

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban

# Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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Newsletter January 2020



The last month of 2019 was very eventful. In the midst of extreme cold Sopan activists continued their programs with great vigor. Notable events were Visit by IITK Alumnus and our old time associate Sri Kamalesh Dwivedi, Visit by 3 IIT Roorkee students to look at Sopan activities, Special Chemistry Demo Session and a Cricket match between students and volunteers at Sopam Ashram Evening Center, Zoo visit by SASK children, Celebration of IITK passing out students with BEC children and many more.

## VISIT of Sri Kamalesh Dwivedi

Sri Kamalesh Dwivedi originally hails from a small village near Buxar in Bihar. His father was a Purohit of the village and Kamlesh ji inherited great Indian cultural values from him. He did his B Tech from IIT Kanpur in early 80s and finally settled in USA, being consultants of top companies. He has established two Professor Chairs at IIT Kanpur by donating Crores of rupees to IITK to promote quality research.

His association with Shiksha Sopan is also quite old. He had visited Shiksha Sopan centers way back in 2010 and was very impressed by our work and given inspiration to the children to work sincerely to have a bright career even if they lack facilities. He had donated handsomely for our projects in past. Currently, he is mentoring a number of start up companies in India to grow and make meaningful contributions.

Sri Kamalesh Dwivedi came to IIT Kanpur for four days to address various groups and earmarked one forenoon for Shisksha Sopan on 13<sup>th</sup> December at Sopan Ashram. He was taken around the Ashram Labs where walls are painted with some scientific themes. We had students/volunteers from all centers and the one involved in the painting explained the theme and the lessons that can be learnt from these painting.



He was also taken to Sopan Studio where online courses of Dr H C Verma are recorded. He saw many experiments in Sopan Science gallery and was very happy to see the infrastructure.

SASK children of grade 5-8 were especially called to interact with Kamalesh ji. They sang a welcome song in honor of Mr Dwivedi. He told many inspiring success stories of his life in a very interesting way. Children asked many questions and he replied them at the same time encouraging them. He gave "Communication Skills" as the most important Mantra of success and told this in context with a story of Banbhatt.



Dr H C Verma gave a presentation of all the projects of Shiksha Sopan together with the funds required for each project. As Shiksha Sopan depends only on individual donations, there is always scarcity and uncertainty of funds and it becomes difficult to run the projects. Kamalesh Ji analyzed the situation with his expertise and suggested ways to generate funds to give stability. He himself promised to help in this fund raising.

A closing session was arranged to thank Kamalesh Ji where he was given gifts by different centers. A photo session with him marked the completion of the visit.



### **VISIT of IIT Roorkee Students**

A group of students from IIT Roorkee have started an initiative to interact with children of villages in the vicinity of IITR campus. Dr Anil Gorrishetty of Physics Dept is mentoring this group. As Dr Anil is aware of Shiksha Sopan, he has named the group as Sopan and sent three student volunteers Mr. Nitesh Patel and Mr. Ajit pursuing B.Tech from Civil Engineering, and Mr. Virendra pursuing Ph.D. in Physics, to Sopan Ashram to look at our activities closely for getting more ideas to implement at IITR Sopan.

The students stayed at Sopan Ashram from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December and enjoyed the natural environment including cows, plants and trees, fresh air, and on top of everything hospitality and care by Sopan volunteers. They were taken to SASK and BEC on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December respectively to interact with the children and volunteers. A lunch was arranged at the residence of Ms Pushpa Tripathi, the coordinator of Sopan Library and there she explained in detail the activities at Library and how it has become a focal point for many household ladies who are contributing towards social transformation. Students were deeply impressed by the affection and commitment of Pushpa Ji.



The three students of IITR were taken to an IITK hostel where a meeting was arranged with IITK student volunteers of Shiksha Sopan. They exchanged their experiences and had a fruitful discussion. The meeting was followed by collective dinner at the hostel.



The students visited Shiksha Sopan Science gallery, the wall paintings as Learning Resource, BSc Experimental Exposure Lab and Video recording Studio, all at Sopan Ashram. During discussion, they also learnt about our programs like Dr V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship, Higher Education Cell, Workshops of Science Teachers etc.

