

# Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira



*A Residential Autonomous College affiliated to Calcutta  
University*

**Re-accredited by NAAC with 'Grade A'**

**College with Potential for Excellence**

**RUSA-funded Institution**

**DST-FIST Awarded College**

**Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal, PIN : 711202**

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**Report on the Students' Attributes  
as Facilitated by the Institution**



***"ATMANO MOKSHARTAM JAGADDHITAYA CHA - For one's own salvation, and for the welfare of the world." -Swami Vivekananda***

***"Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man." - Swami Vivekananda***

Swami Vivekananda wanted to rehabilitate the past glories of our motherland through an education which would not merely combine in it the best elements of Eastern and Western culture but would at the same time hold aloft the Indian ideals of devotion, wisdom and morality so that it might meet the national temperament at every point. Real education, he said, was that which enabled a person to stand on his own legs and helped him to manifest the perfection already in him by a harmonious development of his head, hand and heart. In his opinion, a balanced combination of the secular and the spiritual training constituted the true dimension of education.

### **1. Spiritual :**

- a. Learn to be : The college encourages the students to dive deep into his own self and find out the immense potential divinity and perfection which are dormant. Once these are traced out and be allowed to operate within the personality, the real human being rises up.
- b. Contemplate-Introspect : The core values of the college tries to inject the young minds with a contemplative and introspective approach while spending the life moments. The Sattvika Guna is more welcomed instead of excessive flourish of Rajas and Tamas.

### **2. Ethical :**

- a. Sincerity and dedication : The ambience of the college urges to its learners to become a dedicated individual who always strives to achieve the best of life only with the power of sincerity and devotion to work.

- b. Honesty and Truthfulness : It is truth which wins always. It is honesty which pays more. Right from the beginning in this college, a student listens to these words.

### **3. Cultural :**

- a. Open-mindedness to accept the diversity : The college is proud to have in its campus a multitude full with diverse backgrounds. At the same time, there is no untoward behavioural incidents recorded for along time where this diversity has been threatened. Rather different cultural, economic, social background get such a perfect blending, that at the end of the programme when they go back to their native places, tears of self-less love rolls down.
- b. Love – the best weapon to fight : The holy Mother, Sri Sarada Devi clearly stated that the selfless love is the key factor for which this great human civilisation has been able to survive. Students learn this great cultural value in this institution.
- c. Learn to work together : Differences of opinion, here never creates any bar to get involved in several activities of the institution. In fact, completely devoid of any political activity, its Vidhyarthi Samsad, is not an elected body. But, the in a year, it has been found that almost 100% students get involved in different types of activities. They themselves organise different programmes under the guidance of teachers and monastics. Even more, they go to far-off villages, slum areas on their own, survey the poverty-stricken areas and then collect the required items for those people and then give away those to the needy ones.

### **4. Academic :**

- a. Learn to Know : Knowledge is not something that ends with an examination, not it is bordered by any syllabus ; rather it is something which always demands to go beyond the pages of the books and notes. Here, in this college, students are always encouraged to acquire the art of knowing. There is no private tuition. Peer group learning, self study, library consulting, self e-learning are some important pillars that this college has been able to build up during these years.

- b. Zero pressure pleasure learning : The college always encourages not to get pressurized by the load of syllabus, by the expectation of results of examination, by the demand of future progression. It always teaches that learning should be a pleasant experience. By the grace of almighty, the percentage of mental set back due to study and/or results in any type of examination is almost nil in this college.
- ❖ It is in the context of a fully residential setting that a typical day in Vidyamandira will be looked at. Indeed, Vidyamandira, tracing as it does its origin to Swami Vivekananda's vision of a temple of learning - effortlessly combining the elements of Gurukula tradition of India and the scientific temper of the West, quite suitably opted for an infrastructural lay-out in which the academic buildings and the dormitories would be in close juxtaposition – making education a lived experience.
  - ❖ Against the backdrop of such a setting, let us now trace the progression of a typical day in Vidyamandira.
    - Morning shows the day: Vidyamandira is literally up with the lark. Waking up to the rising bell rung at 5.00 AM, the students get prepared to go to the shrine in their respective hostels. The morning prayer, under the ministrations of the resident monk of the hostel, consists of meditation, simple hymns and devotional songs. Prayer and meditation gives their minds an undercurrent of poise like the lingering sound of the bell rung in the early morning.
    - As the day wears on: Indeed, starting the day with Raja yoga, the students step into the rest of the day, their minds calmed and focused.
    - It is with reasonably concentrated minds that they set down to morning study and attend the classes afterwards.
    - The day ahead for a student is necessarily full of interactions with the teachers and fellow-students. What can make such interactions respectful and loving is the implicit recognition of the divine in every being. Such an attitude easily makes one's heart warm up to others. The students are inspired to cultivate this noble emotion, thereby practising Bhakti yoga in their interactions with others.

- The day often springs surprises in the form of dilemma of choice. It is the power of discrimination that enables a student to settle for the desirable, avoiding the pleasurable. The Indian Spiritual tradition is verily the tradition of holding on to what is desirable, giving up the pleasurable. Through the regular holding of classes on Spiritual Heritage of India, our students are acquainted with such priceless principles and inspired to make the right choice through the exercise of reasoning. This is verily the practice of 'Jnana yoga'.
  - In their dealings with others throughout the day, the students are always encouraged to practise unselfishness – the hallmark of 'Karma yoga'. Their practice of 'Karma yoga' becomes quite evident in their participation in various social service activities conducted by the college.
  - The evening descends: As the day draws to a close, it is again time for prayer and meditation. After the hard day's toil, the boys taste true mental repose in the peaceful environment of the shrine.
- ❖ Exposed to the above mentioned practices day after day, our students quite unobtrusively develop concentration of mind, warmth of heart, power of decision making, & unselfishness. These character treasures verily enable them to manifest their inherent perfection in the form of academic excellence and express their innate divinity in the form of unselfish behavior. Indeed, Vidyamandira, through the concerted efforts of monks, teachers, and supporting staff, is ever busy sustaining such a distinctive environment to help the students flower into ideal citizens of our country and into noble human beings for the world at large.

*Shastrajnananda*

**Certified by : Swami Shastrajnananda**  
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