

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AKHIL BHARAT VIVEKANANDA YUVA MAHAMANDAL FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009

The Akhil Bharat Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal having started its journey about 42 years back has been trying all these years to spread the man making ideas of Swami Vivekananda among the young men of the country and to channelize their youthful energy into constructive and nation building work. Although we had to cross many obstacles and hurdles in the initial stage of our journey, gradually we started getting more and more encouraging response from a section of young men and the Mahamandal has now about 250 centres in ten States of India.

During the year under report six Pathachakras — one in North 24 Parganas, one in South 24 Parganas, one in Darjeeling, one in Paschim Medinipur and two in Purba Medinipur started functioning and they have been sending monthly reports to the central organization.

Seven Pathachakras have been permitted to work using the name of Mahamandal. These are Tatarpur Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Belda Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Digbarasati Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal and Rabidaspur Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, all in Paschim Medinipur, Danguajhar Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal in Jalpaiguri and Taraknagar Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal in Nadia.

During the year Kankradaha Marahaldi Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal in the district of South 24 Parganas has been granted affiliation.

YOUTH TRAINING CAMPS

The basic idea of the Mahamandal being to conduct a man-making movement and to train young men to build character, the Mahamandal organizes youth training camps. The biggest camp is organized on an all India basis and for a duration of six days. Besides the All India Youth Training Camp which is held annually in the last week of December each year, camps of three to four days duration are held, locally, regionally or on State levels.

Forty-second Annual All India Youth Training Camp

The Forty-second Annual All India Youth Training Camp of the Akhil Bharat Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal was held from 25 to 30 December 2008 at Gangadharpur Shikshan Mandir (B.Ed. College), Gangadharpur in the district of Howrah, West Bengal.

The camp was attended by 1309 young trainees from Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattishgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and different districts of West Bengal.

The camp was inaugurated by Srimat Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj, Assistant Secretary of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur. The inaugural session of the camp was also addressed among others by Srimat Swami Tattvavidanandaji Maharaj, Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Veda Vidyalaya and a trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission. Srimat Swami Tyagarupanundoji, Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandir, Belur spoke in the evening session of the camp on 28 December. His subject of discussion was 'Swami Vivekananda and His Call to the Nation'. Srimat Swami Shivamayanandaji Maharaj, a trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission, was the guest-in-chief at the farewell session of the camp on 30th December. Srimat Swami Bhavaharanandaji Maharaj of Ramakrishna Math and Mission, Belur also addressed the campers in the farewell session.

On the fifth day of the camp on 29 December 275 campers donated blood.

The attendance in the camp was an on all time record and the camp was a grand success.

Thirty-second Orissa State Level Youth Training Camp

The thirty-second Orissa State Level Youth Training Camp was organized by the Orissa State Branch of the Akhil Bharat Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal from 11 to 14 October 2008 at the Campus School of IDCOL Ferrochrome & Alloys Limited, Jajpur Road in the district of Jajpur, Orissa. Srimat Swami Asimatmanandaji of Ramakrishna Yogashram, Koalpara in the district of Bankura inaugurated the camp. Srimat Swami Priyarupananda of Ramakrishna Math and Mission, Bhubaneswar also attended the inaugural session and addressed the campers. The President and Secretary of the Mahamandal also addressed the campers several times.

The Second Inter State Youth Training Camp

The Second Inter State Youth Training Camp of the Mahamandal was organized by the Jhumri Telaiya Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal at Meridian Academy, Bishnupur Road, Jhumri Telaiya , Dist. Kodarma, Jharkhand from 14 to 16 November 2008. The camp was attended by 250 young trainees. The President of the Mahamandal and Sri Ranen Mukherjee, one of the Assistant Secretaries of the Mahamandal addressed the campers.

The Tripura State Level Youth Training Camp

The Tripura State Level Youth Training Camp was held at Pallimangal Higher Secondary School, Agartala, from 9 to 11 May 2008. Srimat Swami Byomakeshananda of Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Agartala attended the camp and addressed the campers.

Campers donated blood on the concluding day of the camp. Sri Amit Kumar Datta attended the camp and took some training classes.

Zonal Youth Training Camps

The **Seventh Annual Howrah and Hooghly Zonal Youth Training Camp** of the Mahamandal was held at Uluberia from 30 May to 1 June 2008. The camp was inaugurated by Srimat Swami Ananganandaji of Ramakrishna Math & Mission, Belur. A total of 205 young men attended the camp as trainees.

The **Twenty-third Annual Kolkata and South 24 Parganas Zonal Youth Training Camp** was also held from 30 May to 1 June 2008 at Cossimbazar Polytechnic School, Baghbazar, Kolkata. Srimat Swami Hitakamananda of Belur Math inaugurated the camp. The camp was participated by 253 young trainees. The President of the Mahamandal attended the camp and answered questions in the question-answer sessions of the camp and addressed the campers.

