

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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

Newsletter August 2012

The month of July gave a big boost to the enthusiasm of Sopan volunteers as all centers like Evening Centers, GAK "Anaupcharik Shikshan Kendra" geared up to start their activities after the summer break. Visit of 4 French students and one student from Ohio University, Making RAKHI, Science Kit preparation for rural schools were some of the activities done in the month of July. All Sopan centers made their goals for this academic year.

“Shiksha Sopan Anaupacharik Shikshan Kendra” (शिक्षा सोपान अनौपचारिक शिक्षण केंद्र) :

With the change in premises, Shiksha Sopan has redesigned its plan to serve children who otherwise do not go to schools. The education to these children has been made completely free (earlier it was Rs 10 per month) and the course structure is now more informal according to the needs of the children. The name has also been changed to Sopan Anaupacharik Shikshan Kendra. The new premise is also on Rent but it has more spacious and lighted rooms. It was inaugurated on 1st July 2012 with a Hawan and Puja of Maa Saraswati, Goddess of Vidya. The morning of 1st July brought lot of happiness for children of Sopan as they entered their new premise. The interiors were well decorated by painting done by Sopan volunteers and students. Inspiring quotes were written on the walls. Senior Sopan volunteers, parents and children gave the Ahuti in the Hawan praying for the success of Shiksha Sopan.

Shikhan Kendra classes started on 2nd July. It has 75 children in this session. Special programmes are planned to be held on every Saturday under the banner of "Antar Ke Pat Khol" where children will write on the Wall Magazine, make envelopes from newspapers, prepare posters, do painting, sketching, drama etc.



Rakhi Making programme

IIT K student Pallavi and Sopan Volunteer Sushma gave a special programme on 21st July where they trained the children of class 5-8 in Rakhi Making. Children enjoyed doing some new thing with their hands and made attractive colourful Rakhies with various designs. These Rakhies were gifted to Senior Sopan Volunteers and Guests.



Prepared Rakhi

Visit of French Students

During his visit to France, Dr Sammer Khandekar, Treasurer, Shiksha Sopan came across a students group in French Engineering College INSA, LYON. Under their organization "India Action" they wanted 4 students of the college to visit IIT Kanpur, and know about its educational structure and also participate in Social activities supported by IIT Kanpur. The programme was finalized in consultation with Dr Khandekar and four UG students from Dept of electrical Engg, Material Science and Biology, namely Adrian, Maëlle, Sophie, Clairec , came to IIT Kanpur for a week, July 11,16.

During their stay at IITK, they visited different centers of Shiksha Sopan including Shikshan Kendra, PPYJ center, Science Lab etc. Our volunteer Deepak Agnihotri coordinated all these visits and accompanied them. At Anaupacharic Shikshan Kendra, they interacted freely with the children despite complete language barrier. Deepak Agnihotri mediated between them. They went to each classroom and spent enough time with children. They asked a number of questions to the children to know about their feelings and attitudes towards education and social system. Children too asked them questions about climate and lifestyles in France. Lots of photographs were taken. They enjoyed the interaction so much that they went to the Kendra next day too and played games with the children. They taught few words of French and in turn children taught them few Hindi words.

Meeting PPYJ children was also an experience for the French students. They came to know how an NGO picks up children from disadvantageous section in India and gives full emotional and material support.



At Sopan Science Lab, Ranjit showed them few experiments we have developed for rural children with trash which they enjoyed. Then all of them were made to do an activity to make a blower with thermocoal glass.

Interaction with Organic Farmers

Shiksha Sopan organized a "Meet with Organic Farmers" in IITK on 22nd July. Three farmers, Mr Ravi Kant Pathak, Mr Prem Singh and Mr Kamraj Singh came to share their experiences with organic farming. Rani Kant Ji has initiated an ambitious project to set up a GURUKUL in a village CHEDA BASAAYAT, about 150 km from IITK. He has acquired about 50 acres of land and is doing organic farming in about 20 acres.

