



# Shiksha Sopan

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

**News Letter August 2008**

July 2008 saw a new addition in Shiksha Sopan activity list, GAHAN ADHYAYAN KENDRA. It started on July 15 with much limited facilities but with much bigger aspirations. Schools are reopened and the Evening Centers are also gearing up for the new session, however waiting for the momentum when IITK students will be back after Semester break. Science Cell remained busy as usual.

## **Gahan adhyayan Kendra**

Shiksha Sopan had initiated the idea of setting up an Evening Center exclusively for class 9-12 children living in outhouses of IIT Kanpur and in the surrounding villages. These children do not get any meaningful education in the schools they are admitted in and the Parents cannot afford sending them for private tuition. At the same time the parents are keen about their education as they wish to see a better lifestyle for their children than what they could obtain. This new evening center is to help these children.

Our team worked hard to materialize it. Sopan Vidyalay at Barasirohi was chosen as the venue. It has four rooms and we teach primary class children from the weakest section of society of Barasirohi with a token fee of Rs 10 per month. Good quality blackboards were put up, electric wirings, lamps and fans were put up and a good quality Inverter was installed as electricity supply is very irregular once you step out of the IITK Campus.

We selected a dedicated team of teachers through an interview conducted after putting up a small advertisement in newspapers.

In the first phase we invited all the children who had been coming to our existing Evening Centers for quite sometime. A total of 36 children were enrolled.

The Center was inaugurated on 15th July. The children were told the importance of regularity in studies and doing the work assigned. Since then the center is running well. After the 3 hour studies, children assemble in the open space and do some exercise and play one simple game. The day ends with Vandemataram.



Ms Poonam teaching Physics to class 9 at GAK

## Visit of Alumni Association President

Mr Abhay Bhushan, President Alumni Association, visited Shiksha Sopan Evening Center on July 21. He was very happy to see that Shiksha Sopan is doing the work at grassroot level and children from our surrounding are getting benefited. He discussed the financial aspects of the center and assured that he would help in collected funds for such activities and DRPG can coordinate the expenses.



Mr Abhay Bhushan with Mr Ranjan Upadhyay, Dr H C Verma and Dr Sameer Khandekar

## From the centers

As many of the IITK students were on vacation during July, the Evening centers were run mostly in the Game mode. The average number of children at the centers at SAC and Ratanpur was low, around 15-20, but the Barasirohi it was around 40. This center is coordinated by our own product Pramod who studied at our center for several years, has now passed 12 and doing BSc. Seema, another Shiksha Sopan Product is also helping him in running the center.

## Teachers Training

The task of teaching the underprivileged children is challenging. Unlike the children studying in regular and reputed schools, these children do not have parental support in education. Also they do not get any motivation from the routine studies based on Rote-learning method. A number of groups in India have done experiments in education for such sections and it will be nice for the teachers of Sopan Vidyalay to interact with them and get newer insight.

With this view Shiksha Sopan sent Mr Jaiprakash Maurya, our very senior worker and deeply involved in Sopan Vidyalay, for a Teachers Training Camp in the village Bodhitalla near Moussouri. An NGO called SIDH founded by a IITD Alumnous Mr Pawan Gupta runs such Training Camps, based on their own work of running informal schools in about 25 hilly villages. The Camp duration was from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

## Science Cell Activities

The Science cell is constantly developing new experiments to demonstrate Science Principles in action. Mr Shanta Kumar, an Engineering Student at IITB has started a social activity in Darbhanga region of Bihar. He contacted Shiksha Sopan to make a pack of basic Science Experiments for rural children. Our Science cell happily did that and made a 30-experiments pack. Mr Kumar visited us on July 15<sup>th</sup> when he was shown all the experiments and the pack was handed over to him. He took it directly to Darbhanga for further use.

## **Pratibha Poshan Yojana (PPY)**

The four children, Manaviya, Poonam, Naresh and Ishant selected for, respectively, Unnati Scholarship, Alex and Kate Sandhu scholarship, BSBE Scholarship, and Madhilka Mishra Scholarship, under PPY (Junior) of Shiksha Sopan have started going school after the Summer vacation in class-7. They were given new books and stationary, a set of dresses and shoes etc. As all of them have done quite well in a mainstream school, the school administration is very happy with them. Apart from academics they are very well behaved and disciplined.

These children come to Shiksha Sopan Evening Center at SAC for assistance in their studies. Mr Pawan Kumar, a BSC student from Nankari is especially deputed to monitor their progress.

The 12 children who attended the summer camp under PPY (senior) contacted several of Shiksha Sopan Volunteers after they returned on 28<sup>th</sup> June. They have established a personal relation with us and that is helping us to nurture their talent. The first set of Study material was prepared in July and will be sent to them in the first week of August.

## **Chandrashekhar Azad remembered**

Chandrashekhar Azad is one name which inspires millions of Indians to take on the evils and work for the Nation. On the occasion of his Birth Anniversary 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Children of Shiksha Sopan were told about his dedication, fearlessness and determination. Some of his landmark contribution to freedom struggle were also told.



The source of inspiration, Azad

## **Sopan Child becomes Computer Training Center Executive**

Deepu Kumar is the son of Mr Kanhaiya Lal, Carpenter who lived for a long time in one of our IITK outhouses. As usual with the outhouse children, Deepu was not serious about his studies and used to spend most of his time in playing street games near his house. Then someone brought him to Shiksha Sopan SAC center and was persuaded to come regularly. As Games was also a component at this center, he started feeling good and come regularly. Gradually he also developed interest in the studies given by Shiksha Sopan volunteers and passed class 10 and 12.



Deepu with his family, Parents and the sister

He further continued his studies in Computer Hardware and Networking and became a master. He worked with a Computer Firm at IIT Gate where he was involved in repairing and maintaining Computer systems.

He was picked up by READ Foundation run by Mr Sundar Singh Thakur an NRI to impart Computer training at the villages Tiwaripur and Bakewar in Fatehpur. During day hours, he teaches the school students and beyond school hours he trains others from those villages. He maintains more than 20 computers apart from the training.

He is continuously attached with Shiksha Sopan and participates in all its Major functions.

## Sopan News

- Dr Sameer Khandekar, Treasurer of Sopan spent the Summer in France for a Research collaboration.
- Prof J P Gupta, Executive Member of Shiksha Sopan assumes the responsibility of Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology.
- Dr Brajesh Pandey, a very active volunteer of Shiksha Sopan for the six-year period of his student life at IITK and Ex-Executive member, joined faculty position at IISER, Bhopal.
- Mr Chandrashekhar Sharma, an active volunteer of Shiksha Sopan and Chemical Engg Ph D Student has gone to Japan for three months in connection with his research.

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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. 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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