

Annual Report for 2011-12
Vivekananda Samiti
under Students' Gymkhana, IIT Kanpur

1. Name of Coordinators

1	Sayan Sadhu	sayans@iitk.ac.in	9005519391
2	Indramani Dhada	indhada@iitk.ac.in	8005382785

Faculty Advisor : Prof. C.S. Upadhyay(AE) : shekhar@iitk.ac.in

2. Team size (Core Team Member)

1	Subhadip Mitra	smitr@iitk.ac.in	9935600145
2	Rahul Jagtap	jagtap@iitk.ac.in	9005681819
3	Joyeeta Mandal	joyeetam@iitk.ac.in	9452522363
4	Shambhu Kumar	shambhu@iitk.ac.in	8604548375
5	Suvendu Samanta	suvendu@iitk.ac.in	9005817984
6	Kiran Kumar	ykirankr@iitk.ac.in	9621452179
7	Deepak Ojha	dojha@iitk.ac.in	9005205818
8	Sreevidya	srividya@iitk.ac.in	8960370770
9	Shayandev Sinha	sdsinha@iitk.ac.in	8004974055
10	Sanghamitro Chatterjee	sanghach@iitk.ac.in	9161493084
11	Dr. Prashant Jha	drpjha@iitk.ac.in	9450600807

3. Vision of the Club

Vivekananda Samiti is one of the oldest clubs under the Students' Gymkhana functioning for over 40 years, thus spreading the message of Swami Vivekananda among the campus residents. We have conducted several activities which include community service like literary camps and health camps for the under-privileged children in and around the campus, weekly discussions on Swami Vivekananda's life and teachings, Vedanta class, meditation sessions, talks and workshops on value education, personality development workshop, distribution of Vivekananda literature among youth. Since a large fraction of the student population is going through stress and various emotional and mental problems, Vivekananda Samiti is playing a significant role in motivating and inspiring the youth to perform their duties informed by human values.

4. Specific vision for the present year

Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birthday commences on January 12, 2013. The **150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** is a great occasion for spreading his inspirational teachings among the youth of India. We are celebrating this august occasion with a 4 yrs. plan of series of events during 2011 to 2014. Our nation requires people with high values and strong determination who will serve the nation and solve its numerous challenging problems. The bright and talented students of this premiere institute have immense potential which must be channelized for the betterment of the human society. We are celebrating **Vivekananda Youth Convention 2012** followed by medical health camp, invited talks, short socio-spiritual tours, personality development workshop and other community service etc. Our goal is to motivate the youth towards a positive way of life informed by social and moral responsibility, raised awareness and strong and steady mind to strive for human excellence.

5. Activities of our club during Apr., 2011-Mar., 2012

i) Weekly Vedanta Class

Different Vedantic texts like Bhagwad Gita, Vivek Chudamani by Adi Shankaracharya, Isavasya Upanishad are studied under the competent guidance of Mrs. Archana T. This class is held every Wednesday 9-10:30 pm. Attendance is about 10-15.

ii) Weekly Friday Satsanga

We commence by Vedic Chanting, singing Stotra, Meditation followed by study of Ramakrishna Vivekananda Vedanta literature. We discuss the teachings and philosophy of great saints and sages, understanding the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's message for the youth. Attendance varies from 10-15.

iii) Collection and distribution of Old articles: First week of May, 2011

Old clothes, unused medicine and other articles were collected from different hostels and distributed to the poor people in the campus, mostly the contract workers. About 12-15 students actively participated in this activity.

iv) Spirit of India : 13th August, 2011

The objective of the event was to take inspiration from our glorious past and motivate ourselves towards building a better and stronger India. We wanted to enlighten the campus community of the essential spirit of India- Unity in Diversity. Swami Vivekananda said that it is these values which bind this vast nation; it is the spirituality which is the life blood of this nation.

- **A Quiz on India:** About 40 live questions featuring various aspects of India.
- An invited talk on "Swami Vivekananda and Nation Building" by **Swami Bhaktirupananda**, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Kanpur.
- A Discovery documentary movie, "**INDIA REVEALED**" showcasing the unity in diversity of India, highlighting the true spirit of India which binds together all the diversity.