The farmers gave a very good presentation on the serious health hazards being inflicted on humans and loss of quality of soil due to chemicals used in farming. With data collected scientifically they convinced the audience that to save the earth, organic farming is a must. They also brought to notice that many organizations and groups are making big business in the name of selling organic food.



A total of 35 organic farmers have formed a group call GAON and are selling their products directly to customers doing home delivery. Thus all middle expenses are eliminated. They requested the audience to register with the group by visiting www.gaon.co.in and use organic food to protect their health and the soil.

Mr Ashish Bhateja conducted the meeting. He introduced the work being done by Shiksha Sopan and its commitment to the progress of India through empowerment of economically weaker sections. Ravi Kant Ji and other guests appreciated the efforts of Shiksha Sopan and offered collaboration.

Jaiprakash Ji attended Organic farming workshop

Mr Ravikant Pathak has organized a 3-day workshop on Organic Farming at his Gurukul Ashram on 28-30 July. Shri Jaiprakash Maurya attended the meeting. In the workshop, farmers described the ways to do organic farming and demonstrated the farming being done at the Gurukul.

Evening Centers

Barasirohi Center

The Evening Center of Barasirohi started on 2nd July after summer break. Initially the numbers were small but after the volunteers led by Pramod Ji made a massive contact programme, the numbers stabilized at about 60. The center runs for 2 hours of which last 30 minutes are for games. During the first 90 minutes, children are taught according to their class books.

PPYJ

PPYJ children Poonam, Manaviya, Naresh and Ishan have gone to class 11 and Gopal, Deepika to class 9. All of them passed the examinations with good grades. In class X CBSE Board exam, the CGPA scores were Poonam 8.4, Manaviya 8.2, Naresh 7.2 and Ishan 7.6. Gopal and Deepika scored 7.5 and 7.2 respectively in class 8 exam.

The evening center for all these 6 children is resumed under mentorship of Ms Vinita. IITK 2nd year student Jagat is devoting time for the class 11 children giving them Physics classes on 2 days and Chemistry classes on 2 days.

News in Brief

Science Cell

IITK 2nd year student Manoranjan spent most of his summer with Science Cell of Shiksha Sopan. With his involvement Sopan developed an experimental kit of 35 electricity-magnetism experiments useful for students of class 6-10. The whole thing is fitted in a cardboard box ready to give to schools. A manual is being prepared to accompany the kit.

Inspired by Shiksha Sopan, Manoranjan started science activities at his native place Biharsharif when he went home for about 2 weeks in July. He named this initiative "Ek Pahal". The students there were greatly benefited by this and the local senior students and teachers have promised to continue this PAHAL.

An Ohio University graduate student Archit was spending his summer at Kanpur, his native place. Knowing about Sopan Science Lab, he visited us and got involved in our experiments. He came regularly for next 15 days to learn these.

Higher Education Cell

We have received several applications for financial assistance to pursue studies beyond class 12. Prominents are (a) Pramod, our own senior volunteer who has been working with Sopan for more than 8 years, he has been admitted to B Ed programme and needs financial Assistance (b) Vikas, our PPY senior student in first batch has been admitted to B Tech programme in NIT Hamirpur and has applied for assistance.

Forthcoming programmes

16th August : Independence day celebration, L-7

19th August : Health Camp, Opportunity School, in collaboration with Vivekanad Samiti

26th August : Written Test on Environment awareness for class 6-8 students. Sopan and NSS have brought out a magazine "EK SPARSH DHARATI KA" which is distributed to the children to make preparation. The children doing well in the test will be given a Quiz in September 1st week.



अंधकार को क्यों धिक्कारे, अच्छा है एक दीप जलाये



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. 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 IFSC code is **SBIN0001161**. People in US can use the link <http://indolink.com/iitk/> to donate through IIT Kanpur foundation using credit cards.

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