

Regeneration of Rural India and the Activities of Ramakrishna Mission

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**The real nation who lives in cottages have forgotten their manhood, their individuality.
Swamiji**

India in Villages

- "The soul of India lives in its villages", declared M. K. Gandhi
- The villages are the soul of India and cities are the centre of power-- Rabindranath Tagore
- According to the 2011 census of India, 68.84% of Indians (around 833.1 million people) live in 640,867 different villages.

Rural India

- The development of India cannot be thought of without the development of about 84 crores rural people.
- We may assume, rural India as the second largest country of the world.
- If we can develop this India, automatically, whole India will be developed.



“So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them!” Swamiji



Swami Vivekananda was the first Indian who realised and propagated the importance of mass education and mass awareness. Famous Historian Ramesh Ch Majumdar

- **Why Regeneration?**

Glorious Ancient India

- Swamiji was having proud respect for rich glorious past of India.
- India was so rich in resources and our society was so rich in different fields of knowledge that people from different countries used to come India for business purpose and acquiring knowledge from pre-historic period.

Glorious Ancient India

- Dhanwantari , the Pioneer of surgery of c.1000 BC, Ayurvedic expert like Charak of c 200BC, Physician Surgeon Bagbhatta of c.600 BC, Pediatrician & Gyneobstrecian like Kashyap in c200 BC, Nurologist Jivak in c.600 BC, Nagarjuna, a medical alchemist & metallurgist of c.800 BC and many other contributed not only to Indian civilisation but to the civilisation of whole world.

- In Mathematics, Geometry, Astrology, Music, Literature, Art etc were also developed in India to a great height.
- According to Willium Hunter plastic surgery in nose and ear was also discovered in India.

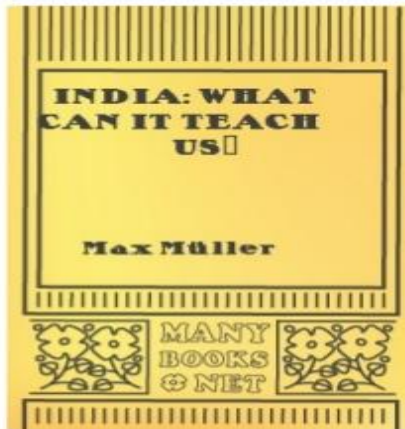
We owe a lot to the Indians,
who taught us how to count,
without which no worthwhile
scientific discovery could have
been made. -Albert Einstein



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President Obama quoting Max Mueller on India before his November 2010 visit to India :

"Whatever sphere of the human mind you may select for your special study, whether it be language, or religion, or mythology, or philosophy, whether it be law or customs, primitive art or science, you have to go to India." Because, he said, "some of the most valuable and instructive material of the history of man are treasured up in India and India only."



India: What can it teach us?, by F. Max Müller

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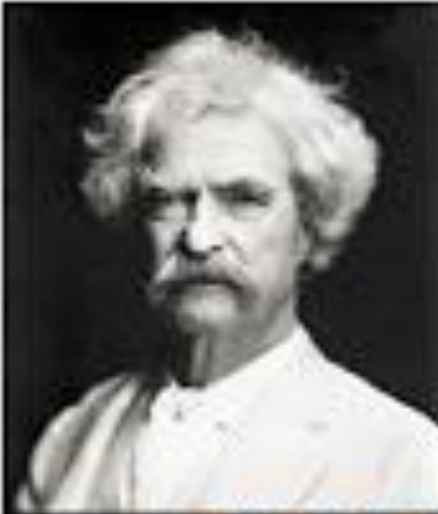
*** START OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK INDIA: WHAT CAN IT TEACH US? ***

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INDIA:

WHAT CAN IT TEACH US?

Hillary Clinton quoted Mark Twain in June 2010 before November 10 visit to India:



"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. Our most valuable and most constructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only"

Mark Twain



“If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India.”

~ Romain Rolland, French scholar

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- Swamiji's vision was to regenerate the past India. Swamiji got a vision of new India whose glory will surpass even the glory of the past.

What to do ?



“Let new India arise out of peasants cottage, grasping the plough, out of huts, cobbler and sweeper.”



