



HOWRAH VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTION

75 & 77, SWAMI VIVEKANANDA ROAD
P.O. SANTRAGACHI, HOWRAH-711 104

A Brief History

The beginning: 1923-1925

Kasundia Road, Mallick Para; Headmaster - Indubhushan Chattopadhyay

Howrah Vivekananda Institution, a glowing name in the annals of education in West Bengal, set out on its journey in 1923 and it is still moving towards the development of young men . The institution named after the famous Hindu monk Swami Vivekananda still keeps up its old heritage in the academic firmament. Thanks to the initiative taken by a group of young men, the Ramkrishna Vivekananda Ashram was set up in 1916. Swami Shivanandaji, the then President of the Belur Math said to these young men , “Service or business is not your cup of tea. Rather set up a School.” Inspired by Shivanandaji, these young workers of the ashram took over “Saraswati Institution”, a primary school, in the locality. The name of the school was changed to “Vivekananda Institution” on 1st February, 1923.

At that time the “Saraswati Institution” had a few benches, one or two chairs, a bell, a rented school room, 55 students and two teachers. After the takeover of the Saraswati Institution on 26th November, 1922, some Volunteers of the Ashram joined the school as honorary teachers. Sri Satishchandra Chakraborty continued as the Headmaster. The name of the “Saraswati Institution” was changed to “ Vivekananda Institution” on February 1st, 1923. That was the beginning. On that very day Indubhushan Chattopadhyay was appointed the Headmaster. The Assistant Teacher were Gourmohan Santra, Mrigendranath Mukhopadhyay (Badal Babu), Satishchandra Chakraborty. Keshablal Chattopadhyay was the founder member, secretary and honorary teacher of the school. The teaching – learning process was carried out at Mullick Para for 3 years (1923 – 1925).

Foundation day: January 12, 1923

The birthday of Swami Vivekananda is celebrated as the foundation day of the school. The Howrah Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashram is credited with the setting up of the school and representatives of the Ashram have been providing valuable guidelines regarding the smooth running of the Institution.

Approved by Calcutta University in 1926

The school was approved by the Calcutta University in 1926. The Ramakrishna Math and Mission convention was held at Belur Math in 1926. The name of “Vivekananda Institution” figures in the list of the educational institutions mentioned in the souvenir published on this occasion “Howrah Vivekananda Institution” is the first school in the world to be named after Swami Vivekananda.

The period of Construction: 1926 – 1939

107, Khurut Road (Netaji Subhash Road), Headmaster: Indubhushan Chattopadhyay

In 1925, Standard VIII had been introduced in the school. The number of the teachers and students also increased. Because of lack of space a three-storied building at 107, Netaji Subhash Road had been rented @ Rs.75/-. Sudhangshu Sekhar Bhattacharya was the president of the governing body of the Ashram, which was responsible for the management of the school activities. Keshablal Chattopadhyay was the secretary of the school. The school started with 55 students and 5 teachers --- Indubhushan Chattopadhyay (Headmaster), Mrigendranath Mukhopadhyay, Gourmohan Santra, Keshablal Chattopadhyay and Satishchandra Chakraborty. All of them were attached to the Ashram. Indubhushan Chattopadhyay, one of the founding members of the school, was the Headmaster up to 1939 for a period of 16 years. Later he became the Headmaster of Howrah Sri Ramkrishna Shikshalaya.

Mrigendranath Mukhopadhyay: A giant pillar

Mrigendranath Mukhopadhyay, “The Leading Light” behind the establishment of the school, played a pivotal role to help the school to flourish. He was a founder teacher, the Assistant Headmaster (1940 – 1967) and a member of the managing committee for 50 years. He was the secretary of the Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashram for 50 years (1937 – 1987). He acted as a cord of communication between the Ramakrishna Mission and the School.

