



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

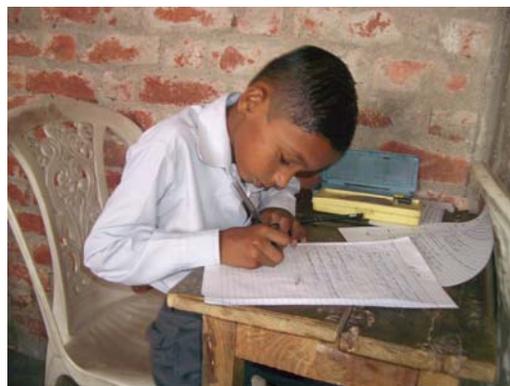
Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Newsletter May 2010

The main activities of the last month were Sopan Scholarship Test, Jal Sanrakhsan (Water conservation) Rally, inauguration of new library in Nankari village and Science Workshop in Anveshika. Apart from these activities, evening centers and other units of Shiksha Sopan ran very well.

Sopan Scholarship Test

Sopan Scholarship Test is a new addition to Shiksha Sopan activities to identify the talent in villages early and support them so that they can use their potentials well. It was conducted on 4th April for class 5th students. Students from sixteen schools appeared for the examination. The test was conducted at two centers, one in Barasirohi village and other in Ratanpur. G.P.N. Vidyalaya of Barasirohi and Navsrijan Saraswati Vidya Niketan of Ratanpur



provided their premises for the test. A total of 160 students appeared for the test. The test questions were designed to look for mathematical skills and creative capabilities of students. For example, to ignite their imagination, they were asked to create stories themselves by giving a lead situation on birds talking to each other. The answer books clearly show that children enjoyed such questions very much and came out with very interesting thoughts. Even in Mathematics and science this basic theme was followed.

The three toppers were selected to receive Sopan Scholarship which is an assistance up to Rs 1000 for one academic year towards School fee, books and stationary, school dress and other items related to their education.

The top three students and toppers from the respective schools were felicitated in a function organized on 11th April 2010. The prize included a school bag. Dr. Sovan Das, Asst Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering IIT Kanpur, was the chief guest. Shiksha Sopan alumni Dr. Brajesh Pandey, Prof. H.C. Verma, Shri Ranjan Upadhyay and Shiksha Sopan volunteers were also present on that occasion.



Jal Sanrakshan (Water Conservation) Rally

Water conservation is the need of today's world. We waste lot of water everyday. Water level has gone down very significantly in the recent years. Shiksha Sopan strongly feels that apart from school education, awareness about these issues are also necessary for living a responsible and purposeful life. On the lines of this thought, we planned to bring out a rally to educate our children as well as the citizens about efficient ways to use water for our daily life. The Rally was organized on 14th April 2010 in the Nankari village. A total of about 150 children from all the centers of Shiksha Sopan assembled at Type-1 temple and made formations with placards in hands carrying appropriate slogans. These placards and also paper caps with colourful writings were made by the Shiksha Sopan volunteers themselves. The Rally covered major parts of Nankari and hundreds of residents witnessed children shouting Slogans like **"Jal hai to kal Hai, Jal hi jeevan Hai"**, **"Paani Vyarth Bahaoge, To Jeete Ji Mar Jaoge"** etc. The message was very well delivered to the people that unthoughtful wastage of water will invite severe difficulties in the time to come. The Rally was culminated at the ground behind Gyan Manjoosha School where Shiksha Sopan executive members addressed them telling about water cycles, the danger of water level going down and possible ways to avoid these problems.

Shiksha Sopan volunteers put up a short skit on water misuse. Deepu was the anchor and was narrating between the scenes. Ranjit, Promod, Deepak Pal and Dhyanchand mimicked situation where a young boy wastes hand pump water on the pretext that some water must flow before collection to get cold water and no amount of advise from elders goes well with him. Later scenes depicted the situation after few decades when these same people start fighting for even a glass of water.



New Library inaugurated

In order to get connected to the weaker section of the village Nankari, Shiksha Sopan started a Library on the Birthday of Dr. B R. Ambedkar. A house is hired on rent and newspapers, employment news, weekly and monthly magazines and books related to school/college syllabus, different examinations, literature etc are kept. In a new approach, registration is done for the entire family and all members of the family are eligible to come and read material of their choice. Books are also issued for a definite period. Currently Jaiprakash Ji is coordinating activities of the library.

