

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban

Shiksha Sopan

An organization of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Pratibha Poshan Yojna

(Talent Nurture Scheme)

A project by Shiksha Sopan to identify and nurture talents in the students from Rural areas and with highly insufficient facilities

Work Areas : Villages in Kanpur Dehat, Unnao and possibly Kannauj

To start with students going to class IX

About Shiksha Sopan

In this era of Globalization and Liberalization, every one is talking about booming Economy and shining India. But, when one tries to look at the roots, they are not as strong as they seem to be. Roots of our nation lie in the general masses living in rural areas which form the so called weaker sections of the society, people who still don't have access to daily commodities, people whose kids are deprived of the fundamental right of the primary education, and the people who constitute the majority of active voters. They struggle for every bread. They live in so much scarcity that it is not possible to give basic education to their kids and eventually those small kids also lend up as child laborers.

Here comes the role of Shiksha Sopan, an NGO started by IITK community in the year 2001, to sow the seeds of good education, moral values and self dependence amongst the weaker sections of the society. The main objectives of Shiksha Sopan are:

- Develop learning centers for the underprivileged section of the society.
- To impart education that will build knowledgeable, self-dependent, confident, socially conscious beings.
- To develop respect for moral values, and strong sense of belonging with India.

With this vision, Shiksha Sopan basically aim at imparting Shiksha, Swavlamban and Sanskar. Currently Shiksha Sopan runs a Sopan Vidyalaya in the village Barasirohi upto class 6. Mostly the parents are illiterate and earn their livelihood by labor intensive work, and can't send their children to other schools because of expenses. Sopan Vidyalaya is the only place where they hope to find place for their children. There are four Evening Learning Centers in different villages where children from that village collect for two hours. These centers are being run by Shiksha Sopan volunteers, mostly IITK students. On the average 30-50 children benefit at each center. Science, both as a subject and as a way of life, is given special attention in Shiksha Sopan. In a separate Science lab, children are encouraged to understand the phenomena in nature by doing experiments themselves. To show the village children the external world, they are taken out on excursion tours at regular intervals. The regular functions being organized by Shiksha Sopan are Vivekanand Jayanti (12th January), Independence Day (15th August) and Children's Day (14th November). In these functions various competitions are also organized to ensure that the children get proper environment for all round development. Apart from this, special summer programmes are organized. The Summer Programs so far conducted include Spoken English, Spoken Sanskrit, Tailoring and Computer literacy course. Shiksha Sopan aims at achieving all round development of a child.

Shiksha Sopan is constantly growing and undertaking new programmes to benefit the society. Pratibha Poshan Yojna is the latest scheme we are working on.

About Pratibha Poshan Yojna:

Talent is not a monopoly of elite section of the society. God has given talent irrespective of cast and creed, religion and geography. These boundaries are all artificial and human made which often prohibit the talent from coming to front. The responsibility of removing these virtual boundaries also lies with us. The objective of Pratibha Poshan Yojna is to bring ahead talent of the students of rural areas who cannot utilize the gift by the almighty because of the scarcity of resources, proper guidance and exposure. This Yojna would provide recognition to some such students and will help them in understanding themselves in a much better way. This scheme will concentrate on the following points this year:

1. To identify about 300 schools in rural areas adjoining Kanpur, having monthly fee below Rs100. This is to ensure that we target on the rural students with poor economic background. Applications will be invited from students of these schools going to class IX in March-April 2007.
2. To conduct tests on these students through which 40 students will be filtered.
3. A second level test will be used to select 10 best promising students from these 40.
4. All the 40 selected students will be given a set of textbooks.
5. Through postal contact, their study progress will be monitored. A team of Shiksha Sopan workers will prepare question banks which will be posted to the students time to time and the responses will be checked.
6. For the 10 selected students Shiksha Sopan will organize Summer camp where they will be given intensive training in Studies. Apart from their educational curriculum they will be given adequate activities in (a) Sports (b) Health awareness (c) Exposure to world events including scientific and technological advancements etc. This is to ensure their all-round development.
7. These 10 students will be given School fee for class 10-12. Subject to certain criteria we may support school fee up to a maximum of Rs 300 in class 10-12 if they change school and go to somewhat better school.
8. The above items 4-7 will be continued for four years, that is class 9, 10, 11 and 12, subject to certain requirements on performance. Further guidance can be made available as per situation.

This scheme aims at utilizing the huge human resource available in rural areas that goes waste due to non availability of information, resources and facilities. This would provide the students of rural area a chance to know more about the world and to expand their knowledge horizon. It will make them familiar to the modern technologies and would provide them with a very good exposure. In this way, these students will get motivation and direction in their life. This would in long term help them in becoming a good human being and a good citizen of India. Who knows if in future these kids catalyze the quality education chain reaction in India?

Sponsor a Child selected for Pratibha Poshan Yojana :

(a) Rs 12000 per year for four years for one of the top 10 students (b) Rs 6000 per year for four years for one of the 30 students.