

*Shiksha*

*Sanskar*

*Swavalamban*

# *Shiksha Sopan*

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

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**Newsletter July 2018**



The main activity in the month of June was Dr V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship. We have expanded the scope of this scheme to make a better impact on the educational scenario. SASK was closed for summer vacation but some extra curricular activities went on. Gyan-Vigyan Kendra at Sopan Ashram is running well. Two interns are working at Sopan Ashram and are making a Science Gallery there.

## **Dr V N K Merit Scholarship**

The scholarship test was conducted at 4 centres on Sunday, 3rd June. These centers were Opportunity School, R G Girls Inter College, R PP Inter College, and Navsrijan Sarswati Vidya Niketan. Our volunteers under the leadership of Mr Amit K Bajpai, Himanshu Dwivedi, Vipin Sharma did a splendid job in contacting schools in about 4 km vicinity of IITK Campus and 800 students from 65 schools enrolled for the test. This is all time largest participation of schools and largest enrollment. The conditions were difficult, all the contacts were made in April-May which are the admission days, classes were not very regular and school administrations were busy in managing these new admissions. But our volunteers took it as a challenge and came out with flying success.



The examination was during the summer vacation and we had apprehension that children could drop out in large numbers. But finally 450 of them appeared in the test giving us great satisfaction.

The answer books were evaluated by our volunteers. Based on the performance, a total of 37 students were selected for the first round.

## ***Economic survey***

The actual selection for giving scholarship is based on the financial condition of the family. This was done by visiting the families of the 37 screened children by Sopan volunteers.

The students were divided in 9 groups depending on the locations of their families. We also formed 9 groups of our volunteers and each group was given the task of visiting children in one group and get a detailed account of the financial conditions. Each group has completed the task and submitted the report together with photographs of the house from various angles. The scholarship committee will meet in July to make the final results.



### ***Project VISTARA (Vision for Improving Science Teaching Atmosphere in Rural Areas)***

To expand the scope of Dr V N Kulkarni Scholarship, Shiksha Sopan decided several measures and came out with Project VISTARA. Top 10 % schools on the basis of enrollment in the Scholarship test are being offered Science Labs at class 6-8 level. Our volunteers will be monitoring the use of this lab by the school by periodically visiting the school and interacting with the science teachers.

Shiksha Sopan has also planned to give special Sunday classes to all the 37 students who qualified in the scholarship test.

The total expense on VISTARA for one year is estimated to be around 4 lacs and most of has been donated by our Sopan Alumnous Mr Umesh Prasad.

### **Farewell at SASK**

IITK students Sarvesh Kumar Singh, Raj Kumar Yadav and Zahid Ali who were closely associated with Shiksha Sopan Anaupcharik Kendra graduated from IIT and were to leave. SASK planned a farewell to them. Although SASK had announced summer vacation in the month of June, some students together with SASK teachers were coming to Kendra for making Bags & Pen stands for these IITK graduating students.



The farewell was arranged on 27<sup>th</sup> June, in which children of Kendra prepared a small program for Students like Group dance, Group song, and many other things. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Amit Kumar Bajpai ( Senior Volunteer), Mr. Atul Kumar (Secretary, Shiksha Sopan) & Some of IITK Students.

In between different items, Students of IITK shared their experiences with SASK children. At last Amit Ji distributed certificates to the IIT students and gave blessings. All the children and guests were given light refreshment after the event.

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

On an average, 50-60 children used to come in the evening at SAEC. Our volunteers formed groups and each group took the responsibility of one set of students. They coordinated it well so that students got continuity in the topics covered. Apart from regular teaching (mainly English, Maths and Science) they were given variety of exposures.

### ***Special Electronics classes***

Mr Ravi Teja from Rourkela spent two weeks at Sopan Ashram as an intern. In this period he gave workshops on electronics at Opportunity School and at Sopan Ashram. Another workshop based on the software SCRATCH was given at Saraswati Gyan Mandir. All these were for students of Std 6 and above.

In electronics workshop, he first introduced the use of breadboard and multimeter. Children enjoyed checking which holes are connected internally and which are not. This was for the first time for every student to handle these apparatus and connect wires on the breadboard.



He introduced elements like DC motor, Switch, Buzzer, Relays, REED switches etc. He went on to make children design various circuits like security alarm, LED combinations, etc. He trained all the children to do soldering on Vero board and make circuits.

It was very interesting to see how fast kids grasp new concepts and start using them. Mr Teja brought all the material needed for the workshop at a very nominal rate.



## **Yoga Day at SAEC**

To celebrate the spirit of Yoga Day , SAEC decided to perform community yoga at Sopan Ashram on 21<sup>st</sup> of June. The children coming to Sopan Ashram were given practice for ten days on various postures of yoga and pranayam.

All the children along with their family members were invited at Sopan Ashram at 6 am in the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> June. A total of 60 persons including students, their parents and Sopan volunteers were present in time and performed asans and pranayams in a very rythmic manner. The entire function was led by our senior volunteer Mr. Vimal Kumar & Mr. Ashwani. The management was done by Mr. Ram Prasad Bajpai.



## **New Intern**

Mr. Anadi Agnihotri who completed B.Tech in 2018 has joined Shiksha Sopan as an Intern. Apart from the core subjects, his expertise in making cartoon like presentation of science principles Shiksha Sopan is planning to make a science gallery where people can visit and enjoy the wonders of science. Anadi has been given a task to decorate the walls of gallery with his comical posters.

## **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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