- An offline **Essay Writing Competition**: 1200-1500 words essays were invited on either of the following two topics: 1) **Efficacy of Ahimsa**, 2) **Satyam Eva Jayate**.

Participation: 50

v) Kanpur City Temple Tour : 18th September, 2011

Kanpur city hosts some wonderful old temples of the times of Ramayana and Mahabharata and few modern temples, many of which are on the banks of Ganges. Vivekananda Samiti conducted a temple tour in and around Kanpur city. The tour includes temples at Shivrajpur, Bithoor and Kanpur city. In the afternoon, we have taken Bhog Prasad at Jagannath Temple on Bithoor road. We visited 2 temples in Shibrajpur, Brahmavarta Ghat, Sai Darbar at Bithur, 3-4 temples in Kanpur city. Tour ended with the visit of JK Temple in the city.

Participation: 85

vi) Sale and Exhibition of Ramakrishna Vivekananda Vedanta Literature

We organized the sale and exhibition of Ramakrishna Vivekananda Vedanta literature in association with Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Kanpur during Antaragni, 2011. Books of around Rs. 20,000/- were sold through our book stall at the Media Center lawns and at different hostels. Some free books were also distributed. We are once again organizing the book stalls at different hostel premises from March 17-25, 2012.

vii) Quiz on Swami Vivekananda at Kendriya Vidyalaya: 22nd Oct., 2011

An Inter-school quiz competition was conducted at KV, IIT Kanpur. Six teams from different schools took the preliminary written round. Four teams qualified for the oral quiz. It was a wonderful experience to see young students studying and knowing about Swami Vivekananda.

viii) Personality Development Workshop: 22nd & 23rd October, 2011

Day 1

- **Importance of Communication & Interpersonal Skills in Career & Life.**
-- Dr. Dharendra S Katti
- **What is stress? Manifestations & how to deal with it**
-- Mrs. Sharmistha Chakroborty
- **Demystifying the art of simplicity in communication**
-- Dr. H.C. Verma
- **Effective Professional Communication**
-- Dr. Prashant Jha

Day 2

- **Interpersonal Skills - I**
-- Sri Mahudapathi Karupannan

- **Swami Vivekananda's vision of Personality Development & its application to contemporary youth Practical session on Meditation**
– Rev. Swami Muktinathananda
- **Analysis of selected PPTs from participants & personalized feedback.**
– Sri Mahudapathi Karupannan & Dr. Prashant Jha
- **Interpersonal Skills - II**
– Sri Mahudapathi Karupannan

Distribution of books to all participants

- Call to the Nation – Swami Vivekananda
- Personality Development – Swami Vivekananda
- Mind and its control – Swami Budhananda
- Great Sayings of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda

Participation: 75

ix) National Youth Day Celebration: Jan.12th, 2012

We had couple of short talks by Prof. A.K. Ghosh and Prof. C. S. Upadhyay on the challenges and Opportunities before today's youth. Then we had an audience quiz on Swami Vivekananda followed by a movie show on Swami Vivekananda's life and message.

Participation: 110

x) Vivekananda Youth Convention VYC: Jan.14-15,2012

After the success of the first youth convention in 2011, we organized VYC 2012 with even richer talks and fascinating competitions. This 2-day event was held in L-16. Besides talks on Swami Vivekananda's life and teachings, we touched on topics like "Karma Yoga and Fearlessness", "Youth Empowerment", "Setting goals in life", "Stress and Time Management" and the "Science and Art of Communication." The speakers included monks, practitioners, scholars and IAS and IPS officials, and faculty members and counselors from within the campus.

Competitions included Written Quiz on Indian Culture, Group Discussion, Extempore and Essay Writing on "The Role of Youth in Nation Building." We had fairly good participation in all the competitions. Prizes and certificates worth over Rs.10,000/ were awarded. For more details, visit VYC 2012 Webpage:

http://www.iitk.ac.in/vs/vyc_2012/index.php

We acknowledge our DOSA for availing the funding of Rs. 96K for this event. Special thanks to our VYC team comprising of over 30 volunteers.