**Let New India arise
in your place.
Let her arise
out of the peasants' cottage,
grasping the plough;
out of the huts
of the fisherman,
the cobbler, and the sweeper.**





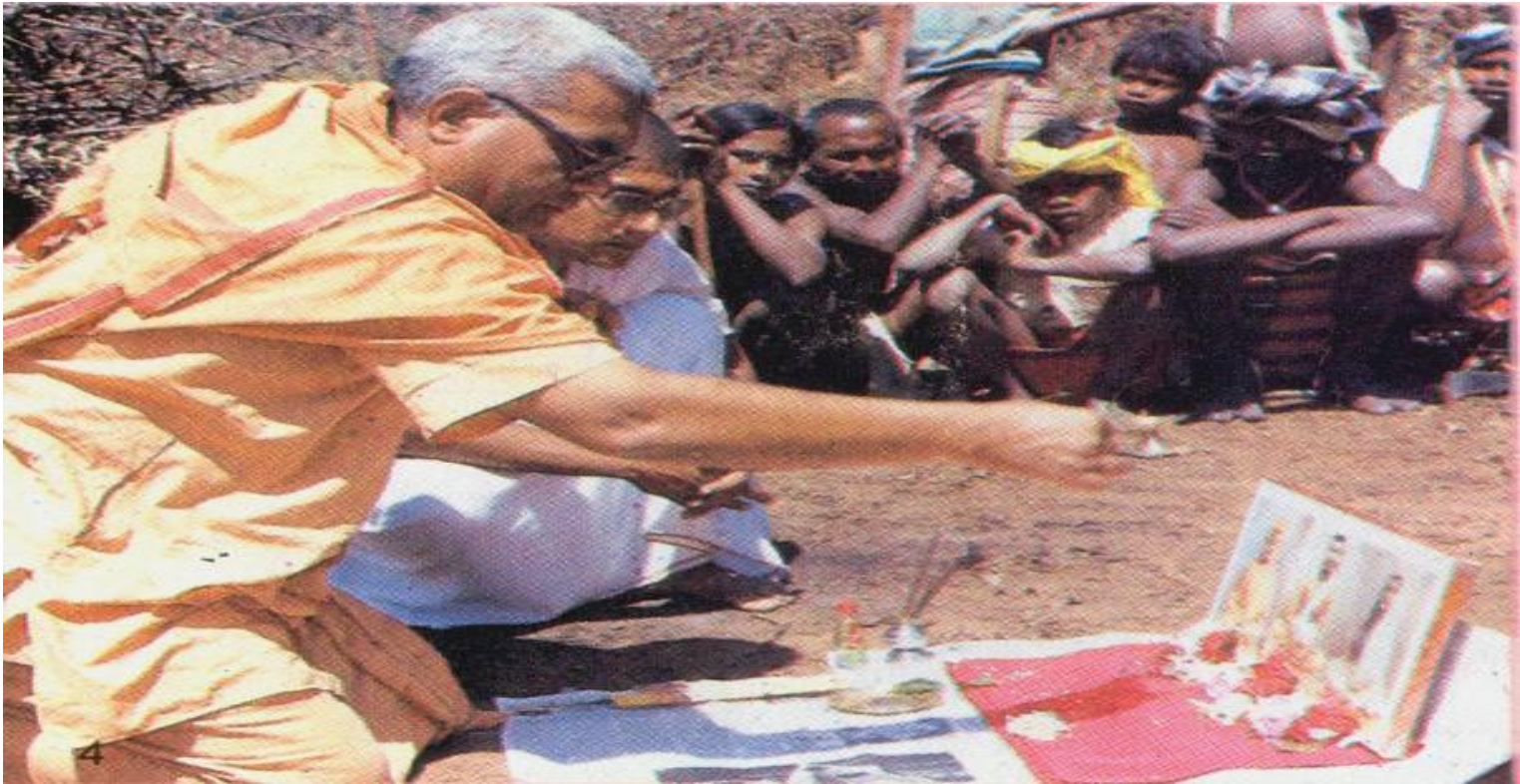
“Hence our object is to see that everyone down to ‘chandal’ be helped to attain the right to Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha.”

HOW TO DO?

Service to man is service to god

- You have read – ‘Matri devo bhava, Pitru devo bhava’ – “Look upon your mother as God, look upon your father as God”-- but I say – ‘daridra devo bhava, murkha devo bhava’ – “the poor, the illiterate, the ignorant, the afflicted -- let these be your God.” We have added with this Krishaka Devo Bhava(Let farmers be your god).Know that service to these alone is the highest religion.

