



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Newsletter April 2009

March is the month of Examination for all children. Our children of class 10 and class 12 had their final board examinations. Others too had their school examinations. The major activity of this month was the Pratibha Khoj Pareeksha at class 5 level from which we will be selecting few children for our next PPY scholarship for 7 years. We also worked extensively to start a vocational training center likely to take off in early April. Science Cell has made some new addition to their inventory of interesting experiments.

Pratibha Khoj Pareeksha

There are a large number of children in the villages who have great potentials and talent, but do not get exposure and opportunities due to economic hardship in the family. Shiksha Sopan organized a Talent Search Examination for the children of class 5 living in villages surrounding the IITK Campus on 22nd March to identify gems in the huts and nurture their talent.

In the first phase a comprehensive list of schools within 2 km of IITK boundary was prepared. We came across 41 such schools. Information about our examination was given to all class 5 children in all these 41 schools. A total of 164 children registered for the exam. There was no entry fee.

The examination was conducted at two centers, one in Barasirohi GPN school and one inside the Campus, Opportunity school. The turn out was impressive and 157 children actually appeared.



The exam was given in two shifts, from 9.30 to 10.30 asking 8 questions on Language, Environment and General awareness and then from 11.00 to 12.30 asking 7 questions from arithmetic and geometry. In the break each child was given a packet of Biscuits to refresh.

Apart from identifying good students, Shiksha Sopan also has a vision to improve the academic standards of the schools just outside its campus. In order to enhance our interaction with these schools we have planned honoring the school toppers from all schools from where 5 or more children appeared. A number of Principals have appreciated our coming to these small schools.



Dr H C Verma discussing issues with G P N School Principal

Eight of these 157 children showed their potential well and we selected them for personal interaction to decide for the Pratibha Poshan Yojana , Junior (PPYJ) scholarship. This will be done on 5th April.

At present, we have three sponsors, Dr Hari Hablani from IITK Aerospace Dept, Ms Deepthi Uppalapati, ex-M.Tech. student (2007 Batch) IITK, currently settled in USA and Mr V V Joshi from Mumbai, who have expressed their commitment to support one child in this scheme for seven years.

PPY J-07 children have done well in class 7

In a similar exercise done in 2007, we had selected four children for PPYJ scholarship and are nurturing them since then. These children were admitted to a well reputed CBSE school in Kanpur, 8 km away from IITK and very soon they adjusted with this new school environment. These children have passed their 7th Std examination with good marks and will now be going to class 8. All of them are in the first 16 positions in their class, the best performance is by Eshant who has scored 75% marks getting the 3rd position. Other have scored between 66 to 70 %. All the four are also the favourites of school teachers because of their good behaviour, high attendance and discipline.



Manaviya, Poonam, Naresh, and Eshant with their Std 7 Report Cards

Ragi (Gudari Ki Lal, Sept 2008 Newsletter) is doing well in MCA

Ragi, daughter of our Dosa wala Mr K Ravi, has scored 746 marks out of 950 in the first Sememster examination of MCA at M M M College Gorakhpur. During the Holi break, she visited us and expressed her gratitude to Shiksha Sopan members who are supporting her fee and other expenses. It was a great pleasure to see the confidence on her face.

From the Evening Centers

Evening Centers and Sopan Vidyalaya are the continuous ongoing activities of Shiksha Sopan and is our social Laboratory to learn and experience. Here are some glimpses of children studying at Evening Centers.



Sopan Child joins as Teacher in Sopan Vidyalaya

Rashmi Kushwaha lives in IITK outhouse and has been a very regular child at Sopan Evening Center, SAC for more than 5 years. Very sharp in thinking, hard working and sincere, she received a lot from the Evening Center developing very good understanding of science and mathematics. Now she has grown up and has just finished her class 12 Board examination. Shiksha Sopan has great confidence in her and has given her responsibility as Maths Teacher at Sopan Vidyalaya for the time being. Rashmi will surely continue higher studies and Shiksha Sopan will support her financial needs.



Science Cell Activities

Though there was no public programme in the month of March as there were examinations all around, Science Cell has added several new experiments in its store. Thus SHRESTHA (Set of Hundred Representative Experiments for Science Teaching and Higher Appreciation) is getting more and more Shreshtha. We have given a set to Campus School, IITK and they are using it to make science teaching an enjoyable activity for the tiny tots. Mr Varun Harbola, a brilliant student of KV, has joined our science team for summer and has already started on new ideas and projects.



Financial Report

The financial year has just ended and we are preparing our accounts. The accounting has been much more streamlined and computerized due to sincere efforts of Dr Sameer Khandekar. In this financial year we have gotten donation from about 60 persons. Besides this, some of the IITK Alumni have donated to IITK through DRPG for Shiksha Sopan activities. We got about Rs 90,000 from this fund in this financial year. The total expense in the year is about 400,000.

We would make an all out effort to make many more people aware of Shiksha Sopan activities and bring them in our Donor's list.

What People say about us

Ms Poorvi Patel is a student from Arizona State University visiting IIT Kanpur to do some courses in BSBE department for a semester. She visited Shiksha Sopan Centers and got deeply interested in it. She is also giving English classes in Sopan Vidyalaya at present. She expressed her experience with Shiksha Sopan children in the following words.

My experience at Shiksha Sopan has been indescribable. I came with the impression that I wanted to do something useful while I was in Kanpur, but I

realized that the kids have much more to teach me than I can teach them. When I spent time with the girls during the weekend camp, I realized how easy it is to get close to them. Even within a couple days, I already knew that I am going to miss them a lot. It was refreshing to see that the students were eager to learn and really tried hard. Even my experiences in the Sopan Vidyalaya and the Evening Centers were eye-opening. All the children have so much potential, they just need the guidance and resources to succeed. It was amazing how much could be taught with so little. Furthermore, I just really enjoyed spending time with the students, they are very genuine and sincere.



Poorvi (middle) with Shiksha Sopan children Kanchan (left) and Aman

Other Informations

Web site : For more details please visit www.shiksha-sopan.org

How to donate : The cheques/draft for donations should be made in the name of "Shiksha Sopan" payable at Kanpur. Doners may kindly give their personal details such as name, postal address, email address, so that the receipt, updates etc. may be sent. One can also make online transfer to Shiksha Sopan account in State Bank of India, IITK branch in the Account 10426002488 in the name "Shiksha Sopan".

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