

NOTEBOOK DRIVE

What's
Inside

Editorial.....2

Scholarship
Initiative.....3

Children's
Day Events
.....4

Qissa.....8

Collection
Drive.....9

ISSUE XI SEPTEMBER 2021



19 Years of Notebook Drive...

We are privileged to have received the kind of education that has helped us reach our present point in our life. But not every student might be as privileged as we were. Even now, the family's socio-economic background plays an essential factor in deciding the kind of education a child receives. Despite the efforts of government schools providing free education to all students up to class 10, these schools still lack infrastructure, computer education, and other facilities compared to those of private schools. Hence, many organizations and NGOs have emerged to not only financially support such students from these schools but also to motivate them to pursue their dreams.

NoteBook Drive (NBD) is one such organization maintained by the student-volunteer group at IISc, with a vision of financially assisting students from government schools in & around Bangalore and driving them to realize their dream into reality. This year NBD completes nineteen years of working towards these goals. To date, NBD served students from more than 30 government schools through various initiatives.

Ongoing pandemic has affected student's education on a much larger scale. It was the time when many families of these students suffered a financial crisis. Despite the pandemic, we have successfully provided scholarships to these students to help with their higher education. Prior to lockdown, we generally conduct weekly sessions at these schools for various subjects like Mathematics, Science, English, Robotics, Computer science, and conduct annual events like Children's day celebration, Scholarship distribution, Notebook distribution, Career guidance session. But due to the pandemic, we had to re-work our initiatives. Thus, we conducted Scholarship initiative, Children's day celebrations, Collection drive, Chalk- and white- boards distributions.

We thank every individual who made time to volunteer for NBD and are especially grateful to the IISc community for being supportive. Efforts of every single individual count. So do come forward and be a part of us to make this change happen. Compared to the magnitude of the problem, our impact might be minuscule, nevertheless indispensable.

In the following pages, you will get details about different initiatives carried out in the academic year 2020-21. The experiences of the volunteers who took part in these events are shared towards the end.



Scholarship Initiative

The Scholarship initiative started in year 2011 aiming to provide financial support to underprivileged students. Every year students who had studied in government schools and are keenly interested in pursuing their higher studies, are chosen based on their financial conditions. Even for this academic year 2020-21, we financially supported 17 students from Second PU (equivalent of class 12) from Ravutanahalli (Bangalore North) and Mandigere (Bangalore rural) area.

NBD provides scholarships to I PU and II PU students. The students are shortlisted for the scholarship after analyzing the survey data collected by the volunteers. But this year, due to pandemic, we were unable to conduct the survey for I PU students. However, we were able to provide scholarships to II PU students online. Since we only had the contact information of the students, the first task was to collect the bank details of these students. Some of the volunteers came forward to help us with this task. Secondly, due to online fund collection last year, we were able to transfer the scholarship amounts to these students' bank accounts. Each student received a sum of four thousand rupees. We are grateful for fellow volunteers and the donor without whom we wouldn't have been able to successfully conduct this initiative this year, despite the pandemic.





Children's Day Events

Children are infinitely curious and creative in ways that always leave us pleasantly surprised. In spirit of this, every year, we visit more than two dozen government schools in Bangalore and celebrate Children's day with the children by involving them in various activities like puzzle solving, clay modeling, origami to name a few. Alas, we couldn't visit the children in 2020. Instead, in the spirit of curiosity and creativity, we conducted 4 online events for the IISc community spread across the months of November and December. The events were:

- **Explain like I'm five (ELI5):** [Conducted from Nov 4 to Nov 20] :
Make a video explaining a scientific idea using simple terms that a five year old would understand.
- **Poetry Evening:** [Conducted with Art & Lit club on Nov 17]:
An evening where people gathered to share and enjoy poetry.
- **Qissa:** [Conducted with Rangmach on Nov 29]:
An evening where people gathered to share and enjoy folklore from different parts of the country.

