



Shiksha Sopaan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Newsletter July 2009

The main focus of Shiksha Sopaan in the month of June 09 was on the Summer Camp of Pratibha Poshan Yojana (PPY) which was running since 23rd May and concluded on 28th June. Lots of studies, lots of fun and lots of personality development, was the central theme. Sopaan Swawalamban Kendra (SSK) was also in full swing where four courses were running in parallel.

Summer Camp, PPY

A total of 11 children were called for the camp which included 7 girls and 4 boys. The selection of these 11 were based on their regularity, performance during the last one year of interaction with us and a test conducted during the Mimi Camp of January 09. Out of these, 8 continued from the first summer camp while for the rest 3 it was first of its own kind.

Day used to start with half an hour Yoga or light physical exercise including morning walk. Regular classes of Maths, Physics, Chemistry and English were held from 7:15 am to 1:00 pm with a 30 min breakfast break. Total 31 classes were given to each subject. There were at least 2 instructors in a class to make it more interactive and also to focus on each and every child.



There was special emphasis on computer classes in this camp which were scheduled in the evening 7:00 to 8:00 pm on each Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Total 15 hr were given for computer classes with several instructors and at least 3 laptops in each class. Children learned right from mouse handling up to the use of internet including Microsoft office.



Classes on Cultural and moral issues were also arranged on alternate days in the evening from 7 to 8 pm. In these classes, there were music lessons and lectures on health, environment, Indian history, tourists places in India etc.

To know more about science, Sciences experiments were arranged in the evening at 5:00 to 6:00 pm twice in a week. On other days, this time slot was used for tutorials and Advanced Lectures. In tutorials, children were encouraged to ask their subject doubts whatever had been taught to them in morning regular classes. At least one subject instructor used to be present for this problem solving period.

A total of 6 advanced lectures by 6 different IITK students and faculty members were arranged on the following topics: Mathematical Puzzles, Value of Pie, Vedic Mathematics, Chandrayaan-I Mission and Nanotechnology.

Evening 6 to 7 pm was fixed for sports activities.

In addition to all this, on each Saturday evening, group discussions were arranged. Some of the topics covered were: Necessity of conducting exams till Xth class, Reality shows on television are creating pressure on children, Is India rising?

There was a special program arranged by DRPG office for interaction with SURGE students. SURGE is a summer camp arranged by IITK in which mainly Engg. Students from NITs come for the engineering exposure. These students had a great time with our PPY children and spent several hours with them. Children were very excited to mix up with them and gather knowledge about Engg institutions.



SURGE students at our Summer Camp

Excursion trips were arranged to give the children exposure of different varieties. These included (a) visit to Banaras and Sarnath (b) JK Temple (c) OP Sharma's Magic Show in the city (d) visits to IITK Labs including Nanosciences, Hall VII and VIII (e) Airstrip. Children were really excited to see all this. Especially looking at an airplane from inside and knowing its functioning was a great experience.



At Sarnath, Varanasi



Inside airplane at flight Lab IITK

Sopan Swavalamban Kendra(SSK)

Four courses were run in June 09 at SSK. In each of them, on the average 15 children took training. The courses were (a) Artificial Jewelry making (b) Beautician course (c) Sewing and Cutting and (d) Electrical Appliances Repair.

The sewing and cutting course is of 6-months duration and had started on May 1. Starting from cutting on old newspapers, by now the girls have learned making Salwar-suits. Many of them come wearing their own stitched suits. In this month one machine was purchased and one was given temporarily by Sopan worker Nazir to make 4 machines for 20 girls.



Girls learned making beautiful jewelries, mostly necklaces, in the two months Artificial jewelry course. The course finished in June itself but the final test and display will be in July.

Several girls in the course of Beautician come from Ratanpur, a village 3 km away from the center. In the scorching heat of June, they come walking from their place to attend the classes 12.00 noon - 2.00 PM and return back in the same mode. "HOSSALLON MEN HAI DUM"



In the electrical appliance repair course, children learned home wiring, switches and sockets, motor winding etc. The instructor Mr Malviya ji is highly committed and has a vast experience of this area due to his own shop. Children did practical work by collecting defective fans, coolers etc from the people around, repaired them under guidance of the instructor and returned them to the owners.



On 26th June, SSK students organized a Chhola-Bhatura Party. They themselves prepared these and also incurred the expenses. The purpose was to get familiar with all the students of different courses at SSK.

Mrs Pooja Mishra and Shri Jaiprakash ji coordinated all the events and the activities at SSK.

Sopan activities in Brief

In order to give a crisp idea of Shiksha Sopan work going on, we summarize below the 7 main activities :

1. Evening Learning Centers, 150 children, class 5-12, assemble for two hours at three centers
2. Sopan Vidyalaya, 50 children, class 1-8, from very poor families
3. Pratibha Poshan Yojana , 16 children, class 11, selected through tests,
4. Pratibha Poshan Yojana Junior, class 6 and 9, 7 students selected through tests
5. Sopan Swavalamban Kendra, 80 children, skill development, Vocational courses for poor village mass, mostly girls, at highly subsidized fee
6. Gahan Adhyayan Kendra, 40 children, class 9-12, teaching syllabus and exam based, 3 hours a day
7. Science Programme, for general masses, developing Science experiments, teaching demos, doing science shows etc.

Apart from these, our regular functions like Annual Function on Vivekanand Jayanti, Independence day function on 15th August, Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October, Children's day on 14th November are also good educational activities.

We need to expand our Donor's network to sustain all these activities.

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".

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