They got great insight of the formative stages of Shiksha Sopan during dinner at Ranjan Ji's house and the curvy roots through which Shiksha Sopan has come to the present state. They expressed great sense of gratitude and satisfaction and expressed their feelings in a letter to Sopan. Here are some parts of their letter.

...Experience of Evening Centre and Sunday classes was amazing. Students are so diversely talented like poem writing, singing, painting, sketching, dancing, knowledge of musical instruments, French language and in many stage performances along with their academic studies. Shiksha Sopan is also giving stage to show their talent every day in assembly and in Abhivyakti, in each month. ...

...We also have visited the homes of few students and it amazes us to know that Shiksha Sopan is continuously in touch with their families and aware of what they are doing at home. ....

...Small but very insightful meeting with Verma Sir was the best part of our visit. One of his statement that “We should be focused on developing and nurturing such SANSKARs in our students that they come together and work for the society. Values are more important than knowledge or skill and we should be focused on them more.” ....

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

December was extremely cold in Kanpur. Special fire (ALAAV) arrangements were made for children coming to the center. SASK was closed from 21st Dec onwards following DM’s order. But before closing, SASK had several programs like paper bag making, and visit of Zoo and Sopan Ashram. During these visits children got great experience about our nature and Science.

#### **Visit to Zoo**

On 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 the children of SASK among with SASK volunteers visited zoo Kanpur Prani Udyan in Nawabganj. They were led by Ms Seema Verma, coordinator SASK assisted by Sunita Maurya, Neeshu and Shyamu. Children saw variety of animals, birds and vegetation which are not easily seen in populous areas. They saw variety of colorful birds, fishes and snakes. These children also got chance to know about living of these animal in nature. They enjoyed there because they saw those animals in real which were seen in books only. They all enjoyed the visit thoroughly.



#### **Making of Paper Bag**

As we know use of plastic is harming our environment. To make people aware about this, SASK worked on the theme “Say No to use Plastic”. Children of SASK made some paper bags with the help of News Papers on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. These paper bags were distributed to the residents close to SASK. Children talked to them about the harmful effect of plastic in our environment and appealed them very much and they assured to reduce using polythene bags. Children collectively took oath for not using polythene. They also planted some plants in SASK.



## **Visit at Sopan Ashram**

On 13<sup>th</sup> Dec Children from class 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of SASK together with the teachers visited Sopan Ashram for a science workshop and meeting with Sri Kamalesh Dwivedi. Science team of Shiksha Sopan gave them a guided tour of Science galleries where they saw variety of equipment, material and experiments. This enhanced their understanding of colours, magnets, electronic components etc. In the next session, they performed an activity of making slits in a paper coffee cup and balancing a plastic ball in air by blowing through a pipe fitted in the paper cup. All children enjoyed a lot in this visit.

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

December was very productive for BEC. They got a new dedicated resource person from the locality itself, the very inspiring visit by IITR students which pumped lot of enthusiasm, and a celebration with IITK students on their placement. These were all very special.

### ***Preparation of Half Yearly Exam***

Half yearly and Pre-board exam of BEC children had started in December and BEC teaching pattern was tuned in this month for that. Center coordinator Geeta Ji and the volunteers taught the students class wise and syllabus wise so that students can score well in the tests. At the center, they conducted weekly tests, especially for std 10 and 12 students, on Pre board pattern. They took test of all subject on the regular basis.

### ***Rohit Verma joins BEC***

Rohit Verma is a student in BCA program and lives in Barasirohi. When he came to know about BEC, he visited the center and was very impressed by the dedication of BEC volunteers and the interest of students for learning. He offered his services for teaching at the center and since 6<sup>th</sup> December he is regularly coming to the center and teaching Science and English to class 6-8 students. He also gives them special sessions on games and sports.

