2023 : 1. Inauguration of STEM Lab in Residential High School.
2. Computer Lab upgraded (sponsored by K.R.S Charities).
3. "Ayanam-2" Student Management Software implemented for digital record-keeping.
- 2024 : Swami Dharmishthanandaji Maharaj became the secretary of the students' home.
- 2025 : Visit of Most Revered President Maharaj Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj visited Home and dedicated project skill-up.

CONCLUSION

"Tradition is to an institution what character is to an individual. Tradition has a past and a present. The past relates to the nucleus from which the institution has grown, its courses of action, ideals and achievements. The present unconsciously takes shape from the past, draws its sustenance therefrom and grows by its impulsion."

Thus the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home which has grown phenomenally all over these years into a large campus with more than 700 inmates at present is the story of a few inspired souls who saw God in the faces of 5 orphan students from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, it is on this sure foundation of acts of kindness and heart-felt sympathy that the Home has been built. Little acts of kindness, little words of love make this earth an Eden like the Heaven above.

As said earlier, Home is conceived as a Temple of learning and not a charity asylum. All efforts will be made to preserve the institution in the same spirit realizing the divine touch present everywhere. It is a humble memorial to Sri Ramakrishna's spirit of compassion to the suffering humanity.

What sustains this great temple of learning is the spontaneous and unfailing help coming in different ways, from generous public. We pay our gratitude to all those great souls who by their matchless and selfless service made this institution a real Home to the inmates far away from their own homes.

The real power behind this institution is the inspired dedication of the monks attached to the Home from time

to time, teaching staff of polytechnic college and high school, some of the old boys of the Home who continue to associate themselves actively with their "Home" even after retirement.

The Home records its deep appreciation and gratitude to all these people. Home offers its salutations to the Holy Trinity and seek their benign grace and blessings to this institution for its continued service to the orphans and destitute boys for all time to come.

The immortal words of Swamiji, **"May I be born again and again and suffer thousands of miseries so that I may worship the only God that exists, the only God I believe in-My God- the miserable, my God-the poor of all races, is the special object of my worship"** will continue to inspire all.



MESSEGE

Swami Gautamananda

President,

Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission

I am happy to know that the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home, Chennai, is celebrating Home Day on 9th February 2025. Swami Brahmanandaji had called the Students' Home as 'Palace for the Poor' and had stayed in it for a month and inaugurated the unusually majestic structure on the Akshaya Tritiya Day on 10 May 1921.

The diverse service activities carried out by the Ramakrishna Mission are deeply rooted in the principles of the organization, which were articulated by Swami Vivekananda. On a more profound level, these ideals were expressed by Sri Ramakrishna himself, who, while descending from a heightened state of divine consciousness, once said, "Not compassion, but worship of jivas. Who is man to show compassion to others?" This remark was made at Dakshineswar in the presence of his disciples, including Narendranath, who later became Swami Vivekananda. This philosophy of seeing the Divine in all beings is the essence of the Ramakrishna Mission's approach to service. The Mission views those who receive service as manifestations of the Divine - a perspective that distinguishes it from other social service organizations. In fact, the Ramakrishna Mission is a pioneer and leader in this attitude towards work and service.

The Students' Home in Chennai is dedicated to the holistic development of its orphan students, providing them with accommodation, nourishment and education with great care and attention. Their growth is nurtured in physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual dimensions.

For over a century, this Institution has shaped them into ideal citizens of the nation. The teachings of Swami Vivekananda, particularly his call to serve the needy, are brought to life through the work done at the Students' Home. It is in truth a living example of love, service and sacrifice.

I pray to Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda for their perpetual blessings on the Students' Home, and on all monastics, students, staff, volunteers and well-wishers of this Home. May the Students' Home continue its service of 'God in Man' for years to come, is my earnest prayer to them.

One should constantly repeat the name of God. The name of God is highly effective in the Kaliyuga. The practice of yoga is not possible in this age, for the life of a man depends on food. Clap your hands while repeating God's name, and the birds of your sins will fly away.



MEDITATION AND WORSHIP OF SRI RAMAKRISHNA (MANASA PUJA)

First sit upright and gently close your eyes. Place your right palm over your left and place them on your lap. Imagine a full bloomed lotus in your heart with Bhagawan Sri Ramakrishna, sitting on it with a blessing smile. Pray to Him, "O! Sri Ramakrishna! May there be peace and love in this world. Bless us, your children, to live in harmony with each other. Give us, mental and physical strength. May your grace make us excel in morality and character.

Prayer to Holy Mother

Mother! Oh our beloved mother Sarada! Incarnation of Devi Sarasvati! Grant us pure knowledge. Make us excel in our studies and succeed in our goals. Bless us all and make our Students' Home attain greater heights and achieve excellence. May our love and devotion for this Home, grow forever. Oh ever gracious Mother! Bless and guide us to live as true children of Bhagawan Sri Ramakrishna!"

