



# Shiksha Sopan

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

## News Letter September 2008

August 2008 was a month full of National spirit. Our country got freedom from British rule after a long struggle in this month. Shiksha Sopan celebrated Independence day in full vigour. Gahan Adhyayan Kendra and other evening centers were strengthened in terms of output. Science Cell of Shiksha Sopan helped establishing Rural Science Centers in two villages in Allahabad region.

This month also saw a big National calamity as Millions of Indians suffered survival struggle due to unprecedented Floods in North Bihar. Individually Shiksha Sopan volunteers started collected money for Bihar Flood victims which will be sent to some trusted NGO working on the ground.

### Independence Day Celebrations

Independence day is one of the three National Festivals Shiksha Sopan celebrates every year. Shiksha Sopan volunteers and children come to know about the freedom struggle and through their acts on the stage they experience the spirits our freedom fighter had during their struggle against the British Government.



The 2-hour long programme was held in L-7 on 15<sup>th</sup> August. A total of 40 children-volunteers performed in various ways for which they had been preparing for two weeks. After lamp lighting by our senior respected Sopan members, children performed Dances, Songs and Skits. All items were full of patriotic feelings telling something positive about our Nation.

But we cannot ignore the present anomalies and problems India is facing. The 15-minute drama "Ab Kuan Karayega Azad", that is, who will get India free now, was on this theme. It depicted in the first part struggle by freedom fighters from 1857 to 1947 and how people sacrificed their lives to get the chains of Bharat Mata dismantled and earn Freedom for India. In the second part, it showed how again Bharat Mata got loaded with slavery chains of Corruption, poverty,



cast discrimination, criminalization, politics of hate and so on. The question was then asked "Ab Kaun Karayega Azad."

The drama was full of emotions and the hall was frequently resounding with "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vandemataram" in the first part. The second part brought tears in the eyes of the visitors as they realized that such hard earned freedom is not delivering to fulfill the dreams of our freedom fighter.

In another skit, children gave the message that followers of different religions need not quarrel if only they all work for social welfare.

Hall-7 students and Sopan volunteers conducted a mass quiz and asked 15 questions related to Indian History. For each question they gave a Pen as a Gift to the child who answered the question correctly.



## **Gahan Adhyan Kendra**

Classes are running quite systematically in Gahan Adhyayan Kendra. In the last week of August we conducted tests for all the four subjects, Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English for each class. The answer books are being examined.

As the children are getting good help in academics, many more requests are pouring in for admission to Gahan Adhyayan Kendra from newer areas like Naramau, IIT Gate residences etc. We are calling these children in our regular Evening Centers where we have increased volunteer strengths to teach.

Dr H C Verma visited the Center on 30<sup>th</sup> August and in the Saturday Assembly interacted with the children on the topic of National Integrity. Children were told how India is like one family and any suffering in any part should be felt by us.

## **Evening Centers**

Evening Centers at Ratanpur and Barasirohi were strengthened. Ratanpur Center was shifted from the house of Sri Dinesh Ji to Nav srijan Vidyalay. Here we have good playground as well as classrooms. Indeed there is no electricity. After this shifting the number of children has gone up to about 40. A new village Naramau, 1 km from the Campus towards Mandhana, has come to our contact. Six children of class 10 have started coming to Ratanpur center.

SAC center did not run well mainly because of space problem. Due to some IIT activity the Yoga room was not available to our classes and children did not get study classes. We have temporarily shifted SAC center to Type-1 A and hope it will run systematically in September.

## Science Cell Activities

Shiksha Sopan Science Cell had two major activities this month. L K Singhania Education Center in Rajasthan organized a two day Workshop of 31 Physics teachers from different schools of IPSC group. Shiksha Sopan was asked to make an experimental kit for each teacher, having 22 experiments in it. Our team workers Amit and Deepak did that and took the whole pack to the school. They stayed there for the whole workshop period, also worked as resource persons, and handed over the kits to the teachers.

Prof K B Pandey, the former Vice Chancellor of Kanpur University, and President of Rajju Bhaiya Smriti Seva Nyas, approached Shiksha Sopan to help in starting two Science Activity Centers for children in two villages of Allahabad region. Mr Amit and Mr Deepak went to Allahabad on 19<sup>th</sup> August with their experiments. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, they visited the village Shankar Garh, 60 km from Allahabad, where a new science center was inaugurated in Raja Kamalakar Inter college. After the inaugural programme, they conducted a science show for two hours before about 700 children present. The children enjoyed the show immensely as this was the first time they saw such interesting phenomena from their familiar household items like bottles, balls, sticks, pipes and so on.

Similar programme was held in Shiv vidyalay Inter College in the village Lodiary on 21<sup>st</sup> August and a new Science enter was created here too.



## Bihar Flood Relief

Though Shiksha Sopan as an organization did not take up the relief work, its members were on the work. Our Secretary Dr H C Verma has identified an NGO Vidya Bharati, working relentlessly in North Bihar running 11 relief camps, providing shelter, food, drinking water and medicines, to make donations. He took initiative to let the Campus community know about this work and to donate for the Bihar flood victims. A number of students, faculty members and employees of IITK have given their contributions which are still being collected.

Shiksha Sopan Children too contributed whatever little they could do. It is said that when Ram Sena was constructing the Bridge on the sea to reach Lanka, a squirrel too was putting dust on it. Every little contribution by our Sopan child has lighten the spirit of humanism in his/her heart.

## Gudari Ki Lal

Ragi, daughter of Mr K Ravi has shown that poverty and lack of facility cannot stop one to rise if there is will and talent. Mr Ravi is a vendor putting up his THELA at IIT Hostels Gates selling south Indian food items in the evening. Though he makes delicious dishes, his earnings are not enough to meet the minimum requirement of his family. Occasionally he has to take loans from private persons at an interest rate as high as 60 to 70%. But against all odds he allowed his daughter Ragi to study as she completed BSc.

She appeared for Master in Computer Applications entrance examination conducted by UP Technical University and competed with very good grades. The high rankers are given Govt colleges and low rankers end up getting private colleges where the fee is very high. On the basis of her rank, she is allotted a very good Govt college, Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College, Gorakhpur.

On encouragement and financial assistance by some Sopan workers, Mr Ravi gathered the courage and got Ragi admitted in the course and she is staying in the hostel and studying her course since 8<sup>th</sup> August. The expenses are Rs 40,000 as College fee and another estimated 30,000 for living and other heads per year for three years. Though Shiksha Sopan has no plans to provide financial help to such individuals, at personal levels some of us can provide help to her.

Shiksha Sopan wishes all the best to Ragi and hopes she will lead to a bright future.

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## Other Informations

**Web site** : For more details please visit [www.shiksha-sopan.org](http://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".

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