Tribal Development Project in Abujmar, Chhatrisgarh



‘daridra devo bhava, murkha devo bhava’

Organisation

- Swamiji after travelling the western countries realised the power of organisation. No great work can be done without organisation.
- So, he established Ramakrishna Sangha on 1 May 1897 to regenerate India not only for the good of Indians but for whole world.
- If India awakens, the whole world will awaken.

Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission

ATMANO MOKSHARTHAM JAGAD HITAYA CHA
(For one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world)

HEADQUARTERS : BELUR MATH, DT. HOWRAH, WEST BENGAL, INDIA



Ramakrishna Temple, Belur Math



Symbol of Harmony

Ramakrishna in the Main Temple



Holy Trio



Twin Organisations

Although Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission are legally and financially separate, they are closely inter-related in several other ways, and are to be regarded as twin organizations.

Nature of the Organisation

- **Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission** are worldwide, non-political, non-sectarian spiritual organizations which have been engaged in various forms of humanitarian, social service activities for more than a century.

The Motto

- *Atmano mokshartham jagad hitaya cha,*
"For one's own salvation, and for the welfare of the world".

Ideals

Three noteworthy ideals on which these two organizations are based.

- potential divinity of the soul
- harmony of religions and
- work as worship

Three characteristics of this ideology

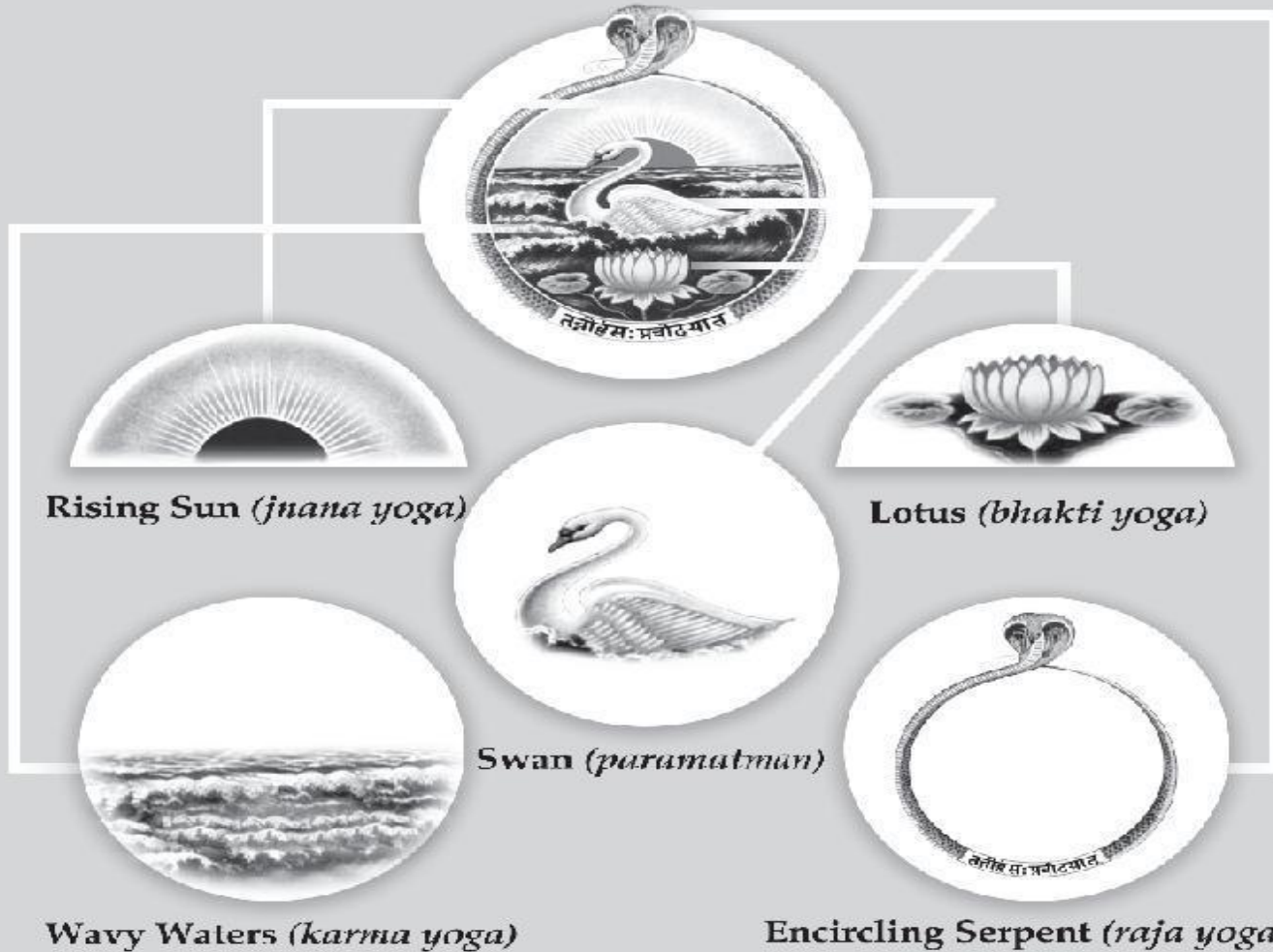
1. It is *modern* in the sense that the ancient principles of Vedanta have been expressed in the modern idiom;
2. It is *universal*, that is, it is meant for the whole humanity;
3. It is *practical* in the sense that its principles can be applied in day-to-day life to solve the problems of life.

