

A study on Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa (GAP) - All round development project for street and slum children by Ramakrishna Mission

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Abstract:

Food, nutrition, medical care and education is the basic necessities for every children. India's vast number of slum children, street children and rural children are deprived of those necessities. Ramakrishna Mission organised multiple programme for slum and street children like GAP . GAP (Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa) is a very well known project of Ramakrishna Mission. The project was taken for those children who were very far from light of education and modern life. Through this project Ramakrishna Mission provide them food, nutrition and moral, spiritual, physical education. Physical, mental, and intellectual development of those children by GAP project will be focused in this article.

Introduction:

On the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Kolkata had started a project for street and slum children, which is Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa (GAP). 'Gadadhar' was the childhood name of Sri Ramakrishna, and Ramakrishna Mission noted all the children as Gadadhar, means child Ramakrishna. This project was launched in October 2010. 150th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Swami Vivekananda, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India donate 100 crore rupees for social work to Ramakrishna mission , and mission started this project with this financial assistance. The aim of this project was all-round development of poor children in slums and other backward areas. There were a total of 174 GAP units' in 23 Indian states which benefitted more than 18,302 underprivileged children from different parts of India. There was no bar of caste, creed, colour, religion, etc. The project provided an opportunity to these children for their physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual development.

The main objectives of Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa is -

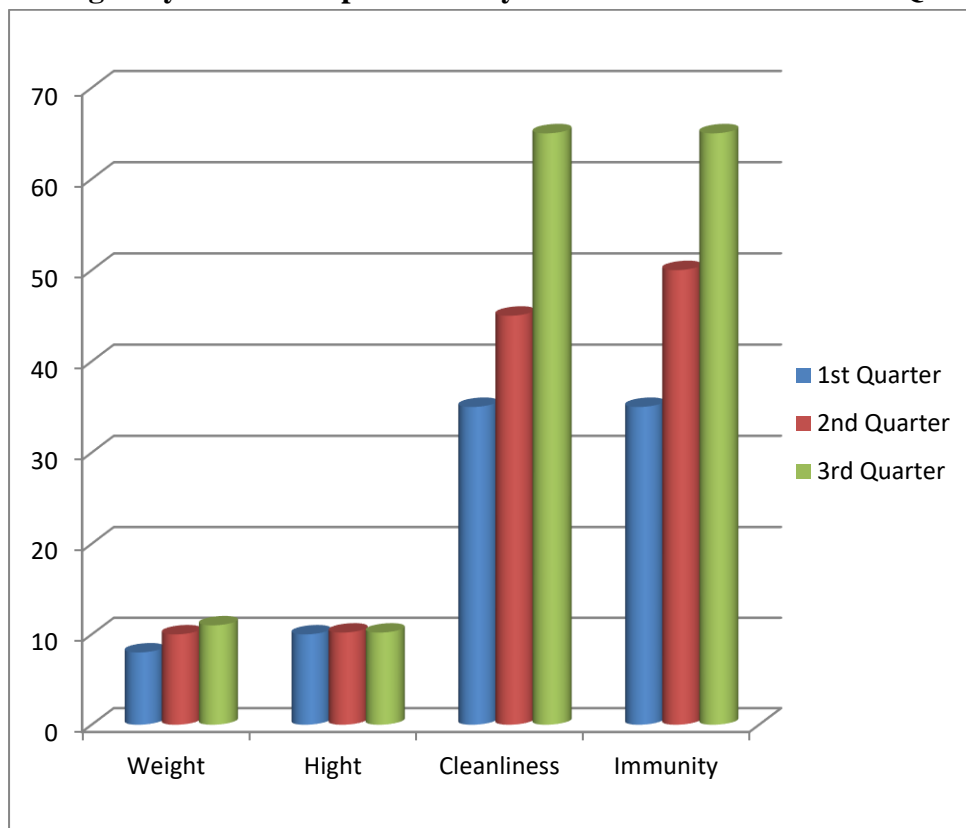
- To grow up a sense of cleanliness and hygiene among poor slum children.
- To provide special remedial teaching to children in their school subjects.
- Develop moral and cultural values in those children.
- To encourage them for their health and physical development.
- To make them a good citizens of India.