xi) Medical Health Camp: Feb.12,2012

Vivekananda Samiti, IIT Kanpur organized a Medical health camp for about 375 under-privileged children and their parents in and around the campus. This program was conducted on Sunday, 12th February 2012 9:30 am to 1 pm with the help of Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, Kanpur at Shiksha Sopan Vidyalaya at Barasirohi village,

near IIT Kanpur. This camp was arranged with the help of voluntary service of a team of four competent doctors: Dr. G.K. Tiwari, Dr. R.M. Gupta, Dr. Mohita Gulati and Dr. Sutapa Mandal, all of whom offer their services regularly at Ramakrishna Mission Hospital. This camp was inaugurated by Dr. H.C. Verma, President, Shiksha Sopan and Swami Tejomayananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Hospital. Among the other eminent guests included Dr. O.P. Mishra, Health Center, IITK who provided free medicines. Over 35 committed volunteers from Vivekananda Samiti and Shiksha Sopan rendered their voluntary services to carry out the camp smoothly.

xii) Talk on Ancient Indian Contribution by Dr. Priyadarshi:Feb.18,2012

An eminent author and scholar, Dr. Premendra Priyadarshi shared his research work on “Glimpses of Classical Physics in Ancient India” and “India- the Origin of Worlds’ Civilizations as evident from Genetic Studies”. This talk gave enriching and exciting facts of our rich scientific and cultural heritage. It was attended by around 100 people.

xiii) Medical Eye Camp: Feb.19, 2012

An Eye Camp was organized at Navasrijan Vidyalaya, Ratanpur near Nankari on Sunday 19th Feb., 2012 from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Dr. Anju Mishra with her team offered her voluntary service. About 75 patients came for examination. About 90% patients were found suffering from long or short-sightedness. They were provided with glasses at a subsidized price. Four Patients suffering from cataract were offered surgery and medication without any charges.

xiv) Talk on Challenges of Modern Life and their Vedic Solutions: Feb.25, 2012

This talk was jointly organized by Health Centre and Vivekananda Samiti, IIT Kanpur. Swami Dharmanishthanandaji and Sri Ramesh Mishra ji from Divine Life Society shared their views on the Vedic way of life and emphasized on improving our daily routine and sparing some time for prayer, meditation and self analysis every day. Dr. O P Mishra took the lead role in organizing the event. Deputy Director, Prof. S C Srivastava inaugurated the function. Attendance was close to 90.

xv) A Lecture Series on Individual and Social Awakening by Swami Tyagarupananda: Mar.17-18,2012

Swami Tyagarupananda is an eminent scholar and an excellent orator in the Ramakrishna Order. He is the Principal of the Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandir, the residential college at Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal, since 2005. He earned his PhD. degree in Economics from the Calcutta University in 1993. He shared his thoughts on “Enlightened Citizenship and the Indian Society” and “Karma Yoga – the doctrine of Swami Vivekananda revisited on his 150th Birth Anniversary.” We had a gathering of around 60.

6. **Suggestions for 2012-13**

Given the above account, we are extremely proud to have organized so many activities throughout the year. We believe that we have been the most active club in the Students' Gymkhana which has generated lot of impact and has hosted a series of activities on a regular basis throughout the year. We intend to continue the same trend in the next year as the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda falls on Jan.12, 2013.

We would like to bring to notice the following points, however:

- i) **Funding through Gymkhana:** Having detailed about the wide spectrum of activities, we request our annual funding be raised to at least Rs.50,000/-. In 2011, we have been allocated Rs.12, 000 approximately and in this year, we only received about Rs.9000/-. In the Gymkhana budget, a meager Rs.3,000/- is allocated for our club. Other clubs under the Presidential Council enjoy better privileges and much higher funding. We call for the same status being given to our club with the adequate funding.
- ii) **A dedicated room for Vivekananda Samiti.** After a long struggle, we have been assigned Room No.105, 105-1 in sharing with Prayas. Given the nature of our activities and the large number of books and photographs housed by the club, we need a separate room that can accommodate at least 10-15 people. We also have time clashes with Prayas who occupy the room in the evening when we would like to meditate study and introspect. A dedicated is extremely necessary.
- iii) **Furniture for Vivekananda Samiti.** It has been over 6 months since we raised our requisition. But the furniture is still awaited.

Vivekananda Samiti Room: Old SAC - 206, New SAC - 105/105-1

Samiti Website: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/vs/>

IITK mail-id: vsamiti@iitk.ac.in

Gmail id: vivekananda.samiti.iitk@gmail.com