EMBLEM



Emblem

Harmony of Four Yogas: A Graphic Presentation



Emblem and its meaning

- In the language of Vivekananda himself:
"The wavy waters in the picture are symbolic of Karma, the lotus of Bhakti, and the rising-sun of Jnana. The encircling serpent is indicative of Yoga and awakened Kunadali Shakti, while the swan in the picture stands for Paramatman. Therefore, the ideal of the picture is that by the union of Karma, Jnana, Bhakti and Yoga, the vision of the Paramatman is obtained".

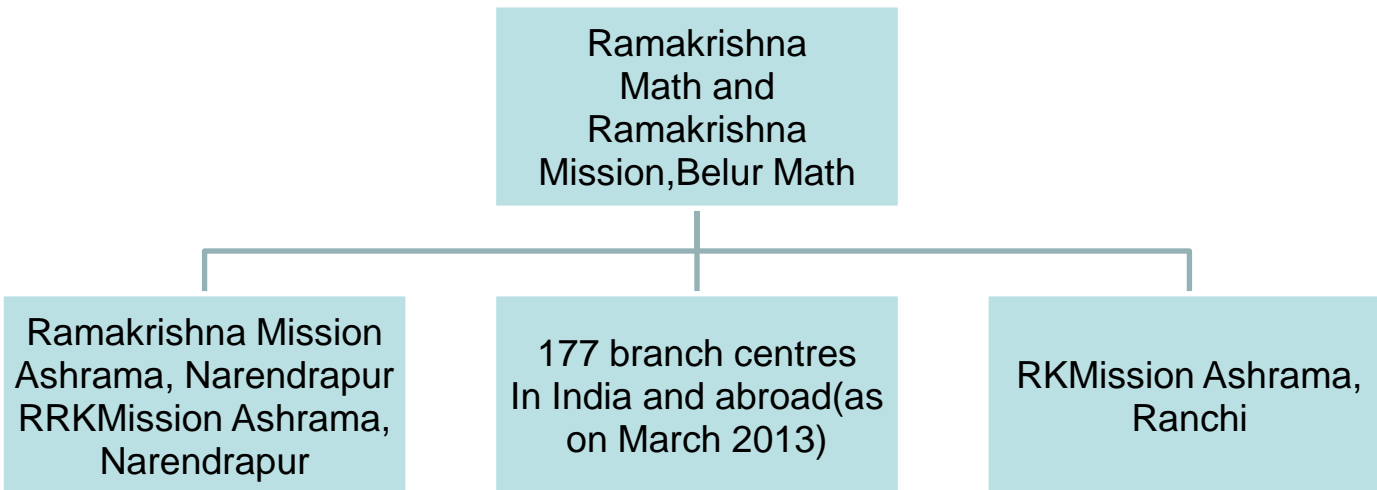
The main goals and objectives of these twin organizations

Based on the principles of Practical [Vedanta](#), are:

1. To spread the idea of the potential divinity of every being and how to manifest it through every action and thought.
2. To spread the idea of harmony of religions based on Sri Ramakrishna's experience that all religions lead to the realization of the same Reality known by different names in different religions. The Mission honours and reveres the founders of all world religions such as Buddha, Christ and Mohammed.
3. To treat all work as worship, and service to man as service to God.

