

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban

# Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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Newsletter June 2019



Month of May marks the beginning of scorching heat in the country and hence it is the time for summer vacations. It is also a month for seasonal fruits. May was hectic yet enriching for Sopan Family. Various activities including mother's day celebration, cultural programme, science camps and workshops were organized. Details of the activities conducted in the month are elaborated in the following sections.

## Sopan Anaupcharik Shikshan Kendra (SASK)

Due to intolerable heat in the afternoon, school timings were shifted to morning from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. Children's summer vacation started from 17th May and school will resume on 1st July.

## **Farewell Ceremony and Mother's Day celebration on 12th May**

Students bid farewell to the IIT students who were active volunteers at the Centre from past couple of years. Dr. Sameer Khandekar and Ms. Pragya Khandekar were invited as chief guests who felicitated the participants with Certificates and gifts as a token of appreciation for their contribution in the lives of children enrolled with us. Volunteers Mr. Anmol, Mr. Manoj, Mr. Samarth and Mr. Rupesh shared their experience of working with children and spending their time with them and with Sopan team members.

They shared how spending time with children used to act as a stress-buster for them and they thoroughly cherished it. They expressed the will to keep in touch with the organization and children.

Mothers' day was also celebrated in the same function. Class 7th students Ms. Lakshmi and Ms. Anahita gave tribute of a song at this occasion. Ms. Khandekar gave her blessings to all the children and inspired them to respect and love their mothers. The programme was also attended by Executive member Mr. Rahul, PhD student Mr. Shirish and teachers including Ms. Sunita Maurya and Nisha. Ms. Seema concluded the programme after thanking all the volunteers and guests for their presence on the occasion.



### **Special visit by Mr. Pravah Khandekar on 17th May**

Mr. Pravah Khandekar is pursuing his Bachelor of Architecture from Sir J.J. College of Architecture in Mumbai, Maharashtra. His schooling is from IIT Kanpur and he had been a versatile but focused student. Architecture was always his dream choice and he worked for it. Mr. Pravah visited the Centre and interacted with children. He divided the group of children in two- from class 1st to 4th and 5th to 8th and conducted different activities with them. While discussing the importance of education with younger children, he discussed architectural designs of the buildings around. Children found the discussion interesting and useful.



### **Sopan Ashram Evening Center (SAEC)**

#### **Participation in cultural programme in BALSHALI Camp**

As described in May newsletter, Shiksha Sopan organized a 10-day camp of B.Sc. students under the project Bachelor Level Science in Hindi : A Learning Initiative (BALSHALI). These were chosen from the online course on Special theory of Relativity floated under BALSHALI. On the closing day, that is 3rd May, children from various centers performed a stage show. Children from SAEC performed a qawwali highlighting the importance of education in a world which is constantly changing with emerging technology and globalization. Another play on girl child was held by this center through which children expressed their perspective on gender equality. Mr. Vinay Mishra recited a self-written poetry on clean India which was greatly moving for the audience.



#### **Sharing about the book "Beej" by children of Apna Ghar on 9th May**

Book 'Beej' is a compilation of self-written poetry of children of migrant labourers working in Kanpur brick Kilns who are living in care and guardianship in Apna Ghar which is a hostel run by an NGO working for the cause. In this scenario parents of Mr. Vaibav Varun took session and talked to children. From this session children learnt so many things.



#### **New members join Sopan Team**

Ms. Rinku who is M.A. in Arts joined us on 10th May and conducted arts and crafts activity with children. Her own artwork was very impressive and inspiring for children. Mr. Arihant who joined us this month conducted yoga and exercises with children. He also discussed how important physical health is for mental health and overall wellbeing.



### **Visit by Mr. Pravah Khandekar on 21st May**

Mr. Pravah Khandekar, visited SAEC on 21<sup>st</sup> May and interacted with children. He discussed the importance of having a tentative career plan in life and to constantly keep working towards it. He shared his own journey from IIT Kendriya Vidyalay to J J College of Architecture Mumbai.



### **Children's Initiatives**

- Children including Mohit, Alok and Karan took the initiative to clean the Centre on their own signifying the importance of clean surroundings.
- Three children- Alok, Vansh and Karan learnt and designed different kinds of electric circuits.
- Karan, Alok, Prachi, Mohit and Nikhil presented *Saraswati Vandana* in the inauguration of KVS teachers workshop in the visitor's hostel in IIT Campus.

