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February '10 Issue

National Science Day '10 Celebrations

Celebrating the National Science Day, various programs were organized in the Zuari Nagar Government High School, with an aim of recollecting the glorious history of Indian contribution to the field of science and to inculcate scientific temper among the students.

A science exhibition was held in the school, where the students presented their models on various diverse topics ranging from solar system to electro-chemical properties of materials, biology to traffic safety.

Nirmaan Goa has also organized a film screening sessions for the students, in the school, with an intention to increase awareness on Earth's flora & fauna, and Science through the medium of edutainment.



Being the first-of-a-kind experience, students enjoyed the programs very much and it was a matter of great pride for them and the school authorities that Science Day celebrations were held in their school at such a big level while there were no such programs held in any of the other private schools of Zuari Nagar area.

Interaction with Mr.Himanshu Parikh

Nirmaan goa team had a fortune to meet Mr.Himanshu Parikh, world renowned structural engineer and the man behind the concept of slum networking in India, which transformed the lives of thousands of slum dwellers in Ahmedabad and Indore.

Mr.Parikh shared his vision for the development of slums in India and how emphasis on hygiene and infrastructure can trigger a change in the society for good. He enquired about the work done by Nir-



maan and delivered valuable suggestions on finding sponsors for the current projects and using technology for social development.

PROJECT UPDATES

SHIKSHA

Jawahar Navodaya entrance examination, for which the students were trained under the project shiksha, took place on February 7th with which the first phase of the project came to an end. A feedback session was held to discuss on the work done over the past 5 months, the strategies that proved successful and the challenges faced by the team.

A comprehensive report was made by the team mentioning the measures to be taken to make the project a more successful one in the coming academic year.

SELF HELP GROUPS

The work on the order for 2200 paper bags, placed by the pharmacy outlet of Bits-Pilani, Goa campus is currently undertaken. Training has been imparted to few more ladies in the wake of expanding work order.

Additionally, two new SHGs – on paper plates and candle making, are being considered for inception. Women in the zari slums are being trained in the candle making process with the help of some of the faculty at BITS-Pilani, Goa Campus. It has been decided to start Paper Plates SHG in Birla. Mahila Mandali meetings in the zari slums are being organized on a regular basis, with emphasis on team building among the women.

CLEANLINESS & HEALTH AWARENESS

An awareness program for school students, on the theme “personal hygiene” was organized on February 6th as a part of “School Bag” event in Quark’10, annual innovation festival of BITS-Goa. The program was an audio-visual exhibition of various concepts involving hygienic issues which made it much more interesting for the audience. It was a two way interaction program and the students showed much enthusiasm.

As part of the project on solid waste management in zari slums, a field trip was done by the team to observe the topographic and demographic distribution of the area. Aspects involving the living standards and the present scenario of garbage disposal system is also being observed.

*“An ounce of
action is worth
a ton of theory”*

NSEF INAUGURATION

The Goa Chapter of NSEF was inaugurated On 6th February 2010, Saturday at BITS Pilani Goa Campus in the gracious presence of Mr. Himanshu Parikh and Mr. Rakesh Anugula. The inaugural session witnessed lively and inspiring talks by the speakers.

Mr. Rakesh Anugula, one of the founding members of NSEF, spoke about the establishment of NSEF, its vision and mission. He shared his experiences of being a social activist and how he was convinced that social entrepreneurship is a better way to curb poverty in India. He explained the objectives of Goa chapter and how students can benefit from it, following it there was an interaction session where the doubts of the audience were cleared and their suggestions were taken in.



On the whole, the launch program of NSEF-BITS Pilani Goa Chapter made a remarkable parturition and hence a beginning for the rise of social entrepreneurs from the campus.

***“The price of
greatness is
responsibility”***

‘WE CARE’ FILM FEST

Nirmaan Goa played a key role in organizing WECARE Film Festival 2010 in BITS-Pilani Goa campus. The film fest included the screening of 32 documentary and short films on various forms of disability from India and overseas. The Festival is traveling to around fifteen venues in the country over the next three months.

The festival has introduced a unique participatory rating process wherein the students and the audience rates each film and an independent jury judges the films on the basis of these ratings. The film festival was organized in association with BITS Pilani Goa Campus, Brotherhood, the National Trust, UNIC, UNESCO, and Asian Academy of Film and Television of India (AAFT) and the local organizations Sangath and Disability Rights Association, Goa. Prof. Meenakshi Raman, faculty in-charge of Nirmaan Goa, was the organizing secretary for the event.

The films received good response from both the students of BITS and invited members from other organizations.



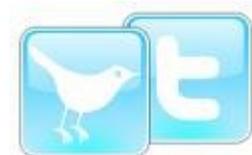


*We have only one passion,
the rise of a great nation !*

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