

Teaching Programme for Migrant Labour Children

Dated: 29th April-30th July, 2014

“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right. Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

— Kofi Annan

Education is not all about studying and getting good marks. It means to increase our wisdom, knowledge, discover new things which we don't know. A person becomes enlightened with education as he is not only gaining something from it but also contributing to the growth of a nation. We must realize the importance of education. We must aim to ensure that each citizen of our nation is educated and independent.

Training of a human mind is not complete without education. Education makes man a right thinker. It tells man how to think and how to make decision. An educated person has the ability to differentiate between right and wrong or good and bad. It is the foremost responsibility of a society to educate its citizens. The children of migrant laborers in India face numerous educational challenges because of frequent moves and economic hardships. The most significant and unique challenge faced by migrant students is mobility-induced educational discontinuity. To support the idea of UNESCO ‘Education For All’, NSS unit IIT Mandi has taken a vital step by starting a 'literacy programme' for the children of migrant laborers working in the campus of IIT Kamand, Mandi on April 29th, 2014. This programme was inaugurated by Dr. Priscilla Gonsalves in the presence of NSS team and faculty members.

Books, notebooks, stationary, cloths and footwear were distributed to those children. They were very enthusiastic and eager to learn. Although the focus of the programme was on promoting children's literacy but the NSS unit also took care of their nutritional requirements. It was decided by the NSS team that every day along with knowledge/awareness, nutritious food/fruits would also be served to these children.



Dr. Priscilla Gonsalves and Dr. Ramna (NSS Advisor) are giving stationery to migrant children

In the first phase, teaching program was started on 29th April and had continued till 30th July, 2014 for more than three months. The Children were taught by many B.Tech students. Volunteers taught alphabets (Hindi and English), dictation, stories, games and dance with proper teaching-learning aids. Every day after class, refreshment was served to the children.



NSS volunteers with migrant children

To increase the quality of education in India, especially in the Himalayan Region, IIT Mandi is always ready. In spite of this programme there are some other literacy programmes like computer literacy, guidance/teaching of government school students of surrounding area etc. are also going on parallel in the campus. One thing which is very appreciable at IIT Mandi is, not only NSS volunteers are contributing in these types of programmes but other students (including research scholars), faculties and staff members are also putting equal efforts to make these programmes successful. NSS unit IIT Mandi is always thankful to all those who join hands with NSS volunteers to serve the society.