Artify



Emancipating
by Subhadarshini Sahoo



Garnished from garbage
by Subhadarshini Sahoo



Glittering in the dark
Sarthak Talukdar



Scenic, Serene, Sublime
by Subhadarshini Sahoo



Crack of Dawn
by Prajwal R A



Van Gogh's starry night
by Himanshi Singh

Conducted with Art & Lit club; Dec 1 - Dec 16] that aims to unleash the artist within, and create a work of art highlighting the **'World around us'**.

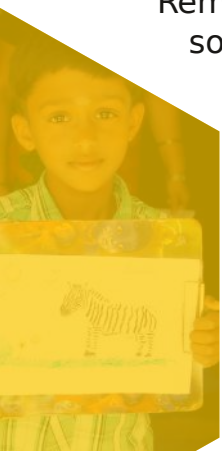


EXPLAIN LIKE I'M FIVE

"You know, I couldn't do it, I couldn't reduce it to the freshman level. That means we really don't understand it."

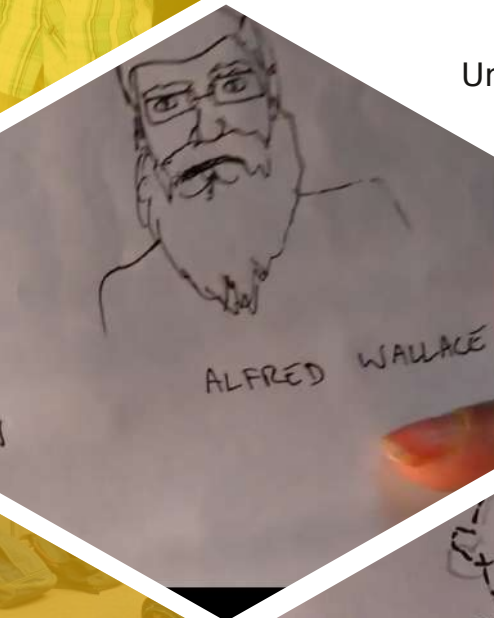
- R. P. Feynman

Remember that time when you wanted to explain that one beautifully simple idea to someone, but instead ended up throwing a bunch of jargon? It is indeed an art to explain ideas in a lucid manner without invoking jargon even though the core idea underlying it is very simple.



Inspired by Feynman's idea of 'If you can't explain it in simple terms, you don't understand it', we conducted an event encouraging IIScians to make a video explaining a scientific idea using simple words and analogies from everyday life that even a child would understand.

Unfortunately, we only received one entry. The entry we received was a wonderful video explaining replication, mutation, and evolution in an astonishingly simple manner. We were expecting more such videos, but these were difficult times for many of us. We hope that when we do this again we will get more videos that we can share





POETRY EVENING

There's something inexplicably beautiful about words used in a certain fashion. Across languages and cultures, despite the wonderful diversity in the human race, we are all drawn towards such beauty. These take many forms. Books and stories are one. Music is another. Yet, the kind that's the most surreal and somewhat ephemeral, is poetry. In some form or the other, we all enjoy poetry. They invite us with their flowing rhyme and engulf us in the stories they tell and the emotions they spark. Maybe the best way to describe a tryst with poetry would be in the immortal words of William Blake (Auguries of Innocence)

To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour

In this vein, we at the Notebook Drive and the Art and Literature Club of IISc arranged for an evening of poetry. It was a wonderful, ethereal event. With a significant participation from across the institute, including members of NBD and Art and Lit Club, we were grateful witnesses to some wonderful works of poetry. We were fortunate enough to be able to listen to beautiful poetry by both budding amateur poets as well as peruse the works of legendary poets. In the trying times that we are all going through, this was a much-needed battery recharge for many of us.

The icing on the cake was the presence of eminent poet Mohit Kataria, who recited for us some of his own works as well as the works of other poets, like Gulzar. Mohit Ji, who is a product manager by profession and a software engineer by training, has written over 1500 poems, 2 plays, 8 stories and translated 3 plays in a tryst with poetry spanning 25 years. He also has one book published so far and 2 more in pipeline. His collection of poems, Kacche Rang, with 7 sections (77 poems) is a wonderful read indeed.