The GAP is a composite programme having three fold development of poor and slam children of 5 to 12 years. The programme is conducted daily for about 2 – 3 hours in the morning or evening though out the year. More than 1,000 children are regularly participating in these units. The actual goal of this project is Physical, Mental and Intellectual development of poor or slam arias children .

Activities for Physical Development:

The session starts with prayers and exercises. For the physical development students has been trained on health and hygiene, in toilet practice, necessity of safe drinking water, clipping nails, brushing teeth, washing hands, using mosquito net at night, etc. To keep them healthy, time by time health check-ups are organised to monitor their body-weight and height. The children participate in various games and exercises. GAP provided sports items for the children. For healthy life provide vitamin tonic & tablets, medicines as per the doctor's advice. GAP also provide school bags, school uniforms, study materials like notebooks, pen, pencil & eraser., books, footwear, umbrellas, raincoats, toothbrush & toothpaste, tongue-cleaner, oil, soap, nail-clipper, etc. After the end of each day's programme, nutritive food supplements like milk, egg and banana, dry fruits, dalia, etc are served to all the participants. Suitable nutritive food items may be chosen as per local availability.

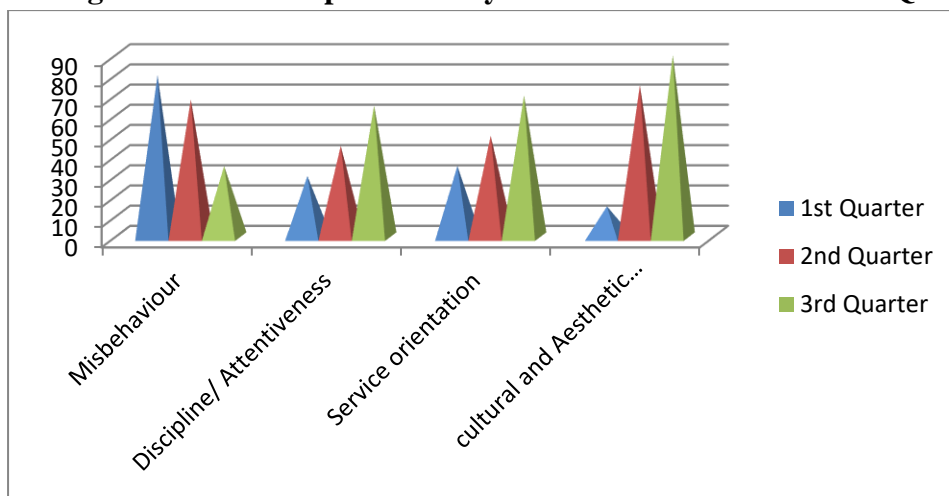
Average Physical Development Analysis of 50 GAP Children in 3 Quarter of a session



Activities for Mental Development:

The children are exposed to various arts & skills as per the local culture and tradition in music, drama, chanting, painting etc. Universal prayers are taught to instil national integration and to encourage holistic living. The children are also guided to practice meditation and yoga under the guidance of competent teachers. Value Education as mentioned above, is also part of the GAP programme. The lives of great personalities in the field of literature, religion, history, and freedom movement are taught to the students. Films on Value Education and other inspirational themes are screened to the students for exposing our national heritage and culture. The teachers of GAP are the right mentors of the children with proper attitude and awareness.

