

SPARK LIBRARY SETUP/READING PROGRAM

Dated: - 1st April, 2016-Till continue

Initial inspiration drawn from John Wood, who in his book called “Leaving Microsoft to Change the World”, John Wood (founder of Room to Read), suggests that his organization helps to establish libraries in the third world countries. In India, Room to Read has libraries in around 8 states. SPARK program aims to provide the study material to the students of government schools. In this program, the IIT Mandi volunteers seek to identify opportunities through which they can play a supportive role to the school teachers and administration. In this program volunteers setup a library in school and regularly visits there to distribute the books like; general knowledge, encyclopedia, novels etc. among the school students.



Reading session at Kamand School

Since the reading Program was started by volunteers in the year 2015 and continued till dated, with an aim to encourage the reading hobbies in students. They started setting up libraries using books donated by friends, family and some important books provided from NSS fund. Volunteers in teams of 3 or 4 visited schools, and had reading sessions with students. The schools covered are Kamand, Katindhi, Neri, Navlaya and Kataula of Mandi Districts.



Student volunteers teaching/helping to solve the questions

Need for starting these programmes are:-

- Lack of space in some schools for libraries.
- Inaccessibility of the books to general students, because of a peculiar location of books, for eg. in two of the schools we visited the libraries were in Principal's room, making it hard for students to issue books for reading.
- A careful study of books, they already have reveals a gap in the science and technology books, encyclopedias and similar books.

NSS unit IIT Mandi provided competitive exam, general knowledge, current affairs, novels (Hindi& English) and story books etc. Mainly the event runs through the donors who donated good collections of books for this noble work. The aim of this event to continue till the students embrace reading as a hobby NSS unit will be associating with them and guide them for their better future.

Class 6, 7 SPARK Reading Program: Under this program, IIT Mandi volunteers visit the government middle schools in the villages of Neri, Kamand, Katindhi, Navlaya and Kataula, or try to motivate the students to develop the habit of reading for fun with the aim of improving their language skills in Hindi or English.

Program Highlights

April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Spark Reading Program: Periodic visits by student volunteers to the Government Middle School, Neri and Govt. Senior Secondary School, Kamand to motivate the students to read for

the fun of it, and to discuss with their fellow students about what they read. Focus was on Middle school students (Classes 6-8).

Spark Reading Program: The program this year covered 5 government schools:

1. Kamand
2. Kataula
3. Katindhi
4. Navlaya
5. Neri

Volunteers visited these schools typically 3 times during the year (range was 1-5 visits). Apart from encouragement of reading for fun, activities such as a painting competition were organized. An estimated 40-45 middle school students participated in the activities conducted under this program.