The **Twenty-fourth Annual Nadia and North 24 Parganas Zonal Youth Training Camp** was held at Barasat from 6 to 8 June 2008. The camp was inaugurated by Srimat Swami Shantidanandaji Maharaj, President, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Barasat. A total of 365 young men joined the camp as trainees. Srimat Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj, President of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission Ashrama, Maldah and a trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur spoke in the evening session of the second day of the camp on 1 June, 2008. The President of the Mahamandal also addressed the campers.

The **Twenty-ninth Annual Purba and Paschim Medinipur Zonal Youth Training Camp** was held from 7 May to 9 May 2008 at Khanchi, Purba Medinipur. Swami Haridevanandaji of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Puri inaugurated the camp which was attended by 409 young trainees.

The **Twenty-seventh Annual North Bengal Zonal Youth Training Camp** of the Mahamandal was held at Margaret High School, Shiliguri from 26 June to 29 June 2008. Srimat Swami Samshuddhanandaji Maharaj, President, Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Math, Kolkata, inaugurated the camp. Srimat Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj, President, Ramakrishna Math and Mission Ashrama, Maldah and a trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission, Belur spoke in the evening session of the second day of the camp. The Farewell session of the camp was addressed by Srimat Swami, Akshayanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Jalpaiguri. President of the Mahamandal also answered questions and addressed the campers on the last day.

The **Fifth Annual Bardhaman-Birbhum-Bankura-Purulia Zonal Youth Training Camp** was held at Nabasan High School, Nabasan, Dist. Bankura from 11 to 13 October 2008. Srimat Swami Balabhadranandaji, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Asansole inaugurated the camp. Swami Bharupanandaji of Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Asansole also addressed the campers.

Besides the above Zonal Camps more than 100 one day Youth Training Camps were organized by different units of the Mahamandal at different places.

Periodical Special Training Camp

In Addition to youth training camps of different durations for training general youths in the man-making ideas of Swami Vivekananda, for intensive training of the organizers of different units of the Mahamandal. Periodical Special Training Camps were held at Mahamandal Bhavan, Konnagar. During the year under report four such periodical special training camps were organized. These Periodical Special Training Camps were attended by 120 to 150 organizers of different units of the Mahamandal. These camps were found very effective for better understanding of the basic ideas of Mahamandal.

Purba-O-Paschim Medinipur Zilla Kishore Prasikshan Shibir

A training camp was held for adolescents under the name and style Purba-O-Paschim Medinipur Zilla Kishore Prasikshan Shibir at Medinipur Ramakrishna Mission Vidya Bhavan, Medinipur from 25 October to 27 October, 2008. The camp was attended by 254 trainees from 27 units of the two districts.

Youth Rally

Every year the Mahamandal organizes a Youth Rally on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Since 1969 upto 2007 such youth rallies were held at Saheed Minar Maidan, Kolkata except on one occasion. Due to some administrative problems, Youth Rally in 2008 was held at Azad Hind Bag (Hedua Park). From the experience of Youth Rally of 2008, it was considered that Azad Hind Bag was a more suitable venue to organize our Youth Rally and therefore, during the year under report the Youth Rally was organized at Azad Hind Bag on 18 January 2009. Srimat Swami Sarvabhutanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata, addressed the meeting and it was a grand success. It was presided over by the Mahamandal President.

Besides the Youth Rally organized centrally at Kolkata, all the units of the Mahamandal observed birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda in their respective places in a befitting manner.

Children's Wing

The children's wing of the Mahamandal, popularly known as 'Vivek Vahini', is an important wing of the Mahamandal. Man making and life building being the basic theme of the Mahamandal activities, if we start this work of man-making from early, the chance of success will be more. The children's wing of the Mahamandal at its inception got very encouraging response and almost all the centres of the Mahamandal had a strong

children's wing. But unfortunately, during the last few years due to great pressure of private tuition children are not being allowed by their guardians to spend time in Vivek Vahini. As a result children's wings of many units had to be closed and the units which still have their children's wings are reduced in strength.

The **Vivek Vahini Trainer's Training Camp** of the Mahamandal was held at Ramakrishna Sarada Ashrama Vidyamandir, Contai from 24 April to 27 April, 2008. A total of 102 trainees joined the camp from different units of the Mahamandal.

Publication

As is known to you all there are about 80 books/booklets published by Mahamandal in Bengali, English, Hindi, Oriya and some other regional languages. During the year under report a new booklet titled 'Swami Vivekananda's Thoughts on Industrialization' has been published. I am also glad to inform you that the Bengali book 'Swami Vivekananda-O-Aamader Sambhabana', 'Vivek Geeti', 'Mahamandaler Lakshya-O-Karma-dhara', 'Manahsamyog', 'Charttrer Gun', 'Jiban Garah', 'Charitra Gathan', and 'Shata-varsher Pariprekshite Swarniji-O-Netaji' and one English book 'Mental Concentration' were reprinted during the year.