Then, mentally offer pure water of the sacred rivers to the holy feet of Sri Ramakrishna, wash and wipe them gently. Mentally apply fragrant sandal paste gently to those lotus feet. Focus mentally on the feet of Sri Ramakrishna and offer fresh fragrant flowers. Again mentally, with devotion, wave fragrant incense.

Show Arati to Sri Ramakrishna and offer naivedyam fruits/sweets etc. Then chant the following mantra three times:" Om Namo Bhagavate Sri Ramakrishnaya!"

Then Complete the puja with Sastanga Namaskaram to Sri Ramakrishna.

Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi Hari om Tat Sat Sri Ramakrishnarpanamastu

Tuition Center Photos



Old Boys Association Meeting

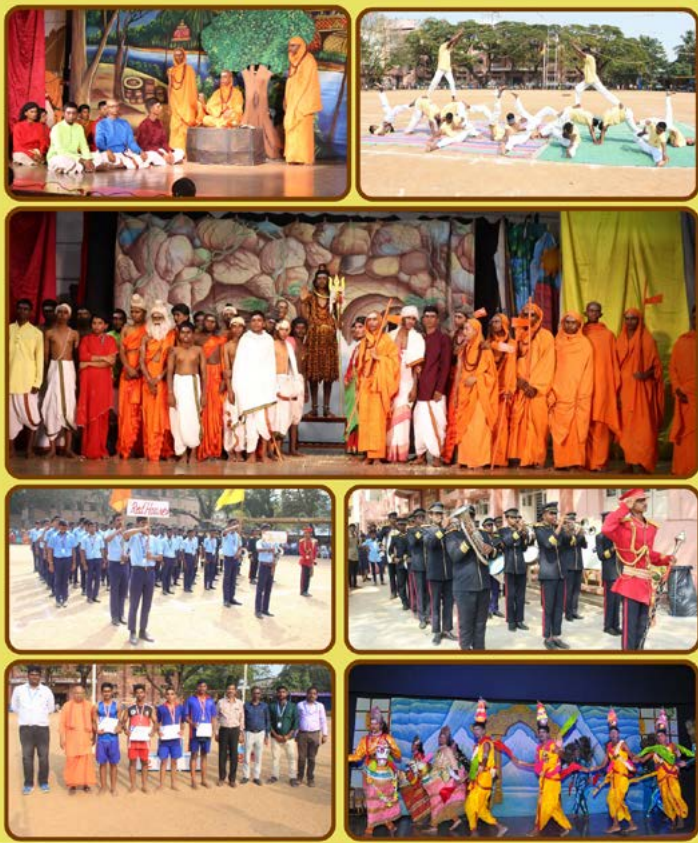


We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet.



Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College

The Polytechnic College has smart classrooms, a broadband internet facility, and a library. Students participate in extracurricular activities cultural and literary fields, sports and games, state-level seminars, and workshops.



My ideal, indeed, can be put into a few words, and that is: to preach unto mankind their divinity, and how to make it manifest in every movement of life.



Independence Day Celebration - 15-08-2024



Art Work By High School Students



1. Service to man is service to god: Shashi Maharaj gave us a beautiful message. He said: "Giving food is considered a great, giving education is even greater. But the greatest gift of all is giving Self-knowledge, Brahma-jnana. This institution must harmonize all three. May Sri Ramakrishna bless this noble undertaking!"

Navaratri Utsav - 2024



Navaratri utsav - Cultural Programmes



2. Science and Religion: The combination of the moral and spiritual disciplines of the Sanatana Dharma, the ancient religion of our country, with the advanced intellectual power and practical wisdom acquired through scientific education, particularly its science and technology.

Deepavali Celebrations



Vinayaka Chaturthi Celebrations



National Youth Day Marathon Run



3. Gurukula style of education: Meaningful aspect of our Home lies in its Gurugṛha-vāsa, or the traditional Gurukula style of education. Here, our students live in close proximity with the teachers and imbibe Culture, traditions and values effortlessly. This gives strength to their personality.

Teacher's Day Celebration



Universal Brotherhood Day 11-09-2024



National Youth Day -2025



4. Kshatra virya and Brahma Teja: Strong, fearless personality with knowledge and wisdom. Here equal importance given to both heart and brain. We aim to nurture the overall personality of each student - physically, emotionally, intellectually, morally and spiritually.

Akshaya Tritiya



5. Kamadhenu or Kalpavriksha: “Whatever Swami Brahmananda touched not only became pure, but also got purifying power.” His towering spiritual personality has infused fresh life and vigour to the Home. So Home has become Nitya Kalpataru, a wish fulfilling tree, like Vedas gives Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha to all.

Pongal Celebration



6. Home's Strength: Institutions, we should remember, are not just brick and mortar, nor are they just sophisticated infrastructure — the modern telephones, computers, e-mail, and the internet. They are sustained by purity, unselfishness and austerity.



Humble offering to Holy Trio

7. Unity and brotherhood: Inmates in the home develop genuine feeling of brotherhood even though they are all from different background and communities. They display exceptional unity among themselves in all kinds of circumstances.