### ***Celebration of IITK Volunteers Placement***

There are several IITK M Tech students including Rahul Ji, Ravi Ji, Dhananjay Ji, Rohit Ji, Sohan Ji, Rohit Gupta Ji who used to nurture BEC for past 2. years. They all got placement from Campus interviews. These students decided to share their joy with BEC children and they celebrated this at BEC on 20<sup>th</sup> December. All the children and Sopan Volunteers congratulated them and prayed for their bright future ahead.



### ***Visit of IIT Roorkee Students***

As mentioned above, the 3 IITR students visited BEC on 28<sup>th</sup> December and obtained detailed information about the functioning of this center. BEC welcomed them through a welcome song by its students Parul, Tapasya and Divyanshi. The guests talked to each student and volunteer in detail to know about the transformation taking place silently. They also told about their own life journey to reach IITR and kind of social work they have initiated there.

One of the three guests, Virendra ji told the story of Sikandar and told about the virtue of determination in life. He also trained the children in English word game and played the game with them.



The three IITR students Virendra Ji, Nitesh ji and Ajit Ji went to residences of BEC children Ritik, Parul, Khushi and Sandhya. They talked to the parents about the education of their children and the role of BEC in their progress.

All the children and volunteers were given refreshment. During this entire visit of IITR students, center volunteers Geeta Ji, Pushpendra Ji, Kshama Ji, Anup Asthana Ji, Rohit Ji and IITK volunteers Abhishek Ji and Rahul Ji were present.

Finally, BEC expressed its gratitude towards the visitors for such a nice program by presenting them Pens as gifts.

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

The activities of SAEC are described in a separate newsletter SAMVAD prepared by the children and volunteers themselves in handwritten form. After describing the events conducted in the month, a Center teacher gives his/her introduction and feelings about SAEC. This time Ms Chitra, w/o a PhD student of IITK, has written about her association. This file is also attached with this newsletter. The highlights of the events are given below.

- \* 1<sup>st</sup> December, Chemistry Workshop by Mr Abhishek Dass, Difference between ordinary cotton and Gun cotton, Chemistry of Despirin, superstition
- \* 13<sup>st</sup> December, Interaction with Mr Kamalesh Dwivedi, Gift made by children presented to Mr Dwivedi
- \* 14<sup>th</sup> December, Farewell to Kundan Bhaiya
- \* 15<sup>th</sup> December, Cricket match between volunteers and children, girls played badminton. An effort to connect to children.
- \* 16<sup>th</sup> December, Senior volunteers led by Mr Vinay K Mishra at Sopan Ashram went to the house of class 11 student of SAEC Arpit in the village Basen (~25 km). Very homely welcome given by family members. They also went to the Govt school at Basen to know bout the academic environment there. The whole tour was on bicycles.
- \* 27<sup>th</sup> December, Interaction with IITR students
- \* 30<sup>th</sup> December, Abhivyakti, a monthly program to show individual talent. Bhupendra Bhaiya presented diaries to the best performers.

## Science Cell

While Science Cell continuously works for developing new experiments and models at Sopan Lab, this month they came up with a new set up to measure moment of inertia of a bicycle wheel. This experiment is part of the lab course PHY101 at IIT Kanpur and was part of our BALSHALI Camp last year. The participants were taken to IIT Kanpur to perform this experiment. The Science team comprising of Ranjit,

Vijay and Abhishek took up the task, mounted 5 wheels on the walls of a corridor at Sopan Ashram, did fine balancing and put other accessories. The experiment was tested on all 5 sets and the it is ready to use.



## Sopan Online Physics Courses (SOPC)

Shiksha Sopan has its Studio at Sopan Ashram where Lectures and videos are recorded. In the month of December, we finished recording and editing of a 3-month course "Advance Course on Special Theory of Relativity". The lectures are delivered by Dr H C Verma. The course will start on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the site [bsc.hcverma.in](http://bsc.hcverma.in). The course is launched by Centre for Continuing Education, IIT Kanpur at the software platform MOOKIT.

अंधकार को क्यों धिक्कारे, अच्छा हैं एक दीप जलायें

## Other Information's

**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 Cheque/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, IIT Kanpur 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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