Besides the books the bilingual organ of the Mahamandal 'Vivek-Jivan' has been uninterruptedly being published for over 40 years.

Book Stalls

Due to uncertainty as to the venue of Calcutta Book Fair, the Mahamandal did not set up any book stall in Kolkata Book Fair. But as to previous years Siliguri Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal continued to set up book stalls at North Bengal Book Fair. Various other centres of the Mahamandal opened book stalls at district book fairs. A large number of units opened book stalls during Durgapuja and Kalipuja festivals.

Blood Donation

Besides the blood donation camp arranged by the central organization during the All India Youth Training Camp, blood donation camps were organized by various units including Agartala Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Fulia Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Sthirpara Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal and Bhimeswari Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal.

In all about 600 young men donated blood in these camps.

Educational Activities

Swami Vivekananda held education as panacea for all evils. But Swamiji also held that the present system of education was very faulty. There is very little scope of man-making

or character building in the present system of education. The Mahamandal has therefore a special responsibility to supplement the present system of education. With this end in view quite a number of centres of Mahamandal including Kharigeria Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Atbati Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Aladarput Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Janibigha Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal are running schools. In these schools apart from following government syllabus, attention is given to impart man-making education. A total number of 2000 students are studying in these schools of the Mahamandal.

Besides running schools, about 30 centres of the Mahamandal run free coaching centres where poor students are given tuition without any fees. In these coaching centres attention is given for formation of character of the students.

Four units of the Mahamandal are running Students' Homes. In these students' homes apart from giving coaching text books and examination syllabus, emphasis is given on development of moral values and character qualities.

To help the poor students as a part of educational activities, different units of the Mahamandal have set up Text Book Libraries. A total of about 4000 books are there in these text book libraries.

Medical Service

For treatment of poor patients a large number of Mahamandal units are running Homoeopathic charitable dispensaries.

During the year under report about 15,000 patients were treated in these dispensaries.

Some of the units of the Mahamandal arranged for free allopathic treatment *for* poor patients. During the year 1600 patients . were treated in allopathic charitable dispensaries.

Besides, an amount of Rs. 57,000 was paid as medical aid to 2586 poor persons.

Flood Relief

During the year under report an unprecedented devastating flood caused unspeakable distress to people of Purba and Paschim Medinipur. The Mahamandal through its different units participated in the relief work. 254 dedicated workers of the Mahamandal joined the relief work and distributed dry food, cooked food, medicines, bleaching powder, halogen tablets, ORS, tarpaulin sheets and garments to .about 70,000 flood victims. An amount of Rs. 3,30,977.00 was spent in the relief work by the central organization and the units during the year.

Besides flood relief work on Mahamandal's own account, Khakurdah Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal and Narayangarh Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal undertook massive flood relief work with relief materials provided by the Ramakrishna Mission, Calcutta Students' Home, Belgharia and Ramakrishna Mission Ashram a, Medinipur.

Welfare Service

A large number of units of Mahamandal distributed clothes and garments among poor people of the locality on the eve of Durga puja. Blankets were distributed among about 600 poor people by several units. Monetary help amounting to Rs. 63,297/- was given to poor and distressed persons by some of the units.

SARADA NARI SANGATHAN

Sarada Nari Sangathan, a sister organization of the Mahamandal, established in 1989 has been working on the lines of the Mahamandal keeping close contact with us. At present Sarada Nari Sangathan has 50 centres in the country. The Sangathan has been holding weekly study circles in all the centres. Like Mahamandal it holds All India, Zonal and local training camps where mental concentration, physical training, practical methods of character building etc. are taught.

The last All **India Women's Training Camp** of the Sarada Nari Sangathan was held at Baruipara Rakhil Vidyapith, Baruipara near Singur in the district of Hooghly from 16 to 19 October 2008. Revered Pravrajika Achintyaprana Mataji, Secretary, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Shikshamandir, inaugurated the camp. Pravrajika Amaleshprana Mataji, Principal, Vivekananda Vidyabhavan, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dum Dum spoke to the campers on the Message of Sri Ramakrishna. A total of 365 women attended the camp as trainees. The Secretary and president of the Mahamandal spoke at different sessions and answered questions put by the trainees.

Conclusion

The progress in the activities of the Mahamandal is encouraging. Starting work with 6 centres in the beginning we have now about 250 centres in 10 States. But we should not be complacent. We cannot overlook the fact that for want of adequate number of competent devoted organizers, we fail to reach all corners of the country. Even it is not possible for the senior organizers to visit all the centres every year. It is necessary to organize a band of young, able and competent organizers who would devote their lives in this work and would take part building a New India of Swamiji's dream. The success of the Mahamandal depends on building such a band of organizers. I call upon you all to be blessed enough to be a member of such a brand of devoted organizers in the coming year to make the man-making movement of the Mahamandal a success.