

# Vocational Training Activities

RKMA Sargachi, Murshidabad, West Bengal



21/10/2015 08:43

Financial Year: 2015-2016

Report Prepared By

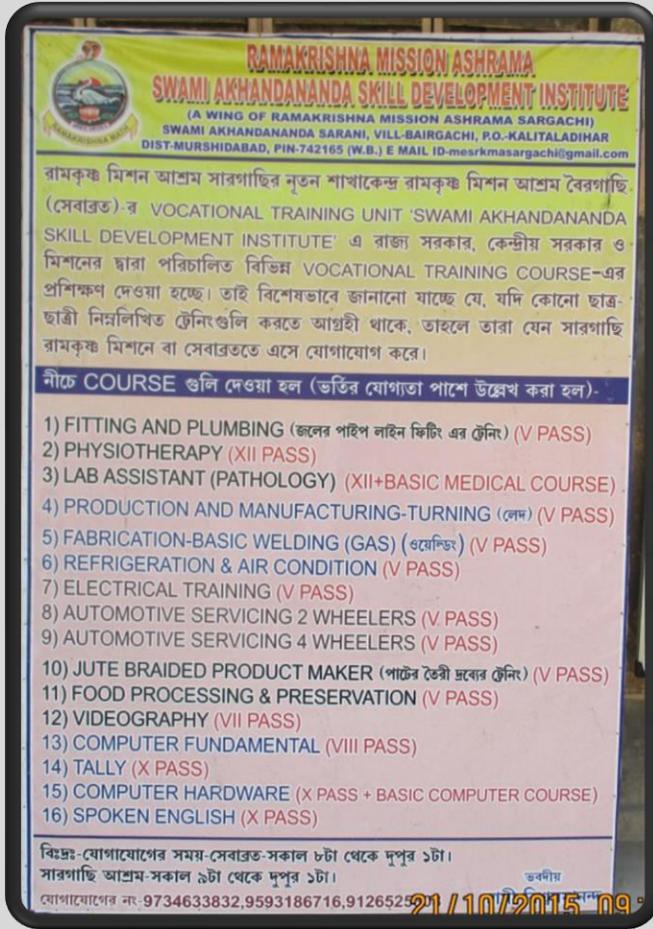
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**Site Visit:** I visited Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama (RKMA), Sargachi, Mushidabad during Oct 20-21, 2015. Away from the hustle and bustle of Kolkata, it was a pleasant visit to the countryside. At Sargachi, I had the opportunity to discuss the recent developments in RKMA with regards to vocational training currently being conducted by the organization. Lately, funds from the Government have dried up and the vocational training programs are completely dependent on funds received from Asha.

Apart from the normal courses run by the institute, several R&D activities have also been undertaken by RKMA in recent years. Namely, development of a hybrid cycle-van, powered by a diesel motors as well as an electric motor is currently underway. This model was inspired by the recent successful commercial implementation of the battery powered auto-rickshaws in Indian cities and towns.



**Courses:** Some of the courses taught in the vocational training courses at RKMA, Sargachi are as follows:

1. Fitting and Plumbing
2. Physiotherapy
3. Lab Assistant (Pathology)
4. Production and Manufacturing-Turning (Lathe)
5. Fabrication-Basic Welding (Gas)
6. Refrigeration and Air condition
7. Electrical Training
8. Automobile Servicing 2 and 4 wheelers
9. Jute Braided Product Maker
10. Food Processing and Preservation
11. Videography

The picture of the course list, displayed outside the classroom can be seen on the left. During my visit, I found another white board containing the names of the teachers for some courses along with the class timings.