Science Cell Activities

Science Cell of Shiksha Sopan is developing a new module for students in which they are made to work with hands to construct/fabricate/assemble some scientific object with which science principles can be seen in action. It has already come out with about 2-hours activity for children of class 9-10.

We gave two programmes at Anveshika, Indira nagar, Kanpur based on this Activity Module. Anveshika is a unit of Indian Association of Physics Teachers which promotes experiment based Physics Teaching. The first programme was on 10th April for 24 students of Jugal Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir while the second one was on 11th April for students of Jagran Institute, Lucknow. The activities included making paper helicopter, blower from thermocol glass, siren whistle from a straw, paper caps etc.

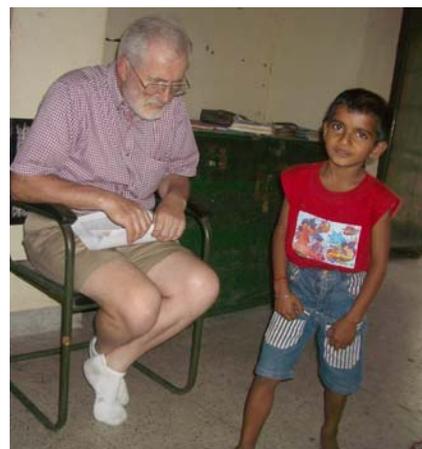
All students enjoyed making instruments with their own hands and then putting them in action.



From the Evening centers

April is the period of school examinations and evening center activities were focused more on games and other activities. Prof Robert Peterson, a visiting Professor at MME, IITK, visited SAC center. Manoj Moharana Ji accompanied him to the center and introduced him to the children and vice versa. Soon he got mingled up with the children and breaking the language barrier both sides communicated well with each other using the body language. Children recited poems for him and Manoj Ji kept telling the meaning in English. His feelings are described in his own words and writing.

Dr. David Robertson visited on April 5, 2010 and was very impressed by the work you are doing to keep educate underprivileged children. Keep up the good work.



Kirti Sahu of class 8 and a regular student of SAC Evening Center has interest in writing poems and that too on socially relevant topics. Her latest creation is given at the right in her own writing.

Sponsors Needed

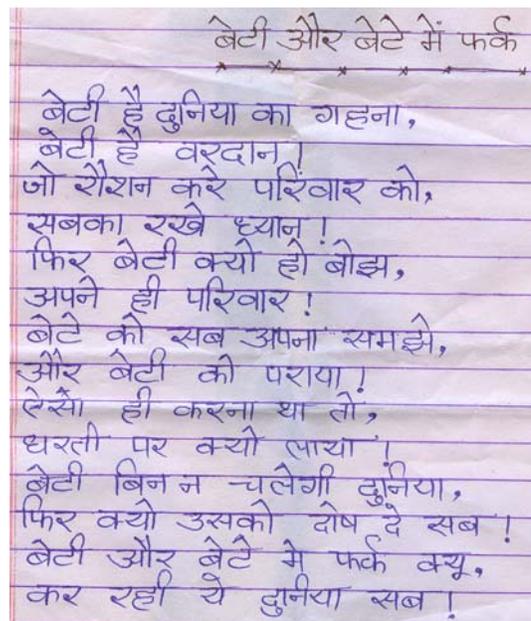
Two of Shiksha Sopan active workers Ranjeet Kumar and Deepak Mishra need sponsors to continue their studies. Ranjeet is in his first year of BCA at Kanpur University and Deepak is in B Sc 1st year. The amount needed for the next one year will be to tune of Rs 15,000.

News

The annual expenditure of Shiksha Sopan in the year 2009-10 is approximately 9.5 lacs according to the preliminary calculations. More details will be available after the audit. This is about double what we spent in the previous financial year showing the rapid growth of Sopan activities.

35-day Summer Camp for PPY children will start on 22nd May. A total of 10 students will join this camp.

New batch of Gahan Adhyayan Kendra will start on 16th May. We will be doing basic maths and English as common courses for all students for about two months and after that their class wise studies will start.



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".

Email Contacts : hcverma@iitk.ac.in , samkhan@iitk.ac.in , kunal@iitk.ac.in

Postal Contact : Dr Sameer Khandekar, Dept of Mech. Engg., IIT Kanpur 208016
Dr H C Verma, Dept of Physics, IIT Kanpur, Kanpur 208016

Phone contacts : Mr Amit **9506611484**, Mr Ranjan Upadhyay **9236086966**