



# Shiksha Sopan

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

**News Letter March 2009**

The month of February was also very busy. Children were all busy with preparation of examinations. Special classes were arranged for class 10 and 12 Board examinees. Two programmes, the Science workshop SHESTHA-09 and Science show by Sopan children in TECHKRITI-09 were held in this month. Preparation for selection of second batch of Pratibha Poshan Yojana Junior took good amount of planning and efforts.

## TECHKRITI-09

Shiksha Sopan children had a desk to demonstrate science experiments in Techkriti, annual technical festival of IIT Kanpur held on 11-13 February. The theme of exhibition was "Physics From Everyday Materials". Our aim was to convey the message that the scientific principles can be understood easily by making simple experiments from daily use materials. We displayed around 25 experiments of Science. The whole show was conducted by Shikha Sopan children of class 9<sup>th</sup> studying at Evening Learning Centers and Gahan Adhyayan Kendra. The best part that impressed every visitor was the confidence and enthusiasm of the children while demonstrating the experiments. Visitors were amazed and astonished to see the simple way of demonstrating the sophisticated science experiments. It was an unusual thing for them to see that the science they have studied in their school days is not just cramming the formulas and solving theoretical and difficult problems of books. Indeed, this is one of the mottos of Shiksha Sopan to spread the awareness that fun should be a part of learning.



The impact of the Shiksha Sopan show can be imagined from the comments from the visitors, some of them given below

**Dr. Sudip Bhattarcharjee, IIT Kanpur:** I am truly impressed by the small-scale physics experiments demonstrated by the school children. Simply wonderful.

**Vivek Saxena, IIT Kanpur:** Extremely well done. Nice display of basic science principles. Keep up the good work!

**Amrita Narang, Narain College of Engg.:** This is one of the best thing I have seen. Next time again, I would like to see something like this.

**Swamita Srivastava, IIT Kanpur:** It is wonderful to see that these kids talking so confidently about scientific concepts easily. Best part of Techkriti'09.

**Shashank Gupta, IIT Kanpur:** Simple representation of concept of physics. Good to develop insight.

**Arpan Ghosh, IIT Kanpur:** Real things which we don' take into account. Very interesting, especially kids' presentations.

**Raghav Krishna Agarwal, BIT Kanpur:** It is wonderful event organized by Shiksha Sopan and good effort of IIT Kanpur. It is truly unbelievable.

**Shalini, Chaitanya Engg. College:** Really good. These children told us the unknown facts. Good intelligence.

**Ambar Ahmad, Boy's High School Allahabad:** I am really touched by this initiative, and I am also impressed by the students and their brain teasers.



## **SHRESTHA-09**

Shiksha Sopan Workers from the villages adjoining IITK campus have assembled a set of hundred experiments and have classified them in four categories according to the level, namely K (Kids), L(Lower), M(Middle) and H(Higher). The set has been named SHRESTHA (Set of Hundred Representative Experiments for Science Teaching and Higher Appreciation).

A two – day workshop SHRESTHA -09 was conducted in IIT Kanpur on Feb 07, 08, 2009 to demonstrate these experiments and discuss its use in starting activities like Science Club or arranging Science Shows for children etc.

There were 6 sessions, each of 2 hours, of demonstrations of Experiments. With each experiment, the presenters also discussed in detail the Scientific content, the entertainment content and the representative styles of presentation. The experiments were presented by Shiksha Sopan workers Mr. Amit Kumar Bajpai, Mr. Deepak Agnihotri, Mr. Ritosh Shukla, Mr. Hanuman Prasad Gupta and Prof. H. C. Verma.

All participants enjoyed the experiments and realized that Science is not just a set of definitions hard to remember and equations hard to solve. Science can also be and should be done with lots of fun with higher appreciation for the principles. The experiments at K-level were appreciated the most, contradicting the notion that designing Science Experiments for kids is difficult.



## **MOCK EXAM AT GAK**

The Board Examination of class 12 and 10 students are starting on March 2. At Gahan Adhyayan Kendra (GAK), the board examinees were given a mock examination at the same time and of same duration to give them a practice and to take away the examination fear. The answer scripts were evaluated and discussed with the children with encouragement and suggestions but without actually giving numerical marks. This helped them a lot.

## **New batch of PPY(J)**

The process to select a new batch of Pratibha Poshan Yojana (Junior) is started. Depending on the sponsors, certain number of children at class 5 level will be identified who possess good talent but the economic situation of the family does not allow them to flourish. They will be supported financially from class 6 to class 12. Several thousands of pamphlets giving the details are being distributed in the villages surrounding IITK Campus to give a wide publicity. If you know someone or a group who may be interested in sponsoring a child, you may forward this information. We would need Rs 24,000 per year for seven years for each such child. Presently we have sponsors for three children.

## **Sopan News**

Collaborating with Parnkuti Sai Samiti, Shiksha Sopan is proposing to help make IITK Campus Polythene bag free. At its proposed vocational training center for Sticking, environment friendly bags will be prepared under supervision of Mrs Pooja Mishra, another social activist and associated with Shiksha Sopan, Parnkuti Grih Udyog, Parnkuti Sai Samiti etc.

9 students in B Tech Programme at ICFAI institute Bangalore have expressed their desire to work for Shiksha Sopan as summer Intern for two months (May-June 09). Four of them have been given acceptance by us.

Shiksha Sopan has written a proposal to IITK Alumni Association to give financial support for regular breakfast to children at Sopan Vidyalaya, Barasirohi.

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## **Other Informations**

**Web site** : For more details please visit [www.shiksha-sopan.org](http://www.shiksha-sopan.org)

**How to donate** : The cheques/draft for donations should be made in the name of "Shiksha Sopan" payable at Kanpur. Donors 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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