

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg. Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Newsletter May 2011

The month of April was fully packed with lots of activities by Shiksha Sopan. VNK Merit Scholarship Examination was held at five different schools. An Awareness lecture on environment and Discussion meeting on corruption were some of the special events in this month. Here is a description about this month's activities.


V. N. Kulkarni Scholarship Examination

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, Shiksha Sopan has instituted V. N. Kulkarni (VNK) Smriti Chhatravritti for children of villages around IITK Campus to honor the great social commitments of late Dr Kulkarni. The following structure has been decided. (a) Selection will be at the level of students entering class 6, 9 and 11. (b) Depending on the performance in the Test and the economic condition of the families, a maximum of 6 scholarships will be given at class-6 level, 5 at class-9 level and 4 at class 11 level. (c) Once selected, the scholarship will normally continue for 3 years for 1st category, and for 2 years for 2nd and 3rd category. (d) The amount per year will be up to Rs 1000 in 1st Category, 1500 in 2nd Category and 3000 in 3rd category.

To select the recipients for the first batch, an examination was held on 24th April 2011 at five different centers near IITK campus. Wide contact programme was initiated by visiting all schools within 2 km from IITK Campus and also by making door-to-door contact in some localities. As a result a total of 698 applications were received. Proper admit cards were prepared with photographs and delivered. With room wise seating arrangements in place, the examination was smoothly conducted at Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Lodhar, G.P.N. Vidyalaya, Barasirohi, Opportunity School, IITK, Vivek Shiksha Sadan, Nankari and Nav Srijan Saraswati Vidya Niketan, Chak Ratanpur. A total of 40 Volunteers of Shiksha Sopan were engaged as Center in-charge and invigilators during the examination. Some IITK employees also came forward and gave their valuable time to conduct this examination.



V N Kulkarni Scholarship Test on 24th April 2011



Mr. Amit K Bajpai and Mr. Anurag Pandey coordinated the whole show. Prof. H C Verma and Mr. Ashish Bhateja prepared question papers for this examination.

Evaluation has been completed and the 1st screening has been done. Several students, Core workers of Sopan and HSS faculty member Chaitra Puttaswamy participated in evaluation. Mrs Rita Sigh, our EC member, is leading the economic survey of the families of these screened children and final selection will be based on it.

The total scholarship amount will come out to be 57,000 from 2013 onwards excluding expenses in conducting the exam. The first year amount has been entirely donated by the group "Hum Log, Bassel". We are in the process of creating Funds so that the scholarship can run on its interest and looking forward to donations in this item.

Lecture on Environmental Awareness

Shiksha Sopan constantly works to connect children and its workers with social issues to make them good citizens. Environment and pollution are burning issues which need immediate attention from every citizen.

Shiksha Sopan organized an informative lecture on "Environmental Awareness" on 18th April, 2011. The lecture was delivered by IITK students- Ishan Bose, Shivam Trivedi and Vatsal Sharan at one of our Evening Learning Centers, Old SAC (Yoga Hall). With about 50 Shiksha Sopan volunteers and children attending the lecture, the presenters successfully brought out the importance of clean environment for the survival of mankind. They used Power Point slides and a number of well selected video clips in the 2-hour long lecture to make it attractive, interactive and informative.

They raised many important points concerned with the environment during the session. Ozone depletion, soil erosion, deforestation, acid rains, and various forms of pollution were the major highlights of the session. Though the topics involved somewhat higher level of science the presenters made them easy to understand for all children. Few remarkable video clippings were played to show the condition of our holy rivers and how we are responsible for polluting these. It was depicted how we human beings are responsible for the environmental imbalance due to which many species of animals are on the way of extinction.

The children were made aware about the ways of protection of our environment. It is the time for all of us to wake up and participate in conserving our mother nature before it is too late. Children were asked questions during the lecture and chocolates were rewarded for good answers.

B. Discussion on Corruption

The first week of April 2011 had seen tremendous activity across the nation on the issue of corruption. Followed by the indefinite fast undertaken by the well-known social worker Anna Hazare on Jan Lokpal Bill issue, the whole nation seemed to have actively stood to fight corruption. In this background Shiksha Sopan also took initiative and called a meeting of intellectuals on 11th April 2011. Many experienced personalities expressed their views on the situation of our country due to corruption. Shiksha Sopan volunteers, IITK students and employees were present during the discussion session.

Professor H. C. Verma, President of Shiksha Sopan, coordinated the meeting and set the tone to resolve to fight against corruption. Citing the huge rise in the scale of corruption in the recent years, he told that the war against corruption will be a long drawn movement. Though strict laws and their impartial implementation is



necessary to instill fear among the high ups involved in large scale loot, the real task is to built up the society with human values and social sensitivity as the central theme which can reduce corruption if not entirely finish it.

Dr. Sameer Khandekar in his address said that corruption is pinching the common man the most, because we people are the one whose money is being misused by the higher authority. He also said that we all must develop a sense of belongingness to our nation to reduce corruption. This is because, once a person has a sense of belongingness to something, he/she cannot think of contaminating it and thus corruption can be removed steadily.

Dr. Kunal Ghosh also articulated his views on corruption. He said that corruption is not a new issue. Its roots are deep spread since a long-long time. Corruption got its birth from politics. He explained the difference between Krishna strategy and Chanakya strategy reflected in the past. He also said, in order to remove corruption, it is necessary to catch hold the roots of corruption and follow the path shown by experienced leaders like Swami Vivekanand.

Dr A K Sharma cited the human mentality and issues of corruption at all stages. He cited examples how we all are involved in corruption, albeit at smaller scale accessible to us. The need to lead a simple life style was emphasized.

A number of IITK students and staff members expressed their concern over this serious matter. Vaibhav Jindal very nicely brought out the need of connecting to weaker section of society which contributes a lot in making up of the upper class.

During his coordination, Prof H C Verma told the audience about Shiksha Sopan ongoing activities and achievements.



Shiksha Sopan programme on FM Radio

On 26th of April 2011, Mr. Devraj Singh from IITK Radio station 90.4 FM, visited Evening Learning Center at Old SAC and made audio recording of children studying there. Children showed their talent in the form of singing patriotic and devotional songs, saying jokes, shayari's etc. Almost every child participated in some way or the other. After proper editing the programme was broadcast on Sunday 1st May.

E. PPY (J) Children doing well

PPY (J) children are doing well in their classes at Jugal Devi Vidya Mandir. Their Percentile in the class is given below

- 1-** Naresh 6.4 in 9th class. **2-** Manviya Sahu – 7.0 in class 9th
- 3-** Poonam Nishad 7.4 in class 9th. **4-** Ishant Dubey – 6.6 in class 9th.
- 5-** Gopal 7.8 in class 7th . **6-** Deepika Pal – 7.3 in class 7th.
- 7-** Saurya Pratap Singh – 9.0 in class 7th .

Upcoming Events in May 2011

- Summer Camp of newly selected Pratibha Poshan Yojana (PPY) batch : 8th May – 26th May
 - Short term Camp of PPY and Pratibha Protsahan Yojana (PPrY) children : 27th - 29th May
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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". People in US can use the link <http://indolink.com/iitk/> to donate through IIT Kanpur foundation using credit cards.

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