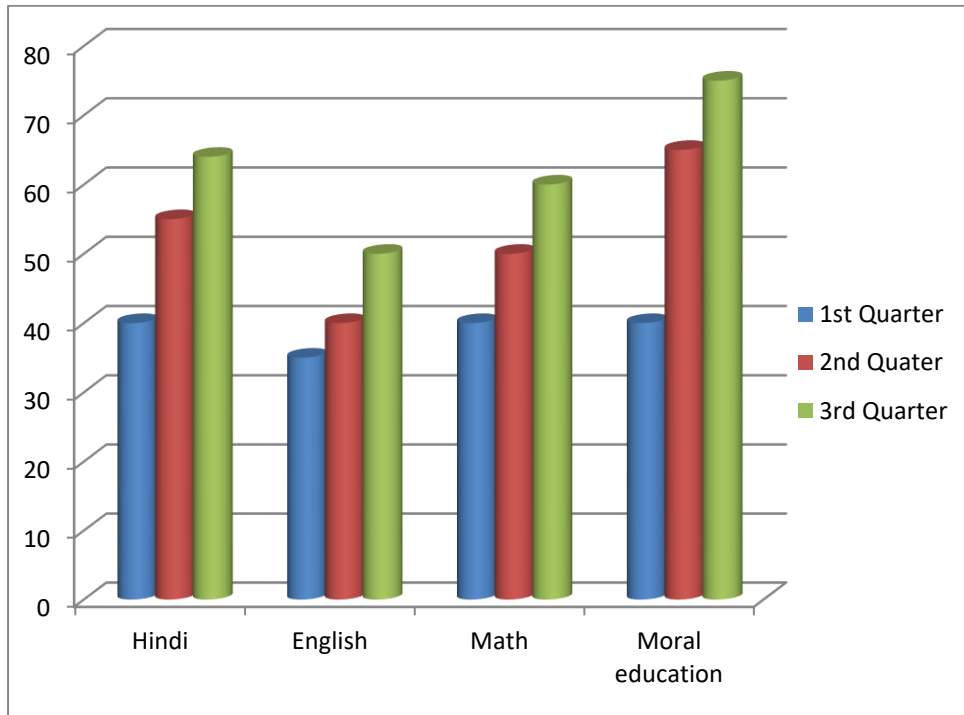
Average Mental Development Analysis of 50 GAP Children in 3 Quarter of a session



Activities for Intellectual Development:

The GAP units are implemented through branch centres situated in different parts of the country. Monks and volunteers look after this project with service-mindedness. The children are provided special coaching in their school subjects. The students, who not get a good academic care in their schools, may be they back benchers, GAP provide them good guidance. The non-school-goers are given special attention and gradually they get admitted in schools. The GAP teachers take classes on schools subjects, exercises, meditation, painting, singing, value education, etc. as per the pre-scheduled daily routines.

Average Intellectual Development Analysis of 50 GAP Children in 3 Quarter of a session



Funding:

GAP units are mainly monitored and funded by the Headquarters Belur Math. Central government donate 100 corer rupees for 150 birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, and it was initial funding of this project. But this funding was only for four years. After end of this funding some privet and govt. sponsored company like ONGC, SBI, TCS, INDIAN OIL, BHARAT PETROLEUM gives financial support to this project. Some units are run by headquarters and some by privet sponsorships. Rs.450000/- was allotted for each unit for one year with the following financial guidelines.

Estimated Expenditures to run one GAP Unit with 100 Students for one year		
Sl. No.	Particulars for 100 Students	Amount (Rs)
1.	Text book and / or value education books and study materials (Rs. 100 per students x 100 students)	10000
2.	School bag(Rs. 120 x 100 student)	12000
3.	Nutritive food items	300000
4.	School uniform (Rs. 100x 100 students)	10000
5.	Umbrella/ raincoat and / or footwear (Rs. 100 x100 student)	10000
6.	Sports items	1000
7.	Plastic mats	1000
8.	Honorarium for 1 attendant (RS.1000per month x 12 month)	12000
9.	Honorarium for 3 teacher (Rs. 1500 per month per teacher x 3 Teacher x 12 months) (where volunteers are not available)	54,000
10.	Toiletry items (Rs. 300 per student x100 student)	30000
11.	Contingency	10000
Total Expenditure		4,50,000

Conclusion

GAP is one of the popular projects of Ramakrishna mission, which includes three fold developments for those children who are deprived of modern education and technology. A vast number of Indian street children are benefited by this project. And here comes the main motto of GAP, to guide children from its first stage of development. GAP helps them to learn the basic values of life. GAP is not only a project, it is a man making formula for Indian society. So many children from rural and slum area can find out their hidden potentiality for a beautiful life in future.

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