

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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

Newsletter March 2011

The month of February was packed with lots of activities by Shiksha Sopan. A mammoth exercise for selecting next batch of Pratibha Poshan Yojana (S) was undertaken in collaboration with a Kanpur based NGO "Talent Development Council", where a Talent search Examination was conducted in remote areas around Kanpur. A Health Camp for Sopan Children was organized in collaboration with Vivekanand Samiti of IITK and Ramakrishna Mission Ashram Kanpur. Some IITK students from NSS gave a wonderful interactive session on Cultural Diversity of India. The two evening Centers, Sopan Vidyalaya, Science Cell, PPY (J), GAK, Library and Swavalamban Kendra ran smoothly. Here is a description about this month's major activities.

A. Session on Indian Cultural Diversity

On 11th February, 2011 an interactive session on "Cultural Diversity of India" was organized at IITK Lecture hall. The entire session was coordinated by IITK students, Mr. Ishan Bose and Mr. Shivam Trivedi along with their friends.

The objective of the session was to educate Sopan children and volunteers about the diverse Indian ethnicity. With the help of multimedia, ppt slides and video clips, the students gave detailed information about various Indian states, Customs & traditions, different forms of attire, incredible temples, Indian delicacies, various dance forms & so on.

There were clips on prominent personalities who influence our lives & Seven Wonders of the World. The programme also threw light on history of ancient Indian temples, mosques, church and other places of worship.

During the whole event, the viewers were asked questions related to the course making it more communicable to all. The children providing right answers were given chocolates. There were almost 100 children and Sopan workers present for the session including Sopan President Dr. H.C. Verma and Secretary Mr. Amit Kumar Bajpai. Everyone present enjoyed the programme whole heartedly as it was full of knowledge & fun.



Sopan Children communicating with IITK Students

B. Sopan reaches deep Interior Villages : new batch of PPY

In order to select new batch of Pratibha Poshan Yojana (PPY), Shiksha Sopan along with Talent Development Council (TDC) organized Talent Search Examination in deep interior villages in five districts on 13th February, 2011. TDC is an NGO, working in Kanpur Nagar which organizes free Sunday classes for selected children in Jai Narayan Vidya Mandir. The examination was organized for class 7 students. It was a big event and a total of 4,147 children from five districts, Jaloun, Hameerpur, Kannauj, Kanpur and Kanpur Dehaat participated in this Examination. A total of 37 centers were made for this examination. The nearest center was 40 km away from the IITK and the farthest 160 km. At each center two volunteers were sent with the question-cum-answer booklets to conduct the examination with all fairness.

For many of the IITK students, it was a memorable day. They travelled through villages for hours to reach the destination. They had first hand experiences of the conditions of schools in villages, sometimes very dedicated teachers with poor infrastructure and sometime the opposite. Overall, there was a big enthusiasm among the villagers on seeing such event taking place in their area. For many of them it was a rare event where someone came to them for educational development of their children.



Dr. H.C. Verma along with Shri, G.D. Verma and Shri Anil Gupta visited 6 centers during the examination to get a glimpse of the whole proceedings. The whole event was very well organized and all the volunteers had put in their valuable time and effort to make it a grand success.

The answer books were evaluated by a team of 25 volunteers of Shiksha Sopan on the week end of 19-20 Feb at IITK Core Lab. It was also a very enjoying exercise. Volunteers shared the interesting answers while evaluating. Out of total 4147 children, first 150 were screened out in the first phase. These children are being called for a 2nd level test at IITK on 13th March. From this we will pick our Pratibha Poshan Yojana batch whom we will give close guidance through Summer camps and other modes of interaction for the next three years.

Shiksha Sopan greatly appreciates the help provided by TDC in making contacts in these villages and also bearing the entire cost to conduct this examination.

Comment from a volunteer : *It was really an unforgettable day, that made me meet very good people and also we came to know our own team members of Shiksha Sopan closely. Exam time was pretty much smooth and it was nice to be on the other side for the first time.* ***Abhishek Kumar, IITK Student***

B. Free Health Check-Up Camp

Shiksha Sopan and Swami Vivekananda Samiti, IIT Kanpur organized a Free Health Check-up Camp for Sopan Children on 27th February 2011, at Shiksha Sopan Vidyalaya, Barasirohi. The idea was to give a general check up to these children and diagnose any disease and identify concern areas if any. The camp started with lighting of the lamp in front of Swami Vivekanand's image. Dr. Kunal Ghosh, Dr. G. K Tiwari and Swami Bhaktiroopanand ji lighted the lamp. Dr. Kunal Ghosh introduced the Doctors team which consisted of Dr. Gautam Dutta from Regency Hospital, Retd. Director of Hallet hospital Dr. G.K. Tiwari, Dr. Sutapa Mandal, and Dr. Prashant Jha from IITK Health Centre.

Before the check up process, Dr. Gautam Dutta addressed the children and gave them information on general precautions to avoid diseases and ways to maintain personal hygiene. He emphasized the importance of regular periodic check ups for children to stay away from hazardous diseases that may result in future. Swami Bhaktiroopanand ji from Ramkrishan Mission also gave a brief speech in which he explained the life of Swami Vivekanand which remains as a great source of inspiration to millions and millions to do service to downtrodden.

Around 200 children were examined by the four doctors during this process. The children were given necessary nutritional medicines along with a book on Swami Vivekanand's life, one photo of Vivekanand Ji and biscuits as refreshment.



C. Regular Activities of Shiksha Sopan

Regular activities of Shiksha Sopan ran well due to hard work put in by Volunteer. Some detail are as follows.

Shiksha Sopan Library-

Presently the demand for new books is rising in Sopan Library, Nankari. The demand for civil service books is more. Book lovers are regularly visiting the library and are taking benefits out of it. Moreover, children from Ratanpur area have also started visiting the library which shows the positive impact of library on everyone.

Pratibha Poshan Yojna (J)-

A parents meeting was conducted for PPY (J) students on 24th Feb 2011 at SAC. The meeting was conducted in the presence of Shri Amit Bajpai. Parents were informed about the performance and progress made by their children. The parents seemed to be satisfied with the studies of their children and gave positive feedbacks.

Sopan Vidyalaya-

In Sopan Vidyalaya, students had prepared some presentations in the form of posters & slogans. During the parents meeting, the children conveyed the message of hygiene, difference between small & big families and so on to their parents. The aim of the presentation was to create health awareness people from small villages. The parents were glad to see the presentation made by their own children and admired Shiksha Sopan for its support.

D. Forthcoming Programmes:

Second level test for PPY selection : As mentioned above, the second level test of 150 children screened will be conducted on 13th March at IITK. Children will be first given a Science Demo Show of about an hour to get them relaxed mentally before the test.

VNK Scholarship to start : V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship is being started from the current year. Bassel based group Hum Log has contributed Rs 50,000 for the expenses for this year. The guidelines have been formulated, write ups are being written for school Principals and so on. In the month of March we will contact all schools within about 2 kilometers from the campus, give them application forms etc, fix up the centers and so on. Test dates are not yet decided, but it could be in March end or April beginning.

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

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