

Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira P.O.-Belurmath, Howrah- 711202

Performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust:

Vidyamandira a milieu for twin manifestations: "Divinity" and "Perfection". In our modern times, the luminous mind of Swami Vivekananda probed man to his very depth and came up with the astounding revelation that infinite goodness and infinite perfection are lying buried in every man, waiting to be called out. Just as friction brings out the hidden fire from a flint, right kinds of external suggestions would likewise call forth ethical excellence and elements of creativity already present in their potential forms in man. True education, if anything, helps this manifestation through creating "right kinds of external suggestions". To the extent an academic milieu furnishes such "right kinds of external suggestions", it serves the purpose of education.

- 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 ministration 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. Indeed, Vidyamandira, through the concerted efforts of monks, teachers, and supporting staff.