



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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News Letter March 2008

February is the month in which Dr C V Raman discovered what the world knows now by the name "Raman Effect" and which brought the only Nobel Prize in Physics to India. Shiksha Sopan celebrated this month with Science focused activities and by telling children at all the 5 evening centers something about Dr Raman and his work. Here are brief descriptions of the February 2008 activities.

Shiksha Sopan in Techkriti

Shiksha Sopan put up a science exhibition "Physics from everyday materials" on 15th and 16th Feb, 2008 in the IITK Annual Technical Festival TECHKRITI. About 25 Physics Experiments designed from everyday materials like plastic bottles, iron nails, injection syringes, etc., were set up by children of Shiksha Sopan and Opportunity School. The exhibition drew very enthusiastic response and all the time there were large number of curious visitors interacting with our children and appreciating their efforts.

Balancing 18 nails on the head of a single nail without any tape or magnet, demonstration of transverse wave on strw-tape assembly, Vortex formation in a water bottle, Magic Lota were among the experiments which were all praised by the visitors.



Neha explaining water and air pressure



Children busy explaining science to visitors



Enjoying "touch illusion", touching one ball gives the feeling of two



Torsional waves on Straw-Tape assembly



A child guiding visitors on mathematical games



Magic Vessel of Vikas gives water whenever you invert it

The visitors described their feelings after interacting with the children as “fantastic”, “extremely impressive”, “real Science training” etc.

Outreach to Champavat, Uttarakhand

Shiksha Sopan Science Programme has been appreciated by many and we got an invitation from the NGO named SAVIDYA working in the Uttarakhand Himalayan regions focusing on Water conservation and other Environmental issues, to give a Science Awareness Programme to the children of Dist Champavat at the occasion of Science Day on 28th February 2008.

Two of our volunteers Mr Amit Kumar Bajpai and Hanuman Prasad Gupta went with 20 Science Experiments to Champvat and shared Science excitement with about 300 children and their teachers. Being exposed to science in action for the first time, the children enjoyed the show thoroughly. All the materials used for the Experiments were left with the teachers there and will be used in the Science Resource Center they are developing.

Faculty Visit at SAC Evening Center

Dr. Kallol Mondal, Assistant Professor in MME Department, Dr. S Dhamodaran, Lecturer in Physics Department, and Ms Geetha Dhamodaran, Project Associate in Physics Department, all of whom have joined IITK recently, visited our evening center at SAC on 9th Feb 08. They stayed for the full 2 hours the center was conducted and watched keenly how the children learned from the elders. They interacted with students in a very informal and friendly manner. Their main message was for good manners and good conduct as a well-mannered student is respected everywhere.



Ms Geetha Dhamodaran addressing Shiksha Sopan Children. Dr Kallol Mondal and Dr S Dhamodaran standing to the left of Ms Geetha

Some inspirational stories was also told by Dr. Kallol and Ms. Geetha Dhamodaran. Ms Dhamodaran has decided to help the children in English writing and speaking on week ends.

Games day at Barasirohi Evening Center

Mr Raghavendra, a local youth studying in B Sc, conducted Games day at Barasirohi Center. About 40 children, mostly upto class 6, enjoyed the games. All the games were without any equipment and involved physical exercise like running fast, stretching the muscles and also mental alertness and thinking ability. The whole exercise was to give children a healthy entertainment together with mental and physical skill development.

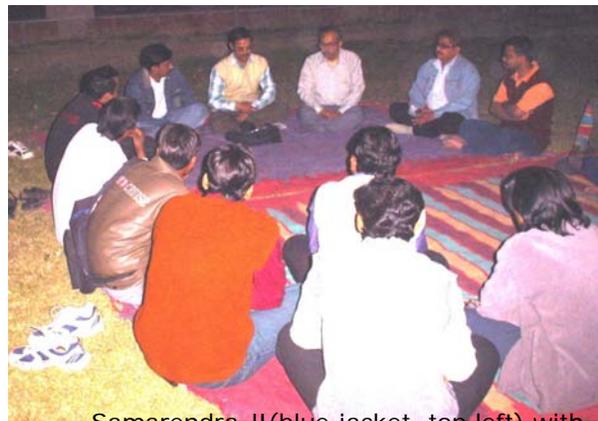
All the regular resource persons were also involved in conducting the games so that they can continue some of these in routine days



Meeting the Founders of Shiksha Sopan

The whole idea of Shiksha Sopan was conceived by some of IITK students in the year 2001. One of them Mr Samarendra Pratap Singh visited IITK on Feb 19,08 and met our volunteers at SAC Lawns. It was a very happy occasion when the current team of Shiksha Sopan shared his experiences of the early days. He recollected how meetings went late in the night in hostels and narrated one incidence when the meeting went up to 2.30 AM and they dispersed after deciding the they will meet again at 6 AM.

Mr Samarendra was very pleased to see that the initiative taken by him and his friends has expanded and so many activities are being carried out. He suggested that Shiksha Sopan should think of imparting vocational training in systematic manner which was one of the main ideas of establishing this group.



Samarendra Ji (blue jacket, top left) with the current team



The old Guards, Samarendraji, Ranjanji and Harishji

