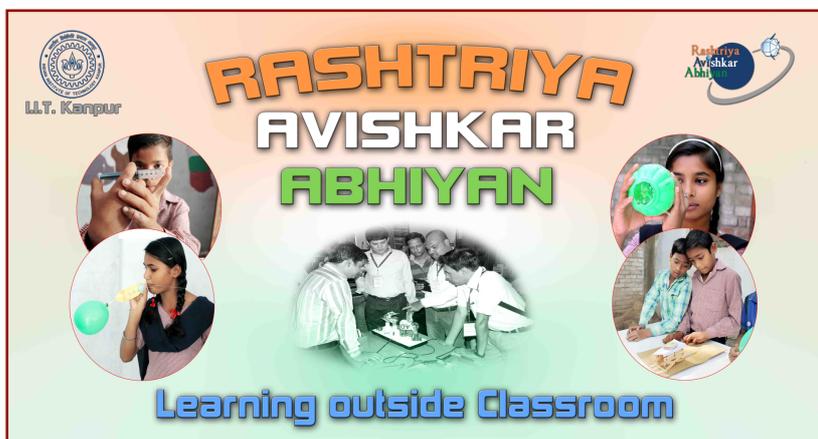


RAA Launch Program

14th November 2015

At

IIT Kanpur



Though IIT Kanpur had been interacting with School teachers and students for decades under its outreach program, it formally launched Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan on the Children's Day 14th November 2015.

1. Resource group

The information about RAA at IIT Kanpur was sent to faculty members of different departments and consent to participate as Resource Persons was requested. A total of 19 faculty members responded. A meeting of these was held which was addressed by the Director, IIT Kanpur who expressed the vision of IIT Kanpur towards RAA program of IITK. In this meeting itself resource groups were made for the following categories.

- (a) Junior Science and Maths (Class 6- 8 level)
- (b) Senior Physics (Class 9-12 level)
- (c) Senior Chemistry (Class 9-12 level)
- (d) Senior Mathematics (Class 9-12 level)
- (e) Senior Biology (Class 9-12 level)

Besides, ShikshaSopan Science Cell provided their full support by providing resource persons, giving technical help in making experiments and models, and also management task.

Dr Anurag Tripathi, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engg, took the responsibility of local coordination between the resource persons.

2. Contact with Government schools

The mandate of MHRD under RAA is to empower teachers of Govt schools to provide innovative platforms for Science and Maths learning. We contacted District authorities to identify and allow teachers from schools to participate in RAA

programs at IIT Kanpur. The authorities sent a list of a total of 120 teachers from 40 different schools.

On 2nd November 2015, we informed the BSA, DIOS and CDO about the 1st RAA interaction to be held on 14th November. However, teachers could get the information from these authorities only in the last two days.

3. The Introductory session

A total of 76 teachers turned up on 14th November morning 10 AM. They were full of enthusiasm. After a welcome Tea, they were assembled in a lecture Hall L-13. All resource persons were also present. Dr Anurag Tripathi welcomed the teachers and told them about the philosophy of Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan. All faculty members introduced themselves and briefly gave their messages.



Dr H C Verma also addressed the teachers and explained how the continued association with IITK RAA unit is going to benefit teachers, students and the IITK resource persons too.

Teachers were divided in groups and sent to the different lecture halls with the group resource persons.

4. Group interactions

The group interaction was mostly focused on knowing and understanding each other. The IIT K faculty members asked teachers to open up and tell about their existing teaching methodologies, infrastructure available, special difficulties encountered in the rural environment and so on. After slight initial hesitations teachers became much more friendly and they put up their problems frankly before the mentors. Most of them told that there are almost no lab facilities and teaching is only cramming. Difficulties like involvement of teachers in many other non-academic activities were also pointed out. Attendance of students was also described as a big problem, especially in rural areas. In such places parents are also not conscious about education and get children involved in household work quite frequently.



5. Closing Meeting

After about an hour and half group meeting, all teachers and resource persons re-assembled in L-13 where group leaders shared the views expressed in the group meetings. Dr Anurag Tripathi moderated the discussion. Dr H C Verma said that it is important to enjoy the subject and irrespective of difficulties new learning is always exciting.

The school teachers were very happy to so closely and friendly meeting IIT Kanpur faculty and having such free discussions. The real academic work would start from the next month. It was decided that on the average there will be one such interaction per month.

6. Photographs

