

Newsletter May-June 2020

All the volunteers, students are following the guidelines of corona and staying at home. Centers are all closed as no physical meeting is desirable. But the volunteers are not sitting idle. They are providing study materials through online to the students. The initiations taken by volunteers and center coordinators are appreciable and it provided strength to the organization. The brief report of the month of April-May are given below

<u>Initiavtive by Sopan volunteer Aman Ji</u>

Mr. Aman Prasad, a very active volunteer at Sopan Ashram and M.Tech from IIT Kanpur from Civil Engineering Department played a very important role during the lockdown period. He started classes on Whatsapp and gave academic home work as a task to the students, he also arranged ebooks/books for the students and motivated them for studying. He has shared his initiatives with us. The description below is from his write up.



It was very challenging for Shiksha Sopan volunteers to engage the students associated to Sopan centres. All the schools, colleges, our evening learning centers were closed so the whole academic activity of our students came to halt. I desperately wanted to do something so that these students utilize time in their academic enhancement.

I made a list of students whom I had taught in the previous sessions and I had the phone numbers. I tried to know their activities and how they spend their time. I and my team members started giving them homework related to Mathematics, Science, English. In case of difficulties, they asked me over phone and I used to give the possible answers to the respective students. In this way we started class.

One of the students, Piyush is very active student of our evening learning center and also one of the scholar of Dr. V. N. Kulkarni merit scholarship. His house is located about 8 km from Sopan Ashram. He wants to start studying for 11th std but has no books. He informed me about this and I could arrange the books for him. I did not know his residence, so we decided to meet at a common almost half way. This way I handover the books to him.

I gave special tasks to the class 10 students to finish half the syllabus of Mathematics and Science during lockdown through self–study. They were encouraged to ask me over phone any doubts or difficulties. I got some phone calls from students for their queries and I explained well to them.

Some students at Sopan Ashram Evening Centre are good in making paintings. I took some photos from the nature and sent them to the students and gave a task to make/sketch the photo and send to me. I motivated them and finally I got some good hand made paintings by the students. I am sharing one photo made by Chandani of class 12th.



I provided guidance to those students who are preparing for polytechnic examination. Sagar, Swati and Sahil are preparing and doing good academics at their home. I keep monitoring through phone calls.

In the month of May Aman Ji worked on designing challenging Maths problems using the concepts introduced upto Std 8, which can ignite the thinking. These problems can easily challenge even professionals like teachers and senior students. He made a group of about 10 IITK students and invited ideas from them. He came out with three sets of questions at varying difficulty level. He plans to make a question bank of such thought provoking problems and use these to develop thinking logically.

Sopan Anaupacharik Shikshan Kendra (SASK)

SASK were closed during lockdown to make sure the safety of our volunteers as well as children and their family members. Ms. Seema Verma, Coordinator, SASK asked all students to stay at home and communicate this message in the neighborhood. In this way SASK contributed in awaring the community through students.

SASK volunteers are trying hard to find out the ways of teaching to the center's students without physical interaction. The challenge was serious as many of the families did not have smart phones. All the volunteers discussed over phone and took this problem as a challenge and started the class on phone calls. They divided children in groups and fixed one volunteer as a mentor of each group. Mentor called over phone to the students and instructed about studies. They also told them about the teaching initiative taken by the Doordarshan in which Doordarshan launched a program for class wise teaching.

Mask Distribution program

Ms. Seema Verma took an initiative and made wonderful masks for distribution among the children during this lockdown. SASK distributed the Masks to the selected children to ensure the safety from COVID 19.

SASK also distributed the stationary like pen, pencil, copy, color etc and also gave some refreshment like biscuit, banana to the children.



Awareness about the COVID-19

Children of SASK made the posters for awareness about the COVID-19 in the village of Barasirohi. Seema Verma and other volunteers went some of the houses and told them about the importance of the mask and put posters on the walls. They also gave the message to the people that we have to fight out the problems and not to be panic. Some important precautions mentioned in their campaign are given below

- · Make social distancing of at least one meter
- Use of Mask and Gloves are mandatory
- Sanitize and wash your hands regularly
- Use digital payment instead of cash
- Carry your own water bottle.
- Do yoga regularly at least 30 min.
- Use hot water for drinking at least two three times in

a day.

