

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban

# Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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Newsletter April 2019



The month of March was an exciting month involving preparations for annual exams of children along with celebration of events of national significance like International Women's Day, World Water Day and World Wildlife Day. Along with this, the festival of colors, love and spring- Holi was celebrated on 21st March throughout the Nation. At our centers, children and volunteers from IIT and people involved with our initiative celebrated the festivals in their own distinct ways as specifically mentioned in the following sections. Additionally, many other academically rigorous events were organized.

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

Since March is the month of formal **examinations** in schools, most children were enthusiastically involved in its preparation. Most children prefer self-study during examinations therefore the number of children was comparatively less who attended regular activities at the centre. However, the volunteers were approached to clear any possible doubts related to academics.

Ms. Julie, a volunteer who joined us for around 6 months bid farewell this month. She gave English speaking classes and introduced children to music through introductory classes and interested children learnt basics of harmonium. Now the children who learnt are passing on their learning to other interested children. A movie screening was also held on 3rd March at the Centre.

## **Activity classes**

started from 10th March. Mr. Aman taught children painting directly with colors and brush. Innocent ideas and creativity was thoroughly visible in the beautiful paintings prepared by children.



## **Sessions on Mental Health and Gender Roles**

Ms. Meenakshi, PhD student (Sociology) from IIT Kanpur, joined us this month. She took sessions with children on mental health and gender on 13th March and 27th March respectively. In the session on **introduction to mental health**, a total of 11 children from 4th and 5th standard participated. Children shared their insights and a new pathway to conversation related to mental health issues was opened up.



In the **session on Gender**, 23 children from 4th to 7th standard participated. Discussions on gender identity, gender roles and gender stereotypes were held through participatory exercises and discussions. Children were guided to reflect on their own lives and the community around them to find traces about the gender hierarchies. For instance, while writing about the work that males and females perform in their household, all children related it to the works that brought money in the household. After receiving inputs from children, through a video on similar theme, it was shown how not all works bring money but they involve labour and hard work, like housework and therefore should be recognized and appreciated.

### **Holi Celebration**

On 19th March, Holi was celebrated at the centre. Ms. Reena, our ex-volunteer who bid farewell last month, joined us for the celebrations. Dr. Verma was also part of the festivities held on the day. Everyone celebrated the event with colors and season's sweets with joy.



### **Other Program at SAEC**

On the occasion of **World Water Day** on 22nd March 2019, a documentary on water conservation was shown to all children.

### **Sopan Anupcharik Shikshan Kendra (SASK)**

On 4th March, **World Wildlife Day** was celebrated at the Centre. Ms. Seema introduced children to the significance of the day for spreading awareness regarding endangered species of plants and animals. Children expressed their contribution through drawings and painting of endangered species of wild animals that needs to be preserved.



### **International Women's Day Celebration**

On 8th March, **International women's day** was celebrated with mothers of the children enrolled with our centre in which around **20 mothers** participated. Mothers were rewarded for the extra efforts they put for nurturance of their children. They shared how despite having husbands to share the responsibilities of the household, they mostly have to fulfill both parental roles of caregivers and earners for their children. Most of them either work as house helps or as laborers in factories to fulfill the financial needs of their families.

Only father's income is insufficient for most of the families, some of them are not even working and are involved in alcoholism. The discussion was a good way of venting out their feelings and sharing their struggles with us and with other women experiencing the same.

### **Farewell, good luck programme and Holi Celebrations**

On 19th March, all juniors bid farewell to their seniors passing out this year feasting them with self-prepared traditional delicacies like *Gujiya*, *chole-bhature*, etc. The chief guest, Dr. Verma, gave his blessings and shared his valuable greetings with the children. Class 8th students passing out this year shared their memories and experiences at the Centre and expressed their willingness to continue their learning's through the Centre in future. For Holi, children were dressed up as *Radha* and *Krishna* (Hindu Deities) and the occasion was celebrated with flowers and colors in which all children and all Sopan representatives present participated with great delight.



### **Result Distribution SASK**

On 30<sup>th</sup> March, annual exams result was announced which was shared through a programme where parents, children and Sopan volunteers joined together to celebrate the achievements of children who performed well and to motivate the ones who have potential to achieve more excellence. The programme was attended by executive committee members who signified the role of parents in the lives of children. They were also introduced to the new session started from April 2019.



