

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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Newsletter January 2012

The year 2011 has passed giving us many new programmes, achievements and challenges. We welcome 2012 with much more enthusiasm and determination to bring smiles on struggling masses of our society. Shiksha Sopan wishes very very Happy New Year to all its members and well wishers.

With this, Sopan Newsletter has completed 4 years. All 48 issues were brought out without any discontinuity and all are present at our website www.shiksha-sopan.org giving a history of this initiative. Thanks to our volunteer Zeba maintaining the site from Bangalore for this great assistance.

The last month of the year 2011 saw all Sopan centers doing special activities and exposure to dignitaries from India and abroad. The severe cold did not dampen the spirits, and children and volunteers continued good work. Science team participated in two major workshops, one in Kanpur and another at BITS Pilani. Sopan Vidyalaya conducted special classes on mathematics, art and craft, and participated in IIT sponsored programme called GURUKUL. Centers too had special programmes in this month.

Sopan Vidyalaya

Academics with all round development of skills is the guiding theme of Sopan Vidyalaya. It conducted half yearly exams in December to give children a push to revise things and write tests. Teachers interacted with children and parents and ensured that their learning of lessons go appropriately.

Ramanujan Jayantee celebrated

The mathematical genius from Tamilnadu, Srinivas Ramanujan is a great inspiration to all. 22nd December 2011 is the beginning of 125th year of his birth. This day was celebrated at Sopan Vidyalaya with great enthusiasm. Sh Ashish Bhateja Ji and Seema Verma Ji told the children about the work by Ramanujan and his life sketch.

A special class on Arithmetic was given by Ashish Ji to make fast and oral calculations using specific techniques. Sh Deepak Agnihotri gave an interactive lecture on the importance of Decimal system and also conducted a game on Mathematics. Sh Deepak Pal trained children on Sudoku.

Visit to FM Radio center

On 10th December, some of the children were taken to FM 90.4 Radio station in Media Lab, IITK. Dr Sameer Khandekar, coordinated the visit where the children were told how recording and transmission are made. Two of the students, Ayush and Anjali were interviewed and recording was done.



Craft classes

Children were given training on how to make a photoframe. They made wooden photoframe and very cleanly put portrait of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru in it. Girls of class 6-8 were given training on stitching and embroidery. They themselves stitched pillow covers and put attractive embroidery on these.

Gurukul team visit

The Design programme and HSS department at IITK has conducted, in collaboration with USID foundation India, a one week camp called "GURUKUL" in which 50 Design students from India, Sweden, Finland and China participated. Divided in eight teams under mentors, they had to study some social problems and design possible solutions. One of the teams under mentorship of Dr Khandekar visited Sopan Vidyalay on 7th December and interacted with children and teachers there. They were amazed to see that though children come from grossly underprivileged section residing a village, their knowledge base about technology and current events was very impressive. Seema Verma ji also took them to some of the families where they interacted with the parents of these children. They identified that lack of information about the opportunities and requirements of higher education is a potential problem for their future development. They designed a Game and named it "Padhaku" to meet the challenge. Seema ji with children of vidyalaya played the game through which they could get lots of useful information about future prospects of higher studies.



Visit of Dr Chary Rangarajulu

Professor Chary Rangarajulu is Head of the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics at University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He is an IITK Alumnus and came to IITK for two days. Dr H C Verma brought him to Sopan Vidyalaya on 20th December where he shared with children about his own childhood, where he too had much less opportunities and only due to determination and hard work, he attained the success. He also talked about the lifestyle and climate in Canada. Children were amused to know that the temperature in Canada falls to -35 deg C during winters. Dr Chary was presented a Pen stand made by the children themselves.



Distribution of Sweaters

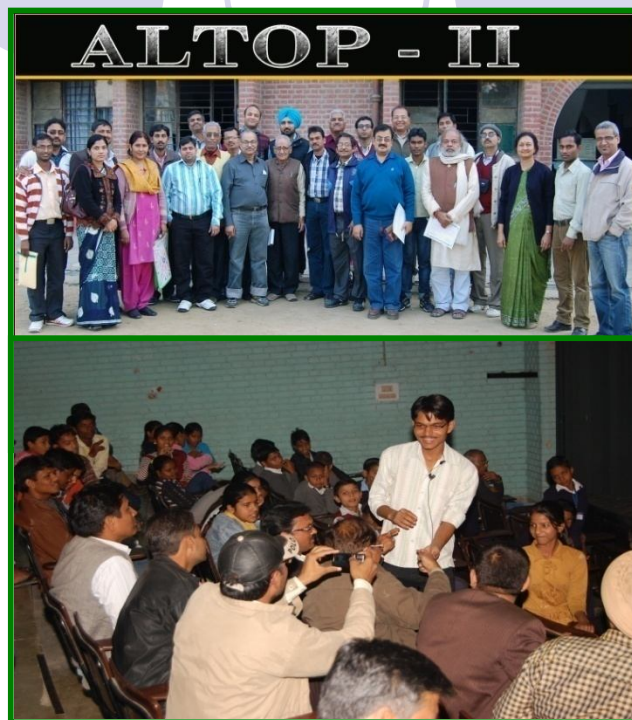
On 13th December children of Sopan Vidyalay were given sweaters to meet the severe cold. Sh Amit K Bajpai and Sh Deepak Agnihotri were present on the occasion. Children were very happy to get new sweaters. They were told that cooperation with all is the key to live good life.