The period of development: 1940 – 1971

Netaji Subhas Rd & Naskarpara 1st Bye Lane; Headmaster: Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya

After Indubhushan Chattopadhyay left our school in 1939, Jadunath Chakraborty was appointed as the Headmaster for a brief period. Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya, who along with his younger brother Himangshusekhar Bhattacharya, had joined the school as assistant teacher in 1932 was appointed the Headmaster on a permanent basis in 1940. Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya and his brother were bachelors and had dedicated themselves to the ideals of Swami Vivekananda. His tenure is considered as the “golden age” or “the period of development” of the school. Till 1956, the school was run in a rented house in Netaji Subhash Road. It was during his tenure as the Headmaster the school building was built in the land adjoining the ashram at Kasundia, Shibtala in 1956. The building was inaugurated by Harendranath Mukhopadhyay, the then Governor of Bengal.

Students' accomplishments: 1945-1965

During the tenure as the Headmaster, Prasanta Chattopadhyay stood seventh and Debicharan Khan stood first in the Entrance Examination in 1945 and 1950 respectively. In 1965, Debabrata Hore stood first in the H.S. exam (vocational stream). Manas Chattopadhyay stood ninth in the first class government scholarship of the H.S. Exam.

Sudhanshusekhar honoured as the National Teacher: 1963

In 1963, Sudhanshusekhar was honoured as the “National Teacher” by the Education Department, from Govt. of India. He received the award from Dr. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India. It was during his tenure as the Headmaster, students like Dr. Nemaisadhan Basu, Prof. Sankariprasad Basu, Sankar the great litterateur added to the glory of the Institution. Dr. Basu, the renowned historian, later became the Vice Chancellor of Visvabharati University. Prof. Sankari Prasad Basu was the recipient of the “Sahitya

Academy” award and “Vivekananda Purashkar” conferred on him by the Ramakrishna Mission for “Vivekananda O Samakalin Bharatbarsha (Vivekananda and Contemporary India), in Seven Volumes.

The period of preservations: 1971-1999

75 & 77, Swami Vivekananda Road; Headmaster: Brajamohan Majumder

In 1971, following the retirement of Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya, Himangshusekhar Bhattacharya and Dwijendranath Mitra were appointed Headmaster on a temporary basis. Sri Brajomohan Majumder, an ex-student and assistant teacher of the school, was appointed Headmaster in 1971 on a permanent basis. He has endeavored to carry on the ideals and programmes initiated by Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya.

The Golden Jubilee celebration of the school and the felicitation ceremony of Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya, the ex-Headmaster were held in 1973. The bronze statue of Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya was set up in the first floor of the school building courtesy of Umacharan Khan, a former student of the school.

During this period, swami Biswasrayanandaji, Swami Hiranmayanandaji, Swami Smaranandaji, Swami Goutamanandaji served as the President of the school. Dr. Bibhutibhusan Das, Himangshusekhar Bhattacharya, Dr. Nemaisadhan Basu, Krishnadas Ghosh, Brajamohan Majumder, Bimalkumar Ghosh served as the Secretary of the school.

Swami Lokeswaranandaji took part in different functions and programmes of the school during this period.

Brajamohan Majumder honoured as the *National Teacher*: 1995

In the third phase of the History of the School, Sri Brajamohan Majumder, another brilliant student of the Institution, was the Headmaster for 28 years (1971 – 1999). Selected as national teacher, Brajamohan Majumder the Headmaster of the school successfully carried on the tradition that started with Sudhangshusekhar Bhattacharya. Brajamohan Majumder, the national teacher, was felicitated during the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the school in 1996.

Students' accomplishments: 1980-1999

During the period when Brajamohan Majumder was the Headmaster, Barun Chakraborty stood second in the Madhyamik Examination in 1980. Sri Indranil Chowdhury stood 19th in the H.S. Examination in 1989. Sri Kinshuk Paladhi stood Fifth in the M.E. (1991) and Seventh in the H.S. Examination. Sri Debasish Das stood 13th in the H.S. Examination (1999).