Sopan Ashram Evening Center (SAEC)

In the month of May 2020, SAEC was closed and no physical classes were held at Sopan Ashram due to pandemic of Corona virus. In this hard situation education hampered a lot. To retain the continuity of education, volunteers of SAEC started an online classes through Zoom. This system includes sending video lectures on a regular basis and worksheet for practice. Many students of SAEC got connected through this program. Some 12th class students are interested in preparation of JEE advance. Some students of IIT Kanpur and Volunteers of SAEC started preparation classes for Physics and Maths. Presently only these two subjects are being taught through Whatsapp and Zoom to the students. They are going to start Chemistry classes soon.

Scholarship Exam

In the month of February seven students of SAEC participated in the "Jyoti Jawahar Scholarship Examination". The result came in April 2020 in which 2 students of SAEC, Miss Swati and Miss Akriti, both from class 11th qualified the Exam. Ms. Anupama Sharma coordinator, SAEC, wished both of them over phone. **Activities**

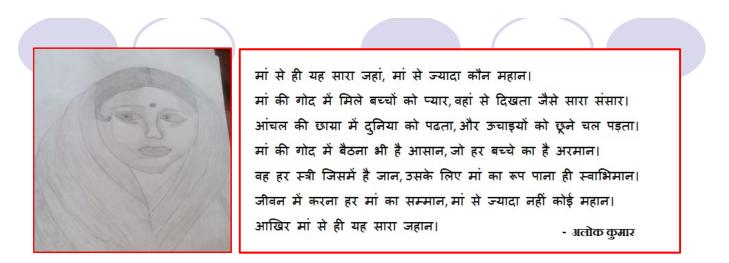
In this pandemic situation children of SAEC utilized the time by doing various activities. Ms. Nistha student of class 12th made a Rabbit by papers, cotton, bulb etc.











A student of Class $10^{\rm th}$, Master Alok Kumar made a picture of his mother on the occasion of Mother's day and also wrote a poem for his mother. His mother is house wife and very hard working women.

Barasirohi Evening center(BEC)

The condition of BEC students related to their education was not good. Ms. Geeta Kushwaha, Coordinator, BEC took initiative to utilize this lockdown period in an effective manner. She talked to volunteers of BEC, and started online classes through whatsapp. Two whatsapp groups were created in which 1st group is for class 3rd to 8th and 2nd group is for class 9th to 12th. Around 25-30 students are there in each group and participating in each and every class with very positive manner. They were very happy to use their phones as a teaching learning tool and realized that this is a very good utilization of mobile phones. It is not only for calls, we can learn so many things like experiments and also connect to the people living abroad. Some highlights of activities which are running in the groups areas follows.

- Through these groups, volunteers and IITK Students are getting in regular touch with children.
- They are teaching Maths, Science, GK, English and Hindi Languages.
- Children are also doing extra activities like CRAFT, Essay writing etc.
- Discussion among children on the topic like CORONA.
- Volunteers also conducted two hour weekend exam for children.

Others activities

- On 10th May BEC celebrated Mother's day, online. Many students wrote their feelings and told them by voice recording in the group.
- Children also made beautiful paintings and decorating items by their own, Ms. Geeta and Ms Kshama were providing the tips about this to the students.

Science Cell

One of our very active volunteers Mr. Vijay Kushwaha made a hand cleaning device which is working using ultraviolet sensors, ardino and motors. As Corona spreads through touch, this dispenser was designed in such a way that people don't need to touch the hand wash container or water tap and still clean hands properly. As one brings a hand in front of the Hand wash container, soap solution automatically comes out in our hand and when we put our hand in front of water tap water comes out for two seconds. By this people can wash their hands without touches the device.



<u>Sopan Library</u>

Sopan Library is also closed like other centers and Physical meetings are not allowed during this period. Mrs. Pushpa Tripathi, the coordinator, followed all the instructions which are given by Government of India. She made a Whatsapp group of library members and regularly sends one inspirational story everyday in the group and discusses about learning outcomes from the story.



She also guides them to make varieties of decorating items using newspaper and waste materials. One of the items prepared by herself is here for the readers.

अंधकार को क्यों धिक्कारे, अच्छा हैं एक दीप जलायें

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

How to donate: Shiksha Sopan

(*b*) You can write cheques/draft for donations in the name of "Shiksha Sopan" payble 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 with non-Indian passport can contribute to our FCRS account. Pl write a mail at an address given below to get the account numer and other details.

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

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