

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban



# Shiksha Sopan

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

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

**Newsletter August 2011**

In order to take the work of social reconstruction ahead with greater pace, Shiksha Sopan volunteers had several rounds of discussion in the month of July. With several reshuffle and restructure, a new energy has been enthused in the team. Here is a description about this month's activities.

## **Haridwar Conclave**

To have a good teamwork the team members must have good personal rapport with each other. To increase this intimacy among the Sopan active workers, a 2-day visit to Haridwar was arranged. A total of 18 workers, including the President Dr H C Verma, Secretary Mr Amit K Bajpai, Senior EC member Mr Ranjan Upadhyaya, EC member Mr Nazir Hussain, and other workers participated in the trip. Dr Verma reached Haridwar on 20<sup>th</sup> July and made arrangements in Mandi Govindgarh Dharmshala booking 5 rooms. All others reached directly to Dharmshala on 21<sup>st</sup> July. After taking some rest and lunch in the Dharmshala the team went for HAR KEE PAIDEE. It was a period when KANWADIYE people come to Haridwar in huge numbers to take the holy water to offer the Lord Shiva. It was a good experience to make way through the huge crowds and enjoy the Mela. They visited different Ghats and attended Ganga Aarati.



In the late evening, after dinner, there was a Sopan meeting. Ranjan JI coordinated the meeting and talked about the qualities that are required to work in the society. To elaborate on these, he invited Dr Devi Prasad Verma, Rtd Professor of Mathematics in Patna University, who had been working for social and educational upliftment of the society for past 60 years at least. Dr Verma addressed the workers and emphasized that Humans have unlimited strengths and can do wonders. This power should not be wasted in small targets like making money or earn prestige. A human is next to the God and should devote himself/herself for the Godly work of sustaining the society and Nature.

The meeting induced new enthusiasm in the workers.



The day started at 6 AM on 22<sup>nd</sup> July when all the members marched towards Har Kee Paidi to take a holy dip. All worker enjoyed standing in the rapidly flowing cold water. After the bath, they went for Manasa Devi Temple situated at a height. The ropeway too was quite a new experience for many which they enjoyed. While returning from the temple, they did little bit of shopping to keep memories of Haridwar with them. They came back to Dharmashala at lunch time. After lunch they had free time of about 2 hours. Some took rest, some were engaged in chatting with each other and sharing the happy moments.



Afternoon again the journey started. They went to Shanti Kunj and Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya. The elaborate arrangements at the two places by Gayatree Parivaar was very inspiring. Thousands of people devoting their time to learn about life and society was an experience. There they met a social activist Mr Srinivas who runs a Center for Leprosy affected families. The devotion of Mr Srinivas inspired our volunteers. They also visited Bharat Mata Mandir.



After day long tour of different places in Haridwar, Sopan team had dinner and then started second round of thought provoking meeting. In this interactive meeting, the directions for Sopan for next 3 years were discussed. Dr H C Verma emphasized that with such an excellent team of workers, Sopan should take up bigger goals to make a much greater impact on the society. Sopan villages should stand out in the fields of Employment, Education and Environment. Hanuman Ji, Sangeeta Ji, Nazir Ji and Ranjan Ji expressed their views on how to make this a reality.

The team started from Haridwar for Kanpur on 23<sup>rd</sup> July with lots of cohesiveness and determination.

### **Dr Kunal Ghosh Vidai**

Dr Kunal Ghosh, Professor of Aerospace Engineering at IITK, had been guiding Shiksha Sopan from the very beginning when the idea was being conceived. He was constantly in our Executive Committee for 9 years in different capacities and gave directions to children and workers. He is now retired from IITK and has joined Aeronautical Institute at Hyderabad. Shiksha Sopan arranged a Vidai programme for him on 30<sup>th</sup> of July. All active workers of Shiksha Sopan were emotional to bid this farewell.

In his farewell message he emphasized that development must be backed with spiritualism to yield positive changes in the society.



## Sopan Vidyalay Activities

Sopan Vidyalaya reopened on 2<sup>nd</sup> July after summer vacation. School Principal Seema Ji, Deepak Pal Ji, Sunita Ji made visits to the families of children and interacted with the parents to re-enforce their association with school. As a result, 20 new children started going to school. The present number in school is 65.

Children of Sopan Vidyalaya made beautiful sketches to show "FORCES in daily life situations" Most of them are from playgrounds.

Shri R P Varshneya, Rtd teacher of Kendriya Vidyalaya, IIT Kanpur, visited Sopan Vidyalaya on 29<sup>th</sup> July and interacted with the teachers and children. He was very happy to see that such a good facility is created for children of deprived class. He offered to voluntarily give two classes every week to these children, one for physical education and the other for stories with moral teaching. In his first such class he told two stories, "YEH HI HAI MERI KULHARI" and "CHATURON KA GAANW". Children were impressed by his style and learned the lesson.

## Evening Learning Centers and GAK

Barasirohi Evening center caters the need of about 35 children from class 1 to 10. The coordinator Pramod Ji has taken keen interest to visit several families and asked them to make use of this evening center if they cannot send children for tuitions. The programmes at the center have also been made more systematic. Science is being taught with the help of experiments and activities. Everyday after studies, they play games, listen to stories and sing songs having good messages.

At SAC center also the attendance is improved and about 30 children of class 4-8 take advantage. Coordinator Anita Ji is trying to improve the attendance by going to children's house.

New admissions were taken for class 9-10 GAK to be run at Barasirohi Sopan Vidyalaya. 20 students are enrolled. Bhadauriya Ji has coordinated the enrollment. Classes started on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Class 11-12 GAK is started at SAC center but is not properly running. It is expected that after the independence day programme, it will be streamlined.

## Pratibha Poshan Yojana (J)

PPY J classes are going on regularly at SAC. Three children are now in class 8 and four in class 10. In July, focus was on English, Science and Maths.

Manaviya and Poonam of class 10 represented their school team in Kho-Kho in the competition held at Puranchand Vidya Niketan. Their team won the match and PPY J children celebrated that by having a small function.

Shaurya was specially praised as he was present on all the days in July when the classes were held.



## 2010-11 Dr V. N. Kulkarni Merit Scholarship Distributed

The first Dr V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship was distributed to the selected children on 3<sup>rd</sup> July in a simple function at SAC Center. It started with a small Puja in front of Dr Kulkarni's photo by Ranjan Ji and Nazir Ji. Ranjan Ji told the recipient children and their parents about Dr Kulkarni's contributions. Half the scholarship amount was handed over to the parents and they were asked to get reimbursement of the remaining amount after giving details of how it was spent.



The scholarship was a great help for the families. One of the parents told us that he had decided to stop education of his daughter after class 9 as he was not in a position to pay fee. Only because she got Dr V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship, she is able to continue in class 10.

The whole amount for this year's scholarship was sponsored by Hun Log, a group of Indian students at Basel. Shiksha Sopan is grateful to them.

### Upcoming Events in August 2011

- Independence day celebrations on 16<sup>th</sup> August at L-7 from 5.30 PM
- Awareness campaign about the NCERT scholarship exam NTSE in the rural areas.

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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". People in US can use the link <http://indolink.com/iitk/> to donate through IIT Kanpur foundation using credit cards.

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