

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA GURUKUL OF HUMAN EXCELLENCE
DHANNARAM VILLAGE, VIKARABAD, TELANGANA

REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18

YAGNA (Youth Awakening for Glorious Nation) is a not-for-profit organization set up and managed by a group of doctors & medical students from Osmania & Gandhi Medical Colleges that works in the areas of holistic health, spiritual education and leadership building. Inspired by the clarion call, vision & ideals given by Swami Vivekananda, the organisation has committed itself to work for the cause of nation-building. Its major initiatives include establishment of a Gurukul near Vikarabad for children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, running a Rural Health Centre and a Natural Farming initiative.

Swami Vivekananda Gurukul of Human Excellence (SVGHE) is a semi-residential institution set up by YAGNA at Dhannaram village, Vikarabad (75km from Hyderabad), as an endeavour towards providing man-making, character-building education to children from socially disadvantaged (poor & orphan) backgrounds in rural & tribal areas. Currently, the Gurukul has I to X Std. with teaching in English Medium and an overall strength of 150 students. Free accommodation, food, education, healthcare and personal care is provided to 63 children from socially disadvantaged background who reside in the hostel. Details of students are as below.

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
LKG	10	10	20
UKG	12	6	18
I	9	2	11
II	15	6	21
III	11	6	17
IV	4	4	8
V	9	7	16
VI	8	4	12
VII	4	4	8
VIII	11	3	14
IX	1	1	2
X	3	0	3
Total	97	53	150

The Gurukul offers a unique curriculum with spiritual education and holistic personality development as the central focus, incorporating the vision of Real Education, enunciated by Swami Vivekananda. Children learn nearly 40 subjects/skills at the Gurukul under the Holistic Education model, focusing on their all-round development. Key components of the Gurukul curriculum are as follows.

- ✓ Spiritual Education
- ✓ Yoga & Meditation
- ✓ Service and nation-building activities
- ✓ Activities to promote spiritual values & ideals
- ✓ Mind Control & Management
- ✓ Language & Communication skills in Telugu, Hindi & English
- ✓ Basic Sanskrit, scriptures & sathaka
- ✓ Abacus & Vedic Maths
- ✓ Practical & Application Oriented Science & Social Studies
- ✓ Computer Skills

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- ✓ Drawing & Painting
- ✓ Dance - Classical & Freestyle
- ✓ Music - Instrumental (Tabla & Keyboard) & Vocal
- ✓ Physical Education & Karate
- ✓ Indoor & Outdoor Games & Sports
- ✓ Natural & Organic Farming
- ✓ Literary & performance-oriented skill-building activities

Spiritual education is the core of the Gurukul. Children are exposed to and made to practice spiritual values, morals and values according to their age. Chanting of scriptures, recitation of Bhagavad Gita, yoga, meditation, satsangs, lectures and discussions on issues of spiritual and social importance, study of lives of great personalities, explanation and recitation of sataka (literary couplets on morals and values), daily prayers in the morning and evening, bhajans, etc. are various approaches adopted in the Gurukul to impart and develop conviction in spiritual values among the children.

The Gurukul adopts a specially designed time table with learning sessions, holistic development sessions, study hours & student activity time. Personalized attention & guidance is provided to children through a unique “Mentoring Model” where each teacher is made responsible for 10-15 students. Age-based grouping of children is adopted. Concept-based Learning is implemented through through Practical, Application-oriented, Activity-based methods (Group works, experiments, demonstrations, exercises, practice sessions, educational tours).

The Gurukul has developed and implements an innovative seven-step learning approach - Audio-visuals, Activity-based learning, Concept explanation, Oral understanding by students, Written work, Practice & Evaluation. Classroom based learning is restricted to only 3 hours every day and in rest of the sessions, learning is imparted through practical, interactive and engaging methods. Last hour of every day is conducted as students’ activity time where each day, a different type of activity - Book review, Bala Sabha, Debate, Quiz, Cultural performances (Vedika), Competition (Pratyogita) - is organised and executed by the students itself. These are aimed at developing planning and organising skills, communication skills and performing skills.

Use of Audio, Video & TV programmes is highly encouraged to create interest on studies among children. Special practice material is developed on all concepts and subjects to improve slow learners as well as to take all students towards excellence in studies through repeated practice of learnt concepts. ‘Team Learning’ and ‘Peer Learning’ approaches are employed for improved learning among children. Regular, periodic field trips, exposure visits & study tours are a part of the curriculum. Besides the learning sessions, study hours are conducted every day for the children to bring improvement in their studies. Weekly examinations and competitions are conducted to improve the abilities of the children in a wide range of aspects.

As an essential part of their education, children are involved in various service and spiritual activities periodically. Especially, every year from 05-12th of January, children of Gurukul conduct week long service and spiritual activities in Vikarabad and around 10 nearby villages, under the banner of ‘National Youth Day Celebrations’ to commemorate the birthday of our beloved leader & Guru, Swami Vivekananda and to take his message to youth and children in the society.

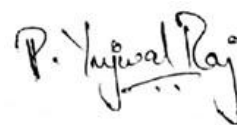
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Education is imparted through well-trained and qualified 15 full-time & 7 part-time teachers. The school administration is overseen by an experienced Principal. Administrative work is managed through 15 admin staff that includes Admin Manager, Store & Library in-charge, wardens, cooks, watchman, drivers, ayah, helpers and farmers. Other administrative services such as electrical, plumbing, sanitation, etc. are in-sourced through specific part-time staff.

The Gurukul has the followed infrastructure required for the school and hostel.

1. 9 Class rooms with benches; 4 equipped with LED monitors
2. Principal room and office
3. Staff room
4. Office furniture - cupboards, benches, tables, chairs, book shelves (limited no.)
5. Separate toilets for boys (6) & girls (8)
6. Science lab with basic equipment (Partially equipped)
7. 3 office computers
8. Library with over 1000 books on various subject areas, kids books, etc.
9. Games material (limited)
10. Separate dormitories for boys & girls
11. Warden & staff residence room
12. Prayer Hall
13. RO Water Plant
14. Store Room and Sub-store
15. Teaching Learning Material
16. School bus & school van

The hostel has a separate dormitory for boys and girls, under the supervision of two wardens, one male and one female. The Gurukul also grows fresh vegetables in the campus using natural farming methods. Healthcare is provided through constant presence of doctors and nurse on the campus and availability of all the basic drugs. The rural health centre run by YAGNA takes care of all the basic health requirements of the children. Besides, annual health check-ups, nutritional and growth assessments are done for all children.



(Dr. Yujwal Raj)
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