

REPORT: WIE Event 4

Name of the event: Outreach Program on “Magic of Mathematics”

Date: August 19, 2017

Venue: Sadhanpur Uludanga Tulsi Ram High School, Sadhanpur IV, Amdanga, North 24 Paraganas, West Bengal

On 19th August, 2017, we set off to our destination in one of the rural Educational Institutions at North 24Paraganas in West Bengal. “Sadhanpur Uludanga Tulsi Ram High School”, located at Sadhanpur IV, Amdanga, North 24Paraganas, West Bengal, was identified as a fecund platform where one could disseminate the seeds of Mathematics in a thought-provoking manner. So, keeping in mind the vision of WIE, this rural school was targeted for the proposed one-day workshop and outreach program organized by WIE Affinity Group, IEEE Kolkata Section jointly with IEEE EDS, University of Calcutta Student Branch Chapter.

Myself, Dr. Sudipta Chatterjee, Chairperson, WIE, Dr. Sanghamitra Chatterjee, Secretary, Dr. Monidipa Roy, Immediate Past Chairperson, and other WIE members Dr. Chayanika Bose, Dr. Sheli Sinha Chaudhuri, Dr. Bratati Bandyopadhyay accompanied by Dr. Soumya Pandit, Chairman and Mr. Abhishek Kr. Gond, IEEE EDS, University of Calcutta Student Branch Chapter started our journey at 8:30 am from South Kolkata in a TATA WINGER car.



IEEE members reached the venue

We reached “Sadhanpur Uludanga Tulsi Ram High School”, at Sadhanpur IV, Amdanga (North 24Paraganas, West Bengal) at 10.30 am and received a warm welcome from the Principal, teachers and other staff members. The students were waiting curiously for the outreach program to begin. In the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Sudipta Chatterjee, Chairperson, WIE, introduced the audience to the different activities of WIE Affinity Group. She also emphasized on bridging the gap between men and women, as far as science/engineering career is concerned. Dr. Soumya Pandit, Chairman, IEEE EDS, University of Calcutta Student Branch Chapter delivered an inspirational speech on how to overcome the fear of mathematics from school level. After the brief inaugural session, the main workshop started. This was conducted by Mr. Subir Bhattacharyya, a renowned teacher of Kishore Bharati School, Motijhil, Dum Dum as well as writer and educator of Popular Mathematics who was invited as the resource person for the said workshop.



WIE Chairperson Dr. Sudipta Chatterjee addressing the audience accompanied by Dr. Soumya Pandit & other WIE members

Mr. Bhattacharyya started the session with motivational speeches. He used Laptop and LCD Projector for the purpose of presentation. The entire module was prepared in regional language i.e. Bengali for the better understanding of the rural students who were not well

conversant in English. Mr. Bhattacharyya mainly focused on some of the basic concepts of Mathematics covering Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Mensuration. The main attraction of the workshop was that although every problem was known to the students as a part of their curriculum, the approaches for solving those problems were completely innovative in nature. Demonstration of the solutions with the help of graphics and animation made the workshop very much enjoyable to the students. Lunch was provided to all the participants at 1:30 pm. The post lunch session started at 2:30 pm and continued till 4:30 pm.



Presentation by Mr. Subir Bhattacharyya



Mr. Subir Bhattacharyya helping the students to solve mathematical problems



Interactive session with the students

The workshop ended at 5:00 pm. In the valedictory session, feedback was taken from the students. It was emerged that the students, especially girls, did not have enough interest in Mathematics due to lack of scientific guidance. It had also been observed that most of the students of this school belonged to the first/second generation learners who required special attention, guidance and motivation for their proper upbringing. As most of the rural children, especially girls, are afraid of solving mathematical problems, they do not find interests to build their carrier in the discipline of science/engineering, where mathematics is considered as an essential pre-requisite. After attending this workshop, the students were quite happy to learn the basic skills to handle different mathematical problems through some other innovative approaches which are usually not been taught in their classes. The workshop ended with the hope that “Magic of Mathematics” could really do some magic and motivate the students to choose science/engineering as their future career.



Dr. Sudipta Chatterjee & Dr. Soumya Pandit handing over the gift to Mr Subir Bhattacharyya during Valedictory Session



Valedictory Session: IEEE members with the students