



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

News Letter May 2008

The month of April brings a new enthusiasm as many things start afresh in this month. The results of most of the school examinations are declared and children are promoted to the next higher class. With new books, new class teachers and new feeling of being somewhat senior marks their pleasure and high spirits. With the summer round the corner, it was a month of planning for Shiksha Sopan to utilize the resources most effectively for the benefit of rural children. The financial year too starts in April and it gives us a chance to look back our financial activities in the previous years and set new targets.

Subcommittees formed

In order to carry out the multifarious tasks smoothly, the new executive committee decided to form six subcommittees. These are primarily for (1) Sopan Vidyalaya, (2) Evening Centers (3) Science Training Programmes, (4) Pratibha Poshan Yojana, (5) Planning and (6) Maintaining contacts. The coordinators have been identified for each subcommittee and they have started gearing up to take up the challenge of expanding Sopan activities.



Sopan EC members planning the working strategies

Pratibha Poshan Yojana

The focus of Pratibha Poshan Yojana Team in the month of April was in planning for the May 24-June 28 Camp. The 12 children of class 10, selected for the camp, are in great spirits and are eagerly waiting for the event. The Sopan team has broadly planned to give them, 5 hours of teaching, 1.5 hours of Physical Exercise and Games, 1 hour of advanced lectures on various topics of interest and 1 hour of moral education through inspiring stories, songs, recreational activities etc., every day. Three excursions, one for local site seeing, one for a factory visit and one to Lucknow Regional Science center are planned on Sundays. On one of the Sundays a project to create a water purifier from traditional knowledge is planned.

Science teaching will have a good component on experiments, uncommon and untraditional. The instructors are being told to design the study package to make a strong foundation of the subject which can give them confidence, skill and urge to innovate things.

We could have accommodated some more children in the camp and hence offered the local schools of the 5 villages to send their class 10 students for a special test to make selections for the camp. The test was conducted on 27th April at SAC center and 24 students from different schools appeared. The test papers were the same on which we had made selection for the 12 PPY children. Unfortunately, none of the 24 students could score anywhere close to the lowest cut off used for the prior selection.



Students of local schools taking the test

Though it was disappointing to learn about the standards of high schools in the villages surrounding IITK, it also gave us some feel good that Shiksha Sopan Pratibha Poshan Yojana students have been nurtured well and they have started showing their worth.

Science Resource Center at Kulethi village (Uttarakhand)

Shiksha Sopan is playing the major role of Mentor to set up Science Resource Center at the village KULETHI in district Champavat in Uttarakhand. In the month of April we gave final shape to the Package of 112 Science Experiments. The experiments are packed in plastic boxes, and with each box is given a list of its contents and the name of the experiment. A separate Instruction Booklet is prepared giving detailed instructions and discussions of each experiments.



Each box contains a science experiment

Shiksha Sopan trainers will visit Kulethi in the month of May to hand over the Package and train the local resource persons who will run the center.

Science Magic Show at Indradhanush

Hanuman Prasad Gupta, a Shiksha Sopan activist, gave a Magic show for children of class 3-5 under the banner of Indradhanush (a DRPG project to provide constructive evening activities to children of schools in the Campus). He performed many of the standard magician's items and explained the science or trick behind it. The children not only enjoyed the show, but also took home the message that all events are governed by the laws of science and there is nothing like magic.



Visit to SIDH, Kempty

Shiksha Sopan uses education as the main vehicle for the all round development of a person. There are many other groups doing different kinds of experiments in school education, trying to make it much more effective. Shiksha Sopan is keen to learn about these initiatives and use the adaptable parts at its own centers. SIDH is one such group working in the Hilly regions of Uttarakhand, near Kempty.

The Secretary of Shikha Sopan Dr H C Verma visited the Centers of SIDH on 26th April. The visit to their school, named "Bodhshala", was very useful. Their teaching methodology and evaluation methods are totally different from the traditional practices.

There are no question papers in the examination. The exams are generally a month long phenomena, where the children is asked to create questions and answer them, as many as they can from the topics learnt.

Profile of our children

Shri Pawan Dhunsai has no job. He does not own farming land or any other fixed asset. He himself is illiterate and finds it hard to arrange for two square meals for his family of four. Each new day is a new challenge to find some work which can fetch him some money. One day he will put up a THELA to sell vegetables in Nankari, next day you may find him cutting grasses in IITK fields and pavements, and some other day he will be whitewashing some house.

Till 2004 Shri Dhunsai was not keen to get his children educated. But then Pankaj started coming to SAC Evening Center, primarily to play games, and that changed the entire focus of the family. Now Shri Dhunsai is very particular that his children Pankaj and Ravindra do not face the same hardship in their lives. He ensures that the two regularly study, school fee are paid, books are purchased and Pankaj has a wrist watch to keep his time table of studies well.

Shiksha Sopan Evening center at SAC is a great asset for Shri Dhunsai. Both Pankaj (class 8) and Ravindra (class 5) come to this center regularly and under the guidance of the Instructors here, supplement whatever little is done in their school. According to Pankaj *"SHIKSHA SOPAN has showed him the pathway to life otherwise he would have to live in darkness"*.



A school run by SIDH where learning is from the environment



One of the display Boards at Bodhshala



Pankaj and Ravindra with their parents in their Nankari residence

What people say about Shiksha Sopan

"Excellent" is the only word which can describe the work of Shiksha Sopan. A closely-knit family of students and volunteers, Shiksha Sopan is in complete sense an educational institution where students not only learn their curricula but also values which make them good humans. Shiksha Sopan has touched lives of many IITK students, who have worked here as volunteers. For me working with the dedicated team of Shiksha Sopan is a life-long experience. I would like to thank all the students and volunteers of Shiksha Sopan for giving me lots of love, making my stay at IITK most memorable and teaching me so many things which would not have possible otherwise. -Kalpesh



Mr Kalpesh Mehta, IITK alumnus, presently at NUS Singapore

Mr Kalpesh Mehta was Vice-President of Shiksha Sopan while doing MTech at IITK. Currently he is pursuing PhD programme in Electrical Engg at NUS, Singapore.

News of the Month

Indian Space Research Organization launched 10 satellites in a single launch using PSLV on April 28. The launch vehicle has put two Indian and eight foreign satellites into orbit, it has beaten the current world record of hoisting eight satellites at one go accomplished by Russia almost a year ago. Shiksha Sopan is proud of this great engineering achievement.



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". The swift code of the bank is SBININBB499.

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