

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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

Newsletter January 2013

Shiksha Sopan wishes all the members, volunteers, well wishers and the nation as a whole a very happy year 2013. December 2012 was indeed a cold month and Kanpur experienced severe fog. The attendance at the evening centers were low but all centers were functioning. The cells were active in coordinating the activities. The preparations for Annual function in January 2013 were started at some centers but were discontinued following the nation wide sad atmosphere after the demise of Damini in Singapore.

Shiksha Sopan Anopcharik Shikshan Kendra(SSASK)

As usual SSASK came out with very nice new programmes apart from the regular teaching. Some of these are as follows.

Annapurna Diwas

On 1st December, SSASK conducted a special event celebrating the day as Annapurna Diwas. Class 6 to 8 girls prepared a variety of food at the Kendra itself and fed all children and invitees. All the arrangements including gas stoves, utensils, spices and other items etc were locally arranged by these children themselves.

The food items prepared were Veg Pulav, Rangeelee Kachauri, Uttapam, Lauki Ki Kheer, Rajasthani Chhola, Aachari kachauri etc. Not only that the girls of class 6-8 prepared so many things at the Kendra, they were meticulous in its decorative display and distribution. Cleanliness was the most important factor that these children took care.

These girls had taken all the tips from a newspaper supplement "ANOKHI" and mastered the process with the help of their parents and Kendra teachers.

EC members Sh Ashish Bhateja, Ms Sushama, and several IITK students were invited and they thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Sweaters distributed

Looking at the winter ahead, all the 74 children of the Kendra, were given sweaters from Shiksha Sopan. This was done on 5th December when EC members and IITK students Mr Pradeep and Ms Ashu inspired the children for regular studies and new innovations. Children were very happy to get the new sweaters in this cold.

Shrinivas Ramanujan Jayanti Celebration

SSASK celebrated Shrinivas Ramanujan Jayanti on 24th December by making a competition for class 6 to 8 students on mathematics. The answers were evaluated by Sh Ashish Bhateja. Children were told about "HARDY RAMANUJAN NUMBER 1729".

Half Yearly Exams and parents meeting

Half yearly exams of all the students were finished upto 15th December. The examination for class-1 and class-2 children were conducted in an innovative way. It was all in Oral format without any use of pen, pencil or paper. The oral was held in the form of an informal talk and children had no fear of being examined. This form gave flexibility to the teachers to explore more on what the children learned than what they did not learn. The children, teachers and the parents all were happy to see this change.

SSASK called a parents' meeting on 28th December, in which the results were announced. Despite severe cold, parents of 70 children were present. The center was closed from 29th December to 5th January for winter vacation.

Dr. V. N. Kulkarni Merit Scholarship

The preparation of Dr. V. N. Kulkarni Merit Scholarship Exam 2013 is going on. As the Coordinator, Mr. Anurag Pandey had taken up gearing the machinery to make a good contact programme and conduct the exam successfully. The children who are recipients of this scholarship from earlier tests have also been roped in for this contact programme. Anurag Ji called a meeting of these children on 22nd December and briefed them about this year's schedule. Each child was given the task to meet his/her Principal and hand over the forms for that particular school. This brings responsibility in the children as well as increases their association with Shiksha Sopan.

Besides this all Sopan volunteers are assigned some specific schools, where they will make contacts and distribute the forms. The test will be conducted on 3rd February.

Monitoring the present recipients

Sh Bharat Bhushan Ji, member of scholarship subcommittee, visited houses of some of the children who are presently given scholarship. The experience was very good as he found children doing very well in their studies.

Interaction with science teachers of rural schools

14 teachers from Kanpur Dehat and blocks of Hamirpur district were invited to interact with Shiksha Sopan Science Cell on 30th December. In a 2-hour interaction, we asked them to narrate the problems of science education in their areas and the way Shiksha Sopan can contribute and intervene. This was to set the stage for an ambitious plan of Shiksha Sopan to prepare a Science training module for rural teachers which can address to local environment and empower



the teachers to deliver science effectively, connecting the local life with science.

Sh Amit Kumar Bajpai, Secretary, Shiksha Sopan welcomed all the 14 teachers who had come from distances up to 110 km. He told the teachers about Shiksha Sopan Science programmes and requested for the active collaboration of these teachers so that Sopan can help out in raising the Science education standards in villages.

Dr H C Verma expressed the urge for working for rural science education and invited each teacher to give his experience on teaching in his school.

It was an interactive session and each teacher openly expressed the difficulties faced. The most common desire of the teachers was to have a meaningful experimental set related to the syllabus. All of them were keen to teach the subject through the experiments but were totally disappointed by the kind of kits that are available in market or supplied by government agencies.



Another problem pointed out was on language. Teachers told that the kind of Hindi written in the UP Board Science textbooks is not familiar to the children from their environment and this becomes a big hurdle to appreciate the science being told.

Dr Verma carefully noted down the points made and assured that Sopan will make some good programmes to handle the issues through a series of workshops in near future.

These teachers were taken to Anveshika where they saw lots of experiments related to Physics teaching.

Evening Centers

The evening center at Barasirohi kept high spirits despite severe cold and falling attendance. The volunteers made special efforts to visit children's houses and talked to parents and encouraged them to come to the center. As a result the attendance was maintained at 30-35 during the month.

On 5th December, on the occasion of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar anniversary, children were given information about his work and contribution in making the Constitution of India.

On 25th December, on the occasion of Christmas, children made posters of Santa Clause, Christmas tree and they were told the significance of Christmas. In addition, games like badminton, kho-kho were conducted time to time. English Spelling quiz and story telling were some other activities done in the evening center in December.

IITK students were on vacation during most of December. The SAC evening center faced some problem because of less number of instructors. Here children from class 5 to BSc come for getting academic help. Some new volunteers were contacted and they helped in running the center in this month.

Most of the schools have half yearly tests in December. At the evening centers the volunteers focused on the syllabus the children study in schools.

HE Cell

Shiksha Sopan helps financially children studying beyond class 12 and having economic crisis. Preference is given to Sopan volunteers. We had 5 such requests, one for B Ed, 2 for B Techs, one for MCA and one for B. Sc. The HE cell subcommittee coordinated by Sh Somnath Danayak made specific recommendations for each of these five and based on this, we disbursed a total of Rs 84,000 to these students in the month of December. An appeal was made to the faculty of IITK and they generously donated for this cause. We wish all these students the best.

Artificial jewelry classes

A special course for making artificial jewelry, is started in Barasirohi village. The classes are being given by a young girl Asmita Tiwari coming from a long distance of 14 km. The interesting aspect is that the main component of her jewelry is paper that we use for our office work of which one side is unwritten. Asmita is giving the course with great dedication. Our B Tech student Deepak is coordinating the classes and making contacts with the local residents.



Mass awakening programmes regarding crime against women

Shiksha Sopan had a meeting of all its workers on 31st December and discussed the issue of crimes against women, presently jolting the entire nation. All of them of the opinion that a mass awakening programme should be undertaken by Shiksha Sopan to connect the people of this locality, both inside IITK and around it, with this issue. It was decided to do a variety of programmes till 26th January in this direction.

As the first of this series, a meeting of all IITK community together with Sopan volunteers has been convened on 5th January in L-7. In the meeting we will pass a resolution expressing our sentiments and will take out a candle march. The next will be a rally on 13th January focused towards women issues. A signature campaign is also being planned to express the public opinion and forward to proper authorities.

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. **PAN Number : AAFTS9743R**

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