Eminent contributors and dedicated teachers

From the very beginning, the eminent monks of the Ramakrishna Mission like Swami Nirbenanda, Gambhirananda, Bhutehsnanda, Bishasrayananda, Hiranmoyananda, Smaranananda, Goutamananda have been shouldering the responsibility of the President of the Managing Committee of the School. Among them Swami Gambhirananda and Bhutehsnanda later became the President of the Ramakrishna Mission. Swami Smaranananda was the secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission. Swami Shivamoyananda was the President of the Managing Committee, was secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission, an Institution which boasts of international acclaim.

Swami Shivanandaji, whose blessing and inspiration heralded the beginning of the school visited the Institution. Besides Swami Madhbananda, ex President of the Ramakrishna Mission, Swami Tejoshananda, Principle of Vidyamandir, Swami Omkarananda, Vice President of the Ramakrishna Mission, Swami Lokeshananda, ex-Secretary of Golpark Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Swami Prvananda, ex-Secretary of Golpark Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture have graced different functions of the school with their august presence.

Sri Keshblal Chattopadhyay, founder and assistant teacher of the school, was also its first secretary, later he practiced as an advocate at Howrah Court. Sri Bijay Krishna Bhattacharya, the eminent educationist and founder of Howrah Girls College, was the Secretary of the school for 23 years (1948 – 1971). Dr. Nemaisadhan Basu, ex-student of the school, was the secretary for 3 years. Now Sri Brajamohan Majumder, the ex-Headmaster of the school, has been appointed Secretary of the school in 2004.

The idealist teachers, who sacrificed a lot, played a momentous role in building up the school as one of foremost institutions of Bengal. Thanks to the tireless striving of teachers like Indubhushan Chattopadhyay, Keshablal Chattopadhyay, Mrigendranath Mukhopadhyay, Bishnu Pada Das, Bipinbihari Basu, Radhakanta Mullick, Sudhanshu Sekhar Bhattacharya, Himangshusekhar Bhattacharya the school has occupied a niche in the world of education and culture. Many among them were attached to the ashram and initiated by the monks of the Ramakrishna Mission. Fired by the ideals of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda they looked upon teaching not as a mere occupation but as a mission of their lives their selfless sacrifice and missionary zeal inspired other teachers of the school.

Extra curriculum activities

Apart from the teaching learning process the founders of the school also focused their attention on the overall development of the body and mind of the students through “Boys’ Union”, “Cub and Scout” .The name of the “Boys’ Union” has been changed to “Sahitya Sangha”. The students are selected as IG, DIG and Commissioner. The students share the ownership of maintaining discipline in the school with the teachers. During the “GOLDEN AGE” of the school, students took part in different kinds of games and sports under the able guidance of Sri Radhakanta Mullick. Sri Basudeb Das, a disciple of Radhakanta Mullick and later assistant teacher of the school, has carried on the tradition for a long time. The tradition is still going on.

Other Notable events have been when Rabindranath Tagore, the world poet sent his greetings to the students of the school. Great litterateurs like Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Achintya Kumar Sengupta, Kobi Sekhar Kalida Ray, Monoj Basu and Satyen Bose, the eminent Scientist have also sent their good wishes during their visit to the school. Many Sports icons like Sailen Manna, Chuni Goswami and P. K. Banerjee have come by and wished the students well..

Present: 2000-2011

At present Sri Sobhan Kumar Bera, who had been teaching chemistry in the H.S. section, has been appointed as the Headmaster and Sri Brajamohan Majumder, the ex-Headmaster and National Teacher as the Secretary of the School. Mr. Sobhan Bera has undertaken an huge project: Sri Ramkrishna Auditorium. Let's join our hands and help him to raise Rs 55 Lacs for this project. As of January 2011, over Rs 17 Lacs has already been collected. For details, click on <http://vivekanandainstitution.com/auditorium.html>