### **Science Day Program**

On 28th February, National Science Day was celebrated at the Centre which is celebrated every year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist and Noble laureate Sir C.V. Raman on 28th February 1928. A science competition was organized where experiments by the young scientists from class 6th to 8th were displayed. This included self-made experiments and models including electrical table fan, pinhole camera, balloon boat, charged scale and straw, etc. The best three experiments were selected by Mr. Manoj and children were rewarded. Another quiz competition was organized for these children and winners were given prizes. To conclude the event, Ms. Seema explained the significance of the day for the Nation and inspired children with Sir Raman's example.

### **Other Program at SASK**

From 9th to 26th March, **examinations** of children enrolled with us were held.

On 15th March, children also participated in the recently renovated **L-7 inauguration programme** in IIT Campus. On the occasion of diamond jubilee celebrations, women's association and faculty club of IIT Kanpur organized a play called "EkaurDronacharya" which children attended and found exhilarating.

### **Barasirohi Evening Center (BEC)**

**Examinations** of children enrolled at our centre were held from 5th March, preparations of which were done with the help of our staff members and volunteers.

### **International Women's day**

On 8th March, **International Women's day** was celebrated along with IIT student Mr. Rohit Gupta, who inspired children to excel in all aspects of life by sharing life stories of greatest women in Indian history including Lt. Indira Gandhi, Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil and Ms. Saina Nehwal. On 12th March, IIT students and children at the Centre joined together to hold **Bhel-puri party** which they jointly prepared and celebrated the day.



### **Holi Celebration**

On 19th March, **Holi Celebration** was held along with 56 children and volunteers and staff members. Since, secularism is significant part of **Sanskrit** that is one of our core values, children from all religious identities together and celebrated in their own way performing qawallis, poems, dances and jokes. The meaning of the festival of Holi was explained to the children giving reference to its epic tale. Mr. Abhishek explained the different ways in which the festival is celebrated in other cultures and the significance of playing safe Holi.



### **Visit by Alumni**

On 25th March, our **old associates** Mr. Ankit Sharma and Mr. Pawan Mishra visited the Centre. They shared about the course of their studies they are currently pursuing to inspire children to achieve further in their studies. Mr. Ankit Sharma is currently working as a junior engineer in Kota, Rajasthan for which he pursued polytechnic diploma in chemical engineering. They explained the process of producing urea compost in industrial setups and the theoretical knowledge about the same for the children from 7th to 11th standard who were keen to understand it.



## Sopan Library

Two members joined us this month- Ms. Sandhya and Krishna Pandey increasing our membership to 23 members in March 2019. Ms. Sandhya is from the security services in IIT Kanpur and has completed her Masters in Science. Both her parents are teachers and she has a deep interest in Hindi literature. She took immediate membership of our library after acknowledging our collection of books in the library. Krishna is a child currently studying 6th standard. From the children enrolled with us, three have applied for polytechnic entrance examination and one child applied in Uttar Pradesh Technical University this year. Along with reading, children organize and conduct other engaging exercises including art and craft, poetry writing, etc. This month also children created exciting craft works including a waterfall using newspaper and glue.



## DOSTI

**School Visit:** Shiksha Sopan has established a Science Gallery at Sopan Ashram under the project Development Of Science Tourism Initiative (DOSTI). The gallery is open to any group of students or other section of the society. The gallery is divided in four parts, Instrumentation, measurements, light, and outdoors. This month two exposure visits were organized by **Sopan science team** and **DOSTI (Development of Science Tourism Initiative) project** for children from Dibiyapur and Fatehpur.

The first event was organized on 17th March 2019 whereby a science walk was organized. It involved participation of a total of 54 students and 6 teachers who came from Dibiyapur Government Schools and nearby community. Mr. Manish, Coordinator of District Science Club was facilitating the group. The programme for the day was inaugurated by Dr. Verma and then initiated by introduction to Shiksha Sopan. Mr. Manish introduced children to the District Science Club and explained the importance of having scientific consciousness to question the existing and perceived realities around us. As part of activities, an interactive quiz competition and a science walk to our laboratory was organized. At the end, children were gifted with books authored by Dr. Verma as a token of appreciation. Overall, the event was informative for children and provided a platform for interaction between all the participants.



At the request of District science Club, Fatehpur and Mr. Uday Prabhat, Principal at GIC, another science walk was organized on 28th March 2019. Around 100 students and 8 teachers joined us for this event. After introduction and welcoming all the participants, children were divided into two groups and different activities were simultaneously held by the team. Children were taken to visit science rooms including the laboratory to introduce handmade science models and experiments at the Centre explaining the utility/purpose of each. At the end, a feedback session was held with the children who shared their delightful experience of the exposure to science and felt inspired.

अंधकार को क्यों धिक्कारे, अच्छा है एक दीप जलायें

## **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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