

Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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Newsletter May 2019



The month of April is a significant month, both academically and culturally. April is marked as the beginning of Hindu new year accompanied with hindu festival of Navratra. Days of National significance including World Heritage Day, Earth Day, Ambedkar Jayanti, Jallian wala Bagh Massacre of 1919 were also commemorated at the Centers in the month. With the beginning of new academic session, the month brought board examination results of class 10th and 12th. Specific details of the events are described in the specific sections in the newsletter.

Dr. V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship Distribution

This year Dr. VNK exam was conducted on 27th January 2019 in which around 750 students from 50 schools registered for the examination. A total of 550 children gave the exams from which a total of 31 students were qualified first phase. Following this, economic survey was conducted from which 14 students were identified for the scholarship. These scholarships were disbursed on 13th April in the presence of Dr. Abhay Karandikar, IIT Director, as chief guest in L-17 in IIT Campus. The chief guest inaugurated the event. Mr. Amit K. Bajpai facilitated the event and a total of three performances- saraswati vandana dance by a student from Sopan Library, group song by SASK and a play on importance of education by SAEC, were presented. Along with Sopan Volunteers and students, few professors from IIT Kanpur also attended the programme. Two students from SAEC and SASK named Ms. Kritika Singh and Ms. Sonam received the scholarship. At the end, VNK Coordinator Mr. Himanshu gave vote of thanks and the programme was successfully concluded.



Class 10th and 12th Result

The month of April came with the results of board exams of class 10th and 12th which are marked as important milestones in lives of the students in formal education system in India. Students from all our Centers also gave the examinations and their hard work and commitment along with volunteers efforts brought exceptional results.

10th standard students from Barasirohi evening centre named Ms. Divya, Mst. Uttam and Mst. Arpit scored 82%, 89.5% and 85% respectively. From students enrolled at Sopan Library, class 12th students Mst. Abhishek, Mst. Aditya, Mst. Priyanshu scored 89%, 78% and 73% respectively and Ms. Khushi and Mst. Abhishek from class 10th scored 80% and 54% respectively. Lastly, a total of seven students gave 10th and 12th examination from Barasirohi Evening Centre from whom Ms. Shrishti Misra scored 88% in her 10th standard with 99 marks in Mathematics. All the students were appreciated and encouraged at their respective centers after announcement of results.

Sopan Anaupcharik Shikshan Kendra (SASK)

New session started on 1st April this month with an addition of 20 new students. This session we aim at teaching 80 children and various facilities to facilitate learning in a conducive environment were arranged. Free of cost food, uniform, nutrition and study desks for all students have been made available in this session as an initiative to contribute in children's development.

Session on Child Rights , Gender and Child Labour

Mr. Abhishek Savarnya and Ms. Meenakshi took the sessions on Child Rights, Gender and Child Labor on 13th and 17th April with children. Children were introduced to child rights as per United Nations Convention on Rights of Children (UNCRC) of survival, protection, participation and development.

There after, through audio-visual media and interactive activities, difference between sex and gender was explained. The session on child labour and importance of education was held on 17th April in which children were introduced to the social problem of child labour and discussion was held on how we as responsible citizens can counter it.



Celebration of World Heritage Day and Earth Centre

World Heritage Day and Earth Day was celebrated at the Centre on 18th and 22nd April respectively. Ms. Seema shared about the relevance of the day with children and children shared about historical monuments including Bhitargaon Ancient Temple, Nanarao Park of 1857, Kachhua Talab, Jagannath Temple and Valmiki Ashram in Kanpur. Children celebrated Earth Day on 22nd April by expressing their thoughts on the significance of the day by making a model of mother Earth using newspapers. Children also discussed how crucial it is to preserve flora and fauna and human lives in order to save Earth.



Awareness for Voting Day

On Saturday, as part of special activities, children prepared placards and banners with self composed, IIT Student Mr. Shashwat explained to children why voting is important in a democracy. Ms. Seema asked children to convince and aware their parents to exercise their power to vote.



Sopan Ashram Evening Center (SAEC)

The session started with total of 84 children. All children and adults also did community mobilization in the vicinity till 4th April whereby people were informed about the programme that were to be held on 6th April.

Session on Gender Stereotypes and Child Labor

In continuation with the previous session on Gender Roles, a session on gender stereotypes and difference between the terms "gender" and "sex" were introduced to the children on 10th April by Ms. Meenakshi. In this, a total of 45 children from class 1st to 6th standard participated. Children shared about their own experiences and how they often tend to stereotype people on the basis of their gender. Another session was held on 17th April with children from 4th to 8th standard on child labor and importance of education in which 32 children participated. Children were told about different laws related to the subject including Right to Education 2005 and Child Labor (Prevention and Regulation) Act 1986 and why it is significant to attend school than to work. The methodologies used in both the sessions included discussion, use of audio-visual media and interactive activities.

Awareness programme on 6th and 7th April

Various programmes including self-written poetry, speeches, drawing competitions were held in which 25, 22 and 115 children respectively participated. These children were from class 5th to 12th standard and are enrolled at different Centers of Shiksha Sopan, Apna Ghar (residential home for boys being run by an NGO in Tatyaganj), different schools and few belongs to the nearby community around Sopan Ashram. The competitions were followed by fun games and activities.



On 7th April, an event called "Vigyan Se Roobaroo" (Interacting with Science) by Science Cell was organized. Mr. Amit K. Bajpai and Mr. Ranjeet Kumar explained different experiments with demonstration. Following this, a rally for social consciousness on the issue of substance abuse was organized. Along with the rally, a street play was also performed at two places in the community by children enrolled with us at sopan ashram on the issue and implications of alcoholism in families. Programme was concluded with rewarding winners with gifts.

