

Date: 26, January 2007

Dear Friends,

Here are updates on recent activities by the Shiksha Sopan family.

- Bal Divas 2006

Shiksha Sopan celebrated the Children's day on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006 in L-7. Before this, Drawing competition, quiz competition, prelim round of debate competition, and prelim round of fancy dress competition were held in the week preceding 14<sup>th</sup> November. Here are some highlights.

- (a) More than 125 students from class 1-12 from various schools and organizations in the vicinity of our campus participated in the drawing competition. Separate judgements were made for the group class 1-5 and others. The event took place at SAC in different rooms.
- (b) A quiz competition was organized for class 6-12 students. The whole quiz was conducted by one of our M Tech students, Nutan, in a very effective and interesting manner. All the questions were displayed on Power point with the help of an LCD projector. The highlights of this quiz were the questions based on partial exposure of certain photographs and students were judged on the extent of photograph they needed to identify it.
- (c) Three visitors, students of Pantnagar University had specifically come to watch the Shiksha Sopan Children's day function in order to do similar activities at their place under the banner of Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal.

The final programme was held on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov in L-7.

- (a) There was a good participation from IITK faculty, students and the villagers. All the seats of L-7 were occupied.
- (b) The whole programme was anchored by Shiksha Sopan volunteers Hanuman and Ritu. The two together conducted the programme in a very orderly and interesting manner.



- (c) The program included Debate, Fancy dress competition, songs and dances. All Guests were very appreciative of the talents shown by the village children.
- (d) In fancy dress, children presented themselves in various roles, teacher, political leader, domestic assistant, vegetable vender, religious devotees, mythological characters and so on. Not only they were dressed meticulously appropriate for the character, they acted and delivered dialogues in very confident manner.



- (e) Shubhra Jyotsa, a campus resident and student of class 11 at Delhi Public School presented a wonderful classical dance in which she acted for both Krishna and Radha. All other dances by Shiksha Sopan children were also very good.



- (f) A light drama "Chipke Raho" was staged by the Shiksha Sopan Children. It was very entertaining and the whole audience enjoyed it thoroughly.

- (g) Certificates and Gifts were given to all participants by Prof A K Sharma, Prof Neelkanthan, Prof V D Vankar, Dr Shikha Dixit, Mrs Malini Sinha.



- Sixth Annual Function 2007

The Annual function (sixth) was held in three stages. In the first stage, there were competitions on drawing, model making, quiz and singing nationalistic songs. These were held on 7<sup>th</sup> January at Sopan Vidyalaya, Barasirohi. About 110 students participated in drawing, 20 in Songs and 10 in Model making. Dr Zakir Hoosain, Assistant Professor, Physics Dept, IITK inaugurated the show. Addressing students he recalled how he had struggled during early days as in his village there was no electricity, no good institutions and there was no Shiksha Sopan. But only due to hard work and determination he could overcome all the difficulties. He advised all the children to dream high and work hard.

Dr D P Mishra of Aerospace Engg was present during the Model making where six groups of students prepared working models showing various physical phenomena. These models were made from the scratch and no readymade circuits and gadgets were used. Even the children cut the wooden plates using a saw to make components. Dr Mishra appreciated the talent of these village children and stressed on the need of further nurturing them.



The quiz was conducted by our M Tech student Nutan and the song competition was evaluated By Mr Madan Baijapurkar of Indiranagar who himself is a good singer.

The second phase was on 12<sup>th</sup> January when about 350 children from all centers marched through the roads and lanes of Barasirohi village. They were carrying placards having slogans against Liquor, Gutka, Dowry, etc. They were also shouting these slogans and Nationalistic songs. The procession marched for more than two hours and culminated at Sopan Vidyalaya where Prof Kunal Ghosh of Aerospace Engg, and Mrs Pragya Khandekar, a very good classical singer and social worker addressed them. They were further advised to follow the slogans that they chanted, in real life and advice elders to remain away from the evils. Dr Ghosh told them stories about Swami Vivekanand.



The final show of the Annual function was held on 14<sup>th</sup> November in Barasirohi, near G P N School. The show started with garlanding Swami Vivekanand's portrait and Bharat Mata. Dr. Zakir Hoosain of Physics Department was the chief guest. He told a Hadees that when you start out for education, the PUNYA starts accumulating and continues as long as you are on the path of education.



Others who addressed the gathering were Dr D P Mishra, Dr Kunal Ghosh and Dr Kamlesh Dwivedi a noted Poet of Kanpur.

Ms Era Jain, a PhD student from Bio-Sciences and Bio-Engg introduced the working of Shiksha Sopan.



The stage show lasted about three hours and more than 800 people from Barasirohi witnessed the whole show. Dramas, Dances and songs were the main attraction. Shiksha Sopan volunteer Nazir and Manish anchored the show.

- New year celebration at Type-1

On 1<sup>st</sup> January, children from SAC and Type-1 center celebrated new year program. Mr Deepu showed a one-hour Magic show to the 50-odd children and local residents. Deepu has learnt these magic tricks very recently and he executed them very well. Other items included jokes, stories and dancing. The whole show was managed by Sopan children.

- Spreading contacts

This period saw a significant increase in the contacts of Shiksha Sopan among the IIT Community. A number of UG and PG students have volunteered to give time for Sopan work. The web site [www.geocities.com/shiksha\\_sopan/](http://www.geocities.com/shiksha_sopan/) has been given a new look by our students.

- Economic activities

Some of our Student volunteers tried to explore marketing of possible products which can be prepared by Shiksha Sopan children. Decorated Diya was one such possibility and some effort was made. But mainly because of lack of business experience it finally could not take off. We need proper guidance and expertise in this field.

- Sopan Vidyalay and Evening centers

Sri Jaiprakash Ji and Ms Ritu are running the school quite well. Ritu is also very good at singing and dancing and trains students in these arts.



A meeting was held with the parents of the children studying in Sopan Vidyalay. All of them were very appreciative of the school performance. It was decided to have dress code for school and the parents were requested to pay partial charges (about one third of the cost) in whatever installments they can. They have agreed to do so.

Evening centers at SAC, Type-1, Barasirohi and Ratanpur are running as usual.

- Financial activities

We are running at a very low expenditure for the kind of expansion we have taken. Even then the donations that we receive are not able to match the expenses. We did some efforts towards fund collections in this period. Several faculty members and IITK Alumni were approached and Shiksha Sopan activities were shown/explained to them. Mr Rakesh Sharma at New York, an IITK alumnus has taken up the issue and is heading fund collection for Shiksha Sopan through IITK foundation. An E-ticket for donation was created at <http://tickets.indolink.com/php/buyTickets.php?event=2084> for collection of donations. DRPG, IIT Kanpur has given full cooperation in this drive.

Our regular expenses at present are on rent of the Barasirohi building (Rs 2300 per month), providing some breakfast to the Sopan Vidyalay children (about 50 of them, comes out Rs 1 a day), honorarium to 5 persons who help running Sopan Vidyalay and the centers (some of them

work full time, comes out Rs 1000/- per person per month on the average), and on several personality and skill development programmes including competitions and functions (gifts, refreshment, sound system etc.), besides miscellaneous expenses. Assuming about 200 children getting benefited at the school and four evening centers, it turns out Rs 60 per child per month. It should at least be doubled at the earliest.

Though we have succeeded in increasing the fund collection substantially this year, but still it is short of the expense that we are making. More efforts are needed in this direction.

Best regards,

H C Verma