### **Barasirohi Evening Center (BEC)**

#### ***Farewell ceremony of IIT Students on 2nd May***

IIT students Mr. Abhinav, Mr. Ravi, Mr. Lokesh and Mr. Anuj who have been volunteering and teaching children at the Centre were given farewell after completion of their degrees at the institute. Children expressed their gratitude and gave their best wishes through cards and bouquets. The volunteers inspired children to passionately study and fulfill their dreams.



#### ***Children's Performance in Outreach hall on 3rd May***

In the cultural programme held on 3rd May under BALSHALI, children from the Centre gave two performances. These included a group stage performances by class 7th students on a recorded song on Pulwama attack. This program was greatly appreciated by the entire audience.

#### ***Muskmelon treat on 6th May***

During the scorching summer, treat with nutrient soaked fruits which is rich in water content was indeed called for. Volunteers from IIT arranged a muskmelon (Kharbuja) party with students at BEC and all of them cherished the sweet fruits and enjoyed the healthy treat.



#### ***Visit by Mr. Ranjan Upadhyay on 30th May***

During the visit, Mr. Ranjan Upadhyay spent 2 hours with children at BEC and inspired them to write their thoughts through poems. He introduced several new games and sang motivational songs along with children.



## Sopan Library

In the month of May, subscription to four magazines, including *Grahlakshmi*, *Saheli*, *Champak* and *Nanhe Samrat*, was taken for our members. One more member joined us this month. Along with learning to read, children are learning crafts work, created with waste material. For instance, lanterns and lamps from plastic bottles, ceiling lamp and table lamp from newspaper and waterfall using thermocol and hot glue were made by children.



## ***Mother's Day and International Day of Families Celebration***

Children celebrated the events through reciting poems and expressing their feelings about their mothers and families. Significance of the such days were discussed focusing on the importance of family as a source of empowerment in a child's life.

## DOSTI and Science Cell Initiatives

### ***Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan- A state-level Camp***

A one-day camp was organized at Sopan Ashram on 12th May for a total of 34 students from rural and urban areas of Kanpur, Auriya, Jhansi, Chitrakoot and Fatehpur district by Shiksha Sopan and Vibha, Kanpur. The camp was inaugurated at Jai Narayan Saraswati Vidya Mandir by DOSTI project Coordinator Mr. Amit Kumar Bajpai and Science Cell Coordinator Mr. Ranjeet Kumar. The participants were then brought to Ashram where activities for the day started. In the beginning, various Chemistry related experiments were demonstrated including making of gases like  $O_2$ ,  $H_2$  and  $CO_2$  which was followed by an interesting discussion with the participants. Thereafter, the group was segregated into two subgroups, one of which was taken for laboratory tour and activities were conducted with the other group. After the cessation of the activities for the day, participants were taken back to Jai Narayan Vidya Mandir where Dr. H.C. Verma gave his concluding remarks and thanked all the participants and invited them to share their experience of the day. Along with students, Mr. Kaustub Omar, Dr. Sunil Mishra and Principal of Jai Narayan School were also present during all the proceedings of the day.



## **Master Resource Persons Workshop of Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers**

A 10 day workshop was conducted with a total of 40 Physics Teachers who were selected from previous workshops conducted in different states of the country. All the participants were inspired by the way this workshop was planned and designed. Mr. Amit Bajpai shared Shiksha Sopan's projects and activities with the teachers. All the participants were then taken for a tour of Sopan Ashram. Impressed by our work, a sum of Rs. 16,200 was raised as donations from the participants. One of the participants from Kanpur proposed to sponsor a scholarship for a child under Dr. V.N. Kulkarni Scholarship programme and gave a cheque of Rs. 4,500. During the feedback session, all participants thanked Shiksha Sopan for the workshop and expressed their gratitude.



## **Other Informations**

**Web site** : For more details please visit [www.shiksha-sopan.org](http://www.shiksha-sopan.org)

**How to donate:** *Shiksha Sopan*

(a) You can pay through credit/debit card by going to [www.godparents.in](http://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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