



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

News Letter May 2009

April 09 was full of activities for children as well as for our volunteers. The long awaited vocational training programme was started in the name of Sopan Swavalamban Kendra and a new batch of Pratibha Poshan Yojana (J) was selected. We had an excursion to Bithoor for our workers and paper-plane making workshop for children. Here is a description about this month's activities.

Sopan Swavalamban Kendra(SSK)

The founders of Shiksha Sopan had the vision that for development in rural areas one needs to concentrate on Shiksha, Sanskar and Swavalamban. They had conceived a center where education is imparted with inculcation of Moral human values and also with vocational skills developed so that they can earn their livelihood. Over the years, Shiksha Sopan developed centers and programmes to impart education and moral values, but vocational training remained limited to short summer courses.

On April 3, 2009, Sopan Swavalamban Kendra was formally inaugurated by Shri Sanjiv Kashalkar, registrar, IITK. With three Sewing machines purchased on IITK Alumni Association funding, the center admitted its first batch of 9 girls from Barasirohi for one month course on Bag Making. Our trainer, a professional tailor, taught them to make 6 kinds of bags. Mrs Pooja Mishra of our campus was key motivator to start this center.

In the next phase we have announced four courses, (a) Repairing Electric Appliances, (b) Making Artificial Jewelries, (c) Beautician's Course and (d) Sewing. We have gotten a large number of applications (more than 300) showing the confidence of rural community in Shiksha Sopan.



Dr O P Mishra inaugurating the Swavalamban Kendra



The first batch of 9 girls with Shri Kashalkar, other Sopan workers and the trainer (extreme left)

Paper Plane Making Workshop

Flying paper plane is a common activity among children. But lots of aerodynamical principles can be understood and knowledge about real planes can be gained by making such planes with proper guidance. Dr Kirti Prakash Gupta, a former Air force Pilot and associated with CERI Pilani, had very kindly offered to train our children in making Paper planes. It was a very special event for the 26 children who learned the intricacies of airplanes and made 19 varieties of planes in the 5-day workshop on 14-18th April. Dr Gupta guided them every minute and emphasized the importance to do the work with perfection, in his words, with ZERO DEFECT. Cutting and folding had to be done with great precision and children got the training of professionalism through this activity.

The event was organized in Opportunity School Hall everyday from 10AM to 5 PM with lunch given at the venue itself.

Children practiced flying their planes in open and learned that it is not the force of throw that is important, but the design of plane, wind direction, angle of injections etc were the controlling factor. They experience to make little modifications in their planes to result in smooth flying and smooth landing.



On the last day, 18th April, children put up a general show. Each participant tried to fly the plane to keep it air for long periods, smooth trajectory without wobble and smooth landing. The 45 minute flying show was a treat to watch. The maximum time of air stay was 6.5 seconds.

Visitors included Dr Sandeep Verma of Chemistry, Dr and Mrs A K Sharma, Mr R S Shrivastav, Principal, Opportunity school together with Sopan senior workers. They all blessed the children and wished for their bright future.

PPYJ 09

Pratibha Poshan Yojana junior test was conducted on 22nd March and 8 children were selected for further consideration (April 09 Newsletter). These were called for a group talk on 5th May which lasted for about one and half hour. Several of the children were a bit nervous but our friendly approach soon made them normal and they talked freely. Since we are to send them to a big school in city our concern was that they do not feel pressurized in adjusting in the new environment. Finally three children, Shaurya (father auto driver), Gopal (father daily worker in masonry) and Deepika (father a small farmer) were selected for Pratibha Poshan Yojana (J) scholarship. We have approached Jugal Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir and hopefully they will be admitted in this school soon.



During the friendly Group Talk



Selected children Shaurya, Gopal and Deepika with parents and Sopan workers

Manthan Shivir at Bithoor

Shiksha Sopan has a number of units and volunteers working these units get little time to meet among themselves. Not only all the workers should know all the activities well, each one of them should participate in the planning of future activities. With this in view we organized a day long Manthan Shivir at Bithoor where all the Evening Center coordinators, school teachers, PPY coordinators, science cell workers and other potential workers were invited. In all 36 Sopan workers assembled at SAC at 8 AM and boarded to chartered mini bus. At Bithoor we directly went to Sita Mandir where there is a good natural atmosphere and open space.

The deliberations included presentation by each unit coordinator about his/her unit, the strengths and weaknesses, the future plans. Dr H C Verma presented the general goals and philosophy of Shiksha Sopan while the president Ranjan Upadhyay presented the expectations from Sopan workers at the sopan workplace and also in social interactions. On suggestions of workers, a month long activity was planned to make general masses in villages aware on global Drinking Water crisis and impress upon them to stop Water abuse.



VIDAI

Poorvi Patel, a student of Arizona State University, during her visit to IIT Kanpur for a semester got deeply involved with Shiksha Sopan children (April 09 Newsletter). She has now completed her stay and is going back. Shiksha Sopan organized a Vidai Samaroh for her to pay respect for all her involvement. It was a very touchy function, A lot of children praised her for her friendly interaction, for her English teaching for the games she played with them. Poorvi herself was emotional to talk to the children. With little Hindi that she learnt from the children, she expressed her deep association with Shiksha Sopan and promised that she will continue this association for all timer to come.



Ms Poorvi (on chair, right), listening to children expressing their gratitude for all the love she gave

Career Counseling for class 12 children

Six children of Shiksha Sopan appeared in class 12 Board Examination this year. They were extensively trained at Gahan Adhyayan Kendra and are likely to do well. Amit Bajpai and Chandrashekhar Sharma went to their houses and individually talked to them and their families to gather information about possible future course. They were then called on 26th April at SAC together with their parents. A team of our senior workers talk to each of these six and suggested the best future plan taking into all kinds of consideration of family economic condition and the area where the potential of the student was high.

Each of these was assigned an Evening center where they will teach the participants to enhance their own academic and presentation skills.

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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