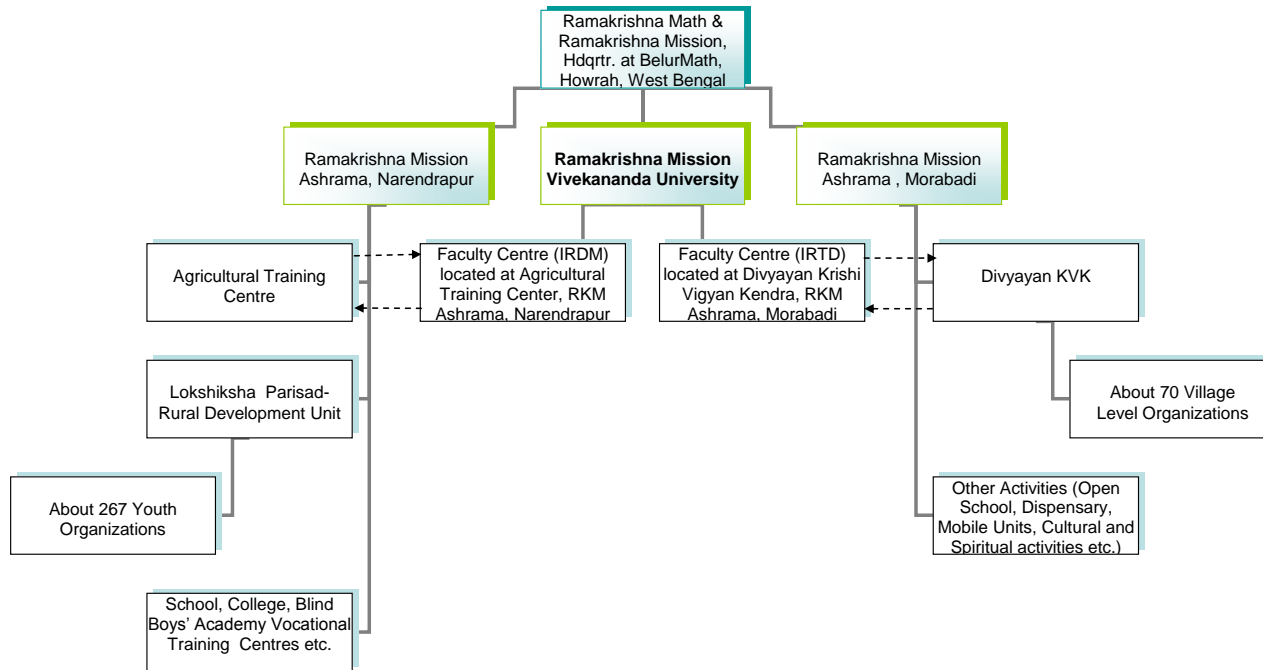
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4. To make all possible attempts to alleviate human suffering by spreading education, rendering medical service, **extending help to villagers through rural development centres, etc.**
5. **To work for the all-round welfare of humanity, especially for the uplift of the poor and the downtrodden.**
6. To develop harmonious personalities by the combined practice of Jnana, Bhakti, Yoga and Karma.



Organisational Structure

ORGANIZATIONAL NETWORK



Organisational Structure

1. Ramakrishna Mission with its head quarter at Belur Math, WB runs with its branch centres 132 in India and 45 in other countries.
2. Ramakrishna Mission is managed by the board of governing body. General Secretary is the chief executive of the organization.
3. There are 407 monastic members, 249 lay members and 168 lay associates in Ramakrishna Mission (as on 31 March 2013).

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4. All the branch centres work under guidance of head quarter at Belur math.
5. Each centre is managed by the managing committee. Secretary of each centre is the administrative head of the centre. He is assisted by monastic, honorary/ volunteer as well as salaried staff members in his day to day activities.
6. Each centre has different departments for conducting different types of activities under the in-charge of the respective departments.

TYPES OF SERVICE (Approx Expenditure - Rs in crores)

From April 2011 to March 2012

1. Medical Service- 120
2. Educational Service-220
3. Work in Rural and Tribal Areas for 68
lakhs people -37
4. Relief and Rehabilitation Work-5
5. Welfare Programmes(youth and
women- 28
6. Mass Contact
7. Spiritual and Cultural Work
8. Celebrations

**What are the guidelines for
the regeneration of rural
India?**

Integrated Approach

Integrated socio-economic-cultural-political
- moral and spiritual development.

In Swamiji's own word, "Hence our object is to see that everyone down to 'chandala' be helped to attain the right to Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha."

Centre of Development

Development for the man, of the man and by the man. Man is at the centre of everything. Men, men are wanted; everything else will automatically be solved. So, first development is to be made at individual level, then at the social/collective level.

