



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Newsletter February 2009

The month of January is always special for Shiksha Sopan. It is the month of joy, full of activities and celebrations. Shiksha Sopan celebrates its Annual Function in the week containing 12th January, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Another important events in this month were a Free Eye Camp in Barasirohi and a 3-day Camp for children of Pratibha Poshan Yojana. Here is a description about this month's activities.

FREE EYE CAMP

The New Year of 2009 was welcome by Shiksha Sopan by organizing a 2-day FREE EYE CAMP for Cataract identification and operation on 1st and 2nd January 2009. Doctors from the reputed KHAIRABAD EYE HOSPITAL were contacted and they very kindly and readily agreed to conduct the Camp without asking for any fee or conveyance charges. Shiksha Sopan children from Sopan Vidyalaya and Barasirohi Evening Center very enthusiastically took part in spreading the information about the camp in whole village.

On the first day (1st January) around 300 people from the village visited the camp which lasted for 5 hours. The 4-member team of Doctors tested their eyes one by one and advised them appropriately. A total of 14 patients were selected for operation and taken to the hospital on the second day (2nd January). The doctors operated on the eyes and put artificial lenses. All of them are now enjoying the life with the new vision.



The idea of starting the new year with such a nice way was conceived by Mr. Ankur Dwivedi and Ms Rupali Dhandania, students of Jaypee Business School, Noida who worked with us under internship.

ANNUAL FUNCTION 2009

The annual function was a week long set of activities. For Barasirohi people, Shiksha Sopan's annual function is like a festival. People eagerly wait for this event. The function had three parts: Competitions, Social Awareness Rally and Cultural Function. Competitions involved about 150 children different schools in Barasirohi, the rally involved children from majority of the families and a large number of villagers of all age groups including females come out to see the cultural function.

Following competitions were held on 11th Jan 09

(1) Essay writing, drawing and poetry competitions for class 1st to 5th.

(2) Quiz competition for class 6th-12th. Mr. Ashish Bhateja, PhD student in Mechanical Engg and senior Sopan worker conducted it with lots of visual rounds which the children enjoyed a lot.

(3) Craft making for class 6th-12th children using cardboards, thermocols, and papers to give shape to their imagination.

A social awareness rally named SADBHAVANA RALLY was taken out by students of Shiksha Sopan, on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti held on 12th January 09. About 400 children from Barasirohi village participated in the rally which went through different streets covering almost all the locality. Children were carrying placards containing various slogans, denouncing social evils and terrorism. Constructive slogans for girl child education etc were prominently displayed. Hundreds of people witnessed the enthusiasm of children in social reform activities from their rooftops.

Two children were presented in the form of Bharat Mata and Swami Vivekananda. They were made to sit on a Thela which was dragged in the procession by children. After about 1.5 hours of going around, the rally assembled in Sopan Vidyalaya where Dr H C Verma, addressed them and explained the meaning of some of the slogans they were chanting in the rally. Dr Kunal Ghosh told them the significance of Swami Ji's teachings.



The final programme of the annual function was held on 18th January, 09 in the form of a cultural evening. The programme was held at Barasirohi where children showed their talent in the form of songs, dances and short dramas in the two-hour packed programme. Nearly 1000 villagers were present to enjoy and appreciate the show.

Mr R K Bajpai, Director, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, was the Chief Guest. He was very impressed by the kind of performance of the children and the management of the whole programme. Dr. Sachchidanand Tripathi(Civil Engg.), Dr. D.P Mishra (Aerospace), Dr. Sameer Khandekar (Mech.Engg), were among the faculty members of IITK present to bless the children.

Poonam and Manish who are associated with Shiksha sopan from the beginning, anchored the show. Amit Bajpai, Nazir, Jaiprakash Ji, Chandrashekhar ji, helped in conducting it.



Science Cell Activities

A science show was organized at H.R. Raghuvir Inter college at Rooma, Kanpur dehat on 10th January 09. This is a remote village and around 300 children of the college had their first chance to witness any science activity. Deepak Agnihotri performed the show with the help of Ritosh. Warm welcome was given by the Principal of the college.



PPY Mini Camp

A 3-day camp of the children under Pratibha Poshan Yojana was held at Opportunity School on 24-26th January. The children arrived with their parents in the afternoon of 24th January. These children will be appearing in class 10th Board examination in March 2009. The aim of this Camp was to brush up their preparation, give them some counseling to keep psychologically fit and to provide some tips to write the examination.

A small inauguration programme was held to mark the formal beginning of the camp. Mr Md Shakeel, Asst Registrar, Prof Leelavati Krishnan, Prof Prabha Sharma were present in the programme and interacted with the children.

A model test was given in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English on first day of the Camp. The schedule for the day ended with an Informal Discussion by Mr. Gaurav.

25th January was the main day for academic discussion. Mr Gaurav Sharma, who is favourite teacher of PPY children, gave 2 hour session on Maths, Dr Sameer Khandekar gave similar session on Physics, Mr Chandrashekar sharma on Chemistry and Ms Seema on Biology.

After all this intense academic activity, all the children were taken to the newly constructed Sudhanshu Ji Maharaj Ashram at Bithoor Road. Students enjoyed the beautiful architecture and got a chance to relax their minds.

26th January is our National festival. Children were taken to Sopan Vidyalaya in the morning where the Tricolour flag was hoisted. Speakers told the gathering the importance of freedom and democratic set up.

Another academic session on English was given by Mr Abhinav.

In the final session where parents were also present, Dr Sameer Khandekar and Ms Pragya Khandekar guided the students how to protect themselves from frustration and overcome examination stress. They also emphasized the role of parents during exam time.

Vocational Training Planned

Shiksha Sopan is planning to open a Vocational training center from the next session. Jan Shikshan Sansthan, a Govt of India initiative, has agreed to provide partial financial assistance. This was announced by the Director of the Kanpur chapter of Sansthan at a function held on 31st January 2009 to inaugurate their course on Media skills. Shiksha Sopan was represented in the function by Mr Chandrashekar Sharma and the whole function was anchored by Mr Amit Bajpai.



Mr Ranjan Ji is working on the details of the programme.

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".

Email Contacts : hcverma@iitk.ac.in , samkhan@iitk.ac.in , kunal@iitk.ac.in

Postal Contact : Dr Sameer Khandekar, Dept of Mech.Engg., IIT Kanpur 208016
Dr H C Verma, Dept of Physics, IIT Kanpur, Kanpur 208016

Phone contacts : Mr Amit **9235561513**, Mr Ranjan **9236086966**