S.NO	COURSE NAME	TEACHER NAME	DATE	TIME
1	Tally	Sitish Babu	28-10-2015	7:00 a.m.
2	Electrical	Utpal Mondal	28-10-2015	7:00 am
3	Videography	Kanchan Babu	00-10-2015	11:30 am
4	Computer Fundamental	Ashis Da	31-10-2015	7:30 am
5	House Wiring (Electrical)	Utpal Mondal	27-10-2015	7:00 a.m.
-	Refrigeration & A/C	Md. Bobar Ali	31-10-2015	:00 a.m.
7	4 Wheelers	Chandan Babu	15-10-2015	08:00 a.m.
8	2 Wheelers	PK Sen	31-10-2015	08:00 am
9	Electronics	Debashis Babu	31-10-2015	07:00 a.m.

\* পুঁজোবিকাশ → 19-10-15 থেকে 29-10-15 পর্যন্ত ছুটি থাকবে।

**Student Enrollment:** Currently, during 2015-2016, there are 286 students undergoing vocational courses in various streams.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>No. of Students</b>
01.	Fitting and plumbing	29
02.	Physiotherapy	27
03.	Lab assistant (pathology)	28
04.	Videography	07
05.	Basic refrigeration & air conditioning	44
06.	Basic electrical training	21
07.	House wearing	14
08.	Automotive servicing 2 wheelers	18
09.	Automotive servicing 4 wheelers	09
10.	Computer fundamental	24
11.	Tally	17
12.	Computer hardware	21
13.	Spoken English	16
14.	Electronics (this is the new course)	11
	<b>Total Students</b>	<b>286</b>

**Coaching Centers:** With financial support from Asha for Education, RKMA Sargachi is also running a few coaching centers, which cater to students studying in neighborhood schools. The centers, along with the number of students in each center are listed below.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Center Name</b>	<b>No. of Students</b>
1.	New Mahula	048
2.	Khidderpore	114
3.	Sargachi Ashram Para	015
4.	Rajapur	114
5.	Mahula Das Para	093
6.	Solla Para	113
7.	Sebabrata	030
8.	Madapur	027
	<b>Total Students</b>	<b>554</b>



**Motorized Van for Material Transport:** The picture of the motor powered rickshaw-van can be seen on the left. The construction is not yet complete. With the assistance of a Professor from Jadavpur University in Kolkata, the design and development of this device is underway. It is intended to be used

for local transportation of goods and supplies. On successful design and development of this vehicle, RKMA will try to commercialize it.



**Compressor Fan:** In another development, Babar Ali, one of the institute teachers have developed a compressor fitted fan, which in addition to working as a fan, also chills the air passing through the blades, so that the user can receive cool air. Apparently, this device is intended to be the inexpensive version of a commercial air conditioner. Design improvements are still underway, and Babar Ali is seeking opinions to make it more efficient. While I was at RKMA, the authorities asked for my opinion on the commercialization of this



product. In the figures on the left, the back portion of the fan along with its bottom constructions is visible. From the picture, the pipes carrying the coolant can be seen.



**Water Overflow Alarm and Fuse:** As part of the electrical training, the trainees also have designed a water-over flow alarm. The alarm goes off when the water tank is filled up and alerts the user. In another development, they have designed a fuse, which will cut off the circuit current in case of a power overload. The fuse can sustain 30 mA current, but it will go off above 40 mA.



**Welding:** Students undergoing mechanical training are learning to make various metallic structures, namely, chairs, tables, windows, photo exhibition boards etc., by welding technique, some of which are shown in the adjoining pictures.



**Hydraulic Braking System:** For illustration purposes, the automobile trainees developed a hydraulic braking system as seen in the picture above. Apparently, this model helps in the basic conceptual understanding of hydraulic brakes.



**Computer Room:** A number of computers have also been installed inside a classroom for students to take lessons on computers. Recently, a workshop by a company was organized in this room.



**Shower System:** One notable development is the fabrication of a portable shower system, shown above in the picture, which includes a basin, two water taps and a shower. This system can easily be transported and installed in an area where rural/urban people need temporary arrangements for cleaning and washing, like marriage festivals.



