

Outreach Program for Students of IX and X at Masjidbati, Gosaba, Sundarban, West Bengal

Seeing is believing, and perceiving too. It is most important even in Science education. Unfortunately, this is missing in science education amongst most school students in India, more so in rural India. The students are forced to memorise things without understanding them. This system not only de-motivates the children to pursue science as a career option, but also kills their creativity and logical mind. Further, it also becomes a barrier to development of a scientific approach towards life, society and surroundings among children. In order to spread scientific thinking among children, especially in the remote rural areas WIE organized a one-day outreach program at Masjidbati Parbati Vidyalay, Basanti, Sundarban, West Bengal in collaboration with Birla Industrial and Technical Museum (BITM), Kolkata on June 15, 2013. Mr. T. K. Sengupta and his colleague from BITM visited Masjidbati Parbati Vidyalay, and demonstrated a set of very interesting, yet simple, experiments that one can perform even at their home, collecting common and easily available local ingredients. Mr. Sengupta explained and related these experiments, in a very interesting manner, with what the students have learnt in their textbooks. About hundred twenty students (50% girls) and some of their teachers attended the program with lot of enthusiasm and curiosity. Interestingly, girls were more responsive and interactive. They all participated whole heartedly. The experts demonstrated a few basic mathematical tricks too to the students.

At the end of the program WIE members thanked Mr. Sengupta and his colleague with some token gifts. The students were provided with lunch and the program ended at 4:00 pm.



Figure 1: WIE Members with experts from BITM



Figure 2: Students of Masjidbati School



Figure 3: Demonstration by BITM expert