Barasirohi Evening Center (BEC)

Since new session started from the month of March, student's school results were announced before a few weeks. On 3rd May children shared their results at the Centre. Number of children who scored well and attained positions in their respective classes were congratulated and appreciated at the Centre.

Book Donation by IIT Students on 5th and 24th April

This month a total of 50 course books of classes 6th and 7th were donated by IIT PhD Scholars Mr. Abhishek, Mr. Anuj and Ms. Vibha. Ms Vibha is pursuing her M.A. Mr. Anuj inspired and motivated children to read and how reading shapes our perspective and personality. Ms. Vibha shared about the significance of recycling and reusing waste material to make usable items like making bags with worn out clothes and making flower vase using plastic bottles.

Session on CHILDLINE 1098 and introduction to child protection issues

Ms. Meenakshi (PhD in Sociology) who has recently joined Shiksha Sopan as volunteer was introduced to the children. She, along with Mr. Abhishek Savarnya, held a brief session with children from class 1st to 11th standard on CHILDLINE 1098- a National emergency toll free number under the Ministry of Women and Child Development for children in need of care and protection. The whole mechanism and how the network works was shared with children. Along with the rights, they were also made aware of the responsibility to use it when there is actually a need and what other stakeholders can be approached in times of such need. Children were also advised to make test call on the given number, which comes under the provision of CHILDLINE 1098 to encourage children to call when the need arises for it is assumed that children need familiarity to effectively communicate at such times. Children also tested the calls later and talked to CHILDLINE Contact Centre operator.



Visit by Mannu Lal Degree College Principal on 12th April

Principal of Mannu Lal Degree College in Hanspuram visited the Centre on 12 April to know about our programmes and activities. He was impressed by our work and accomplishments and expressed the desire to visit us again in future.



Celebration of Mahavir Jayanti and Earth Day

Mahavir Jayanti and Earth Day were celebrated at the Centre on 17th and 22nd April respectively with children and volunteers. Children were told about Mahavir Swami who was the twenty-fourth tirthankara who revived Jainism. On Earth Day, children were inspired to protect and plant more trees and to use natural resources like water with caution to preserve mother Earth.



Visit by a research scholar from Netherland University on 25th April

A friend of Mr. Anuj, a volunteer and PhD Scholar at IIT Kanpur, Mr. Manvendra who completed his PhD from Netherland University and is currently working there visited our Centre on 25th April. He shared about England's culture especially pertaining to its food and clothes. He shared that mostly people prefer riding bicycle in the state which helps in maintaining better health without any negative implications on the environment. He also shared about his personal hobby in Birds and shared interesting facts about birds in the region.



Sopan Library

Four new members joined us this month. With end in final exams, more children participated and attended library. On 13th April, children remembered the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** victims who were killed in Amritsar in 1919. On 14th April, **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's** birth anniversary was celebrated whereby his contributions in the society including drafting Constitution of India and fighting against caste system. Ms. Sakshi Bajpayee donated a total of 6 books of Maths and Scienceto the library. Along with these activities, number of craft models was created.



10 Days Science Residential Workshop (Bachelor Level Science in Hindi: A Learning Initiative

A ten day residential workshop was organized from **24th April till 3rd May** by Shiksha Sopan's Development Of Science Tourism Initiative (DOSTI) and Science Cell programme at Sopan Ashram. The participants were selected from Dr. HC Verma's online course on special theory of relativity. This was an innovative initiative with the collaboration of the Science Club and DOSTI at a National level. A total of 21 participants from 9 states across the Nation including Mr. Vinay Kumar (volunteer at Sopan Ashram) attended the workshop. The key speakers and facilitators at the event included Dr. HC Verma, Prof. YN Mohapatra and Dr. Deshdeep Shahdeo.

Fourteen scientific experiments were conducted from which twelve experiments were designed by Sopan's Science team itself. The smallest six experiments, named warm-up experiments, included using tools and were meant to impart basic skills for conducting other six high-level experiments. Rest of the two experiments were conducted in Physics UG laboratory, IITK. The workshop included theoretical as well as practical sessions which were performed under observation. There was requirement of resource persons for each experiment for which First Sunday Club of Anveshika member's volunteered including Dr. Anita Singh, Mr. Gaurav, Ms. Neha, Mr. Praveen and Dr. Manoj Bhushan Pandey. The participants were also introduced to Shiksha Sopan's programmes and activities. During feedback session, the participants thanked the organizers which was followed by a cultural programme to celebrate the success of the workshop.



अंधकार को क्यों धिक्कारे, अच्छा हैं एक दीप जलायें

Other Informations

Web site : For more details please visit www.shiksha-sopan.org

How to donate: *Shiksha Sopan*

(a) You can pay through credit/debit card by going to www.godparents.in, clicking "support a child" from the left top panel, selecting Shiksha Sopan from the "caretaking NGO" list at the bottom left of the page and then selecting a child from the list. Click on "Be my Godparent" below the photograph.

(b) You can write cheques/draft for donations in the name of "Shiksha Sopan" payable at Kanpur and send to the address given below.

(c) Online transfer can be made in State Bank of India, IITKanpur branch. Account No. **10426002488**, Account name "Shiksha Sopan", IFSC code **SBIN0001161**

(d). People in US can use the link <http://www.iitk.ac.in/dora/donation/PayPal/> and Choose Shiksha Sopan Charitable Contribution to donate through IIT Kanpur foundation using credit cards. All donations are 100% tax deductible in the United States. IIT Kanpur Foundation (Tax ID: 94-3370645) is Tax Exempt under 501(c)(3) classification of IRS.

(e). All donations are Tax free (up to 50%) under section 80/G.

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