**Organic Farming:** RKMA also has a garden for organic farming. In the pictures above, visitors can be seen watching the crops.

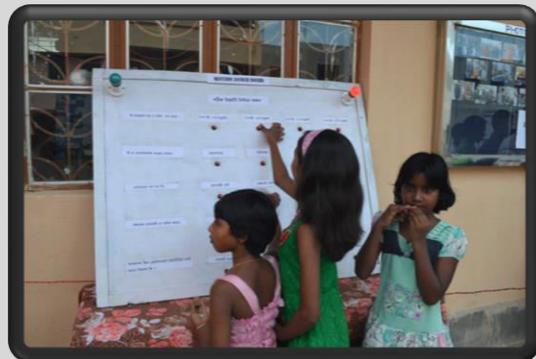


**Science Center:** A new science center has also come - up at RKMA during the last year, with financial help from National Council of Science Museum (NCSM), New Delhi at a total cost of about 40 lakhs. The intent of building the center is to pique the interest of students in Science, ultimately motivating them to achieve perfectionism, spirituality and develop quest for ultimate truth. This center has a bunch of experiments which showcase the science behind optical illusions. In one such experiment, a person standing inside a box appeared to vanish due to the effect of optical illusions. A major portion of the museum has been devoted to the science of illusions, so that understanding them will help students in identifying illusions and their causes in personal life. The effects of concave and convex mirrors on the images of viewers are on display. There is a movie theater where students can learn about our planets and solar system. While I was visiting this center, some students were busy playing with the movie theater. In one experiment, the difference of friction between metallic and wooden surfaces has been beautifully illustrated, using sliding balls on these surfaces.



**RKMA Library:** The old RKMA library was renovated and expanded with financial aid from West Bengal Government. The above pictures show the progress of renovation over the last years, it is nearly complete.

**Visit by SDO, Berhampore:** During Viwakarma Puja, held on RKMA workshop on September 17 and 18, the sub-divisional officer (SDO) of technical education visited Swami Akhandananda Skill Development Center (Sebabrata). In the first picture below, the deputy director of technical education, West Bengal and SDO, Murshidabad can be seen inaugurating the program.





**Several stalls were set up in the exhibition. They are as follows:**

- Sanitation and Filter
- Agriculture Unit
- AC and Refrigeration Unit
- Welding Unit, Automobile Unit
- Lathe and Plumbing Unit
- Sargachi Darshan
- Electrical Unit
- Power Loom and Handloom
- Computer Software and Hardware
- Fitting and Plumbing
- Sericulture Unit
- Tailoring and
- Water Testing Lab

**Statement of Accounts: Financial Year 2014-2015**

During 2014-2015, RKMA-Sargachi received INR 7,00,000 from Asha-Athens. Out of this INR 5,96,420 has been utilized for various programs. Remaining amount INR 1,03,580.

Items	Amount
• Free Coaching	54,881
• Vocational Training	4,10,385
• Book Bank	10,000
• Welfare	1,21,154
✓ Total Money Spent	5,96,420

**Conclusion:** In summary, there is demand for vocational training activities in the Sargachi community. RKMA is doing commendable work by continuously striving to keep the programs afloat, in spite of financial difficulties. Previously, West Bengal Government used to finance these programs. However, with changing times they have currently discontinued financial support, citing lack of funds. At present, these programs are run completely with financial support from Asha for Education.

With Asha's support, RKMA is not only training students on vocational skills, but they also have undertaken various initiatives and invested efforts in R&D activities as well that can provide employment to skilled workers. For instance, design and development of diesel and battery powered vans, bricks and tiles from fly-ash, arsenic potable water filters, compressor fitted fans, solar powered devices etc. are in the works. The ultimate aim is to commercially produce these items and help skilled workers in developing small scale businesses.

RKMA already has several established products for everyday consumption like soap, cosmetics, noodles, detergent etc., which are sold in the local market.