



Shiksha Sopan

An organization of IIT Community for social upliftment

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News Letter January 2008

The year 2007 has passed off and we are all to welcome 2008 with new hopes and new aspirations. Shiksha Sopan wishes a very fruitful and happy 2008 to all its members, well wishers and friends. Apart from running a school at Barasirohi for the most underprivileged children and four Evening Learning Centers at different villages, Shiksha Sopan has undertaken several new initiatives in the year 2007 to reach out to the rural and economically weaker section of society. Here are some of the activities in the year 2007.

Evening Learning Centers

In the year 2007 we added one new Evening Learning Center in the interior region of Barasirohi. This was the result of a contact programme when some of our volunteers together with NSS students went door to door in the Central Barasirohi and found a strong desire of a large number of people living there to have a Shiksha Sopan Center in their locality for smaller children. The new Evening Learning Center is running very well and approximately 40-50 children come on all 6 working days. As usual at Shiksha Sopan Centers, the timetable includes physical and mental games, story telling, poem reciting etc. apart from teaching. Notebooks, stationary and books are made available to the children to facilitate learning.



The other centers, **SAC IITK** (three days a week), **Barasirohi-I** (six days a week) and **Ratanpur** (four days a week) were run as usual. We need student volunteers who may give about 2 hours of time, or its multiple, per week in the evenings to teach and interact with children.

Sopan Vidyalaya

In collaboration with YFE, Shiksha Sopan Vidyalaya at Barasirohi has done much progress despite lots of obstacles. We have children from various age groups starting from tiny tots up to class 7. With just three teachers it is difficult to manage this heterogeneous group but we are trying our best. However the progress is visible and the parents are very happy that their children are getting some education. School dress, stationeries, books etc are given on subsidy. For winters we gave wool to the parents and their family members got it knit as sweaters for their children.



We started a Library at the school with 1500 books in the year 2007. Most of the books are story books and children enjoy reading them.

Regular Functions

In the year 2007, we included one more National festival, that is, Gandhi-Shashtri Jayanti on 2nd October in the list of our regular functions. The others are Vivekanand Jayanti (12th January), Independence Day (15th August) and Children's day (14th November). All the four functions were celebrated with full enthusiasm.

Summer Programs

Every summer Shiksha Sopan conducts some special programmes for skill development to the children keeping future employment in mind. Two such programmes were conducted in 2007 Summer, namely the Beautician's Course and Computer Literacy Course. Besides these, there were short term programmes to give a wider perspective to the children.

Ms Shamseeda Begum who runs a beauty parlour in Shopping Center of IITK, very enthusiastically gave 6-week course to 15 girls of Barasirohi. Two of her associates also worked very hard, from 11 AM to 5 PM to train these girls. The course brought a significant change in the attitude and confidence of the girls. Hair styles, Facials, Threading, Mehandi, preparing brides etc were part of the course. Closing ceremony was held on 4th August.



Manmohan Aseri and Shashank, both IITK students, were the main architect of the Computer Literacy Course. Student instructors used to go with their laptops to teach the children in two groups and then the students were called in hostel rooms for practice sessions. About 30 students including a number of girls learned basic computer operations, WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, email and internet operations.

A 5-days Art of Living Programme in the name of Nav Chetana Shivir was conducted during 22-26 July 2007. Hundreds of people from Barasirohi, Nankari and IITK outhouses, mostly parents and family members of Shiksha Sopan children, attended the camp. Teachers from Kanpur city used to teach various aspects of life such as health awareness, water conservation, to help others and so on apart from Yoga, Bhajan and Dhyana.



Ms Vandana Singhal, a well known authority on Vedic Ganit from Pune gave a two-hour class to about 35 Shiksha Sopan Children on 25th July in SAC Yoga Room. Dr Sanddep Singhal and Ms Rita Singhal were the guests. Dr Sammer Khandekar welcomed the Guests and introduced Shiksha Sopan to them.

Vandanaji explained some easy methods to make long multiplication in very short time. Children were very receptive and learned these techniques quite fast. In a tutorial mode Vandanaji called several of them on board one by one and got them solve the problems right there.



All the guests and the resource persons were delighted to see that children going to so called low-profile schools and having so little educational environment at home could learn mathematics so fast.

Special Initiatives

Adopting children for education

In the year 2007, Shiksha Sopan selected 4 students of class 6, Naresh, Eshant, Manaviya and Poonam, and undertook entire responsibility of their education up to class 12. This includes financial as well as academic assistance at all levels. They have been admitted to the best reputed CBSE stream school in Kanpur (Hindi contact language, but English as instruction medium) and are doing extremely well in their class competing with other children from well-to-do families.



Pratibha Poshan Yojana

Shiksha Sopan selected 19 talented students in the villages at class 9 level who not only lack in financial capabilities but also in Information and Exposure. These are from the districts Kanpur, Kanpur Dehat, Unnao in UP and Buxar in Bihar. The selection was made by conducting an examination at 5 centers where more than 200 children appeared and evaluating the performance. Teaching materials and question banks specially designed mostly by our IITK students are being sent at regular intervals to these 19 students by post to nurture their talent. Shiksha Sopan is also helping them financially towards their textbooks and school fee. We also plan to have full time summer camps for extensive teaching and other skill development.



Children's Science Training Programme

To give the children a real essence of Science, Shiksha Sopan conducted an extended 6-week Science Training Programme where children were collected for 2 hours in the afternoons and exposed to Science experiments with their most familiar commodities. What we wanted was that they feel Science as enjoying, exciting and fun to learn and teach. Our slogan was "Pahle Dikhao Tab Sikhao".



The programme was planned essentially to be in three Phases. In Phase-1, the training was given in the form of observing the experiments and discussing in a group of say 100 children. In Phase-2, it was done in tutorial mode in groups of 16 where each child could be given individual attention. In the third phase children demonstrated these experiments before selected people from Science background and learned from interaction with them. Finally Children performed Bal Vigyan Mela on November 18 to demonstrate and explain the science to an estimated 6-7 thousands of visitors from all kinds of background.



Some Comments from Dignitaries

Wonderfully organized event and great for our nation. If somehow we can include the whole country in this event, that will be even greater.

-Mr Kamalesh Dwivedi, IITK Alumnus 1979 on Children's Science Training Programme

I can't express in words my delight over such a wonderful event. I am highly impressed to know of Bal Vigyan Mela and am quite satiated with the manner in which it was executed. I must say, we have come a long way in our execution of events. The scale is getting bigger and hence our responsibilities too.

-Mr Chandra Mohan Thakur, IITK Alumnus 2007, actively involved in Shiksha Sopan in its early days

It's really encouraging to see so many activities happening over there at my campus, i really regret not being a part of that. But even then i am always available for any kind of support. And again i would like to congratulate the whole shiksha sopan team for their efforts for making such a massive event come true.

-Mr Manmohan Aseri, IITK Alumnus 2007 and initiator of Computer Literacy Programme in Summer 2007

I can only say - hats off to you and your group/team ! Hearty congratulations.

-Prof Leelavati Krishnan, Professor in HSS Dept, IITK

It gives me immense pleasure to hear that Shiksha Sopan has reached to the stage where it is contributing to the society in a meaningful way. Kudos to the Shiksha Sopan team for such a great accomplishment.

-Mr Shambhoo Khandelwal, IITK Alumnus 2001 and one of the founder members of Shiksha Sopan

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. Please write to us for details if you wish to utilize this mode.

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