Sopan Science Cell Activities

ALTOP-II

This workshop was conducted on 9th-11th December by Shiksha Sopan, Department of Physics and Anveshika to promote experiment-based Science learning in schools. A total of 19 dedicated teachers from 12 states participated in the workshop. Sopan Science team showed them live demos of such teaching methodologies by conducting several sessions on the experiments developed/assembled at Sopan Lab. On 9th Dec a Science show was conducted in L-7 where about 150 children of class 5-8 were the audience. Sh Amit K Bajpai, Sh Ranjit Kumar, Sh Deepak Agnihotri and Sh Deepak Mishra conducted the 2-hour show.



Deepak Agnihotri conducted a session on Binary numbers with class-8 students. After 15 minutes of introduction to the binary numbers, he took it in Quiz-game mode. The workshop participant teachers were greatly impressed to see how much the children learnt in just 45 minutes and that too with full entertainment.

Other sessions included making manual robots, structures using straws, spokes and magnets, etc.

Research Exposure Camp

The group Utsahi Teachers Physics is coordinated by Dr H C Verma, President, Shiksha Sopan. Very active 10 members of this group who are also deeply associated with Shiksha Sopan, were taken to BITS Pilani on 23rd-25th December for giving them a first hand experience of research laboratories and the experimental tools at research level. Shiksha Sopan organized this camp with the financial support coming from Bharati Bhawan P&D. Sh Amit K Bajpai and Dr H C Verma were present in the camp as main organizers. Dr Verma gave a presentation on working of Shiksha Sopan to the faculty and students of Physics Department of BITS Pilani.

Events

Remembrance of Sh Jayant Srivastav

Mrs Arati Srivastav of Noble Book Store, observed Nirvan day of her Late husband Jayant Srivastav at Gahan Adhyayan Kendra on his death Anniversary on 16th December. All children paid homage to Mr Srivastav. Sh Amit K Bajpai told the children about the social concerns Sh Jayant Srivastav had. Mrs Arati told the children that she is always ready to help Sopan Children. She made a donation of Rs 5,000 to Shiksha Sopan in the memory of Sh Srivastav.



Meeting wiith Sh Jayant Sahastrabuddhe

Mr Jayant Sahastrabuddhe, National Coordinator of Vigyan Bharati, had a meeting with Shiksha Sopsan volunteers on 11th December at SAC. He emphasized the need of development of science in Indian context. He advocated writing on scientific topics in vernacular languages so that science can reach to wider communities. Among others, senior Sopan volunteers Mrs Anjali Kulkarni, Dr Sameer Khandekar, Sh Nazir Hussain, Sh Jaiprakash Maurya were present.

Helping hand to Rupa Katyar

Rupa Katyar, daughter of a trash collector from Barasirohi, was re-admitted in G P N school on support from local Sopan volunteers (see January 2011 newsletter). The economic conditions continue to be harsh after the death of her mother. Sopan volunteers Ashu and Pardeep, both Chemistry PhD students, visited their house on 23rd December and arranged for two new blankets for the family who had hard time to face the severe cold.

Special academic programmes at Barasirohi Evening Center

Despite severe cold, Barasirohi Evening Center registered heavy attendance, average around 60, in the month of December. Following special academic programmes were conducted. (a) 10th December, GK Competition among children of class 5-8, (b) 19th December, Video presentation about Earth, (c) 30th December, Pictorial presentation about Solar system, Soil and pollution.

Old cloth sale

Old cloths were collected from faculty members of IITK and a sale was organized for the families of children of Sopan Vidyalay, Barasirohi Evening Center and Gahan Adhyayan Kendra. The cloths were put in two categories, smaller ones for Rs 10 and larger ones at Rs 20. People chose cloths of their requirement and happily took them.



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". People in US can use the link <http://indolink.com/iitk/> to donate through IIT Kanpur foundation using credit cards.

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