With his participation, as well as the enthusiastic participation of the students of the institute, we experienced a truly wonderful evening. Truth be told, time flew fast and quick like a falcon for all of us. The event was over before we knew it and we were all left thirsting for more. The program ended with the heads of the respective clubs extending their vote of thanks to Mohit Ji as well as the attendees for making the program a resounding success.

The Art and Literature Club of IISc conducts such events on a monthly/bi-monthly (once every 2 months) basis. Such events, though completely casual and informal, are often graced by eminent poets such as Mohit Ji. This event was even more wonderful and an amazing success thanks to the invaluable participation and enthusiasm of the members of the Notebook Drive.

We hope that in the near future, the Art and Literature Club and Notebook Drive will be able to bring many such beautiful events to the institute community.

Budhaditya Bhattacharjee,
Convener, Art and Literature Club of IISc.



QISSA

Stories show us new perspectives, make us feel different emotions, and give us experiences that we would otherwise not find. Stories make us feel human and more, all at the same time and while sitting in the same place.

When we were children, we have heard fascinating legends and tales from our elders, but we have somehow lost touch with them in this day and age of the internet. Hence, we at NoteBook Drive along with the Rangmanch club of IISc organized Qissa, an informal evening wherein people of IISc gathered to relive and share folklore and tales from different parts of the country.

Because the event was online, we weren't restricted by physical constraints and more than 60 IIScians had gathered to narrate tales and to enjoy tales shared by others. We were amazed by the rich and diverse stories from all over the country from Assam to South India and in different languages of English, Hindi, and Bengali. The stories spanned a vast set of themes. To give you a sense, we began with an old folktale about courage and strength which was beautifully narrated with great tone and modulation by the great story teller, Prabahan Chakraborty, who joined us as the guest of honour; we heard a funny tale about a young jaguar unable to distinguish between hedgehog and tortoise that left us enthralled; a deeply thought provoking story about unjust sufferings and hardships faced by people due to caste discrimination; a legend about lord Krishna and Govardhan; a heart-warming O Henry story about a couple deeply in love who are willing to go to great lengths for each other. These were just a few and there were many more shared in different styles that made us experience different thoughts and emotions.

On top of the stories being enjoyable, the people who had gathered were engaged, kind and encouraging to each other. In short, we had a good time and as Aitichya and others said "It was an evening well spent!".

White & green board distribution



Due to pandemic, many of the regular initiatives that were conducted by NBD had to be paused. Hence, we approached the schools and conducted survey to identify the ways in which we could offer our help. From the survey, we found that chalk boards in some of the schools were broken. Moreover, some schools were conducting regular classes for 10th standard students, but the classes were held outdoors.

Hence, the schools needed easily carriable small white boards. Thus, we distributed 4 chalk boards to IISc govt. school, 1 chalk board to Gokul govt. school, 3 white boards to Bagalkunte govt. school.



Collection Drive



In month of April, we conducted 'Collection drive' where reusable sports items, stationary items, kids reading books were collected. Carton boxes were kept at different hostels for period of about 2 weeks. We received a variety of items in this drive, such as drawing books, skipping ropes, rackets for different sports, crayons, pencils, pens and so much more. We thank the IISc community for their contribution. The collected items will be given out to the schools this academic year.

Closing Balance
Rs 246498

Online
Transfer
&
Bank intreest
Rs 260446

Opening
Balance
Rs 94052

Scholarship
to
Govt School
Students
Rs 68000

School Aid
Rs 40000

To Make a
Contribution

Our
Account
Details
are

Account No.
0683101027620

Reach us at
notebookdrive.iisc
@gmail.com

Account
Holder
Notebook
Drive, IISc

IFSC Code
CNRB0000683

Join Us
&
Be a part of
a change