Swamiji's on Regeneration of Rural India

- Though Swamiji did not give us any guidelines for rural development but compiling his ideas from his letters, lectures, discussions etc we may get his ideas on regeneration of rural India.
- These are not exhaustive but indicative only.

Education: Technical and Moral

- **Education** is the panacea of all evils.
- Our work should be mainly **educational, both moral and intellectual.**
- In India our first and foremost task is the spread of education and spirituality among the lower classes of people. Unless provision for food can be made, it is impossible for hungry people to have spirituality. **Hence to show them new means of production of food is our first and fore most duty.**

Technical School



Dedicated Trained Youths

- First, **some young men full of the spirit of renunciation** are needed -- those who will be ready to sacrifice their lives for others, instead of devoting themselves to their own happiness. With this object in view I shall establish a Math to **train young Sannyasins**, who will go from door to door and make the people realise their pitiable condition by means of facts and reasoning, and instruct them in the ways and means for their welfare, and at the same time will explain to them as clearly as possible, in very simple and easy language, the higher truths of religion.

Samaj Sevak Sikshan Mandir



Horticulture

Village level organisation by villagers themselves

- **Train up** a band of fiery young men. Put your fire in them and gradually increase the **organisation**, letting it widen and widen its circle.
- .. Afterwards the peasants of each village will collect **funds** and have one of these(organisation) in their village.
- All the wealth in the world cannot help one little Indian village if the people are not taught to **help themselves**.
- Vivekananda Seva Sangha(VSS) of Divyayan,Ranchi and Narainpur
- **Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.**

Women's Organisation of a Village



Swamiji's guidelines for development of rural India

- ❖ Education, the basic input of development--- **basic, technical and moral:**
- ❖ Religion must be integrated with development:
- ❖ People and their participation:
- ❖ Organizing peoples' institutions for development:
- ❖ Involving women in development programmes:
- ❖ Casteism without any privilege:

- ❖ Agriculture coupled with industry is the solution:
- ❖ The highest thoughts must enlighten the rural masses and modernize their outlook:
- ❖ Entry point- poorest and weakest section of the society deserves primary and special attention:
- ❖ The infinite energy of youths is to be channelized properly for their own as well as national development:
- ❖ Social workers should not be involved in social action:

Ramakrishna Mission Centres in Rural Development

Most of the centres work in rural areas in addition to their regular other activities but the following centres and sub-centres are totally dedicated in rural development:

1. Pallimangal, Belur Math
2. Lokasikshaparishad, Narendrapur
3. Divyayan, Ranchi
4. Samaj Sevak Shikshan Mandir, Belurmath
5. Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narainpur
(Abujmarh Tribal Development Project)

R K M Centres in Rural Development

6. Shibanhabeli, Bangalore
7. Sakora, Mumbai
8. Sagardweep, 24 paraganas
9. Cherapunji, Meghalaya
10. Aloo, Arunachal Pradesh
11. Two faculty centres of Narendrapur and Ranchi under Vivekananda University, Belur .

Kamarpukur



Secondary School



Training in Weaving

Lokashiksha Parishad, Narendrapur



Divyayan, Ranchi



Samaj Sevak Shikshan Mandir, Saradapith, Belur



Horticulture



Animal Husbandry

Narainpur, Chhatrishgarh



Trainees at Theory Class (Agriculture)



Sakora, Mumbai



Sagar Island, WB



Cherapunji, Meghalaya



Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh



Vivekananda University with its two faculty Centres at Ranchi and Narendrapur



Other organisations working with the ideals of Swami Vivekananda

Other Organisations

1. Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari
2. Akhil Bharat Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal, Kolkata
3. Vivekananda Swashtya Seva Sangha, Kolkata
4. Vivekananda Yuva Samanyay Kendra, Kolkata
5. Independent Centres/Ashramas in the name of Ramakrishna/Vivekananda like Ramakrishna Ashrama, Nimpeeth

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6. Many devotees/followers in groups/ individually like Dr Sudarshan in BRHills,Karnataka, Annahajare in Ralleygaon Siddhi,Maharashtra.

Vivekananda Kendra



Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari

Akhil Bharat Vivekananda Yuva Mahamandal



So, a national network of Ramakrishna Mission centres along with other organizations and dedicated persons is serving the nation for more than 117 years to regenerate rural India for the awakening of mother India in particular and whole humanity at large. Facts and figures are too sufficient to prove this.

**Let us give our
today for our
better tomorrow.**



**Om Shantih Shantih
Shantih**