

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban

Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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Newsletter November 2018



October brought two very special occasions. One was 2nd October when the Nation celebrates Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri and the other was Dushahara. Centers celebrated both these with great enthusiasm. Science Labs were established in 6 schools under Vistara project. Regular teaching and contact programs ran as usual.

Sopan Ashram Evening Center

Ravan Dahan

At SAEC, the focus is on building confidence in children by making them think, decide and implement newer things. Making a Ravan effigy and burning it was a perfect occasion. On suggestions or so to say demand from the children, volunteers decided to go for it. Social message, Environment and Safety were the prime issues during planning.



With these guiding principles, children got into action. They learned technical aspects, team work, time management, event management, commitment to the goals and so on. The effigy of Ravan finally turned out to be 15 feet tall and good science and mechanical aspects were used to make it stand with great stability. The nine side faces of Ravan were named on the social evils, like lack of education, poverty, pollution, sexual discrimination, dowry etc. When they burnt the effigy, they were burning these evils in their mind.

Whole center was decorated with slogans like Save trees, Educate Girls and so on on 19th October. Children had prepared themselves as Ramayan characters. Interestingly, together with the characters Ram, Laxman, Sita, Hanuman, and other Ram associates, Ravan and his associates were also worshipped on the same stage. It gave the message that the good qualities are to be worshipped even if these are in Ravan but bad qualities are to be burnt out.



Children also performed Bhajan in classical music style with the instructor Juilee ji on Harmonium. She had given a month long training to these children on classical music.

Finally the effigy was put to flames. A good area around the effigy was cordoned off so that no one could go into it. Everyone enjoyed the view and left with Prasad.

Other programs at SAEC

1st October : General knowledge competition at two levels. Junior section for class 6-8 and senior section class 9-12

2nd October : Gandhi-Shashtri Jayanti

12th October : Colouring in Sketches of Shivaji

One week special drive by Volunteers to visit the families of the children coming to SAEC.

2-page Sopan Ashram Magazine named "संवाद" was brought out giving more details and photographs of events at Sopan Ashram.

Vistara

The major work under VISTARA project was to establish a Science Lab at 6 schools in the vicinity of IIT Kanpur. The selection of the schools was made on the basis of enrollment in Dr V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship Test conducted by Shiksha Sopan in June 2018. All the material required for science teaching up to std 10 were collected, assembled and packed by our Science Cell. Mr Abhishek Dass, coordinator of Vistara handed over the boxes to the school principals. He is regularly visiting these schools, interacting with science teachers and students and making science education more meaningful.



Two SUNDAY Classes were held in the month of October. Tests were conducted in all three subjects (English, Maths and Science) and the teachers could know the impact of their classes to plan better.

Shiksha Sopan Anaupcharik Shiksha Kendra

Apart from regular teaching assisted by IIT Kanpur students, SASK celebrated several special events.

2nd October

The function of 2nd October was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The function involved speeches from seniors and songs from children. Shiksha Sopan President Dr Sameer Khandekar, EC Member Ms Monika and PhD student Ms Shivani did garlanding of images of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lalbahadur Shashtri to begin the function. Each of them addressed students and in their own style they told the students about the ideals of the two great sons of India and how their qualities should be adopted by children. Truth, Self restraint and Self retrospection are the main qualities that makes a person great.

The group song वैष्णव जन तो तेने कहिये by children was performed so nicely that everyone present there was mesmerized. The song "बन्दे मे था दम" by Saraswati was praised by everyone. Dr Sammer Khandekar presented SASK Pen stands made by children to all the dignitaries present in the function.



Stationary Distribution

Stationary needed by children during their learning were distributed on 2nd October itself. It contained pencil box, eraser, sharpener, geometry box, scale, register, drawing colours, wax colours, pen, drawing book, lunch box etc. Children were very happy receiving this package.



Special Science and Hindi workshop

IITK students Alok and Rajat gave a science workshop to SASK children in which principles of friction, pressure etc were demonstrated through experiments made from waste materials. They also did lots of geometry with match sticks.

Special classes to improve Hindi were conducted in October on all working days under the title "हिंदी सुधारो". Mr Shubhendra Tripathi from IITK conducted these classes with emphasis on grammar and composition. Every week end a Hindi quiz is conducted to make revisions and making Hindi learning more interesting. The classes will continue in November too.

Pre Diwali week

Special craft classes were arranged in the last week of October. Every day 2 hours of craft making class was conducted especially to make Diwali items. Children made beautiful decorated Deepaks and Vandanvars to be gifted to Sopan well wishers.

Barasirohi Evening Center

At BEC about 80-90 students from the locality come for after-school help. Together with teaching by our volunteers several other programs are held to develop the children as responsible assets of the Nation. Some of these are given below.

2nd October

At BEC also, 2nd October was celebrated by the children starting with detailed cleaning of the center. All children and volunteers participated in this operation with the thought that Mahatma Gandhi was very keen on cleanliness and this act is best way of paying tribute to him. IITK students Bhupendra, Abhishek, Ajit, together with the Center in charge Ms Geeta, Kshama, Shri Anup Asthana and other volunteers monitored and guided the children. They all advised students to follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. Center students Sneha, Parul, Khushi and Jyoti sang the Bhajan "रघुपति राघव राजाराम" which was appreciated by all.



On this same day, an Essay writing competition was organized on the topics "महात्मा गांधी" and "सुच्छता का जीवन मे महत्व". Children expressed their views on these topic by writing essays.

Other programs at BEC

BEC student Deepika participated in the debate on "BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO" organized by Kanpur Institute of Technology and bagged 1st prize. BEC congratulated her in its next meeting.

Principal of ONMT, a reputed school in Kanpur, visited BEC on 7th October and talked with the students. He gave special tips for examination preparation.

Ravan effigy was made by BEC students and burnt on 18th October Dashahara.

Kratharth Patel, an IITK student, gave special sessions at BEC and talked about Gujarati language and culture.



Sopan BSc Cell

BSc stage is very important for science education in India. Unfortunately, there are thousands of colleges where classes are not held properly and hundreds of thousands of students, not fortunate to come to more reputed urban colleges are deprived of any meaningful education. With the funds received during Bless program in 2017-18, Shiksha Sopan could make a good studio to record video lectures. Special thanks to Ms Chandralekha Singh, Mr Umesh Kumar, Mr Subhojit Bose and Ms Madhu Dusad who contributed generously in this.

With this infrastructure available, we have come up with a new project Sopan-IITK Online Classes in Hindi for BSc Students. The first 25-Lecture course on Special Relativity by Dr H C Verma under this project is recorded at Sopan Studio and will be floated at IITK platform from 18th December. Registrations are going on at the site bsc.hcverma.in. You are requested to use your contacts to pass on this information to as many colleges as possible.

Other Informations

Website : www.shiksha-sopan.org

Email : sopaniitk02@gmail.com

How to donate: *Shiksha Sopan*

(a) You can pay through credit/debit card by going to 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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