



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Newsletter August 2010

The month of July marks start of a new session for many children as schools reopen after summer vacation. Our school and centers too are being reorganised with new programmes. Several of Sopan children have opted for higher studies, beyond std 12 and they are being admitted in the respective courses. Science team is actively involved in creating interesting Activity programmes.

New Batch at Sopan Vidyalaya

With the reputation of Sopan Vidyalaya, many parents showed keen interest to admit their children in our school. In many cases the children studying in other schools were brought to our school as the parents felt in in this school they will get much better academic learning. All the children were admitted according their performance in oral/written tests given by the Principal Ms Seema Verma. In one case a child with class 4 marks sheet from the previous school was admitted to class 3 and parents agreed to it. In all about 20 new children were admitted.



Classes at Sopan Vidyalaya

In the new session, Computer education has been started for class 5-8 children. Similarly more focus is being given to Mathematics and English.

New batch at Gahan Adhyayan Kendra

GAK is a formal evening activity of Shiksha Sopan to give structured classes from class 9 onwards. This year, we have registered class 9th, 10th and 11th students for academic session 2010-2011. The center began its regular classes from 1st July 2010. The students from Sopan Evening Centers gets priority to take admission in GAK. As we got many applications from outside students, we decided to conduct an entrance examination for them.

The exam was conducted on 28th July, and total 19 students appeared for it. Interviews were also conducted to check their communication skills, and creative capabilities.

The examination was conducted by Sangeeta Verma, GAK coordinator , and GAK instructors in consultations with Amit Bajpai.

Science Cell Activities

Deepak Mishra from Sopan Science Team assisted Prof H C Verma in Physics Teachers Workshop at Hem Shiela Model school, Durgapur, West Bengal. About 40 teachers learned Teaching skills through 16 experiments demonstrated by Prof Verma and Deepak. Interestingly, Deepak himself had selected the experiments, assembled them and packed them.

Science team is working on developing 25 Science experiments with a glass tumbler. They have already worked out the experiments and now write ups are being written.

In collaboration with Anveshika Kanpur, Shiksha Sopan is developing 4-hour activity packages, named "Fun And Thrill Packed Activities in Science and Maths". Schools will be contacted to send children at Anveshika for this activity. Another project this team has undertaken is development of a Science laboratory for Sopan Vidyalaya.

Higher education Cell

With constant counselling and teaching at Sopan Evening Centers, some of the children have grown up with a thirst to go for education beyond class 12. The higher education cell helps such children to fulfill their dreams by giving financial assistance as well as in terms of information. The children supported by us are Shubhangi (Bsc from Dayalbagh Institute), Ragi (MCA, Gorakhpur University), Nivedita (MCA, Jagaran Management institute, Kanpur), Aman Bajpai (Aeronautic Maintenance course, Lucknow), Ranjit kumar (BCA, CSJM University, Kanpur), and Deepak Mishra (BSc DAV College, Kanpur). All of them come from economically weaker section living in nearby villages or our servant quarters.

This session starting July-August 2010, our Sopan children Neha, Durga, Smriti, Babita and Rohit, have passed class 12 and all of them have gone for further education. Besides, Rashmi Kushwaha from our Servant Quarters (detailed profile given below) is going for B Tech Programme. Higher education cell wishes them all the best and will help them in their financial and academic needs.

We appeal you to help us in finding donations for Higher education Cell from which we can support these children.

Rashmi Kushwaha: the first Sopan child going for B Tech

Rashmi started her association with Shiksha Sopan in July 2003 when she came to SAC center as a student of class 7. Her father Shri Nand Kishore is a daily wage worker and it was difficult for him to maintain the family of 6 in his income. Shiksha Sopan center was a big help to them where she got free assistance in her studies and also her personality and confidence was developed through various programmes at the center and excursion tours.



She was intelligent and sincere towards studies and with the help gotten at our center, soon became favourite of all volunteers. She passed class 10 board examination with first division in 2007. During her class 12, Gahan adhyayan Kendra was established and Rashmi started going there. With her hard work, she passed class 12 Board examination also with 1st division in 29.

Rashmi was advised to take a break of one year and prepare for Engg Entrance exams. During this period, three IITK students and Sopan volunteers, Smriti, Ashu and Namita helped her in Maths, Chemistry and Physics respectively. She was also given Maths teaching responsibility at SAC center, in PPY Summer camp and at Gahan adhyayan Kendra which further strengthened her concepts. We also registered her for Mock Test Series for AIEEE and UPSEE examinations. She qualified UPSEE exam with reasonably good grade and got admission in **Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering** in "**Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET)**" of **MJP Rohilkhand University Bareilly**.

The expenses are estimated to be around Rs 40,000 for the first year. Her father has somehow arranged Rs 15,000 and Shiksha Sopan has promised to arrange for the rest.

During all this period, Rashmi actively took part in all the events and programmes conducted by Shiksha Sopan. She got prizes in 14th Nov 2005 Painting event, 14th Nov 2006 in GK competition, January 2007 in science model making, January 2008 in GK competition and so on. She attended Sanskrit speaking course in summer 2004, Beautician's course in summer 2008 and several short term workshops like making paper flowers, making toys from trash and so on. She participated in Dance programmes for several years on 15th August programmes conducted by Shiksha Sopan. She demonstrated Science experiments in Techriti, IITK Golden Jubilee Open house programme and so on. In her own words,

शिक्षा सोपान ने मुझे शिक्षा के साथ साथ संस्कारी व स्वावलंबी बनाने की प्रेरणा दी है. शिक्षा सोपान के माध्यम से बहुत से गरीब बच्चों को शिक्षा के द्वारा आगे बढ़ने में बहुत मदद मिली है. मैंने इन सात सालों में शिक्षा सोपान को बहुत आगे बढ़ते हुए देखा है. नयी नयी योजनाओं के तहत बच्चों को लाभ मिल रहा है. इस संस्था के लिए मुझसे जो हो सकेगा, मैं हमेशा करने के लिए तैयार रहूंगी.

Forthcoming programmes

- We have decided to reorganized Evening Center Programmes to make it more effective. Of the two hour session, half an hour will be for games, half an hour for individual difficulty addressing, 50 minutes for specialized training on Maths/English and 10 minutes for prayer/story telling etc. We will prepare modules for Maths/English focussing on developing understanding and skills to do oral mathematics and conversational English. The new scheme is planned to be implemented since September.

- The newly opened Library in Nankari is organizing some competitions for children of Nankari in order to make a mass contact with the local population. The prelim events will be pon 1st August and final programmes on 8th august.

Sad Demise of Prof Vishwash N Kulkarni

Prof Vishwash N Kulkarni, Professor of Physics, was a source of inspiration for the Core Sopan Team from the very beginning. He had a keen interest in Sopan activities and always used to enquire about the progresses made through its different programmes. His focus was on skill development in the children together with inculcating human and social values. He always suggested us to quantify the achievements and then evaluate the success.

Prof Kulkarni was suffering from cancer in liver which could be detected very late. After a great struggle he breathed last on 24th July 2010 at the age of 56 years. His short but great life is a legendary display of Karmayoga.



Prof V N Kulkarni at Shiksha Sopan Center, Barasirohi

The Executive Committee of Shiksha Sopan met on 28th July to pay respects to the departed soul. Members expressed their feelings on the amazing social commitment of Prof Kulkarni together with the equally strong dedication to his profession of research in Science. It was decided to institute a scholarship in his name for the talented children of villages close to IITK Campus. A corpus fund is created for the purpose and people can make contribution for the same.

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". The swift code of the bank is SBININBB499.

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